

# Stanford le Hope and District u3a

## Newsletter for January 2026

*\*\*\*Dear Mel & Carol,*

*Thank you for all your hard work in making the Stanford u3a Christmas lunch a success. We thought it was a great idea to put all the names in the raffle that way everyone gets a chance without one person getting more than one gift. We were at a party last week and one woman bought two strips of tickets and won 4 prizes keeping them all, your way is much better, thank you and well done.*

### **Dave and Jean Angus**

Just a small email to say a big thank you to all of the team that organised yesterday's Christmas dinner so efficiently. We thoroughly enjoyed it in all respects. It was clear that a lot of work had been put into making it so successful. Please pass our thanks onto those involved.

Merry Christmas to all of you.

**Pat and Peter Spencer. \*\*\***

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## Speaker for General Meeting on Thursday 8th January 2026

Our speaker for Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2026 is Colin Turner.

Colin's talk is, "Light and Dark: A Life in Crime".

Colin has been a Lawyer, Clerk of the Court, both Prosecutor and Defence Advocate/Examiner in Criminal Law for the Law Society.

He has also been an Advisor to the BBC on a Crime Series.

Colin has a wealth of stories covering humour, sadness, bad behaviour and the rest.

## Speaker for General Meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> February 2026

Our speaker for Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> February is David Williams.

David's talk is, "**Mind the Gap**".

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David Williams is a registered City of London guide-lecturer, historian and Freeman of the City. His early career was working on local newspapers as a Sports Journalist before progressing to become a freelance sportswriter, specialising in football reporting for the Sunday Mirror. Then David went into the film and TV industry joining Pathe Pictorial as an scriptwriter. Following on from there he became a documentary film producer working on films for the BBC, the Armed Forces, private industry and Government departments. This involved travelling extensively from Australia to the Arctic, to several European countries, the Middle and Far East and the Falkland Islands. I finally retired after 35 years with a lot of experiences – good, bad, frustrating and funny.

“Mind the Gap” is a familiar platform announcement on London tube stations and this presentation reveals the drama and challenges behind the construction of the World’s the first underground railway. It was regarded as one of the great engineering achievements of the mid-Victoria period. Love it or hate it, the Tube is an intriguing story of triumph, disaster, inspiration and continuing frustration!

## COMMITTEE CHAT

### **Welcome to 2026.**

Our thanks go to Mel Fox and Carol Smith who put together an enjoyable



afternoon for our Christmas Meal at the Plough Motel in Bulphan.

Picking up the baton from Chris Gomm and Jean Jardine after their previous

successes was an unenviable task.

However, the feedback from

members who attended was positive.

The festive season has come to an end. The last of the cold meat has gone. No more mince pies or Christmas pudding for another year. The decorations have come down. Wrapping paper and Christmas cards have been recycled.

Christmas jumpers have been confined to the bottom of the drawer. But at least we had the opportunity to eat, drink and be merry!

So, what is there to look forward to in the New Year?

In our u3a we have over 40 interest groups to engage in. If we are as successful in creating new groups this year as in last year, we could possibly pass the 50 mark. If you have an idea for an interest group, discuss it with our group co-ordinators, Sandra Isaacson or Marilyn Edgings. They will be willing to help you start one up.

We have our monthly meetings at The Springhouse to look forward to also. Although the future of the premises remains in doubt. However, we have a contingency plan in place should the hall become unavailable. But in the words of the author Harlan Coben, "Man plans and God laughs". Who knows for sure what the future holds!

Our new trip partnership of Sue Dunn and Sue Moss have plans developing for a variety of trips to attract your interest throughout the coming year. Thanks to advice from Chris Gomm and Jean Jardine, they have hit the ground running. In addition, Tina Smith and Carol Lindsell will be arranging theatre trips for more live entertainment to enjoy.

All that for £15-00 per annum.

As we enter our membership renewal period, please remember that Gift Aid **allows** us to recover 25% of your £15-00 membership fee from HMRC, which is £3-75 per member. And it does not cost you a penny! If you are an Income Tax payer, you can Gift Aid to any number of charitable organisations as long as the total amount does not exceed the Income Tax you pay annually. So please, if you can, always confirm your wish to Gift Aid your membership fee when you receive your membership renewal form. Thank you.

