

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Greetings all

Promoting TW u3a: Our well-anchored gazebo withstood the wind at the Mela on 23rd August in Calverley Park Gardens. Many leaflets were handed out and many enquiries were received. So, the u3a logo was brought to the attention of many not previously aware of us; a great effort by Eryll's publicity team, following similar efforts at Rusthall and Langton Green fetes.

July's monthly meeting: Talks' organiser, Bob Slater, rapidly arranged a new speaker for July's meeting following a personal injury suffered by the planned speaker. Trevor Sayer spoke about the highly valued services of SERV Kent (Service by Emergency Response Volunteers), which provides a 7 x 24 volunteer service delivering important medical items to where they are needed in Kent.

Monthly meeting location: The Executive Committee is exploring which hall we should use for future monthly meetings. A short poll of members indicates a 2:1 split in favour of the Community Fellowship Hall; the decision rests on matters of equipment storage and use.

Future website: We intend to replace our website by an improved one (called SiteWorks) being developed by the national u3a. Around autumn, the national project will deliver a 'starter pack' that we can adopt. But we need volunteers to (i) help prepare content (editorial skills are needed), (ii) oversee our project (mainly an admin type role), and (iii) keep connected to the national initiative. Also, anyone interested in learning how to use WordPress (used to deliver SiteWorks) is welcome. Please contact me if you can help.

Chris (07788 598472)



Coming up

Thursday 17th August 2.30:

Monthly Meeting: **A Journey through Myanmar**

Friday 25th August 10.30:

Coffee morning at Trinity



Thursday 21st Sept 2.30:

Monthly Meeting: **Who's Wally?**

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.

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August's Hybrid Monthly Meeting at the **Christian Fellowship Hall**

Thursday 17th August 2.30pm

Jane Scotchmer: Myanmar (Burma)

A journey through this captivating and enigmatic country

In Britain we have conflicting images of Burma: those of Kipling's Road to Mandalay and the horrors of WWII, through to its present isolation under a repressive regime.

On a journey in 2018, Jane explored these legacies and met the hospitable and deeply religious people living in Burma today.



If you wish to use Zoom to see this fascinating talk please email [Chris](mailto:Chris@christianfellowshiphall.org.uk) for a link



The **EXCHANGE** was up and running, thanks very much to Pat who brought along some puzzles and books to the Christian Fellowship Hall last month.

So if you fancy a jigsaw for that wet afternoon or need some new reading material, bring one of yours and swap it for one on the table.

Looking Ahead...The September Monthly Meeting will be on

21st August at 2.30 (venue to be confirmed)

John Griffiths-Colby: Who's Wally? - the story of a stoker in the British Navy in WW2

Walter Stafford Colby came from a long line of Yarmouth fisherfolk and was drafted into the Royal Navy early in World War II.

80 years on and 25 years since he passed away, we discover that he was a Stoker 1st Class aboard the carrier HMS Indomitable when it was struck by an Italian torpedo during the Invasion of Sicily.

Do come and join us to find out more.



Dancing

a series of movements and steps that are usually performed to music for exercise or pleasure.

Benefits

improves mood, coordination, strength, flexibility, balance, cardiovascular health, social & emotional health and helps to keep the mind sharp.

Ditch the armchair and join us for some good ol' toe-tapping Line Dancing

Saturday September 9th

7.30-9.30pm

Church Centre, Rusthall, TN4 8RE

Only £12 including a jacket potato supper

Just follow the leader. It's great fun!

More details and application form at the end of the newsletter



Line Dancing

Grab your partner by the hand and get ready to 'dosey doe' at the TWu3a annual Barn Dance



Saturday 7th October 2023

Time: 7.30-10.30pm

**Venue: Langton Green Village Hall
TN3 OJJ**

**Music: Abbey Capers Barn Dance
Band**

**Price: £17.50 including a Fish and Chip supper Or the Halloumi
Special from St John's Fish Bar**

More details and application form at the end of the newsletter

Outings Co-ordinator

Our October outing is a must for members interested in English architecture. We will be going to Wrest Park, an exceptional rarity, a magnificent house of the 1830's set in an outstanding restored garden landscape originating in the 17th century. The house is remarkable, a near unique example of the 19th-century English Architecture following the style of an 18th-century French chateau. Its grounds are a glorious amalgam of three centuries of English garden design, and contain one of the few remaining formal gardens of the early 18th century.

