

CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE

Last month I mentioned that we were about to arrange a very belated welcome meeting for new members. We have now contacted everyone who has joined us since 1st September 2019 (yes, 2019!) and invited them to join us either at a Zoom meeting on 12th November, in small groups (though not until after lockdown!), or by telephone. We look forward to meeting as many of you as possible so, if you have not yet replied, or would like to come to a meeting to learn more about u3a irrespective of when you joined, please contact me.

Several members were dubious about coming to a meeting on Zoom but agreed to have a trial run. It was a tremendous success! Everyone joined without difficulty and were amazed at how easy it was. As the nights get longer and now that lockdown is being reimposed, Zoom is a wonderful way to keep in touch with friends, listen to our twice monthly talks, participate in group activities, attend meetings and do so many other things. If you have not yet used it, do try it – as those who experimented a few days ago discovered, it is nothing to be afraid of, and not at all difficult to master. Come and try it for yourself at one of the drop in sessions which we are arranging this month. Details are on page 4 below.

u3a is going to have a new look! The new brand was announced at the AGM of the Third Age Trust (our National Office) on 29th September and the new logo and design will begin to appear in u3a communications as the project is rolled out. It has already been adopted on the [national website](#). Have you sampled it yet? It contains information about u3a, interesting talks, competitions and other things to do, access to Subject Advisers, and so much more. It is definitely worth looking at and all you need to do is click on the Log In button on the Home Page, create an account and a password, and start exploring. You will find details of some of their Winter Learning Programme on page 4 below but, be warned, it is worth checking the website regularly as popular programmes sell out fast.

The pandemic drags on but there is a lot to do out there and I hope you will all remain positive and stay safe and well.

Eryll Fabian, Chairman, Tel: 01892 513805

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WANTED! A PUBLICITY OFFICER

Have you had experience in public relations? Do you know anyone in u3a who has? Would you like to have a go?

As you will have seen in last month's Newsletter, National Office is planning a recruitment campaign throughout Britain in 2021 and there is a pressing need to raise the profile of u3a. Though we have more members nationally than the WI, we are not nearly as well known. u3a Day which was planned for last June, had to be cancelled but will become an annual event and we need to be prepared.

Though Covid has restricted our activities at the moment, we are already planning ahead and the committee needs the help of someone who will build up contacts with the media, other voluntary organizations, local businesses etc. as well as helping to prepare and circulate our publicity and to distribute National Office's material.

This is going to be a pivotal role and will be an excellent opportunity for any member, new or old, to get involved in the development of the u3a. If you are interested or would like to know more, please [email](#) or phone me on 01892 513805.

Eryll Fabian

2021 u3a DIARY



Copies of the diary are still available. If you would like one, please-

send a cheque for £3 payable to TW u3a with a stamped (large first class £1.15, or large second class £0.88,) long envelope to me at:

5 Broadwater Court, Broadwater Down,
Tunbridge Wells, TN2 5PB

or phone me on 01892 513805.

CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

Government regulations continue to change and any advice which we put in the Newsletter may well be out of date by the time you read it, so it is important for everyone to check check [the government website](#) if in doubt. Updates on u3a activities from National Office can be found on the [national website](#).

THREE LITTLE BOOKS OF INTERESTING WALKS



Mount Sion, the High Street and Grove Hill



'Calverley New Town', Camden Rd and the Town Centre.



Mount Ephraim, The Boyne Park Area and London/Inner London

Having a series of short self-guided walks is ideal when it's hard to meet up with friends and they make lovely little gifts. Now ready to order. All profits go towards the conservation of the Georgian Court Dress, which you can hear all about at Anna Spender's free talk on the 3rd December.

We can arrange to have them posted directly to you. They are £4.50 each, but if you order all 3, we will send them post free.

To order a book, please email me, [Sue Brimlow](mailto:Sue.Brimlow@twu3a.org), with your name and address and the book(s) that you want. Ideally, make an online transfer to Tunbridge Wells University of the Third Age, sort code 40-52-40, account number 00024097, with the reference **Walks plus your surname**. e.g. mine will be WalksBrimlow, so we can identify who has paid.

We prefer online banking, however, we know not everyone can do this, so alternatively you can send a cheque. Cheques should be made payable to TWU3A and sent to Sue Brimlow, 1 The Grange, Langton Green TN3 OHR.

1 book costs £5.65 including postage

2 books costs £10.40 including postage

The set of 3 books costs £13.50 including free postage.

BRIGHTEN UP THOSE DARKER EVENINGS AND COLDER DAYS.