Alternatively, you can make a donation to our funds at any time. Our Treasurer, Mel Fox, will be pleased to hear from you. Throughout last year we received a number of raffle prizes kindly donated by members. We are always grateful for these which helps keep the expenditure on raffle prizes down.

We thank you in advance for your support.

Let us all come together and make 2026 a Happy, Peaceful and Enjoyable New Year.

**More Committee Chat next month**

SUGGESTION / FEEDBACK Box –Committee Member Jean Angus is now responsible for the SUGGESTION /FEEDBACK Box and it is kept on the back table near the exit door at the back of the hall in the Springhouse Club. There is paper and pen for any Member wishing to use the opportunity to make any suggestions or give feedback. You can also leave suggestions/comments from the CONTACT page of our website. There is also a book that has to be signed by any Member leaving the meeting early before it is officially closed.

**We consider each idea offered – this prompted the idea of changing the tea/coffee time.**

**Photos from our u3a Christmas Meal at The Plough**



**The pictures were taken by u3a member Ray Milbourn using his new camera. He said he really enjoyed taking the pictures and asked if he can do it again.**

**The website pictures can be down loaded but the file size is small and the caption and the blurred background may remain.**

**If there are any you particularly want, just send the caption title and I will email the full size pictures. Ray took 86, some doubles and a couple out of focus so I choose 46 of the best for the website.**







## Interest Groups

Please contact the people at the head of each article – all details are also at the back of this newsletter or on the website. Sandra Isaacson and Marilyn Edgings are also available to help support and set up new groups. If you are unable to go to a group for some time, please let them know as they could give away your space. Keep us all safe by not attending Group Meetings when you have a temperature or other symptoms of illness. *Groups may be found in alphabetical order in this Newsletter.*

## Amblers

**Tessa Duggan                    01375 670212**

**Jenny Radford                    01375 676338**

**\*\*Our group is full now. If you wish to join the group, please don't just turn up on an amble, contact Tessa or Jenny and we will put your name and details on our waiting list. Thank you.\*\***



The sensory garden had a couple of small trees with pretty pink blossom on them and there was a small patch of bright orange calendula (pot marigolds?) also blooming. Also in the garden was a Christmas scene, created with scarecrows and other props. It

was a lovely amble to finish the old year.

We were so lucky! The torrential rain forecast for the day of our December amble held off until we had just finished the walk and were heading into the Visitor Centre Café. Some of our amblers wore Christmas jumpers, some had Christmas-themed bobble hats, some had Christmas earrings. We were a merry band



walking round. At one point somehow the group got split up and as we were walking along the path, the other half of the group came walking towards us! We



thought they were all still behind us, but "oh no they weren't."

For our New Year amble, we are going to **Mucking** (Thameside Nature Park),



Mucking Wharf Road,  
Stanford le Hope SS17  
ORN on **Thursday 15th  
January 2026**. Meet us  
outside the Visitor  
Centre at **10.30am**. Look  
forward to seeing you  
there.

## Art at Mucking

**Jim Westgarth 01375 859432**

The Art at Mucking group meets every third Tuesday afternoon of the month at the Thameside Nature Park Centre at Mucking; the start time is 12.30pm approx. Do get in touch.

## Bird Watching

**Dave Snow 07490 069740**

## Book Group

**Ann Bailey**

**Dawn Lloyd-Warne 01375 461885**

## Board Games

**Margaret Lambert     07811 235274**

Just to let you know the Board Games Group is now meeting twice a month – **the first Thursday and third Friday of each month in Corringham Library 2.00pm to 4.00 pm.**

## Wednesday Boules

**Dave Jardine             07551 952211**

This year we raised £170 for Thurrock Food Bank in Chase Rd instead of sending Christmas cards!

**We will meet again on 28th January at Top Meadow for our New Year Lunch, and are back playing on 4th February at the Springhouse at 10.15 to play at 10.30 and the afternoon at starting at 1.30**

## Wednesday afternoon players

**Paul Brice                 07788452852**

The same as Morning Boules.

## Boules (Friday am)

**Colin & Carol Munro   07770 854318**

**Carol Munro**

Our Friday morning group is open to new members and we play at the Billet Recreation ground in Stanford.

