

TUNBRIDGE WELLS U3A NEWS

September 2019



THE UNIVERSITY OF
THE THIRD AGE

CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE

On behalf of myself and the committee, I like to say a huge thank you to all our members who have renewed their membership. At the time of writing (26th August) we know that over 60% of our members will have renewed, either by Direct Debit, online, or cheque, together with the un-cancelled standing orders. By the time you read this we will have renewed all the subscriptions we've received to date, paid in cheques and hopefully will have fewer double payments this year. I'll then be sending out a reminder email or letter to those members who have not renewed yet.

We've arranged another 'Useful to Know' talk on Thursday 31st October from 2.30 to 4 in the Victoria Suite in the Camden Centre. It could help take our minds off something else that is currently due to happen on that day. It's from **Hi Kent**, the deaf and hard of hearing charity for the county. They run a unique network of more than 180 hearing aid aftercare clinics in towns, villages and communities throughout Kent, where people with NHS hearing aids can come along without having to make an appointment, and receive free replacement batteries, re-tubing and cleaning of the hearing aid, as well as free advice on other assistive equipment that can make a tremendous difference to the daily life of someone with hearing loss. These clinics are run by Hi Kent's trained volunteers, many of whom are deaf themselves. Many of their clinics are in the Tunbridge Wells area. Please could you let me know by [email](#) or phone (863691) if you hope to come? In addition to the room hire, we have to pay a fee to the charity so we want to be sure there is sufficient demand.

[Sue Brimlow](#), Chairman, Tel: 01892 863691

COMING UP

MONTHLY MEETINGS

at 2.30pm at the Camden Centre

Thursday 19th September
Across India on an
Enfield Motorcycle
a talk by Antonia Gallop

Thursday 17th October
Punch and Judy,
a talk by Bertie Pearce

MONTHLY COFFEE MORNINGS

at Trinity from 10.30 – 12.00

Friday 27th September



Friday 25th October

OUR OUTINGS

There will be outings on

Wednesday 11th September
Coach Trip to Beaulieu

3rd to 6th October
Short Break to Bristol etc
Fully booked

Wednesday 20th November
Kew Gardens Xmas Trail
Application form on p.14

USEFUL TO KNOW TALKS

1st October: Power of Attorney

31st October: Deafness

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HAVE YOU RENEWED YET?

Thank you to the hundreds of members, who have already set up direct debits, paid online or sent cheques. Don't forget that we won't be presenting your cheques until the middle of September, to avoid having to write out refund cheques.

Are you one of the members who still have the renewal email or a letter in their 'to-do' pile? We would be grateful if you could either renew or let us know if you no longer wish to be a member, to save us sending you a renewal reminder.

If you have any problems with the renewal process, please contact me, **Sue Brimlow**, by [email](#) or phone 01892 863691.

Sue Brimlow, Chairman

HAVE YOU BEEN TO A NEW MEMBERS' MEETING?

Have you joined in the last year and couldn't make our last new members meeting? We've sent out invitations to new members who have joined since our last new members' meeting in February, but other 'newish' members are welcome too.

We would like to extend an invitation to members who fall in to that category. The meeting is in the Main Hall at the Camden Centre on Tuesday October 8th from 2.45 to 4 and I will be giving a short introduction at 3pm. It will be an opportunity to meet your committee and some of our many Group Contacts, whilst you enjoy some refreshments.

Please let me know by [email](#) or phone (01892 863691) if you can make it, so we know how many to cater for.

Sue Brimlow, Chairman

USEFUL TO KNOW TALKS

A talk about deafness and the help provided by Hi Kent, the deaf and hard of hearing charity for the county

In addition to the free talk about Power of Attorney on Tuesday 1st October we have arranged the above talk on Thursday 31st October from 2.30 to 4. For more details see my chairman's update on page 1 as I need to know if there is sufficient demand for us to put on this talk.

Sue Brimlow, Chairman

REMINDER!

Art Study Day – 28th October 2019

ASPECTS OF WESTERN EUROPEAN ART

Places are still available for this Study Day which will take place in Paddock Wood.
Full details and the application form were in the August Newsletter.

[Adrian Twiner](#), Business Secretary, 01892 459352

OUTINGS NEWS

On a beautiful summer's day in August we went to **RAF Manston**, to the Spitfire and Hurricane Museum, we also went to the RAF Museum and finally to **Recolver Beach** to view where the bouncing bombs were tested in the Second World War. The guide at the first museum was very knowledgeable and extremely interesting which made the day even more enjoyable. Well done to Stella Westrup for organising this brilliant trip.

This month we are going to **Beaulieu House, Gardens and Motor Museum**, so another very good outing, organised by Pat Micklewright and Sandra Chandnani.

In October we do not have any day trips planned as Sandra McDonald will be leading a group to Bath and Bristol. This outing is now fully booked.

As mentioned in my last report, we have an early evening visit to **Kew Gardens** on the 20th November to see the Christmas lights. This event is attracting a lot of interest, so please complete and return the application form at the end of this newsletter as soon as possible to avoid disappointment. Jenny Jessup and Linda Trowell are organising this trip.

