

Hi everyone!

IN OUR TIME GROUP

Our group has now been meeting for several months and is proving to be very interesting and enjoyable. Each month we look at a particular year and talk about the outstanding events of that year - for instance 1953 was memorable because it was the Coronation year. We could all remember the celebrations, the street parties and people buying their first television set in order to watch the event live on a very small screen.

It has been a joy to listen to our members - to hear their memories, what they were doing in whichever year is that month's focus. Most of the memories we have shared have been exciting, happy or funny - just occasionally sad.

We would like to share one of those memories with you all.

The year is 1966 and you all immediately think 'World Cup'. So did we - until Maggie told us about her year. Maggie was working in *Sally's*, a florist's shop in Whetstone, Middlesex. She had started there as a Saturday girl, aged 14 and still at school. She worked hard and trained. When she married she continued to go there to help out with wedding orders - right up to a few days before her first baby arrived unexpectedly early! 1965-66 saw *Interflora* hold their very first 'Designer of the Year' competition and guess who won - Maggie. She was presented with the fabulous silver cup that you can see her holding in the photograph. If you are sharp eyed you will see the photograph is on the cover of the 1968 magazine - because she won it again that year. Well done Maggie.



Who knew we had such talent in our midst. What else are our u3a members keeping under wraps!!

Pam Whitfield

SPEAKER'S CORNER

The speaker at May's meeting will be Andrew Baker and the subject is

"Charles Dickens"

There is no speaker at June's meeting

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

"50s and 60s"

INTEREST GROUPS Refreshment Rota



May 7th
Jun 4th

Jul 2nd
Aug 6th
Sep 3rd

Ladies' Points of View
Local Events/London
Walks
Needles & Pins
Paper Crafts
Photography 1

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

NEEDLES & PINS GROUP

At our March Needles & Pins meeting, we had a group session on "how to make a simple tote bag". Almost everyone took up the challenge to make at least one bag. The photograph shows several of the finished bags, including a number made by Sandra (who has so far completed ten!!!).

Janis Brennan



WOULD YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO?

How many of us have witnessed someone having a cardiac arrest? Did you know what action to take?

Be ready for that day. Learn about "Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and what to do" with this 15 minute online tutorial, **RevivR**. This is a fast, free and easy-to-use online tool from the British Heart Foundation. Go to www.bhf.org.uk or the CGu3a web site under "Links" then "Other Useful Resources".

GARDEN VISITS GROUP



No matter how often you see a carpet of bluebells spread throughout a forest, it is a breathtaking experience. So a repeat visit by the Garden Visits group to Heartwood Forest at Sandridge did not disappoint. After an uphill walk from the car park as soon as you enter the forest there is a sea of blue. Bluebells are now protected so lines of rope discourage people from walking over them. Some took the opportunity to walk further into another wood, but we all met up again for a short drive to the John Bunyan pub for some lunch. We had booked beforehand; the landlord made us very welcome and complemented us on being a very friendly group. Another very enjoyable trip by the group.

Val Orchard



.... AND NOW FOR SOMETHING DIFFERENT

This May is the centenary of the General Strike in United Kingdom. The cause of the strike was in part due to a dispute between coal miners and mine owners. In the early 1920s coal was "king". However by the mid 1920s, due to the growing economic depression, the sales of coal declined. Added to this was the revaluation of the pound, and later, the availability of cheaper coal from abroad. To offset the lack of sales (profit?) of UK coal, the mine owners proposed that miners worked longer hours for less pay. Naturally, the miners said NO.

The miners were in a triple alliance with National Union of Railwaymen and National Transport Workers Federation; thereby an attack on one was an attack on all. In 1925 despite making concessions to the miners, there was still a threat of a General Strike. The Government was involved in negotiations between the miners and the mine owners. A Royal Commission (chaired by Sir Herbert Samuel) reported in March 1926 which suggested a major reorganisation of the coal industry with a significant reduction of miners' wages. With nothing further from the Government, the Trades Union Congress (TUC) convened a meeting of executives of the affiliated unions that agreed support for a General Strike.

The General Strike was 4th to 12th May 1926, and had consequences throughout the UK. Approximately 2.5 million people went out on strike out of a total trade union membership of an estimated six million. At that time the national population was estimated at 45.2 million. Workers from other industries such as printing, building, gas and electricity supported the strike, however workers from essential food supplies and other services were not called out.

Are you aware how the General Strike affected your grandparents and their siblings? Were any of your ancestors directly involved with the General Strike?

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) 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.

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

Waiting list

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

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

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.**

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 May

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