



Congratulations to King Charles III and Queen Camilla on their recent Coronation. We wish them both health and happiness during the years of their reign.



Hi everyone !

June's Meeting will be our Summer Café

The hall will be set out with tables here and there and chairs randomly placed, so that you can sit with whomsoever you wish. We shall treat you to a scone instead of the usual biscuit and it will be a chance for you to get to know some of your fellow members.

The first part of the meeting will be a quick, informal talk from some of the committee to bring you up to date with what's going on in the u3a, and then you'll be free to sit and natter.

Although the meeting will start at 10 o'clock as usual, we shall not have a speaker, so you can leave when your jaw starts to ache or at 12.00 when the meeting closes, whichever is the sooner! Remember, if you leave before the end, please sign out. We are very much looking forward to seeing you there.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Please note that June's meeting will now be held on the 8th June at Greenwood Park.

The speaker for the meeting in May will be Bobbie Darbyshire, whose talk is entitled

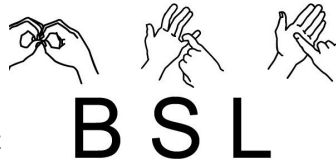
"A beginning, a middle, and an end; Who do novelists get their ideas from?"

Be the reason someone smiles today.



BSL: Signing for our times.

Signing has always been with us. As humans, it is instinctive. Watch people as they talk. Their hands move, their bodies shift and their faces emphasise their words which, although important, seem almost inconsequential to the other signals given off in a conversation.



Families with members who were hard of hearing historically used signing to communicate, nurture and develop the household instilling a strong bond between its members young and old. Imagine the shock to the family unit as the young came to school age and found that the State ostracised signing and insisted children became 'normal' to lip read and pronounce the 'Kings English'; punishing any attempt at signing communication. The emotional effect must have been devastating with an immediate effect on learning ability.

Regrettably this pre Victorian attitude existed in a number of institutions until comparatively recently when attitudes began to slowly change. In addition action groups began to take action to promote the human rights of people with hearing difficulties and signing began to regain its place in society.

It was the broadcasting companies that took up the service challenge by providing signing as an adjunct to news channels and producing occasional programmes such as *See Hear*. Now we see signing by actors for main stream entertainment programs as *Strictly Come Dancing* and *Silent Witness*. In response to pressure by action groups and popular opinion, the government, in 2003 formally recognised that BSL was a language in its own right, but it was not until 2022 that a BSL bill started to move through Parliament for approval to make it official.

Regrettably BSL courses can be expensive but a number of u3as including Chiswell Green have started their own self help learning groups. Ours meets twice a month at a members house, but is also looking to meet at Burstons for one of its monthly sessions. Members who are interested in learning BSL should contact Garry Snoad through the website groups BSL page.



Congratulations to Brian and Iris Stow (Art Group) having received a card on the occasion of their 60th wedding anniversary from King Charles III and the Queen Consort.

