

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Greetings all I do hope you are enjoying your days, and meeting other members and developing friendships. I much enjoy connecting with others, although I am initially dreadful with names – the more frequent the contact the more the names embed. Be patient with me.



February's monthly meeting: Courtesy of Jane Scotchmer, at our monthly meeting we enjoyed a visual traipse through some very interesting grotto'd gardens. Hmm ... raised some ideas in my mind for future outings and possibly short breaks. Next month we will hear from Caroline Piper on *A History of Shopping in London*, a great delight for those with experience in such activity.

Old Auction House coffee morning: We held our first coffee morning (2nd Monday each month) at this new-to-u3a location. We might have overwhelmed the staff, but they are very happy to have us there.

New website: We are likely to be invited by the Third Age Trust to begin implementing a new TW u3a website, guided by the national SiteWorks team, in about 9 months (we are 450th in line!). Anyone who has views to share on what features the new website should provide is welcome to email me.

Executive Committee: Our rule about 3-year tenure-ship for members of the Committee means that we are always looking for future committee members. Any u3a member who might be interested in participating, is welcome to visit and observe monthly meetings, without committing to becoming a committee member. Please contact [me](#).

Chris (07788 598472)

Coming up

Monday 11th Mar 10.30:
Coffee morning at the Old Auction House

Thursday 21st Mar 2.30:
Monthly Meeting: History of London Shopping

Friday 22nd Mar 10.30:
Coffee morning at Trinity

Tuesday 26th Mar 2.30: **Wine Tasting**



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

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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



Caroline Piper
Blue Badge Tourist Guide
<http://pipertours.com>

Please follow me on
www.facebook.com/pipertours
Or see Tripadvisor for reviews

Thursday 21st March at 2.30
Christian Fellowship Hall, Hanover Rd, TN1 1EY

Caroline Piper – A History of Shopping in London

Discover why Britain is a "nation of shopkeepers". Marks and Spencer, John Lewis, Fortnum & Mason, Harrods..... We take these brand names for granted now, but how did it all start and why were they so successful?

It will be lovely to have Caroline back with us again.

Last month's talk

Jane Scotchmer : Victorian Wonderlands of Crag, Caves and Cascades

Introduced by talks organiser Craig Forster, Jane journeyed through two centuries of garden design influences, from Palladian imagery and the Romantic poets, Empire, the industrial revolution and the early 20th Century. Part cultural record, part social history, she explained how land-owning entrepreneurs made the fortunes that enabled these imaginative, grand-scale landscapes.

In the late 1700s, the 'living work of art' at Stourhead, Wiltshire used cascades of water and classical icons to celebrate the power of nature over man, in reaction to industrial growth. Also in Wiltshire, professional landscaper Capability Brown went a step further, modelling Bow Wood House gardens on an actual work of art - Poussin's 'The Flood'.

By the early 19th century, classical gave way to technical change, with garden designs using rocks and crags for impact, reflecting industry's hard edges. In Northumberland, engineer William Armstrong and wife Margaret built Cragside, a technically and botanically innovative estate that turned a former quarry, its original crag, into a plant friendly micro-climate.



The presentation culminated in the formal gardens at Friar Park, still owned by George Harrison's family, with a replica model of the Matterhorn. And finally, Bexleyheath's Arts & Crafts Red House had gardens that reflected owners Jane and William Morris's philosophy that nature and home should work in harmony. By returning to the talk's initial focus on classicism, this brought Jane's narrative full circle.



Aileen Muir

Looking ahead... April's Monthly Meeting is on the 18th

Neil Nixon Beatles Myths and Legends

Probably the one Beatles story you don't know well. An amazing, chilling and hilarious account of stories told about the Fab Four that beggar belief but are - occasionally - true.



Outings Coordinator

Our third outing of the year will be to Brooklands Museum, with the Concorde Experience, on Wednesday 22nd May.

This is a unique experience showcasing the museum's collection, focused on the 1907 banked motor course, its influence and development of motor racing; and aviation. With a visit to the inside of the beautiful Concorde included. There is also a cafe serving hot and cold food and drinks during the visit. The application form is at the end of the newsletter.



<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/deed.en>

At the time of writing there are still a few places available on April's Basildon Park trip, details were in

February's newsletter or contact Joan on 07504 919081 or by email [outings coordinator](#)

Joan Young

SINGING SEA SHANTIES



Wednesday 12th June 2pm—4pm

@ The Hub, Grosvenor & Hilbert Park. £3 pp

Come along and have fun at a one-off singing workshop with a music teacher/songstress/musician. Book your place: groupstwu3a@gmail.com

Coffee at The Old Auction House last month proved very popular!



