



Hi everyone !

Over the period that I have been a member of the Chiswell Green u3a, it has been gratifying to hear from both old and new members and especially the various speakers express that this is a friendly and well organised branch. Well done everyone.

Valuation Day—20th November 2023

Have you got an inherited antique, a treasured or interesting object that you know little about? Such as a picture, ceramic item or silver. For our CGu3a members only, we have obtained the services of David Palmer (freelance auctioneer), Stephen Drake (Batemans Auctioneers) and our own Pam Whitfield to give free valuations on your objects. If you can carry them, why not bring them along to this drop-in session between 2.00 and 4.00pm on Monday 20th November 2023 at the Park Street Baptist Church, 2 Penn Road, St Albans, AL2 2QF. Refreshments available

CONGRATULATIONS !

Congratulations to our u3a member Mary Gotts.

At the recent Group Leisure & Travel Awards ceremony, Mary won the Group Travel Organiser of the Year award. She has been a group travel organiser for more than 15 years and recently set up her own group taking people all over the UK and overseas. She believes that doing your homework and being prepared are key qualities for a group travel organiser, as well as patience and a good sense of humour.



This month's talk

The speaker for the November meeting will be Tony Tutton, who will be giving a talk entitled

"My Life in Music"

Antiques & Collectables 1

The group held a Macmillan Coffee Morning at their September meeting. We all know of someone who has benefitted from the work of these Macmillan nurses.

This year it became especially important to this group to raise money for them as several of our members are currently receiving cancer treatment.

We had a great morning. One of our members, Alan Potter, showed us photographs he took at the Steiff museum and told us a little of the history of the company. We all know about the Steiff teddy bears, but there are so many other toys in their range and some are really huge!

Stephanie Hedges organised our raffle, with all prizes were donated by the group members. They really are a generous lot of people.



We then had our coffee and cake. The group members were, as usual, very generous with their donations of cakes - all yummy. It was a thoroughly enjoyable morning and we managed to raise a great amount of money for Macmillan. So how much did we raise? All the donations added up to an incredible £294. Thank you to everyone who donated.

Pam Whitfield

Walking Group

This year's bad weather has not deterred the Walking Group. Outings have included walks around the lakes at Rickmansworth Aquadrome, noted for its water sports and bird watching. More recently the group visited Leavesden County Park. If you would like further details about this group, please contact Joyce Stephens via the Chiswell Green u3a web site.



INTEREST GROUP

Refreshment

Rota

Nov. 2nd	Photography 2
Dec. 7th	Xmas Party (ticketed)
Jan. 4th	Play Reading
Feb. 1st	Quiz
Mar. 1st	Sailing





Wings & Wheels Group - Midland Air Museum

This fascinating Museum, based at Coventry Airport, is for Aero enthusiasts, those interested in 20th Century History and those who want a fun and informative day out alike. The Museum houses a significant number of aircraft, essentially of UK manufacture, but also including American and Russian heritage.

Under supervision, we were allowed to clamber up ladders into the cockpit area of a Vulcan "V" Bomber (made by AVRO) which in the 1960s carried the Blue Steel Missile as the UK main Nuclear deterrent. The 2 pilots and 3 support crew worked for hours on end in very cramped conditions with basic "facilities". The Vulcan was only used in anger once when one aircraft flew the 16 hour round trip to bomb the airfield at Port Stanley during the Falklands War in 1982. We were also allowed to get into a Victor "V" Bomber cockpit which was surprisingly easier to enter and had more space for the pilots and bomb aimer than the Vulcan. The Victor was manufactured by our very own Handley Page Aircraft Company at Park Street!



Gloster Javelin

The Museum has a substantial number of aircraft exhibits, in various states of renovation, both inside, outside and in an adjacent hanger. A large part of the exhibition is also devoted to Aero Engines and in particular to Air Commodore Sir Frank Whittle who is credited with the invention of the turbojet engine. This led to the "jet age" for both Military and Civilian Aircraft following the World War II. Many engines were on display as well as hundreds of aircraft models both in cabinets and hanging from the ceilings in a number of exhibition rooms.

The Museum is run exclusively by volunteers including one who clambered into the Victor cockpit with us, to explain the process of flying the original operational aircraft. He was aged 95! Another great trip out for the Group.

Alan Potter

u3a learn, laugh, live

Cycling Group

Embracing the joy on two wheels

"Two wheels, one passion" – that's the motto of the Cycling Group whose monthly rides have proved to be a ticket to adventure. Whether exploring the Hertfordshire countryside or further afield, our intrepid riders have found the rides a great way to keep healthy in body and mind, make new friends and avoid leaving a carbon footprint in some of nature's most beautiful spots. Most of the group have now acquired



electric bikes which are environmentally friendly, easy to operate, help you to manage hills and travel longer distances. Another bonus – outside peak hours, you can also take them on trains at no extra cost. This has meant being able to start rides at places like Bedford, Sandy or Milton Keynes. Taking advantage of a cost-saving group rail ticket, our October ride took us from St Albans City station to West Hampstead Thameslink before joining the London Overground to Richmond. Lifts at all the key stations meant we didn't have to haul the bikes up and down the stairs.

The day began with a ride along the traffic-free Thames path, then across Ham Common into Richmond Park. It was the deer rutting season and we were able to get up fairly close to some of the one thousand free-roaming red and fallow deer. Little did we know when we heard the roar of the red stags that 30 miles away back in St Albans, everyone was experiencing a much more frightening sound – the boom of thunder as the heavens had opened with lightning strikes causing power cuts. We didn't have a drop of rain!

If you'd like to give cycling a try, we would love to welcome new members. You don't have to be an experienced rider. We take our time and enjoy many stops along the way, normally including one for lunch. Adventure awaits on two wheels!

Bill Hamilton



Laughter is the best medicine

To do, is to be. - Socrates

To be, is, to do. - Sartre

Do be, do be do. - Frank Sinatra





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 November 29th 2023 early evening
Wednesday January 3rd 2024 early evening



CHRISTMAS LIGHTS TRAIL AT KEW GARDENS

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

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.



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.



DATES FOR DIARY 2024

Although there is still time to put in your “Trip Sheets”, Joy has already started to put dates together for some of the more popular visits; thus ensuring coaches/drivers, etc are available. See the confirmed dates for the visits below. Further details will be available at later date.

March 6th	<i>Golden Oldies</i>
April 16th	<i>Romney Marsh tour</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>

Travel Quote: Vacation calories do not count. Right?

And where would you like to visit in 2024?

At the November monthly meeting Joy will be putting up our “ideas boards”, so that you may give your views on what we could offer for 2024. We need your feedback, so that you get what you would like. The following are potential trips for 2024

Brick Lane Panto	“Call the Midwife” Tour & Chatham Dockyard
Chiswick House	Christmas music at the Royal Albert Hall
Cottesbrooke Hall	Cruise on Lee and Stort Boat
Golden Oldies at the Teresa Joanne	Jordans Mill
Mary Rose & Portsmouth Dockyard	Peacocks Auctioneers
Romford Greyhound Stadium	Steam Train on Kent & Sussex Railway
The Mill at Sonning	The Romney Marsh Tour
Vineyard Tasting Tour & Amersham Fair Organ Museum	

Fill in the Trips sheet, and have your say now!

We need your feedback to help us to help you!

... *and finally*

A smart man doesn't make all the mistakes himself—he gives others a chance too

Winston Churchill