

## CROYDON u3a BULLETIN

March 2024

Charity number: 1029466

[www.u3asites.org.uk/croydon](http://www.u3asites.org.uk/croydon)



We are delighted to have been selected to work with 2 students (Sherida (above with Jacqueline in the Darts & Pub Lunch group and Tess below joining in with the Line Dance group) from Utrecht University in The Netherlands. They are researching how membership of our organisation enables people to have more fulfilling lives : learning, laughing and living with friends.



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Croydon u3a  
QR Code



Find us at Croydon u3a

**Bulletin stop press:** The next Bulletin will be out late April early May 2024. Copy to Linda Grigsby, Bulletin Secretary [lindagrigsby17@gmail.com](mailto:lindagrigsby17@gmail.com), cc Jenny Wilson [jennywilson63@live.co.uk](mailto:jennywilson63@live.co.uk) by 20 April.

**To join a Zoom event email [jennywilson63@live.co.uk](mailto:jennywilson63@live.co.uk) mob. 07808 723686**



## Jenny Wilson– CHAIR



### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2024

Dear Member of Croydon u3a,

My kids used to ask me, ‘Mum what are you doing today?’ They know better now! I’m loving my life being involved on so many different u3a fronts.

This was why I jumped at the opportunity for us to be involved in research being undertaken by two students from Utrecht University. They are exploring the huge benefits of belonging, of having social contacts, of continued learning and keeping active. After the initial two introductory sessions at Chair Yoga and Tai Chi they thought they’d be a bit stiff the following day!! They will have been with us for nine weeks when they finish and will have met a wide selection of members, visited many groups and collected your u3a ‘stories’. They are already, after the first week, as I write this, so incredibly grateful to us for allowing them into our organisation and our lives.

I’ll share a funny here. On the initial schedule there were some Interest Groups I did not recognise. I thought perhaps they were going to spend time with another London u3a. After enquiring, I realised that there was a confusion with Croydon u3a, Melbourne, Australian. Hmm- I don’t think visits there will be possible and the time difference will make the on-line groups inaccessible. We had a laugh about that one!!

We also played a large role in the Trees4Croydon project and The 100 Faces of Croydon - see more information about both of these later in this issue. I believe getting involved in community and intergenerational projects and events gives us a wider purpose, gets the u3a name out there to the general public and makes excellent use of us as an organisation. So watch this space for the next thing we can get involved with.

Meanwhile keep as well as you can, keep moving and enjoy the Spring. I have just bought a book called ‘Get Off The Couch Before It’s Too Late’ by Hugh Bethell as recommended in Third Age Matters – see page 27.

Happy Moving,

Very Best wishes,

*Jenny*

DATE	EVENT	FURTHER DETAILS/ SPEAKER
<b><u>2024</u></b>		
Wed 13 Mar at 2.15pm	<b>GM</b> at Masonic Hall	Jennie Randall – local historian - “Not Forgotten” covers the V2 attack on The Crooked Billet pub in Bromley.
Mon 18 Mar at 7.30pm	Quiz night on Zoom	
Thurs 21 Mar	Members’ Lunch at McDermotts Fish & Chip Restaurant <b>FULL</b>	
Wed 10 Apr at 2.15 pm	<b>GM</b> at Masonic Hall	Ansel Wong on Windrush Generation
Mon 15 Apr	<b>Croydon u3a’s 37<sup>th</sup> Birthday</b>	
Wed 17 Apr	Outing to Beth Chatto Gardens <b>FULL</b>	
28/4-1/5	Amsterdam Break	<b>CANCELLED</b>
Wed 8 May at 2.15 pm	<b>GM</b> at Masonic Hall	Roberta Faccio talking on the Modern Architecture of London.
Wed 22 May	Outing to Osterley House and Park, Isleworth, Middx - Booking details in this Bulletin	
Wed 12 June at 2.15 pm	<b>GM</b> at Masonic Hall	Chinese Opera with Kathy Hall
Thurs 20 June	Outing to Whitstable Harbour & Castle <b>FULL</b>	
Wed 10 July at 2.15 pm	<b>GM</b> at Masonic Hall	Howard Slater on Sammy Davis Jnr
Tues 16 <sup>th</sup> July	Outing to Wattt’s Artists’ Village, and Loseley House Gardens - Booking details in this Bulletin	
August	<b>SUMMER OUTINGS</b> - Watch out for an outing by public transport, taking place each week in August. Details in the May Bulletin.	
Wed 14 Aug at 2.15 pm	<b>GM</b> at Masonic Hall	Michelle Ernoult on Around the Beehive.
Wed 4 Sept	Outing to RHS Wisley Gardens	Booking details in the May Bulletin
Wed 16 Oct	Members’ Lunch at El Patio, Selsdon	Booking details in the May Bulletin
25-27 Nov	Longleat Lights – 2 night break in Bath – details in May Bulletin	

