

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Greetings all

We were shocked by the recent unexpected loss of our Treasurer, David Brimlow. He will be remembered for his kind and cheery temperament. We think of his family and their having to come to terms with his absence. We are all probably well versed in the loss of loved ones, but each new passing is always sad for family and friends.



We are grateful to David Scott, previous Treasurer, and Jill Scott, previous bookkeeper, for stepping forward in the interim while a new candidate is readied for the role. In our organisation we have always to be ready for change, but sometimes we are caught out a little.



New website: The Committee is grateful for the work being done by our small but capable team – Ian Graham, Nola Marshall, Siobhan O’Connell – in helping us prepare for our new website, which we hope will materialise by the end of 2024. Please contact me if you would like to look at some of the u3as in England that have already implemented their new websites, based on new national u3a framework (SiteWorks).

Chris (07788 598472)

Coming up

Monday 8th Apr 10.30:
Coffee morning at the Old Auction House

Thursday 18th Apr 2.30:
Monthly Meeting: Beatles Myths & Legends

Friday 26th Apr 10.30:
Coffee morning at Trinity

Thursday 16th May 2.30:
Monthly meeting: The Bomber in the Backyard



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Please note that photos taken at u3a events are often used in publicity material. If you do not want your picture used in such ways please make a member of the committee aware of this at the event you are attending. Thank you.

Monthly Meetings

Thursday 18th April at 2.30

Christian Fellowship Hall, Hanover Rd, TN1 1EY



Neil Nixon Beatles Myths and Legends



An amazing, chilling and hilarious account of stories told about the Fab Four that beggar belief but are - occasionally - true. The imaginative genius and terrifying reality of Beatle fandom is here exposed in a range of tales from the fairly well known (John was assassinated to order/Paul died in 1966 and was replaced by an impostor) to the lesser known story of George's similar replacement in the mid-seventies and the widely held belief among some that the band recorded under assumed names well into the late 1970's.

Last month's talk



Caroline Piper – A History of Shopping in London

Our March speaker was TW U3A favourite, Caroline Piper. Self-professed 'proud Londoner', London Blue Badge Tourist Guide and Cambridge history graduate, Caroline brought to life familiar London areas in new and fascinating ways.

In her introduction, she noted the importance to London's economy of foreign tourist spend post-Covid, particularly on premium UK brands, before taking us back to the capital's origins as a trade centre.

The tour began at No.1 Poultry where 19th Century archaeologists had discovered relics of 73 specialist Roman market stalls. Then from the Middle Ages, markets like Cheapside evolved as centres for specialist craftsmen to sell surplus wares (the generic role of 'shopkeeper' coming much later). Charming street names such as Bread Street, Milk Street and Honey Lane, with trade signs like the Grasshopper and Cat & Fiddle, signalled specialties not dissimilar from supermarket aisles today.

The dependency between urban and rural also enabled thoroughfares like Farringdon Road to grow and further define London's neighbourhoods.

By the 19th Century, the capital boasted the wholesale centres known today - Billingsgate, Leadenhall, Smithfield, Covent Garden and Borough Market, whose iconic Victorian architecture reflected their commercial significance. But times change and current London regeneration plans will relocate the main trade markets to Dagenham Docks by 2028.

The talk finished with the growth of Piccadilly, flagship department stores of Oxford Street's prosperous west end setting new trends, and retail destinations like the King's Road and Carnaby Street evolving continuously to meet shoppers' demands.

Aileen Muir

Looking ahead... May's Monthly Meeting is on Thursday 16th

John Griffiths-Colby The Bomber in the Back Yard

On 11 July 1944, Vic Doe was 6 years old when a USAAF B-24 Liberator Bomber crash-landed at his family's farm on the Isle of Grain, Kent, UK. This is the story of what he witnessed and the enduring friendship between that young boy and an exceptional 24-year-old pilot from Richmond, Virginia. Intriguing!





Wine Tasting Afternoon

A very enjoyable wine tasting was held at the Sea Cadet Hall on March 26th. The event had been planned and organised by David Brimlow, and we were very grateful to Mike Duckett and David Britton for stepping in and presenting the wines in his place.

We started by comparing a basic Prosecco with a gorgeous British sparkling wine, before moving on to taste two white wines, (a Sauvignon Blanc and a Chardonnay,) an English Rosé and two red wines. We finished with a lovely French Dessert wine,

voted the best of the afternoon.



Guests were given a cheese platter with the reds, and a sweet tartlet with the Dessert wine.

Thanks are due to Margaret and Pat for preparing the food, and to Lindsay, Fiona and Alison for pouring the wine.



Judy Horwood

u3a

What music do you like to listen to?

Did you know there's a new digital radio station aimed at Boomers and guess what it's called?

Boom Radio UK

This new station was launched on February 14th 2021 and is aimed specifically at people born between 1946 – 1964

And all the DJ's are old enough to join the u3a!!!!

The brains behind this new station noticed that Radio 2 had changed their playlist to entice younger members. It's never a good idea to desert your core listeners!!!!