INTEREST GROUP

Refreshment

Rota

May 11th

Jun. 8th

Jul. 6th

Aug. 3rd

Sep. 7th

Oct. 5th

Keep Fit

Ladies' Point of View/
Local Events

London Walks

Papercraft

Photography 1

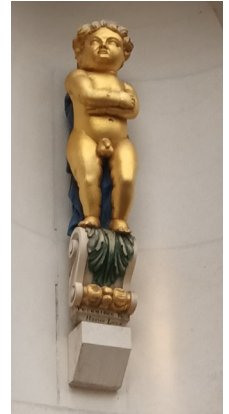
Photography 2



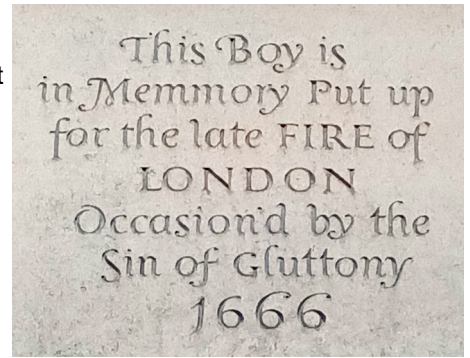


LONDON WALKS—Clerkenwell

In February John Colemans, our Blue Badge Guide, led us on the Clerkenwell Walk, regaling us with vivid stories of good and gory events. We stopped by the Hand and Shears pub where the Mayor used to cut a bale of cloth to open the Cloth Fair, the largest in Europe for hundreds of years. It was later closed when the Clothiers stopped coming and the fair became too riotous. We passed by St Bartholomew's Church founded in the 12th Century and originally a Priory until Henry VIII decided to dismantle them all. Through St Bartholomew's gatehouse (shown) we walked into Smithfield, originally called Smoothfield as it was a nice flat field useful for jousting tournaments and public executions. There were memorials to William Wallace, Wat Tyler and the leaders of the Peasants Revolt who all met grisly deaths in this area.



A little further along we stopped at Pye Corner to read the inscriptions. This is where the Great Fire of London ended after starting in Pudding Lane, and there is a statue of a plump Golden Boy with an inscription underneath blaming Gluttony for the Great Fire. A pub, the Fortune of War, used to stand on Pye Corner, which is about half way between the cemetery and St Bartholomew's Hospital. It was a convenient site for the 'Body Snatchers' or 'Resurrectionists', to layout their 'wares' in the cellar for the surgeons who needed something to practise on! We decided not to speculate about what the pub landlord might do with the bodies that were not required!



All the pubs close to Smithfield Market have very early opening hours as the workers start very early and are finished before most of us are awake. In a few years time the Smithfield Market will be moving to Dagenham and the Museum of London is scheduled to move into the space. Will the pubs be allowed to continue their opening hours or revert to more usual hours? With this thought in mind we retired to a local hostelry (of which there were many) for lunch and a beer.

Les Smith

WINGS & WHEELS GROUP—British Motor Museum



The Group made a visit to this Museum at Gaydon in Warwickshire on 22nd March, 2023. This is an amazing collection of motoring history and the world's largest collection of historic British cars. We walked along the Time Road exploring the vehicles from 1896 to the 21st Century and saw how motoring has changed. All display vehicles look almost new in how they are presented. There is a special sports and racing car area and a substantial number of prototype and design concept vehicles. There are special one-off vehicles produced for films, record breaking cars and vehicles that have been used by the royal family. All makes of British cars are represented including a substantial number of cars in the discrete Jaguar Heritage Collection on display in its own hall. We were also able to view the restoration centre where staff lovingly bring vehicles up to a fabulous standard both externally and mechanical. It was a great day out and really a massive challenge to see everything. It is very good value as the ticket lasts a year. Some may well return!

Alan Potter



Thought for the day:

Getting old is boring, but it's the only way to live long.

Bernard Shaw





IMPORTANT: Please remember to have with you or wear your CG Membership card and, more importantly, an up to date emergency contact card, preferably kept together in lanyard.

Details of each event can be found in the Newsletter or on our website. Please note the month when tickets are available for trips. Purchase of tickets (cheques only please) can be made at our monthly meetings via Joy Dabson, Event Organiser.

Tickets: Chiswell Green u3a members ONLY for the first month when tickets for trips are on sale. Tickets for guests will be allowed in the second month when they are on sale. This is to avoid waiting lists for members when guests have taken up places. Tickets must be paid for on the day they are booked, with cheques made payable to "Chiswell Green u3a". Please write your membership number on the reverse. Cheques are paid into the bank as and when they are received, unless otherwise stated. If paying for more than one Outing by post, please send separate cheques for each event. Obviously, they can go in the same envelope.

If you wish to make a booking for an Outing, you can still do so by contacting the Events Organiser (Joy Dabson) by phone (01923 268018) or email (tdabson@tiscali.co.uk) or via our website. Payments should be made within seven days.

Pickup point: The coach will be in Tippendell Lane, at the entrance to Greenwood Park. Please be **prompt** – the coach will not wait. A driver's tip is included in the price of the Outing.

If you are unable to go on an Outing, or running late, please contact the Events Organiser by phone, up to 10pm the night before the trip (01923 268018) or by Event Mobile on the day of the trip (07824 671857). Please make a note of this number. If someone is able to take your place, you may be able to have a refund but this cannot be guaranteed. Ideas and suggestions for trips are always welcomed, and can be placed in the Suggestion Box on the signing table.