**General Meetings: the formal part of the meeting starts at 2.15 pm. Please come earlier to enjoy tea, coffee, biscuits and a chat, or come for lunch. The Masonic Hall provides a special u3a menu at reasonable prices – order from the bar.**

## News From the Groups



### **Garden Visits 2024**

*This is an Open Group so any members welcome. All outings (except where noted) will meet on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month, at Forestdale Centre Car Park for 10.45 am, for a 11.00 am get away, returning approximately 5.00 pm to Forestdale Centre Car Park. Contact either Linda Grigsby on 07754 092042 OR Karen Hook on 07799 776684 if you are interested. A donation of £2.50 would be appreciated for the driver of the car you will be travelling in.*

**17 April 2024**  
**(Wednesday)**

**BETH CHATTO GARDENS, Colchester, CO7 7DB**

Admission price: £12.50, (GW 241 card), gift shop, refreshments, no cash payments, all card payments

**22 May 2024**  
**(4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday)**

**DOWNE HOUSE, Downe, Kent BR6 7JT (Was home of Charles Darwin),**

Admission price: £12.00 (£15 on the day), (GW 241 card, EH), gift shop, refreshments, no cash payments, all card payments

**19 June 2024**  
**(Wednesday)**

**HEVER CASTLE & GARDENS, Edenbridge, TN8 7NG**

Admission price: Group rate: Gardens only - £12.30/£14.55 Castle & Gardens (GW 241 card, NT); refreshments available, also gift shop

**17 July 2024**  
**(Wednesday)**

**BATEMANS, East Sussex TN19 7DS (was home to Rudyard Kipling)**

Admission price: £15 (NT, GW 241 card); refreshments, gift shop available

**21 Aug 2024**  
**(Wednesday)**

**ELTHAM PALACE, Greenwich, SE9 5NP**

Admission price: £14.50 (EH, GW 241 card); refreshments and gift shop available

**18 Sept 2024**  
**(Wednesday)**

**RIVERHILL HIMALAYAN GARDENS, Sevenoaks, TN15 0RR**

Admission £12 (RHS/GW 241 card); refreshments and shop available

## News From the Groups

# Wildflower Group Programme 2024

**4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month**



<b>Date</b>	<b>Venue</b>	<b>Meeting point, 10am</b>
March 25 <sup>th</sup>	Foxley Wood	Burwood Avenue, off Oaks Road, an extension of Northwood Avenue
April 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Kenley Common	Golf Road, off Hayes Lane
May 27 <sup>th</sup>	Happy Valley ( <i>Jane to lead</i> )	End of Chaldon Way, off Marlpit Lane
June 24 <sup>th</sup>	Roundshaw Down ( <i>Geoff to lead</i> )	Plough Lane, far end
July 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Riddlesdown	Eskdale Gardens
Aug 26 <sup>th</sup>	South Norwood Country Park	Car Park off Albert Road
Sept 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Hutchinson's Bank	Farley Dene Crescent
Oct 28 <sup>th</sup>	Fungus Foray, Bramley Bank and Heathfield	Far end of Croham Valley Road

Contact: Shirley Shephard, 0208 657 3144, email sandrshephard@hotmail.com

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Please bring the completed tear-off slip with you as I am required by U3A to have these details.

\*Name: .....

U3A Membership No:

\*Tel No:: ..... \*Emergency Tel No:: .....

Email address: .....

## News From the Groups

### Line Dancing Fun

Our Line Dancing Group is an enthusiastic group of beginners and intermediates who enjoy getting together on Friday mornings for a session at Shirley Methodist Church.

Line dancing is good for your physical mobility as well as making sure you concentrate on the steps but above all it's great fun and there are a lot of laughs. Don't worry about getting it wrong, we all do that! Line dancing is no longer about cowboy hats and boots, although we may use some of the same steps, we now dance to a variety of popular music.

We dance on the first and third Friday of every month at Shirley Methodist Church. We have to cover the cost of our instructor's time as well as the hire of the hall so at the moment each member pays £5 for each session so that we are able to cover our costs with an opportunity to dance for an extra half hour if you are a slightly more advanced line dancer.



If you would be interested in joining the group, do contact me on [joyellery@btinternet.com](mailto:joyellery@btinternet.com) or leave a message on 07710 244601.

## TRACING YOUR ANCESTORS

This small friendly group (previously called Family History) is looking to recruit extra members.

We meet on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday each month from 2.00 -3.30pm at Thornton Heath library in Brigstock Road. Local buses from Croydon stop right outside the library or Thornton Heath station is less than a 10-minute walk away.

We use the computers in the Library's IT suite and, if required, members can use my subscription to Ancestry for a nominal charge (currently £1). Other websites are available - but please note not all of these are free to use.



If you are interested in joining the group to learn a bit more about your ancestors, please contact me ...