Next month there will be an application form for February's outing, organised by Sandra Chandnani and Rosemary Rees. The tickets for this event need to be confirmed by 15th December, and, as we do not issue a Newsletter in December, we are having the trip published next month with application form. We will be going to The Marlow Theatre in Canterbury to see Swan Lake by the Bolshoi Ballet, so please make a diary note to complete the application that will appear in the October Newsletter and return as soon as possible as I am sure this is going to be a very popular event.

Joan Young, Outings Co-ordinator

Report on the Outing to the Manston Museums on 6th August

We left Tunbridge Wells in the sunshine and had a good journey down to Manston.



On arrival at the Hurricane and Spitfire Museum, we were greeted by Matt and given a very informative talk on the Spitfire and the many other exhibits on display. There was then time to revisit the exhibition at our leisure and lunch.



Spitfire

Then over to RAF Manston History Museum, where the displays included a number of aircraft, biplanes, jets and helicopters, along with many exhibits showing how Manston operated from 1916 up to the closure of the RAF base in 1996.



Hurricane

On our journey home, a visit was very kindly arranged by Rosemary to Reculver, this is the area used in the testing of WW2 bouncing bombs.

Along the shore are the ruins of a 12th century church, its two towers dominating the skyline.

Our thanks to Stella, Rosemary and Pat for arranging a very pleasant and informative day out and our driver Mark, who had to negotiate several unexpected detours on the journey.

Photos by Stella Westrup and Colin Turner

Val Apps

Editor's Note: The visit brought back some very personal memories for Colin Turner – see his report and more photos on p.11 below.



SHORT BREAKS REPORT SOUTH DEVON 2020



Come with us on 11th May 2020 for our **4 day break to South Devon**. We stay in Torquay on a half board basis with a full excursion programme. Highlights include a theatre trip a cream tea and a deer train safari.

All rooms for single room occupancy are taken and there are only 3 double/twin rooms left. **You are able to share with a non U3A member. I have one member who is looking for someone to share with them.**

Join us as we visit Kingston Lacy, **Dartmouth**, Greenway, **Powderham Castle**, World of Country Life, **Buckfast Abbey**, Coleton Fishacre and **Stourhead**.

Cost £454 per person.

To secure the hotel, deposits are payable by 27th September.

To view the tour in detail visit www.tailored-travel.co.uk, Click on View Your Tour and quote tuwu201.

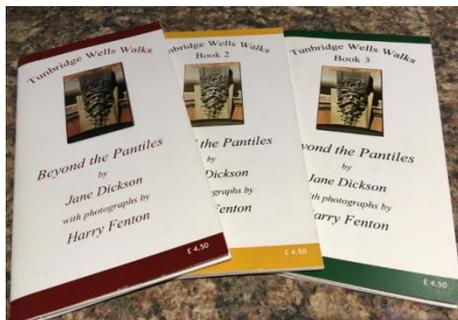
Please contact me for more information and booking form.



Pihotos by Sandra

Sandra McDonald, Short Breaks Co-ordinator
Tel: 01892 752196 Email: sarn.mcd@hotmail.com

TUNBRIDGE WELLS U3A SHARED LEARNING PROJECT



In the June Newsletter we announced that we intend to update and republish the three books on walks in Tunbridge Wells which were written over 10 years ago by Jane Dickson and Colin Huggett with photographs by Harry Fenton. A working party has now been set up and is approaching the Civic Society and other interested parties to seek their involvement. Some of the routes have already been rewalked but it would be very helpful to have more copies of the original books to work from. If anyone has a copy of one or more of the books which they would be prepared to lend to the project, please contact [Suzette Elliott-West](mailto:Suzette.Elliott-West@tunbridge-wells.co.uk) or phone 01892 557402.

QUIZ NIGHT WITH PLOUGHMAN'S SUPPER

Whether you are already a member of a team, or would like to belong to one for the evening, why not join us at the **Langton Green Village Hall**, on **Saturday 19 October**.

Full details and an application form are on p.13 below.

GROUP REPORTS

CYCLING GROUP

Richard Martin, Cycling Group Contact, sent these photos. They are very anxious to recruit new members – see p. 8 below.



GALLERIES AND MUSEUMS GROUP

July 2019 Outing to Cranbrook Union Windmill Museum and St Dunstan's Church



Fifteen members spent an enjoyable day in this picturesque town, once known as the capital of the Weald. Weather-boarded cottages sit amongst other notable buildings, including the George Hotel, built in 1300 and visited by King Edward I and Queen Elizabeth I.

After half an hour's drive from TW we had a stop for coffee at Waterloo Tea Rooms and Antiques before a short walk to the Union Windmill for our very detailed and informative tour. Open for us by special arrangement, it is the tallest smock windmill in England. It contains all working machinery and equipment, is well maintained and kept in working order thanks to donations. Stoneground flour is milled using wind power whenever possible, and is available to purchase. Many of us climbed the 71 stairs over 7 floors, which became steeper and narrower with each step! The panoramic views were worth the effort.

