



# Hi everyone!

And a very happy and prosperous New Year to all. If the Christmas party is just a distant memory, there are some photographs on pages 2 and 3 that might remind you of it. On behalf of the Committee, can I thank all those who helped before and on the day that made the party very enjoyable and a success.

## LOCAL EVENTS GROUP



Some 16 members of the Local Events Group met at the Prae Wood Arms to share a Christmas lunch together early in December. The food was very good, and the chat and laughter were excellent.

## A SAILING EXPERIENCE—Brian Stow

In the seventies, I sailed racing catamarans - Olympic Tornados and 18ft Darts. The Dart is 18ft long and 7ft wide with a 26ft mast fully battened sail (acts more like an aircraft wing) and single trapeze (for the crew). The Olympic Tornado is slightly larger with twin trapeze (crew and helm). In a strong wind both achieve about 30 mph which is a frightening speed.

We were racing my Dart in a near gale with the crew on trapeze and me hanging over the side and the windward hull flying about 3 – 4ft out of the water. At this speed and wind, the helm (me) must keep the leeward hull (the hull in the water) above the waves at the bow or that hull will stop suddenly. As the bow under water has stopped and the rest of the boat is attached to it, it stops, rises into the air sending crew flying, in my case about 20 ft high and forward of the boat. The crew was still attached to the top of the mast by the trapeze wire and landed well in front of me. Meanwhile the boat finished totally upside down. The fun now begins as we try to get it in the upright position, having swum back to an upturned hull.

Both of us have to get onto the back of one of the hulls which tips the boat slightly and the mast which floats, slowly brings the boat back onto its side, which from the water resembles a block of flats. The helm now crawls onto the hull in the water and explains to the crew that the two handles underneath the boat on the trampoline are for him to hold onto, which stops the boat going right over again, as I bring it up. He replies with a little nervousness in his voice "That means I will be underneath the boat". "Yes" I reply "just hold your breath for a bit then come up with me". I cannot quote his answer! Anyway, helm throws a jib sheet (rope) over the boat and hanging onto it leans far back; this brings the boat upright at last and dunks me in as well.

Now the boat is upright we now have to get into it quickly as it will sail off on its own leaving us behind. All the others in the race have sailed off into the distance. It is a lesson in righting an capsized boat. Finally, I was watching the catamarans on television at the last Olympics and thought "They must be mad" and then I realized I did that.

This month's talk is given by Peter and Christine Padwick and is entitled

### "The Story of Music Hall"

#### RIVIERA TRAVEL REFUND

Further to our earlier Newsletter items on the Riviera Travel offer of refunds to u3a's whose members book with them, we can now confirm that CGu3a has been a beneficiary of this process.

Following such a booking by two of our members, our secretary Tony followed the process through Riviera and the Third Age Trust with the refund received in December.

Such refunds obviously assist in our consideration of the use of our finances including the determination of our membership fee. We therefore encourage any members who happen to choose to book a holiday with Riviera Travel to be sure to mention their membership of CGu3a at the outset.

#### NEEDLES & PINS GROUP

Margaret and I would liked to thank everyone who supported our Christmas Sale at the November monthly meeting. On the day we made sales of £170 (higher than anticipated), which after donations to charity, the remainder will be used to fund future group projects.

We would also like to thank the members of our small group for all their fantastic contributions and hard work.

*Margaret and Janis*

#### Thought for the day:



Be the reason someone smiles today

#### INTEREST GROUP

##### Refreshment

##### Rota

Jan. 4th	Play Reading
Feb. 1st	Quiz
Mar. 1st	Sailing
Apr. 4th	Spanish
May 2nd	Table Tennis





# XMAS 2023





**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.***

### 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

### Wednesday March 6th 2024

Selling Jan/Feb

#### 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.

### DATES FOR DIARY 2024

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

April 16th	Romney Marsh tour
May 1st	Steam Train on Kent & Sussex Railway
June 5th	Chiswick House
July 11th	Cruise on Lee and Stort boat
August 29th	Peacocks Auctioneers
September 24th	"Call the Midwife" tour, and Chatham Dockyard