



Hi everyone!



Irrespective of what the weather is doing, Spring is just around the corner with daffodils starting to stick their heads above the ground. It's time to shake off the Winter blues and consider what places you may want to visit or activities you want to try. Come on, be adventurous, do something new!

ACCOUNTANTS APPOINTED

At the outset of the members meeting on 4th January 2024, a Special General Meeting (SGM) was held to approve the appointment of Harding Accountants of Redbourn to examine the Chiswell Green u3a 2023/24 accounts. This was necessary as no one in the membership has volunteered for this brief role, which is undertaken around March ahead of the AGM in May.

It is hoped that a volunteer will come forward to undertake this requirement in future to avoid the expense of an external accountant.

COMMITTEE FOCUS

Also at the members meeting our Secretary Tony Jackson outlined the considerations to be undertaken at the January committee meeting as a precursor to the AGM in May. The following is the text of his presentation:-

"We also thought we would mention that at the January committee meeting later this month it is when we trigger events leading up to the AGM in May. A key element is the elections for next year's Committee. There are some things we need to consider: -

- Adrian will have served the time frame permitted as Chair, three years.
- Tony will have done two additional years as Secretary, a situation which should not be allowed to continue.
- Some may have reached the nine year limit included in our constitution, based on Third Age Trust guidelines.
- Some may not wish to continue, to step aside for personal reasons or maybe to focus on other requirements they may have.

So impacted by some of these rulings we cannot just shuffle the pack. We are also currently two committee members short and we will need new blood as they say. A year ago we had the good fortune for John, Jackie, Sarah and Chris to step forward. They merged brilliantly into the team, they have enjoyed being part of it and I'm sure will confirm that our statements about a good spirit in the team were absolutely true."

At this point, the committee member, Jackie Lintern took the opportunity to share her feelings on serving on the committee.

Tony Jackson concluded:

"So we will have our meeting, clarify the requirements and provide you with a clearer picture at the February members meeting. Meanwhile having been made aware of the practicalities involved in keeping CGu3a continuing as it is, please start to give some thought to at least checking out whether it would actually work for you to come on board and keep CGu3a special."

All the committee members are available at any time to chat about it without any commitment on your part."

This month's talk is given by Andy Smith, author and poetic entertainer. His talk is entitled

"Mysteries and Conundrums"

NEWS ABOUT GROUPS!

Nearly a year has passed since I took over as Groups Coordinator from the very capable Anne Traynor!! What a journey so far!

Just to keep you all up to date, we have 34 subjects covered in Chiswell Green U3A, some with two groups to accommodate all the interest and many of the others are full!

All of the groups run a waiting list, but if you can't wait, perhaps you might consider starting a 'spin off! Assistance is available to help you with the set up. We have a few groups that need a group organiser – Bus Pass – Lunch – and Singing for Fun needs a new singing leader! Or perhaps you have a subject that you feel might be of interest to our members??

Go on - have a go! I'm sure you'd find it very rewarding!!

Sarah Duggan

"Hobson's choice" Have you ever wondered its origins? For March the month's talk will be given by Colin Oakes. His talk is entitled

"Where did that saying come from?"

Thought for the day:

We all have ability.

The difference is how we use it.



INTEREST GROUP

Refreshment

Rota

Feb. 1st	Quiz
Mar. 1st	Sailing
Apr. 4th	Spanish
May 9th	Table Tennis
Jun 6th	Tai Chi





PICTURE QUIZ



Where are we?

Do you recognise this place on the left?

It is within five miles of Greenwood Park and this photograph was taken in about 1905.

See page 4 for answer.

HIGH SOCIETY—MILL AT SONNING

Another fantastic trip organised by Joy — thank you Joy.

There was a bit of a “fingers crossed” moment when we saw the road down to the theatre was closed due to flooding!! We saw some poor residents brushing and washing the deposited mud off their properties — right next to the theatre!!! But the coach driver got us through.

We enjoyed a delicious lunch, great company and a very enjoyable production of High Society.



Pam Whitfield



CAN YOUR LOCAL KNOWLEDGE HELP?

Recently I had an enquiry about an area in Chiswell Green known as “East Bourne” (or possibly “Eastbourne”). I have looked on local maps going back to the late 1800s, but found no reference. When I look on The 1939 Register (a form of census taken at the beginning of the Second World War), there are some of the residences along the Watford Road that include the house number and “East Bourne”. These were the houses between Tippendell Lane and West Avenue. Before these houses were built, I understand that the land was part of the Cuckman Estate; was this a field known as “East Bourne”? Or is there another explanation? If you have any further information, please contact me at the Newsletter via the Chiswell Green u3a web site. Thank you in anticipation.

Dave Brennan

Laughter is the best medicine



My grandmother started walking five miles a day when she was sixty. She's ninety-seven now and we don't know where the hell she is.



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 (trips@chiswellgreenu3a.org.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.

Wednesday March 6th 2024

GOLDEN OLDIES, music from 50s and 60s.