## Bridge (supervised play)

**Coralann Fallon         07930 804036**

**This will be every other Monday from 2 – 4pm Please get in touch if you are interested. We hope to aid members to increase their understanding of how best to play.**

## Canasta

Pauline Kerridge

01375 462232

Every Wednesday at the Springhouse Club at 2.00. Everyone welcome.

## Chess

Rob Morrison

**The Chess Group meets on the first and third Monday of each month at Corringham library between 10am and 12 noon. All levels of ability welcome, including beginners. Tuition can be given, so if you've never played before but always wanted to, come and give it a go! If interested, please contact Robert Morrison by email in the first instance.**

## Couples Lunch

Dave and Jean Angus

07711359127

We wanted to ensure that the Couples Christmas Lunch would be perfect so we chose the good old reliable favourite of The Bull in Corringham. The food and service were as good as usual and a great time was had by all with lots of laughter, also included was where are we eating next month but "who knows".



The Chefs worked hard because although we had to pre order our food they ensured all the different menu choices came out at the same time so that we could all eat together – there was some silence during this period because we were eating the delicious food.

Lots of laughing and sharing news and as Michael S is now much better, he was able to share another of his stories with us all. The Andrea Rieu Show last week reminded Michael of a TV show he once saw with Tommy Trinder entertaining the on the Russell Harty chat show. Tommy needed a “feed man” for his live presentation and every time he said “what did you have for breakfast” he was told to say Haddock with the “prompt” saying Haddock Thick or Thin. They practised for ages and the on the day Tommy was asked the question about breakfast and the “prompt man” went completely to pieces on the live show and said “Cornflakes” after all that rehearsing!

We all held our Christmas crackers in a circle using them instead of holding hands, other guests must have thought we were mad but it had us all laughing. There were a number of jokes coming out of the crackers which included “What do you tell a stressed snowman” and the answer “Chill Out”. We could go on but must leave Chris some spaces for other updates in the Newsletter. By the time Members read this Newsletter we hope you have all had a great Christmas and our very Best Wishes for a Healthy and Prosperous 2026. With Best Wishes from Dave and Jean Angus.

*(photos on Dave Angus' phone)*

## **Cribbage**

**John Green                      01375 676411**

We will resume on **Tuesday 6th January 2026, then 20<sup>th</sup> Jan and 3<sup>rd</sup> Feb.**

Please be advised that the Hall hire cost will be going up in January, so costs will remain at £2 per session.

## **Curry Night**

**Tina Smith                      07899915184**

**Carol Lindsell                07906436445**

. Our next evening will be early in February however if you would like to join me just let me know. Details will be in newsletter

## Family History

Sue Green                      01375 676441

Peter Craggs                  07759 817821

Our next meeting in the Community Church Hall in Fobbing Road Corringham will be Wednesday January 21st 2026. This will be our planning meeting for the next year.

## Flower Arranging

Christine Lambert              07972 879173

Linda Tilbury                    07928 221626

We meet on the first and third Wednesday of the month at the Gateway Centre, from 10am until 12 noon. The cost is £2:00. We are a friendly group and you are very welcome to join us. There is a cafe where you can purchase a cup of tea or coffee. Just ring or just turn up if you wish to know more.

The first photo is the Christmas Rose or Hellebore, so called because it flowers



around Christmas. It is actually a member of the buttercup family. although it resembles a Rose. They are evergreen and come in colours of green, pink white or ruby. They like a shady spot and flower well into spring.

The second picture is of our arrangements in December, we only had one meeting due to the Church Carol Concerts and Services. Our theme was Christmas, we all made our



arrangements, hoping they will last until Christmas to dress our dining tables, it was a really good meeting and we finished with a small buffet to which we all contributed.

We start again in January. The first **Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> January** and then the third (21<sup>st</sup>). Why not make it a New Year's resolution to join a new group, you are welcome to turn up to see what we do

*Photos and report by Brenda Osborne*

## Gardening Allotment News

**Michael Farman**

### **January Allotment News**



**Happy New Year to you All**



Before and after the Christmas festivities, I managed a few days at the allotment. It was initially not that cold but dry and a bit dreary, as the sun hid behind the cloud cover. I was often the only person at the allotment site, so to keep warm, I did a fair amount of digging to turn over the older strawberry bed, after I had sliced off the top layer of grass and weed. The soil was relatively dry, so very

diggable, easy to remove the root and broke up easily. What did astound me was the amount of couch grass and bindweed root I removed. A whole bucket full! I don't usually compost this but have stored it in a plastic container for a few months to dry off, to kill the root. Then I will add it to a compost bin to complete the recycling. The strip I dug is the width of the allotment and around 4 feet wide where I plan to plant three rows of Potatoes. Still have to dig another strip to plant the other two rows of potatoes. You do need a fair amount of soil to earth up the growing potato foliage.

