

## Newsletter for March 2026



Bird watching on a cold but sunny day. *Photo on Chris Gomm's camera.*

### **Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2026**

We do not have a speaker for Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March. The March meeting tends to be dictated by the numbers of members renewing for the coming 2026/2027 membership year.

However, time permitting, we have organised a Fun Quiz for members to participate in. You do not have to be a Mastermind candidate to join in. Each table will have the opportunity to be a team answering a range of general knowledge questions.

## Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> April 2026

Our speaker on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> April 2026 is Peggy Griffin.

Peggy will be speaking about, "The Essex Witch Trials".

Over 700 people were accused of witchcraft, in Essex, between 1560 and 1675. More than any other county. Why? A woman could easily be accused of the dark arts merely by owning a cat. Peggy will make this serious subject both interesting and humorous.

## COMMITTEE CHAT

Watching the Winter Olympics emphasised the need for teamwork to achieve one's goals. The three gold medals, one silver and one bronze won by British competitors were all achieved by dedication and teamwork. Congratulations to them all, and all the others who participated and weren't so lucky to get a medal.

Our own u3a teams work diligently to ensure your u3a runs as smoothly as possible. Whether it's the executive committee, interest group leaders or voluntary helpers, we are all working as parts of the u3a team for the success of your u3a.

At the 2025 AGM, the accounts were passed subject to the auditor's report. At our last general meeting on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> February, we confirmed the auditor had verified the accuracy of the accounts. These were voted on and passed at that meeting.

The annual membership renewal process is always a testing time for all involved. Whilst the system we introduced at the February meeting proved reasonably successful, the committee have reviewed events and made some changes for our next meeting on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March.

Entrance to the hall will once again be via The Springhouse main door. It is vital than any people queueing outside do so along the yellow hatched area, behind the barrier, to the right of the main entrance door. Please DO NOT queue to the left or on the entrance ramp. This creates a health and safety hazard.

We have hired the Springhouse Suite Lounge (first door on the left going towards the Hall) for processing both membership renewals and new membership applications.

Forms for new members and those renewing membership will be available as you enter the room. These MUST be completed in BLOCK CAPITALS prior to approaching the payment desks. When you have fully completed your membership form, please join the appropriate queue for payment. Cash and cheque payments will be taken at the queue on your left. For credit card payments, join the queue on your right.

If you have paid by Bank Transfer, you will be able to collect your new membership card from the middle table. When you have been given your membership card, please leave the room by the second door and proceed directly to the main hall.

**If you have already renewed your membership and have been given your new membership card, please proceed directly to the main hall.**

We held a meeting on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February, for those interest group leaders considering using the u3a Beacon database, to attend and receive a demonstration by our Beacon Administrator, Danni Tate. Danni answered a range of questions and emphasised that Beacon is very much on trial and interest group leaders are not being forced to use it. However, a number of those present could see the benefits in using Beacon to make their lives just that little bit easier.

*More Committee Chat next month*

Don't forget the SUGGESTION / FEEDBACK Box 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. 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.**

### **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.\*\***

With all the rain we've had for what seems forever, the ground has been well and truly saturated. Our February amble to Gloucester Park, Basildon, was an exercise in negotiating large, ankle-deep



puddles, squelchy grass and slip-sliding mud. Our intrepid amblers mastered all the obstacles and we had a nice amble round the park, grateful for the stretches of dry tarmac en route. The cafe was busy as it was half term, but we all found tables and seats to have hot drinks and a chat.

Our next amble is on **Thursday 19th March** and we will be going to **Wat Tyler Country Park**, Pitsea Hall Lane, Pitsea SS16 4UH. 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**

Unfortunately, Dave was unable to join us for our February Bird Watch but nine of us birders went along to our local reserve, Rainham Marshes and we weren't disappointed.

Thanks to largely Kim's identification, we saw 23 different species of birds. These included Marsh Harrier, Tufted Duck, Curlew, Little Grebe, Great crested Grebe, Pochard, Snip, pintail and many more.

