

TUNBRIDGE WELLS U3A NEWS

August 2018



THE UNIVERSITY OF
THE THIRD AGE

www.tunbridgewellsu3a.org

CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE

The renewal process will be in full swing by the time you receive this newsletter. I do hope that you are enjoying your membership and wish to continue. The U3A is a participatory organisation, run by its members for its members. We welcome your feedback and suggestions to improve what we offer even further.

Thank you to the members who responded to my request for help on an events and a wellbeing sub-committee. We are able to set these up now, but more help is always appreciated. We will shortly be holding set up meetings and hope that you will soon start seeing the results of these initiatives.

Our outings are always popular, and are normally full with a waiting list, and it would be a great loss if we had to discontinue them. If you have a few hours to spare each month, please do consider the role of **Outings Co-ordinator**. With an experienced sub-committee to help you and all the contacts that Sandra made in the last year, you would be off to a flying start. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Sandra for her great efforts over the last year, especially in putting together our first and very successful short break.

I will be attending the national AGM in Nottingham towards the end of August and hope to come back enthused with ideas for our U3A. We all have the same basic set up, but each U3A is different depending on the mix and skills of its members. There are always good ideas that we can use and I hope to be able to tell you more in the next newsletter.

Sue Brimlow, Chairman, Tel: 01892 863691

COMING UP

MONTHLY MEETINGS

at 2.30pm at the Camden Centre

Thursday 16th August

Food for the Gods

A talk by Russell Bowes

Thursday 20th September

A Schoolgirl's War

A talk by Mary Smith

MONTHLY COFFEE MORNINGS

at Trinity from 10.30 – 12.00

Friday 31st August



Friday 28th September

OUR OUTINGS

There will be outings on:

14th August

Wimbledon All England
Tennis and Croquet Club

18th September

Arundel Castle
See Outings News for availability

12th & 13th October

One night stopover
To Blenheim, Oxford etc.
See pages 11 & 12 for details and
application form

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HAVE YOU RENEWED YET?

Our renewal process is in progress and you should have received a renewal letter by now. Some of you will also have received an email, explaining how to set up a direct debit or pay via Beacon. We've tailored the letters depending on how you paid last year, but as some members paid more than once, this may not be completely accurate. If you have received two letters please contact me if you need clarification. **Please contact me immediately if you haven't received a letter yet.**

Please also note that we will not be presenting **cheques** until the middle of September, although we will renew your membership as from the 1st September. This is to avoid the time and cost in refunding duplicate payments (*last year there were a hundred!*).

Together with inviting you to renew, we are also taking the opportunity to ask you to check your contact details, so please check the form, tick the data protection and privacy box and if appropriate the gift aid box, then sign and return the form to Ruth Johnson, our Membership Secretary. **Please do this even if your subscription is paid automatically.**

We hope that all our members find value and enjoyment from our U3A, but understand that situations change and you may not wish to renew. To avoid getting follow up letters, please let Ruth know as soon as possible.

Sue Brimlow, Chairman. Phone 01892 863691 or [email](#)

OUTING NEWS

The sell-out excursion to Richmond & Syon House proved most enjoyable and informative, with particular thanks to organisers Linda Trowell and Jenny Jessup and an excellent blue badge guide.

The August 'Behind the Scenes Tour' of Wimbledon is on the horizon. **Then Tuesday 18th September will see an outing to wonderful Arundel Castle & Gardens and the town of Arundel** – at time of writing there were some places left. The cost is just £28 and the application form can be found attached to the July Newsletter or contact the main organiser, [Lynne Monckton](#) (01892 533652).

You can also always pick up forms and/or apply at the outings table at monthly meetings.

The one night stopover to Cliveden, Blenheim Palace, Bladon, Oxford and Hughendon Manor will take place on 12th and 13th October – see pages 11 and 12. We have a few twin-rooms still available and have extended the deadline to 31st August. Members can share with a non-member. **Without a new Outings Co-ordinator, however, this may well be our last outing!!** Please do consider the appeal below – WE NEED YOU!