Hidden gems in the gardens include an ornate marble fountain, the 18th-century Bowling Green House, a Chinese Temple and Bridge and over 40 statues dotted around the garden.

There is a cafe with hot and cold meals and snacks, including homemade soup of the day and freshly made sandwiches. There is also a gift and book shop.

The cost of this interesting day out is £20 and the application form is at the end of the newsletter.

Our review of July's outing to Knebworth House follows below.

The Hampton Court trip in September is now full, but if you would like to go on our waiting list, please contact [Lorna](#) (01892 533127). The details and application form was in July's newsletter.

[Joan Young](#)

Last month's outing to Knebworth



What a place! There was so much to see and enjoy at Knebworth, it is difficult to pick out the highlights. Built in 1490 as a family home, it has been in the same family ever since. When Edward Bulwer Lytton became the owner in 1843, he decided to clad the Tudor brick, adding turrets, gargoyles, and many other features to create the Gothic masterpiece seen today. This has been used in many Hollywood films including being the original Batman Castle.



Edward was an author and compatriot of Dickens, and in his day, outsold him. He was also a lover of drama and the interior does not disappoint. The grand Banqueting Hall has paintings of many of the previous owners. The Dining Room is laid with crested china and Venetian glassware, also bearing the family crest, and the ceiling is painted with the various Coats of Arms of different generations. Edward's library is equally magnificent with hidden doors, only given away by the ubiquitous Fire Escape sign.



Another of Edward's inspirations was to create this weaponry wall with swords, breastplates, spears, a powerful crossbow, suits of armour, all surrounding his own portrait as a Knight of the Garter.



Edward's love of the fantastical is visible throughout the house including Queen Elizabeth I's bedroom though this, like many of the fitments he brought in, is a fake. There is no doubt the Queen did stay here – but not in that particular bedroom. It should rightly be called Winston Churchill's bedroom, or perhaps Mick Jagger's or even Olivia Coleman's as they have all slept here. Olivia because part of The Crown was filmed here, and Jagger because the Stones were one of the many bands to hold a Music Festival in the grounds.





He also created the 'Indian Room', having been made Viceroy of India under Victoria. This room and others was used in the film Victoria and Abdel. The family so liked some of the additional items made for the film of which the producers made replicas for the family to keep.



Finally to the gardens. Much of the land is parkland but there are some beautiful areas given over to different flower schemes and with some unusual additions such as the pair of bronze giraffes, the dinosaurs, dragons, and carvings.

Without question, well worth the trip to Hertfordshire and one to revisit.

Thank you Joan for arranging such a wonderful day.

Janie Ramsay

Last month's talk



We were so lucky to have this talk from Kent SERV—aka the 'Blood Runners'. Trevor Sayer stepped in at the last minute after an unavoidable cancellation from the booked speaker. There was a lot of incredulity that this essential service, providing out of hours emergency deliveries for the NHS, is a charity.

The idea started in a small way in the 60s but in 1981, so the story goes, two bikers were out riding when one had a severe accident and needed blood quickly. His friend used his bike to collect and deliver the necessary aid. In 1993 the service came to Kent (so this year is

their 30th anniversary). Initially the volunteers were all bikers, presumably to avoid traffic holdups, but now the service also has some 4x4 vehicles. The riders and drivers answer over 6,000 calls a year and have been running a 24 hour service since Covid. They are all volunteers who have to complete an advanced motorbike driving course. Generally they use their own vehicles and incur the fuel costs.

The services they provide include

- Collecting and delivering blood for emergency purposes
- Delivering blood supplies for the Air Ambulance
- Delivering transplant medication
- Delivering and collecting samples for dialysis patients
- Delivering breast milk donations to neonatal clinics
- Support for Kent hospices with on-demand services

All this costs about £50-60,000 per year and so fundraising is also an essential part of the charity's work.

The attitude of these amazing volunteers is summed up in their modest and inspiring motto

'It's what we do'

To find out more about the Blood Runners just go to their website

<https://servkent.co.uk/>



Groups co-ordinator's notes

TW u3a groups — by the members, for the members

Hola!