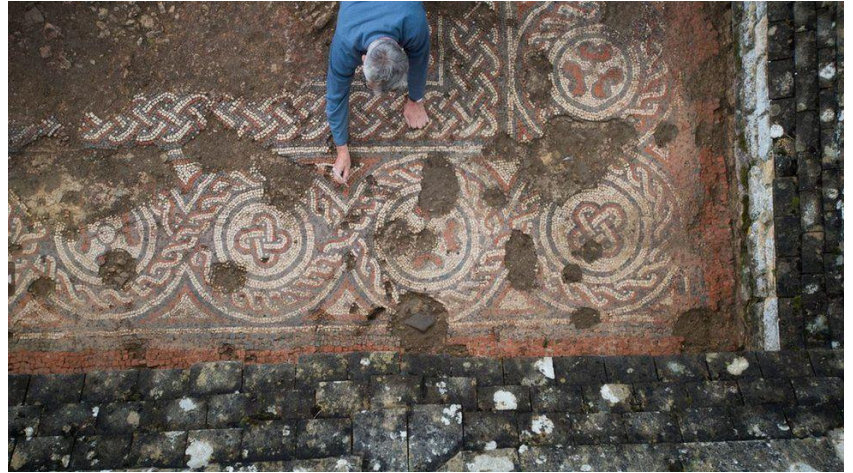
***You never know who or what you may find!***

**Cariss Smith: 0208 668 9562/ [carissmith@gmail.com](mailto:carissmith@gmail.com)**

## News From the Groups

### Early Medieval History group

Keen viewers of BBC TV's *Digging For Britain* will have seen Alice Roberts as she visited Chedworth Roman Villa in Gloucestershire where the National Trust confirmed sensational dating of a mosaic. The Roman mosaic was discovered in 2020 and further tests have confirmed it was made after the Roman armies left Britain. History books will have to be re-written to say that the Roman way of life continued in some places for much longer than previously thought.



The Early Medieval History group has followed this excavation very closely. Four members visited Chedworth after the discovery and one of them arranged for the National Trust to give us a talk on the discovery. At the time the group was divided over the dating. Some accepted the initial finding citing evidence of mosaic manufacture in nearby Roman Cirencester; others questioned how the villa could have been expanding when most had been abandoned.



Almost every month the group has been able to re-assess archaeological findings that are constantly bringing Britain's early history alive. High Speed 2 is undoubtedly controversial but one by-product has been large-scale archaeological digs all the way from London to Birmingham.

The group has looked at the coming of the Anglo-Saxons and the kingdoms in Wales, Ireland and Scotland at this period. The group is now ready to study the coming of the Vikings which should again provoke lively debate. Were they merciless killers and opportunist raiders or were they traders and settlers who, for example, built Ireland's first cities?

If you enjoy programmes like *Digging For Britain* why not join the debate as we look at this fascinating period as it literally emerges from the ground by contacting Lindsay Offer 0208 760 5093, email [offerfamily@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:offerfamily@yahoo.co.uk)

**For picture** <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-gloucestershire-67947045>

# Potential New Groups

## New Ideas

One of the great things about my role as Interest Groups' Coordinator is that people keep coming to me with ideas about starting new groups!

Usually, this happened when one of our members comes up with a plan to start a group based on an interest they have and would like to share with other Croydon u3a members. Sometimes, however, they just 'float' an idea about something they feel would be attractive to members.

Recently, some new ideas for groups were suggested to me which seem to be potentially interesting for our members and I would be willing to take them forward if enough people show an interest.

- **Dog Walkers group:**



I envisage this as a group that meets regularly in some of Croydon's many wonderful green open spaces. Most members would come with their dogs – but there could also be room for members who like dogs but don't currently have one. Dogs would need to be well-behaved with other dogs and with people – dog-owners would be responsible for their own dog's behaviour.

**Please contact me if you are interested in leading and/or being part of such a group - shared leadership would be an option.**

[clockie68@gmail.com](mailto:clockie68@gmail.com)

- **'Bollywood' Dance Group:**



Bollywood Dance is the sort of dancing we see in Indian films and is becoming increasingly popular in the West. A mixture of classical and modern dance forms, it offers an enjoyable way to keep fit and learn some new dance moves!

No special dress needed – wear comfortable loose clothing.

**Starting in April, with a qualified instructor at St Matthew's church hall, Chichester Road on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month, 11.00 – 12.00.**

**Interested? Contact Averil Coutinho by April 8<sup>th</sup>: [averilcoutinho@hotmail.com](mailto:averilcoutinho@hotmail.com)**

*To make the group viable, we need a minimum of 20 participants.*

# Potential New Groups

- **Botanical Art Course**



Would you be interested in a 12-week tutored course in botanical watercolour painting and enjoy exploring the vibrant world of botanical art?

**Meeting once a week, the course will include:**

**Observation and sketching; colour mixing and basic techniques; painting leaves, flowers, stems, branches, bark; painting fine detail; composition,**

**background and texture.** Participants will need to have their own equipment – a detailed list of items will be provided.