Why not look up the Winter Learning Initiative on the u3a national [website](#).

Already up are the following initiatives so click on the link to find out more:

- [Made it! Make it!](#) gets a Christmas update.
- [National poetry competition](#).
- [U3A Maths Week](#) (“Don’t retire from maths – count yourself in!”)
- [U3A Radio Podcast](#) – Second programme to be released w/b 16th November.
- [Friday Watercolour Painters](#) – A series of five workshops led by a U3A member.
- [Programme of free talks](#) delivered by members.
- [Programme of ‘external’ talks](#), including an upcoming event with the National Gallery.

Excitingly, these are still to come so keep checking back on the learning pages to find out more.

- Poetry reading sessions
- Winter Watch, a photographic challenge to submit your wintery photos.
- Paint or Draw (POD), a monthly art challenge.
- Christmas Choir – Group carol singing led by a U3A member.

Go to our [learning pages](#) to see more and get involved.

These initiatives are proving very popular and some are already full. You can check the National website at any time and if you sign up for the National newsletter, you’ll receive the information straight to your inbox! The easiest way is to go to the [website](#), scroll down to the bottom of the page and just fill in the 4 boxes.

Get to grips with Zoom

Would you like to join a Zoom interest group or the monthly walks and talks but you are unsure how to approach Zoom for the first time? Come and join our friendly Drop-in sessions.

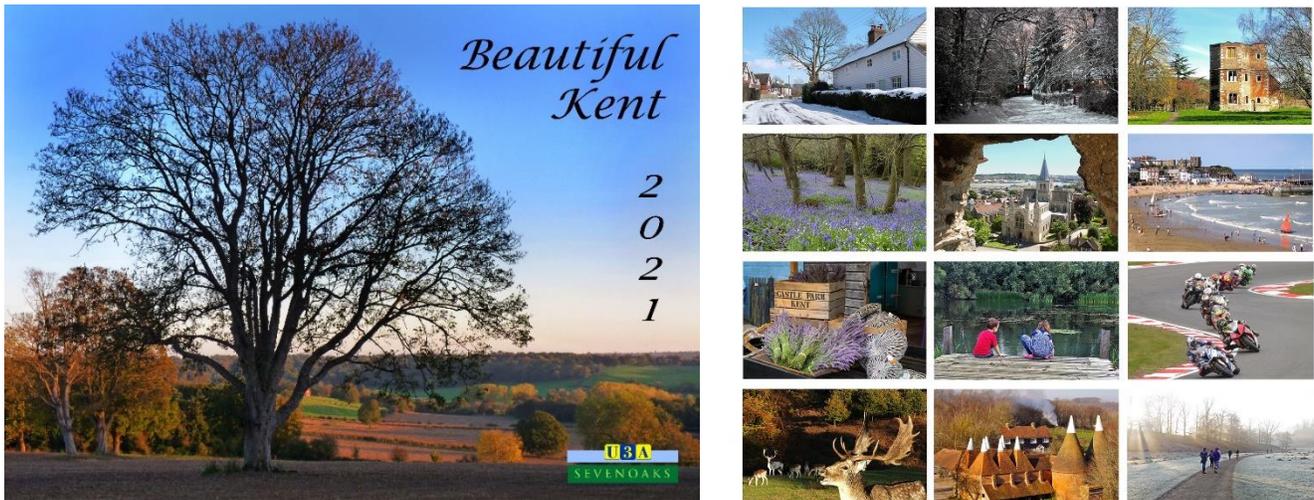
Monday 9th November/ Wednesday 18th November
anytime between 4–5.30pm

Please contact Lindsay for details. (01892 673180)

u3a CO-OPERATION

We are delighted to include items from two other u3as in the Newsletter this month. Thanks to the Crossword Subject Adviser (whom we contacted through the national website) we discovered that Eastbourne Meads u3a has a Crossword Puzzle Group and they have very kindly agreed to share the crosswords which they have produced with us. Sevenoaks u3a is also offering us the chance to buy their beautiful calendar of Kent photographs taken by their Photography Groups. In return they will be selling our walks books. We hope to co-operate more with other u3as in future and that this will give us ideas. What about it, crossword fans? Couldn't we produce our own? If you are interested, contact [Lindsay](#).

A rare opportunity to buy this limited edition calendar - but hurry as there is not much time left to order!.



Sevenoaks u3a hasn't published a calendar since 2014. But 2020 has been such a momentous year they decided they would offer this 2021 Calendar with wonderful pictures from all over Kent, taken by our three Photography Groups. They are kindly offering us the opportunity to purchase it.