Just before the New Year I had a small non-healing scab removed from my forehead. Hopefully nothing sinister but removal recommended. So now I have to wait for it to heal before any more strenuous activity at the allotment.

The weather has turned much brighter but colder so not too bothered at not going to the allotment for a few days. Yes, the evergreen Blackberry still needs tying in and pruning!! Guess I could do that as it's not too strenuous. Bit cold on my hands.

The winter Onions, Garlic and Broad Beans continue to grow. I've lost a couple of Broad Bean plants through slug damage so have set a few more seed to grow in the greenhouse. A few plants had flopped over so have tied them to canes for support. The Garlic needs a period of cold to develop into a bulb of cloves.

I have completed weeding the second bed of Strawberry plants and have retained the runners to eventually complete a whole second bed of plants. Thought it more important to do a bit of digging before the ground became water logged. It also kept me warm.

I am in the process of sorting out my seed packets against my list. Seeds age so don't germinate that well. Solution is to buy replacements or a different variety. So far not seen any free postage but still have the New Year to go! Looking at my list, it suggests sowing a few pepper and chilli seeds in January along with some onion seed. Onions grown continuously from seed can produce bigger bulbs and they keep longer. A lot more fiddly than sowing onion sets.

If you received any growing kits for Christmas, follow the instructions and they will grow for you to enjoy over the coming months. Most bulbs will grow even if you plant after the month stated on the box. May be a bit later but who know with our changing climate. Yes, I remember saying that last month.



Happy Gardening Michael

## Golf

Paul Brice                      07788 452852

**The Golf Group meets every Monday (except Bank Holidays), ready for a 9.30am start.** Standard of play is varied so anybody should be able to fit in. Occasionally the course is unplayable so then we may use the driving range. We occasionally play on full courses so please make your interest known if you wish to join us on these occasions. **All players at playing at their own risk.** The only thing we ask is if you do plan to come along then please let me know as we occasionally change to start times to suit the course and ourselves. We also have a **What's App group** so if you wish to join that and receive updates, then let me have your Mobile number.

## Holiday and Cruises

Carol Smith            07845 233640

Mel Fox                      01375 679643

**This Holiday begins on Sept 28th 2026** (Romantic Journeys of Yorkshire with Cooks Coaches) This is a 5-day trip taking in some of the beautiful scenery of Yorkshire. **4 double rooms are still available.**

**The cost is £556pp for a twin or double, no singles left. This does not include a tip for the driver.**

**A NON-REFUNDABLE deposit of £50pp will be required at time of booking, the balance also NON REFUNDABLE required 3 months before departure.**

We will accept cash. Cheque made out to Cooks Coaches.

## Italian

Verena Carter            07808513453

**This meets on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month.**

**The venue is the Evangelical Church Fobbing Road from 2 till 4 o'clock.**

We are progressing well with our group trying to expand our vocabulary and grammar in a fun way. We can only take any new members if they have some knowledge of basic Italian. **The book which we use is BBC Talk Italian 1 which is available on Amazon if any new members wish to get it.**

### Line Dancing 1

Susan Moss                    07905314987  
Beverley Brice                07522368810  
Christine Hartnell            07771554174

*At Horndon Village Hall every Wednesday 10.15-11.45 – cost £2. All very welcome.*

### Line Dancing 2

Carol Munro      07766 035554  
Sue Moss            07905 314987

**Every other Tuesday starting at 10.00 – 11.00 at the Methodist Hall in Horndon-on-the-Hill.**

### Local History Group

**Diane Wallace**

**Sue Green            01375 676441**

Our meeting in November looked at some Local History Publications that we all have hiding on our bookshelves. Then we just shared memories of the local area and had more of a social meeting. We will not be meeting in December so our next session will be **Monday 26th January 2026**. Thanks to all who have helped this group keep going through the last year. We will be discussing a programme for next year at the next meeting.

