

Newsletter for October 2026

Here is a photo by Jenny Lee from the Photography Groups' expedition to the Faversham Hop Festival – AND the new Chairman is watching the musician.

The Deben River Cruises went well and Ann has written about them from a personal view in her column on page 30

Our speakers for 8th October 2026 are Mary and Graham Brace

Mary and Graham are wildlife photographers and conservationists.

They share their passion giving illustrated talks covering Brazil, Britain & Europe, Ethiopia & Chile, India, India 2, North America & Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Zambia, India East & West & Tanzania Re-Visited.



Next Month

Our speaker on 12th November is Judith Hood.

Judith will be speaking on, "Living with the Paranormal."

Judith has known for 10 years that she is a Medium. Before that she just believed that lots of "spooky" things happened to her.

Judith always had a good story to tell when meeting up with her friends owing to strange occurrences happening to her almost daily. She enjoys speaking on this subject as there are many questions she is always asked as soon as anyone discovers that she's a Medium.

Committee Chat

Our AGM went well. Kevin Brice gave an interesting and thorough report. He's worked hard as Chair and deserved a present – but decidedly refused the offer. So here we express our heartfelt thanks!

He will be still be around in the background booking the Speakers, devising Quizzes and offering advice if asked. His Report is printed after this for you to read.

At our first committee meeting we tackled the question of finance! It is obvious that we will need to raise the fee for the year to £20 from 1st April 2027.

We also need to bring it to your attention that one member of the committee had to carry £1700 in cash to pay in at the Bank. This prompts us to request that, all those who can, will pay for renewals, trips, etc by either Bank Transfer or cheque – we can't put anyone in that kind of danger if it can be avoided!

Brian MacDonald is offering to put together a Quiz in Spring 2027 to raise money for our funds. Any other ideas will be welcomed.

The Treasurer has sorted the problems preventing the club from having a Credit Card so we have applied – not sure how long it will take though! Also, we have found a new auditor from within our u3a.

Danni is researching how we can use our membership of the Beacon data system to make our accounting as straightforward but comprehensive as possible. We need to keep in mind that we need to set up systems which can be easily used by those who will take them over in the future.

A new person volunteered to be co-opted onto the committee – a slightly younger person – still full of energy! Well done Julie Phillips!

Your Chair and Newsletter Editor is now the same person. All those who have computer skills (I mainly use WORD) be prepared because it may be necessary to look for back-up.

More Committee Chat next month

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. Marilyn Edgings is also available to help support and set up new groups. Special Thanks to Sandra Issacson for all her enthusiastic support for groups during the past five years.

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.

***Please remember to sign out if you need to leave the meeting early – this list will need to be checked in case of an emergency.**

Suggestion Box Jean Angus

Members Suggestions are always welcomed and taken to Committee for discussion.



So if any Member would like to make any Suggestion for consideration to help things improve – the “Suggestion Box” together with paper and pen / pencil is always available at the monthly meetings on the table near the exit door that leads to the bar

Chair’s Report for 2026 AGM

Welcome everyone to the 2026 Stanford-le-Hope & District u3a Annual

General Meeting.

The past year has been one of challenges and changes. Our membership has levelled out in the past year, due to deceased members, lapsed members and members resigning. The reasons for the last two categories are unknown. However, we do know we have been successful in attracting new members, filling

the places left by others. Monthly meetings continue to attract an average of some 140 members.

We have been entertained by a range of speakers, some good, some not quite so good, singers and quizzes. Booking good speakers has become an increasing challenge. Thanks go to those members who have recommended speakers to us. It makes our lives a little easier.

Another challenge in the past year has been the weather. Whilst our policy is to admit members via the side door, in the past winter months we have had to use the front door. This is to contain the heating in the hall. In the spring and summer months, we have been subjected to abnormally hot weather. As a result, we have let members in earlier than our planned 1.30pm start to protect them from the sun. On these occasions, we commissioned the air conditioning in the hall – an additional cost.

Organising and conducting our monthly meetings is not down to the committee alone. The Buddies welcome and support new members, the refreshment team serve your teas and coffees, the raffle organiser's find the prizes and handle ticket sales and our day trip, theatre trip and holiday organiser's spend considerable time researching and booking everything before sales go on at our meetings. Our thanks also go to those members who have donated raffle prizes during the year. This helps keep our costs down.

