

# TUNBRIDGE WELLS U3A NEWS

## September 2017



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
THE THIRD AGE

[www.tunbridgewellsu3a.org](http://www.tunbridgewellsu3a.org)

### CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE

I wrote this during a rare occurrence – a hot and sunny Bank Holiday weekend. I hope you were all able to enjoy it, especially after the patchy weather that we've had during the school holidays.

Unfortunately, the subscription process hasn't gone quite as smoothly as we hoped. Some of our members who didn't cancel their standing orders last year, have also paid by cheque or set up a direct debit, so they've paid twice. In addition, the renewal reminder that was sent out in August confused members who'd set up direct debits, and some set them up again. We were able to identify most of these duplicates and cancel them, but a few slipped through.

This means that we have to write over 100 cheques to refund the overpayments. To reduce the postage costs of sending all these refunds out, affected members will be notified and will be able to collect them at the monthly meeting and coffee morning. This newsletter is sent out to arrive (hopefully) the weekend before our monthly meeting. We've started contacting members who haven't renewed yet, so if you haven't renewed by the time you read this, please do so, to save us the effort of emailing or writing to you.

We'll be finalising the arrangements for our Christmas lunch during early September and the application form will be in the October newsletter. We're holding it at the Masonic Hall on Friday December 8<sup>th</sup>.

*Sue Brimlow, Chairman*

[suebrimlow@btinternet.com](mailto:suebrimlow@btinternet.com), Tel: 01892 863691

### COMING UP

#### MONTHLY MEETINGS

at 2.30pm at the Camden Centre

**Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> September**  
"The British Love Affair  
with Tea"  
a talk by **Caroline Piper**

**Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> October**  
"Sir Ernest Shackleton - a most  
successful failure"  
A talk by **Laton Frewen**

#### MONTHLY COFFEE MORNINGS

at Trinity from 10.30 – 12.00



**Friday 29<sup>th</sup> September**

**Friday 27<sup>th</sup> October**

#### OUR OUTINGS

on **14<sup>th</sup> September**  
there will be an outing to  
**Hampton Court**

on **18<sup>th</sup> October**  
there will be an outing to  
**Brooklands Motor  
and Aviation Museum**

on **23<sup>rd</sup> November**  
there will be an outing to  
**Kew Gardens to see the  
Christmas lights**

Application form is on page 10

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## Liverpool and the Terracotta Warriors



Photo by Eryll Fabian

Our first short break away at the end of April 2018 for 3 nights to see the Terracotta Warriors in Liverpool has now been finalised and members who expressed an interest have been sent an itinerary and booking form. Unfortunately all the rooms allowed us by the hotel for single occupancy have now been filled. However we do not want you to miss out, so please consider joining us and sharing a twin room with a friend.

Our full and varied itinerary includes stopping at the Shugborough Estate on route (National Trust), a guided coach tour of Liverpool and Chester with free time in both, entry to The Terracotta Warriors, a trip on the River Mersey, entry to Port Sunlight including a guided coach tour, and on our return journey entry to The National Memorial Arboretum where we board the land train.

The cost is £346.00 and requires a £45.00 per person deposit by cheque. All monies are payable to "Just For Groups!" Gratuities are included in this cost.

Please [email](#) our dedicated email address, if you would like to receive a full copy of the itinerary and booking form. Alternatively please phone Sandra on 01892 752196.

We hope you will join us.



Liverpool

Photo from Wikimedia Commons

## Outing News

Firstly, thank you to Lynne and Sandra for the very enjoyable visit to Quex Park. The stop for refreshments at Brogdale Fruit Farm also went down very well. (Please see separate report). Thank you to Stella for continuing to provide us with lovely photos.

The outing to Brooklands in October now has a waiting list.

Something a bit different in November to get us in the mood for Christmas and comes with very positive reviews. This will be a late afternoon/evening visit by coach to Kew Gardens to take in their yearly Christmas Celebrations with thousands of lights and should be quite magical. It is very popular with groups but luckily we have it booked. This is on November 23rd. You will find the application form at the end of this newsletter.