## London Walks

Dave Snow                      07490 069740

Brian McDonald

## Lunch and Chat

Chris Brown            01708 852023

Lunch and Chat meets on the first Friday of the month 11-00am at the Langdon Hills Golf Club, Lower Dunton Road RM14 3TY.

**\*\*Unfortunately we need to close the group to new members as we are guests at the golf club and cannot ask for additional tables. However I'm happy to create a waiting list and if there are sufficient numbers look at starting a second group if people are interested.\*\***

## Lunch Bunch (Tuesday)

Lynn Lawson    07422 541606

We meet on the third Tuesday of the month. unfortunately we are still unable to take new members.

## Memory Lane

Sue Green                      01375 676441

Jennifer Freeman

## Mixed Craft Group

Marilyn Edgings                      01375 677425

Barbara Purser                      01375 677095

If there are any new u3a members who would be interested in trying out the craft group, come along to The **Baptist Church in Corringham on the first Tuesday of the** month and see for yourself or get in touch with either Marilyn or Barbara.

### Music Makers

Mo Wakeling                    07902 649122

We now meet on the 2nd and 4th Fridays in the afternoons.

### Old British Motor Cycle and Car Enthusiasts

Graham Edgings            01375 677425

### "Paws on the Go"

Eileen Drewer    01375 403315

Sue Moss.            07905 314987

With cold wet weather and illness the walks have ceased for a few weeks.

### Photography Group

Jenny Lees                    01375 360786

Mel Fox

### u3a Photography Group Programme for 2026.

1. **Jan 9th:** Design Museum, Kensington High Street.
2. **Feb13th:** Castle Hedingham, Snowdrops and Castle.
3. **March13th:** Battersea Power Station and surroundings.

4. **April 10<sup>th</sup>**: Leadenhall Market
5. **May 8<sup>th</sup>**: Rochester by bus
6. **June 12<sup>th</sup>**: Fobbing and church tower, to be led by local guide.
7. **July 10<sup>th</sup>**: Beth Chatto's Garden
8. **August 14<sup>th</sup>**: Finchingfield and Lavenham
9. **September 5<sup>th</sup>**: Faversham Hop Festival
10. **October 9<sup>th</sup>**: Autumn Trees.
11. **November 13<sup>th</sup>**: London at night including 120 Fenchurch St & Tower Bridge. Bring a tripod & neutral density filter. Advice to be given.
12. **December 11<sup>th</sup>**: Christmas Lunch at The Ship, East Tilbury, 12o'c. (To be booked by Jenny).

N.B. These dates are subject to possible change due to weather conditions etc. Pop up events may happen if something photographable occurs and we will ring around. If we want to view photo's we can book Mucking. Regarding event no.6, Johanna is to liaise with a person in Fobbing Village who can guide us on the day and look into accessing the church tower. Jenny Lees

### **Play Reading 1** **Beryl Woodcock**

We meet on the last Friday of each month and have room for a couple more.

### **Tea, Cake and Play Reading**

**Deb Foster**                      **01375 677971**

## Quilting

**Carol Smith**

**07845 233640**

The Quilting Group meet on the first Monday in the month, starting time 2 until 4 o'clock. We do a lot of talking and laughing, as we are a very friendly group of like-minded people, with Tea and Coffee a must, and also Cake or Biscuits. If you are interested why not come along and see what we do get up to. No pressure will be put on you, if it's not what you want OK. Please ring me on 01375 675998 and I will tell you where I live and how to find us.

## Quiz Group

**Sue Green**

**01375 676441**

**Ann Bailey**

## Ann's Quiz

- 1 What sport is played at The Gabba?
2. Who is the new Formula 1 World champion?
- 3 Who won BBC Sports Personality of the year,2025?
- 4 Which Championship team are known as The Tractor Boys?
- 5 Who are the hosts of The Sewing Bee?
- 6.To which animal does cervine refer?
- 7.What is the capital of the Isle of Man?
- 8.In which country would you find the Falkirk Wheel
- 9 Which TV quiz show involves words and numbers?
10. which tin of sweets includes a green

Answers on Page 25

## Ramblers

**Chris Gomm                      07905 117622**

### Coalhouse Fort Thursday 22nd January 2026

For our January walk we will meet in the **Car Park beside Coalhouse Fort at 10:30** on the **22nd January '26**

**Address:- Princess Margaret Road, East Tilbury, RM18 8PB.**

This is a pleasant walk heading along the sea wall heading towards the Thameside Nature Reserve as far as possible then heading back through the footpaths to East Tilbury. For those that would like there is a cafe beside the fort where we can stop for some refreshment following the walk.

