CHISWELL GREEN NEWSLETTER

2026 November Number 149 www: chiswell-green.u3asite.uk

Hi everyone!

CYCLING GROUP

With the glorious sunshine and blue skies continuing into October, the Cycling Group took full advantage with two special rides both of which included an historical element. Travelling on a group ticket, we alighted at Greenwich and set off on the well maintained cycle path along the Thames embankment past the Flood Barrier, through Woolwich and on to Tripcock Point which was the scene of Britain's worst waterway disaster (3rd September 1878). The Princess Alice pleasure steamer collided with a coal vessel, resulting in the deaths of more than 600 passengers who were flung into the murky river. We also took advantage of a return trip on the Woolwich Ferry which is still free for both vehicles and passengers.



On our previous trip, we visited the grave of one of Britain's most famous war heroes, Field Marshal Alexander, a former Governor of Canada who oversaw the final stages of the Allied evacuation from Dunkirk and commanded the British Army at the capture of Sicily. He had asked for a quiet burial at St Margaret's Churchyard in the Hertfordshire village of Ridge close to the family's historic home at Tyttenhanger.

Bill Hamilton

PORTSMOUTH/SOUTHSEA TRIP

After an uneventful journey we arrived at Portsmouth before noon. There, a number of the party set off to visit the Naval Dockyard and old Portsmouth. Within the Dockyard site there is the Mary Rose Museum which brings the visitor closer to Tudor life. The hull stands reunited with thousand of authentic artefacts, and personal stories of its crew that lived and died on board. Also on the site are HMS Victory and HMS Warrior on which the visitor can wander around and envisage living conditions of those times.

The remainder of coach party went on to Southsea and the D-Day exhibition. This exhibition told the story of the events leading up to and including 6th June 1944 invasion, and after. Also included was a landing craft loaded with a Churchill tank and a Sherman tank. One of the most fascinating displays was the D-Day Embroidery consisting of 34 panels covering a length of 83 metres; each panel represented a particular aspects concerning the D-Day invasion. The design and workmanship of the embroidered panels were stunning.

Photographs page 4. Everyone enjoyed their day. Thanks Joy.

SPEAKERS' CORNER

In November the speaker will be Stuart Nagler and his talk is entitled

"Policing Crime and Justice"

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No speaker at December's meeting

INTEREST GROUPS Refreshment Rota



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

Survey results of potential trips for 2027

POTENTIAL TRIPS	TICKS	RANK
Syon House	59	1
Highgate Cemetery	55	2
Delapre Abbey	53	3
Hampton Court Tulip Festival	49	4
Brick Lane Music Hall	47	5
Christmas Lights in Kew Gardens	42	6
Guided Tour of Coventry Cathedral	41	7
Christmas Cracker at Cadogan Hall	39	8
Behind the Seams Tour – Strictly Clothes	39	9
Music Concert - Evening	35	10
Afternoon tea/tour the Mill at Sonning	34	11
Music Concert - Daytime	33	12
ZERO 2 Bus Museum	23	13



FLOWER ARRANGING GROUP

This Group meets every first Wednesday of the month at Park Street Baptist Church, Penn Road, near How Wood. The Leader is Sandra Harwood, her details can be found on the Chiswell Green Groups Info Sheet. We are always looking for new members who are interested in floral arranging. We are a novice group who learn from each other and have great fun making our creations while having a chat & cuppa. We choose a theme for each month i.e. fireworks, Christmas, Valentine, Easter, etc.... What is really interesting is that we may all come with very similar flowers, but all our arrangements are so different. This month was Harvest/ Autumn/Halloween. The photograph shows our vibrant, colourful creations for the month of October. We are a very friendly group, so if you would like to come along for an introductory session you will be more than welcomed. *Denise Manning*

WINGS & WHEELS GROUP

In September the group visited the Mossman collection at Stockwood Park at Luton. The collection was donated to the Luton Museum Service in 1991 (now Stockwood Discovery Centre, part of Luton Culture) and has examples of horse-drawn road vehicles and carriages used in Britain dating from Roman times up until the 1930s. The collection has examples of vehicles used by tradesmen and ordinary people, as well as luxury vehicles and state coaches used by the British nobility and on the large British estates. It also has a few Vauxhall cars built at the previous nearby factory, now sadly closed in 2025 after making vehicles there since 1905.

The George Mossman collection of 51 horse-drawn vehicles is the largest of its kind in the UK. George Mossman of Caddington, collected, drove and restored horse drawn carriages for over 50 years. He founded a leasing service which provided horse drawn vehicles for special occasions, filming and TV. Mossman was a self made man. On leaving school just after World War I, his first job was delivering meat in horse drawn vans to customers from Panters Butchers Shop in Park Street, St Albans! This lead to his life long involvement in collecting and driving horse-drawn vehicles.



Another pleasant day out complemented with lunch. *Alan Potter*

PHOTOGRAPHY 1 GROUP

Photography isn't about having a fancy camera, but about seeing something that you want to share with others. It might be a knitted top on a letter box at Christmas, sunlight on water, the shadow of a wonky fence: all of these can be snapped with the camera on your phone. Every photograph in our September "Black and White" Gallery (cgu3a.smugmug.com) was taken on a mobile phone, from the Palm House at Kew to the gun deck of HMS Victory, a piano keyboard to a Yoga poster.



Perhaps our group motto should be **"See it, Snap it, Share it".** Why not join us for a session and see for yourself?

John Jennings

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.***

Tuesday 24th November 2026—ROYAL OPERA HOUSE — Waiting List

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

SOLD OUT

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

SOLD OUT

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 bobbled 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

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

March 23rd	Syon House and Gardens	Details to follow
May 4th	Delapre Abbey	Details to follow

Wednesday February 10th, 2027—GOLDEN OLDIES on *Tereza Joanne* Waiting list

SOLD OUT

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.

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

SOLD OUT

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 Selling November
"I'll be back before midnight" matinee thriller

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

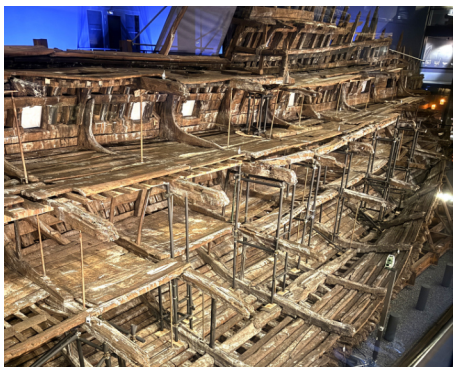


Southsea Castle and front

Portsmouth/Southsea Trip September 2026



D-Day Embroidery (panel 14)



Mary Rose

...and finally

Autumn; the most beautiful time of the year

between sun/heatstroke and frostbite.