On behalf of the committee and the membership, I thank you all for your efforts.

We currently have 45 interest groups, all of which are listed in our monthly newsletter. Whilst some interest groups have ended over the past year, new groups have emerged, including a Disabled Amblers group.

Ideas for new groups are always welcomed. If you can't see a group that is of interest to you, but have an idea for one, have a chat with our interest group co-ordinator. As we have around 440 members, it's possible someone else will be happy to join you in forming a new activity group. It only takes two to form a group.

Our interest group leaders give their time freely, researching, organizing and leading their groups for your benefit. Again, on behalf of the committee and our membership, I thank you all.

At each AGM a new committee is elected. All committees bring together people with different backgrounds, different life paths and therefore different skills and experience. But that is the strength of committees. Not everyone knows everything. A committee acts as a team to bring their individual skills and experiences together for the benefit of the organisation they serve. All your committee have played their part, on your behalf, to keep your u3a operating and planning for the future.

In 2024 we learnt about plans to redevelop The Springhouse. The plans included a hall to replace this venue we currently use. However, the new hall will be smaller than this. As I reported last year, we have considered alternative venues, each of which has pros and cons. Whatever the future holds, change is inevitable.

This year we have invested in and adopted the u3a Beacon database and management system for administrative functions. It is fair to say this has not been without its challenges, a few of which we are still battling. However, it has proven beneficial, especially for our membership secretary and trip organisers. Many of you will have received emails via Beacon which appear addressed to you personally.

Thanks go to Michael Farman, Chris Gomm and Danni Tate for their time and efforts in setting Beacon up.

Michael has also worked diligently to maintain our website on the SiteWorks platform.

In respect of finance, as our former Treasurer Paul Brice stated last year, Barclays continue to not be the easiest finance service provider to deal with. This has added to the stress of our current Treasurer Mel Fox who has not found the task plain sailing. I thank Paul his efforts assisting Mel in preparing the final accounts for 2025/2026.

At this time, we have not adopted the finance module, but the new committee will be addressing this when they meet, in addition to setting out a Finance Policy. The Beacon finance module, which is supported by our u3a Head Office will I am confident, make our Treasurer's job easier.

The decision to purchase a card reader to enable card payments to be

taken as an alternative to cash, cheques and BACS transfers has proven successful. As we move forward over time, the committee will be encouraging members to utilise bank transfers and card payments more.

Membership renewals continue to present a challenge. Whilst Beacon has proven an asset to our membership secretary, the organisation and volume of membership renewals is disruptive. We tried some organisational changes this year with varied degrees of success. This remains a challenge the new committee will look to address. One positive is that thanks to the efforts of our Website Administrator and our Membership Secretary, an on-line membership form is now available for members to access from our website.

Another success this year had been the delivery of our monthly newsletters to The Springhouse. Following failings in the previous delivery service, we thank the management here for their consent to having our newsletters delivered direct to The Springhouse. This has calmed the nerves of our Newsletter Editor. Compiling, editing and arranging the printing our monthly newsletter is hard work. We are indebted to our newsletter editor for her dedication in producing a monthly news and reference booklet for members, as well as the Advance Notice.

Emailing our membership with the Advance Notice has highlighted the continued problems we have with emails. Some 40 members (9% of our membership) claim not to have email addresses. Officers have tried a variety of methods to contact individuals. Most recently our Membership Secretary Dick Fox has had some success in tracking down some of the missing email addresses. But it remains a challenge to resolve this totally.

Our Interest Group Co-Ordinator's have worked hard to identify and support new interest groups. The numbers permitted in some groups are governed by factors, e.g. the size of the venue. However, this can provide the catalyst for an additional group.

Our Welfare and Disabilities Co-ordinator sent cards to those members identified as being sick, ill or hospitalised, or have a bereavement. She may also be able to advise members of organisations that can provide support in some circumstances.

Change has come from submissions in our Suggestion Box. The suggestion to commence meetings at 2.15pm rather than 2.00pm came via the Suggestion Box. This allows more time for the booking of trips after doors open at 1.30pm, together with more time for speakers to set up.