Bonjour!

Ciao!

There is always demand for more TWu3a language groups however we struggle to find members with the skills to advise or co-ordinate them. If you would be interested in joining or leading a **Spanish, French or Italian** group please contact the **Groups Co-ordinator**.

**** Reminder for those belonging to groups that regularly meet in TWu3a members' homes ****

Please remember it has been an "unwritten tradition" that all attending members are expected to contribute a minimum of 50p towards the host, for offering you drinks/biscuits.

**** More Reminders ****

Are you interested in joining a new craft group beginning in September? We just need a couple more people to start the group. Two TWu3a members who worked in the Soft Furnishing Department of John Lewis would like to offer everyone the following ideas: meeting once a fortnight in the home of one member for 2-3 hours, bring along your own project or consider making tote bags, cushions, transforming old/charity clothes or maybe Christmas stockings. Come along and meet with others with similar ideas.

Please contact the **Groups Co-ordinator** to register your interest.

We are still looking for someone/two to come forward to be the group contact/s for a **7th London Explorers group**. We have an extensive list of venues that existing Explorer groups have visited and they also can offer you a wealth of advice.

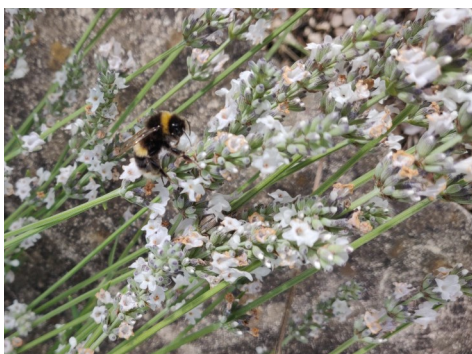
Is anyone interested in joining a VERY INFORMAL 'Singing for fun' group?

*We strive to keep details up to date however if you contact someone who says a group is **full** please let the **Groups Co-ordinator** know. We can then help you begin another one: for example a 2nd Breakfast Brunchers' group is still in the pipeline.*

[Lindsay Hasell](#)

Group News

The Bee Walkers needed more than their fingers to count the bumblebees this month. The weather at the Tunbridge Wells Crematorium and Cemetery was not necessarily ideal for the bees but the white lavender proved to be just what they were looking for.



Bees counted:

White or Buff Tails 207

Red Tails 29

Common Carders 17



Group News

London Explorers 2 enjoyed a train ride to St. Pancras, a pleasant walk to Camley Street Wildlife Trust Cafe for lunch overlooking Regents Canal, before a visit to the nearby Canal Museum.

Our guide gave us a talk about the wildlife found on and in the canal, then we had time to explore the building, which housed a huge commercial ice well for the Victorian ice trade in the 1860s. We were able to go into a traditional boat cabin to see what life was like for the



families who lived and worked aboard. We saw the ramp, up which the horses were led to be stabled in the upper storey of the building. Our guide, John, then took us for a short walk by the canal, where we saw the new floating flower beds along the concrete banks, a coot nesting in an old tyre, and people sitting on the canal side watching cricket on a huge TV screen. We finished our trip in a garden by the amazing flats built inside some old gasometers. Thank you, Anne for such a well planned and executed day.

Mary Blinks



London Explorers 4 trip to the Royal Opera House was excellent. Here, Liz is demonstrating how ladies sat in their crinoline dresses. We then visited Bow Street Police museum.

Suzette Elliott-West



London Explorers 1 enjoyed a guided tour of the Royal Hospital by one of the Chelsea Pensioners, resplendent in his fabulous red coat. These coats are tailor made for each pensioner at a cost of £3,000 and used mainly for ceremonial occasions.

The hospital was the vision of Charles II who wanted to set up a home for veteran soldiers and was brought to life by Sir Christopher Wren. Until the 17th century the state made no specific provision for old and injured soldiers. Care for the poor and sick was administered by religious foundations but was curtailed following the dissolution of the monasteries by Henry VIII.

The residents of the Royal Hospital, popularly known as the Chelsea Pensioners, have served as ordinary soldiers in the Armed forces at some point in their lives and now find a warm welcome amidst the camaraderie of their fellow veterans.

