

Hi everyone!

SONNING THEATRE VISIT

A full coach left Greenwood Park early as per instructed by Joy, our trusty Trips Coordinator, on its way to Sonning for lunch and a show at the Mill. This trip has been run several times before, but as a "newbie", I wasn't too sure what to expect.

As we arrived there was a very skilful backing manoeuvre into the car park by our driver. Many comments from the passengers of "I wouldn't be able to back my car in there" and "So glad we came by coach!" before we disembarked and went into the bar!

An excellent lunch was partaken (I particularly liked the bread-and-butter pudding!) before we took our seats in the adjoining theatre.

The theatre itself is much like a small amphitheatre with the stage already set up and no curtains. There was someone who looked as if he was mending the set, however it turned out it was one of the actors "setting the scene" as a builder.

Jack and Sarah is a dramatization of the film of the same name. Jack (George Banks) is a bereaved father to new born baby, Sarah. He has to juggle his own grief with bringing up Sarah with some help from his "friends". Sounds a bit morbid but it was done with lots of laughter and a few surprises including Rufus Hound (William) who suddenly appeared from underneath a dust sheet where he had been lying since before the doors opened to the theatre!! Made us all jump! He played a down and out who had been sleeping in a skip, but had found the front door absent to Jack's house and being a little worse for wear had decided that the sofa under the dust sheet was more comfortable!

During the interval, we watched the stage crew change the builders' mess into a stylish dwelling that Jack and his wife, Sarah, had envisaged. The story continued to a happy ending for Jack and baby Sarah with a few twists on the way.

I thoroughly enjoyed the whole experience and if Joy runs the trip again – you'll have to fight me for the first place in the queue!! Thank you Joy!

Sarah Duggan

LOCAL EVENTS GROUP

Recently, the Local Events group enjoyed a great trip to Hatfield House which was holding a four day event of "Living Crafts". This event showcased contemporary arts and crafts by some of the UK's acclaimed designers and makers; showing their skills with materials such as ceramics, wood, metal, glass, paint and creating jewellery, pottery, furniture and original artwork.

The group said it was worth the visit and the standard of the work was excellent.



SPEAKER'S CORNER

There is no speaker at this month's meeting

* * * * *

In July the speaker will be Dr Peter Altman whose subject is

"50s and 60s"

Ageing is weird.

You are enthusiastic kid at heart, but inside an antique body.

INTEREST GROUPS Refreshment Rota



Jun 4th	Local Events/London Walks
Jul 2nd	Needles & Pins
Aug 6th	Paper Crafts
Sep 3rd	Photography 1
Oct 1st	Photography 2

Calling all new members to a New Members' Meeting

The committee invites all new members for coffee and cake on Wednesday, 15th July 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

u3a learn, laugh, live

Don't take life too seriously.
You will never get out alive.

Elbert Hubbard

PHOTOGRAPHS FROM BEAULIEU TRIP



LOCAL HISTORY

At the beginning of the Second World War, the British Secret Services had several establishments around the United Kingdom, that were involved in monitoring foreign nationals and governments among other various nefarious operations. St Albans was considered an ideal location for some of these operations due to the closeness to London, its safety from potential air raids, and its superior radio reception for communication.

Locally, the Secret Intelligence Services (SIS or MI6) had commandeered Glenalmond, a mansion in King Harry Lane, and Prae Wood Arms on the Redbourn Road. Due to the Blitz, in 1941 MI6's Section V moved out of London to St Albans and was known as War Station XB, the head of which was Kim Philby - later exposed as a Soviet spy - with Graham Greene - the famous author - his deputy. The prime function of War Station XB was to gather information about German agents and their organisations. During this time, it is believed that Philby was living in property close to the King Harry pub. He was a frequent visitor to the pub to socialise and cultivate friendships with his MI6 colleagues. Section V's central registry was based at the Prae Wood Arms; this enabled Philby, via his drinking colleagues, to gain access to highly classified sources containing details of British agents and operations in the Soviet Union.

In 1943 Section V returned to London, and Glenalmond became a training centre for 120 French personnel, in preparation for the D-Day invasion, and then to assist French resistance groups.

Gorhambury House was used by the Special Operations Executive (SOE) to transmit coded messages to operatives in occupied countries throughout Europe.

Footnote: On the recent trip to Beaulieu Estates, some of the CGu3a members may have seen the exhibition that was devoted to the lives of two SOE agents who were trained there. During WWII the Beaulieu Estate was one of the establishments used by the SOE to train of some 3,000 agents in sabotage, espionage and security techniques.

Dave Brennan

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

February 10th 2027

Golden Oldies (*Tereza Joanne*)

details to follow

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 can be made at our monthly meetings via Joy Dabson, Event Organiser, with payment by Bank Transfer (preferred option) or cheque.

