

Hi everyone!

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR ALL MEMBERS

At the January Members' Meeting Tony Jackson, our Chair, provided the following insight into some changes being applied by Lloyds Bank which will impact CGu3a financial processes and the way members payments are handled.

FORTHCOMING CHANGE

Firstly, I have to say that our Treasurer John Smith has guided the committee in considerations to assist our finances but some things related to banking are out of our control and affect the way we do things.

At this time we must however draw your attention to a change which affects us. Lloyds Bank is introducing a range of charges on payments into and out of accounts. The committee will attempt to minimize the impact, but as members you need to be made aware that the use of cheques will begin to incur a charge to the CGu3a. There is also an expectation that cheques will in time be phased out completely.

Some u3as already reject the use of cheques in favour of Bank Transfers. We do have an increasing number of members who pay their annual membership by Bank Transfer and we need to move in that direction. We will not exercise this as a requirement in the forthcoming membership renewal in March/April 2026, but we do encourage you to utilise the Bank Transfer method of payment. This will also be phased in for payments for trips and group activities where appropriate.

Whilst necessary to our u3a cost management, we do realise this is a significant change for some of you. Unfortunately it is unavoidable, but please don't worry about it...we will look to provide guidance to anyone with concerns.

Tony Jackson

BOOKING HOLIDAYS?

When considering holidays, it maybe to your advantage to check some of the travel agent advertisements that appear in the "u3amatters" magazine. As well as offering you a possible discount, a contribution from the booking agent could also come back to your u3a.

SPEAKER'S CORNER

At the February meeting, Arthur Shelley will present a talk entitled

"50 years in Met Police"

The speaker at March's meeting will be Fred Finn and the subject is

"World's most travelled man"

INTEREST GROUPS Refreshment Rota



Feb 5th
Mar 5th
Apr 2nd
May 7th
Jun 4th

Garden Visits
History
In our time
Ladies points of view
Local events/London
Walks



Mr Wan Gi Lee (left) with John Smith

Our Xmas charity raised a nett £450. Mr Wan Gi Lee of the Salvation Army (St Albans) expressed his thanks and gratitude for the donation, and at our January meeting gave a brief presentation about how the Salvation Army operates.

WINGS & WHEELS GROUP

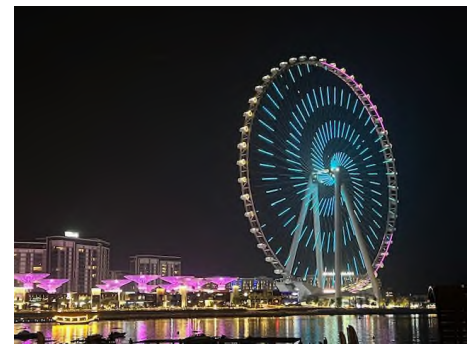
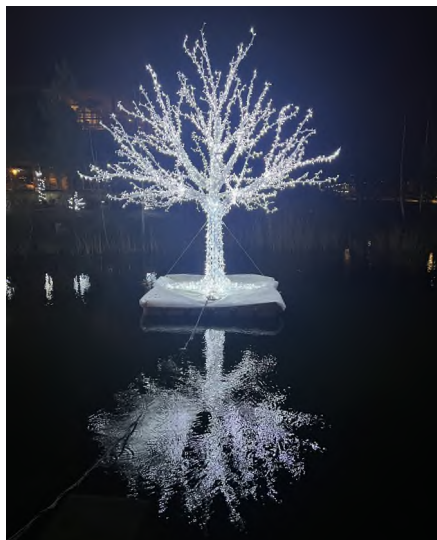
The Group visited the London Transport Museum Acton Depot. This is very different from the public Museum at Covent Garden. This is essentially the storage Depot and repository for the Museum artefacts from tiny items up to buses, Underground trains and other large artefacts. It is not open to the public other than a few open days per year and private group visits like ours. The collection is vast with so many varied items from tickets, ticket machines, station signs, station furniture, electronic signalling equipment and anything and everything that has been used on the transport system or for the management of the system. It even includes semi buildings like ticket booths from stations and the original wrought iron entrance facade to Kensington High Street Station. This is the most fascinating behind the scenes part of London Transport heritage. We had a wonderful guide to inform us about exhibits and were also shown some of the old Underground motor and braking systems being restored and in operation. Another excellent day out.



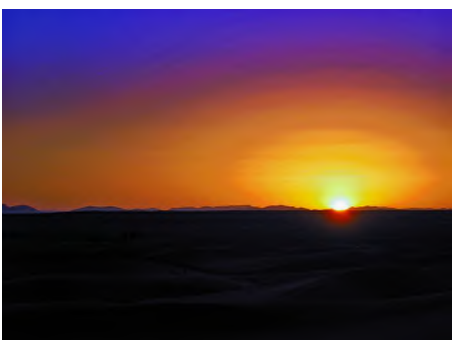
Alan Potter

PHOTOGRAPHY 1

At January's meeting the "show and tell" group was Photography 1 at which a number of photographs taken by the members were displayed. Below is a selection of their work. All the photographs are subject to copyright by their respective owners. All Rights reserved.



SHOWCASE 2026



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) 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. Cheques 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 via our website or email (trips@chiswellgreenu3a.org.uk). All 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*.

"BARNUM"

**at
Waterside Theatre**

Depart Greenwood Park: 12.00pm

Depart for home: approx 5.00pm

Cost: £53.00

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.**

Tuesday 28th April 2026—BEAULIEU

Selling: February

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

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

Selling: February

Bookings open to family and friends

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.

"JACK & SARAH"

at

The Mill at Sonning

Depart Greenwood Park: 10:30am

Depart for home: approx 5:00pm

Cost: £83.00

Wednesday 1st July 2026—THAMES RIVER CRUISE

Selling: February

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

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2026

August 27th Peacocks Auctioneers

details to follow

September To be announced

December 5th Christmas Cracker at Cadogan Hall

details to follow