

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Our gazebo with its TWu3a display was much in evidence at the Trinity Fête on August Bank holiday Saturday – our fourth fête appearance since the Queen's Jubilee. →

Our next outing will be on **u3a Day**, Wednesday 21st September, when the gazebo will be in front of the Millennium Clock in Fiveways.



This was our display in the window of *The World of Sewing* on u3a Day in 2021

the UK with over 388,000 members and that on average membership costs less than £20 per year?

TWu3a has approximately 1000 members but we shall not be able to continue if we cannot find members willing to join our management committee. Please have a look at the URGENT notice on p. 2 – it is important!

[Eryll Fabian](#) (01892 513805)

“But what is u3a Day?” I hear you ask. Sometime during the third week of September, u3as throughout the country choose a convenient day to hold **u3a Day**, when we showcase the activities, learning and fun which take place across the movement every day. Celebrations vary and in TW this year it will be a relatively modest event as we have been doing this already with our appearances at fêtes.

Did you know that there are 1,057 u3as in

Coming up this month

Thursday 15th Sept:
Monthly meeting: **“Manners Please, Dearest”**

Saturday 24th Sept:
Barn Dance

Friday 30th Sept:
Coffee morning at Trinity



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Are you a good organiser? Do you like people?

If so, read on

There will be at least two vacancies on the Committee in June 2023 which must be filled if TWu3a is to continue. Both roles will be suitable for someone who is efficient, enthusiastic and friendly. Is that you? If you would like to be involved in running TWu3a, whether you are a new member with ideas or an old-timer with experience, why not come to some of our committee meetings to find out more about what is involved?

Please contact Eryll (01892 513805), or speak to any of the present committee members for more information.

Hybrid Monthly Meeting at the
Tunbridge Wells Christian Fellowship Hall.

Thursday September 15th 2.30pm

"Manners Please, Dearest!"

The Do's and Don'ts of Victorian Etiquette

By David Allen



Welcome to the extraordinary world of Victorian etiquette! Mind your step as David guides you through the minefield of strict rules and regulations of the Do's and Don'ts of the Victorian 'well to do'. You are all invited to attend a Victorian Finishing School for Young Ladies where you will discover the proprieties of courtship, how to walk, sit, and talk, calling cards, dinner party etiquette, and the mysterious language of the fan.

Certainly sounds like it will be great fun!

BOARD GAMES AND AFTERNOON TEA



Come and join us for some fun and games

Date: Thursday 27th October 2022

Time: 2.15- 4.30pm

Cost: £6

**Venue: Camden Centre, Market Square,
Royal Victoria Place,**

Tunbridge Wells, TN1 2SW

Application form at the end of this Newsletter

Outings Coordinator

Our final outing of the year has a festive theme. We will be going to see the Christmas Lights in Bedgebury Pinetum and Forest on Friday 2nd December. There will be over a million twinkling lights and seasonal sounds that will fill the air with festive fun. Walk under giant baubles and beneath glistening trees drenched in jewel-like colour. See the mesmerising flames in the fire garden and larger than life Christmas illuminations.

Then why not treat yourself to a seasonal snack at Bedgebury cafe in the visitors' centre? Talented street food vendors will bring a delicious twist to the tempting treats on offer. Or complete your walk under the stars with a perfectly festive spiced winter warmer, a hot chocolate or a toasted marshmallow.

To book this fabulous festive trip organised by Sandra Chandnani please complete the application form at the end of the newsletter.

In August we had a lovely day in Ramsgate seeing the war time tunnels then spending the day looking at the beautiful places the town has to offer. The Marina and the harbour were very pretty. A full review of this trip follows below.

At the time of writing the October trip to Polesden Lacey was almost full, but if you would like to go on this trip the application form is in the August newsletter or alternatively you can contact me on 0750 491 9081.

Joan Young

August Outing to The Ramsgate Tunnels

Ramsgate Tunnels were constructed at the outbreak of WW2 to provide some of the finest air raid shelters ever built and, nowadays, are certainly well worth visiting. The fact that these tunnels were built at all and completed in record time in 1939 was largely down to the persistence of the flamboyant Mayor and expertise of the Borough Engineer, the mastermind behind three and half miles of chalk tunnels under the town, with eleven



entrances at strategic points – able to provide shelter for up to 60,000 people, with over 1,000 permanent residents, whose homes had been destroyed. After the war the tunnels were eventually closed. However, a Trust was formed, Lottery money was secured and the tunnels opened to the public in 2014.