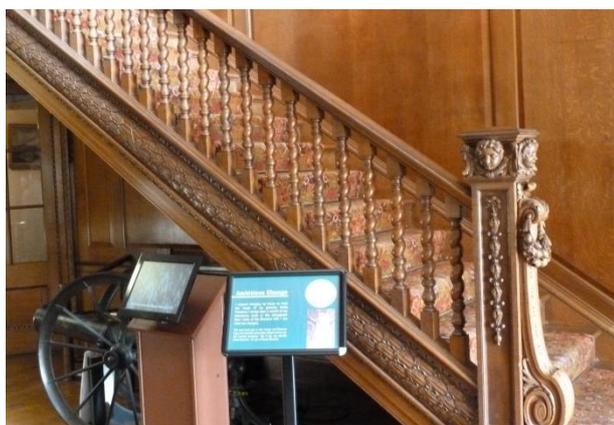
The outings committee are now beginning to think about next year and I will keep you posted.

*Sandra McDonald, Outings Coordinator*

## Report on the Outing to Quex Park



Despite a not very encouraging weather forecast the weather on the 15<sup>th</sup> August turned out to be bright and sunny – just right for our trip to Quex Park. After our coffee stop at Brogdale Farm in Faversham which houses the National Fruit Collection we made our way to Quex House and the Powell-Cotton museum. Although there were not many rooms in the house to visit you did get an idea of what life was like living there in the Victorian era. We then visited the museum which was fascinating housing as it had two vast 19<sup>th</sup> century dioramas of African and Asian wildlife which were so realistic that you got the feeling of what it been like to be there. There were also smaller dioramas, displays of ceramics and African weaponry, all items brought back to England by Percy Powell-Cotton and his daughters.



We then explored the including a rather interesting Victorian time for a cup of tea and a slice of delicious cake before making

A thoroughly enjoyable and our thanks to arranging this.



beautiful gardens overgrown but walled garden and had and a slice of delicious our way home.

and interesting day  
Lynn Monkton for

*Jenny Jessop*  
Photos by Stella Westrup



## Group Reports

### Flower Arranging

The Flower Arranging Group had its first meeting on August the 9<sup>th</sup> and we all enjoyed watching Alison's demonstration. Then, with help and encouragement and generous cuttings of greenery from Ann's garden, we put together our own amateur creations. And very pleased we were with our efforts!



Alison Hardwick



Alison's plan is to go through the seasons and main festivals of the year up until May 2018 but also to include 'fun surprises' on the way!



If you would like more information, please contact Ann by [email](#)  
Jan Sumner

*(Photos by Jan)*



Ann Harvey

### Craft Beer Group

Five members of the Craft Beer Group took on the Bermondsey Beer Mile (BBM), armed with the information they have gained from talks (and samples) at Fuggles and the Beer Boutique. The BBM started with one brewery in 2009 under the railway arches and has since expanded to include a number of breweries and a bottle shop along a stretch of Bermondsey that is now over a mile.

Most of the breweries in the area only open as tap rooms on a Saturday as they actually brew on the premises.

We started at Four Pure Brewery, which is on an industrial estate and, as you can see from the photo, it is very much a working brewery.

Beer is bought in either flights – 1/3<sup>rd</sup> or 2/3<sup>rd</sup> pints, so we were able to sample quite a few beers between us.



At the bottle shop we got into conversation with a brewer who had come down from Leeds to see if he could break into the London market. He described the six beers that he'd brought and explained that two had been specially brewed for his wedding the week before! We weren't very keen on them, but we didn't tell him that. We were able to try wheat beers, flavoured saisons, porters and other beers made with new world hops such as Cintra and Cascade. Contact Martin Gorniak by



[email](#) if you are interested in joining the group

*Sue Brimlow (photos by Sue)*

## Digital Imaging Intermediate Group II

Our uncertainty regarding the weather was unfounded in that the decision to make a repeat trip to the Redoubt Fortress in Eastbourne was blessed with the most warm and sunny of days. For those unfamiliar with the layout of this military establishment, the photo of a model within the “Faces of the Fort” exhibition gives you a good representation.