All pictures were selected anonymously by a panel of three experienced judges. The Calendar could make a great Christmas present. But it is a limited edition so please place your order as soon as possible, latest to arrive by **14th November**
Note also that non-members of a u3a can purchase copies.

Cost is £10

(plus £1.50 postage, if required: for 2 copies is £1.90 total; for 3-9 copies is £3.20 total)

To ask for details of how to order, please click [here](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

FREE ZOOM TALKS (two every month)

Here is a summary of the upcoming talks. Details of how to listen are only sent to members of the Talks group. If you wish to be included, [email](#) Sue Brimlow. All talks start at 2.30pm on the 1st and 3rd Thursday each month.

We are going to continue offering 2 talks per month and the first 3 months of 2021 have already been booked, so there's a lot to look forward to. We have been able to reschedule John Griffiths-Colby's talk too.

Nov 5 th	Nick Dobson – will give an informative, but good fun “ Tour of Elizabethan London ”.
Nov 19 th	Antonia Gallop – will give her postponed talk on ‘ Across India on a motorcycle ’.
Dec 3 rd	Anna Spender – Collections and Assets Manager at Tunbridge Wells Museum will give the fascinating history of the ‘ Georgian Court Dress ’. We are raising funds to go towards its conservation.
Dec 17 th	Pete Allen – ‘ Oh No It Isn't: A History of Pantomime ’ What is it about Pantomime that attracts us to this strange concoction of fairy tales, dance, jokes, songs and cross-dressing? And what is it really like to play the back end of a Pantomime Cow? All this, and the answer to whether something really is behind you will be answered in this festive talk about what has become one of the great British Christmas traditions.

LAST MONTH'S TALKS

Thursday 1st October

Sue Brown Tunbridge Wells in Literature

Sue Brown repeated her illustrated virtual walk around the town's literary associations, for those who missed out the first time. The original write-up by Mary Ollett can be found in [September's newsletter](#)

Thursday 15th October

John Griffiths-Colby – Staff Nurse Emily Connell

Unfortunately, John had to cancel his talk about this remarkable woman. Fortunately, John has agreed to come another time.

UPCOMING VIRTUAL WALKS WITH CAROLINE PIPER

These are the 'walks' that have been organised for the next 2 months. Details and how to book a place are sent to the Zoom walks group. Each 'walk' costs £5. Please [email](#) Sue Brimlow if you wish to join the group.

NPG Stuarts and Hanovers – November 10th at 2pm

Continuing on from our previous visit to look at the Tudors and James 1st at the National Portrait Gallery, we will be continuing to look at the paintings of the next two royal families and explore the context in which they were painted.

Cotswolds – November 24th at 2pm

As a change from London, we will be exploring some of the enchanting villages and views in the Cotswold. Just the thing for a dull November day.

National Gallery Highlights; Paintings by British Masters – December 8th at 2:30pm

The National Gallery is the UK's prize collection of western European art, including some truly wonderful British art! This virtual tour will look at some of the highlights of the gallery by British masters, including William Hogarth's witty, but satirically biting, paintings series, elegant portraits by Thomas Gainsborough, George Stubbs' famous horse portrait and landscapes by the great romantics John Constable and JMW Turner. We will enjoy examining the paintings and virtually stroll around the gallery to soak up the atmosphere. The tour will explore how artistic techniques, attitudes and aspirations developed and were shaped by the context in which painters lived.

FREE 'The London QUIZ' – December 22nd at 2.30pm

Concentrating on central London, your quiz master will test your knowledge of London's history, geography, literature, culture, famous residents and quirky curiosities. But don't worry if you are a newcomer to London or have never explored further than your local and work neighbourhoods, the London specific questions will link to more general knowledge questions so everyone has a chance of scoring points!

There will be 3 rounds, a picture quiz round, straight quiz questions and a mini treasure hunt element for those able to access google maps. Using google maps you will be directed to a certain place, such as the junction of 2 roads, or a particular spot in a park, or in front of a specific building, and asked to find a noticeable feature. This could be a funny looking building, a statue or even street art! You will be asked a question to prove you have found the right place and then there will be linked quiz questions for bonus marks! This is a test of your observation skills, knowledge of London and general knowledge.

Please note that Caroline is kindly making this a fun free event to thank us for our support and it will only be open to members who have previously attended her paid tours.

These tours have been so popular that we will be continuing to run 2 per month for Q1 2021.