## Scrabble

**Magda Norris**

Our Scrabble group is meeting fortnightly at the **Gardner Hall in Fobbing** We start at **1.30 pm for about 2 hours. See Cribbage for dates** our next meetings.

## Singing for Fun

**Mo Wakeling                      07902 649122**

Singing group now has eleven members and Mo Wakeling has had to close the group as it is held in her house.

## Singles lunch

**Christine Codd**

**Meetings will be Wednesday on week 2. Do get in touch.**

## Ten Pin Bowling

**Jean Jardine**

**07551 952211**

We meet on the **first Thursday (Please note the change of Day)** each month in **school terms** so our next meeting will be at the **Hollywood Bowl Lakeside**, meeting in M&S coffee shop at 10.00 for coffee and play at 11.00. Our **January** meet will be on the **8th** as the first Thursday is New Years Day.

## Ten Pin Tuesday

**Kevin Brice**

**07973349288**

Ten Pin Tuesday interest group meets on the third Tuesday of each month, other than during school holidays. Our next session is on **Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2026**

The group meets at the Hollywood Bowl, Lakeside for its ten pin bowling sessions. We have two games per session.

Entrance time to the Hollywood Bowl is 11.00am.

We suggest getting a tea/coffee in M&S Café around 10.30 am and arrive at the Hollywood Bowl by 11.00am, ready to commence bowling asap  
New members welcome, ***please email or ring first.***

## Ann's quiz Answers

<u>1. Cricket</u>	<u>2 Lando Norris</u>	<u>3. Rory McIlroy</u>
<u>4 Ipswich Town</u>	<u>5 Esme Young and Patrick Grant</u>	<u>6. Deer</u>
<u>7. Douglas</u>	<u>8. Scotland</u>	<u>9. Countdown</u>
<u>10. Quality Street</u>		

## Trips – New Group Leaders

**Sue Dunn**

**Sue Moss**

**Romford Dogs**

- Lunch and an afternoon of racing can be enjoyed for the sum of £38.

Come and join us for a fun filled afternoon in convivial company with plenty of opportunities to win a fortune (or not)

*There are still seats available and we need your support for this trip , as at the moment it is not viable , we would hate to cancel at this late stage.*

Please ensure to complete a booking form which can be found on the website or at the back of most editions of the Newsletter.

Please make cheques payable to SLH U3a.

**Coach pick up times : Lampits Hill -12.10, Springhouse-12.20, The Oak-12.30**

### New Trip for Sale

**MAYFIELD BAKERY/VAN HAUGH GARDEN CENTRE**

**THURSDAY 26<sup>th</sup> MARCH**

**COST £53**

A trip to this ever popular venue will be preceded by a coffee stop at Van Haugh Garden Centre. We continue on to the bakery at Harlow where we will see a demonstration of bread making by a Master Baker. There will be a ploughman's lunch and a small loaf to take home. There is also a grand array of pastries and cakes to tempt your palate.

*Please ensure to complete a booking form which can be found on the website or at the back of most editions of the Newsletter.*

*Please make cheques payable to SLH U3a*

**Coach pick up times :**

**Lampits Hill.- 8.30,**

**Springhouse-8.40,**

**The Oak - 8.50**

## Top Hat is fully booked

### Theatre Shows

Tina Smith      07899915184

Carol Lindsell    07906436445

Our next theatre trip is to see the Producers – a musical comedy – on 5th March @ £58 pp. All tickets sold. I have heard very favourable reviews.

### UKE3A

Madeline Beesley    01375678576



The Ukulele Group spreading Christmas Cheer at the Thameside Nature Reserve.

