

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Greetings all

There is nothing like a move – say, from the Camden Centre to the TW Christian Fellowship Hall – to motivate the disposal of unneeded material. Exploring old TWu3a documentation, I came across the 2004 book by Eric Midwinter, *500 Beacons – The U3A Story*. Eric, alongside Peter Laslett and Michael Young, who both passed away in 2002, started u3a in the UK in 1982. Although the emergence of the French *L'Université du troisième âge* in 1973 had informed our founders, their emphasis for the UK was self-help – “for the members, by the members” – rather than auxiliary to academic institutions. The growth of u3a in UK can be put down to that early decision. Well done.

Although there is much that goes on around them, our interest groups are the core of what we do. Of course, these groups have been formed and exist under the umbrella of the TWu3a so, although members of interest groups may be very wedded to their group-based initiatives, all are also members of TWu3a. Members' support for, and engagement in, the groups in which they participate is important for their continued success presence; equally, members' support for TWu3a-wide activities is also important for mutual success. I am particularly impressed by all those who give time and effort to making this so. On that subject ...

Talks organiser: I must again appeal to members for a volunteer to step forward to take over from Bob Slater. The role is largely home-based and involves choosing and signing up speakers for monthly meetings. Bob has accumulated information on many available speakers, so all that it requires is a little organisational ability. Help! (Maybe someone can step into my current role, while I step into Bob's?)

Chris (07788 598472)

Coming up

Thursday 19th Oct 2.30:

Monthly meeting: The Duke and Duchess of Windsor

Friday 27th Oct 10.30:

Coffee morning at Trinity



Thursday 16th Nov

Monthly Meeting: The work of the TW Commons Conservators

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

Thursday 19th October at 2.30



Janie Ramsay will be talking about....

The Lifestyle of the Duke and Duchess of Windsor

This glamorous couple became the style icons of the mid 20th century, being feted around the world, except in Britain from where they were exiled. This talk takes you into their world, their guests, servants, properties, travels and possessions.



Don't forget...

The next **New Members' Meeting** will take place on **Tuesday 17th October**.

It will be held at the Tunbridge Wells Christian Fellowship Hall, Hanover Road, TN1 1EY 2.30-4.30pm.



Come along and talk to the group contacts about their interest groups.

Looking Ahead -

November's Monthly Meeting will be on Thursday 16th

Daniel Colborne & Gemma Stapeley

"The role of the Tunbridge Wells Commons Conservators"

The Commons are a key part of what makes Tunbridge Wells special. Why not come and find out how they are managed and what the plans might be for the future?

Christmas Lunch

Christmas Lunch on Friday 8th December

Our Christmas Lunch will be at the Masonic Hall again this year.

Prices have not changed. We know we shall have a delicious meal and enjoy the Christmas spirit.

The hall is in St John's Road and is easily accessible. It is on several bus routes and has plenty of free parking.

The application form is on page 10.

To help us properly plan please send in your application by 15th November

The Meeters & Greeters are those lovely people who welcome you in to the monthly meetings and to all u3a events.

They are looking for more friendly volunteers to join their team. If this sounds like you, please contact [Jean Bicknell](#) by clicking on her name.



U3a day– drawing attention to ourselves at the clocktower in town



LAST CHANCE TO RENEW YOUR SUBSCRIPTION.

Thank you to the hundreds of members who have already renewed their membership of our thriving U3A.

This is a final reminder that if you haven't renewed, unfortunately this may be the last newsletter you will receive as your name is automatically taken off the system at the end of October.

If you have any problems with the renewal process please contact Judy Horwood, Membership Secretary 01892 537601.

Outings Coordinator

Our last trip for the year will be the Christmas lights at Leonardslee Gardens on Friday 1st December. This outing is full, but there is a waiting list, so you may still be able to see this fabulous event. The details were in September's newsletter or alternatively you can contact the organiser [Sue Brimlow](#) (click name or ring 01892 863691).

