

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Greetings all

August monthly meeting: Jane Scotchmer spoke about a recent visit, with her husband, to Myanmar. The country's conditions (military dictatorship, travel restrictions, and so on) do not encourage tourism so we were all intrigued to learn a little about that somewhat remote country. Our thanks go to Jane and our Talks Organiser, Bob Slater.

Monthly meeting location: The Executive Committee unanimously decided to use the Tunbridge Wells Christian Fellowship (TWCF) hall for all future monthly meetings, ambience and kitchen facilities being the main reasons. We now need to clear out the storage facility being used at the Camden Centre. This includes two unused mixer-amplifier systems that both Skinners and TW Girls Grammar schools have expressed an interest in adopting. The AV team received training from TWCF's AV specialist in using the hall's facilities. But we must apologise to members attending the recent meeting by Zoom, for the partial loss of visual transmission. Our AV team did not fix the problem at the time, to ensure continued transmission of the audio part.

Volunteer needs:

There are around 200 volunteer roles in our u3a; these are filled by about 130 members (some holding more than one role). We are very grateful for these valued contributions. Keeping the roles filled is a constant concern, so we appeal to members with abilities and time, no matter how small, to consider joining in. (Please keep an eye on the panel in our monthly newsletter for role vacancies)

Chris (07788 598472)

Coming up

Thursday 21st Sept 2.30:

Monthly meeting—**Who's Wally?**

Friday 22nd Sept: **u3a day at the Clocktower**

Friday 29th Sept 10.30:
Coffee morning at Trinity



Thursday 19th Oct 2.30:

Monthly Meeting—**The Duke and Duchess of Windsor**

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

21st September at 2.30

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 2. 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. Back in service, aboard the frigate HMS Redmill, 'Lucky' as he was now known, found himself supporting the D-Day landings, on an Arctic Convoy and hunting subs until the Redmill was torpedoed – this time by U-1105 – only days before the end of the European War. Like many, Wally never told his story, but now we can. And what was so special about U-1105 that after surrendering it went missing for decades until it was found in Maryland, USA?

[Do come and join us to find out more.](#)

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

ADVANCE NOTICE

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.



Invitations will be sent out in mid-September.

Looking Ahead -

**The October Monthly Meeting will be on
Thursday 19th**

Janie Ramsay

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.



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 from St John's Fish Bar (or the Halloumi Special)



More details and application form at the end of the newsletter

Items of interest from the u3a website.

u3a Week is an annual event to showcase the activity, learning, and fun which takes place across the movement every day. Click [here](#) to find out about some special national Zoom events.

Interest Groups Online, the online u3a community that gives you the opportunity to join groups, talks and courses from the comfort of your home, is running a week of free taster sessions between **Monday 2 and Friday 6 October**. Click [here](#) to find out more.



In keeping with our Christmas tradition, the December outing will be to see an illuminated garden. This year, we'll walk through the beautiful grounds of Leonardslee Lakes & Gardens as they come to life with spellbinding illuminations, projections and interactive installations. The trail takes 60 to 90 minutes to explore as we experience the gardens awash with light, sound, colour and festive cheer on a crisp winter evening! There's a Christmas market, funfair rides and seasonal food and drink.

The application form is at the end of the newsletter.

Photos are from the Leonardslee [website](#)



Outings Coordinator

As you can see above, our last outing of the year will be to Leonardslee Lakes and Gardens to see the Christmas illuminations on Friday 1st December. The application form will be at the end of the newsletter.

In August we had a very successful day at The Rural Living and Life Museum in Farnham, a review of this lovely day is below.

The October trip is to Wrest Park, and we still have a few places left at the time of writing. If you wish to join us, please see the application form in the August newsletter or contact me on 07504919081 or jyoutings@gmail.com.

Joan Young

Last month's outing to the Rural Life Living Museum near Farnham

The museum was founded by Henry and Madge Jackson who, realising agricultural implements used by previous generations were being lost and destroyed, visited farm sales and local auctions determined to save these historic artefacts. It is set in 10



acres of open space and woodland. Interesting exhibits included a Shepherd's Hut, which was equipped with a wood stove to keep the young lambs nice and warm, the Easing Chapel, where services were held until 1870, the Lindford Village Hall, a cricket pavilion and a schoolroom built around 1900 which was in use for many years until it was damaged in the 1987 hurricane.



A fully furnished pre-fabricated home was of particular interest as these could be erected after the Second World War to solve the acute housing shortage. At the time they were the height of luxury, with big windows, a fitted kitchen, an indoor toilet and even central heating.

In the Tilford building there were many shops that would have traditionally been found in a village: a bakery, cobbler's shop to make and repair shoes, a haberdashery, a wheelwright shop and many agricultural vehicles.