### WINE APPRECIATION GROUP

Graham Hodgson    01375 675588

Jean Jardine        07551 952211

## It's Wine O'clock

Paula Mullooly 07754 727011

We had fun celebrating the last meeting of 2025. We tasted English sparkling wine, white, rosé and red wine, finishing off the evening with Port and Baileys. Festive cheese and nibbles were enjoyed along with mince pies. We played our Christmas game of the Wine Exchange and took home a nice bottle of wine each. The evening's lesson was "How Many Sizes of Wine Bottles Do You Know?"



Vi won the Christmas quiz and Di won the Atlas of Wine book raffle. A great year of tasting wines from around the world. Wishing you all a happy and healthy 2026 from the *It's Wine O'Clock* group. Cheers!



## Ann's Column

I wish everyone a Happy and Peaceful New Year.

\*\*\*\*\*If you don't receive the advance email, do get in touch by using the email from the committee list for advance email \*\*\*\*\*

Group Timetable					
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>Week 1</b>					
<b>am</b>	Golf		Boules(Springhouse) Line Dancing 1 Flower Arranging.	Ten Pin Bowling	PÉTANQUE/BOULES (Billet).  Lunch and Chat
<b>pm</b>	Golf Quilting O B M UKE3A(Ukulele) Memory Lane. Bridge	Mixed Craft. Italian Beginners	Canasta. Boules pm (Springhouse)	Board Games	Lunch & Chat
<b>Week 2</b>					
<b>am</b>	London Walks Golf		Boules (Springhouse) Line Dancing 1		PÉTANQUE/BOULES (Billet) Photography Paws on the Go
<b>pm</b>	London Walks	Scrabble/Cribbage Every two weeks	Canasta. Boules pm (Springhouse) Singles Lunch	<b>SLH &amp; District u3a General Meeting</b>	Music Makers Photography
<b>Week 3</b>					
<b>am</b>	Golf	10 Pin Tuesday	Flower Arranging Boules (Springhouse) Line Dancing 1	Ambling	Gallery Visits PÉTANQUE/BOULES (Billet)
<b>pm</b>	Golf UKE3A (Ukulele) It's Wine O'Clock (Evening)	Tuesday Lunch Bunch Italian Beginners. <i>Art at Mucking</i>	Family History Canasta. Boules pm	Wine Appreciation	Board Games Gallery Visits Book Club
<b>Week 4 Last</b>					
<b>am</b>	Golf.		Boules (Springhouse) Line Dancing 1	Rambling	Birdwatching PÉTANQUE/BOULES (Billet).
<b>pm</b>	Singing for Fun Local History.		Canasta Boules pm. (Springhouse)	T.C.& Play Reading <i>Couples Lunch</i>	Play Reading 1 Music Makers.

**LINE DANCING 2 meets every fortnight on Tuesday morning.**

Quiz Night – get in touch; often a Saturday.

Curry Club – get in touch to book a place.

## Contact Details for Interest Group Leaders

Groups with no spaces are highlighted.

Ambling	Tessa Duggan Jenny Radford	01375 670212 01375 676338	
Art at Mucking	Jim Westgarth	01375 859432	
Bird Watching	Dave Snow Brian NcDonald	07490 069740	
Board Games (Thurs. & Fri)	Margaret Lambert	07811 235274	
Book Group	Ann Bailey Dawn Lloyd-Warne	- 01375 461885	
Boules (Wed.am)	Dave & Jean Jardine	07551 952211	
Boules (Wed.pm)	Paul Brice	07788 452852	
Boules (Fri am)	Colin & Carol Munro	07770 854318	
Bridge (Supervised Play)	Coralann Fallon	07930 804036	
Canasta	Pauline Kerridge	01375 462232	
Chess	Robert Morrison	-	
Couples Lunch	Dave & Jean Angus	07711 359127	
Cribbage	John Green	01375 676441	
Curry Night	Tina Smith Carol Lindsell	07899 915184 07906 436445	
Day Trips	Sue Moss Sue Dunn	07905 314987 07891 019907	
Family History	Sue Green Peter Craggs	01375 676441 01375 643749 07759 817821	
Flower Arranging	Christine Lambert Linda Tilbury	07504 238154 07972 879173 07928 221626	
Gallery Visits	Jenny Lees Chris Henderson	01375 360786 -	

