

2026 September Number 147

www: chiswell-green.u3asite.uk

Hi everyone!

GP TRAVEL EXPERIENCE

In early 2025, GP Travel Experience Group was formed with myself, Nick and Tina Photi as group leaders. Nick and Tina look after the VCV u3a members, and I do the same for Chiswell Green u3a. As you are aware Joy and Tony Dabson do an excellent job arranging day trips in the UK for the CGu3a members. We supplement this by arranging trips in Europe or longer stay breaks in the UK.

Our trips are administered and arranged on our behalf by carefully chosen agents. We advertise the trips to our respective group members for their consideration. To attend a chosen trip, members contact the agent direct from the contact shown in our communication, who then take on all payments and travel arrangements. This has worked well so far. The trips already successfully undertaken are:

<i>February 2025</i>	<i>French Riviera: included Menton Lemon Festival and Nice Battle of Flowers.</i>
<i>November 2025</i>	<i>Festive Yorkshire: included Halifax Piece Hall, Harewood House, Castle Howard, York City, Murder Mystery dinner, and Bomber Command Lincoln.</i>
<i>June 2026</i>	<i>Adriatic Discovery: stayed in Slovenia, visited Croatia, and Trieste in Italy.</i>

We have three future holidays arranged.

<i>September 2026</i>	<i>Bulgaria</i>
<i>November 2026</i>	<i>Liverpool and the North West</i>
<i>April 2027</i>	<i>Rhine in Flames</i>

Any member wishing to be included in future communications need to supply their name and membership number, either via my email link on our u3a website or in person at the monthly meetings.

Adrian Wilson

TAI CHI GROUP

Members of Chiswell Green u3a Tai Chi group came together recently for an enjoyable class, this time it truly did capture the spirit of u3a: learning, laughter and friendship. The group tutor was unable to attend this event, so the group planned and held a class anyway enjoying themselves with each other's company and utilising memorised Tai Chi exercises.

Chris Bladd

The photograph shows the friendly atmosphere that makes u3a such a valued part of community life. For many members, the classes are not only a chance to learn, but also a way to stay connected, active and involved.



SPEAKERS' CORNER

At September's meeting the speaker will be Duncan Hess. His talk will be

"40 year career at the BBC"

In October the speaker will be Mr William French. His talk will be

"My experiences as a Royal Navy Steward to royalty and the stars"

INTEREST GROUPS Refreshment Rota



Sep 3rd	Photography 1
Oct 1st	Photography 2
Nov 5th	Pickleball
Dec 3rd	Xmas Party
Jan 7th	Play Reading
Feb 4th	Quiz

CALLING ALL GROUP ORGANISERS

The committee invites all Group Organisers to a coffee and chat morning on Wednesday, 21st October 10.30 at the Park Street Baptist Church Hall, Penn Road, St Albans, AL2 2QF. As usual the coffee and cakes will be of a very high standard.

Chiswell Green u3a Committee

STOP PRESS

**SONNING MILL THEATRE
3RD OCTOBER 2027**

Further details next month

COMMITTEE ANNOUNCEMENT

The committee are delighted to welcome Debra Couch to the Chiswell Green u3a committee.

Having expressed an interest, Debra attended and participated in the July committee meeting following which she accepted a formal invitation to join becoming the 12th committee member thereby bringing it to full strength.

In the coming months Debra will not be assigned a specific role, but will participate in all committee matters and stand for formal election at the AGM in May.

Debra Couch



I was born and raised in Hertfordshire and have lived in the local area for the past 40 years. I am married and have two sons, both of whom grew up here and attended local schools. Before retiring I spent 30 years working in public facing roles in the city centre, which I very much enjoyed. It also gave me the opportunity to meet many lovely people along the way.

I keep busy with a variety of hobbies including sewing, knitting, flower arranging, reading and gardening, as well as keeping fit. I was delighted to be accepted onto the committee and am really looking forward to getting involved and doing my part to support the work of my fellow committee members and our u3a membership.

WALKING GROUP

On 31st July 12 members of the walking group explored Hemel Hempstead. Starting at Gadebridge Park, we briefly visited the memorial garden for stillborn babies before going into St Mary's Church. Next, we visited the Charter Garden which provided a "wow" factor (see photo). After looking at the Charter Tower dating from the 16th century we progressed along the River Gade to the Waterside Gardens, including the Egyptian-inspired sloping gardens located opposite Bank Court. We stopped for refreshments at The Full House (the old Odeon cinema) and then entered the "Old Town" with its many historic buildings, including the Town Hall and the Corn Exchange which both date from the 1850's. Reminders of Hemel Hempstead's coaching history were indicated by the archways that once gave access to stables located at the rear of the many coaching inns. The weather was warm and sunny, and a leisurely walk was enjoyed by all.

