



# Hi everyone !

This year appears to be flying by and I have not done all the things I had planned for this summer. I could blame the weather being either too hot or too wet and windy, but hopefully some more jobs will get done.

**WANTED** Within the CGu3a there must be a number of persons who have an interesting or amusing story to tell about their hobby, their working life or their holiday experience (yes, we had "Weary traveller" earlier this year, thank you). If you are not embarrassed about the tale, why not submit a 500 to 1000 word account and have it printed in the CGu3a Newsletter to be shared with your u3a members.

*Dave Brennan*

## Wings & Wheels Group — Take to the Water

On the 11<sup>th</sup> May Wings & Wheels Group abandoned their wings and wheels to take to the water for a trip on the Grand Union Canal, from Hemel Hempstead. Of course, the engine on board has wheels within the mechanism so that is fine. We were accommodated on the canal boat *Sheldrake 2* run by Waterways Experiences. The volunteer crew were most friendly and provided much information as we travelled along. This was a delightful time out on the tranquil waters of the canal whilst enjoying the picnics taken with us. The trip started at Nash Mills and we travelled east towards Kings Langley where we turned for the return trip. Along the way we were able to enjoy the quietness of the countryside adjacent to the canal and even where houses were close by there was very much the sound of silence. It is an amazing experience to travel slowly and quietly along the canal very occasionally seeing another vessel travelling and being greeted by the inhabitants and sometimes by those moored at the sides. Some of us were even allowed to take control of the vessel, under supervision of course! Another enjoyable trip for the Group that was masterly organised by Catherine.

*Alan Potter*



So far all attempts to find a new tutor for our very popular **Singing For Fun** group have led to nothing but disappointment.

## HELP!

Now we are looking to our enterprising u3a members – there are 370+ of you – to see if anyone knows of a suitable person. It needs to be someone with the right skills to guide the group through singing warm-up exercises and follow the group's ethos of FUN in the choice of music. Someone with musical keyboard skills would be welcomed as a start on the journey back to singing.

**Singing for Fun** meets every other Friday afternoon for two hours and the choir leader would receive a fee for each session. All the administration, booking of venue, etc. will be dealt with by the group's joint organisers Val Orchard and Gerry Dillon.

The new committee member Sarah Duggan has now taken on the role of Interest Groups' Co-ordinator. If you know of anyone who might be a suitable leader for the singers, please do get in touch with her.

## This month's talk

The speaker for the August meeting will be Helen Fry the authoress, who will be giving a talk entitled

*"Espionage"*

## Thoughts for the day:

People say nothing is impossible, but I do nothing everyday.

Doing nothing is very hard. You never know when you're done.

## INTEREST GROUP

### Refreshment

### Rota

Aug. 3rd	Papercraft
Sep. 7th	Photography 1
Oct. 5th	Pins and Needles
Nov. 2nd	Photography 2
Dec. 7th	Xmas Party





**A talk about dementia. Friday, October 6th, 12 noon until 1.30, in the Orton Hall in Greenwood Park Community Centre.**

I'm sure we're all aware of people who are either starting a journey along the dementia road, or who are already some way along it. It is enormously helpful for the sufferer and for us, if we have an understanding of how best to interact with them in a helpful way.

Rob Kember, a member of Dementia Friends, came to our u3a to do this talk some years ago and it was very well received, so we are pleased to welcome him back.

Do join us on Friday 6th October if you are interested.

### Garden Visits Group

June's trip for our group was to a National Gardens Society garden which could only be described as quirky. It was a small Victorian terrace house garden packed full of



plants and shrubs interspersed with all manner of objects - mirrors, watering can, bird cages and chandelier to name a few. Bedding plants were dotted everywhere grown in anything capable of holding soil. Everywhere you turned there was something to catch your eye, an interesting and unusual garden.