We divided into two groups, and equipped with hard hats and large torches, we explored a section of the tunnels with volunteer guides to tell us about the history of their construction, the facilities provided and what it was like for the people who used them during the war. Today, they have replicated some of the living quarters/sleeping areas, so that children can experience a night sleeping there (probably with not much sleep going on!).



Afterwards, we had free time to enjoy a glorious, sunny day by the sea, wandering around the beautiful harbour and waterfront. Some of us found our way to Wetherspoons housed in the Royal Victoria Pavilion on the seafront, where one could sit in the open air on the balconies and enjoy a drink and lunch, whilst keeping an eye on a nearby seagull.

A long, but lovely day. Thank you, Stella.

Pat Micklewright

Groups Coordinator's Update

Plans to get a **Ukulele** group playing together are progressing. We have a group contact who would welcome interest from more players and beginners are welcome to register their interest to learn by contacting the groups coordinator.

The small, newish **MOTO2** group are meeting for planning and coffee at the Old Auction House (Linden Park Road) on Wednesday 14th September at 10.30am. New **Members On Their Own** are always welcome...come and meet each other.

Posh Nosh Diners 2 (an evening eating group) are holding their start-up meeting on Thursday September 22nd. 10:30 at the Old Auction House.

We now have a group contact/facilitator and potential venue for a group to use **Practical meditation and breathing techniques**. Is anyone interested in coming along?

The **Poetry** group is now full so if you would like to join a new group Elaine is willing to help start it off.

Outside interest in our 'public' facebook page continues to grow **@TunbridgeWellscommunitypage**. We are keen to publicise our group activities and always welcome photos that members/groups are willing to allow us to share on the page.

Please send them to lhaselltwu3a@gmail.com.



Earlier in the year we started to promote an **Armchair Travel** group but it fell by the wayside. Someone has recently suggested that maybe there are TWu3a members who lived in Hong Kong who might like to meet up. If you are interested please contact the groups coordinator who can put you in touch with each other.

Details of any groups can be found on the Groups page of the [website](#) or from Lindsay Hasell, the groups co-ordinator.

[Lindsay Hasell](#),

A Date for your Diary

Christmas Lunch on Thursday 8th December

Our Christmas Lunch will be at the Masonic Hall again this year. It will cost £35 for a three course meal plus tea or coffee.

Full details will be in next month's Newsletter.

Art Appreciation Group: Autumn & Spring programme

The group will continue to meet on Wednesday afternoons at 2.30 p.m. on the 2nd week of the month, from October to March in either the Victoria or the Albert Suite at the Camden Centre. This year following U3a guidelines there will be no external speakers, but I hope you will still be encouraged to join when you see the programme I have put together with help from Liz Strang.

On Wednesday, 12th October, I shall begin our programme by talking about the life and work of the 19th century American artist Winslow Homer and hope you will be encouraged to visit the exhibition *Winslow Homer: Force of Nature* which runs from September to 8th January at the National Gallery. He is famous in the U.S.A. but hardly heard of in this country.



The Life Line - Winslow Homer

On Wednesday, 9th November, Liz Strang is going to talk about Cézanne. An exhibition of work covering his entire career opens at Tate Modern on 5th October. It promises to be a wonderful opportunity to see many of his paintings gathered in one place.

On Wednesday 14th December, there will be a discussion meeting at which we shall look at examples of large outdoor sculpture. Sculpture is often controversial and when I held a Zoom meeting in 2020 on this topic, it launched a thought-provoking discussion. This time I shall introduce one or two subjects, but also ask some of the members to present short pieces as well.

On Wednesday 11th January, we shall focus at Gabriele Münter and her 12 year long partnership with Wassily Kandinsky who together were deeply involved in the movement that developed into Modernism. This will be of interest to anyone visiting the exhibition at the Royal Academy *Making Modernism*, which runs from November to February.