Chris Chalkley



WINGS & WHEELS GROUP

In July the Group visited the Shuttleworth Collection near Biggleswade, Bedfordshire. Established by Richard Ormonde Shuttleworth who inherited the family estate from his late father in 1932. He was fascinated by flying, motor racing and all forms of transport and built a large collection, now maintained and cared for by the Shuttleworth Trust. He sadly died when his Fairy Battle aircraft crashed at RAF Benson in 1940. His mother Dorothy established the trust in memory of her son. The Shuttleworth Collection is a treasure trove of airworthy vintage aircraft from 1909-1950, as well as historical agricultural and steam exhibits, veteran cars, classic motorcycles, bicycles, vintage buses and carriages. Unlike a static museum, almost all the collection's aircraft fly (including Edwardian aircraft, like the 1909 Blériot) and vehicles, motorbikes, buses and steam exhibits run. There are many other artefacts of transport, and all exhibits are housed in bright clean hangars and buildings. This is a fascinating establishment which has a superb collection and an operational grass airfield. In addition, it also has nine acres of beautiful gardens known as the "Swiss Gardens". The Aircraft Collection includes a Blériot from 1909, through the first World War and the second World War up to a Percival Provost aircraft from the 1950's. The lunch in their restaurant was also very good and we had a great day out.

Alan Potter



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 16th September 2026—COACH ONLY TRIP to SOUTHSEA/PORTSMOUTH Waiting List

NOTE: Travel time 2hrs approx. Stopping points at Portsmouth dockyard or Southsea promenade.

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: £20.00

Tuesday 24th November 2026—ROYAL OPERA HOUSE

Selling September

Behind the Scenes Tour + Free time to explore Covent Garden Market

In the morning there is time to enjoy Covent Garden Market, perhaps buy a Special Xmas present for a loved one, window shop, or enjoy lunch at one of the many eateries. At this time, Christmas in Covent Garden has a world-famous festive magic and is home to an iconic 55ft Christmas Tree, giant bells and baubles within the Market Building plus canopies of light surrounding the Seven Dials' monument.

We meet in the cloakroom area (Bow Street entrance) of the Royal Opera House at 1.45 pm for our guided tour which lasts 75 mins. This takes a look in the areas that are normally off-limits to the public, possibly including rehearsal studios, costumes and production workshops.

This tour takes you through different areas of the theatre, including long corridors, stairs, escalators and lifts. Because it is a working theatre, there are areas that won't always be available to us, which means each tour will take a different route. The spaces we travel through can sometimes be busy and loud.

Note:- The coach drop off/pick up point is a short distance from Covent Garden Market.

Depart Greenwood Park: 10.00am Depart for home: 4.00pm approx Cost: £ 36.00

Saturday 5th December 2026—CHRISTMAS CRACKER at the CADOGAN HALL Waiting List

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 Stephen 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

Wednesday February 10th, 2027—GOLDEN OLDIES on Tereza Joanne Selling October

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 8th September 2027—CHICAGO at MILTON KEYES THEATRE Waiting list
matinee performance 2.30pm

PLEASE NOTE THE DATE IS 2027. Good circle seats

Set amidst the razzle dazzle of the 1920's "**Chicago**" is the story of Roxie Hart, a housewife and nightclub dancer who murders her "on the side" lover after he threatens to walk out on her. Desperate to avoid conviction she dupes the public, the media and her cell companion with the help of her lawyer.

Contains many iconic songs and amazing dance routines including "Razzle dazzle", "All that jazz" and "Cell block Tango".

Depart Greenwood Park: 1.00pm Depart for home: approx 5.00pm Cost: £52.00

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

Whilst summer is not completely over, autumn is just round the corner, and the song *Autumn Leaves* comes to mind. Although with the hot summer we have had, some of the trees are shedding their leaves early to conserve moisture. *Autumn Leaves* is the English version of a 1945 French song "Les Feuilles mortes" (The Dead Leaves) which was part of a ballet. The tune of *Autumn Leaves* is a classic jazz standard for instrumental interpretations, however the most popular vocal rendition was by Nat King Cole from 1955.