LAST MONTH'S WALKS WITH CAROLINE PIPER

Tues 7th Oct Secret Gardens in the City of London

Mo Shaw sent this email in praise of Caroline's tour of some of the hidden gardens of the City of London

"That was one of the most interesting and enjoyable talks/walks that Caroline has done for us. Having lived and worked in and around London most of my life, and a frequent visitor there in the good old days before Covid, it was pleasantly surprising to see some of the secret little gardens and old churches that I never knew existed. It made me feel very nostalgic and very sad that I couldn't just jump on a train and go explore some of them for myself. Maybe next year! "



St Dunstan in the East church garden



Gorgeous grasses at the Barbican



The sunken garden in Kensington Gardens

Tues October 20th Bankside and Shakespeare's London

This my favourite part of London, so I hugely enjoyed the fascinating virtual walk along the South Bank from London Bridge to the Globe Theatre exploring Shakespeare's Bankside. We started in the borough of Southwark, known in Shakespeare's time as The Borough – as it was the only borough outside London so did not need its own name – and headed for Borough Market. Situated at the top end of the Old Kent Road which was the route used by the farmers of Kent to bring their produce to market, this has been the site of a farm produce market for centuries, but now has morphed into a thriving international artisan market attracting tourists and Londoners alike.



Then to nearby Southwark Cathedral whose tower dominates the skyline, and a close up of Shakespeare's memorial. Though not actually buried here (he's in Stratford on Avon) we could see a statue of a young William, reclining in front of an amazingly detailed relief mural of a stretch of Bankside as it was in his day. Fascinating, and in part quite gruesome showing the fate of those convicted of treason or religious heresy, their heads were mounted on spikes and left there to rot as a warning to anyone contemplating similar crimes. No wonder Shakespeare was careful not to mock religious beliefs in any of his plays.

We were lead through cobbled alleyways where loud and riotous merrymaking was the order of the day, past the old Clink prison (now a horror hot spot for visiting tourists); and to The George Inn. A famous coaching inn, possibly the oldest in London, dating from the 1600's and now owned by the National Trust. The open courtyard, would become an early type of theatre, as it welcomed 'pageant wagons' – decorated wagons with performing artists and musicians on their way to various festivals in London – tempting them to make a stop in the courtyard with the promise of free ale in return for entertaining the customers either seated in the courtyard or watching from the galleries above.

Finally, we came to the famous Globe Theatre, rebuilt just 400 yards from Shakespeare's original Globe Theatre which burnt down in 1613. In a project driven by film director and producer Sam Wanamaker the theatre was designed to be as similar as possible to the original theatre in shape, layout and construction, and was completed in 1997. As in Shakespeare's time the theatre is built in



the round and open to the elements, with a projecting stage. Now, as then, the richer patrons sit in the galleries up above and the commoners (known as Penny Stinkards, reflecting the hygiene standards of the times), stand crowded all around the stage and actors. Sadly, Sam Wanamaker died before the theatre was opened, but this unique building now stands as an iconic reminder of London's famous playwright.

Another stimulating and entertaining virtual stroll around London with Caroline was much appreciated by a regular u3a audience of 40+ members

Mo Shaw

As always Caroline has kindly allowed us to use some of her photos.

GROUP NEWS

A second Science and Technology group using Zoom?

On Wednesday 4th November at 2pm we are holding a Zoom meeting to look into setting up another Science & Technology group on Zoom.

If you are interested please contact Lindsay (either before or after the 4th)

More garden groups?

The Garden Visits group is keeping in touch during the Winter months, and some members are getting out and about to visit garden centres (and their cafes). Maybe you enjoy gardening and would like to join a group in the Spring.

Contact Lindsay to flag up your



COLIN'S QUICK QUIZ

It's a bit of a mixture this month, but everything in the quiz relates to November.

1. From 14 November, for 5 days, Hindus celebrate what?
2. This festival also celebrates the goddess of wealth and prosperity, who is she?
3. Also on 14 November, in the USA, it is what special day?
4. Happy Birthday if you were born in November, you probably know your birthstone and flower, but does everyone else?
5. Which famous American female author said "November is the most disagreeable month"?
6. Remember, Remember 5 November. Why?
7. Which famous wine-carrying ship disembarked 87 passengers on 19 November 1620?
8. Who became Ireland's first President on 7 November 1989?
9. What happened on 9 November 1989 in Berlin?
10. What did the Church of England vote for on 11 November 1992?

