

WELCOME TO THE JANUARY 2024 MHu3a NEWSLETTER

We wish all our readers a very peaceful
and healthy 2024

MHu3a Executive Committee.



MESSAGE FROM OUR NEW CHAIRMAN

As we are just entering into a new year, I would like to say thank you to our members for allowing me to steer our excellent organisation in 2024. Also, I extend this thank you to the Executive Committee, helpers, group leaders and everyone who is involved in ensuring the success of Mill Hill U3A.

The more members we have involved at whatever level makes us stronger and robust. If you feel you could help in any way whatsoever, no matter how small, then please be in touch with me at chair@millhillu3a.co.uk or contact any of the Executive Committee; we would be delighted to hear from you.

Sincerely yours,

Melvyn Sandler.

The second of our **quarterly social events** will be held on **Tuesday 23rd January 2024** from 2 - 4 pm. Our last gathering was very well received and members liked the informal opportunity to meet with group leaders, committee members, friends and others. You're most welcome to pop in and stay for as long as you wish.

If you're a group leader and would like a table to showcase your group, just let Barbara Lenton know:

barbarlenton369@btinternet.com

Thanks to Hilary Lewis there will be an opportunity to swap jigsaws - just bring one and take away a new puzzle.

We look forward to seeing you again at :

The Trinity Centre, 11 Eversfield Gardens, Mill Hill NW7 2AE

A Message from our Group Coordinator

MHU3A is going from strength to strength and we now have 1147 members and counting!

We have many varied & interesting Groups run by dedicated Group Leaders (information of groups is available on the MHU3A website).

A New Year means a new Beginning for MHU3A with more Interest Groups to be added to our existing list. It is often said the Interest groups are the lifeblood of the U3A and we are always on the lookout for members to share their interests, skills and experience with a view to participate and learn from each other by agreeing to organise and set up Interest Groups.

Anyone interested or thinking of setting up any Interest Groups or who has any innovative ideas, please contact Pauline Naidu for information, discussion & assistance.

pauline.naidu@gmail.com

FORTHCOMING MONTHLY TALKS:

(The venue is Hartley Hall unless stated otherwise.
Doors open at 1.30 pm; talks begin at 2.00 pm.
unless shown otherwise).

Date	Speaker	Title	Info
18 th Jan.	David Burnell	"The Underground at War."	This should be particularly fascinating especially to those members who were involved in sheltering in the underground during World War Two.
15 th Feb.	Janet Diamond	"Tutankhamen and his Treasures"	Janet is an Egyptologist and comes highly recommended.
21 st Mar.	Judith Hayman	"The Family who survived against the odds in Nazi Occupied	Judith gives this talk to many groups of adults and children and comes highly recommend- ed by one of our members. <i>(This replaces the previously announced talk)</i>
18 th Apr.	Richard Furnival Jones	"Harrods"	Richard will give a highly- recommended talk on the famous department store.
16 th May	Peter Altman	"Crooners"	Peter, who gave us a fascinating talk on Aliens, returns with another topic – Crooners. How many can you name?
20 th June	Chris Truran	"Digital Forensics – Who's watching You"	Chris gave us a talk on <i>Dabs and DNA Detects Criminals</i> in 2020 and returns to give us this talk, advising on how to recognise and avoid scams.

We'd love you to join us each month for our meetings at Hartley Hall so you get an opportunity to enjoy the live speaker, lovely refreshments and, most importantly, to meet old friends as well as other members.

For those of you unable to attend in person at our meetings in Hartley Hall, we have ceased to offer live Zoom transmissions of the talk but aim to make available a YouTube video within a couple of days, of which you will be notified by email.

NEWS FROM THE INTEREST GROUPS

Politics And Current Affairs

The administrator for this group, which is led by Roger Kemp, will be unable to continue beyond March 2024 and the group will have to close unless someone is willing to take over. The role involves :

- 1) Using the Beacon system to invite members to the meeting one week beforehand and answer any queries that may arise about meetings.
- 2) Recording a list of members attending and keeping a record of the money taken to pass on to the Treasurer to pay for the hire of the room at Hartley Hall.
- 3) At the beginning of the year, giving Gillian (Admin. for Hartley Hall) the dates for the year.
- 4) Setting up the room at Hartley hall for each meeting.

The present administrator is happy to help and advise the new person. The role could be a shared one so that, for example, one person deals with the money and another the setting up the meetings.

