

## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT



I got close to TW u3a's Executive Committee when I was invited to attend its meetings as a guest, towards the end of 2022. I became quite familiar with Committee members and their efforts to ensure our u3a fulfils its intents of helping its members to learn, laugh and live. I am very impressed by the dedication of committee members in fulfilling their responsibilities, which they have taken up as volunteers. I am also very aware and appreciative of the efforts of many other members who volunteer in various ways, such as meeting and greeting at events, providing refreshment and audio-visual facilities, leading groups, and organising highly valued outings and short breaks. A great team, and wonderful organisation. I was impressed by what I saw of the work of Eryll Fabian, my immediate predecessor, and am pleased that she will continue to play a key role in the future, looking after our efforts to promote our u3a.

Although my wife (Jenny) and I have lived in Tunbridge Wells since the mid 1970s, our involvement in the u3a is relatively recent. So, I am learning a lot, and hope members in general, and Committee associates will be patient with me as I continue this new journey. We are a mixed lot, but our diversity is what makes for success, as we work in cooperation with, and considerate of, each other as well as our u3a's purposes.

*Chris* (07788 598472)

**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.**

Many, many thanks to our retiring committee members for their unwavering dedication and enthusiasm.



Good luck  
Eryll and  
Sandra.



### Coming up

**Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2.30:**  
**Monthly Meeting: The Life of a  
Private Investigator**

**Friday 28<sup>th</sup> July 10.30:**  
**Coffee morning at Trinity**



**Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> August 2.30:**  
**Monthly Meeting: A Journey  
through Myanmar**

### Inside this issue

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## IMPORTANT NOTICE

Please note that the July and August monthly meetings will be held in the Christian Fellowship Hall, Hanover Rd, TN1 1EY.

### Location of Future Monthly Meetings

The Executive Committee is exploring the possible continued use of the Christian Fellowship Hall for monthly meetings. This has been prompted by some of our members. Please note that this is purely exploratory at this stage, as there are some important implications. If any member wishes to give their views, please send them to [Chris Woodward](#).



## July's Hybrid Monthly Meeting at the Christian Fellowship Hall

Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2.30pm

### The Life of a Private Investigator

Veronica King

Veronica's story—which featured in the February issue of Third Age Matters—tells of protecting princesses and serving writs on shifty figures. This promises to be an entertaining afternoon about a job which few people will have any knowledge other than its depiction in TV crime series!

If you wish to use Zoom to see this fascinating talk please email [Chris](#) for a link

**Looking Ahead...** The August Monthly Meeting will be on 17<sup>th</sup> August at 2.30

**Jane Scotchmer: Myanmar (Burma): A journey through this captivating and enigmatic country**



## Have you ever been to a Mela?

The **Tunbridge Wells Mela Festival** will be a celebration of music, visual arts, food and dance from around the world and will be held in Calverley Grounds on **Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> July** from noon to 6pm.

Our gazebo will be there to bring us to a wider audience while we enjoy the sights, sounds and tastes of other cultures.

**Come and join us!**



**SAVE THE DATE**

**7<sup>th</sup> October 2023**

**Barn dancing at Langton Green  
Village Hall with a Fish & Chip  
supper**

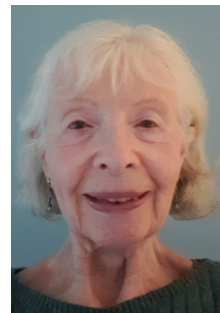
**More details next month**



**Chris Woodward**  
Chairman



**Fiona Findlay**  
Vice Chairman



**Sian Shaw**  
Secretary



**David Brimlow**  
Treasurer

**This year's committee**



**Lindsay Hasell**  
Groups Co-ordinator

**Judy Horwood**  
Membership  
Secretary



**Joan Young**  
Outings  
Co-ordinator



**Philippa Berstein**  
Events Co-ordinator



**Bridget Sands**  
Newsletter Editor





## Outings Co-ordinator

For September we will be visiting a very popular venue, Hampton Court Palace. We last visited this beautiful place in 2017, so time for another visit.

Experience the public dramas and private lives of Henry VIII, his wives and children in the world of the Tudor Court. Admire Henry's Great Hall, complete with its magnificent tapestries, and transport yourselves back to the heyday of feasting and entertainment in the Tudor kitchen. Walk Henry's route from his private apartments to the Chapel and see the infamous Haunted Gallery.