<b>Golf</b>	Paul Brice	07788 452852	
<b>Holidays &amp; Cruises (bk)</b>	Carol Smith Mel Fox	07845 233640 01375 679643	
<b>It's Wine O'clock</b>	Paula Mullooly	07754 727011	
<b>Basic Italian</b>	Verena Carter	07808 513453	
<b>Line Dancing 1 (Wed)</b>	Susan Moss Beverley Brice Christine Hartnell	07905 314987 07522 368810 07771 554174	
<b>Line Dancing 2 (alt. Weds)</b>	Carol Munro Sue Moss	07766 035554 07905 314987	
<b>Local History</b>	Sue Green Diane Wallace	01375 676441 -	
<b>Local Research Projects</b>	Sue Green Diane Wallace	01375 676441 -	
<b>London Walks BK</b>	Dave Snow Brian McDonald	07490 069740 -	
<b>Lunch and Chat</b>	Chris Brown	01708 852023	
<b>Memory Lane</b>	Sue Green Jennifer Freeman	01375 676441 07802 326317	
<b>Mixed Craft</b>	Marilyn Edgings Barbara Purser	01375 677425 01375 677095	
<b>Music Makers</b>	Mo Wakeling	07902 649122	
<b>Old British M/C &amp; Car Enthus't (bk)</b>	Graham Edgings	01375 677425	
<b>Paws on the Go</b>	Eileen Drewer Sue Moss	01375 403315 07905 314987	
<b>Photography</b>	Jenny Lees Mel Fox	01375 360786 01375 679643	
<b>Play Reading 1</b>	Beryl Woodcock	-	
<b>T. C. &amp; Play Reading</b>	Deb Foster	01375 677971	
<b>Quilting</b>	Carol Smith	07845 233640 01375 675988	
<b>Quiz Night</b>	Ann Bailey Sue Green	- 01375 676441	
<b>Ramblers</b>	Chris Gomm	07905 117622	

Scrabble	Magda Norris	01375 360355	
Singing for Fun	Mo Wakeling	07902 649122	
Singles Lunch	Christine Codd	07594 948003	
Sunday Singles Lunch			
Ten Pin Bowling	Jean Jardine	07551 952211	
Ten Pin Tuesday	Kevin Brice	07973 349288	
Tuesday Lunch Bunch	Lynn Lawson	07422 541606	
Theatre Trips (bk)	Tina Smith Carol Lindsell	07899 915184 07906 436445	
Uke-3a	Madeline Beesley	01375 678576	
Wine Appreciation	Graham Hodgson Jean Jardine	01375 675588 07551 952211	

**Contact details for Stanford-le-Hope and District u3a**

**Chair** – Kevin Brice

**Vice-Chair**–Danni Tate

**Treasurer** –Mel Fox

**Assistant Treasurer** – Sue Green

**Secretary& Policy Documents** –Janet Deeney.

**Membership Secretary** – Richard Fox

**Newsletter Editor** – Chris Henderson items for the newsletter.

**Interest Groups' Co-Ordinator** –Sandra Isaacson

**Assistant Group Co-ordinator** –Marilyn Edgings

**Welfare and Disabilities Co-Ordinators**

**Advance Notice Email** – Chris Henderson problems with Advance Email

**Stanford-le-Hope and District u3a Website Managers–**

Michael Farman & Chris Gomm

Suggestions Box – Jean Angus

Committee Members –Pam Tate, Sue Dunn, Sue Moss

**Website *https://slh.u3asite.uk***

**National u3a Organisation**

[www.u3a.org.uk](http://www.u3a.org.uk)

Tel 020-8466-6139

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## Booking Form required for Stanford-le-Hope & District u3aTrips

<b>Event</b> (Trip/visit/show)	
Date of Event	
<b>Your names</b>	1. 2.
<b>Emergency Contact Details</b>	Phone no. Name of emergency contact
Contact <b>Telephone number -</b>	
<b>Mobile Number</b> to be used on day of the Trip	
<b>Email address</b>	
<b>Cheque/Cash value*</b> (Indicate if it is cheque or cash)	

\*

Separate payment required for each event

**Please choose your pick-up point.**

<b>Lampits Hill</b>	<b>Springhouse Club Corringham bus stop</b>	<b>The Oak (By the bus stop) Grays</b>
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