The original berths were 6-feet square as designed by Sir Christopher Wren. We visited their newly refurbished accommodation brought up to modern standards with studies and ensuite bathrooms. There is also a dining room where they all eat together three times a day. The Royal Hospital also has its own chapel and museum.

A big thank you to John, our interesting and very charming guide.

Joan Young



Short Break to the Peak District May 2024

5 days staying in the centre of beautiful Buxton.

HIGHLIGHTS include

Burghley House on route, a palatial Elizabethan property with dramatic state rooms once home to William Cecil.

Guided walking tour in **Buxton** including the stunning ornamental pavilion gardens.

Tissington Hall plus the famous '**Well Dressing**' event.

Pretty town of **Bakewell**.

Chatsworth House and Gardens, the home of the Duke and Duchess of Devonshire. 30 magnificent rooms to explore with its amazing art collection.

Matlock Bath

The Heights of Abraham where we travel on Britain's first alpine-style railway car and experience stunning vistas of the Derwent Valley.

Crich Tramway Village and Museum. You can ride the world-renowned vintage trams with spectacular views.

On our journey home we stop at **Boughton House**, known for its outstanding collections of art, furniture, tapestries, porcelain.

A cold buffet lunch at Boughton.

Please note: *Costs have risen, and staying in the centre of the Peak District means this holiday is a bit more expensive. The bonus is less travelling time and a good location.*

Based on 35 passengers

£784 per person

£99 single supplement There are 18 single rooms available.

Please contact [Sandra McDonald](#) for the detailed flyer and booking form

Eryll hands over reins of u3a group

AFTER three years as newsletter editor, Eryll Fabian took over the Chair of Tunbridge Wells u3a, unaware that when she put her name forward, the pandemic was about to change many lives.

U3a throughout the country provides opportunities for those no longer in full-time employment to continue their interests with others, to stay busy and to make friends. Doing this during lockdown was difficult, but Tunbridge Wells u3a already had a Zoom licence, so Eryll and her enthusiastic committee arranged an interesting programme for its members. Two talks a month, virtual tours of London with a blue-badge guide, quizzes and many groups were held on Zoom, while virtual coffee mornings enabled members to keep in touch.

Catering for those unable to use Zoom was trickier, but groups continued to meet outside, kept in touch via telephone or email, and the lively newsletters were full of ideas.

Eryll and her team are regularly seen at local fetes, having been invited to the Volunteers' Picnic in 2021 and the Queen's Jubilee in 2022 which opened up new possibilities to tell the public about the u3a.

TWu3a celebrated its 30th anniversary in November 2021 and the Mayor, Christopher Woodward, attended the event. Neither Chris nor Eryll realised at the time that he would replace her as Chair of the TWu3a.

Eryll says: "Chris will bring fresh ideas to TWu3a and is well qualified to take over the reins and lead us into the future."

Joan Hamilton-Smith



Article, as seen in the Courier 21.07.23

woodward

Important information

Forthcoming Events For Your Diary

17 August 2023	Monthly meeting: Jane Scotchmer: A journey through Myanmar
9 September 2023	Line Dancing at Rusthall
21 September 2023	Monthly Meeting: John Griffiths-Colby: Who's Wally?
7 October 2023	Barn Dance at Langton Green

New members

A big welcome to our **20** new members in June

Diane Basins, Donald Basins, Lindy Batchelor, Audrey Carter Hilary Chell, Adrienne Dixon, Linda Gaved, Mark Gill, Ann Hall, Derek Hall, Gillian Hogg, Thomas Hogg, David Johnson, Annie Langford, Trevor Long, David Norman, Allan Paxton, Pam Paxton, Sue Rabas and Alison Suggett

Your Committee

Chairman	Chris Woodward	07788 598472
Deputy Chair	Fiona Findlay	07872 169146
Secretary	Sian Shaw	07835 300193
Treasurer	David Brimlow	01892 860598
Groups Co-ordinator	Lindsay Hasell	01892 673180
Membership Secretary	Judy Horwood	01892 537601
Outings Co-ordinator	Joan Young	0750 4919081
Events Co-ordinator	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 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 for the **September** Newsletter should be emailed to **Bridget** by August 31st 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