Certainly, a Record for most of us in one morning!!

*Photo & Report by Chris Gomm*



## 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**

**Beginning again on 4<sup>th</sup> March.** We hope the sun will come out so we can get back to playing boules each Wednesday at the Springhouse Club meeting at **10.15 to play at 10.30 and the afternoon group starting at 1.30 the cost is two pounds for either group** or both including tea coffee and biscuits we have spare boules if you would like to give it a try

## Wednesday Afternoon Boules

**Paul Brice                07788452852**

The same as Morning Boules.

## Boules/ Pétanque (Friday am)

**Colin & Carol Munro    07770 854318**

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

Carol and Colin Munro

Please contact Carol or Colin if you wish to join us at the Billet Rec.

## 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              07711 359127

For 19<sup>th</sup> February 2025 Couples Lunch Dave and Jean decided to pick up on Michael Shillings' recommendation to use The White Lion in Fobbing and what a recommendation that was. Both the Food and Service was excellent and the prices really reasonable. The Staff put a long table together for us all so that we could carry on as usual with our



chatting and laughing while enjoying a fabulous meal. Every day they change the “specials” so that all makes a nice change if you are a “regular” not having to choose from the same menu all the time, what a lovely choice there was. For some it was a first time visit and for others of us it was a re-visit after a number of years and there are now new owners in place. The “old style layout” was all the tables being set out for four people in a “cubicle” but now with “proper” tables and chairs the format is all very friendly. There were other customers coming and going, of all ages, while we were there for three hours and all seemed very pleased with their meals and it looked like some of them were “regulars” revisiting the restaurant, some as a family with teenagers, all in very good humour.

Today Michael S was back on form and was able to share a couple of his jokes with us all, the first was a joke we had had already, but the second one was new



to us. A light aircraft was preparing for take-off with ten passengers getting on board and sitting in their places. This was an aeroplane that allowed dogs on board and there was a highly trained dog on board whose owner sent him forward to meet a very attractive blonde lady and he returned and tapped the

owner on the shoulder with his right paw, this indicated that the lady was a drug mule. The owner sent the dog off again and this time to sit with a big burly bloke and when he returned, he jumped on the other shoulder which indicated the big burly bloke had illegal currency. He then sent the dog off again to the back of the plane this time and when the dog returned. he jumped up and messed all over his owner’s lap with the owner explaining this bloke had a bomb on board so the dog was messing himself with fear! Well, here’s to the next time—

We have had to change the day for the March Couples Lunch but not a problem we are all booked in to a recently renovated public house that always has a good report for its excellent food so here's looking forward to March.

We have come across a Restaurant within DP World we are going to try with a few colleagues from Couples Lunch Group to experiment and will report back to you all next month. Hope you all have a good month and the weather dries up before our feet turn to webbed feet adapted for paddling about like ducks!! Our new "Walking for Disabled Amblers" starts on 8<sup>th</sup> April 2026 and if any Members have any queries please do not hesitate to contact us.

Dave and Jean are starting a new Group on 8<sup>th</sup> April 2026 called Disability Amblers Walking Group, these will be short walks on flat surfaces with refreshment café available at the end. If anyone is interested in joining the Group please contact us for further information.

Dave and Jean Angus.

*(photos on Dave Angus' phone)*

## Cribbage

**John Green                    01375 676411**

The next meetings of the Cribbage Group **on Tuesday afternoons 1.30–3.30 will be 17th March, 31st March and 14th April at Gardner Hall Fobbing.** Cost £2 to cover hall hire and refreshments. All welcome.