A review of the Hampton Court visit in September follows the outing news. I would like to say a big thank you and a farewell to Lorna Jones who organised this lovely trip. Lorna, a valued member, has decided to give up arranging further trips after many years on the outing team. If any member would like to join us, we will be deciding very soon where to go in the coming year. It would be an ideal time to get involved. So please contact me, Joan Young, by [email](#) (click here) or on 07504919081. By getting involved and helping us to organise these very popular monthly trips for our members, you have the opportunity to arrange an outing to somewhere you have never been before or go back to a favourite place, .

Last month's outing to Hampton Court

One of the main concerns of Outings organisers is whether it will rain on the day. There were no worries on the day of our outing, the sun shone all day long, with a record temperature for September of 30+ C.

We alighted from the coach for a walk across Hampton Court Bridge, which afforded a wonderful view of the river, and from there we were in for a treat. It is a most impressive Palace, which is still owned by the reigning monarch. Originally built by Cardinal Wolsey in the early 16th century, it attracted the attention of Henry VIII, who brought all his six wives there. Indeed, Jane Seymour died there, after giving birth. In the 1700's, William III and Mary II commissioned Sir Christopher Wren to build an elegant new Palace. Fortunately, he chose to leave Henry's apartments and the chapel intact – where today, as you stroll through, you can sense the hand of history.



In 1838, Queen Victoria opened the Palace to the public and it soon became a major tourist attraction, as it still is today. There is such a wealth of architecture from different ages, and treasures, paintings, jewellery, costumes, etc., that it is hard to choose of which to make special mention. About ten years ago a replica was made of the crown worn by King Henry VIII and his children. It was thought that the original had been melted down and recycled ... by the orders of Cromwell, after the execution of Charles I. The replica, which is now on display in the Royal Pew overlooking the Chapel, was made in part by Tunbridge Wells' jeweller, Harry Collins.

Fortunately, it was fairly cool inside the Palace and so members tended to linger there rather than explore the extensive gardens and famous Maze. It was a pleasant walk, though, to the Tiltyard Café, with jousting horsemen depicted along the wall. Here, towards the end of our visit, many of us enjoyed a cold drink or ice cream – supplies of which were running low.

Our thanks to Lorna Jones for this lovely day out and for all the other outings that she has organised. Sadly, Lorna is stepping down from the Outings Committee. We will miss her.

Pat Micklewright



SAVE THE DATE

21st DECEMBER 2023

Christmas Social Gathering & Quiz

More details next month



Last month's talk

John Griffiths-Colby: Who's Wally?

John demonstrated how word of mouth and family legend can create fake news even in a small and limited environment.



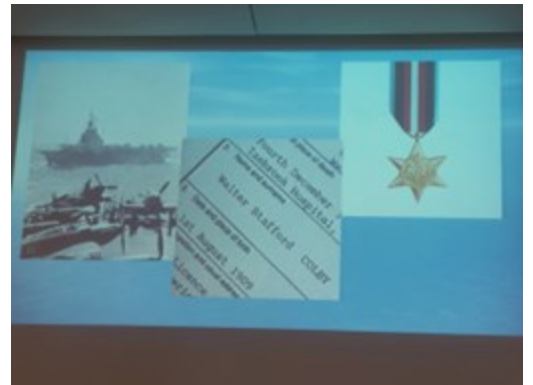
Although Walter rarely spoke about his war exploits in the Royal Navy, It was widely accepted in John's family that his uncle, Walter Stafford Colby ...

- had been torpedoed 3 times
- served on HMS Illustrious
- and survived on the floating part of a Liberty ship that had split in half, gaining him the nickname Lucky.

When John came to investigate whether his Uncle was eligible for the Arctic Star - a medal awarded in 2012 for those who had served in the Arctic Convoys during WWII - he

found reality was slightly different. Wally had by then been dead for 30 years and his service number and birth certificate could not be found. A lot of research ensued and much family history was uncovered, but Wally's story as the family knew it was not quite true.

