



Hi everyone !

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2023

At the end of last year report I looked forward to the period leading up to this year on an optimistic note. Well, I feel this has been the situation.

All our groups continue to enjoy regular and fruitful meetings, be that at usual venues or in some case interesting outings. General outings and visits continue to be arranged by Joy Dabson (not forgetting husband, Tony). There was a return to the "Theresa Joanne" moored at Royal Albert Dock by London City Airport to see an Elton John tribute act. Those of you who visited this venue previously to see an Abba tribute will attribute to the venue and enjoyment. Other trips were to Cambridge, Thaxted and many more interesting venues. Once again a visit was arranged to the Brick Lane adult panto. Very funny, very bawdy and very popular.

It was the late Queen's Platinum Jubilee Year and our June meeting was devoted to that theme. Everyone who attended hopefully enjoyed the efforts put in by all concerned in the organisation of this event. We continue to enjoy a full membership of around 400 with monthly meetings averaging 150. So my thanks for your continued support.

We experienced a few anxious months looking to fill the role of Treasurer. Peter Waite, who has performed this role admirably, announced his retirement from the post after the AGM. The rules of u3a state that we are not able to continue without a Treasurer. Happily, we have a replacement in John Smith who you will be able to vote for at the AGM. Also retiring from the committee Garry Snoad (Membership Secretary), Pam Whitfield (Webmaster), and Ann Traynor (Groups Coordinator). My sincere and grateful thanks to the above for their exemplary efforts, and support to the committee, and ultimately to Chiswell Green u3a.



My thanks also to remainder of the committee who quietly get on with keeping us running. I am looking forward to the new committee members continuing in the same vein.

Adrian Wilson

GARDEN VISITS GROUP

On a chilly but dry day, the Garden Visits Group went again to Theobalds Farm Garden; this time to see the spring bulbs. Unfortunately, Alison the owner was plagued with squirrels digging up and eating the tulips. Theobalds is a garden of approx 2 acres divided into "rooms" each with their own colour palette. Entrance included tea/coffee and cake with guided tour. An enjoyable trip despite the cold.

Val Orchard



Supporting people with sight loss

A big thank you to everyone who brings their used stamps to our meetings to help me help this amazing charity who support and empower blind and partially sighted people. Every stamp counts, so please continue to bring all your used stamps to our meetings. If I am away, please leave with Joy on the Events desk.

Thank you all

Mary Gotts

INTEREST GROUP

Refreshment

Rota



Jun. 8th	Ladies' Point of View/ Local Events
Jul. 6th	London Walks
Aug. 3rd	Papercraft
Sep. 7th	Photography 1
Oct. 5th	Photography 2



WINGS & WHEELS—LEIGHTON BUZZARD LIGHT RAILWAY

This great little Railway, not very far away, is one of the last survivors of the hundreds of 2 foot gauge light railways built in Britain for industrial use. It is believed to be the only remaining line which owed its existence to the ready availability of surplus materials and equipment from the First World War battlefield supply lines.

Opened by Leighton Buzzard Light Railway Ltd in 1919 to transport sand, and uniquely operated since then without a break, it has carried a steam-hauled passenger train service since 1968. It also now houses one of the largest and most important collections of narrow-gauge stock in England. Locomotives in the collection hail from UK, Germany and USA and are complemented with a varied types of rolling stock units.

In typical light-railway fashion, the line features sharp curves, steep gradients - up to 1:25 (4%) - numerous level crossings of roads and paths, and a long stretch of roadside running, as it follows the local geography, rather than imposing itself on it.

As well as a visit to the Engine shed, we had the 85-minute round trip from Page's Park to Stonehenge Works in the Bedfordshire countryside north of the town. The current track is just under 3 miles (4.8km) long. A really fun afternoon out and a chance to appreciate an engineering project of more than 100 years old was enjoyed by the Group.

Alan Potter



LONDON WALK GROUP—HIGHGATE

The London Walk group met on Thursday 20th April for a walk around Highgate. (A second group met on Tuesday 25th). We met at Pond Square located at the top of Highgate Hill and once again the weather was kind to us.

John Colmans, who leads these walks, gave us a fantastic circular tour pointing out many historical buildings, areas of interest and local celebrities past and present. Our first stop was Waterlow Park which gave us incredible views across the city of London.

As you can see from the photos there was a lot to see and everyone had a great day out.

Elaine Carol

1. London from Waterlow Park
2. Cromwell House (nothing to do with Oliver Cromwell)
3. The Angel Inn
4. JB Priestley's house (formerly home of poet Samuel Taylor Coleridge)
5. Old Fire Station (now a private residence)



1



2



3



4



5



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 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 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

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.



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 June

“**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.



Now open to family and friends

Depart Greenwood Park: 10.30am

Depart for home: approx 5.00pm

Cost: £84.00

JOY’S JOURNEYS

Henley Boat Trip



Amberley Museum



Broughton Castle



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.