

# Hi everyone !

By all accounts the Summer Café was a great success and was enjoyed by all. In this issue a couple of members have shared their experiences; one very recent, the other more than 45 years ago. Page 2 has a nautical theme. Enjoy!

## INTEREST GROUPS

### Refreshment Rota



Jul 3rd	Cycling
Aug 7th	Curios: Old & New
Sep 4th	Family History 1
Oct 2nd	Family History 2
Nov 6th	Flower Arranging
Dec 4th	Xmas Party

## SPEAKER'S CORNER

The speaker at the July meeting will be Simon Keable and the subject is entitled

### "1920s Tahiti"

## GARDEN VISIT GROUP

The Group spent an interesting morning visiting Cheslyn Gardens, Nascot Wood Road, Watford.

Cheslyn House and Gardens is a magical oasis of 3.5 acres, with a semi-natural woodland area, pond, fernery, large herbaceous borders and an aviary. The House and Gardens has a history stretching back to the 19th century, with the original land belonging to Lord Capel, the Earl of Essex. In the 1940s, the property was purchased by architect Henry Colbeck, who designed Cheslyn House and developed the gardens with his wife, Daisy.

Following the death of Henry Colbeck, Watford Council took full ownership in 1965 and has continued to expand and maintain the gardens. It is now a Green Flag Award-winning site.

*Denise Manning*

## ART GROUP

Our external art tutor Debbie, on one of her recent visits had us all working on a very cute picture of fox.

*Lori Jones*



## AIR AMBULANCE SERVICE

I was really pleased that Chiswell Green u3a gave a donation to Air Ambulance. I have much to thank them for from personal experience, and I sent a personal donation.

Some of you will have seen me struggling to walk with a stick and before that a big frame on wheels. I had a really bad fall and sustained an open bleeding fracture in my leg. The local ambulance service came but despite five doses of morphine were unable to alleviate the excruciating pain, so the Air Ambulance were called with a doctor, who gave me Ketamine.

I woke up the next day in the major fracture unit in a London hospital. I was operated on by the top orthopaedic surgeon on a Sunday and then remained in hospital for a month, starting the process of learning to walk again.

The Air Ambulance were very caring and phoned my husband to see how he was because, of course, he was traumatised by seeing me in so much pain.

Thankfully, I can now drive again and walk round a supermarket, but I still have to have physio and hydro therapies for a while yet. But, we are looking forward to setting off the airport alarms with the metal in my leg!

So, you see, we do have a lot to thank the Air Ambulance for.

*Valerie Macdonald*

## SUMMER CAFÉ

As in previous years this Summer Café was a success. Can we say a big thank you to all the contributors and the helpers that made it a memorable morning. I understand that the fare supplied was delicious. The tombola proved to be profitable, and the "show and tell" group were Needles and Pins. Here's to the next time.

*Dave Brennan*



**STOP  
PRESS**

**BARNUM** at Aylesbury Waterside Theatre, Wednesday March 25th 2026, matinee, selling September, all details to follow.

### CRUISING IN HOLLAND

In 1977 we and friends chartered a Gin Palace (luxury cruiser) from a Dutch yard at Medemblik on the IJsselmeer. It had 4 double cabins, showers, a large living area with galley/kitchen and the cockpit area midships that could be covered over.

We could either cruise the IJsselmeer an inland sea that had been made by damming the Zuider Sea or go into the Dutch canal system which we did as it seemed more interesting. Our journey was via the North Holland canal. Forget the English canals; 1,000 ton plus boats use this and it's dead straight for miles with no locks but plenty of roads crossing it. To negotiate these, a "Reeds Almanac of Holland" is an essential navigation aid. On approaching a road crossing you had to in advance signal with hoots and a red or green light showed whether to proceed or stop. The stop bit proved a bit difficult one day as after spending 30 minutes trying to stop when the green light came on to go through a lifting rail bridge, we drifted into the bridge supports to the amusement of the rail staff who suggested we hurry as their trains don't float very well and they prefer to close the bridge. Some of the road bridges actually open by sliding back into the side of the canal which is most interesting. It is also rather daunting to see an entire motorway stop for one boat.