## Curry Night

**Tina Smith                    07899915184**

**Carol Lindsell                07906436445**

Twenty of our members joined me in a banquet meal at Zaal's Restaurant on Thursday 5th March and once again the evening was filled with fun and laughter At £18 each we think it is exceptionally good value. I haven't arranged for our next meal. I am considering a Chinese meal at Kongs in Lampits Hill on Thursday 30th April. I will confirm details asap but please let me know if you would be interested

## Family History

**Sue Green**                      **01375 676441**

**Peter Craggs**                    **07759 817821**

Our meeting in February was a celebration of the Memory Lane project. The group had met monthly for a couple of years sharing their written memories of relatives they could remember but also writing down details of weddings, childhood Christmas's, schools, shopping experiences etc. for their own enjoyment but also as a record for their own family. Some of the accounts have been funny, some poignant and all of the group learned a lot about themselves and each other and it was amazing how many common themes came through the writing. Each of the group shared a little of their writing with the wider Family History group and it certainly sparked a lot of laughter and chatter. Thank you to the Memory Lane group for enthusiastically taking part in the meeting.

Our next meeting on **Wednesday 18th March in the Community Church Hall in Fobbing Road, Corringham will be looking at our World War II female relatives'** contribution to the war effort. Bring along any details that you have to share with the group.

**We also have room for a couple of new members.**

## 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.**

This photo is so cheerful after all the rain and gloom we have had, the first glimpse of spring, the Christmas roses meeting up with the purple crocus and daffodils waiting to burst into bloom welcoming spring.



The first week of the month we always have a theme to work to, this time it was romance as it was nearly Valentine's Day, we all had different ideas but most of the flowers were roses and delicate displays.



For Week Three the theme was our own choice. We were very lucky as we had 2 new members join us.

The displays were very different,



Some of them were created using no oasis. Oasis will not compost down and is considered not good for the environment; they are working to manufacture a more environmentally friendly one.

You can see we had lots of different ideas, envelopes made by members with flowers, placed in them. Baskets, miniature hand cart, many different shapes and colours.

We finished with a nice tea or coffee and a chat.

*Photos and report by Brenda Osborne*

## **Gardening Allotment News**

**Michael Farman**

### **March**

I made little progress at the allotment last month. Digging an additional strip for the potatoes stopped. It's been so wet and the soil waterlogged, the trench

where I was digging filled with water. It not advisable to dig in these conditions as it can compact the soil. So, I started digging elsewhere, where it was a bit drier but that too has stopped, as more rain again waterlogged the digging trench. The rhubarb has shown signs of life so have weeded both areas where it grows. It seems to like the wet, and now the warmer conditions at the end of February.

The seed potatoes have small shoots so they are in a tray in the greenhouse to continue the chitting process. The seed potatoes are a good size this year, so hopefully enough for full rows across the width of the plot.

Cut down all the old Asparagus growth to expose a bramble growing in the middle of the bed. Will try and remove it without disturbing or destroying the asparagus plants too much.

I am hopeful the Broad Beans have recovered. Noticing the beginnings of flowers at the top of the plants in recent warm days.

I eventually placed my seed order with my regular supplier in Coggeshall. After a week the seeds arrived. Checked off and organised, ready for sowing against my list. Pepper and Chilli seed has a fairly long germination time so need to be sown early spring. Bottom heat aids germination so I moved a few indoor plants together along the window sill to allow me to position my propagator. The seeds were sown about a week ago but no sign of germination. I also purchased a packet of Sweet Pea seeds, so have sown a few of them in a pot in the propagator. Sweet peas have a hard outer shell so it takes a while for it to soften and moisture to penetrate the shell, swell and crack, allowing the seedling to grow. You can soak the seed or nick the shell before planting as it may improve germination. Only then plant the seeds that swell. I just sow mine.

So, bit of a slow start to the year but the recent warm days gives encouragement for the future.

Enjoy your gardening. Helps to keeps you active.

## Golf

**Paul Brice**

**07788 452852**

The Golf Group meets every Monday at our new venue of Noak Hill Golf Course on the way to Billericay. It is a similar distance from Stanford-le-Hope as our previous venue. As people may be aware, the Dunton Hills Course is now a

potential housing development so is closed pending work to start in the near future.

Anybody wishing to join us, please get in touch and join our What's App Group where we display times for the meetings.