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



At the beginning of February sixteen members joined Ranger Dan and Gemma Stapeley on the first TWu3a Winter Walk & Talk. After an introductory talk at the Rackcliff Centre the group set off for a guided discussion about the Commons Conservators' 2024 plans around Rusthall Common via the archaeological dig and Toad Rock.

The **SPRING WALK & TALK** with Ranger Dan and Gemma will take place on Friday 26th April and will visit the hidden Victorian Terraces behind Marnock Lake (also known as Brighton Lake). More details in the April newsletter but please register your interest by contacting the [Groups Coordinator](#).

NEW GROUPS STARTING: The **KEEP MOVING** group held its first meetings at the end of February and the 2nd **CANASTA** group will meet at lunchtime on the 4th Tuesday at Trinity.



RE-STARTING: As Spring arrives the **GARDENING** group is re-potting itself. One off-shoot will meet in a variety of locations to swap gardening ideas, seedlings and plants whilst there might also be a chance that one of the group is willing to help other members organise some garden visits. Interested? Please contact the [Groups Coordinator](#).

MORE MEMBERS NEEDED TO START NEW GROUPS:

A **SPANISH CONVERSATION** group, a new **RUMMIKUB** group, a third **FAMILY HISTORY (GENEALOGY)** group

— as well as a **HISTORY** group who are planning to meet and discuss the way forward in April. A new TWu3a member (who has organised a u3a History group elsewhere) has offered to be the group contact. Please let [Groups Coordinator](#) know.

ONE-OFF POP-UP MEETINGS: Currently being thought about!

LAUGHTER YOGA

CREATING A TERRARIUM

ONE-OFF POP-UP ZOOM MEETINGS: Currently being planned

A powerpoint presentation by the TWu3a **ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES** group
Recognising and using AI (Artificial Intelligence)

GROUPS THAT ARE (RECENTLY) FULL:

The **TABLE TENNIS**, **MOTO2**, **MATTERS ARISING DISCUSSION** and **SPANISH GROUP 2** are now full.

If you would like an **“updated, spaces only, groups list”** or if you would like to register your interest in any of the groups mentioned then please contact the [Groups Coordinator](#).

Group News

A Review of trips by London Explorers Group 6 by Helen S

2018 Following the inaugural meeting at Trinity in May 2018 our first outing took place in July on a bright and sunny day, where we walked along the Regents Canal from Camden Lock, via Abbey Road, to Little Venice and lunch at the Quince Tree Café in the Clifton Nurseries. This was followed by a number of interesting outings such as the Ragged School Museum, Household Cavalry Museum & Jewel Tower, The Foundling Museum, Wallace Collection.



2019 We started with the Post Office Museum postal train followed by, amongst other excellent outings, a backstage tour of the Royal Opera House, the Poppy Factory where we made poppies, Florence Nightingale Museum and the Old Bailey.

2020 We got off to a good start with The Old Operating Theatre and Shakespeare's Globe but sadly the rest of the year was written off as far as outings were concerned due to Coronavirus but we did have Zoom quizzes and a talk on Bletchley Park.

2021 In February, in order to get the group together again, we did two Tunbridge Wells walks using the U3a local walks pamphlets. Our first outing to London this year was to the British Library, the regenerated King's Cross, after which we went to the Royal Observatory & Queens House. In November we did an Evening Ghost Walk, and the final outing that year was a fascinating walk around the old docks in Wapping.



2022 This year started in style with a guided tour of the Masonic Grand Lodge and Charterhouse in Farringdon. We then had a varied selection of outings including a trip to the West India Docks now known as Canary Wharf, The Shard, Apsley House & Wellington Arch, Physic Garden, Charles Dickens Museum, Kensington. We had one outing that year cancelled due to Platinum Jubilee Celebrations.



2023 Started with Tunbridge Wells because there were no trains (indeed a year blighted with rail strikes) but we did manage a few outings including a National Theatre Backstage Tour, The Museum of the Home, Tower Bridge, Chiswick Gardens, Amphitheatre at the Guildhall, a walk from Little Venice to Camden, and lastly Paddington and the British

Museum.

2024 Off to a cracking start with a trip to The Supreme Court, and Greg Clark taking us on a private tour of The Houses of Parliament. We are looking forward to another good year with a very interesting programme of outings including 2 Temple Place, Dulwich Village, Woolwich Docks & Leather Route, Battersea, and Middle Temple Hall.