To express your interest, please contact me at: [clockie68@gmail.com](mailto:clockie68@gmail.com)

- **Riverside & Canal Walks – setting up a second group**



We recently floated the idea of a new Riverside and Canal Walks group on our Face Book page and our website. This immediately attracted huge interest from members and the group is now full.

We are looking for a new Group Leader, who would be willing to lead a second group on a day of the month of their choosing.

There is the open offer of peer mentoring by the leader of the existing Riverside and Canal

Walks Group for the mutual benefit of both groups.

If you are interested in leading this new group, please contact me at: [clockie68@gmail.com](mailto:clockie68@gmail.com)

Maggie Chan, Croydon u3a Interest Groups Coordinator

## Taster Golf

A date for your diaries **18 March 2024** for a Taster Golf session at Addington Court Golf Club, Featherbed Lane, Addington, Croydon CR0 9AA, where for £20 you will have a PGA professional provide 1 hours tuition, plus 1 hours fun time on the golf course. Minimum of 6 – 8 persons, so if you are interested get your name down and contact **John Doran** c/o Linda Grigsby on 07754 092042 / [lindagrigsby17@gmail.com](mailto:lindagrigsby17@gmail.com)



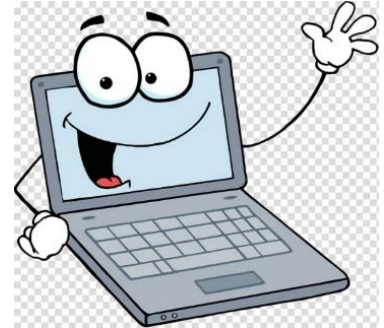
One place available



## Potential New Groups

### Do you need help with a laptop, mobile phone or tablet?

Drop in for support and advice every **second Wednesday from 1 pm** before the General Meeting in the main hall at Croydon and District Masonic Hall, 73 Oakfield Rd, Croydon CR0 2UX.



### Telephone Survey

Croydon u3a is a membership organisation and our members enjoy learning and laughing with each other but do you think we could make improvements to the way we run our organisation?

Your Committee would like to see if we are meeting your needs and listen to how you feel about belonging to Croydon u3a. As such, we will be conducting very short telephone interviews with a random selection of our members over the next few months. You will be phoned and asked a few questions about how you found out about our u3a, how easily you can find out what is going on and how your experience of our u3a could be improved. **YOU DO NOT HAVE TO TAKE PART IF YOU DO NOT WANT TO AND YOU CAN ASK US TO CALL BACK AT A MORE CONVENIENT TIME.** We will ask if you would like to contribute when we call, and just say no if you don't want to give your views.

Do contact me if you would like to know more ([joyellery@btinternet.co.uk](mailto:joyellery@btinternet.co.uk) or 07710 244 601). Only a small number of members will be contacted so most of you will hear nothing. We will tell you the results of our survey in a future bulletin.

Thank you.

**Joy Ellery (Vice Chair) and Andy Beaumont (Committee member and Group Leader)**

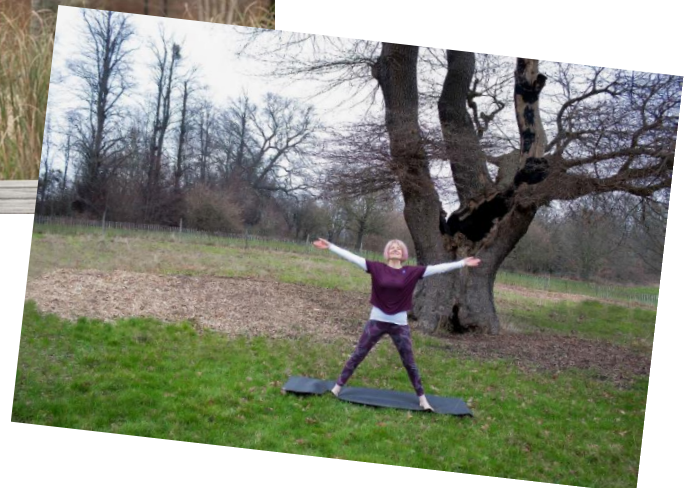


# 100 Faces of Croydon – 6 of them from Croydon u3a

The 100 Faces project, initiated and implemented by London Mozart Players, is part of the celebration of Croydon's year as London Borough of Culture. 100 residents or people connected with Croydon for work and study had a b/w portrait and a colour shot in a chosen location, taken by 30 local photographers. The people were chosen to represent and celebrate the diversity and uniqueness of Croydon's population. London Mozart Players are a British chamber orchestra founded in 1949 and since 1989 have been based at Fairfield Halls. On Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> February the 100 were brought together to showcase the event with the orchestra, a soloist and pianist performing on stage to a full house. The 100 was inspired by the 100 Metronomes concept.