The **8th February and 8th March** meetings are still being planned.

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The cost of all six sessions from October to March will be £12. To join the group:

EITHER, let me know by email at yorvadale@gmail.com and pay £12 by making an online transfer to Tunbridge Wells University of the Third Age, sort code 40-52-40, account number 00024097. Add the reference **Art3 plus your surname** (or as many letters as you are allowed) e.g. mine will be Art3Royal, so the treasurer can identify who has paid.

OR, if you don't use email or online banking you can send a cheque **made payable to TWU3A** to me, Elaine Royal, 18 Barnfield, Tunbridge Wells, TN2 5XD, with a note of your name and telephone number.

I look forward to seeing you again and also welcoming new members to the group.

Elaine Royal
Telephone 01892 524537 or email at yorvadale@gmail.com

Group News

Out & About 2 had a lovely visit to Titsey Place, Oxted. We went on a guided tour of the house, which is still lived in by the owners. There was some interesting furniture and Canaletto paintings. The garden was beautiful but it was a bit too hot for a proper look around.

Liz Adams



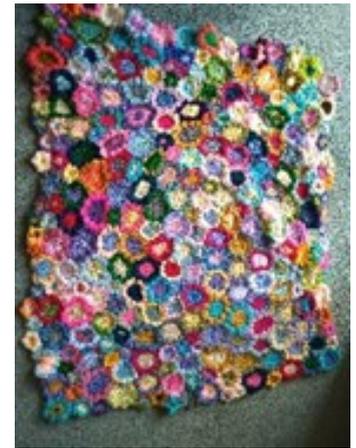
The crochet group still remains very active and we have been delivering our items to Refugease who are very grateful for all our donations. If there is any other group that has something they could donate please do. They are very active at the moment in Ukraine.

We diverted from our usual squares and as you can see we made a lap blanket from crocheted flowers. Thank you Christine for sewing them altogether!! We have one prolific crocheter so a special thanks you to Julie for all you have done and are still doing.

In early August a few members from the crochet group had a trip to London visiting Somerset House.

'Eternally Yours--- Care, Repair and Healing' was an exhibition showcasing diverse examples of creative and imaginative ways to reuse and repair everyday objects, such as textiles, ceramics and furniture.

Taking the time to repair things that we love often rekindles memories and emotions, giving value to the things we cherish. Being a 'crafty' group, we were most impressed by the incredible skills used to restore a variety of textiles!



Sue Bareham

London Explorers Group 4 enjoyed an interesting day

around Islington organised by Christine & David Britton. Taking in a number of Theatre pubs, the Town Hall, looking at the homes of notable residents such as Evelyn Waugh, George Orwell, Robert Carrier, Charles Lamb and, someone you might of heard of, Boris Johnson, to name just a few. Finishing off with a very pleasant lunch in a Turkish Restaurant.



Suzette Elliott-West

Last Month's Talk

THE LIFE OF AN ORDINARY MEDIEVAL HOUSE WIFE

Toni Mount



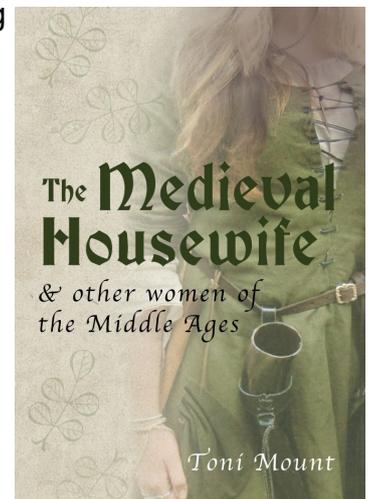
Few medieval housewives were educated, and the majority could not read or write, so how do we know about their lives? There is the odd diary and some letters but most of our understanding comes from instruction books written by husbands and masters for their wives and servants: namely, how to make lives easy and pleasant for the husbands.