We visited Edam off this canal onto a smaller one and not only did the motorway stop for us but the lock keeper cycled down to open the final lock into Edam.

We also went to Alkmaar the main cheese market in the north Holland area. The amusing thing about this town is the typical Dutch red light district only opened on market day. The market itself is a sight to see, the cheeses piled on to skids like enormous canon balls.

We cruised south along the canal and proceeded to the last lock to enter the IJsselmeer and our gateway to Amsterdam.

We now found ourselves in miles of sea and not a clue in which direction Amsterdam was. Answer came as a ferry with Amsterdam on it passed. Just follow. It worked and we tied up in small harbour. For six guilders we could go into the Amsterdam inner ring of canals as far as the height of your boat allowed. As our cockpit could be collapsed, so we managed to get right into the centre and moored up in the red light district. One of the crew who jumped off to tie up was so interested in his surroundings that he managed to walk off the canal side right into the water, much to everyone's mirth.

That evening all of us enjoyed an Indonesian meal at a local restaurant. If you have not been to Amsterdam it is a fascinating place, all canals, bikes and restaurants. When we left the next day we had an audience to watch us leave as obviously word had got round about a load of "nutters" in a boat who want to swim in the canal.

We left intending to do a round tour of the smaller canals before returning the boat, as our ten days were nearly up. However, at the furthest distance from Medemblik we found a bridge that was too low for us to go under. We collapsed the cockpit, we all lay on the deck and pushed the boat down with our feet on the bridge. Again we had a crowd of locals watching the stupid English. The race was now on to return boat in time, so returned the "long" way we had come. Through Amsterdam again, try and find the lock on the other side of miles of sea then back along the North Holland canal. It was fascinating entering all the small locks as fast as possible. They are all manned, but you have to pay and a clog is passed down from the top of the lock on a fishing rod for us to put the payment in.

Whist writing this I realise that we should have stayed on the IJsselmeer because there are no locks, no bridges and a shorter route; only took many years and this small essay for the logical answer to sink in!!

*Brian Stow*

### RED SAILS IN THE SUN

The weather had been kind to us on the day of our barge trip. After about an hour's uneventful coach journey we arrived at the small harbour of Maldon, Essex. The water in the harbour was very low and we were assured that the tide was coming in. As we waited for the tide to float the barge, we were able to enjoy our lunch sitting in the sunshine out on deck. With sufficient water beneath the barge we set sail (with the assistance of engine) out into the channel towards the open sea. As we cruised in Colliers Reach, Northey Island is to our right and is now a National Trust wildlife property. The next island we pass is Osea Island. There were plenty of stories about smuggling and contraband trade relating to this Essex area. A further red sail was hoisted to help the return journey to Maldon harbour. The 50+ members of CGu3a had a very relaxing afternoon in the warm sunshine just mucking about on the water. With bad weather, it would have been a totally different story!

*Dave Brennan*

*Thanks Joy, another great trip !*



## IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING TRIPS

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 on a 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 ensure when writing cheques in payment for Trips that you have filled it in EXACTLY correctly, and write your membership number on the reverse. Loyds bank is returning cheques with mistakes even if the change is initialled. 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 Event 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 Event Organiser by phone, up to 10pm the night before the trip landline (01923 268018) or on the day landline FIRST and if no reply then events mobile (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.***

### Tuesday 8th July 2025—GWSR STEAM TRAIN and STANWAY HOUSE

Selling July

A trip to the Cotswolds. At Toddington Railway Station there is the opportunity to visit Gloucestershire Warwickshire Steam Railway (GWSR) and its loco yard. Also there, the Restoration & Archiving Trust operates three small displays of artefacts. Take your own picnic, or go to the café that serves a wide range of hot and cold drinks, lunches, snacks and their famous cake.

A return ticket (train at 13.15 hours) takes us for a ride on a GWSR train. It's a 31 minute trip ride to Cheltenham Race Course and with time for photos. On return to Toddington there is a short coach trip to Stanway House.

The House is a perfect example of a Cotswold Jacobean manor house, and since 1533 has been lived in by the Tracys of Stanway and their descendants the Earls of Wemyss. As well as the House, you can wander in the grounds where there are avenues, specimen trees and an 18th-century water-garden featuring a gravity fountain. Afternoon Cream Teas, homemade cakes, hot & cold drinks, and locally produced ice-cream are available.