Built in 1809 as part of the coastal defences against possible invasion by Napoleon and his Grand Armee, it remains one of the most complete of its kind in the UK.

Until recently, it housed the history of the various Sussex Regiments but these are in the process of being rehoused in various location throughout the country. Now it shows the history of those who lived in the fort, what was expected of them and the duties they had to perform.

There was Major General William Twiss who directed the building of Martello Towers & Fortresses including Redoubt. He also supervised the building of the Military Canal.

Lieutenant John Conduit was Chief Officer for the Coastguard from 1832 and was chosen to accompany the Duke of Wellington during his inspection in 1845.



Hydro Hotel providing excellent fayre, convivial surroundings with a superb view over the croquet green and English Channel.

John James Glass was the barracks sergeant in 1861. At the age of 14, he enlisted as a drummer but thereafter had a chequered career, being charged and found guilty of being AWOL. Upon leaving the army due to ill-health, he became Inspector of Nuisances for Eastbourne. That should arouse the curiosity of some of you!

Entry to the fort itself, the parade ground within and the gun emplacements, is free. A modest fee is charged to explore the exhibition.

Where else to lunch but in the Conservatory of the

*Tom Guy – Group Organiser  
(photos by Tom)*

## Food Appreciation Group



The Food Appreciation Group meets once a month to enjoy a range of different food events: tea, lunch or dinner at a variety of restaurants, or themed meals at members' houses to which all would contribute a dish. Here they are having a fun evening, enjoying good company, good food, good music and the good atmosphere.

*Suzette Elliott-West  
(photos by Suzette)*



## Update on Groups

August as always was a relatively quiet month for our groups so no new groups set up but we're ready to get going now in September. After so many years teaching this for me is always the start of the year!

Firstly, I'd like to draw attention to the new **Medieval Europe** group which will run from October until March. Pat Wright has offered to lead discussions on this topic and has a variety of materials to share. Pat will hold sessions fortnightly in her home. Please contact Jan by [email](#) if you would like to join the group.

Other groups soon to start are **Beginners Spanish** which is aimed at both beginners and those who haven't used their Spanish for a long time. The meetings will be on 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday afternoons and will follow a structured text based course. Please contact Barbara McAuliffe by [email](#) for more details

**Italian Conversation Plus** is a new group for members who have a good command of the written language but wish to increase fluency in conversation. Contact Jan by [email](#)

**The Roman History group** will begin again this October, focusing on 'The History of the Final Century of the Roman Empire from Constantine onwards' Contact Lionel Cole by [email](#) or tel 01580 752663

**The Art Appreciation Group** programme is on page 9 below.

### We are also offering a number of new groups

**A new Jazz Appreciation Group** Our present group is full and has always been very popular. Bob Holly has therefore offered to be on hand with advice for setting up a second group.

**Out and About Explorers** A car share group which will meet monthly, sometimes at the weekend, to visit places of interest in the area – historic villages, vineyards, gardens, festivals, castles and so much more.

### **A second Garden Visits Group**

**Sew and Sew:** embroidery, patchwork, toy making, gifts

### **Beginners Crochet Group**

**A Live Music Group** aiming to visit local music events

And, possibly, **A Concert Visit Group** – see notice on page 7 below

### And there are established groups with vacancies

**Military History Group** meets in the morning on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month. Contact Michael Polkinghorne.

**London Explorers 5** go out on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month.  
Contact Renee or Philip Dewhurst by [email](#).

**Scrabble Group** meets 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday afternoons. They meet in one another's houses and now have space for 2 more members. Contact Jean Bicknell by [email](#).

**Pub Lunch 2** meets on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month. In Winter they meet in and around Tunbridge Wells and in summer they venture further afield. The ladies in this group are very sociable and very pleased to welcome newcomers. The next lunch will be in October.  
Contact Jill Weaver by [email](#) or Tel: 01892 459471

**A Big Band** to be set up from a number of local u3a groups is looking for trumpet, saxophone and particularly trombone players to meet and practise on 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays at Yalding.