Lunch was enjoyed at Hartley Coffee

House and Farm Shop, described by one of our group as 'like a Harrods in the country!' Next was our visit to the Cranbrook Museum, housed in a Grade II listed 15th century timber-framed building. Exhibits were over three floors, showing aspects of Cranbrook and district's past social, industrial, rural and family life. A tardis of local history and artefacts! Many agreed we would need to re-visit as there was so much to see.



Some of our group chose to visit St. Dunstan's Church, referred to as the 'cathedral of the Weald', and dates back over 500 years. Another impressive landmark in this lovely country market town.

With many thanks to those who drove, and to David Walter for taking the photographs.

Text by Janet Smith, Photos by David Walter

LONDON EXPLORERS 4



London Explorers 4 went to Richmond on 9th August and amazingly it stayed dry. We had a visit to Richmond Museum and walked along the river. Richmond was so interesting and quite lovely. Those that wanted could go to Mary Magdalene Church and Ham House. It was all organised by Davis and Christine.

*Text & photo by Suzette Elliott-West,
Group Contact*

SCIENCE GROUP

On Monday 19th August, 11 members of the Tunbridge Wells Science group visited the National Centre for Reptile Welfare attached to Hadlow College with whom the Centre is in partnership. Chris, the director and our guide, described the work of the Centre -- education, welfare, rehoming, and rescuing amphibians and reptiles.

Bearded dragons are the most popular pet but need rehoming as some owners can no longer care for them. All the snakes were non venomous and there was a great range in size. A couple of rather aggressive turtles were fed by Chris whilst we were there – live locusts for one, frozen fish for the other – very quickly swallowed. We tried to get the attention of a grotesque green frog called Boris – doesn't give interviews!

We were allowed to handle some of the residents. Beryl and Sandra are making friends with a couple of junior royal pythons in the photo.

We were very grateful to Chris for his time and a donation was given.



*Sandra Blacker, Group Contact
Photo by Jane Hiatt*

SPANISH CONVERSATION 2

Spanish Conversation 2 met at Christine's small and cosy house not realising that all ten members would be attending. Good job we are all good friends! We had hoped to be in the garden as we knew her room was tiny but August rain prevented this.

*Text & photo by Sue Marsal,
Group Contact*



UPDATE ON GROUPS

Group Contacts: Please see the message on page 9 below.

The summer has been quiet but we have some interesting topics on offer for the autumn and there will be an opportunity to promote your group at the New Members' Meeting in October. Before listing the groups, I'd like to correct an error on the Italian Conversation group in last month's newsletter. The new contact, Glyn Balmer's email address should read glyn.balmer@outlook.com.

STARTING IN THE AUTUMN

A Short History of the World Pat Wright already has seven members interested in her new course which will start late in October so please apply quickly if you'd like a place. It is a wide ranging subject so each session will begin with a half hour recorded introduction from an academic followed by a discussion among the members on the relevant issues and themes. There will be about 8 sessions and Wednesday afternoons are looking likely. Please contact [Pat](#) or phone her on 01892 750312.

Latin and Ancient Greek We shall meet to set up this group in early September. Details will be on the website so please get in touch if you'd like to refresh your knowledge of either of these languages.

Mathematics and Statistics

We aim to meet in October to discuss ideas and meeting times for this group and to set up a programme which would appeal to anyone who'd like to learn more about these important subjects and how they affect our lives. A rusty O level and an enquiring mind is all that's needed. Possible topics for discussion are on the website but your own suggestions are welcome.

NEW GROUPS

Rummikub A strategic game with number tiles. Great fun and good for the brain. We need just one or two more to get started.

A second Recorder Group Our recorder group has been going a long time and is full so, by popular request, we are offering a second group. Please let me know if you are interested, whatever your level and experience.

Bat and Chat This group is already meeting and we have enjoyed playing on the tennis courts at St John's club where we are made very welcome. It's the perfect opportunity to get back to tennis and take it at your own pace; also opportunities to play with regular members of the club or to play table tennis if you prefer. Courts and clubhouse facilities will be open to us for two hours from 9.30-11.30 on Thursday mornings. There is a charge of £5.00 which includes coffee and cake. Please contact [Laura Collins](#) 07802 643696.

GROUPS READY TO TAKE NEW MEMBERS

Cycling Our cyclists aim to meet on alternate Tuesdays but they need more members. It's a friendly group cycling at an easy pace. So if you have an old bike in your shed, do give it a go. See next page.

Graphology, Handwriting Analysis Learn to identify personality characteristics through handwriting patterns. Please contact [Anthea Hall](#) or 01892 862027.

Designing the Future A chance to join in discussions on some of the important issues we may face in the years to come. Contact [David Greenhalgh](#) or 01892 671737.

Singing for Pleasure would welcome more gentlemen to enable them to continue giving concerts at local care homes and other venues. Contact [Adrian Twiner](#) or 01892 459352

5 Mile Monthly Walking Group A small group who enjoy walking in the countryside and an occasional pub lunch. Contact [Joy Podbury](#) or 01892 315549.

continued on next page

- Wine Group 1** 2nd Wednesday. Contact [David Britton](#) or 01892 528785.
- Wine Group 2** 4th Friday. Contact [Ian Seddon](#) or 07815 188471.
- London Explorers 5** 4th Wednesday. Contact [Bob Slater](#) or 01892 547520.
- London Explorers 6** 1st Friday. Contact [Helen Seddon](#) or 07866 67701.