Pat Micklewright on behalf of the Outings Committee

APPEAL FOR OUTINGS CO-ORDINATOR

For more than 20 years, TWU3A has run a wide range of outings (by coach and train). There is a good team of outing organisers in place but currently we are in need of someone to fill the role of Outings Co-ordinator – to support the organisers in planning and executing next year's programme of outings and to facilitate writing Outing News, ensuring the outings table is manned, paying in cheques from those going on the outings and liaising with the Treasurer to ensure that payments to coach companies and destinations etc. are made on time. There is no need to run an outing yourself (unless you choose to do so) and so if you could manage the admin, please do come forward. There would be help to ease into the role. We are due to meet in the Autumn, to start planning for 2019 ...

BUT without a Co-ordinator there may be no outings!

For further information contact [Sue Brimlow](#) (01892 863691) or Pat Micklewright (01892 537993).

Report on the Outing to Richmond and Syon Park



Despite not very encouraging weather for the start of our trip it turned out to be bright and sunny just in time for our walk around the historic part of Richmond. After meeting our blue badge guide in Twickenham we made our way to Richmond for our coffee stop and short walk during which our guide pointed out the remains of **Richmond Palace** and took us along the banks of the Thames. We had time for lunch before making our way by coach via London's Arcadia where we had a

wonderful view over London to **Syon House**, the London home of the Dukes of Northumberland.



There our guide gave a short talk about the history of the house before letting us loose to explore the house and grounds, and especially the garden centre next to the house, at our leisure. Apart from the low flying aircraft which took a little getting used to, the grounds were very peaceful and it seemed strange to realise that Charing Cross was only 9 miles away.

The highlight of the gardens was the amazing conservatory which is now used mainly for the celebration of weddings. The rooms in the house were opulent and ornate and the interiors have often been used for the filming of period dramas.

Although extremely interesting the weather was by now getting rather hot and humid so it was a welcome relief to be able to have a cup of tea in the cool surroundings of the garden centre. The visit was made even more enjoyable by our informative and amusing guide.

*Jenny Jessop
Photos by Stella Westrup and Colin Turner*



GROUP REPORTS

DIGITAL IMAGING INTERMEDIATE GROUP II – June: **Alfriston Clergy House**

For our 20 June outing, it was back to roots namely the first property ever acquired by the National Trust which came into being on the 12 January 1895.

Harriet Coates had always lived in Alfriston Clergy House and, when it fell into disrepair, she pleaded with the Ecclesiastical Commissioners not to demolish the house. They granted her a temporary reprieve by allowing her to live there until her demise in 1888.

The house, believed to have been built in 1350 was exactly the ancient and humble building the NT had been set up to save. Two of the Founders, Rev F W Beynon and Olivia Hill in particular, took an immediate interest in the house which was rich in memories of England and, after negotiations, the Ecclesiastical Commissioners agreed in 1896 to sell the house to the NT for the nominal sum of £10,

Restoration was urgent so the NT launched its first public appeal for funds. The sum required was £300, tiny by today's standards, but by as late as 1900, the Trust's annual income was only £300. Determined that the Trust should live within its means, Olivia insisted that the work could not begin until enough funds were available and by 1898, enough had been received to complete the restoration.



In Sept 1898, Rev Beynon died in office and was buried in the churchyard of St Andrews (known as the Downs Cathedral) overlooking the building he had done so much to save.

Today, the property is a little gem situated in lovely gardens on the outskirts of the beautiful village of Alfriston. Information cards make self-tours of the house most enjoyable.

Upon leaving, we made a brief visit to see the coastline at Birling Gap before enjoying a leisurely lunch in the Conservatory of the Hydro Hotel in Eastbourne. Lastly, so as not to waste the fine weather, we all enjoyed ice creams and coffee overlooking the sea before returning home.

Tom Guy, Group Organiser



DIGITAL IMAGING INTERMEDIATE GROUP II – July: **Ightham Mote**

This National Trust Grade I listed building has been quite rightly designated as the most complete small medieval manor house in the Country. I fell in love with it on my first visit in 1986 and have watched it through £10M worth of restorations to the glorious building within lovely grounds it is today.

The house which has more than 70 rooms arranged around a central courtyard and is surrounded by a square moat crossed by three bridges, dates from circa 1350 and had a succession of owners until it was bought by Thomas Colyer-Ferguson who carried out extensive repairs in 1890/91, thereby rescuing the property from centuries of neglect.



On his death in 1951, his grandson James realised that the maintenance costs were beyond his means so he sold both the house and most of its contents by auction for £5K.