*Val Orchard*

### Brian Stow — Chiswell Green u3a member

I first started work in 1955 as an engineering student apprentice at Smiths Motor Accessories (later to become Smith Industries). After completing my seven year apprenticeship, I became involved with plastics, mainly for the motor and truck industry. This led me to become Technical Director of a very large truck component manufacturer.

After some years this company was bought out by an American firm. Due to differences of opinions I left and joined an aircraft firm that had started before WW2 making canopies. When I joined as General Manager in the early 1990s their business was primarily military work; producing aircraft components for the Harrier, Buccaneer and canopies for RAF trainers such as the Tucano. The company were still producing world war canopies for the Spitfire, Hurricane and a few others. This was most interesting work, involving an internal tool and an outside clamp, into which heat softened acrylic was clamped and compressed air blown in until the canopy was the correct height.

Since retiring, I have continued to act as a consultant, with my most recent work including canopies for the Spitfire mark 19 and the Lancaster bomb aimer's dome. The Lancaster component was an acrylic dome 1020mm in diameter with a glass viewing flat disc, clamped with rings screwed and riveted, and had to meet RAF's 1943 specification and standards. This component was required for the last flying Lancaster, part of the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight. The Spitfire mark 19 was built as a reconnaissance plane with a 2000hp Griffon engine, double glazed canopy, and no armament. With this engine the plane could achieve 500mph at a height of 40,000ft. The plane could leave the Essex coast, cross to Germany, and return within 45 minutes or so, thereby informing Bomber Command whether the weather was suitable for bombing.



Due to my job, I was able to "play" with the aircraft, particularly the Spitfires.

*Brian Stow*

*Some people are like clouds. When they go away the day is brighter*





**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](mailto: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.*

**Thursday August 10th 2023—CHINNOR STEAM RAILWAY**

Sold out/Waiting list

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**

**Wednesday November 29th 2023 early evening**

**CHRISTMAS LIGHTS TRAIL AT KEW GARDENS**

Selling August/September

Discover glittering tunnels of light, dancing lakeside reflections and trees drenched in jewel like colours. Don't forget to glimpse Father Christmas on the way. The light trail is approx 3km long, the route is on pathways. There are no covered areas so wear appropriate clothing and footwear. We have our own designated entry time, and our coach will drop off and pick up at the Elizabeth Gate. Along the route independent street vendors will offer tasty festive delights from hot food and sweet treats to special winter warmer drinks and hot chocolate. Victoria Plaza will be open all evening to buy gifts, treats, toys etc.



**NOTE: ALL PAYMENTS AT KEW ARE CASHLESS/CARD ONLY**

**Depart Greenwood Park: 3.30pm**

**Depart for home: 8.00pm**

**Cost: £31.00**

**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.



**Saturday January 13th 2024—THE MILL AT SONNING**

Sold out/Waiting list

“**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**

**Travel Quotation:**

In America, there are two classes for travel—first class, and with children.

*Robert Benchley*

**Photography Group 2 — Herrings Farm Visit**

The end of June this year saw our Group visiting the Herrings Green Activity Farm and Bird of Prey Centre at Wilstead, just a few miles south east of Bedford. With a professional falconer host to ourselves for an hour, and a selection of falcons, hawks, owls, and eagles from which to choose, were hoping to exercise and improve our photography skills of birds on the wing. We were not disappointed. Our guide, Abbi, brought out a variety of birds to fly and pose for our cameras and smart phones. The birds are used to people toting cameras, which allowed us all to get close enough to them to take pictures without specialist equipment. Working with birds flying close by and coming to hand at the falconer’s command gave us all the opportunity to practice and experiment with the action shots and portraits that are so elusive in the wild. Even under these conditions the good shots proved to be hard to come by, but great fun to try. After our private session we joined a school party at the public flying display, an exciting experience as the birds swooped over our heads close enough to feel the wind from their feathers. A great day out and a recommended place to visit for old and young alike.

*Peter Antram*



... *and finally*

Here we are in August — I wonder how long it will be before we see the signs or hear the tinkling of a tune in shops, to advertise that “Chris.....” is coming.