Then discover the spectacular Baroque transformation built by William III and Mary II in the 1690s, and explore Hampton Court Palace's outdoor spaces and 60 acres of magnificent gardens.

The application form to see this beautiful Palace is at the end of the newsletter. Please apply early to avoid disappointment as I am sure this will be a very popular trip.

We still have some places left for our outing to The Rural Living and Life Museum in August, please contact [Stella Westrup](#) for full details of this lovely outing, on 01892 523413.

On a lovely day in June, we went to Wakehurst Park and Sheffield Gardens; a full report of the day we visited these beautiful gardens follows below.

*[Joan Young](#)*

### Last month's outing to Wakehurst Park and Sheffield Gardens

And weren't they lovely? The weather warmed up for the afternoon and both Wakehurst Place and Sheffield Park were looking great.

Our group of 35 divided in two at Wakehurst and both

(volunteer) guides were very knowledgeable. All agreed that we gained so much from the information they shared, such as 'this tree was the only one to survive Hiroshima' or 'this one grew to its present considerable height in only sixty years'. The Latin names were a little daunting for some but

fortunately the threatened test did not materialise! After lunch—whether in the cafe or a picnic in the grounds—we had time for a quick visit to the seed bank, walled garden or the tempting plant sales.

We then headed for Sheffield Park – the lakeside walks were beautiful; water lilies and geese with goslings were among the treats – many rhododendrons were still at their best. Many of us succumbed to ice-creams and/or tea and cake in the cafe, a visit to the second-hand bookshop, more plant sales and then, as Andy Pandy used to say, 'Time to go home'.

We arrived safely back in Tunbridge Wells after a most enjoyable day.

*Lorna Jones*



## Groups Co-ordinator's notes

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

The four June sessions "Find out about Dowsing" were enjoyable and well received. If anyone has any ideas for other short courses then please contact the **Groups Co-ordinator** with your suggestions.

Since 2020 it has been surprisingly complicated to get a sewing or craft group off the ground. Two TWu3a members who worked in the Soft Furnishing Department of John Lewis would like to offer 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.

A reminder about 3 recently formed groups:

- The **Spanish Beginners** group is meeting regularly at Trinity. They emphasise that it is a conversation group for complete beginners. More details from [Elaine](#)
- The **Sustainable Living** group are currently meeting on a Tuesday morning once a month at Esquires to discuss different aspects of why and how to live sustainably, to raise awareness and share information. One member has had a letter published in the Times of TW about reducing food waste and is campaigning for food waste bins for apartment buildings. If you would like more information please contact [Sue](#).
- The **Wealden Walkers** group has resumed and walks on Mondays. For more information please contact [Stephen](#)

The Groups Listings are available for anyone who requests them from the Groups Co-ordinator.

*We strive to keep details up to date however if you contact someone who says a group that you may be interested in 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 in the pipeline.*

[Lindsay Hasell](#)

## Group News

On a gloomy and overcast morning fifteen members of the **10 Mile Walk Group** started a circular walk at the village of Fletching, which is mentioned in the Domesday Book, and proceeded along the boundary of Barham Manor, where Piltdown Man was found, and on towards Newick. Here we called into St Mary's Church with its Burne-Jones window and then continued towards Sheffield Park passing through a jitty out of Newick. On the approach to Sheffield Park we came across this rather ominous sign but skirted round it into Sheffield Park where we had a picnic lunch cooled by a breeze while bathed in sunshine.



We did a circuit of Sheffield Park and returned the way we had come, past the sign (none of us got shot), and strolled along a country lane in glorious sunshine back to Fletching. These are the joys of walking; you come across scenery, features and signs that you will never see otherwise. If you want pleasure and amusement or are seeking to improve your well-being then you are welcome to join us. The longest journey starts with the first step.

*Ray Dean, Co-Leader.*



## Group News

### The Photo Group



had a good day at Standen House and Gardens in May. One of the difficulties people often have with indoor photography is poor lighting. Many beginners' and enthusiasts' cameras and lenses struggle in the low light and produce something like a mosaic. A favourite topic amongst ourselves is what software is best to convert this mosaic to a nice, sharp, bright photo. A non-favourite topic is why all these people with mobile phones seem to be taking lovely photos without any problems - and they most certainly are!

Admittedly, this is due to the powerful software in phones that can read your mind and know what you want the photo to look like, but that is fine.