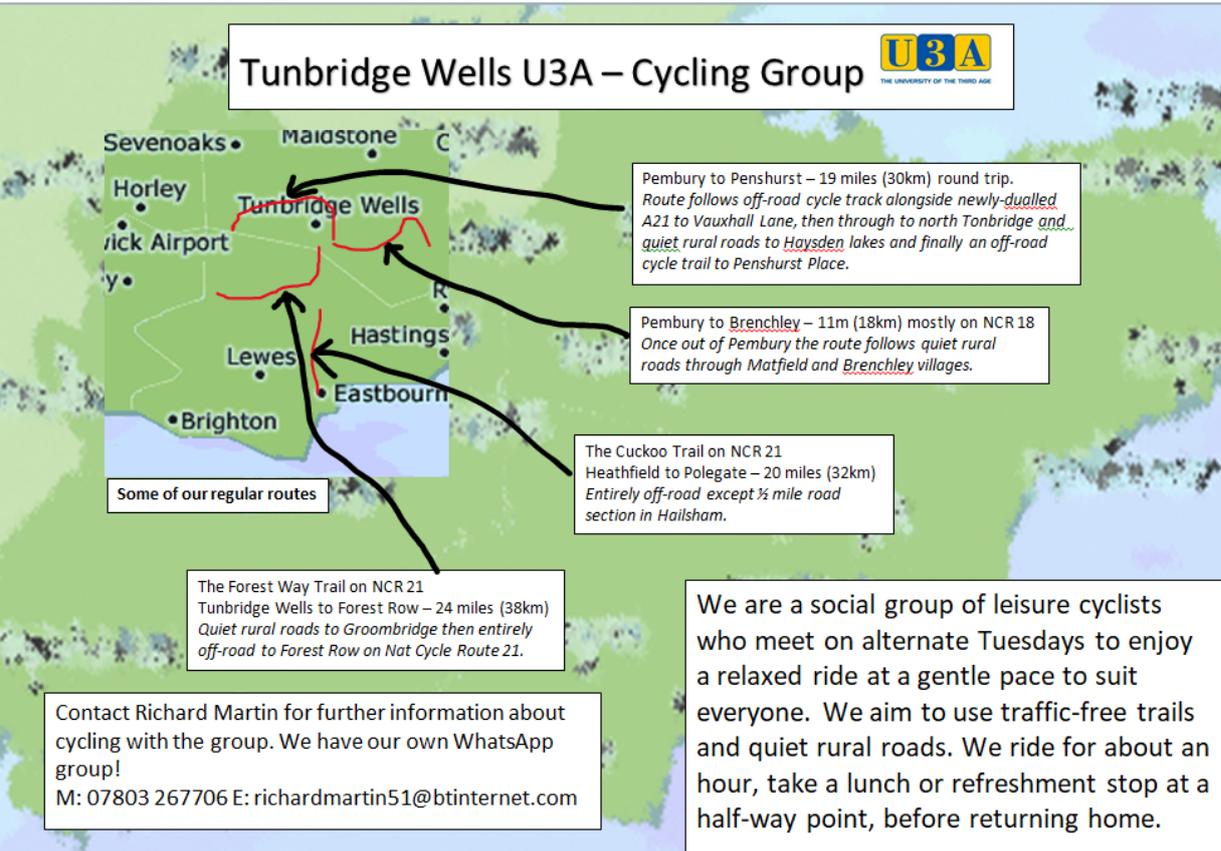
For more information or to join new groups please contact Jan Sumner, Groups Coordinator twu3agroupcoordinator@gmail.com or phone 01892 860554.

The Cycling Group needs New Members!

Our Cycling group is looking for some new members to boost their numbers. All you need is a bike and a little enthusiasm! They meet on alternate Tuesdays to enjoy a relaxed ride at a gentle pace to suit everyone. Using traffic-free trails and quiet rural roads we ride for about an hour, take a lunch or refreshment stop at a half-way point, before returning home. For more information contact Richard Martin 07803 267706 or email_richardmartin51@btinternet.com.

Tunbridge Wells U3A – Cycling Group





Pembury to Penshurst – 19 miles (30km) round trip. Route follows off-road cycle track alongside newly-dualled A21 to Vauxhall Lane, then through to north Tunbridge and quiet rural roads to Haysden lakes and finally an off-road cycle trail to Penshurst Place.

Pembury to Brenchley – 11m (18km) mostly on NCR 18 Once out of Pembury the route follows quiet rural roads through Matfield and Brenchley villages.

The Cuckoo Trail on NCR 21 Heathfield to Polegate – 20 miles (32km) Entirely off-road except ½ mile road section in Hailsham.