Two years later, the house was sold to Charles Henry Robinson of Portland, Maine who first discovered it when stationed nearby during WW2. Despite living there for only 14 weeks a year for tax reasons, he carried out many urgent and expensive repairs before his death in 1985 having made known earlier his intention to leave both the house and its contents to the National Trust.

Everyone should visit Ightham Mote at least once if they are to avoid missing one of the most beautiful and captivating buildings they are ever likely to see.

Subsequent lunch outdoors at the Vauxhall Inn, Tonbridge proved most agreeable.

Tom Guy, Group Organiser



SINGING FOR PLEASURE

We were warmly welcomed by the Events Administrator at **Halliwell Care Home** when we arrived at around 2.30 pm on Wednesday, July 25th and were able to arrange the seating and practise a few of our songs before the planned start of the concert at 3.00 pm.

Jenny Jessup had organised an attractive programme which included some Songs from the Shows, old favourites such as “Strollin” and “Tiptoe through the Tulips” plus some pieces sung in harmony such as “Early One Morning” and “Elizabethan Serenade”.

It was a glorious, warm afternoon and the residents had lunched later than usual. Understandably, many of them had retired to their rooms to rest and in many cases had fallen asleep. Consequently, our audience was rather small, but they seemed to enjoy the programme and several of them joined us in singing some of the familiar pieces. Jenny led us enthusiastically while Tony Colville accompanied us skilfully on the piano.

We were treated to a welcome tea and cake after the concert and encouraged to consider entertaining the Halliwell residents again later in the year.

Adrian Twiner, Group Contact



LONDON EXPLORERS 4

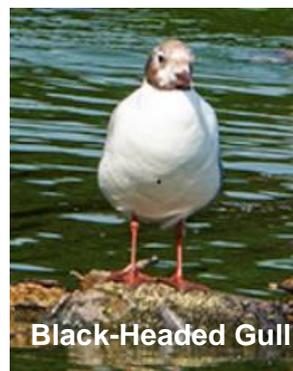


had another interesting day, organised by Marion and Barry. Guided tour round Apsley House (home of the Duke of Wellington).

Very interesting and knowledgeable guide.

Also a visit to Wellington Arch, just 65 steps to the top but great views.

Suzette Elliott-West, Group Contact



Black-Headed Gull

Here's a taste of what's to come on the next page ...



Lapwing in Sevenoaks Wildlife Centre

WALK ON THE WILD SIDE

This month we visited Lullingstone Country Park where we enjoyed some beautiful views and interesting areas of wild flowers on our circular walk through woods and grassland. We identified some of the veteran trees including monolith beeches. These occur either because fungal decay has caused them to be mechanically reduced to a monolith (trunk only) or they have naturally become standing dead wood due to storms etc. Both result in a habitat for a variety of creatures.

We were hoping to contribute to the National Butterfly Count but as we were supposed to spend 15 minutes in a sunny spot and we had chosen the first cloudy day for weeks there were not many to be seen, just a few gatekeepers which we duly reported to the survey.

Some of us stayed for some lunch at the park and then walked on to Castle Farm to see the stunning fields of lavender waiting to be harvested.

Text and Photo by Debbie Croll



FOUR SEASONS BIRDWATCHING GROUP



The U3A Four Seasons Bird Watching Group chose Sevenoaks Wildlife Centre for its inaugural visit. It is difficult to believe this beautiful 180 acre nature reserve was man-made – converted from a gravel-pit by the pioneering Harrison family. Roughly 50/50 land and water; a mixed habitat of ponds, seasonal flooded pools, reedbed and woodlands, 180 acres in all. The deeper lakes attract a wide variety including Tufted Duck and Great Crested Grebe. The water levels in the lake are managed so that islands and shallows provide feeding and nesting areas for a variety of waders and waterfowl which can be viewed from cleverly positioned hides.

Grey herons are resident and easily spotted as are more elusive birds like blackcaps and kingfishers (we had tantalising glimpses!). Grey Wagtail and Reed Bunting can also often be located. To help with rarer sightings, such as Common Sandpiper and Little-Ringed Plover, we were lucky to be accompanied by Linturn, our enthusiastic guide. His expert ability to identify the wide variety of birdsong and calls added much to the experience

We saw over 30 bird species in all on this first outing – some nice photos too. If you are in the area and would like a nature walk in a lovely setting, this Kent Wildlife Trust Nature Reserve and Visitor Centre would be highly recommended -- and entrance is free!