It was discovered that he did not serve on the Illustrious but on HMS Indomitable where he was torpedoed during Operation Husky in the invasion of Sicily. Although the ship was damaged with the loss of seven lives it managed to limp safely to Malta. Also, he was not on the Liberty ships but on the Redmill which was torpedoed and lost 60ft off its stern. A second explosion was caused by the depth charges in the ship (and not from the infamous 3rd torpedo)



TWu3a joined the Flower Festival at Emmanuel Church on Mount Ephraim

The theme was Hobbies and Pastimes. Our thanks to Alison who created several wonderful displays for the TWu3a "Learn, Laugh, Live" floral exhibition at the United Emmanuel Church and also to all those who came along.

Groups Coordinator's Notes

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

The new **Sew Easy** group met for the first time on Thursday 28th September and a new **Advanced French Speaking** group is holding a start-up meeting at Trinity on Tuesday 10th October.

There is interest in starting an **Architecture** group. Thoughts included are: organized visits to buildings of interest, either locally, London or the SE in general, that are within reasonable travelling distance of TW. Discussions about styles, movements, history and maybe starting with the idea of tying in with the current Decimus Burton project initiated by the TW Civic Society.



The proposed **Music'N'Movement** group needs more people to express interest before we can hold a start-up meeting. An alternate location nearer the town centre is being investigated.

Sadly the **Wealden Walkers**, **Recorders Consort** and the **Italian Improvers** groups have now closed. The TWu3a committee is very grateful to all group contacts who give their time to organising groups. The **Bus & Trains Explorers** will also soon cease to meet if a new group contact does not offer to liaise with members.



It is much easier to be a u3a group contact if the role is taken on by more than just one person, "a job shared is a job halved"

Groups looking for more members:

Family History (beginners) 1st Wednesday of the month
Galleries & Museums Thursday
Spanish Beginners Thursday

The "**Rusty Voices**" joined the ukulele players on Friday 22nd September to sing "Sweet Caroline" beside the TWu3a gazebo at the Millenium Clock. They had fun and all agreed it would be fun to meet more regularly BUT they need a musician/singer to direct them. Any volunteers?

Details are available from the [Groups' Co-ordinator](#)

Group News

London Explorers 5 enjoyed walking to Southwark Cathedral via Hays Galleria for their September trip.



After lunch at the cathedral they also explored the Southwark environs.

Bob Slater



More Group News

Art Appreciation Group New Programme 2023-2024

The Art Appreciation Group meets mainly during the winter months. This summer two groups have visited Tate Britain where we were shown around the new rehang by one of our members who is a Tate guide. This was informative and interesting, and we are very grateful.

Meetings will begin again on 8th November starting at 2.30pm (the second Wednesday afternoon of the month) in the Victoria Suite at the Camden Centre. The cost will be just £1 per session payable at the door to cover the rent of the hall.



On Wednesday, 8th November, I shall talk about **Hans Holbein the Younger** – his early career, why he came to live in England and how he influenced painting here.

This will interest anyone planning to visit the Queen's Gallery, where there is an exhibition "Holbein at the Tudor Court" from 10th November to 14th April.

On Wednesday 13th December, we shall look at **paintings of gardens**. There are countless examples of these and I hope that many people will join in and contribute something – even if it's only the title and name of the painter. I have plenty of ideas to offer.

Meetings in 2024 - Wednesdays 10th January, 14th February and 13th March are still being planned, but I shall try to link them to upcoming exhibitions, if possible.

New members who are interested in art or who want to learn more are very welcome. I look forward to welcoming old and new members to the group on 8th November.

If you have any queries please email me, [Elaine Royal](#)

London Explorers II visited the Imperial War Museum, after coffee in the surrounding rose garden! With 6 floors to be explored, I chose the 2nd World War floor, where there were some extraordinary stories of bravery and survival. But also a chilling chronological presentation of how Hitler's minority party came to power. I then went up to the Holocaust exhibition. I came away feeling distressed and disturbed, a feeling shared by some of the others, especially when compared with the world situation today.