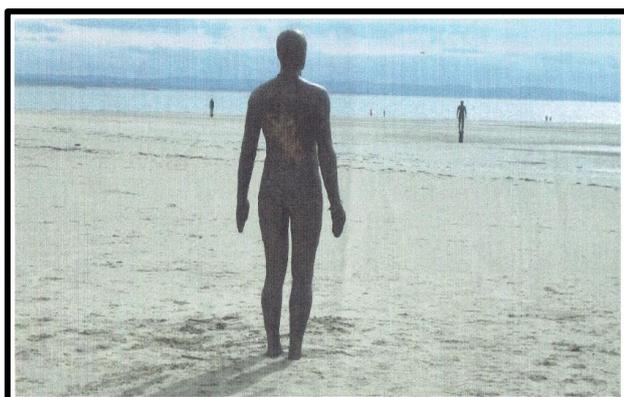
The Forest Way Trail on NCR 21 Tunbridge Wells to Forest Row – 24 miles (38km) Quiet rural roads to Groombridge then entirely off-road to Forest Row on Nat Cycle Route 21.

Some of our regular routes

Contact Richard Martin for further information about cycling with the group. We have our own WhatsApp group!
M: 07803 267706 E: richardmartin51@btinternet.com

We are a social group of leisure cyclists who meet on alternate Tuesdays to enjoy a relaxed ride at a gentle pace to suit everyone. We aim to use traffic-free trails and quiet rural roads. We ride for about an hour, take a lunch or refreshment stop at a half-way point, before returning home.

Art Appreciation Group 2019-20 Session



Details and the application for the 2019-20 session of the Art Appreciation Group can be found at the end of this Newsletter.

Antony Gormley (b.1950), Another Place 2005
Permanent installation at Crosby Beach
Image supplied by the lecturer

AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE FOR GROUP CONTACTS

A couple of incidents have happened recently where having members of groups on Beacon has been very helpful. The latest one occurred when a group contact was unexpectedly admitted to hospital and I was able to email the group and let them know that the next meeting had to be cancelled. You don't have to run your group on Beacon, but having the members listed there is useful and you can also check whether their subscription has been renewed. If you email me, I can arrange to set you up on Beacon as a group contact or alternatively, if you let me know who is in your group, I can set them up. The second isn't as satisfactory as it will get out of date, but it is preferable to nothing.

[Sue Brimlow](#), *Chairman*

THE DAWN OF THE SPACE AGE & THE RACE TO THE MOON

Talks by Professor David Southwood, CBE, FRAeS, Former Director of Science & Robotic Exploration ESA, Former President of the Royal Astronomical Society of London on 13.8.2019

Anyone who attended the Science Study day at Paddock Wood last October would have known that an afternoon in the company of Professor Southwood would be a very enjoyable and informative experience, and so it proved to be.

He started by taking us through the early days of rocket experimentation, which was inspired by science fiction writers, and, in particular, Jules Verne. The founding fathers of rocketry thus motivated included Hermann Oberth in Germany, Konstantin Tsiolkovsky in Soviet Russia and Robert H Goddard in the USA.

Although early research in Germany had been conducted by enthusiasts, an oversight in the Treaty of Versailles omitted rockets from the list of proscribed weapons. This ultimately led to the development of the V1 and V2 at Peenemunde by Wernher von Braun, an Oberth protegee. In the USA the work of Goddard was later damaged by a false New York Times claim that rockets would not work in a vacuum. This had an adverse effect on both funding and reputation and many years passed before a retraction was published.

After World War Two the USA allowed expediency to overcome moral judgement and leading German rocket scientists were allowed to make new lives and careers in America.

Professor Southwood explained that the launch by the USSR in 1957 of the first Satellite – Sputnik – was a profound shock to the USA as it demonstrated the ability to launch missiles to mainland America. To make things worse, it was followed shortly after by the explosion on launch of the US Vanguard rocket. More Russian achievements followed – the first woman in space and the first moon rover.

In 1962 President Kennedy made his historic 'We choose to go to the Moon' speech, backing this pledge with money. By 1965 4% of US GDP was being spent on the Apollo programme. Also, in that year the first spacewalk was achieved by Ed White. In 1968 Apollo 8 orbited the moon.

Russian fortunes took a downturn. Their chief designer died in 1966 leading to infighting between laboratories wanting to take on his role, an attempted spacewalk nearly ended in fatality and a moon rocket was destroyed.

In 1969 Neil Armstrong took his 'One Small Step'.

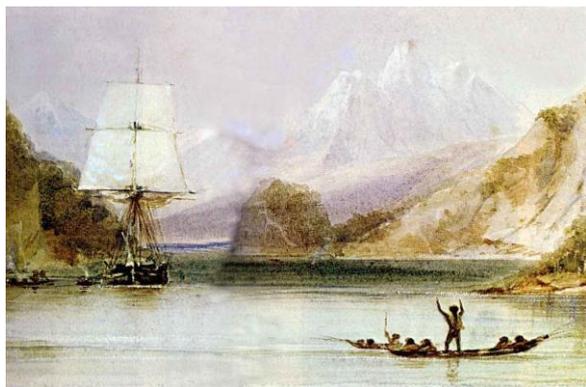
There were four more trips to the moon but the final two were cancelled as a more conservative approach to funding was taken.

Professor Southwood finished his seminar by giving an impressive list of benefits derived from space flight including weather observations, climate change and economic resource monitoring, telecoms, broadband, navigation and location amongst others.