The cost at Noak Hill is £10 for 18 holes. The course is family run and includes a room where you may wish to purchase teas, coffees, soft drinks and some alcoholic drinks. It is also famed for homemade cakes as well as bacon rolls, etc.

We normally start at 9.30am but some times vary dependent on weather conditions or availability.

### Holiday and Cruises

**Carol Smith      07845 233640**

**Mel Fox            01375 679643**

I am thinking of organising a cruise in September 2027. With Ambassador Cruise Line in Tilbury. If anyone has the brochure it's cruise number A12724 **Autumnal Legends of the British Isles**. Requires £200 on booking – selling at March General Meeting from 1:30.

Sailing from **Tilbury on 9th Sept 2027**. Calling at St Marys, Cobh, Liverpool, Belfast, Tobermory, Lerwick and Invergordon. Presently there are 11 single cabins available.

More information on our website. From EVENTS at the top, scroll down and click the cruise.

If you are interested, could you please email Mel Fox.

### Romantic journeys North Yorkshire – Week beginning 28<sup>th</sup> Sept 2026

This is a 5-day trip taking in some of the beautiful scenery of Yorkshire. • The trip includes a diesel train ride on the Settle and Carlisle railway, passing through spectacular scenery and crossing the Ribbleshead Viaduct. • A trip on the Wensleydale Railway which is an authentic heritage railway. • A steam train ride along the Worth Valley. The railway has appeared in many films the most famous

being The Railway Children. Other places included are Dent, Hawes, the historic town of Skipton, Bolton Abbey and Grassington. A charming market town with cobbled square, shops, cafés, restaurants and hotels. It is also the location of the fictional Darrowby in All Creatures Great & Small, a popular TV series.

Hotel The Cedar Court Hotel Leeds/Bradford is situated just off Junction 26 of the M62 . More information on the SLHu3a website EVENTS column.

**There are only 3 double rooms left** . A non-returnable deposit of £100 per room is required at time of booking. **£556pp**

If interested contact Mel Fox.

## 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**

**Our group are now dancing every Tuesday instead of every other week starting at 10.00 – 11.00 at the Methodist Hall in Horndon-on-the-Hill.**

## Local History Group

**Diane Wallace**

**Sue Green          01375 676441**

The last Local History meeting was cancelled unexpectedly because it clashed with a group leaders' meeting which was announced in the February Advanced Notice email.

The next Local History meeting is on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March at the Community Church Hall, Fobbing Road, Corringham at 2pm. The topic will be the Woolmarket in Horndon on the Hill. Members are asked to bring along any information they have researched, any relevant memorabilia or photos, and to dig deep memory wise to recall any memories or anecdotes that they could share with us. (This is the subject we would have looked at in February.)

Also in this March meeting, we will plan some more sessions, using the topics list, which has expanded due to ideas put forward by members in January.

## London Walks

**Dave Snow              07490 069740**

**Brian McDonald**

London Walk February 2026

Our latest walk started at another of Leslie Green's stations, Kentish Town. This area was where the lost River Fleet once ran. In years gone by, the area was very much into the manufacture of pianos and false teeth. We didn't see the MP for the area, Sir Kier, as he is never here.

Much of the land here had been owned by either Oxford or Cambridge colleges as a result of bequests left by former students over the years. Most has been sold off but it does explain why these colleges are quite rich.

We passed a number of pubs and saw the Greek Orthodox Cathedral near which Oswald Moseley rallied some 6000 supporters to march to Trafalgar Square. The public toilets in the area had been put to a new use, one as a music studio and another as a cocktail bar. There were a number of references to music videos and no doubt some of our walkers were treated to a rendition or two. Some of the houses were painted in pastel colours and they looked very smart.



The old St Pancras public baths were seen with their separate entrances for men (first and second class) and women (all the same class). There were numerous

old buildings which had been used for the manufacture of pianos and false teeth but they were all now converted into living accommodation although some of the names such as Brinsmead lived on.