Having been thrown out of Standen House for having a back mounted camera bag and tripod designed to knock over any expensive vases on the way through, I eventually returned in a sour mood and whizzed through the house thinking there was not much to photograph there anyway. How wrong I was. In our shared albums, others showed me how they were able to portray what I thought was dull and uninteresting as exciting and atmospheric. Some really beautiful photos. I love this hobby - if not my colleagues.



*Ian Graham*

### London Explorers 4

discovered the underground rivers that run into the Thames. Twenty-six of them! They walked from the Walbrook River in Shoreditch to the London Mithraeum, taking in the statue of the 'Children of the Kindertransport' dedicated to the rescue of 10,000 children from Germany, Austria, Czechoslovakia and Poland. Colin and Jenny did a lot of research and made it a fascinating day, albeit quite hot in the sunshine.



*Suzette Elliott-West*

### London Explorers 1

followed an Epidemiology walk through Soho. Starting in Russell Square, we came across an old hunting lodge used by Charles II when the area was still a forest. We then traced the source of the 1854 cholera outbreak taking the route through Soho that John Snow took in order to understand its causes.

John Snow was an English physician and leader in the development of anaesthesia and medical hygiene. He was one of the founders of modern epidemiology because of his work in connecting the water source and the disease.

The walk finally took us to the John Snow pub in Broadwick Street, where we saw the famous pump erected in his memory.



*Joan Young*

## Important information

### Forthcoming Events For Your Diary

20 July 2023	Monthly meeting: My Life as a Private Investigator
17 August 2023	Monthly meeting: A journey through Myanmar
7 October 2023	Barn Dance – details next month

## New members

A big welcome to our **2** new members in June

**Robin DuBlanc and Madeleine McDonnell**

## Your Committee

Chairman	Chris Woodward	07788 598472
Vice-Chairman	Fiona Findlay	07872 169146
Secretary	Sian Shaw	07835 300193
Treasurer	David Brimlow	01892 860598
Group 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 that you would like to see in the newsletter in the future, then 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 **August** Newsletter should be e-mailed to **Bridget** by July 31<sup>st</sup> 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](http://www.u3a.org.uk) or write to:

The Third Age Trust, Room 104, Lenta Business Centre,  
156 Blackfriars Rd, London SE1 8EN

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

## HAMPTON COURT PALACE – Thursday, 7<sup>th</sup> September 2023

**Outing Code: F 22 Outing Organiser: Lorna Jones, [lorna.jones@uwclub.net](mailto:lorna.jones@uwclub.net)**

Steeped in Tudor history, Hampton Court needs no introduction. There are comprehensive free audio guides available. The Tiltyard Cafe serves hot meals and the Privy Cafe, in a wonderful old part of the building, has a wide range of snacks. The beautiful gardens offer numerous benches for picnics, if the weather is good.

The cost of the outing is £28 and includes the coach, driver's gratuity and entrance charge.

To pay by BACS please email Lorna and include your name, mobile/home phone number, date of payment and Name of Outing and Code (as above). Please say where you wish to board the coach.

To make the payment: Make an on line 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 have entered the details correctly, you can go ahead with the transaction).

Reference: OUTING CODE and your Surname e.g. F22 ... Your surname

To pay by cheque: please post the application form below to Lorna Jones, Kingston Cottage, London Road, Southborough TN4 0PJ. Add your email or telephone number for confirmation of receipt.

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### APPLICATION FORM – Hampton Court Palace – Code: F 22

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

Name and mobile/home phone number.....

Email .....

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

Name and mobile/home phone number .....

Email .....

Please tick where you wish to join the coach:

Crescent Road, opposite the Assembly Hall	9.30 am
St John's, opposite Sainsbury's Local	9.35 am
Southborough Fountain	9.45 am

The coach will leave Hampton Court at 4.00 pm aiming to be back in Tunbridge Wells 5.30 – 6.00pm.

The contact numbers for queries concerning this trip are 01892 533127 or 07804671573.  
NB Once money has been paid, refunds can only be offered if your place is filled by another u3a member. Members are advised that neither the TWu3a nor the outing organiser will accept responsibility for any mishap during the outing. Members are advised to consider personal insurance cover and are reminded to bring any necessary medication with them.

IF YOU HAVE NOT GIVEN US DETAILS OF YOUR NEXT OF KIN OR PERSON TO BE ADVISED IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY, PLEASE LET US HAVE A NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER. THIS WILL BE STORED ON THE TWU3A BEACON DATABASE.