It seems that a lot of time was taken up with laundry. This was difficult and time consuming and so measures were taken to avoid it where possible. Wooden pattens were worn under shoes to raise hems out of the mud and a detachable frill meant that the whole dress didn't need washing. Undergarments were made of linen which would absorb body odours and sweat as gowns were made of fabrics that were more difficult to wash. Outer clothes were shaken, brushed and aired and often hung in the toilet as it

was thought that moths did not like the smells that lingered there. Aprons were another way of keeping clothes clean and were even worn to church as a sign of respectability.

Most people would grow their own vegetables and keep chickens or a goat but foraging was also necessary. Items in season could be bought at market but the diet was very simple. A board on two trestles served not only as the dining table but for every other conceivable use as it was the only raised flat surface in the house. Consequently at mealtimes a tablecloth was always used. Hands were generally washed before meals as people ate with their fingers. Everyone had their own knife for cutting food and children learned to use theirs from the age of 3. Bathing was not as rare as we are led to believe but it was a bit of an effort. The instruction books give wives tips like putting sponges in the bottom of a half barrel bath to avoid getting splinters.

Toni was so interesting and very amusing; peppering her talk with little asides and jokes and it was full of meanings behind expressions that we still use today. For example the term 'straight laced': most women laced their dresses at the side where they could reach and the laces were at an angle. Well-to-do women had their dresses laced at the back as they could afford someone to help them dress and those laces were horizontal.



Important information

Forthcoming Events For Your Diary

24 Sept 2022	Barn Dance
27 Oct 2022	Games afternoon
8 Dec 2022	Christmas Lunch

New members

A big welcome to our **9** new members this month.

**Annie Colenutt Jenny Gorniak Maureen Morgan Susan Moulton
Carol Parham Jonathan Rayner Susan Reeves Sylvia Wickens Dot Yaliz**

Your Committee

Chairman	Eryll Fabian	01892 513805
Vice-Chair	Sandra McDonald	01892 752196
Secretary	Fiona Findlay	07872 169146
Treasurer	David Brimlow	01892 860598
Group Coordinator	Lindsay Hasell	01892 673180
Membership Secretary	Judy Horwood	01892 537601
Outings Coordinator	Joan Young	01892 546687
Short Breaks & Holidays	Sandra McDonald	01892 752196
Events Coordinator	Philippa Bernstein	01892 523132
Newsletter	Bridget Sands	01892 546161

A Message from the Editor

Any publication is only as good as its contributors and I do hope you will continue to support the Newsletter as it is such an easy and effective way to communicate with you all. If you have a great idea for an article or there is anything interesting you would like to see in the newsletter in the future please let me know.

If anyone objects to their photo being reproduced in this Newsletter, please contact me as soon as possible.

All contributions to the **October** Newsletter should be e-mailed to **Bridget** by September 30th at the latest (**earlier submissions are always welcome!**) or phone 01892 546161.

u3a Office



Keep up to date with u3a Office news on the website:
www.u3a.org.uk or write to:
The Third Age Trust, Room 104, Lenta Business Centre,
156 Blackfriars Rd, London SE1 8EN

TWu3a BARN DANCE Application

ORGANISER: Carol Woodman

email: carol.woodman@hotmail.co.uk

Code: BARN

Date: Saturday 24th September

Time: 7.30 to 10.30

Venue: Langton Green Village Hall TN3 OJJ

Price: £15 to include fish and chip supper

For anyone not wanting fish and chips there is an alternative - Halloumi Special. Please indicate if you would prefer this option.

****Please bring your own drinks, nibbles and glasses.****

To pay by BACS please email: Carol and include your name, mobile/home phone number, date of payment and Name of Event/Outing and Code (as above).

And: Make an online transfer to: **Tunbridge Wells u3a Sort code: 40-52-40**

Account No: 00024097 [Your bank may not recognise our CAF account, but as long as you've entered the details correctly, you can go ahead with the transaction].

Reference: BARN Your Surname

To pay by cheque: please post your application & cheque to
Carol Woodman, 21 Culverden Park Road, Tunbridge Wells, TN4 9RB.
Add your email or telephone number for confirmation of receipt.

NB Please let Carol know (01892 539452) **if you paid for a Barn Dance ticket in 2020 OR you can't make this date OR you can't remember whether you paid.**

APPLICATION FORM

Event name and Code: BARN DANCE

I enclose a cheque for £..... made payable to Tunbridge Wells u3a

Name and mobile/home phone number

.....
If you are paying for your partner or a u3a friend, please include their details below

Name and mobile/home phone number

.....