Anglers Lane was so named from the fishing done in the River Fleet, hopefully before it became more of a sewer. We did see the large pipe through which the river now runs, on its way to Blackfriars. We also saw a space helmet at the Eleanor Palmer School referring to their video link with Kjell Lindgren on the International Space Station.

We only saw two blue plaques on this walk but we did see the camel quietly resting in a front garden!

### **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.

For our February meet up we returned to The Treacle Mine.

Many of the Ladies enjoy the fish and chips there. Two meals for £14 on some choices. A real bargain!

They also offer a mini dessert, with coffee, which was very good although one of

us found the coffee too strong!

Lots of the usual chatter. We certainly cheered the restaurant up!

### 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**

I am hoping to start our walks again next month (March), the weather and underfoot conditions may have improved by the. It will be the walk on Canvey Island seafront that was planned last year. I will send emails to confirm. Happy New Year to everyone. Eileen . Well folks, it looks promising for Friday, **March 13**, for our 1st walk of 2026. As mentioned in the February newsletter we will meet at 10am for a walk along the Canvey Island seafront and a refreshment stop to finish off at the Bay Cafe.

Parking is in the pay and display 'Thorney Bay' car park. It will take approximately 1 – 2 hours depending on our 'speed'  
Hope you can make it (everyone welcome, with or without a dog). Look forward

to seeing you there. 

## Photography Group

Jenny Lees

01375 360786

Mel Fox

### Photography Group visit to Kensington High Street.

We left Kensington High Street Station via a very pleasantly designed arcade

presenting a few questions about pairs of letters incorporated in their designs. I looked them up but couldn't find any information. If anyone



knows, please let me know. (*When originally built this was the Metropolitan Railway Line? – suggestion by Editor.*)

While taking photographs a lady came up to me and asked why we were taking pictures and that she had just been in Japan house doing the same herself. It was a strong recommendation so as it was close by we had a quick peruse and decided to explore further, later in the day.

The Design Museum was our primary focus. The Museum's hyperbolic paraboloid roof is a defining feature of the building's architecture.



It was originally designed in

1962 by RMJM for the Commonwealth Institute. RMJM is a leading global architecture firm which is renowned for its innovative designs. The roof has distinctive curves which are formed by a tensioned steel and timber system. The roof's shape creates an open, column-free interior, allowing for uninterrupted space beneath it.



The Atrium now sits directly under the roof structure, serving as a central space within the museum. The open-plan design, framed by

exposed wood and natural light, allows for a sense of height and movement while maintaining a connection to the building's original form. This layout with its

triple- height space make it an ideal venue for displays and various events and heightens the museum's role as a cultural landmark in the area. Its unusual structure made for interesting and different photographic angles.

We made use of one of the museums two cafes. This one had a particularly comfortable soft seating area and we were joined by a group of 4 designers. ensuing conversations about how they met and the design areas they went into were extremely interesting.

Working off some of the calories consumed we decided to walk along Kensington High Street after having a good look at the Paolozzi sculpture and water feature in front of the museum. Our aim was to photograph anything interesting that took our attention



including Art Deco architecture, historic features and, with their permission, interesting people.

Retracing our steps, we managed to grab a bite to eat – inc' a lovely cup of coffee for 99p- in Kensington High Street! before we explored Japan House. There was a lovely

serene atmosphere in there. The main exhibition was the work of 100 Japanese artists, mainly potters, with a few workers in bamboo weaving and carving.

After a very productive day we were looking forward to the train ride home.

**Unfortunately**, the announcer informed us that there would be no



trains to Fenchurch Street for the foreseeable..... NOT SUCH A PERFECT ENDING TO THE DAY AFTER ALL.

## **Jenny Lees.**

*Photos by 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**

The Quiz Group is on the lookout for local charity quizzes for the Spring season. There seems to be a dearth of quizzes about at the moment. The only regular one is the Guide dogs quiz in Basildon and we have not seen any others around. If you hear of any in the local area, please let us know. If you want to join the mailing list to see where we are going and join in, also let us know.