Answers at the end of the Newsletter

GROUP REPORTS



10 Mile Walk Group.

Ray Dean has been joined by Angela Tutin as Co-Organiser and Co-Leader of the group. The group has continued to meet on the first Friday of every month whilst observing COVID rules by walking in groups of six or less people several minutes apart and complying with the establishment arrangements when stopping for a pub lunch. The group list is never closed, so if you enjoy a walk in the countryside, and are reasonably fit, then why not join us. Sorry, no pets allowed.

Ray Dean

News from the Chicago Bridge Group

Like all bridge players the members of this group have very much been missing their bridge – not only the game but also the social contact.

Following a conversation with Eryll I tentatively sent out an email to all our members suggesting that we formed a Social Bridge Club online. Happily fourteen people were keen to give it a go – some had already been playing on available websites but for others it was to be a totally new experience.

So yesterday – the fourth Thursday of October (our usual meeting day at the Bridge Club in more normal times) eleven of us plus a kind cousin of one of our members who lives in deepest Somerset formed three tables of Bridge and, so I understand, all had an enjoyable afternoon – we certainly did in our four – though I would say that as my partner and I seemed to have all the cards!!



The website we use (Bridge Base Online – BBO) is absolutely free to use for games such as ours but it is rather silent. To overcome this, those of us who are fortunate enough to have Whatsapp on our phones can link up with video calls which adds a pleasing dimension to the session. Those of us without such phones can use the BBO chat facility to communicate.

Between now and the end of November I hope that this Social Bridge sub-group will fix up further games amongst themselves and I too look forward to further online sessions.

Di Brown

The Tea Team Keep On Walking



On Monday, 5th October, the Tea Ladies met in Dunorlan Park for another "Walk and Talk". It was a glorious day and some Acers and Cherry trees were already changing from summery greens to magnificent autumnal reds and oranges. It is a spacious and elegant



park with wide, grassy slopes looking down on to the six acre lake. It's well known for its beautiful Victorian water fountain which has been refurbished, a Grecian temple and of course the lake, frequented by many ducks, geese and gulls.



We made our way round the lake as far as The Grove, where there is a memorial to the Victoria Cross medallists, unveiled by Princess Anne in 2006, in a grove of twenty-one Oak trees. The memorial features lines from Poet Laureate Andrew Motion's poem "Remembrance", and a representation of the Victoria Cross.

We then made our way round the far side of the lake to the fountain, looking up the avenue to the temple, admiring the views down to the lake, before finishing back near to the cafe, where some had a welcome cup of tea. It was again a most enjoyable couple of hours.

On Monday, 19th October the Tea ladies met up again at the Fir Tree Road carpark ready for our latest "Walk and Talk". Again, we were

blessed with beautiful, warm sunshine and we enjoyed a stroll past the famous outcrop of sandstone Wellington rocks named after the Wellington Hotel. We even posed for a photo (at the correct distancing of course!) before walking along numerous



paths through the wooded areas discovering ancient Oak trees and fascinating fungi nestling in the grass. In spite of meeting several dogs and their owners, it was very quiet and peaceful away from the traffic. It was good to be alive!

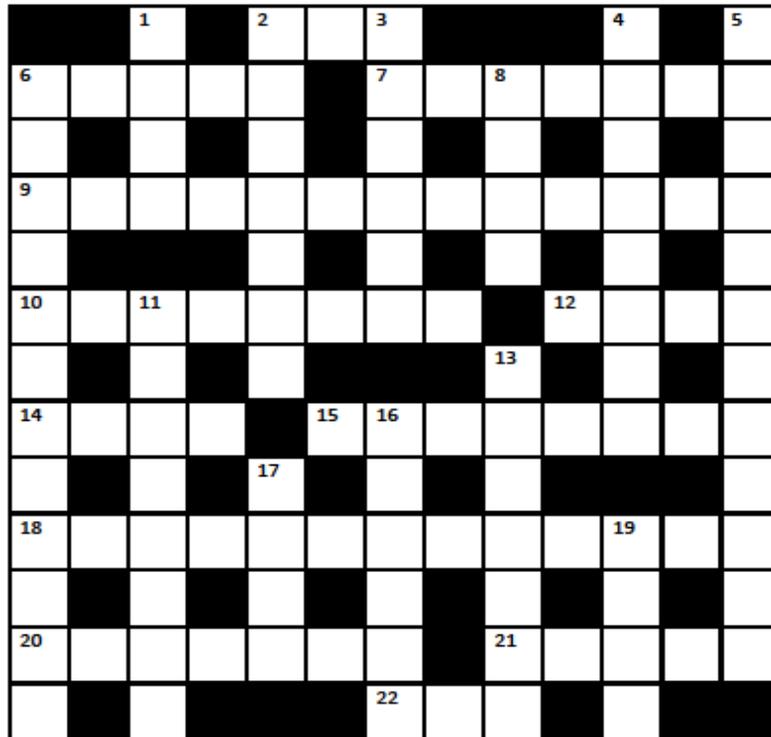
We learnt that there used to be a race course on the Common from c.1738 till 1851. Races were held on two days a year, attended by Princess Victoria but had to be stopped being a cause of drunkenness and riotous behaviour!!