If you are able to help please contact:

pauline.naidu@gmail.com

***A member of our Creative Writing
Group has kindly contributed this
poem***

Winter of 63

*Robin red breast in the garden
on the snow covered window ledge
looking through the window
begging for lunch dinner and tea
it's the winter of 63*

*On the icy front lawn
a blue tit has broken the silver paper
of a milk bottle on the doorstep
blackbird has difficulty
in finding a juicy worm*

*My Father in the garden
clears a space in the snow
breadcrumbs for the sparrows
icicles in the side way
a snowman and a crow*

*My red wellington boots
dwarfed by 3ft of snow
when I get up in the morning
Christmas dawning
a fresh layer of snow*

*The coal men having difficulties
getting round in winter weather
waiting for a delivery
the coal sheds getting empty
it's January's vice*

FORTHCOMING OUTINGS

Date	Venue	Link to Flyer	Places available?
Mon. 26 Feb. 2024	Trinity House	LINK	Booking opens on Mon 4th Dec.
Wed. 20 Mar. TBC	Somerset House	LINK	Booking opens on Mon 8th Jan.
Mon. 15 Apr.	Windsor Castle	LINK	Booking opens on Mon 5th Feb.

By clicking on the [LINK](#) in the table above you can read details of the Outing in its **Flyer**. If you wish to book a trip, please note **on the Flyer** the **earliest** time and date for requesting a place. ***Any email received BEFORE 9 am. on the date will be discounted.***

THE CANCELLATION of MHU3A OUTINGS.

We realise that members can fall ill at the last minute, have home emergencies or sudden hospital appointments, but we do have to cover the cost of the venue and coach (when used) which has already been paid for.

The Outings Group therefore regrets that refunds cannot be issued unless there are replacements still available on the waiting list.

Our first Outing in 2024. Monday, February 26th.

TRINITY HOUSE.

Venue: Tower Hill, EC3N 4DH. (1 min walk from Tower Hill Station)



Trinity House, an ornate and beautiful building, is home to a charity which, since its inauguration in 1514 to regulate pilotage on the Thames and provide for aged mariners, is dedicated to the safety of shipping and seafarers. Annually, it donates around £4m to the provision of cadet training schemes, provision for retired mariners and educational programmes teaching safety-at-sea skills.

Duration: about 1hr 15 mins. **N.B.** there are some stairs on this tour.

Date: Mon, 26th February at 10.45 for tea/ coffee & tour at 11.00.

Cost: £15.00 p/p.

Only 30 places available.

Bookings, by email only, will be logged in order of receipt and successful applicants will be contacted with details of how to make their payment by BACS or cheque. All unsuccessful emails are acknowledged the same day & lets members know that they have been placed on the waiting list. Payment must be received within one week of receiving the Request for Payment, or the place will be offered to another member.

BOOKING OPENS at 9.00 a.m. on Monday, 4th December 2023.

N.B. Any emails arriving before exactly 9.00 will be rejected.

Apply to: outingsbookings@millhillu3a.co.uk and **include the following:-**

- 1) "Trinity House" Monday 26th February 2024
- 2). Your name/s and membership number/s
- 3). Number of tickets @ £15.00 (max 2)
- 4). Contact phone number/s (for use on the day)

MHU3A Outing on Wednesday 20th March, 2024,

A ONE-HOUR PRIVATE TOUR OF SOMERSET HOUSE, WC2.



Built as a Thames-side palace by the Duke of Somerset in 1547, this building has been shaped by many famous architects including Inigo Jones, Wren, William Chambers and James Wyatt. It has been a home to Elizabeth 1st and Charles 2nd, the first base of the Royal Academy of Arts, & sometime home to the fabulous Gilbert Collection. It housed several government departments until, in 1997 it was established as “The Somerset House Trust”, a centre for the everchanging range of arts painting, music, sculpture and fashion which are displayed.

N.B. Some stairs and uneven ground. **Only 32 places available**

Date: Wednesday 20th March. (Two tours at 11.00 and 11.15 am).

Cost: £ 24.00 p/p. **N.B.** there may be some stairs and uneven ground.

Bookings, by email only, will be logged in order of receipt and successful applicants will be contacted with details of how to make their payment by BACS or cheque. Unsuccessful emails are acknowledged the same day to let members know they have been placed on the waiting list. Payment must be received within 1 week of receiving the offer, or your place will be offered to another member.

BOOKING OPENS at 9.00 a.m. on Monday, 8th January, 2024.

N.B. Any emails arriving before exactly 9.00 will be rejected.

Apply to: outingsbookings@millhillu3a.co.uk and **include the following:-**

- 1) “Somerset House” Wednesday 20th March, 2024.
- 2). Your name/s and membership number/s
- 3). Number of tickets @ £24.00 (max 2)
- 4). Contact phone number/s (for use on the day)

Your MHU3A Outing for 15th April 2024.

WINDSOR CASTLE.