## Ann's Quiz

1. How is Lord Greystoke better known?
2. A sweet anagram of Robert?
3. What were the 2 centres for the recent Winter Olympics?
4. What is a loupe?
5. What do we call a triangle with 2 equal sides?
6. What is the chemical formula for Adam's Ale
7. What is the current price of a first class stamp?
8. How many Billy Goats Gruff were there?
9. Who hosts the 1% Club?
10. Where is the opera Aida set? \_\_\_\_\_ Answers on Page 26

## Ramblers

**Chris Gomm                      07905 117622**

**Our March ramble will start outside the Civic Hall, Blackshots Car Park, Grays RM16 2JU at 10:30. on Thursday 27th March meeting at 10:30.**

Our walk will take in Hangman's Wood, Grays, walking to Orsett via Orsett Heath. This is a very pleasant 5-mile circular walk mainly following footpaths on fairly level terrain with one stile on route.

At the end of the walk we have the option of visiting Impulse Leisure for refreshments.

I'll look forward to seeing you then.

If you have any further enquiries please feel free to contact me, Christine Gomm on 07905 117622

## **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.**

## **Sunday Singles**

**Margaret Lambert- 07811 235 274**

**Chris Brown-                      01708 852023**

The Sunday singles group is now up and running.

We have 12 members and the group is now closed, but if anyone would like to join they can be put on a reserve list.

We meet on the second Sunday of every month.

We have already had 2 successful lunches which everyone enjoyed

## **Ten Pin Bowling**

**Jean Jardine**

**07551 952211**

**No Ten pin bowling in April** as it's Easter and the children are on Holiday. Back on **May 7th May at Hollywood bowl Lakeside** meet for coffee in M&S at 10.15 and playing at 11.00 – cost £4 for two games

### 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 17<sup>th</sup> March 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.***

#### Answers

- |                          |              |                      |
|--------------------------|--------------|----------------------|
| 1. Tarzan                | 2. Trebor    | 3. Milan and Cortina |
| 4. A jeweller's eyeglass | 5. Isosceles | 6. H <sub>2</sub> O  |
| 7. £1.70                 | 8. Three     | 9. Lee Mack          |
| 10. Egypt                |              |                      |

### Trips – New Group Leaders

**Sue Dunn**

**Sue Moss**

**Tulley's Farm (Sussex) Tulip Fest Thursday 16th April.**

This trip will be sold at the March General meeting. Come to see more than a million tulips of different varieties and colours. There are plenty of places to eat and various attractions to make our visit even more enjoyable. (Now booking a second coach.)

See the beautiful tulips and know that Spring is finally here!

The cost is £36 which includes the coach and entrance fee.



**Coach pickups ;**

**Lampits Hill 9.10**

**Springhouse 9.20**

**The Oak. 9.30**

**\*\*\*\*\*NEW Day Trips**

**Royal Hospital Chelsea - 1st May 2026 – Please book at March Meeting.**

**This is a two hour walking and standing tour led by Chelsea Pensioners who will regale us with the history of the Hospital and grounds and what it is like TO LIVE THERE. Also, a lunch and time to look at the Army Museum.**

**Cost: £60**

**Booking Required – please fill out the form before you come to book and pay.**

### **Theatre Shows**

**Tina Smith      07899915184**

**Carol Lindsell    07906436445**

### **UKE3A**

**Madeline Beesley      01375678576**

### **WINE APPRECIATION GROUP**

**Graham Hodgson      01375 675588**

**Jean Jardine          07551 952211**

This month we enjoyed wines from South Africa

**White – M & S Classics No. 5 – 2025** – made from Chenin Blanc, South Africa's hero white grape. There are few vineyards to rival those in Stellenbosch sheltering in the shadows of the Cape Mountains. Ken Forrester, the wine maker, has worked with M & S for 15 years and makes this bespoke Classics blend ageing a small proportion in French oak barrels. Its best enjoyed chilled within 2 years of purchase. An elegant, zesty, mineral and smooth wine with tastes of apricot, pear and peach with a touch of vanilla and goes well with poached salmon and lightly spiced vegetables. Classed as very dry.13% volume. £9.00.