Diana Luke

Graham Dene

'Diddy' David Hamilton

David 'Kid' Jensen

Little Nicky Horne

Judi Spiers

Jenny Hanley

<https://u3asites.org.uk/Epsom-ewell/home>
Registered charity number 802690

Outings Coordinator

The June outing is a day out to Chichester including The Chichester Flower Show, which I am sure will be very popular with our members. The stunning 900-year-old cathedral is a must to visit to admire the beautiful stained-glass windows and with the added attraction of sixty hand crafted floral displays. You may like to meander to the Bishops Palace Gardens and enjoy a picnic whilst you relax in a hidden paradise. There is also the free Novium Museum to discover the rich Roman heritage of Chichester. Alternatively, you may like to enjoy a leisurely lunch or have some retail therapy enjoying the many varied shops. The application form will be at the end of the Newsletter.

Our May's trip to Brooklands at the time of writing had a few places available: please see March's newsletter for details or contact Joan Young on 07504919081.

In March we went on our first outing of the year to Borde Hill Gardens on a very wet day, although the weather could have been kinder, our members enjoyed exploring the lovely Spring garden. A full review of this outing follows the outing news.

You may like to save the following outing dates in your diary: Tuesday 2nd July Blenheim Palace; Wednesday 7th August, Hinton Ampner; and Thursday 5th September, Crossness Pumping Station and Hall Place and Gardens.

If you enjoy coming on our monthly trips, why not volunteer to join our team—you can then arrange a trip to one of your favourite places or destinations. If it is something that might interest you, please contact me on the above telephone number.

[Outings Coordinator](#)

First Outing of 2024—**Borde Hill Gardens**



Despite the dreary forecast and persistent rain, 41 stalwart members boarded the coach for the March visit to Borde Hill Gardens, set in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty overlooking the High Weald.

We were all suitably attired to walk the winding pathways between early magnolias, rhododendrons, camellias, and cherry blossoms.



Underplanted along the way were a colourful variety of hellebores, crocuses and daffodils. Primroses grew between rocky walls and pavers and canopies of evergreen trees were mixed amongst those still bare except for the lovely hanging lichen.

While watching rain dancing off the pond in the Italian Garden, I was assured it looked stunning in the sun and the well-mulched Rose Garden will be sure to produce beautiful blooms in summer.

It was disappointing to find the new Coffee Shop not yet open but we were able to purchase refreshments in the Gardener's Rest with covered seating across the gardens in a marquee. A variety of gifts and local produce was available in the Gift Shop but no one appeared to be tempted with the very wet plant sales!



Needless to say, the rain eased as we boarded the coach for home but a day in the fresh air with friends is always an enjoyable event. A lovely garden, well worth another visit through the seasons. Thank you very much, Joan, for organising yet another good day out.

Chris Hyder

2 twin rooms left!

SHORT BREAK to KYNREN & NORTHUMBERLAND

Wednesday 11th September 2024

5 days/4 nights duration 4* Redworth Hall Hotel



HIGHLIGHTS

KYNREN a spectacular **outdoor** theatre show with 1000 cast and crew telling the 2000 year tale of the history of England. Dazzling pyrotechnics, beautiful choreography, amazing stunts.

- Hardwick Hall (NT)
- Bamburgh Castle
- Alnwick Gardens
- Angel of the North
- Beamish Open Air Museum
- Bowes Museum
- Raby Castle
- Harewood House

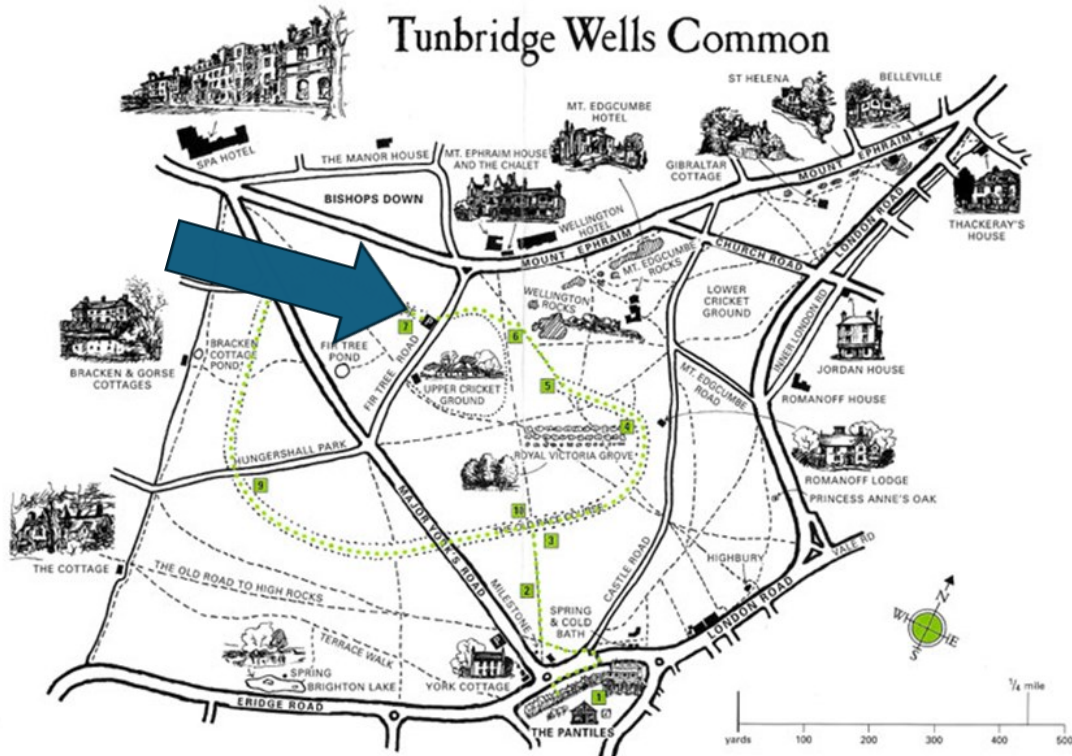
For more information please contact
[Short Breaks Organiser](#)