You won't need any introduction to this particular building in Windsor as it's probably the world's most famous Castle! However, many of us have never been there or, if so, a long time ago. Join us on 15th April for an Outings' visit (with return coach from Mill Hill).

Please note that there is a ten-minute walk, with a fairly steep hill, from the coach-park to the entrance and there are stairs inside the castle.

Date: Monday 15th April, leaving Mill Hill at 09.00 hrs.

Cost: £47.00 p/p, including return coach.

Bookings, by email only, will be logged in order of receipt and successful applicants will be contacted with details of how to make their payment by BACS or cheque. Unsuccessful emails are acknowledged the same day to let members know they have been placed on the waiting list. Payment must arrive within 1 week of receiving the offer, or your place will be offered to another member.

BOOKING OPENS at 9.00 a.m. on Monday, 5th February, 2024.

N.B. Any emails arriving before exactly 9.00 will be rejected.

Apply to: outingsbookings@millhillu3a.co.uk and **include the following:-**

- 1) "Windsor, Mon 15th April, 2024".
- 2). Your name/s and membership number/s
- 3). Number of tickets @ £47.00 (max 2)
- 4). Contact phone number/s (for use on the day)

OUTINGS (cont.)

HOW WILL I KNOW WHAT OUTINGS ARE AVAILABLE?

Outings Flyers are displayed on the website, with details of when and how to book:

<https://millhillu3a.co.uk/group/outings/>

HOW DO I BOOK?

By emailing:

outingsbookings@millhillu3a.co.uk

Booking will open at the exact time* and date stated on the relevant Flyer and will be logged in order of receipt.

****Any emails received before 9 a.m. (exactly!) on the given date will not be accepted.***

Should you not have email you will be allocated a 'booking-buddy'. Please enquire by writing to:

*Outings MHu3a, c/o 6 Lyndhurst Avenue,
NW7 2AB.*

FORTHCOMING TRAVEL TRIPS

The table below shows the arranged Travel trips for 2023.

By clicking on the [LINK](#) you can read details of the trip and print a booking form.

<i>Dates</i>	<i>Venue</i>	<i>Link to Flyer</i>	<i>Places available?</i>
17 th - 20 th March	Winchester, The Isle of Wight & Portsmouth	LINK	Booking now open
6 th - 12 th May	Ireland		SOLD OUT Waiting list only available

OUTINGS AND TRAVEL TRIPS PLANNED FOR 2024. Subject to change!!

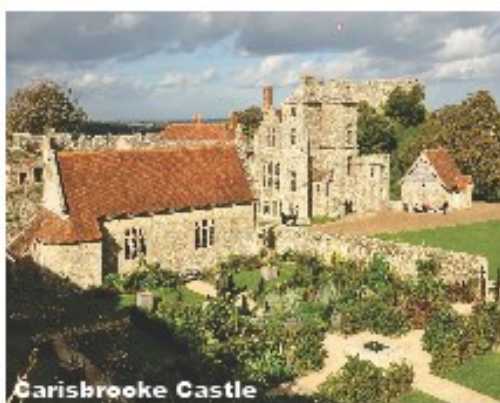
<u>2024</u>	<u>OUTING</u>	<u>TRAVEL TRIPS</u>
FEB	Mon 26 th Trinity House	
MARCH	Wed 20 th , Somerset House	March 17 th WINCHESTER & THE ISLE OF WIGHT. SHORT-BREAK .
APRIL	Mon 15 th , Windsor Castle	
MAY	Leighton House and The Kyoto Gardens	Mon, 6 th - 12 th MAY, IRELAND.
JUNE	Burghley House	
JULY	Chelsea Physic Garden	
SEPT	Down House, Knole or Audley End?	PORTUGAL. A WEEK IN LISBON AND OPORTO.
OCT	Fishmongers Hall	
NOV	The Brunel Museum?	CARDIFF AND SOUTH WALES ? SHORT-BREAK .

Winchester, The Isle Of Wight & Portsmouth

Departs Sunday 17th March 2024
4 Days • 3 Nights

from
£425.00
per person

Organised by
HARRY SHAW
Group Travel
on behalf of Mill Hill U3A





Your itinerary

Day 1

Depart by coach (approx. 09.30hrs.) and travel south, making an appropriate comfort stop en-route, to Winchester and our hotel – The Mercure Winchester Wessex. Upon arrival it may be necessary to leave your luggage in the hotel's left luggage facility to collect later when you check-in. You will then have free time for lunch (not included) before making your way to Winchester Cathedral where group entrance and guided tour are included. After the visit there will be free time in the city. Accommodation is reserved for three nights on a dinner, bed and breakfast basis.