For more information or to join new groups please contact Jan Sumner, Groups Coordinator by [email](#) or phone 07900974684

*Jan Sumner, Groups Co-ordinator*

## Monthly Meetings

We thought you would like to have more details about the talks which are given at the monthly meetings in the Camden Centre on the third Thursday of the month at 2.30 p.m.

Here is what we have to look forward to in the next three months:

### 21<sup>st</sup> September:

The speaker for September is Caroline Piper and her subject is "The British love affair with Tea". She explains the differences between types of tea and answers questions such as: why did Brits start drinking it and who invented it and why. There will also be a mini tea-tasting of three different teas.

### 19<sup>th</sup> October:

The speaker for October is Laton Frewen and his subject is "Sir Ernest Shackleton - a most successful failure". Whilst he never achieved his personal dream of being the first to reach the South Pole, his reputation as a leader of men is based on a still greater success: the survival and safe return of all of his team members, whilst overcoming almost unimaginable odds.

### 16<sup>th</sup> November:

The speaker for November is Antonia Gallop and her subject is "A Gallop through the History of Carriage Driving". Antonia has been around horses all her life, firstly earning a living training and producing for commercial work such as weddings and film work to enjoying showing them in their antique vehicles at National level.

Now working as a qualified interpreter for deaf people, carriage horses remain her passion supporting and encouraging fellow carriage drivers as Area Commissioner for The British Driving Society. She dresses in the costume for driving and may demonstrate the use of the whip....space permitting!

## A LONDON CONCERT VISIT

I am proposing to form a new group which might attend choral and orchestral concerts in venues such as The Royal Albert Hall, The Royal Festival Hall, Cadogan Hall and West End churches.

As an initial venture, I have booked a group of 10 tickets at £24.38 (25% discount) for the following concert at Cadogan Hall, Sloane Square, on **Tuesday, October 24<sup>th</sup> at 7.30 pm:**

The City of London Choir and The Royal Philharmonic Orchestra perform  
Haydn – Te Deum for the Empress Maria Therese  
Mozart – Piano Concerto No. 22  
Haydn – Schopfungsmesse, 'Creation' Mass

Conductor – Hilary Davan Wetton (ex Music Director at Tonbridge School).  
The concert also features a host of outstanding soloists.



I do hope this concert will appeal and so lead to the formation of a new music group. If you would like to purchase a ticket please contact me on either 01892 459352 or by [email](#).

*Adrian Twiner*

*(picture from Wikimedia Commons)*



## Events In September and October



We have the following events arranged for September and October:

13 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Welcome Meeting for New Members – by invitation only
21 <sup>st</sup> Sept	“The British Love Affair with Tea”, a talk by Caroline Piper
29 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Coffee Morning at Trinity
19 <sup>th</sup> Oct	“Sir Ernest Shackleton – a most successful failure”. A talk by Laton Frewen
27 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Coffee Morning at Trinity

## Some Forthcoming Events For Your Diary

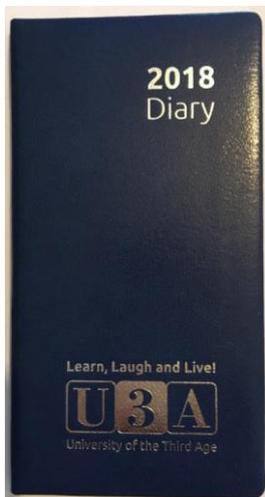
24 <sup>th</sup> Oct	West Kent U3A Study Day: Middle East Matters.
8 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Christmas Lunch at the Masonic Hall
20 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Christmas Meeting

## New Members

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

Jeremy Barnett	Joyce Evans	Francis Swain
Joyce Bruce	Susan Ingham	Margo Thompson
Peter Bucklitsch	John Melville	Adaïre Williams
Tony Davis	Sally Steibelt	

## Useful Information



The U3A 2018 diary is now available in a fetching blue at £2.50. They will be available for sale at our monthly meetings.

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	07900974684
Membership Secretary	Ruth Johnson	01892 523097
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 next newsletter should be e-mailed to Eryll Fabian by 30<sup>th</sup> September at the latest.

[by email](#)

## **NATIONAL EVENTS**

Details of interesting national events appear on the website.