Grey Heron



Phil Sumner
Group Contact

Photos by
Colin Turner



The gull on page 5 was not alone!

Here it is again with a Canada Goose.

UPDATE ON GROUPS

Groups looking for a venue may be interested in hearing about Headway with a house at 3 Culverden Park. The U3A Wine Appreciation groups meet there in one of the larger rooms. Different sized groups can be accommodated either in the house or in the studio or conservatory. The garden is also for hire. The price for U3A groups is £15.00 an hour and to book you are asked to contact Abigail Morton on 01892 619001 or email Abigail.Morton@headwaywestkent.org.

Volunteers needed

BEGINNERS FRENCH is looking for someone to lead this group – see boxed notice on next page. SPANISH INTERMEDIATE would welcome some help from anyone fluent in the language, maybe just an occasional session to come and talk with us. Meetings are on 1st and 3rd Wednesday afternoons. The contact is [Helen Bright](mailto:Helen.Bright@headwaywestkent.org) or phone 01892 527527.

New for the autumn: A DISCUSSION COURSE ON MEDIEVAL EUROPE: its art, achievements and everyday life. Day and time of meetings to be discussed. Pat Wright an ex lecturer with NADFAS writes: *The Medieval period has a generally bad press - life categorised as nasty, brutish and short. Yet the achievements of our medieval ancestors are remarkable. Parliaments, banking, a revival of trade, wonderful cathedrals, a re-established system of law and government, all these and much more came into being during the period. And how did those ancestors cope with the harsh conditions? What made them laugh, love, pursue lasting feuds, clear much of the landscape we enjoy today? Not many dates, just a few kings and wars (unavoidable!) in this course but so much humanity and a treasure house of achievement to explore.* Please contact [Pat Wright](mailto:Pat.Wright@headwaywestkent.org) or phone 01892 750312.

FOLK SINGING GROUP: Bob Kenward of the Abbey Capers band which played for our barn dance is leading this group. Emphasis will be on chorus songs and maximum involvement for all. No experience or sight reading necessary and song sheets will be provided. The first meeting is scheduled for Tuesday afternoon on the 11th September. Further details from [Bob](mailto:Bob.Kenward@headwaywestkent.org) or phone 01892 529737 (mobile 07885 642763) leaving message with your phone number if Bob is not available.

Groups looking for new members

CROCHET A group who are making progress through helping one another and will welcome you whatever your level. Meetings are on the first Monday and third Wednesday of the month. Contact [Sue Bailey](mailto:Sue.Bailey@headwaywestkent.org) or phone 01892 528836.

CYCLING GROUP For further details of future rides, please look on the website and if you'd like to join, the contact is [Richard Martin](mailto:Richard.Martin@headwaywestkent.org) or phone 07803 267706.

TEN PIN BOWLING This is a very friendly club and you are welcome to come along and give it a go. Bowlers meet every Tuesday morning at Knights Park. Please contact [Lynn Brown](mailto:Lynn.Brown@headwaywestkent.org) or phone 01892 543756.

MATTERS ARISING A small group who meet together to discuss chosen topics. If you are free on the second Wednesday of the month and would like to join, please contact [Christine Bryan](mailto:Christine.Bryan@headwaywestkent.org) or phone 01892 535690.

LATIN SOLO Dance classes at the Medway School of dancing in Tonbridge on Thursday afternoons, from 2.30 to 3.30. The cost of a 6 week course will be between £36.00 and £45.00 per person – less with a larger group. Contact [Sylvia Joyce](mailto:Sylvia.Joyce@headwaywestkent.org) or phone 01892 319070.

CROQUET on 1st and 3rd Tuesday afternoons at Tunbridge Wells Croquet Club. [Jon Diamond](mailto:Jon.Diamond@headwaywestkent.org) will be pleased to welcome you. E-mail or phone 01892 663837.

Groups Listing errata: ITALIAN CONVERSATION PLUS, contact [Miranda Baston](mailto:Miranda.Baston@headwaywestkent.org). Also please note that [Ann Greenfield](mailto:Ann.Greenfield@headwaywestkent.org) has taken over as contact for FAMILY HISTORY 2.



illustrations of.com #1048901

For more information or to join new groups please contact [Jan Sumner](mailto:Jan.Sumner@headwaywestkent.org), Groups Coordinator or phone 01892 860554.

FRENCH BEGINNERS CONVERSATION GROUP

URGENTLY NEEDED FROM SEPTEMBER!