After joining the group for lunch, some of us went over the road to St. Georges Cathedral, Southwark, by architect Augustus Pugin, who ironically spent some time towards the end of his short life as a patient in Bethlem Royal Hospital, which once stood on the site of the Imperial War Museum. The cathedral was rebuilt after being damaged by a bomb in WW2 with beautiful stained glass windows.



Mary Blinks

The **Science and Technology group** visited the National Institute of Agricultural Botany in East Malling for a guided tour.

After a welcome (with tea and biscuits) we were escorted around the site. The guides described the history of fruit growing, and the institutions which were involved, together with how science is used to develop new varieties, prevent disease and store fruit efficiently. The establishment has a great reputation for development and innovation, attracting students and researchers world wide. Finally the communications director spent some time answering our questions. Despite unpromising weather at the start, sunshine broke through and we all had a great visit.

Sandra Blacker



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. Thirty magnificent rooms to explore and an amazing art collection.



Matlock Bath, including **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.

Buffet lunch at Boughton.

NB: Only a few twin/double rooms left

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

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

Important information

Forthcoming Events For Your Diary

19 October 2023	Monthly meeting: Janie Ramsay: The Duke and Duchess of Windsor
16 November 2023	Monthly Meeting: The work of the Commons Conservators
8 December 2023	Christmas lunch (Masonic Hall)
21 December 2023	Monthly meeting: Christmas social gathering & quiz

New members

A big welcome to the **21** new members who joined in September

Your Committee

Chairman	Chris Woodward	07788 598472
Deputy Chairman	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 Editor	Bridget Sands	01892 546161

A Message from the Editor

Any publication is only as good as its contributors. 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 a future newsletter, 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 **November** Newsletter should be e-mailed to [Bridget](#) by October 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

TWu3a Christmas Lunch
on Friday 8th December 2023 - Application Form
(Applications to be in by 15th November please)

EVENT NAME: CHRISTMAS LUNCH EVENT CODE: XMAS ORGANISER: Eryll Fabian
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Venue: The Masonic Hall, St Johns Road, Tunbridge Wells, TN4 9UJ

Date and Time: Friday 8th December, 12.30 for 1pm.

Cost: £35 per person for three courses followed by tea or coffee, including gratuities.
 Please note that there will be a paying bar. Prosecco will be on special offer and will be charged at £3.50 per glass.

Menu: See application form below. Please include any allergies on the form.

Seating Plan: Please send Eryll names of friends if you would like to sit together.

TO PAY BY BACS: (i) Please email [Eryll](#) and include your name, mobile/home phone number, date of payment, Name of Event and Code (as above), **and menu choices**. (ii) 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], with reference: **EVENT CODE** (as above) **surname** e.g. **XMAS Your Surname**

TO PAY BY CHEQUE: please post the cheque and application form below to:
Eryll Fabian, 5 Broadwater Court, Broadwater Down. Tunbridge Wells, TN2 5PB.

Add your email address or telephone number for confirmation of receipt.

APPLICATION FORM

Event name and Code (as above):

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

Name

Phone or address

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

Name(s) and mobile/home phone number(s)

Please indicate your menu choices below: **ALLERGIES**

- | | |
|---------------------------|---|
| <u>Starter</u> | S1. Pea and Mint Soup
S2. Stuffed Mushrooms with Bacon Lardons (vegetarian option available)
S3. Melon with Parma Ham |
| <u>Main Course</u> | M1. Roast Turkey and all the trimmings
M2. Vegetable Wellington with trimmings
M3. Salmon with white wine sauce, served with New Potatoes & Green Beans |
| <u>Dessert</u> | D1. Christmas Pudding served with Brandy Butter or Cream
D2. Fruit Salad with Ice Cream or Cream
D3. Cheese and biscuits (please indicate if you require gluten free) |

Name.....**Choices (numbers)**.....

Name.....**Choices (numbers)**.....

Name.....**Choices (numbers)**.....

