

Hi everyone !

Summer is well and truly over, and there is the CG Xmas party in December. However what are you planning for the rest of Winter? Why not try a new hobby, or check out the various online education programmes on the u3a main web site. It could be a long time till we see any signs of Spring or the warmer weather.

GARDEN VISITS GROUP

Following July's garden visit to Harlow, in August the Garden Visits group stayed close to home. Ayletts Garden Centre was the venue where every year they provide a display of dahlias in what is entitled the *Celebration Garden*.

In 2015 Ayletts created the Celebration Garden to celebrate their 60th year of business, so it is now in its 10th year and has been part of National Garden Scheme for eight years.

Expectations were fulfilled. You could not be disappointed as you stroll through rows upon rows of the most beautiful dahlias of various shapes and sizes, and the most striking range of colours. Labels at the end of each row provided interesting names none more so than "Hadrian's Bubblegum". We had chosen the right time of year to visit. The garden also features a spiral maze, bug hotel and living willow tunnel plus a gnome trail for children.

On this occasion there was no rush to the cafe but never the less it did, as always, prove most enjoyable.

Val Orchard



CALLING ALL GROUP ORGANISERS

We would love you to come to Coffee and Chat morning on Wednesday 22nd October at 10.30am.

This year the venue will be **Park Street Baptist Church Hall, Penn Road (AL2 2QF)**, and as usual the cakes and coffee will be of a very high standard.

The Committee

INTEREST GROUPS

Refreshment Rota



Oct 2nd	Family History 2
Nov 6th	Flower Arranging
Dec 4th	Xmas Party
Jan 8th	French (Intermediate)
Feb 5th	Garden Visits
Mar 5th	History

SPEAKER'S CORNER

In October the speaker will be Geoff Lambert who will be talking about

"Medical Detection Dogs"

At the November meeting the speaker will be Suzi Clarke and entitled

"An eventful life"

WINGS & WHEELS GROUP

Wings & Wheels Group visited The Military Intelligence Museum at Chicksands, Bedfordshire in July. It is the only museum in the United Kingdom that showcases the often secret work of the men and women of military intelligence, from the Napoleonic era onwards. The tactics and techniques, equipment, operations and the people are revealed in substantial numbers at the Museum.

The exhibition and collection are rooted in the Army Intelligence Corps but also elements of Royal Navy and Royal Air Force intelligence exhibits sit alongside those of the Army. We were able to view many impressive, interactive displays revealing the work of the Y-Service (signals interception), BRIXMIS (Cold War intelligence collection disguised as 'liaison'), the Special Operations Executive. We saw a great deal of photographs from RAF photographic reconnaissance and how they were analysed and interpreted together with many other facets of military intelligence.

We had a splendid guide who talked at length about all things intelligence and later heard about the historical use of the site during World War Two and the immediate aftermath. There were also displays of techniques of espionage and how the use of intelligence gained can be vital to defeat enemy forces. There were displays and artefacts from pre 20th Century through both world wars, the Cold War, Northern Ireland and other campaigns. This was a fascinating visit to learn about how important Intelligence gathering has been for our Country.

Alan Potter



I would like to say a big **thank you** to all those knitters who have produced the squares, which have been made into blankets. The blankets have been donated to a Luton school for distribution among those in need in the area.

Sarah Duggan

LONDON WALKS GROUP

Richmond, Surrey was a new walk on the itinerary of the London Walks Group and proved to be rich in history yet stylishly modern. In pouring rain we left the shelter of the Art Déco railway station to walk to our first stop. This was the Orange Tree, a chic hotel which played its part in the birth of the Rolling Stones. Others groups followed including the Yardbirds.

Across the way is the Orange Tree Theatre which tends to revive older plays whilst a short walk round the corner brought us to the Richmond Theatre overlooking Little Green. This theatre designed by the famous theatre architect Frank Matcham was built in 1899 and provides more modern productions of plays plus dance shows and musicals.

Sticking to the shelter of the trees as much as possible we moved along side The Green, a larger expanse of open land. We passed the entrance Paved Court now famous in the TV series Ted Lasso. Located overlooking The Green are the limited remains of the Palace of Richmond which King Henry VII had built in the 16th century. He was also responsible for the name Richmond taken from his earldom of Richmond in North Yorkshire. The palace was favoured by several of the monarchy particularly Elizabeth I who spent her last days there. Today only part of the entrance remains.