Volunteer to help lead a French Beginners Conversation Group.

We meet on alternate Thursday mornings from 10 to 11.30 a.m. at a central Tunbridge Wells location.

Please contact [Jill Scott](#) or phone no. 077 100 95 175

ART APPRECIATION GROUP 2018-2019



The Golden Stairs
by Edward Burne-Jones,
[Public domain],
via Wikimedia Commons

We are delighted that Liz Strang, an art historian who has worked, inter alia, at Tate Britain and who lectures to the Arts Society, will join us again for our Autumn/Spring programme of 6 monthly talks.

Our first meeting for the Autumn session will be held in the Main Hall of the Camden Centre on **Tuesday 16th October** at **2.45 p.m.** when Liz will talk on **PAINTING VICTORIAN BRITAIN**. On **Tuesday 20th November** the subject will be **SIR EDWARD BURNE JONES**, and there will be a session on **THOMAS GAINSBOROUGH** on **Tuesday 4th December**, both these lectures linking with forthcoming exhibitions in London.

Full details of the programme will appear in the U3A [September Newsletter](#).

Those who are already members of the Group will be contacted separately.

If you would like to join the subscription is **£8** per head for the 6 lectures and cheques (payable to "Tunbridge Wells U3A") should be sent to:

Linda Sydenham, 43 Bowen Rd, Rusthall, Tunbridge Wells TN4 8SU
(Tel: 01892 539945). Please include full details of your name, address, telephone number and e-mail and U3A membership number and s.a.e. if you would like an acknowledgement. In the meantime if you have any enquiries, please contact me on 01892 526693 or [e-mail me](#).

Alison Turner (Group Co-ordinator)

17th October: Talk at the National Gallery

Gayna Pelham's talk at the **National Gallery** on 17th October was advertised in the July Newsletter. Details still have to be finalised and will appear next month. The cost, however, will probably be £12.50 (not £25 as previously stated).

It's very good value so, **Art Lovers**, take note of the date!

Report on the July Monthly Meeting

The Vanishing Maidservant: an 18th Century mystery

With the aid of detailed contemporary prints and an amusing delivery, Ian Keable fascinated the audience at the July Monthly Meeting with the tale of the Elizabeth Canning who vanished in 1753 when returning to work. She reappeared 28 days later in a sorry state, claiming to have been kidnapped by two ruffians who took her to a whorehouse where she refused to join the “profession”. She was then locked in an attic with only bread and a pitcher of water before making her escape.

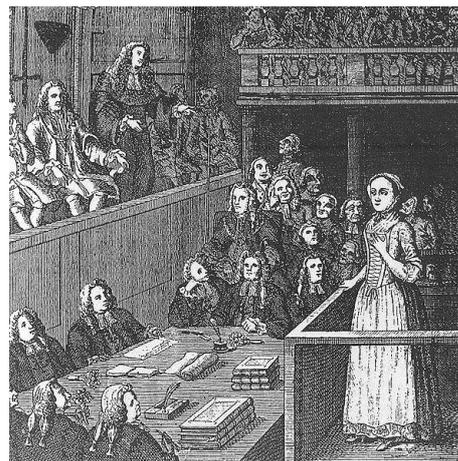
It was a sensation, but was it a hoax? Following clues, friends believed that she had been incarcerated in Mother Well’s house, a brothel in Enfield Wash, and Elizabeth claimed to recognize Mary Squires, a gypsy, who “had cut off her stays”! Prints and pamphlets abounded and the public believed firmly in Elizabeth’s story. So did Henry Fielding, the novelist, who was a magistrate. Ranged against her were Sir Crisp Gascoyne, Lord Mayor of London and Sir John Hall a journalist, quack doctor, and reputable botanist.

In a short trial at the Old Bailey Mother Wells and Mary Squires were found guilty and Squires, having stolen the stays, was sentenced to hang for grand larceny. Gascoyne and Hill then produced witnesses with new evidence. Even the King was involved, and Squires was pardoned.

Now Canning was tried for perjury. She was found guilty with a plea for mercy, but nevertheless she was sentenced to one month in Newgate Prison and to transportation to America for 7 years. There she married, had children and died aged about 40, claiming to the end that her story was true.