[www.londonmozartplayers.com](http://www.londonmozartplayers.com)

<https://www.londonmozartplayers.com/100-faces/>



# We are Croydon!

Six members of Croydon u3a were delighted to be involved recently in a project called 'The 100 Faces of Croydon' - showcasing portraits of 100 local people, who were photographed in the parts of Croydon which are particularly significant to them.

Jenny was one of those taking part and she chose to be photographed in Lloyd Park, as you can see in the photograph. The project culminated with a concert by the London Mozart Players at the Fairfield Halls, during which the 100 portraits were projected onto a large screen. The portraits will now be displayed on an online Gallery. [100 Faces of Croydon | A London Mozart Players Community-led Project](#)

Croydon u3a was particularly pleased to take part in this project because it set out to 'celebrate the diversity and uniqueness' of Croydon's community – a goal which we share. We pride ourselves on being inclusive and welcoming to everyone. There are no entry requirements for membership of Croydon u3a – and although most of our members are retired or semi-retired, we are open to anyone who has some free time in their week. We offer almost 70 Interest Groups – so that we feel confident that there is something for everybody.

Our members come from all parts of Croydon and our activities take place in different venues right across the Borough – we feel we really are representative of our wider community!



*The Local History group out and about in Croydon*



*A Walking group enjoying local green spaces*



*Photoshoot for Jenny in Lloyd Park*



*The Darts and Pub Lunch group*

# Environment News : Trees4Croydon Campaign Update



Croydon Climate Action have reported that this has been a huge success, increasing the tree canopy, diversity, health and wellbeing of the local community in Broad Green, one of the most green space deprived areas of Croydon.

‘It was wonderful to see our Croydon Climate Action Members, their friends, families and wider networks pulling together to move the miles in our mass participation Get Moving for Trees Event.’

More money was raised than the organisers ever expected and thank you so much to our members who took part.

‘Despite the freezing temperatures, over 170 enthusiastic volunteers from across Croydon, braved the arctic weather and joined in an absolutely fantastic day of tree planting on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> January...’

850 people walked, ran and cycled 30,673 miles to raise funds for mature trees and their aftercare. Money raised was match funded by the Aviva Community Fund and the Save Our Wild Isles Community Fund. The planting event was hosted by Trees for Cities, a Tree Trail activity was put on and there was a woodland storytelling session with puppets, a Brazilian drumming performance and some nature-inspired face painting!

I am so proud that we were able to take part in this and help more of the general public to know who we are and what we are about.

This year’s campaign is about trying to **reduce the use of toxic pesticides** by the contractors working for Croydon Council who spray roadside verges and parts of some parks and gardens.

If you would like to be more involved in Environment and Climate matters :-

\*Visit our dedicated section on the website <https://u3acroydon.weebly.com/>

\* join our Environment and Climate Crisis Group – regular meetings on 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month @ 7.30 pm on Zoom and some live meetings from time to time.

**Jenny Wilson**

## News From Your Committee

The u3a Trust's National Chair, Liz Thackray, visited Croydon on 15<sup>th</sup> January and had discussions with a considerable number of members. I thought she was visiting to have conversations with members about their u3a experience, so I invited a cross section of us. It turned out that Liz was visiting us so we could get to know her and more about the Trust. I have to say that I was disappointed. The Trust always flags being a 'bottom up' organisation, and this would have been a perfect gathering to hear from established members, very new ones, Group Leaders and a couple of Committee members..... Oh well you can only get it right some of the time. I did quietly voice my feelings that it was a wasted opportunity, and I did subsequently receive a thank you note from Liz.

My main feedback is that everyone person I asked to take part said yes with no hesitation, such is our collective commitment and enthusiasm for our u3a.

Thank you to those members who gave up their afternoon.

### The u3a's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

The first ever **National Festival** is being held in York in July to celebrate and is offering a wide range of activities and events all run by volunteers = see p.19 of Third Age Matters and the website :- <https://www.u3a.org.uk/events/festival-2024>

If you have any plans to visit that part of the country, the programme will be available soon, when you will be able to sign up as a day visitor or even attend for the 3 days if you have nearby accommodation.

During the 40 years since inauguration the movement has undergone many changes. Have a look at your recent issue of Third Age Matters page 35 to read an article by Eric Midwinter, one of the founders. The movement started in a very small way, being run from a spare bedroom, and has now grown to over 400,000 members UK wide, with u3as in many other countries. We still occasionally get confused with Croydon u3a, Melbourne, Australia!!

The movement is organic and will continue to incorporate changes and improvements, but it is important to remember that each u3a is a separate, registered, independent charity operating within their Constitution. The Trust's function is to support, advise and guide whether it be about contact with the Charity Commission, to be compliant, giving legal or financial advice, to providing helpful suggestions for recruitment of new members. The Trust also hosts a wide range of on-line talks and courses on a regular basis which are all free to members :-<https://www.u3a.org.uk/learning/national-programmes>.