Bob Holly

REPORT ON THE AUGUST MONTHLY MEETING

“Charles Darwin and the Voyage of the Beagle” by Dr. James Taylor FRSA



The *Beagle* anchoring at [Tierra del Fuego](#) in 1832
by [Conrad Martens](#) [public domain]

This was a fascinating account of the voyage from Britain down around South America to Australia, New Zealand, Tahiti and South Africa, including the famous five week visit to the Galapagos Islands, a five-year trip which returned home in October 1836. There had been a previous voyage on which three men from the islands of Tierra del Fuego were brought to Britain, but who were returned to their homelands on the second voyage.

Charles Darwin was born in Shrewsbury in 1809 of an illustrious family. His mother was a Wedgewood and his father and forebears were medical men, so the family was very comfortably well off. Charles himself was a botanist, educated at Christ Church College, Cambridge. He was

employed on the *Beagle* through the funds of his father, but also on the recommendation of his professor, Professor Reverend John Stevens, because of his enquiring mind.

The chief commander of the voyage was Robert Fitzroy, who also became famous for his work on measurement at sea. Also on board were artists who recorded the places, people and wildlife they encountered on the trip. These included Augustus Earle, Benjamin West and Conrad Martens, although not all at the same time. During the voyage Darwin, accustomed to much more generous accommodation, occupied a cabin measuring 10 x 11 feet!

Although the voyage is best known for Darwin's records of the wildlife he encountered there, the artists painted amazing views of places along the way. It was later said of Darwin that he was a first class landscaper, a painter with a pen!

In addition to the specimens, notes, paintings and sketches, notable events included the discovery of the prehistoric remains of a creature later named *Mylodon* by Dr. Richard Owens, the famous Victorian palaeontologist. Darwin even shipped home a Rhea bird which had been shot and cooked by the on-board artist Martens!

After his return Darwin wrote his account of the voyage and some years later, when married to his cousin Emma and living at Down House in Kent, he published his famous *Origin of Species* in 1859 which was largely influenced by his travels on the *Beagle*.

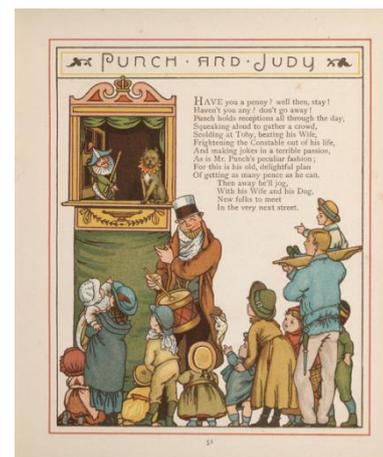
The most fascinating part of the talk for me was the wealth of drawings and paintings of the voyage, not to mention the portraits and prints of the many people involved in Darwin's life. Dr. Taylor recommended that we visit Down House which has many pictures relevant to the life and voyages of Darwin, a lot of which we saw during this interesting talk. I wish there were room to write more about it.

I for one will be certain to visit this house, particularly after the contribution of Dr Taylor, and I am sure that many of us who were attending the talk are also likely to do so. This was for me one of the best monthly talks we have had.

Miranda Baston

FORTHCOMING MONTHLY MEETINGS

- 19th September:** Antonia Gallop's talk will be "Across India on an Enfield motorcycle".
- 17th October:** Bertie Pearce will speak about *Punch and Judy*.
- 21st November:** Imogen Corrigan will talk on Christmas traditions.
- December:** There will be no monthly talk.
- 2020**
- 16th January:** Tom Wray will speak on "Exciting Wildlife from around the World."
- 20th February:** "Passports, Assassins, Traitors and Spies", a talk by Martin Lloyd.



From *London Town* by Felix Leigh, Thomas Crane, and Ellen Houghton [Public domain]

The Outing to Manston – a Personal View

On Tuesday 6th August, I and 40 other U3A members joined the coach trip to Manston airport to visit the Spitfire and Hurricane Memorial Museum together with the adjacent RAF Manston Museum. It was at the latter that I was transported back 60 years to when I was an Air Training Corps cadet.

On various Sunday mornings, we were taken To West Malling aerodrome, where we were taken on flights in De Havilland Chipmunks. We were taken up by a qualified RAF pilot but once airborne, we were allowed to take the controls and fly around Kent before handing back control to the pilot for landing.

Imagine my delight when I found, at the museum, a restored Chipmunk similar to the ones I used to fly.

Not only that but right next to it in the museum, was a Kirby Cadet Mk 3 glider in which I learned to glide, again by courtesy of the Air Training Corps.

On Fridays, in the summer, I would cycle from Orpington, where I lived, to Kenly Aerodrome at Whiteleaf in Surrey. A group of cadets would spend the weekend as ground crew, preparing and retrieving aircraft and taking turns to fly under the guidance of an instructor. In the two seat glider we gradually took more control until the instructor deemed us competent to fly solo. In order to gain our pilot's licence we had to perform three solo flight.