Join us for an afternoon of the best music ever with talented musician Pete George; he is a fabulous entertainer who knows how to make a party swing.

We will be on board the *Tereza Joanne* moored at King George V dock, and our coach parks within a very few yards of the entrance. Bar, dining, some toilet facilities and music areas are on the flat, and Joy will seat you at round tables for 8/9 with your friends. A two course lunch of main and dessert is served, with coffee after, and the bar is reasonably priced. Please let Joy know of any dietary issues when you book.

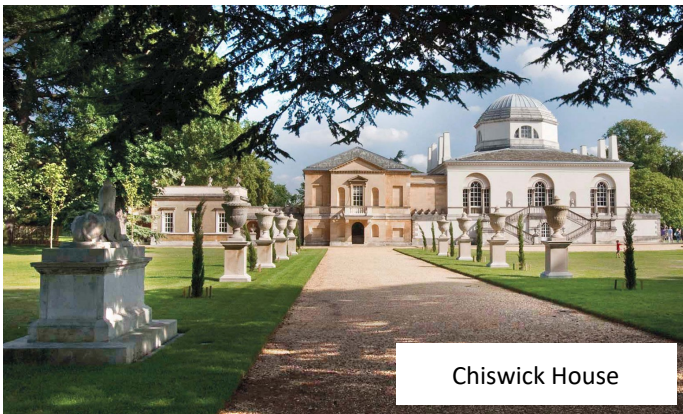
The view across the water to Canary Wharf is spectacular, (bring your cameras if you wish). As we are situated near to the end of the London City Airport runway, the noise is not over intrusive, and watching those planes take off is quite exciting. This is a really good venue to enjoy at hopefully the end of winter. The food is excellent and the staff happy and smiley.

We have used this venue twice before, both times were much enjoyed. This venue is special, not open to the general public. It may be just for us or with another like minded group.

Depart Greenwood Park: 10.30am

Depart for home: 3.30pm

Cost £55 includes coach, driver's tip, lunch and entertainment.



Chiswick House



Chatham Dockyard

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.



Tuesday 16th April 2024

Selling February/March

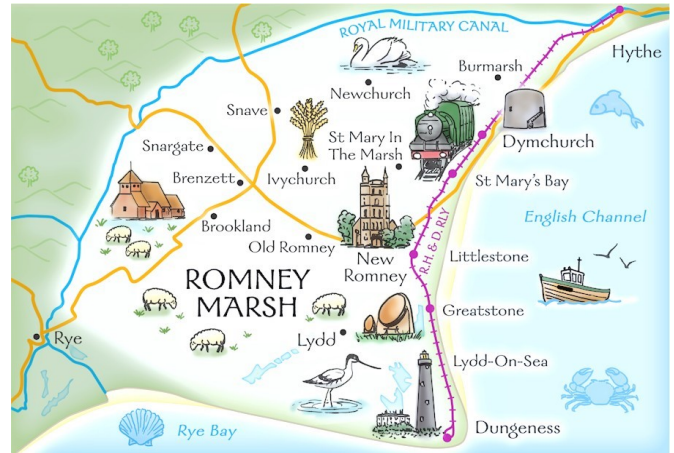
ROMNEY MARSH TOUR by coach

We meet our expert Blue Badge guide at 10.30 at Dobies Garden centre on M20 at Ashford, with time for a comfort break and, traffic permitting, time to buy a coffee.

We then drive out to explore the remote Romney Marsh area before we have a fish and chip lunch (with a hot drink) at the famous Pilot Inn at Dungeness.

Marshmen established a wild reputation with smuggling and felonious deeds rife in a world where men drank beer a full century before the rest of the country and evacuated their sheep before their women during the war.

In the afternoon, we drive along the coast through St. Mary's Bay and Dr Syn's Dymchurch to Hythe. There may be time to browse and perhaps buy a cup of tea before heading for home around 4.45pm - dropping off our guide on the way.



NOTE- AN EARLY START

Depart Greenwood Park: 8.30am Depart for home: 4.45pm Cost: £51

DATES FOR DIARY 2024

See the confirmed dates for the visits below. Further details will be available at later date.

April 16th	<i>Romney Marsh tour – see details above</i>
May 1st	<i>Steam Train on Kent & Sussex Railway</i>
June 5th	<i>Chiswick House</i>
July 11th	<i>Cruise on Lee and Stort boat</i>
August 29th	<i>Peacocks Auctioneers</i>
September 24th	<i>"Call the Midwife" tour, and Chatham Dockyard</i>
December 5th	<i>John Rutter Christmas Concert—Evening Performance</i>

Travel Quote:

*I have not been everywhere yet,
but it is on my list*

PICTURE QUIZ

Abbots Langley 1905

u3a learn, laugh, live

... and finally

Please make a note in your diaries that the May monthly meeting, which will be our AGM, will be held on Thursday 9th May 2024 not the 2nd May 2024.