Everyone on the committee has played an active role to ensure our u3a operates to the benefit of all members. We know we cannot please all of the membership all of the time, but we hope we have pleased everyone some of the time.

Please remember, every committee member, interest group leader and volunteer gives their time and efforts without reward for your benefit. Rules and conditions that are set by the committee are to ensure meetings, interest groups, trips and events are organised and operated for the enjoyment and safety of members. Please help the committee to help you by keeping to these rules and conditions.

As u3a's are run by volunteers it is vital that enough members are actively volunteering. When not enough members actively volunteer, the u3a may be at risk.

On your behalf, I wish to thank all the committee for their hard work and support in the past year.

Change is one of life's constants. One change is that our auditor, Peter Victory, is standing down. Peter has provided invaluable support to our u3a to ensure that our accounts have been accurately recorded and presented. Thank you, Peter on behalf of our u3a. This means of course that we seek a replacement for Peter as auditor for our u3a accounts. If anyone present is able, or who knows of a person who may be suitable and independent from the committee, please speak to our Treasurer.

Your committee is also changing. For personal reasons Pam Tate is not standing for re-election. After 5 years, Sandra Isaacson is also standing down and vacating her position as Interest Group Co-ordinator. I thank them both for their time and efforts on your behalf.

I am also not seeking re-election. There are a number of reasons behind my decision, but two main ones. One is personal and the other is that I have volunteered on a variety of committees since I was 18 years old.

After 60 years, I now feel I have done my bit and deserve a break. I am of the opinion we need new blood on the committee. The average age of committee members is around 80 years young. I believe we need new ideas, new skills and the benefit of others' experience to support the committee in key areas such as finance, web management and organisational reviews.

In closing, I thank the members of all the u3a committees on which I have served for their guidance and support.

I also wish to thank my wife Joyce who has been incredibly tolerant over the years, allowing me to spend my time working on a number of committees. Now is right for us to spend more time enjoying ourselves together.

Finally, thank you – the members. Thank you for your support, engagement and comments. Without you, we do not have a u3a.

Kevin Brice,

Chair Stanford-le-Hope & District u3a. Presented on 10th September, 2026

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.* ***

Although we had quite a lot of rain on the morning of our September amble, it quickly cleared up and we enjoyed a fresh and breezy walk around Coalhouse Fort. We had the paths to ourselves and despite the wet weather, the ground was dry. We finished the walk in the Engine Room cafe, enjoying hot drinks and good company.

Our next amble will be on **Thursday 15th October** and we will be walking round **Plotlands** (Langdon Nature Reserve), Lower Dunton Road, SS16 6EB. Meet us outside the Visitor Centre at **10.30am**. Look forward to seeing you there.

Bird Watching

Dave Snow

07490 069740

Book Group

Ann Bailey

Dawn Lloyd-Warne

01375 461885

Thursday Board Games

Sue Higgins

07901 254299.

Friday 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.** As you can see the Board Games Group now has two leaders – one for each day.

Wednesday Boules

Dave Jardine

07551 952211

How lovely to be playing boules again in the sunshine and enjoy a welcome cup of coffee and biscuits after,

We play from 10.15 and again at 1.30 you are welcome to join us for either game or both for £2 each. We have spare boules so give it a try!

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. Get in touch.

Canasta

Pauline Kerridge 01375 462232

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

Chess

Rob Morrison

As the Chess Group is bit thin on the ground at the moment we would like some more players. It does not matter if you are a bit rusty or would like to learn how to play. All levels of ability are most welcome. The group meet at Corringham Library on the first and third Monday of the month from 10.00 am to 12 noon. You can also purchase refreshments in the library. Come and give it a try. Please contact me Rob Morrison o if you would like more information or would like to join the group. – At least one member has joined in the last month – others are welcome.

*******Christmas Lunch*******

Mel Fox 01375679643

Carol Smith

This year's Christmas lunch will be held at the Mercure Thurrock Stifford Hall North Stifford on Tuesday 15th December 25. 12.30 for 1pm sit down – 4.30pm.

Cost is £43 pp and we will be taking booking and payment for Lunch from 1.30pm at the October General Meeting.