Was it? The verdict is still out and contemporary writers are divided. Josephine Tey’s *Franchise Affair* is a modern reworking of the story and definitely against; John Treherne’s *The Canning Enigma* is uncertain; Judith Moore in *The Appearance of Truth* definitely believes it. What is certain is that the story still provides an intriguing mystery.

Eryll Fabian



The Trial of Elizabeth Canning

Public Domain via Wikimedia Commons

FORTHCOMING MONTHLY MEETINGS

16th August: Russell Bowes: “Food of the Gods: the utterly delicious history of chocolate”. A history of chocolate from its discovery in the forests of central Mexico to the birth of the modern chocolate bar, via a rehearsal of Mozart’s *Così fan tutte*, a chocolate processing plant, breakfast with a Spanish Marquesa and *possibly* some free samples to take home with you.

20th September: Mary Smith: “A Schoolgirl’s War”. Mary Smith was headteacher at Maidstone Grammar School for Girls until 2014 and has recently written *A Schoolgirl’s War*. Her talk features the exquisite and highly original art work of the art teacher at the school during World War 2. As well as documenting in paint and pencil the lives of school children as the war unfolded, she will share some of the old girls’ fascinating memories and anecdotes of disrupted schooling, air-raids, doodlebugs and underground shelters.

18th October: a talk by **Dr Nikki Gammans FRES**, the project manager for the short-haired bumblebee reintroduction project which was voted runner up in the 2016 BBC Countryfile wildlife success project of the year! She comes highly recommended as an expert speaker on the unusual subject of the short haired bumble bee, *Bombus subterraneus*, which is one of 27 bumblebee species native to the UK but which was declared extinct here in 2000. More details will be in next month’s Newsletter.

15th November: Bertie Pearce: “Wonder Workers and the Art of Illusion”. Always popular, Bertie Pearce is returning with a whistle stop tour of the history of mystery from 3000BC to the 21st century and be careful! – you might be amazed and bewitched.

Useful Information and Important Messages

Events in August and September

We have the following events arranged for July and August:

16 th August	Monthly Meeting: Food for the Gods: the utterly delicious history of chocolate
31 st August	Coffee Morning at Trinity
20 th Sept..	Monthly Meeting: A Schoolgirl's War, a talk by Mary Smith
25 th Sept.	New Members' Meeting (Camden Centre, Main Hall) 2.45 to 4.00 pm – by invitation
28 th Sept.	Coffee Morning at Trinity

Forthcoming Events For Your Diary

17 th Oct.	National Gallery Visit with Gayna Pelham
18 th Oct.	Monthly Meeting: a talk by Dr Nikki Gammans on the short-haired bumble-bee
22 nd Oct.	Science Study Day: Time, Space and Conservation
15 th Nov.	Monthly Meeting: Wonder Workers and the Art of Illusion, a talk by Bertie Pearce
7 th Dec.	Christmas Lunch

New Members

We are pleased to welcome the following new members who have joined since 1 July 2018:

Sally Allport	John Erlam	Christine Hyder	Maureen Shaw
Malcolm Brady	Joy Godley	Stephanie McMahon	Janet Smith
Pauline Brookes	Jane Goodwin	Sue McNamee	Sue Smith
Ian Eckhard	Eve Hatcher	Gwenda Morland	Carole Stretch
Susan Eckhard	Paul Hutchinson	Suzanne Preston	Janine Whitney

Your Committee

Chairman	Sue Brimlow	01892 863691
Vice-Chairman	Adrian Twiner	01892 459352
Secretary	Wendy Maher	01892 325272
Treasurer	David Scott	01892 701950
Group Coordinator	Jan Sumner	01892 860554
Membership Secretary	Ruth Johnson	01892 523097
Outings Coordinator	Vacant	
Business Secretary	Adrian Twiner	01892 459352
Newsletter	Eryll Fabian	01892 513805



A message from the Editor:

Members' photos and articles about group activities, places visited and anything relating to U3A events are always welcome.

We can't guarantee to print them but shall do our best if space allows.

All contributions to the **September** Newsletter should be e-mailed to [Eryll Fabian](mailto:Eryll.Fabian@u3a.org.uk) by 31st August (earlier submissions will be welcome!) or phone 01892 513805.



National Events



Details of other interesting national events appear on the website.