**Rose – Bruce Jack (Sainsbury's) Sauvignon Blush – 2025** – made from Sauvignon Blanc and Shiraz grapes with notes of rose petal and nectarine sorbet with a squeeze of lime. Hand crafted in the Western Cape. "Blush" usually refers to a lighter, paler style of wine. 11% volume.

## Red – Winemaker’s Selection Gable Lodge Shiraz – 2024

The Shiraz vineyards are located on alluvial soils (alluvial soil is a highly fertile, loose, and unconsolidated sediment—mainly clay, silt, sand, and gravel—deposited by running water in floodplains, deltas, and stream beds) in hot, dry locations in the Western Cape of South Africa, optimal for red wine production. The cooling effect of sea breezes from the ocean 90 km away help the grapes to retain freshness and bring moisture. The wine ages with a little oak to add complexity and is best enjoyed within 3 years of purchase. It is deeply coloured, lightly oaked, and full-bodied with tastes of ripe dark fruits, black pepper, and wood smoke. It goes well with grilled meats, casseroles, and mature cheeses. 13% volume.

**Graham’s ABC of wine:** The **Jura**, a French wine, is a very strong white wine and very sharpish to our taste. It has an affinity with the finest of a fine dry sherry and can be kept for many years. Not found outside of France very often.

In Germany there are some special classes of wine, such as the category of **Kabinett** quality, then comes Spatlese from late-picked grapes, followed by the sweeter Auslese wines made from selected ripe bunches.

**Legs**, the viscous droplets that form and ease down the sides of the glass when the wine is swirled.

## It’s Wine O’Clock

Paula Mullooly 07754 727011

### Ann’s Column

It was a lovely visit to Anglesey Abbey last month, not too far from where my son lives. It was a pleasant stroll round the gardens as it wasn't raining and the snowdrops were beautiful. I had a field day round the local garden centres because like the ones round here they all have restaurants.

It was also my birthday while I was there, so books and jigsaws were the order of the day, and cake, chocolate and of course, Baileys. I count myself as being very fortunate.

As I write this, the sun is shining and the washing is blowing on the

line. I think it's the first time I've put washing out this year, a mundane task, I know, but it all smells so much fresher. Like most of you, I've got bulbs coming up, and I've treated myself to primroses, instant colour. We need some colour in these dull days.

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

## SPRING IN THE EDITORS GARDEN!



Group Timetable					
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>Week 1</b>					
<b>am</b>	Golf	Line Dance 2	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	Line Dance 2	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 Line Dance 2	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.	Line Dance 2	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.

## Sunday Singles

Quiz – get in touch; often a Saturday.  
book a place.

Curry Club – get in touch to

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

Quilting	Carol Smith	07845 233640 01375 675988	
Quiz Night	Ann Bailey Sue Green	- 01375 676441	
Ramblers	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	Margaret Lambert Chris Brown		
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,

**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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Essex

CM1 1AT

Event Name (Trip/visit/show)		
Date of Event		
Your Name		
Your Contact Mobile Number – Essential for contacting you on the day		
In Case of Emergency Mobile phone number(S)	Numbers	Names
Email address		
<b>Cheque/Cash value*</b> (Indicate if it is cheque or cash) Cheques payable to SLH u3a	£	Cash /Cheque

\*Separate payment required for each event

### YOU CAN ONLY BOOK FOR TWO PEOPLE

<p>If you are booking for one other person, please list clearly their name and contact details here:</p> <p>Name: _____</p> <p>Contact Number: _____</p> <p>ICE Name: _____</p> <p>ICE Number(s): _____</p>
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Pick up point (If travelling by coach please indicate which pick up point you prefer)

Lampits Hill Bus Stop Opposite shops/ Corringham Social Club	Springhouse Club Corringham Bus Stop at layby	The Oak, Grays By the Bus Stop
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