There is also a vast offer – Interest Groups On-line - which costs an additional £12 per year but has about 90 groups and is great if there is something you wish to pursue which we don't offer in Croydon.

<https://www.u3a.org.uk/learning/interest-groups-online/interest-groups-online-groups>

## News From Your Committee

We are 37 years young on 15<sup>th</sup> April – one of the first u3as to be established – so raise a glass and toast our good health.



### We are Helping Two Students from The Netherlands with their Research

We were approached about being the main contact for 2 students who are researching 'The Power of Connection' and specifically how membership of the u3a in general and Interest Groups in particular helps 'we old foggies' (ha ha) live better lives. After their first meetings, the students have been bowled over by the friendliness of members and our willingness to help their research. For me, it's important having a two-way intergenerational benefit – they learn at first hand about the importance of the social connections we make through our learning activities and friendly events and our opinions and experiences are valued and respected. It's a win-win. If you would like to know more and read their research proposal, email me.

### Age Friendly Forum

The u3a has a vital role with the London Age Friendly Forum. Sam Mauger, u3a CEO, chairs meetings with 7 partners representing older Londoners. They are working to develop plans to help people live better and be safer. Currently 26% of older Londoners live in poverty compared with 16% nationally. The Forum is working to foster more positive images of ageing. Practical things such as adequate street lighting, public transport routes and schedules, public toilet availability, benches and so on are in the agenda. We are proud and encouraged that u3a is at the centre of this to influence and direct change. **March 23<sup>rd</sup> is Ageism Action Day**

## **ARE YOU MAKING THE MOST OF YOUR MEMBERSHIP?**

**These on-line talks are included -**

**Click on the link below to access the page on the national website**

**for more details and then book your place**

<https://www.u3a.org.uk/events/educational-events>

- Aviation Network Meeting: Time is Money, Concorde was Prestige Tue 5/3 @ 10am
- Artificial Intelligence News Thurs 7/3 @ 3.30pm
- Exploring World Faiths: Women in Faith Mon 11/3 @ 10am
- Laughter Yoga Wed 13/3 @ 10am
- An Introduction to Influencing & Social Change Wed 13/3 @ 10am
- AI in Climate Change Tues 19/3 10am
- John Snow & the Hunt for the Source of Cholera in Victorian London Wed 20/3 @ 10am
- Mindfulness and Meditation Thurs 21/3 @ 10am
- Secrets of the Human Brain : Brain & Behaviour Wed 27/3 2pm
- Introduction to Cryptic Crosswords Thurs 28/3 @ 10am
- Suffering & Hope in Tolstoy's Anna Karenina Thurs 28/3 @ 2pm
- From Pleasure Gardens to Theme Parks Fri 5/2 @ 2pm
- Electing the President in 2024 Tues 9/4 @ 2pm
- Live Cookery Demo Thurs 11/4 & 18/4 @ 10.30am
- The Climate Crisis and Some Solutions Fri 19/4 @ 10.30

**So much choice and variety for you to enjoy.**

## **BRANDENBURG CHORAL FESTIVAL OF LONDON**

members are able to apply for free or discounted tickets to Brandenburg choral festival concerts on a first come, first served basis.

bob@brandenburg.org.uk <https://www.brandenburg.org.uk/festival>

## Sharing Good News



We are continually looking for ways to promote Croydon u3a - and highlighting information about who we are and what we do works well. Do you have some news about your experience of being a Croydon u3a member that you would like to share?

You may have something that you would like Croydon u3a members and the wider community to know about activities you have enjoyed or future activities you are looking forward to ... or perhaps you

have some great photos of being out an about with your group? *But please remember that members who appear in photos used for publicity purposes must have been made aware that they will be used in this way.*

If you have something to share, Linda Grigsby has agreed to be first point of contact for your news items. Send them to Linda and she can often use them in our Bulletin and/or can send them on, where appropriate, to the editors of our Website, Face Book page and Magazine and to me for wider Publicity purposes.



You can contact Linda on: [lindagrigsby17@gmail.com](mailto:lindagrigsby17@gmail.com)

Maggie Chan [clockie68@gmail.com](mailto:clockie68@gmail.com)



Greetings from the Travel Team.

The arrival of snowdrops and daffodils heralds the imminent arrival of Spring and the Travel Team's programme for 2024 starts to bloom. We hope you will join us on one or more of the varied trips we are organising for you.

March 2024 sees the Members' Lunch, and the lure of delicious fish and chips has resulted in this being SOLD OUT. But we have another Lunch booked for later this year.

April 2024 sees a coach trip to the famous Beth Chatto Garden. Having started selling tickets last year this trip is now SOLD OUT.