They can be found on www.u3a.org.uk or by writing to:
The Third Age Trust, 52 Lant Street, London SE1 1RB

Thursday 11th October - Friday 12th October

*Cliveden Gardens (N.T), Blenheim Palace, Bladen Church,
Oxford Walking Tour, Hughenden Manor (N.T)*

Proposed Itinerary

Leaving Tunbridge Wells by executive coach with JG Theatre Club

DAY ONE Cliveden (N.T), home for more than 300 years to the wealthy and titled commands an imposing position on high slopes above the Thames. The house is now a private hotel but its gardens, woods, water garden are owned by the National Trust. With its terrace more than 110 metres long your eyes are drawn down to the Thames overlooking a spectacular Parterre. We are hoping we will be able to have a peek inside the house on a prearranged tour. (Awaiting confirmation). We can then see some of the public rooms on the ground floor of this stunning Italianate mansion including the impressive Great Hall and French Dining Room.

This is our stop on route where we can enjoy the gardens and views and have refreshments in the Orangery café.

Then we drive on to **Blenheim Palace** the birthplace of Sir Winston Churchill. We will stop here for the afternoon before getting back on the coach for a brief stop at **St Martin's Church in Bladen** where we find the gravestones of members of the Churchill family.



Picture of Blenheim Palace [Public Domain]

We arrive late afternoon at the Witney Oxford hotel for dinner and our overnight stop. The hotel meets our criteria for a one night stay as a group. It is well situated a few miles south of Blenheim Palace. Sandra reported that the staff were welcoming, hardworking and helpful when she visited. The room was clean, well equipped with tea and coffee making facilities, iron, hairdryer, room safe, flat screen TV and toiletries. The evening dinner offered a varied 3 course meal. The breakfast was an extensive buffet. Please note the bar area is a bit dated, the wine is expensive and the hotel with 3 floors has no lift.

DAY TWO We leave promptly after breakfast to drive into **Oxford** to meet our 2 Blue Badge Guides for a 2 hour walking tour including entry into a college and free time.

After lunch we make our way home stopping at **Hughenden Manor** (N.T) which was the home of Benjamin Disraeli. As well as a really impressive house and grounds to wander round we go below stairs to see the top secret mapping rooms from World War 11 codenamed 'Hillside'.

Then we are back on the coach for our return to Tunbridge Wells early evening.

COST £135.00 per person sharing a double twin room. This includes coach, gratuities, hotel with dinner B & B, entry to Blenheim Palace, Oxford Blue badge Guide and college entry. Cliveden and Hughendon are free to National Trust members. Additional cost to non-members.

£24.00 single supplement. Limited availability.

Reduction of £15.00 for members of Historic Houses (Blenheim).

APPLICATION FORM FOLLOWS ON NEXT PAGE

Thursday 11th October – Friday 12th October 2018 Blenheim Palace and Oxford

Please complete this form and send it with your cheque for deposit of £30.00 per person made payable to **Tunbridge Wells U3A** to: Mrs S Brimlow, 1 The Grange, Langton Green, Tunbridge Wells, TN3 0HR. If you require a receipt by post please remember to include a stamped address envelope.

Organiser: [Christine Dove](#) tel: 07748835452 (if Christine unavailable, [Sue Brimlow](#) tel: 01892 863691)

Basic Cost £135.00 per person Reduction of £15 for members of Historic Houses
2 days/1night

Itinerary Return coach from Tunbridge Wells
I night dinner, bed and breakfast Oxford Witney hotel
Cliveden(NT), Blenheim Palace, Bladen Church, Oxford, Hughenden Manor(NT)

Assembly Hall / Southborough

First name	Surname	Pick up	Pick up	Tel:	Mobile

E mail address.....

U3A Membership number(s)..... National Trust Member Yes..... No..... (additional cost)

Emergency contact name and number (on days of trip only).....
Relation to you.....

Accommodation requirements (please tick)

Double	Twin	Single	Single Room Supplement £24.00. Limited availability
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Special Requests (not guaranteed) additional information

Lead Name

Address.....

I/We enclose a cheque for £..... This is the deposit and is non-refundable but is transferable.

Members are advised that neither the TWU3A nor the organiser will accept any responsibility for any mishap of whatever nature during the trip. Members are advised to consider personal insurance cover.

Balance is payable by 31st August 2018

Stamped address envelope enclosed for receipt by post..... }
Please email me my receipt..... } please tick as appropriate

(Please note that refunds will only be possible if your place can be taken by another U3A member)

Signed.....

Print.Name..... Date.....