



Happy New Year everyone !

CURIOS: OLD & NEW

We enjoyed our November meeting when we watched doll's house videos and had a successful planning meeting. We explored the world of miniature dolls houses and saw the ten most expensive ones in history. Number two is worth one million dollars, and the Queen Mary doll's house at Windsor is priceless. The furniture was made by some of the leading craftsmen of the time and their attention to detail is superb. We also saw a 1700s Cabinet dollhouse and had a video tour of a very rare 18th century French glass roof doll's house with its original furnishings. It is amazing this was not destroyed during the French Revolution.

The provisional programme arranged for 2026 is

January: video on the history of printing. Alan Phillips is also arranging a group meal out on Wednesday 14th January.

February: talk by Roger Osborn on autograph collecting and other interests.

March: video on Marie Antoinette's watch.

April: visit to Alan Potter's house to see his vehicle Matchbox collection.

May: video on Chippendale furniture.

June: possible outside visit to be discussed nearer the time.

July: talk by Pam Whitfield on her archaeology experiences.

August: videos on Victorian mourning jewellery.

September: "Show and tell" when members bring along objects to talk about.

October: possible talk by David Palmer.

November: videos on portrait miniatures plus planning meeting.

December: no meeting.

Catherine Nixon

SPEAKER'S CORNER

At the January meeting, Dr Tony Berk will present a talk entitled

"City steeped in history"

The speaker at February's meeting will be Arthur Shelley and the subject is

"50 years in Met Police"

INTEREST GROUPS

Refreshment Rota



Jan 8th	French (Intermediate)
Feb 5th	Garden Visits
Mar 5th	History
Apr 2nd	In our time
May 7th	Ladies points of view

u3a learn, laugh, live

HELPFUL HINTS: HOW TO STAY YOUNG



1. Eat a healthy and balanced diet;
2. Take regular exercise; and
3. Lie about your age.

LOCAL EVENTS GROUP

Eleven members of the Local Events group headed off to the Prae Wood Arms on 2nd December for a Christmas lunch. It's our favourite venue - the food is always delicious and the venue itself is beautiful (and of course the company was great).

Pam Whitfield

STOP PRESS

Christmas Cracker
at Cadogan Hall
Saturday 5th December 2026





CHRISTMAS AT CHISWELL GREEN u3a 2025

The Chiswell Green u3a Christmas Party appeared to be enjoyed by all those who attended. The success of the party was due to all those who were able to help prior to the party and on the day. From the committee a big **thank you** to you all. The photograph above and the one on page three show the majority of those attending.

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 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

Waiting list

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

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.**

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

Selling: January

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.

“JACK & SARAH”

at

The Mill at Sonning

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

Tuesday 28th April 2026—BEAULIEU

Selling: January

**AN INCLUSIVE TICKET TO GIVE ACCESS TO:-
The National Motor Museum**

From the earliest motor carriages to classic family saloons, the world-famous National Motor Museum has one of the finest collections of cars, motorcycles and motoring memorabilia in the world. Latest attraction is “*We Had One Of Those*” showcasing some of the most popular cars from the 1960s through to the noughties and beyond.

Palace House & Gardens

Palace House, once the gatehouse of the medieval Beaulieu Abbey, has been the Montagu family home since 1538. In an idyllic New Forest setting, overlooking the picturesque Beaulieu River millpond, Palace House was remodelled and extended during the 1800s and is now a fine example of a Victorian country house. Inside, its ecclesiastical heritage sets the grand gothic tone for a home bristling with character and adorned with family treasures, portraits, and memorabilia.

Beaulieu Abbey

This 800 year old Abbey was founded by King John in the 13th century before being destroyed on the orders of King Henry VIII in 1538. Owing to the efforts of the Montagu family ancestors, distant relations of these former kings, the now tranquil Abbey is a conserved ruin where visitors have enjoyed its peaceful setting and appreciated the achievements of its medieval builders.

The Secret Army Exhibition

Uncover Beaulieu’s history as a top secret training establishment for special agents of the Special Operations Executive (SOE) during World War Two.

Enjoy the Beaulieu grounds on the aerial “*Skytrain*” or via the open top veteran bus.

NOTE: the coach journey is approximately **two hours**.

Depart Greenwood Park: 9:30am

Depart for home: approx 4:30pm

Cost: £40.00

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2026

February 11th	Golden Oldies on <i>Tereza Joanne</i>	See details	Waiting list
March 26th	“Barnum” at Aylesbury Waterside Theatre	See details	Waiting list
April 28th	Beaulieu Trip	See details	Selling: January
May 9th	“Jack & Sarah” at The Mill at Sonning	See details	Selling: January
July	Thames River Cruise	details to follow	
August 27th	Peacocks Auctioneers	details to follow	
September	To be announced		
December 5th	Christmas Cracker at Cadogan Hall	details to follow	

... *and finally*

You are never too old to set another goal or to dream a new dream.