Thank you, Barbara and Linda, from all of us who take part in these walks to keep us fit and in contact with friends.

Stella Westrup

And this month by very kind permission of the Eastbourne Meads u3c
Cryptic Crossword Group, their Crossword with an Art Theme:



ACROSS

- 2 Shade of green vegetable. (3)
- 6 Paganism sounds like a basket case!
(5)
- 7 Team rep sorted painting medium. (7)
- 9 Mercurial short term, long term mad.
(13)
- 10 Optimistic colour for spectacles,
perhaps? (4, 4)
- 12 Instrument initially having a rising pitch.
(4)
- 14 Works timelessly in paints. (4)
- 15 Creative alternative – parrots in set
piece. (8)
- 18 Ancient like the Cheviots for example.
(3, 2, 3, 5)
- 20 Reorganise rule to cover 50% of Mali.
(7)
- 21 Rope to catch girl with nothing. (5)
- 22 Joyful and 'good as you'. (3)

DOWN

- 1 Raincoats put on backwards are a con.
(4)
- 2 Wan Englishman embraced race
producing a range of colours. (7)
- 3 Reach a confused Titan. (6)
- 4 Get tarty to vandalize Jean Paul's
collection. (5, 3)
- 5 Painter artfully blended lots of
pigments inc colours a Scottish school
ordered originally. (5, 7)
- 6 Wet tints are works of art. (12)
- 8 One hides among guys to make
appearance. (4)
- 11 Caesar, say, in front of pub for healthy
buffet. (5, 3)
- 13 Type of helmet I lazily emptied briefly. (7)
- 16 Nag her unkindly to put up the paintings yet
again. (6)
- 17 Wine tasting with no G'n'T! (4)
- 19 Sounds like whinger is excluded from
masterpiece for this lady. (4)

Solution at the end of the newsletter!

USEFUL INFORMATION

FORTHCOMING EVENTS FOR YOUR DIARY

Please Note – Owing to the pandemic, all face to face events have been cancelled for the time being. They will resume as soon they can be arranged safely within government guidelines.

YOUR COMMITTEE

Chairman	Eryll Fabian	01892 513805
Vice-Chairman	Adrian Twiner	01892 459352
Secretary	Fiona Findlay	07872 169146
Treasurer	David Brimlow	01892 860598
Group Coordinator	Lindsay Hasell	01892 673180
Membership Secretary	Ruth Johnson	01892 523097
Outings Coordinator	Joan Young	01892 546687
Seminars/Study Days	Jean Brushfield	01892 520630
Newsletter	Bridget Sands	01892 546161
Short Breaks & Holidays	Sandra McDonald	01892 752196

NEW MEMBERS

We are very happy to welcome **Chris Tanner** to Tunbridge Wells u3a this month.

A Message from the Editor

Any publication is 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 to the **December** Newsletter should be e-mailed to **Bridget** by 30th November at the latest (**earlier submissions are always welcome!**) or phone 01892 546161.

National Office



Keep up to date with National 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

ANSWERS PAGE

Colin's Quiz answers-

1. Diwali
2. Lakshmi
3. National Pickle day
4. Topaz and Chrysanthemum
5. Louisa May Alcott
6. Arrest of Guy Fawkes
7. The Mayflower
8. Mary Robinson
9. The Berlin Wall gates were opened
10. Allow women to become priests

u3a Eastbourne Meads Cryptic Crossword Group

October 2020 Solution

ACROSS: 2 Pea 6 Wicca 7 Tempera 9 Temperamental 10 Rose tint 12 Harp 14 Oils 15 Artistic 18 Old as the hills 20 Realign 21 Lasso 22 Gay

DOWN: 1 Scam 2 Palette 3 Attain 4 Getty Art 5 Pablo Picasso 6 Watercolours 8 Mien 11 Salad bar 13 Pithily 16 Rehang 17 Asti 19 Lisa