Day 2

After an early breakfast, the coach will depart for Southampton and the ferry across The Solent to the Isle of Wight. Upon arrival we will head to Osborne House – "It is impossible to imagine a prettier spot" said Queen Victoria of Osborne, her beloved home on the Isle of Wight. This is an English Heritage property, therefore for those who are English Heritage members, group entrance is included, for those who aren't there is an additional charge of £16.30 per person, which must be paid in advance. Following the visit, the coach will depart for Carisbrooke Castle, another English Heritage property where there is an additional charge of £10.00 per person, again to be paid in advance for those passengers who are not English Heritage members. After the visit we return to East Cowes for the late afternoon sailing back to Southampton and onwards back to the hotel.

Day 3

After breakfast the coach will depart for Portsmouth and the Historic Dockyard, and their 'Ultimate' group package which includes access to the three main attractions, The Mary Rose Museum, HMS Victory & HMS Warrior, as well as a Harbour Tour plus much, much more. After what is sure to be a packed day, the coach will return to the hotel.

Day 4

Check out of the hotel following breakfast and make our way to The Wyne - once an important Tudor Palace, this atmospheric mansion has some illustrious connections, from Henry VIII to Jane Austen. The Wyne is a National Trust property, therefore for those who are National Trust members group entrance is included, for those who aren't there is an additional charge of £14.00 per person, which must be paid in advance. After what is sure to be another interesting visit, the coach commences the journey back to your local area, arriving during the late afternoon.

Price includes: -

- Return coach travel
- 3 nights' accommodation on a dinner, bed & breakfast basis at the Mercure Winchester Wessex Hotel.
- Group entrance and a guided tour of Winchester Cathedral.
- Return ferry crossing to the Isle of Wight
- Portsmouth Historic Dockyard Ultimate Package.
- Excursions as detailed
- Full ABTA financial protection.

Not Included:

- £25.00 optional Travel Insurance.
- £100.00 single occupancy supplement.

Please note: Due to the timescale of this tour, we have decided the usual request for an initial deposit payment will not be possible, therefore please include your payment in full, to be received no later than the 26th January.

The Mercure Hotel Winchester Wessex

Situated in Winchester's historic centre, Mercure Winchester Wessex Hotel overlooks Winchester Cathedral. All en suite rooms are equipped with free toiletries, hairdryer, free WiFi, satellite TV, tea/coffee tray. Hotel features include restaurant, bar, snack bar, 24hr front desk, lift.



Booking Conditions:

Harry Shaw/City Cruiser Holidays Ltd. ABTA V1801 For full details see website www.harryshaw.co.uk.

The ***London Region of u3a*** frequently asks us to pass on wider news to you. Here are the latest items:

LONDON REGION ONLINE TALK PROGRAMME JANUARY- MARCH 2024

The talks programme will consist of one talk per month on the following Mondays at 17.30:-

8th January - Neville Lyons: *Food for Thought*

5th February - Herbie Goldberg: *Louis Moreau Gottschalk*

4th March - Terry Lloyd: *The Shaping of Eastern Europe*

To view the flyer with further information about these talks, please see the *Events* page of the London Region website (see below). Then click on the relevant link in the flyer to register for each individual talk. The Zoom link will be sent to you two days before the talk. Please register in advance as the zoom link will not be sent on the day of the talk, for administrative reasons.

With best wishes,

Catherine Ware, Talks Coordinator - London Region of U3As
talks. lr3a@gmail.com

website: WWW.U3ASITES.ORG.UK/LONDONREGION

See *Events* page for information about forthcoming events.
Recordings of past talks are retained for a month and can be found in the *Talks Archive*, which is accessible via the *Events* page

INFORMATION ABOUT MILL HILL U3A

Details of the activities of Mill Hill u3a are shown on our website which can be accessed by clicking this link [HERE:](#) (see 'EVENTS'), and of the Executive Committee (see 'ABOUT/EXEC. COM').

Our 'enquiries' desk receives many queries about our u3a; particularly, people ask about membership or renewal applications apparently going astray or being delayed.

You can find all relevant contact details on our website here: <https://millhillu3a.co.uk/#contact>

For **membership** enquiries, you should email our Membership Administrator directly here:

membership@millhillu3a.co.uk

In accordance with the requirements of the u3a movement and other charities, we have a number of 'policy' and 'guidance' documents available to view on our website. These cover such matters as:

- Member Code of Conduct;
- Safeguarding Policy and Procedure;
- Guide to online payment of membership renewal or joining fees;
- Group Leaders' Guidance.

These documents can be viewed by clicking this [link:](#)

These Newsletters are rather 'one-way traffic' and it would be very gratifying to hear back from our readership; so, if you have any comments/suggestions/requests, please get in touch. Please send any contributions to:

enquiries@millhillu3a.co.uk