Unfortunately, after that the RAF, having done their job, abandoned us and any further flying we did had to be at a private gliding club which cost money. Sadly, as a teenager starting my first job, this was beyond my reach and I have never flown since. Looking at the wood and canvas aircraft in the museum and especially, the sparse, crudely constructed cockpit and controls, I wonder why I ever got into it in the first place! It was a wonderful experience.

Seeing the two aircraft which featured in my teenage years brought back many memories added to which, I found a Hunting Percival Jet

Provost which I am fairly certain, my father helped to design. He spent most of his life in the Ministry of Defence, covered by the Official Secrets act, so I never knew exactly what he did but he did spend a lot of time at Hunting Percival.

My thanks to Stella Westrup and Rosemary Rees for organising a wonderful day out. Indeed thanks to all of the outing team for some very interesting and educational visits.



Colin Turner

IMPORTANT MESSAGE ABOUT HELPING MEMBERS ACCESS OUR U3A

We try to ensure that our U3A is as accessible as is reasonable. Our monthly meeting and coffee morning venues have step free access and disabled facilities and the Camden Centre has a hearing link. We've recently introduced reserved seating at our monthly meeting for members with walking difficulties. Carers are welcome to attend with members too. We provide printed newsletters for members who aren't online or have difficulties reading from a screen. However, not all venues, especially where groups are held in member's homes, are as easy to access.

We are also aware that not everyone drives and that many of our members offer lifts to meetings and walk starting points. However, this is not a given and we would also ask members who are given lifts to show their appreciation by offering a contribution towards fuel and parking costs.

We ask all our members to be aware of the measures that we take and to refer any access queries to the committee.

Useful Information and Important Messages

Events in September and October

We have the following events arranged for September and October:

7 th Sept.	Games Afternoon – by ticket
19 th Sept.	Monthly Meeting: Across India on an Enfield motorcycle , a talk by Antonia Gallop
27 th Sept.	Coffee Morning at Trinity
1 st Oct.	“Useful to Know” talk on Power of Attorney
8 th Oct.	New Members’ Meeting – by invitation
17 th Oct.	Monthly Meeting: Punch and Judy , a talk by Bertie Pearce
19 th Oct.	Quiz Evening – application form below
28 th Oct.	Art Study Day: Various speakers – by ticket
31 st Oct.	“Useful to Know” talk on Deafness and the help available from Hi Kent

Forthcoming Events For Your Diary

21 st Nov.	Monthly Meeting: Christmas Traditions , a talk by Imogen Corrigan
12 th Dec.	U3A Christmas Lunch at the Masonic Hall – details later

New Members

We are pleased to welcome the following new members who have joined since 1st August:

Sheila Baker	Marjorie Goddard	Carole Moore
Tony Barnes	Lauraine Griffiths	Leslie Moore
Sharon Batty	Nick Hemming	Sheila Mulholland
Lynn Birchard	Hella Keevil	Don Sloan
Jenny Burgess	Anne Kenward	Tim Williamson
Keith Davies	Barbara Leeds	Jenny Wills
Adrian Ekins-Daukes	Paul Martin	
Edward Glendinning	Suzanne Martin	

2020 Diaries



Your Committee		
Chairman	Sue Brimlow	01892 863691
Vice-Chairman	Adrian Twiner	01892 459352
Secretary	Wendy Maher	01892 325272
Treasurer	David Brimlow	01892 860598
Group Coordinator	Jan Sumner	01892 860554
Membership Secretary	Ruth Johnson	01892 523097
Outings Coordinator	Joan Young	01892 546687
Business Secretary	Adrian Twiner	01892 459352
Newsletter	Eryll Fabian	01892 513805
Short Breaks & Holidays	Sandra McDonald	01892 752196

The U3A 2020 diary is now available at £2.75. They will be available for sale at our monthly meetings. If you are unable to attend a meeting, please phone Jo or Brian Bailey on **01732 668548** to reserve a diary.

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 will do our best if space allows.

If anyone objects to their photo being reproduced in this Newsletter, they should contact the editor.

All contributions to the **October** Newsletter should be e-mailed to [Eryll Fabian](mailto:Eryll.Fabian@u3a.org.uk) by 30th September at the latest (**earlier submissions will be welcome!**) or phone 01892 513805.

QUIZ NIGHT WITH PLOUGHMAN'S SUPPER

Join us at the **Langton Green Village Hall, TN3 0JJ**, on **Saturday 19 October**.

Come to the venue in good time - **between 7.00 pm and 7.15 pm**. *There is car parking at the hall.*

Teams will be of 6 people. There are 2 ways of applying below:

For a **team** of 6 people, please **print** the other names and U3A membership numbers below.

NAME	NO	NAME	NO
		Our TEAM NAME is	

If you are applying **individually**, please complete the details below. If you wish to come with a friend or friends, **PLEASE INCLUDE THEIR FORM(S) AND CHEQUE(S) in your envelope**.

We will advise you in good time of the names of the other people who you will be sitting with.

The price for the Quiz Night, including the hire of the hall, other costs, and the Ploughman's Supper, **is £8.00 per person**.

Bring with you - your drink, a glass, cutlery, nibbles, and a pen or biro.