Depart Greenwood Park: 9.15am

Depart for home: 5.00pm approx

Cost: £51.00

### Thursday 14th August 2025—KENTWELL

Waiting list

One of England's finest and most beautiful Tudor Houses, surrounded by a broad fish-filled moat. We visited in 2023. An excellent day out for the Tudor High Summer 1535. The vast estate was brought to life by the fabulous volunteer living historians spread throughout the gardens, farm and woodlands often with children and grandparents all taking part in traditional costume, talking in the dialect of the time, working traditional crafts to serve the great house. The vast kitchen gardens, flower and herb gardens with ancient apple trees was really impressive and tended by volunteers in full costume of the day. The servants in the dairy, bakehouse, brewhouse and great kitchen all used traditional methods and recipes, to prepare food and drink for all the household, estate workers and the gentry.

The volunteer living historians dress, talk, eat, drink, and use tools of the time, thus immersing themselves into that period of history. For the visitor this enables you to step back in time with all the sights, sounds and smells. See the house and gardens "alive and working"! A fantastic experience highly recommended, lots to see, check out the camera obscura, outside the front gates there is a picnic area with toilets (modern) nearby. There is a stable yard tea room, or bring a picnic.

Depart Greenwood Park: 9.30am

Depart for home: 4.30pm approx

Cost: £38.00

**Tuesday 2nd September 2025—EAST LONDON WATERWAYS BOAT TRIP**

Waiting list

This boat trip is by the Lee & Stort Boat Company. We aim to arrive at our coach drop off point at approx. 11.30am in time to walk the few yards to our boat for a 12 noon departure. Take your own picnic lunch, and top up with drinks/chocolates etc from the bar's extensive stock. All the boats are mobility accessible with toilets.



It is a three hour guided tour within the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, with views of London Stadium, the AcelorMittal Orbit, the newly refurbished Carpenters Road Lock and along the Old River Lea. We pass the "Big Breakfast House" before entering the Lee Navigation and St Thomas Creek. Here we join City Mill River where you will enjoy fantastic views of the Stadium and Orbit before going through the Lock again to cruise to the north of the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park with uninterrupted views of the award-winning parklands, gardens and the iconic Olympic venues.

**Depart Greenwood Park: 10:30am**

**Depart for home: 4:00pm**

**Cost: £38.00**

**Thursday 9th October 2025—DAY IN WINDSOR - COACH ONLY TRIP**

Selling: July

The coach park is a 10 minute walk to the centre of town (castle), which will be the drop-off and pick-up point.

Spend free time in or around Windsor, some ideas for you are:-

- Windsor Castle and St Georges Chapel, a two hour trip £35.00pp (advance booking £31.00pp) or if someone organises a group of 15+ £27.90pp
- Watch the Changing of the Guard - usually at 11.00am by the castle
- A stroll down the Long Walk
- A cruise on the Thames, French Bros Boats 40 minute cruise on the river for £11.70pp (advance booking £10.60pp) or for a different idea on the "Duck Splash Tour" for one hour at 11.30am or 2.30pm for £25.00pp
- A leisurely Lunch or Tea (by the Windsor Eton Bridge) at the Côte Windsor or The Brasserie at Sir Christopher Wren or for a more economical stop at The King & Castle - JD Wetherspoon (near the castle)
- There may be a chance of a one hour Back Stage trip at the Theatre Royal Windsor (am) – check ahead if it is available.



**NOTE:** Please make your own bookings and checks for availability/times/prices etc

**Depart Greenwood Park: 9:30am**

**Depart for home: 4:00pm**

**Cost: £17.00**

**Wednesday 26th November 2025—XMAS LIGHT TRAIL at BLENHEIM PALACE**

Selling: August

More details to follow

**Depart Greenwood Park: 4.30pm**

**Depart for home: 9.00pm**

**Cost: £38.00**

**Wednesday 25th March 2026—BARNUM at AYLESBURY WATERSIDE THEATRE**

Selling: September

More details to follow

*and finally...*

My grandmother is over 80 and still doesn't need glasses – drinks right out the bottle.

*Henry Youngman*

**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.**