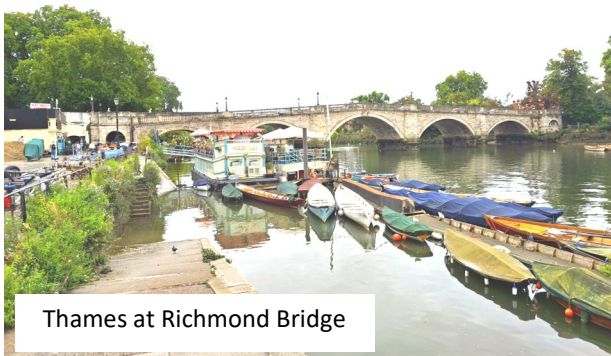
We made our way through the “palace grounds” to the River Thames which is still tidal at this point and the riverside pathway is frequently under water. The Richmond bridge with its five arches was built in 1774-1777 to replace the ferry crossing and is the oldest surviving Thames bridge in Greater London (see photograph below). Also beside this stretch of river is an impressive statue of the author Virginia Woolf who had lived nearby, loved the walking by the river but sadly died by drowning in the River Ouse in 1941.

The sun finally appeared as we made a steady ascent up Richmond Hill until we had access to stunning views of the River Thames winding through the countryside and the Twickenham Rugby Stadium in the distance. Our final stop on the hill was outside the splendid “Wick House” once owned by actor Sir John Mills, then Ronnie Wood of the Rolling Stones followed by Pete Townsend of the Who.

Back down the hill, next to the St Elizabeth of Portugal Church was the once home of Bernard O’Higgins (1778-1842), a central figure in the liberation of Chile from Spain and for some time a ruling political figure in Chile. A walk along the very modern High Street and into a side alley brought us to the final location on the tour, St Mary Magdalene Church, a place of worship in Richmond for over 800 years.

With the walk concluded and the sun having replaced the rain, it seemed appropriate for the pub lunch and a pint of Hophead before heading home.

Tony Jackson



Thames at Richmond Bridge



Thames from Richmond Hill

TRIP IDEAS FOR 2026			
Around 85 of us joined in the survey which will be a basis for the 2026 programme		ORDER	VOTES
1	Cruise - Upper Thames	1	55
2	Strictly - Behind the seams	7	40
3	Windsor Xmas Light Trails	9	35
4	Knebworth Xmas Fair	8	37
5	National Gallery	11	29
6	Philharmonic - Xmas Cracker	3	46
7	Beaulieu	2	50
8	Historic House	6	41
9A	Coach only - Maldon	14	19
9B	Coach only - New V&A	13	21
9C	Coach only - Seaside	4	44
10	Royal Opera House - Backstage	5	42
11A	Guild - Stationers Hall	12	26
11B	Guild - Armourers	10	33

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

Selling: October

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: October

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 February 11th, 2026—GOLDEN OLDIES on *Tereza Joanne*

Selling October

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. We have used this venue several times before, always much enjoyed. The food is excellent and the staff happy and smiley. 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 £60.00

Wednesday 25th March 2026—BARNUM at AYLESBURY WATERSIDE THEATRE Selling: October

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

Saturday 9th May 2026—JACK & SARAH at THE MILL AT SONNING

Selling: October

Matinee performance of "Jack & Sarah", a witty and unexpected comedy.

Based on the 1995 film starring Richard E Grant and Dame Judi Dench. Jack, a workaholic lawyer, is suddenly left to raise his baby daughter alone. Enter Amy, a free-spirited au-pair. Against all the odds, and with a little help from an eccentric cast of family and friends, their different worlds collide in a surprising and life affirming way.



The Mill at Sonning is a professional restaurant and theatre venue, the theatre fully air-conditioned, situated on the River Thames at Sonning Eye. The Mill on this site was mentioned in the Domesday Book, and during the 18th century milled flour for Huntley and Palmers biscuits based in Reading. The waterwheel can still be seen turning in the bar. This is a delightful venue which we have been lucky enough to enjoy many times.

Price includes two course waitress served meal, chosen on the day with a vegetarian option, and tea or coffee after; centre block seats with several "end of rows"; coach and driver's tip.

Depart Greenwood Park: 10:30am

Depart for home: approx 5:00pm

Cost: £83.00

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.