The Tweedsmuir Camp was built in 1941 by the Royal Canadian Engineers and in 1947 became the living quarters for the Polish Resettlement Corps housing 80 Polish families, who were invited to settle in Britain after the war.

The Anderson Shelter was made from galvanised metal, sandbags and a roof covered with earth. It could accommodate up to six people and provided protection during bombing raids in the Second World War.



Henry's Yard was the site of the original museum and exhibited an iron furnace, blacksmith's forge and domestic room interiors from both the Victorian age and 1930s. The Frensham Building housed a threshing machine, stationary engines, forestry equipment and a couple of manual fire engines.



All in all a very interesting visit which brought up many memories of the past.

Pam Booty

Last month's talk

Jane Scotchmer: Myanmar (Burma)

A journey through this captivating and enigmatic country

By way of geography, history, a little politics and the aftermath of war, Jane led us through her 2018 holiday. Accompanied by her husband they had many preconceptions about what to expect but they travelled with open minds.

The country is about the size of Germany and Poland combined, with a population of 50 million. It borders India, China, Laos, Thailand and Bangladesh and as such has many ethnic minorities. It has a past of continuing unrest and conflict but at the time of Jane's trip most of the country was still open to travellers.

Like Thailand, it is a predominantly Buddhist country and every man becomes a monk at some point in his life, even if just for a couple of weeks. They shave their heads, wear saffron robes and eschew all personal possessions. There are temples everywhere. Buddhists try to live a life of good deeds and thoughts to ensure eventual enlightenment; the building of temples and worshipping in them is part of this process. Gifts of food and drink are given to the statues of Buddha, and worshippers buy tiny pieces of gold leaf to add to the temple walls and Buddha statues. In autumn each statue is dressed in a golden scarf and in winter, a blanket.

Teak is an important export and woodworking is highly revered. Teak is a very oily wood and so excellent for building in humid climates: a teak bridge built in 1860 has reportedly only ever had four of its struts replaced.

Jane said the food was very good although not as vegetarian as one might think due to their fondness for fish sauce, and everyone drinks bottled water. Their train journey was rather exciting as the carriages had no windows or doors and people were living on the station platforms.

They found Burma to be an intriguing country with welcoming people and a colourful culture. It is unfortunate that travel to the country is not advised at present. We were very lucky to have Jane tell us about her experiences and give us an insight into life in this now rather secretive place.



TWu3a is joining the Flower Festival at Emmanuel Church, Mount Ephraim TN4 8AE

The theme is Hobbies and Pastimes

Members of the public are welcome to view the displays on Friday 15th September (10-4), Saturday 16th September (10-4) & Sunday 17th September (2-4). Entry will cost £3.50 with refreshments included.

Groups Co-ordinator's notes

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

Would you like to join a new TWu3a group of fluent **French** speakers?

Please contact the Groups Co-ordinator if you are interested in being part of a small group who would meet on a Tuesday morning once a month in the contact's Rusthall home. (We plan to hold a start-up meeting in late September/early October)

The meetings will be conducted totally in French and will aim to discuss lifestyle and current affairs.

Would you be interested in participating in a proposed **Music-n-Movement** interest group.

Please get in touch with the Groups' Co-ordinator, if you do. The aim of the group would be help keep participants healthy. The only prerequisites would be: ability to (i) walk at a speed of about 2mph (about a kilometre in 20min), and (ii) ascend a dozen stairs. The group would meet in a hall for an hour on the 1st and 3rd Fridays at 11am each month, at a shared cost of about £20, possibly the Langton Green Village Hall. Participants would need soft shoes or trainers, and clothing that is not constraining.

A set-up meeting for the new **Creative Craft group** is being held on Monday 11th September at Trinity

....and the **Spanish Beginners** group has 2 spaces.

*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 **7th London Explorers** group is still in the pipeline.*

Group News

The Bee Walkers noticed this unusual looking moth on the TW Common earlier this month. They identified it as a Jersey Hawk Moth. It is becoming more common in this area and other sightings have been recorded.

Ian Beavis –the Research Curator at the Amelia said :
'There was a report of one in a TW garden last week, so it looks like they're becoming established. Both Jersey Tiger and Scarlet Tiger are currently spreading, so I expect Scarlet Tiger to turn up in Tunbridge Wells too at some stage.'

So keep your eyes open!

Bumblebees were also spotted...



Group News

London Explorers 4 went to The Charterhouse last month. A former Carthusian monastery built in 1371, on the site of a Black Death burial ground. Now its an Alms house for a community of residents known as Brothers. An interesting day out with good weather.