**NEW. May 2024** sees a coach trip to the National Trust property **Osterley Park and House**. The house was created in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century by architect and designer Robert Adam for the Child family to entertain and impress their friends and clients. There are extensive gardens to visit. National Trust members will be able to use their cards so there are two ticket prices for this trip. The booking form is in this Bulletin.

**June 2024** sees a coach trip to the seaside when we visit the quaint town of **Whitstable** with a delicious afternoon tea to enjoy before heading home. Booking for this trip opened a few months ago and is now **SOLD OUT** with a waiting list.

**NEW. July 2024** sees a coach trip to two locations. The morning will be spent at **Watt's Artists' Village** with the afternoon being spent strolling through the gardens of **Loseley House**. The booking form for this trip is in this Bulletin.

**August 2024**. As reported in a previous Bulletin this month will see each member of the Travel Team leading trips, throughout the month, using public transport. Use of Freedom Passes will be encouraged! Costs will be kept low and the actual talks and trips details will be published in the next Bulletin, due out at the start of May.

**NEW. September 2024** sees a coach trip, on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup>, to the RHS garden at **Wisley** when their popular Flower Show will be on. RHS members will be able to use their card (and take a u3a friend!) so there will be two prices for this trip. Further details and the booking form will be published in the May Bulletin.

**October 2024** sees another **Members' Lunch** on the 16<sup>th</sup> at El Patio in Selsdon.



**November 2024** sees a 2 night break that includes a visit to **Longleat House** to see visit their delightful **Festival of Lights**. Details to be published soon.

And that is the Travel Teams programme for 2024. And we are already looking at options for trips and meals in 2025.

And if there are any members who would like to help us with any of the trips – like ticking the register when people arrive at the coach, or checking everyone is on board before heading home – then let us know. It

would be great to have some helping hands. Contact David on 07802 769047 or [Dapps97090@aol.com](mailto:Dapps97090@aol.com), or see Linda or Averil at the Travel Team table at General Meetings.

**Averil, Cariss, David, Linda and Paul**

**Croydon u3a Travel Team**

## **u3a Outing to Osterley House and Park**

**Wednesday May 22<sup>nd</sup> 2024**

**Coach leaves 9.00am from Fairfield Halls, Park Lane, Croydon**

**Cost of the trip is £32, or £20 for National Trust Members. Price includes coach travel, driver's tip, entry to Osterley House and Park. National Trust members get entry free to the property.**

**Bring your NT card with you if you are booking at the lower rate for the trip.**



**Osterley Park House and Gardens**, originally a Tudor mansion, was transformed into an elegant neo-classical villa by the founders of Child's Bank. It was designed and built in the late 18th century by architect and designer Robert Adam. It has a magnificent interior, and you can also visit downstairs to experience how domestic life used to be. It is set in extensive park and farmland complete with 18th-century gardens and neo-classical buildings. The house is furnished in the style of 1780. Visit the luxurious State Rooms.

The gardens and park have been restored to their former glory which began with the recreation of Mrs Child's Flower Garden.

Return the booking form below to: David Apps, 13 Church Way, South Croydon, CR2 0JT. Tel. 020 8651 0347, with a **cheque and stamped addressed envelope**. We require a separate cheque for each outing. If you have problems on the day of outing, ring David 07802 769047/email: [dapps97090@aol.com](mailto:dapps97090@aol.com). At other times please use David's landline.

**Please read the Travel Team's Terms and Conditions, on the reverse of this poster OR in the Bulletin.**

**BOOKING FORM – Osterley Park and House 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2024**

Coach leaves at 9.00 am Wednesday 22nd May 2024. Price: £32, or £20 for National Trust Members

u3a Member - Name(s) ..... Membership No(s) .....

National Trust Membership Number (if applicable).....

Address .....Post code: .....

Tel/Mob No. ....E-mail .....

I would like ..... £32 ticket(s) or ..... £20 (NT Member) tickets Cheque payable to "**Croydon u3a**"(enclose a sae)

My contact in case of emergency is: Name.....Tel. No. ....

**REMEMBER TO BRING YOUR NATIONAL TRUST MEMBERSHIP CARD ON THE DAY**

**U3A OUTING TO WATTS ARTISTS VILLAGE AND  
LOSELEY PARK GARDENS**

**Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> July 2024**

**Coach leaves 8.30am from Fairfield Halls, Park Lane, Croydon**

**Cost of the trip is £45. Price includes coach travel, driver’s tip, entry to Watts Artists Village and Loseley Park gardens.**

Dedicated to the life and work of Victorian painter and sculptor G F Watts and his wife, designer and artist Mary Watts, Watts Gallery – Artists’ Village is a unique Arts and Crafts gem. See where they lived and worked at their historic home, Limnerslease. Visit the magnificent Arts and Crafts cemetery chapel designed by Mary Watts. Visitors can see a world-class collection of Watts’ paintings and sculptures in the Gallery.