Walk On The Wildside group were at Hayesden Country Park last month, walking the historic route. Very popular with the group is the Merlin app from Cornell University, which records birds singing and identifies them. At least 14 birds were logged.



Bridget S

More Group News



Twenty four **T Team** friends enjoyed a very pleasant afternoon in February. At Barbara's suggestion, we drove to Lamberhurst Church to hopefully admire the masses of snowdrops there.

Unfortunately, due to the bad weather, the flowers were past their best, but it was still a beautiful, if muddy stroll round the undulating paths through the pretty churchyard. We could imagine just how wonderful the snowdrops would have looked a couple of weeks earlier.

There were a few crocuses and daffodils out and we stopped to read some of the ancient gravestones.



We finished inside the church, some of which dates back to 998AD, but mainly from the 14th century and is most interesting. There is one modern stained-glass window, designed by John Piper, who also designed the stained-glass windows in Coventry Cathedral.

After a welcome cuppa and biscuits, we all vowed to return in 2025!!



Stella W

The Art Appreciation Group March Meeting

On **Wednesday 13th March**, one of our members, Andrew Marriott, will give a talk about **The History of Automobile and Motor-Racing Art**. This may seem a slightly unusual topic for our group, but cars are very much a part of our lives today and Andrew is going to look at how the portrayal of cars has developed over time.

2.30 p.m. - 3.30 p.m. at the Camden Centre,
Victoria Suite. £1 at the door.

Enquiries [Elaine Royal](#)



Georges Gaudy, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons

London Explorers 4 had a superb day out, organised by Carol W and Margaret F. They went to Sir John Soane's Museum, which was full of art works, sculptures, furniture and artefacts.

Followed by the Hunterian Museum, exhibiting the science of surgery from ancient times to the present day.

Both were really good finds.



Suzette E-W

Important information

Forthcoming Events For Your Diary

21 March 2024	Monthly meeting: The History of London Shopping
26 March 2024	Wine Tasting afternoon
18 April 2024	Monthly meeting: The Beatles: Myths & Legends

New members

A big welcome to the **6** new members who joined in February

Your Committee

Chairman	Chris Woodward	07788 598472
Deputy Chair	Fiona Findlay	07872 169146
Secretary	Sian Shaw	07835 300193
Treasurer	David Brimlow	01892 860598
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 **April** Newsletter should be e-mailed to **Bridget** by **March 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

BROOKLANDS MUSEUM WEDNESDAY 22nd MAY

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

OUTING CODE: G3 OUTING ORGANISER: JOAN YOUNG TO EMAIL: CLICK [HERE](#)

May's trip is to the Brooklands Museum with the Concorde Experience. Brooklands Museum collection is focused on the 1907 banked motor course and its influence on the development of motor racing and aviation. They reflect the history of the UK's world leading motor sport industry which grew up at Brooklands before the Second World War and was still largely focused in the local area in the post-war years. The aircraft collection tells the story of Brooklands' vital role in producing military aircraft in both world wars and the many renowned military and civil aircraft (including much of the Concorde) designed and manufactured here until the last factory closed in 1989. There is also the Sunbeam Cafe where they serve hot and cold food and drinks.

The cost of the trip, including the coach, driver's gratuity and entrance to Brooklands with the Concorde experience£42.10pp

To pay by BACS please email: [Joan](mailto:Joan@brooklands.co.uk) and include your name, mobile/home phone number, date of payment and Name of Outing and Code (Brooklands Museum G3). Plus, where you want to board the coach.

Then: Make an online transfer to: **Tunbridge Wells u3a** Sort code: **40-52-40** Account No: **00024097**
Reference: OUTING CODE G3 Surname

To pay by cheque: please post the application below to:
u3a outings, 21 Coniston Avenue, Tunbridge Wells, TN4 9SP
Add your email or telephone number for confirmation of receipt.

[illegible]

APPLICATION FORM

Outing name and Code: G3 Brooklands Museum

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 Hallat 9.00am.

St Johns opposite Sainsburys local.at 9.10am.

Southborough Fountainat 9.20am.

We expect to be at Brooklands at approximately 11.00am. ***We will leave at 15.30pm. And hope to arrive back in Tunbridge Wells around 17.30pm.***

My contact number for any enquiries regarding this trip is 07504 919081

Please 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 SOMEONE TO BE ADVISED IN AN EMERGENCY, PLEASE LET US HAVE A NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER. THIS WILL BE STORED ON TWU3A'S SECURE DATABASE.