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 by Bank Transfer (preferred option — account number ending 868) within **seven days**, or on the day they are booked with cheques made payable to **CGu3a Social Account**. Please ensure when writing cheques for Trips that you have filled it in EXACTLY correctly, and written your membership number on the reverse. If paying for more than one outing, please send separate Bank Transfers (preferred option) or separate cheques for each event.

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 1st July 2026—THAMES RIVER CRUISE

Waiting list

A three hour cruise on board the Caversham Lady through the scenic "*Wind in the Willows*" country which offers a relaxing journey along the picturesque Caversham and Mapledurham reaches of the River Thames. Guests enjoy a Cornish clotted Cream Tea while passing iconic spots like Reading's three bridges, riverside homes, parklands, and the tranquil meanders of the river. The cruise continues, turning at Mapledurham lock & weir, where Mapledurham House, thought to have inspired Toad's home in *Wind in the Willows*, is nestled. The area is renowned for its stunning scenery and serene atmosphere, making it a delightful experience for nature lovers.

The Caversham Lady is a single deck vessel, which has excellent all round visibility and has easy access with a large open foredeck. The Cream Tea includes home made plain and fruit scones, Cornish clotted cream, jam and tea/coffee, served at lunch time. Bar available – **NOTE:** card only.

Please notify Joy if you have any dietary issues when booking.

Depart Greenwood Park: 10:00am

Depart for home: approx 3:30pm

Cost: £51.00

Thursday 27th August 2026—W&H PEACOCKS AUTIONEERS

Waiting list

Auction Insight Evening

The return of one of our favourites. This visit has proved very popular in the past, with much laughter - just what we need.

On arrival we will be welcomed with a glass of wine or juice, and the visit will begin with a short introduction to W&H Peacock and its history.

We will then be invited downstairs - there is a lift - to take part in a light hearted valuation competition. Another chance to see how good you are before we go back upstairs for a light supper and discussion.

Please tell Joy if you are gluten-free when booking.



Please note: This is an evening trip.

Depart Greenwood Park: 5.00pm

Depart for home: approx 9.00pm

Cost: £33.00

**Wednesday 16th September 2026—COACH ONLY TRIP
to SOUTHSEA/PORTSMOUTH**

Selling June

NOTE: Travel time 2hrs approx. Stopping points at Portsmouth dockyard or Southsea promenade. A few ideas for your day could be:-

SOUTHSEA

Stroll along the Esplanade; Sit in the sun, paddle and have fish and chips; Visit Southsea Castle on Clarence Esplanade (Free!)

Visit The D-Day Story This is told in four parts. Your visit begins on board Landing Craft Tank 7074 – the last surviving LCT from D-Day. Next, witness the Preparation galleries, to learn more about the planning that went into the operation. D-Day, and the Battle of Normandy follows – taking you back to 6 June. Finally, conclude your visit at the Legacy gallery and Overlord Embroidery, to see the awe-inspiring stitched panels that tell the story of D-Day.

Booked advance online - seniors £12.70 - at the door £14.00

PORTSMOUTH HISTORICAL DOCKYARD

If there is enough interest for a group of 12+ it may be possible to book for a group price (£36) to give access to all the attractions including:-

Mary Rose; HMS Warrior; HMS M.33; HMS Victory; Victory Live: The Big Repair; Victory Gallery
Museums – Submarine; Royal Navy; Naval firepower; + more



Depart Greenwood Park: 9.30am Depart for home: approx 5.30pm Cost coach only: £20

Saturday 5th December 2026—CHRISTMAS CRACKER at the CADOGAN HALL Selling June

Christmas music couldn't feel more at home than at the cosy Cadogan Hall, located in the heart of Chelsea. The Royal Philharmonic Orchestra don woolly white beards and bobbed hats to bring a sackful of festive orchestral delights.

Conductor Stephan Bell and two guest vocalists make perfect Christmas Elves as they magic up some Yuletide spirit with blazing brass fanfares, Christmas chart toppers old and new and sing-a-long carols including a resounding "five gold rings" from the entire hall.

Doors open 2.15 pm. An array of drinks, sandwiches, treats and snacks will be available in the bars before; note space is limited and service may be slow. Payment by card only. Ice cream will be on sale during the interval.

NOTE: Our very good seats are in the Gallery overlooking the stage, there will be one flight of stairs and **NO** lift.

Depart Greenwood Park: 1.00pm Depart for home: 5.30pm Cost: £40.00

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.**

... *and finally*

Grey man is how I describe my friend from Germany.
How would I describe my friend from Iceland?