Tunbridge Wells u3a Event Application Form

Board Games and Afternoon Tea

ORGANISER: Philippa Bernstein

email pbernstein@btinternet.com

Telephone: 01892 523132

mobile: 07788 498606

CODE: GAMES

Date: Thursday 27th October 2022

Time: 2.15- 4.30pm

Venue: Camden Centre, Market Square, Royal Victoria Place,
Tunbridge Wells, TN1 2SW

Cost: £6

To pay by BACS please email: pbernstein@btinternet.com and include your name, mobile/home phone number, date of payment and Name of Event/Outing and Code (as above).

To pay: Make an online transfer to: **Tunbridge Wells u3a Sort code: 40-52-40 Account No: 00024097** [Your bank may not recognise our CAF account, but as long as you've entered the details correctly, you can go ahead with the transaction].

Reference: GAMES/ Your Surname

To pay by cheque: please post the cheque and application form below to:

Philippa Bernstein, 89A Powder Mill Lane, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN4 9ED. Add your email or telephone number for confirmation of receipt.

APPLICATION FORM

Event Name....Board Games & Afternoon Tea

Event Code GAMES (add surname).....

I enclose a cheque for £..... made payable to Tunbridge Wells u3a

Name and mobile/home phone number

.....
If you are paying for your partner or a u3a friend, please include their details below

Name and mobile/home phone number

For u3a members only

A fair amount of walking

**THE MAGICAL ILLUMINATED TRAIL AT BEDGEBURY NATIONAL PINETUM.
Friday 2nd December 2022.**

Outings Code: F15 ORGANISER: Sandra Chandnani E-mail: sandrachand@icloud.com

The cost of this outing is £33 which includes entry and driver's gratuity. Enjoy an after dark trail at Bedgebury National Pinetum. Make memories with friends as you discover sparkling tunnels of light. Catch a glimpse of the stars as you walk under giant baubles and beneath glistening trees drenched in jewel like colour. For a moment of reflection pause at mesmerising flames in the fire garden, gaze at the larger than life illuminations and don't forget to wave hello to Father Christmas on the way. Grab a seasonal snack from Bedgebury cafe at the visitor centre. A crew of talented independent street food vendors will bring a twist to the tempting treats on offer. Complete your walk under the stars with a perfect festive spiced winter warmer, hot chocolate or toasted marshmallows shared with friends.

To pay by BACS please email: sandrachand@icloud.com and include your name, mobile/home phone number, date of payment and Name of the Outing and Code (as above) and preferred coach pick up point.

Then to pay: Make an online transfer to: **Tunbridge Wells u3a Sort code: 40-52-40 Account No: 00024097** [Your bank may not recognise our CAF account, but as long as you've entered the details correctly, you can go ahead with the transaction].

Reference: OUTING CODE Surname e.g. **F15 Your Surname**

To pay by cheque: please post the application below to: Sandra Chandnani, 20 Chancellor House, Mount Ephraim, Tunbridge Wells TN4 8BT. Add your email or telephone number for confirmation of receipt.

APPLICATION FORM FOR BEDGEBURY LIGHTS F15		
I enclose a cheque for £..... made payable to Tunbridge Wells u3a		
Name:	Home no:	Mobile
If you are paying for your partner or a u3a friend, please include their details below		
Name:	Home no:	Mobile
Please tick where you want to board the coach		
	Crescent Road- opposite the Assembly Hall	15.00
	St Johns Bus Stop- opposite Sainsburys local	15.10
	Southborough Fountain	15.20

We expect to be at Bedgebury National Pinetum at approximately 16.15hrs. We will leave at 19.15hrs. And hope to arrive back in Tunbridge Wells around 20.00hrs.

My contact number for any enquiries regarding this trip is landline: 01892 538655

Please note once money has been paid in advance, full refunds will only be given if your place can be filled by another u3a member.

Members are advised that neither TWu3a nor the organiser will accept responsibility for any mishap of whatever nature during this outing, Members are advised to consider personal insurance cover.