They can be found on [www.u3a.org.uk](http://www.u3a.org.uk) or by writing to:

The Third Age Trust, 52 Lant Street, London SE1 1RB

**Please note new address**

**ART APPRECIATION GROUP**  
**Programme 2017-18**

A warm welcome to our exciting Autumn/Spring programme of illustrated talks by Liz Strang, based in the Main Hall of the Camden Centre and starting at 2.30 p.m.

*(Please do not arrive until 2.15 p.m. as the Hall is in use before that time.)*

This season Liz will combine a study of themes in art together with studies of individual artists.

**2017**

Tuesday 19th September      **POWER & PROPAGANDA: WARTS & ALL.** A study of portraiture to the present day

Tuesday 24th October      **THE ART OF EVERYDAY - POTS & PANS, PEARS & PLUMS & AN UNMADE BED – Still Life to Installation Art**

Tuesday 21st November      **CEZANNE: FATHER OF MODERN ART – LANDSCAPE & PORTRAIT**  
To link with the exhibition of his Portraits at the National Portrait Gallery  
26 October – 11 February

**2018**

Tuesday 16th January      **MODIGLIANI: A MISUNDERSTOOD MAN – The Man, the Myth and his art** - to link with the exhibition at Tate Modern 23 November – 2 April

Tuesday 20th February      **CHARLES THE FIRST: KING COLLECTOR** – to link with the Royal Academy Exhibition 21 November – 15 April

Tuesday 27th March      **NAKED OR NUDE: Prim, Improper or almost Peepshow: The history of painting the human body**

*Our subscription rate for this year only is only £5 as we have some reserve funds.*

*New members of the U3A are invited to join us by completing the attached form & sending a cheque for £5 per person*

Alison Turner (Group Co-ordinator) 01892 526693 or [email](#)

**ART APPRECIATION GROUP 2017-18**

**Please return to Linda Sydenham, 43 Bowen Rd, Rusthall TN4 8SU  
(01892 539945) or e-mail:**

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 you would like an acknowledgment.

Name/s.....

U3A No.s.....

Address: .....

Tel: ..... e-mail: .....

Tunbridge Wells U3A

Members Only

## A Visit to Kew Gardens on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2017

This Christmas the Botanical Gardens at Kew will be transformed by night into a winter wonderland featuring a mile long trail of over 1 million twinkling lights winding its way through the garden past illuminated globes, trees dripping with silvery shards of light, singing trees, a flickering Fire Garden and a lake glistening with an underwater display of glowing lights. At the Palm House the pond and glasshouse will spring into life with a dazzling display of laser beams, jets of light and kaleidoscopic projections. As the winter trail comes to an end, there will be stalls at Victoria Plaza selling mulled wine, mince pies and other festive foods. The cafes will also be open for refreshments or you might like to bring your own picnic. There will also be time for some Christmas shopping at Kew's shops. There is a fair amount of walking so please wear sensible shoes and wrap up warm. Kew recommends that you bring a torch.

### Itinerary

3.30 pm Coach departs Crescent Road Tunbridge Wells  
3.50 pm Coach departs Southborough Fountain  
6.00 pm Arrive Kew Gardens  
9.00 pm Depart for Tunbridge Wells  
10.30 pm approx. arrive Tunbridge Wells .

**Cost £27.00** Price includes entry ticket, coach travel and driver's gratuity.

Applications including cheque made payable to "Tunbridge Wells U3A" and stamped addressed envelope to Jenny Jessup, 6 Rossdale, Tunbridge Wells TN2 3PG

Queries to Jenny Jessup 01892 530012 or Linda Trowell 01892 528680

Mobiles on the day only 07958926220 or 07984031129

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.

(Please note that once we are committed to paying out money in advance refunds will only be possible if your place can be taken by another U3A member)

.....  
Please reserve ..... places for the outing to Kew Gardens on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2017.

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

I/We will board the coach at **Crescent Road at 3.30 pm** or **Southborough Fountain at 3.50 pm**  
(please delete as appropriate)

Name/s.....

U3A Membership No/s.....

Address.....

.....Post Code.....

Tel.No.....

Signed .....Date.....