

2026 October Number 148

www: chiswell-green.u3asite.uk

Hi everyone!

GARDEN VISIT GROUP

The challenge facing the Garden Visits Organisers was "Where do you go during a drought"? The answer was "Stay Local".

Reveley Lodge is a Grade II listed building located in the heart of Bushey Heath. It is managed by Reveley Lodge Trust, established to preserve the house and gardens and to provide an arts and education resource for the local community.

Due to the drought conditions it would be true to say that our expectation was realistically not it's usual high. However the garden was thoughtfully designed to move smoothly from one area to another, from the herbaceous borders, through the rose garden and past the pond (sadly rather dry at present) into the woodland walk, across the meadow, past the beehives and through the kitchen garden. What caught our interest was the apple tree still alive but with a hollow trunk.



There are two sundials in the grounds but most attention was drawn to the Human Sunclock made from Portland Stone and dug into the meadow. There are two circles of stones representing the clock; the outer circle being Greenwich Mean Time (GMT) and the inner circle British Summer Time (BST). The central stone has each of the months marked so that on a sunny day standing on the appropriate month, a raised arm casts a shadow over the correct time. The only similar Sunclocks in the UK are at Chatsworth, House, Blenheim Palace, Longleat and Lincoln Castle.

Remarkably entry is free of charge and in honoured tradition the visit of a contented group was rounded off in the aptly named "Secret Garden Cafe".

Tony Jackson

SPEAKERS' CORNER

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"

In November the speaker will be John Kinory and his talk is entitled

"Life and Times as a film extra"

INTEREST GROUPS Refreshment Rota



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

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

Thought for the day

Real friends don't always solve your problems. Sometimes those real friends just make you laugh long enough to forget them.



LOCAL EVENTS GROUP

On Saturday, 22nd August, six members of the Local Events Group took our seats in Berkhamsted's Centenary Theatre, only to find two other u3a members sitting behind us.

We waited enthusiastically for the musical "Footloose" to begin. Many of you will have seen Footloose way back when either on stage or in the cinema. We were not disappointed. The show was spectacular, featuring strong singers and talented dancers strutting their stuff to expertly choreographed routines.

We all left the theatre hugely uplifted, none more so than Pauline Snoad because her grandson is one of the dancers in the Smash Arts theatre company who staged the show.

If you don't want to miss the summer production next year, just keep in touch with Pauline.
Barbara Gerwien



W&H PEACOCK VISIT

This is CGu3a fifth time of going to Peacocks Auctioneers for their preview evening. It was greatly anticipated and certainly didn't disappoint. It's one of my favourite u3a outings.

I think most of us were bewildered by our coach journey, which took us the long way round to the M1, joining the motorway in Hemel, having gone via the M25 and A41; maybe the driver knew something we didn't and acted accordingly.

On arrival, we were warmly greeted by Peacocks staff, offered a welcome drink, an introduction to the world of auctions, before we started our quest to value 16 different lots being offered for sale in that week's auction. The lots included items such as a Harley Davison motor bike, two large plastic garden gnomes, car tyres and a ghastly wax work head! I had no idea for any of them and just wildly guessed. I managed one "almost nearly" valuation but for the rest, I was way out.

Later as we ate our delicious buffet provided by Peacocks staff, the auctioneers' estimates were revealed and the person who got the most right received a prize. On this evening it was Bill Jones - well done.

Thanks Joy for organising another great outing. It was a fun evening.

Janis Brennan

See below the Peacock's valuation and the actual sale of those items we viewed (*sale price not known)

Item	Peacock £ Value	Actual £ Sale	Item	Peacock £ Value	Actual £ Sale
1 2007 Harley Davidson Sportster	3-4.5K	4K	9 Pair of garden gnomes	80-120	140
2 Andreas Feller double bass	80-120	120	10 Pair of M Grierson executive chairs	600-800	*
3 Gio @5 lighting control deck	1-2K	1.5K	11 L & J Tussaud waxwork head	250-300	220
4 Pallet of mixed clothing	100-200	260	12 Pair of Edwardian silver entrée dishes	4-6K	4.2K
5 Eufy robotic vacuum cleaner	150-200	110	13 18ct gold Jaeger-Le Coultre wristwatch	4.5-5K	4.2K
6 JPC HP12 mini excavator	2-3K	2.9K	14 Bottle of 1994 Grahams port	40-60	*
7 Set of 3 wheels and trims	250-300	95	15 2026 edition Pikachu Pokemon card	300-400	*
8 Geometric design rug	60-80	40	16 Group of "Onion" pattern tableware	150-200	260

FAMILY HISTORY GROUPS

TV programmes such "Who do you think you are?", "Heir Hunters" and "Long Lost Families" have sparked people's interest in family history.

CGu3a has two active groups that are interested in genealogy and are tracing their ancestors. The groups meet on the first and third Wednesday of the month. Everyone has said that they wish they had started their projects when they were much younger, and had listened more intently at the family gatherings of their grandparents.

"DNA testing is bringing the era of family secrets to a close. When a surprise is uncovered, lives can change forever."

Three drunk guys entered a taxi. The taxi driver knew they were drunk, so he started the engine and then switched it off again. He told them "We have arrived." The first guy gave him the money and the second guy said "Thank you". The third guy hit the driver. The driver was shocked, thinking that the third drunk knew what he had done. The driver asked "What was that for?". The third guy replied

"CONTROL YOUR SPEED NEXT TIME, you nearly killed us!" 😊

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 Tippetdell 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.

Tuesday 24th November 2026—ROYAL OPERA HOUSE

Waiting List

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: approx 4.00pm 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

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.**

2027 TRIPS

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
matinee performance 2.30pm**

Waiting list

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

**Sunday 3rd October 2027—SONNING MILL THEATRE
"I'll be back before midnight" matinee thriller**

Selling November

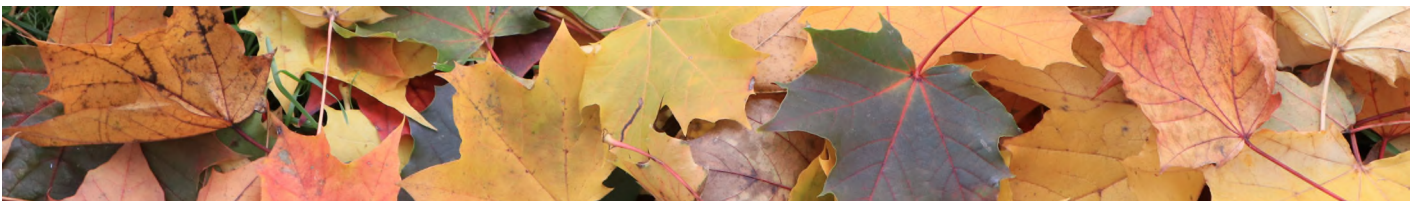
When Jan and her husband, Greg, rent an isolated farmhouse in the country, it seems the perfect place to escape the pressures of everyday life - but all is not as it seems.

A brilliantly entertaining afternoon of suspense that will keep you on edge right up to the final moment. A two course meal with several choices is provided, and all seats are in the centre block.

Depart Greenwood Park: 10.30am Depart for home: approx 5.00pm

Cost: £84.00

includes coach, driver's tip



...and finally with Xmas just around the corner

1. Since the beginning of September there has been a tv channel showing only Christmas films;
2. Are you aware that it is less than three months to Christmas;
3. Do not forget to pick up your Christmas party ticket at the next general meeting - 5 November.