Groups Coordinator's Notes

TW u3a groups.....by the members, for the members

There is still time to join the **Pop-up Spring Walk & Talk**. On Friday 26th April Ranger Dan and Gemma Stapley will lead a TWu3a walk to visit the Victorian Promenade Terrace Walk behind Brighton Lake (near the A26 Eridge Road) The event will start at Fir Tree car park. Please register with the Groups Coordinator.



Are you interested in joining a **SOLO** group?

We already have 2 successful MOTO groups. The SOLO group could welcome TWu3a members who are EITHER on their own OR have a partner who is unable or unwilling to go out. If you would like more details please let the Groups Coordinator know.

There will be a start-up meeting for a **3rd Wine Appreciation group** on Friday 19th April at Trinity. If you would like to join then please contact the Groups Coordinator.



The **7th London Explorers** Group had their first meet-up in March, visiting the Spitalfields area and Sky Garden (see below).



A 2nd **Canasta** group recently started to meet at Trinity and we are still hoping to start a **Rummikub** group.

The **Gardening Off Shoots** group visited garden centres in East Peckham and plans to support the National Garden scheme and Hospice In The Weald gardens. We also plan to visit Great Dixter and Wisley soon.

To contact the Groups Coordinator click [HERE](#)

Group News

For the **London Explorers II** March outing we started with coffee in Mercato Mayfair, which was a former Anglican Church deconsecrated in 1974. After falling into disrepair the Grosvenor Estates restored it into a hub of worldwide cuisine.



A short walk took us to the Handel/Hendrix House, originally occupied by Handel from 1723 until his death there in 1759. The guides were very informative and we learned a lot about his life, including that he wrote his famous Messiah in 24 days, and that he loved his food!

We then moved into the Hendrix flat-another era—the swinging 60s! Here he rehearsed, entertained and wrote music from 1968-69 before his death at the young age of 27.

The Masons Arms provided an enjoyable and welcome lunch before heading home.

Mary Blinks

Original photo: [Phillip Perry](#).

Walk On The Wildside group visited the delights of Rusthall Common this month. Starting with the Toad Rock, an icon image for RTW, through to Bulls Hollow, seeing the old quarry and impressive



rocks faces surrounding this site, a haven for rock climbers. Crossing Rusthall Road then to the much extended local archaeological dig. The excavations began in 2018 and have been worked on by volunteers, they have uncovered unique rock features, plus prehistoric material pottery and flint heads.

Following the path then past St. Paul's church onto the rocks, caves and steps of Happy Valley, with views out towards Ashdown Forest on a clear day. This area was laid out as a pleasure garden by James Long, the local land owner, which included a very popular bath house and pool fed by several springs. A very interesting walk around an area rich in local history.

Gill Anderson

On Friday 15th March twelve members of **London Explorers 7** started out from London Bridge for an exploration of the Spitalfields area.

The first stop was a visit to The Sky Garden with its amazing views over London, followed by a wander through Leadenhall Market. Passing through several interesting streets such as Frying Pan Alley and Catherine Wheel Alley we arrived at Spitalfields Market in time for lunch, and to see its wonderful elephant sculptures, each with its own story to tell.

More interest after lunch in Fournier Street, home to the silk weaving industry, Brick Lane, and even Tracy Emin's former home, before heading back to London Bridge, all looking forward to our next adventure.



Valerie Gurr

Important information

Forthcoming Events For Your Diary

18 April 2024	Monthly meeting: The Beatles: Myths & Legends
16 May 2024	Monthly meeting: Bomber in the Backyard

New members

A big welcome to the **24** new members who joined in March

Your Committee

Chairman	Chris Woodward	07788 598472
Deputy Chair	Fiona Findlay	07872 169146
Secretary	Sian Shaw	07835 300193
Interim Treasurer	David Scott	07740 457030
Group Coordinator	Lindsay Hasell	01892 673180
Membership Secretary	Judy Horwood	01892 537601
Outings Coordinator	Joan Young	0750 4919081
Events Coordinator	Philippa Bernstein	07788 498606
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 u3a matters with you all. If anyone objects to their photo being reproduced in this Newsletter, please contact me as soon as possible.

All contributions for the **May** Newsletter should be e-mailed to [Bridget](#) by **April 30th** at the latest (**earlier submissions are very 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