******Disclaimer:****** If you are participating in any Chiswell Green u3a trip or event, please read the Disclaimer below.

It is the personal responsibility of each member to decide on their own capability to participate in any trips or events organised by the Chiswell Green u3a. Chiswell Green u3a cannot accept any responsibility for your fitness to undertake a trip or participate in a group, event or journey. By committing to any activity you will be declaring that you are fit and able to participate in the said activity.

Thursday May 25th 2023—WHITE MOUSE WALKS

Selling May

"Eyes on the Spies" walking tour. The tour route is just under 3miles taking approximately 2hrs 30 minutes. There is no rush, we can take our time. Please bring a contactless method of payment, Oyster, Bank card, smart phone as there are two short trips on TFL Underground. There are escalators and a few steps. We meet at Green Park Underground Station at 11.00am, and finish in Grosvenor Square. We will walk through St. James's area of London, focusing on locations of infamous incidents and intriguing characters from the dangerous world of international espionage. We will each be supplied with an audio receiver/earpiece so as to hear the commentary.

NOTE: You must make your own way to the start point and home again.

Price £20.00: we must have 10 of us, and there will be a discount if we are 20. Joy will sell this like a regular u3a trip. You will pay Joy, and Joy will pay our Guide .

Saturday May 27th 2023—THE MILL AT SONNING

Sold out, waiting list

"GYPSY" Matinee performance. The story of the burlesque performer Gypsy Rose Lee and her ultimate show biz mother, Rose. "Gypsy" is one of the best of musicals with fabulous scores and clever lyrics including "Everything is coming up roses" and "Let me entertain you". A real treat not to be missed at a very special price, due to a huge discount for early payment. We have all centre block seats with several end of row seats. As usual the price will include a two course meal with coffee, theatre ticket, coach and driver's tip.



Depart Greenwood Park: 10.30am

Depart for home: approx 4.30pm

Cost: £47.00

PARKING: Could we please remind members not to park in either of the car parks at Greenwood Park if you are going on one of our trips. If parking in local roads, please park with consideration for the local residents, and if possible, car share to help ease the parking problem. Thank you.



Wednesday July 26th 2023—COACH TRIP TO BRIGHTON

Selling June/July

Enjoy a day trip to Brighton. Bring your buckets and spades, wrestle with a deckchair, visit the Aquarium, Pier, Royal Pavillion and Gardens, Volks Electric Railway, British Airways i360 [all at own cost], or just wander around the iconic “Lanes”, and have fish & chips at “Harry Ramsdens”.



Depart Greenwood Park: 9.00am

Depart for home: approx 5.00pm

Cost: £22.00 (coach+driver's tip)

Thursday August 10th 2023—CHINNOR STEAM RAILWAY

Selling May/June

Spend some time in Wendover and have lunch (at own costs) or picnic. Thursday is Market Day and the High Street offers Boutique Clothes shops and quaint Antique shops; there is a good selection of cafes, pubs and restaurants. Then we travel to Chinnor for a 1-1.5 hours round trip from Chinnor to Princes Risborough on a steam train. There will be time to visit the station shop and potter about and watch the train come in which departs at 3.45pm. Compartments are for our exclusive use for one complete round trip of the line. It also includes a cream tea.



Depart Greenwood Park: 11.00am

Wendover depart: 2.15pm

Depart for home: about 5.00pm

Cost: £35.00

Date for your diary

Xmas light show at Kew—date to be announced (towards the end of November), further information to follow.



Saturday January 13th 2024—THE MILL AT SONNING

Selling April/May

“**HIGH SOCIETY**” Matinee performance. Cole Porter’s classic feel good musical is based on *The Philadelphia Story* and the film starring Bing Crosby, Grace Kelly and Frank Sinatra. Full of songs you will know including “*True Love*” and “*Who wants to be a Millionaire*”. As usual the price will include a two course meal (several choices, help yourself main, waitress service dessert, coffee), theatre ticket, coach and driver’s tip.



Depart Greenwood Park: 10.30am

Depart for home: approx 5.00pm

Cost: £84.00

PARKING: Could we please remind members not to park in either of the car parks at Greenwood Park if you are going on one of our trips. If parking in local roads, please park with consideration for the local residents, and if possible, car share to help ease the parking problem. Thank you.