

HH u3a Bulletin 8 May 2026

Yes, I know it's not May quite yet but I do like to plan ahead!

Dates for your diary

On **Tuesday May 5th**, **David Jones**, a volunteer at the Bluebell Railway for nearly 50 years, will deliver his talk '**Pullmans in Preservation**' which covers approx 100 surviving Pullman cars now being used as restaurants and on heritage railways. The talk will be from **11.45 - 12.45** doors open at 11.00, in **Cyprus Hall**. Entrance is free.

Friday May 15th is when author **Bernard Lockett**, a trustee of the annual G & S Festival, will be presenting '**The social and political satire of Gilbert & Sullivan**'. Eg. "The House of Lords do nothing in particular, yet do it rather well" The venue will be the **Wesley Hall, HH Methodist Church** from **2.30**, doors open at 2pm and entry is £2 which includes refreshments.

On **Friday May 29th** Polar historian **Michael Smith** documents the dramatic 1915 sinking of Ernest Shackleton's ship '**Endurance**' in the Weddell sea, and it's remarkable 2022 discovery, in his talk entitled '**Finding Shackleton's ship**'. Michael will be giving his talk at the **Adastra Hall, Hassocks** at **2pm** and there is a £2 entrance fee which includes refreshments.

The Wallace Collection visit

Exploring London Group 3 have some places available for a private tour of the **Wallace Collection**, late morning on **Wednesday 13th May** . The tour will last about 1 hour, highlighting some of the main objects in the collection and the cost will be £12.50 per person.

The Wallace Collection is at Manchester Square, not far from Oxford Street. The Collection was established by the first four Marquesses of Hertford and Sir Richard Wallace before being bequeathed to the nation by Lady Wallace in 1897. The venue, Hertford House, was formerly their principal London residence which means that you see the paintings and artifacts in their original setting. The Wallace Collection is noted for being one of the most significant collections of fine and decorative arts in England and includes oil paintings from the 14th – late 19th centuries by all the famous artists of the day. Together with a substantial collection of Sevres porcelain, Limoges enamel, maiolica, glass and bronzes, every room contains gems to delight you. There is a courtyard restaurant at the Wallace Collection offering a light lunch, coffee or cake and fine dining. I suggest you have a look at the Wallace Collection website to see what is available : <https://www.wallacecollection.org/>

Just so you know, we will travel up by train as a group of up to 20 to London Victoria Railway Station, where we will catch a public bus ending with a final short walk. You will be responsible for purchasing your own train tickets and either have a bus pass or make other ticket arrangements for being able to get a bus. To cover HHu3a requirements you will be responsible for yourself at all times and must be fully fit enough to be able to get yourself on/off trains/buses, walk around London etc. Time after the tour will be your own.

If you are interested, please email Tim Smith Exploring London Group 3 Joint Leader at: five.harlandsmith@gmail.com

Bird Watchers

Do you remember the really hot and sunny morning of Wednesday 8th April? Well 11 bird watchers took advantage of the glorious weather to make their way down to Seaford. Initially to see the Kittiwakes at Splash Point, then up to Hope Gap so see the early arrival of Whitethroats.

Altogether, 28 species were recorded including Chiffchaff, Little Egret, Skylark, Grey Wagtail, Meadow Pipit & Egyptian Goose.

Nature Walkers

A couple of days later on Friday 10th, the nature walkers enjoyed perfect conditions for their walk in Nyman's Wood to see early purple orchids and bluebells.

For photos and more details: <https://out.ac/lqUaGi>

Preston Manor visit

There may still be places available for the Preston Manor visit organised by Burgess Hill u3a on Friday 1st May. If you're interested, contact Steve Furber on steve.furber@hotmail.co.uk

u3a Matters

To read the highlights of the latest u3a matter magazine online, use this link <http://https://www.u3a.org.uk/what-we-do/u3a-matters>

u3a Friends

The *u3a Friends* newsletter brings the best of u3a straight to your inbox. Each edition features exclusive member's stories, national u3a events, new learning opportunities and the latest news from across the movement.

To sign up use this link <https://www.u3a.org.uk/about/u3a-friends>

By signing up, you will be the first to hear about upcoming events.

Charity Fraud investigation

Surrey and Sussex police are currently investigating a serious fraud which is targeting people involved in charities for older people.

The fraudsters are contacting people and persuading them that there is an issue with their bank account.

Banks and the police will never ask you to move money.

More on this and other frauds can be found on <https://stopthinkfraud.campaign.gov.uk>

Cuckfield's Cuckoo Fayre

The annual Independent State of Cuckfield Cuckoo Fayre takes place on Monday May 4 Bank Holiday from 12 noon 'til 4pm with the Mayor's official opening at 1pm.

As usual, there will much entertainment including a dog show, tug-of-war, and a 'toss the barrel' competition.

The main arena will feature various attractions with plenty of opportunities to sample food and drink.

There is no entrance fee to the event which will be held at Cuckfield Recreation Ground (behind Queens Hall)

Bye for now

Paul