Please send any **queries** by email to: **jean@brushfield.com**; or phone her on **01892 520 630**

Please post your completed application form, together with your cheque, to:

Jean Brushfield, Freshfields, Molyneux Park Road, Tunbridge Wells TN4 8DN

The deadline for your application is MONDAY 7 OCTOBER.

A confirmation of payment will be emailed to you. **If you require a paper copy, please send Jean a SAE.**

I enclose a cheque for £48.00 (for a **team** of 6 people) or £8.00 (for an **individual**) made payable to **Tunbridge Wells U3A**

My Name (Capital letters)Membership no.....

Email address.....Phone no.....

Postal address.....

**A Visit to Kew Gardens
Wednesday 20th November 2019**

The 2019 Christmas trail at Kew takes a magical new route and includes a host of all-new installations. Framed by glittering spiral trees, dynamic laser projections will illuminate the iconic Temperate House. A dazzling arch leads to a cascade of glowing silvery shards at the Treetop Walkway. Walk amongst immersive vines with changing ribbons of light, and wander beneath the branches where mysterious fairy-fire known as Will-o’the Wisp softly glows. The Holly Bushes will sing, the Tunnel of Light will twinkle with thousands of pea-lights, and the flickering Fire Garden takes its place amidst the festive experience. At the Palm House finale jumping jets of light will dance across the water to much-loved Christmas classics.

As the trail comes to end, there will be stalls at Victoria Plaza selling mulled wine, mince pies and other festive food. The cafes will be open for refreshments and there will be time for some Christmas shopping at Kew’s shops.

There is a fair bit of walking so please wear sensible shoes and wrap up warm. Kew recommends that you bring a torch.

Itinerary

- 4.15 pm Coach departs Crescent Road Tunbridge Wells
- 4.30 pm Coach departs Southborough Fountain
- 6.15 pm Arrive Kew Gardens
- 9.15 pm Depart for Tunbridge Wells
- 10.45 pm approx. Arrive Tunbridge Wells

Cost £31.50 Price includes entry ticket, coach travel and driver’s gratuity.

Applications including cheque made payable to “Tunbridge Wells U3A” and stamped addressed envelope to Linda Trowell 20 Norfolk Road Tunbridge Wells TN1 1TD.

Queries to Linda Trowell 01892 528680 or Jenny Jessup 01892 530012.

Mobiles on the day only Linda Trowell 07984031129 or Jenny Jessup 07958926220

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

Also note that once we are committed to paying out money in advance, usually full refunds will only be possible if your place is taken by another U3A member.

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Please reserve Places for the outing to Kew Gardens on Wednesday 20th November 2019

I/We enclose a cheque for £..... plus s.a.e.

I/We will board the coach at Crescent Road at 4.15pm or Southborough Fountain at 4.30pm
(please delete as appropriate)

Name/s..... U3A Membership No/s.....

Address.....

Post Code.....

Tel.No.....

Signed Date.....

**ART APPRECIATION GROUP
2019-2020 SESSION**

Welcome to our forthcoming Autumn-Spring session of monthly illustrated talks by Liz Strang, & guest speakers, held on Tuesday afternoons in the Main Hall of the Camden Centre **at 2.45 pm.**

Please do not arrive before 2.30 as the hall is in use until then and it is necessary to set out chairs and equipment.

Subscription rates for this year will be £9 per person for the 6 sessions

Tuesday 22 October ANTONY GORMLEY: A BODY OF WORK – Rosalind Whyte (Rosalind Whyte is an experienced Art historian who lectures at the Royal Academy, Tate Britain, Tate Modern, Dulwich Picture Gallery and also to many art societies).

Antony Gormley’s career spans nearly 40 years when he has made sculpture exploring the relationship of the human body to space, often using his own body as his starting point. As well as his better-known works (like the iconic *Angel of the North*) this lecture will look at some of his earlier and less well known works, to give an overall view of the development of his work across his whole career, up to the present time.

Tuesday 12th November THE TURNER PRIZE: BUT IS IT ART? A look at the aims and history of the Turner Prize since its beginning in 1984, covering some of its more controversial aspects as well as some of its famous – and forgotten – winners. We remind ourselves of the entries that were judged outrageous and eccentric by the media and also look at the cartoons and press comments. We take a closer look at some of the winners, a Potter (Grayson Perry) and an Installation artist (Rachel Whitbread) amongst others, to see if their subsequent work has justified the earlier accolade, and we end with a look at last year’s winner and this year’s nominee, to see where the 21st century is taking us!

Tuesday 10th December Liz will show us
IMAGES OF THE CHRISTMAS STORY THROUGH MASTERPIECES

We look forward to seeing you.

Alison Turner, Group co-ordinator – dennisandalison@sky.com

2020 dates: 22 January, 19 February & 24 March to be announced

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*Please return this form to Linda Sydenham, 43 Bowen Rd, Rusthall TN4 8SU (01892 539945)
e-mail: sydenham8su@btinternet.com*

I/we wish to join the Art Appreciation Group and enclose a cheque for £..... (payable to **Tunbridge Wells U3A**) together with s.a.e. if receipt is required.

Name/s.....U3A No/s.....

Address:.....

Tel: e-mail:.....