Suzette Elliott-West



HELP US TO PROMOTE U3A

Come and help us raise awareness of u3a

in front of to the **Millenium Clock**
anytime between 10am and 4pm
on **Friday 22nd September**

Members of the Ukelele Group
will be playing for us
at various times throughout the day.

Throughout the country, u3as will be hosting events during u3a Week (16-24 September) to bring u3a to the attention of the wider public. Whether or not you can join us at the Clock, please tell everyone about TWu3a!

Promotional leaflets are available from [Eryll](#).



Last year's display

Jigsaw & Book Exchange



If you fancy a jigsaw for those wet afternoons or need some new reading material, bring one of yours to the next monthly meeting and swap it for one on the table.

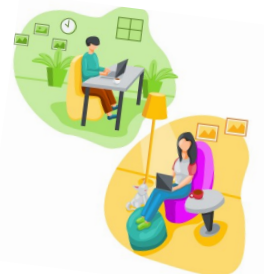
Volunteers needed

Help us set up a new website: (i) help prepare content (editorial skills), (ii) oversee our project (mainly an admin role), or (iii) keep connected to the

national initiative. Anyone interested in learning how to use WordPress (the widely used tool used to deliver SiteWorks) is welcome.

We are also looking for a Talks Organiser

Please contact the [Chairman](#).



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 with its amazing art collection.



Matlock Bath Inc-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 twin and double rooms now available

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

21 September 2023	Monthly meeting: John Griffiths-Colby: Who's Wally?
22 September 2023	U3a day: Gazebo at the Clocktower
7 October 2023	Barn Dance at Langton Green
19 October 2023	Monthly Meeting: Janie Ramsay: The Duke and Duchess of Windsor

New members

A big welcome to our **16** new members in August

Teodora Baker, Kerry Caley, Chrislie Collins, Margaret Crane, Gillian Douglass, Peter Holman, Julie Jeffrey, Kate O'Brien, Robert Saxby, Jill Smith, Catherine Stirling-Reed, Clive Stuart, Simon Whitelaw, Malcolm Frank Winspur, Linda Wood and Lynda Wyborn

Your Committee

Chairman	Chris Woodward	07788 598472
Deputy-Chair	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. I do hope you will continue to support the Newsletter as it is such an easy and effective way to communicate with everyone. If you have a great idea for an article or there is anything interesting you would like to see in the 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 **October** Newsletter should be e-mailed to [Bridget](#) by September 30st 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 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 make an online transfer to: **Tunbridge Wells u3a** using sort code **40-52-40**, account no: **00024097**, and reference **BARN 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].

And: email Carol and include your name, mobile/home phone number, date of payment and Name of Event/Outing and Code (as above).

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

.....

ILLUMINATED LEONARDSLEE LAKE AND GARDENS Friday 1st December 2023

Outings Code: F24

ORGANISER: Sue Brimlow email:suebrimlow@btinternet.com

The cost of this outing is £24, which includes entry and driver's gratuity. We'll arrive at 4.30 in time for you to wander around the Christmas market, go on the funfair rides (if you're brave enough) and enjoy the seasonal food and drink. At 6pm, we'll walk through the beautiful grounds of Leonardslee Lakes & Gardens as they come to life with spellbinding illuminations, projections and interactive installations. The trail takes 60 to 90 minutes to explore and experience the gardens awash with light, sound, colour and festive cheer on a crisp winter evening! We'll catch the coach back at 7.30 and the journey home should take an hour.

To pay by BACS: Make an online transfer to: **Tunbridge Wells u3a** using sort code **40-52-4**, account no. **00024097**, reference **F24 Surname**, e.g. F24 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: please email suebrimlow@btinternet.com and include your name, mobile/home phone number, date of payment and name of the outing and code (as above) and preferred coach pick up point.

To pay by cheque: please post the application below to Sue Brimlow, 1 The Grange, Langton Green, Tunbridge Wells TN3 0HR. Add your email or telephone number for confirmation of receipt.

APPLICATION FORM FOR LEONARDSLEE ILLUMINATED F24

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

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

.....
If you are paying for a 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.

Southborough Fountain at 2.45pm

St Johns opposite Sainsburys local at 2.55pm

Crescent road opposite the Assembly Hall at 3.10pm

We expect to be at Leonardslee at approximately 4.30pm. We will leave at 7.30pm and hope to arrive back in Tunbridge Wells around 8.30pm.

My contact number for any enquiries regarding this trip is 07711 035238

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 YOUR NEXT OF KIN OR PERSON TO BE ADVISED IN AN EMERGENCY, PLEASE LET US HAVE THEIR NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER. THIS WILL BE STORED ON TWu3a'S SECURE DATABASE