EVENT/OUTING CODE: LINE DANCING

ORGANISER: Miranda Baston

email: randabb@hotmail.co.uk

Location: Church Centre, High Street, Rusthall

Date: Saturday September 9th 2023

Time : 7-9.30pm

Cost: £12 including a jacket potato with tuna or cheese and salad

Please bring your own plate, glass, cutlery and drinks

To pay by online transfer (BACS) please:

- Make an online transfer to: **Tunbridge Wells u3a**, sort code **40-52-40**, account number **00024097**, with reference **LINE DANCING** followed by your **surname**. [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].
- Then email [Miranda](#) including your name, mobile/home phone number, date of payment, and Name of Event/Outing and Code (as above), with reference LINE DANCING followed by your surname

To pay by cheque: please post the application below to Miranda Baston, 4 Fernbank, Palesgate Lane, Crowborough, TN63HF. Add your email or telephone number for confirmation of receipt.

.....
APPLICATION FORM

Event/Outing name and Code: LINE DANCING

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

.....

Wrest Park, Silsoe, Bedfordshire

Tuesday 3rd October

For u3a Members only. A fair amount of walking. Please wear suitable footwear and clothing.

OUTING CODE: F23 ORGANISER: Joan Young EMAIL ADDRESS: jyoutings@gmail.com

Wrest Park is an exceptional rarity - a magnificent house of the 1830's set in an outstanding restored garden landscape originating in the 17th century. The house itself is remarkable, a near unique example of 19th century English architecture following the style of an 18th century French chateau. Its grounds are a glorious amalgam of three centuries of English garden design, and contain one of the few remaining formal gardens of the early 18th century.

Thomas, 2nd Earl de Grey, not only designed and owned the house but also furnished its interior by scouring auction houses and dealers to compliment the 18th century French style of the house. Buhl cabinets, clocks and china purchased in Paris sit alongside newly commissioned sideboards, chandeliers and looking glasses supplied by the leading London manufacturing firms

There is a cafe where you can purchase hot and cold meals including homemade soup of the day and sandwiches. There is also a gift shop and a second-hand book shop.

The cost of the trip to include entrance, coach and driver's gratuity, is £20.

To pay by online transfer (BACS) please:

- Make an online transfer to: **Tunbridge Wells u3a**, sort code **40-52-40**, account number **00024097**, with reference the outing code **F23** followed by your **surname**. [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].
- Then email: jyoutings@gmail.com including your name, mobile/home phone number, date of payment and Name of Outing and Code (F23). Plus, where you want to board the coach.

To pay by cheque: please post the application below to: 21 Coniston Avenue, Tunbridge Wells, TN4 9SP, adding your email or telephone number for confirmation of receipt.

APPLICATION FORM FOR WREST PARK—F23

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

.....

Please tick where you want to board the coach.

Crescent road opposite the Assembly Halls... ..at 8.45am

St Johns opposite Sainsburys local.at 8.50/8.55am

Southborough Fountainat 9.00/9.05am

We will leave promptly at 15.30 pm for our journey back to Tunbridge Wells and expect to be back at approximately 17.45 pm depending on traffic.

My contact number for any enquiries regarding this trip is 0750 4919081

Note that once money has been paid in advance full refunds will only be offered if your place can be filled by another u3a member. Members are advised that neither the TWu3a nor the outing's organiser will accept responsibility for any mishap of whatever nature during the outing. Members are advised to consider personal insurance cover and reminded to bring any necessary medication with them.

IF YOU HAVE NOT PREVIOUSLY GIVEN US DETAILS OF YOU NEXT OF KIN OR PERSON TO BE ADVISED IN AN EMERGENCY, PLEASE LET US HAVE NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER. THIS WILL BE STORED ON TWU3A'S SECURE DATABASE.

TWu3a BARN DANCE Application

ORGANISER: Carol Woodman

email: carol.woodman@hotmail.co.uk

Code: BARN

Date: Saturday 7th October

Time: 7.30 to 10.30

Venue: Langton Green Village Hall TN3 OJJ

Price: £17.50 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.

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

.....