Watts Gallery – Artists’ Village is a unique Arts and Crafts gem. See where they lived and worked at their historic home, Limnerslease. Visit the magnificent Arts and Crafts cemetery chapel designed by Mary Watts. Visitors can see a world-class collection of Watts’ paintings and sculptures in the Gallery.

Explore 18 acres of woodland and gardens. **Loseley Park Garden.** Its series of “rooms” include the award-winning rose garden (planted with over 1,000 bushes), the colourful flower garden with its maze of pathways, the white garden with fountains, and the extensive herb garden. Other features include an attractive vine walk, ancient wisteria, mulberry trees and a moat.



Return the booking form below to: David Apps, 13 Church Way, South Croydon, CR2 0JT. Tel. 020 8651 0347, with a **cheque and stamped addressed envelope**. We require a separate cheque for each outing. If you have problems on the day of outing, ring David 07802 769047/email: [dapps97090@aol.com](mailto:dapps97090@aol.com). At other times please use David’s landline.

**Please read the Travel Team’s Terms and Conditions, on the reverse of this poster OR in the Bulletin.**

**BOOKING FORM – Watts Artists Village and Loseley Park Gardens 2024**

Coach leaves at 8:30 am Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> July 2024. Price: £45

u3a Member/s - Name(s) .....Membership No(s) .....

Address .....Post code: .....

Tel/Mob No. ....E-mail .....

would like ..... £45 ticket(s) Cheque payable to “**Croydon u3a**”(enclose a sae)

My contact in case of emergency is (not someone who is also on the coach trip):

Name.....Tel. No. ....

## CROYDON u3a TRAVEL TEAM EVENT

### General Information and Booking terms and conditions

Please carefully read these **Booking Terms and Conditions**, as submission of a Booking Form will be taken as your acceptance of them. We also request that you carry your Croydon u3a membership card showing both your emergency number on the back and any significant medical conditions.

**Coach Pick up and Drop off** are at Fairfield Halls. See cover page of poster for times. On the day of an outing, if you have any problems joining the trip, please ring the Trip Organisers (mobile numbers on cover page of poster or on the ticket) by 9am. Outings are for Croydon U3A members only. In the event of low take-up, we may take members from other U3As and non-U3A members on an occasional basis.

**Booking Forms:** Booking forms for each outing are dealt with individually. When booking for multiple trips, a **separate booking form and stamped addressed envelope** are required for each one. Your booking may be jeopardised if this is not done. If you request more than one place, we must have the first name and surname and U3A number of each person.

**Payment:** Make payment online to Croydon u3a Business Account No. 13630003 Sort Code 230580 **Reference** – insert your **Surname**. Alternatively, pay by cheque. Cheques may be dated for any time between Booking Form submission date and **two months** before the outing / event date. Please send your completed Booking Form, cheque and self-addressed envelope to the address given on the Booking Form. Applications for outings are held for two weeks after publication of the Booking Forms in order to assess demand. If demand exceeds supply, tickets will be allocated on a random basis.

**Reduced admission:** We can only offer the reductions which are advertised by the venue itself at the time we book it. We cannot deal with any special offers or discounts you may personally have.

**Refunds:** Refunds are generally non-refundable unless we are to resell the place.

**Mobility Requirements:** Some, but not all, of our outings are suitable for members with manageable mobility restrictions. You must contact the named Travel Team Trip Organiser member on the poster cover page before booking if you wish to bring a mobility aid so that we can discuss your needs.

We will mention in our publicity and outing details any significant access or safety considerations of which we are aware. **YOU MUST BE ABLE TO GET ON AND OFF THE COACH UNAIDED.**

**Restricted mobility:** Members with restricted mobility may be accompanied by a carer on any outing, but a place needs to be booked. The carer does not have to be a U3A member but will be required to pay the full cost. Members are asked to think carefully about the physical demands of the outing and their own situation before submitting an application. We need to ensure that all participants are safe and that everyone enjoys the day. Ultimately the Travel Team reserves the right to decline applications in exceptional situations, regrettable as this may be.

**Your responsibilities:** You are asked to pay particular attention to the scheduled **Arrival & Registration, Afternoon Visit** and **Registration & Departure** times and assemble at the designated meeting point. If you are late, we may have to leave without you to enable us to keep to the time-table. In such an instance, you would have to arrange your own return home, and you would not be entitled to any refund for the cost of the unused portion of the day. If this should happen, we would endeavour to contact you and/or your emergency name contact number. We ask members for their mobile phone numbers and for them to ensure they are switched on during the outing. Participants are responsible for themselves and their belongings.

**Data protection:** The details you give us on the booking form will be held by the organisers until the outing has taken place and will be used only for the purpose of the outing. When it has taken place, they will be destroyed. We keep a record of your mobile numbers to save you giving us those details on every outing. Participants are responsible for themselves and their belongings.

**General:** We try to schedule comfort stops at a convenient time and place, but it is not always easy to do this for a large coach. Apart from the initial outbound departure time, most other times are approximate.