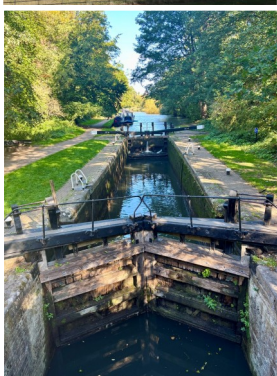


Hi everyone !

PHOTOGRAPHY 2 GROUP

This year the group's photoshoot visit was to Cassiobury Park, Watford. Cassiobury became a public park in 1909. Before that it was part of the Cassiobury House estate, home of the Earls of Essex for over 300 years. Today the Park comprises 190 acres through which the Grand Union Canal and the River Gade flows. Within the Park there are plenty of footpaths to amble along, a miniature railway (not open on the day of our visit), children's play area, outdoor gym and a café. Believe it or not the first two hours in the car park are free! Thankfully it was a beautiful sunny autumn day, and proved to be a very enjoyable visit.

Dave Brennan



SPEAKER'S CORNER

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

"An eventful life"

No speaker at December meeting — Xmas party

INTEREST GROUPS

Refreshment Rota



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

GARDEN VISITS GROUP

With autumn taking its toll on plants and gardens, the Group again stayed close to home. The chosen venue was a garden centre previously visited by only some of the group members but considered to be a most worthwhile experience.

Carpenters Park Garden Centre lived up to its billing. Immediately on entry you are accosted by an array of trees, plants, bushes, water features and a broad range of ornamental studies. It is all beautifully presented with wide walkways. Browsing necessitates a trolley as expectation of resisting making at least one purchase soon disappears.

Moving inside you are exposed to the range of items now available at most garden centres with a meander and viewing compulsory. With the Garden Group there was of course the essential interlude in the form of The Evergreen Restaurant for the welcome social interaction before retracing the steps taken earlier...cannot risk having missed that special item.

Val Orchard

SO THAT'S WHAT KEEPS YOU ON THE SADDLE!

What, you may well ask, have swordfish steak and pizza Godfather got to do with cycling? Quite simply, such gastronomic treats can provide a protein powerhouse and improve muscle strength – just what was needed for our cycling group as they rounded off another season of rides, pedalling through rural Bedfordshire.

Taking advantage of reduced train travel to Flitwick, physical strength was immediately called for. With no lift at the station, we had to haul our bikes up and down two steep flights of steps. Well worthwhile, as we were soon negotiating the Greensands Way, an idyllic walking and cycling path before making our way along a series of country roads past forests, fields and rolling hills – not so good for those without the decided advantage of electric bikes. Consoling one of the unlucky ones, I heard cries of “they’re not hills, rather mounds of opportunity!”

With the sunshine and blue skies the order of the day, we had the good fortune of reaching Woburn Deer Park just as the deer were wandering in and out of the lake and washing the dirt and dust from their antlers. An amazing sight.

Then it was off to an authentic Italian restaurant run by the three Di Giorgi brothers from Sicily. Their culinary creativity elevated our taste buds to new heights and provided more than enough fuel for the return journey.

Bill Hamilton



WELL DONE

After the talk in September on “Medical Detection Dogs” your donations given on the day raised £389.88 for the dogs’ organisation. Well done everyone.

IN OUR TIME GROUP

The new modern history based interest group “In Our Time” has got off to a very good start. We are looking at events that have happened in our lifetime - taking one year at a time. So far we have looked at 1953 and 1963.

We talked, amongst other things, about the 1953 Coronation of Queen Elizabeth. Where were we, what were we doing? We remembered crowding round a small tv set - in the home of the neighbour who had bought one specially. We remembered celebrating with street parties - we had a fancy dress competition and I had to dress as a buttercup (goodness knows why!).

Then 1963 - what a contrast in that year! The assassination of President Kennedy - I heard the news when I was going for my college interview. Also in that year the invention of the iconic Lava lamp. They are still going strong and are very collectable.



It’s amazing how we remember those things we did as clear as if it was yesterday! A sign of old age being able to remember something I did all those years ago - but haven’t the remotest idea why I have just gone to the kitchen !!!!!

Pam Whitfield

What do you remember about the years 1953 and 1963?

NEEDLES & PINS GROUP

Recently our group had to say *au revoir* to our friend and group co-organiser Margaret Tinker-Mitchell (pictured centre below), who has moved to Devon to be closer to her family. We shall miss (as will other groups she was involved in) her enthusiasm and energy, and wish her all the very best in her new life. We understand she’s already made contact with the local u3a—our loss is their gain. Go Margaret!

Janis Brennan



IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING TRIPS

Please remember to have with you or wear your CGu3a 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.

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

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 Waiting List

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: November

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

"BARNUM"

at
**Waterside Theatre
Aylesbury**

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

Selling: November

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 is 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

"JACK & SARAH"

at
The Mill at Sonning

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.

... and finally

At the suggestion of his doctor, an elderly man retired to live in the countryside. Shortly after moving to his new home, he met the neighbour who was a pensioner too. "My doctor told me this would be a healthy place to live" said the man. "Is that true?"

"It certainly is," replied the neighbour. "You know when I first arrived here, I couldn't say a single word, I had hardly any hair on my head, I didn't have the strength to walk across a room, and I had to be lifted in and out of bed."

"That's an amazing transformation," said the man. "How long have you lived here?"

"All my life—I was born here," said the neighbour.