

Hi everyone !

GWR/STANWAY HOUSE TRIP

A grand day out - weatherwise and interest wise!

Joy had us all reporting before time so we trundled along the M25/M40/A40 etc quite happily until about 25 minutes from our first destination. We then came to a halt on a narrowish country road where it was impossible to turn round. Two cars had had an argument which resulted in one ending up in the hedge - all airbags deployed - and the other with its front completely demolished!

As it was obvious that we weren't going anywhere for a while – “SuperJoy” swung into action phoning both venues to warn them that we might be a “smidge” late. However, about 45 minutes later we were off again - to try to catch the 1.15pm train.



It was touch and go, but with the help of the station master at Toddington who held the train for a few minutes - we were all able to take our places in our reserved coach and steamed our way to Cheltenham race course station. On the journey we had an excellent guide who spoke to us about the origins of the current railway and the glorious scenery. We had some time to take photos of the train and purchase the necessary coffees or ice creams before heading back at a leisurely pace of 25 mph.



Back at the coach we set off up the road to view Stanway House - a privately owned manor house with its working watermill, - 24 feet overshot wheel - the eighth largest in England, and also watch the magnificent world's tallest gravity fountain in the gardens - reputed to reach up to 300 feet! An amazing sight! Many of us decided that a cuppa was essential before walking around the house, visiting the mill and the grounds but we all managed to gather enough strength to watch the fountain.

Finally back on the coach, the loud conversations of the morning had quietened to a more sedate level as we headed on home, tired, hot and happy! A lovely day, and congratulations to Joy for her exemplary organisation.

Sarah Duggan

INTEREST GROUPS

Refreshment Rota



Aug 7th	Curios: Old & New
Sep 4th	Family History 1
Oct 2nd	Family History 2
Nov 6th	Flower Arranging
Dec 4th	Xmas Party
Jan 8th	French (Intermediate)

SPEAKER'S CORNER

In August the speaker will be Mike Barbakoff and his subject is entitled

“World War 2 History of Bletchley Park”

At the meeting in September our speaker will be Bill Hamilton and the title is

“Oh no! Not you again”

Calling all new members to a New Members' Meeting

The committee would like to invite you for coffee and cake on Wednesday, 20th August at 10.30 (for about an hour) at the Park Street Baptist Church Hall, Penn Road, St Albans, AL2 2QF. It will be a very casual affair and is an opportunity for all of us to put faces to names and ask/answer questions. Please feel free to join us.

The Chiswell Green u3a Committee

LAUGHTER IS THE BEST MEDICINE

I asked my daughter to pass me the phone book. She said “You dinosaur!” and passed me her iPhone. Now the spider is dead, the iPhone is broken, and my daughter not speaking to me.

STOP PRESS

Back by popular demand
“Golden Oldies”
on Tereza Joanne
Wednesday 11th February 2026
Selling October 2025

CURIOS: OLD & NEW GROUP

The Group had an interesting meeting in May with a video on the *Story of Perfume*. Members brought along a variety of scent bottles which the group discussed and Pam Whitfield provided additional information.



In June the Group and guests had a lovely outing to Stockwood Park, Luton in perfect weather. We enjoyed seeing the gardens & museum which included an impressive carriage collection. We enjoyed our coffee and lunch, and were grateful for some welcomed shade in the gardens.



The provisional future programme for our regular meetings in the Lounge at Greenwood Park on the 4th Friday of the month from 10am to 12pm is as follows:

- August - Show & Tell (members bring along an object to talk about).
- September - a video on the diamond industry.
- October - talk by the auctioneer David Palmer
- November - videos on dolls houses plus planning meeting for the next six months.
- December - no meeting
- January 2026 - video on the history of printing.

Catherine Nixon

WINGS & WHEELS GROUP

In May Wings & Wheels visited the Aston Martin Heritage Trust Museum, in **Drayton Saint Leonard**, Oxfordshire. This is a Trust originally set up by the Aston Martin Owners Club many years ago. The vehicle collection ranges from A3 - the oldest surviving Aston Martin in the world - through definitive models from every era to cars of today. Among the items on show were Sir Stirling Moss's overalls and trophies from the heyday of Aston Martin Racing and covering the automotive story of one of the most famous marques in British history. The heart of the Museum is the cars. The foundation of the heritage fleet began with the bequest of the 1934 Ulster. Over the years, this has grown through purchase, loan and donation. Currently they care for many vehicles, engineering prototypes, design models and cutaways. Due to the size of the museum, (housed in a modernised barn) they cannot display all the cars at once, but rotate them on a regular basis. The cars on display were The A3, AMR1/01, DB7 V12 Zagato, Nimrod, Ulster and a 2012 V12 Vanquish cutaway. The Museum also has a massive collection of scale model Aston Martin cars running into hundreds. In addition there are engines, racing memorabilia, artefacts, engineering tools and much more.



1934 Aston Martin Ulster

This was an exceptional day out complemented by a brilliant guide who talked us through the history of the Company, and knew many stories to tell us. Lunch was taken at a cafe on a lakeside a couple of miles away.



Alan Potter

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. Lloyds 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) 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.

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 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

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.**

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

Selling: Aug/Sept

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 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)

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: Aug/Sept

The trail features over one million lights, including glistening reflections on lakes, tunnels of light, and flickering flames. There will also be appearances by Father Christmas and the Snow Queen. Our timed start is at 6.45pm.



The trail is 1.8 miles (90mins) designed to be suitable for all ages, though some sections may have uneven terrain or varying gradients. There are toilets at the beginning of the trail and half way along the trail. There are accessible toilets at these locations too. In some areas the lighting will be low level as this is part of the experience. Bring a torch in case of an emergency. The trail is not covered and all visitors are reminded that this is an outdoor Illuminated Trail and the weather may be inclement. Please wear appropriate outdoor clothing and footwear. Mobility scooters are unavailable to hire. You are therefore welcome to bring your own.

Drop offs and coach pick up point is at the cross road (200m) by Blenheim Palace and is as close as vehicles can get. There will be seasonal food and drinks serving hot, hand-held food, (and cater for most dietary needs.) in the East Courtyard They will only accept card payments at all sale points.

There is a Xmas Market in The Great Court for Christmas gifts, etc. but we will be time limited by arrival/trail start or market closure 8.30pm. You will need to keep your purchases with you.

NOTE: Greenwood Park Car Park will be closed by the time we return. Do not park there!

Depart Greenwood Park: 4.30pm

Depart for home: 9.00pm

Cost: £38.00

Wednesday 25th March 2026—BARNUM at AYLESBURY WATERSIDE THEATRE

Selling: September

Step right up and enter the dazzling world of P.T. Barnum, where imagination and ambition know no bounds. Hand in hand with wife Charity, Barnum's life and career twists and turns as he schemes and dreams his way to headier heights.



This spectacular new staging will feature an extraordinary ensemble cast of over 20 actor-musicians playing 150 instruments, acrobats and amazing circus acts. Audiences are certain to delight at every sight, wonder and miracle that the name Barnum stands for!

Come follow the band with the glorious music of multi-award-winner Cy Coleman, Michael Stewart's lyrics and Mark Bramble's book. Barnum features a whole host of classic show tunes including *Join the Circus*, *Colours of My Life*, *Come Follow the Band*, and *Love Makes Such Fools of Us All*.

Depart Greenwood Park: 12.00pm

Depart for home: approx 5.00pm

Cost: £53.00