Menu and booking forms are available at the back of the newsletter. Anyone parking at the hotel will need to register their car at reception upon arrival. If this is done, there will be no charge for parking.

Don't Forget to let Eileen Drewer know of any deaths or illnesses of members so that we had send a card expressing condolences or best wishes.

Couples Lunch

Dave and Jean Angus 07711 359127

Cribbage

John Green 01375 676411

The next meetings for the Cribbage group will be **Tuesday 13th, and 27th October, and 10th November at 1.30pm in Gardner Hall, Fobbing. Cost of £3 covers both Hall costs and refreshments. All welcome.**

Curry Night

Please use these until further notice.

Denise Oakley

Nadia Gaut n

Our next Curry Night will be on **Thursday 15th October at 7.0pm. Zaals Restaurant, Lampits Hill Corringham @ £20 each, payable in advance.** Please see **Denise Oakley or Nadia Gaut** if you would like to join us. We look forward to seeing you.

Disabled Amblers



How time flies when you are having fun, we have got to September already with our new Group for those with walking difficulties. For our most recent walk on Wednesday 9th September we revisited Coalhouse Fort. It is such a nice easy walk along the

circular path with the views changing in the short distance all the time from the Castle itself to the River Thames and scenic views. At the end of our walk, we went to the Coalhouse Fort café for refreshments and a good chat. The walks don't go too far but far enough for us all to get a bit of exercise none of us would have had and no one walks very fast as we stroll along chatting. If any other Stanford u3a Members would like to join us they would be most welcome and to bring a partner or friend too. It can be a burden having to use a walking stick but with our Group that is not a problem because we always choose walks that are on concrete paths so there are no stones to fall over and it's usually a circular walk so we don't go over the same piece of ground twice. Our next walk will be **10.30am on Wednesday 14th October** and details will be sent to those registered with the Group.

Kind regards, Dave and Jean Angus (*photo on Dave Angus' camera*)

Family History

Sue Green **01375 676441**

Peter Craggs **07759 817821**

Our September meeting was a catch up and discussion meeting. A few hints and tips and a lot of laughter and chat. We always seem to find a lot to talk about. We had a good time.

Our October meeting, on Wednesday 21st at 2pm in the Community Church Hall, has a presentation from one of our members–Joyce Shaw—who has discovered an interesting line of research on a tree she was helping someone compile. We look forward to finding out about it.

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 drink.



deep, inside the burrow; the female makes 3 to 6 cells provisioning each cell with nectar and pollen, she then lays her eggs and seals the cell and comes to the surface and dies. Unfortunately, not many people have front lawns now for these bees to live.

This is a mining bee. bees are very important in the world of flowers. My front lawn is a carpet of these bees hovering over the grass. They appear every September and October as they live underground for the rest of the year. Each female makes her own burrow, sometimes 2 foot

The first week the theme was Crescent shape,



We enjoyed this using a lot of flowers from the garden, –yellow seemed to be the popular colour but a good variety of flowers were used.



The second week was own choice, there was very few people there but it doesn't make any difference we still enjoy getting together and creating our arrangements and ended up with a variety of different shapes and colours.

Photos and report by Brenda Osborne

Gardening Allotment News

Michael Farman

October Allotment News

What a difference a little bit of rain makes? At the allotment, the grass paths around the plots are green again. The grass is growing, unfortunately grass amongst the Strawberry plants has also survived and is looking green and healthy. It does however, pull out easily. I hope your lawn has also shown signs of recovery? Probably best to leave it and don't cut it too short, to aid the lawn's recovery. Even through the winter months the grass grows but a lot more slowly.

Sadly the rain was too little too late to revive the runner beans. Much the same with the blackberries, they just dried up on the plant although they do have deep roots for moisture and nutrient extraction.

The Sweetcorn cobs, despite my watering, lost most of its sweetness and was a bit tough to eat. Should have picked it earlier but did not want it during the very hot weather.

I did manage a bit of digging on the old cabbage area. Earmarked for a new strawberry bed. The top few inches were soft and the spade went in easily to half its depth but beneath, where the rain water had not penetrated, it was rock hard. Remember our subsoil is predominately clay!

I have collected a few Sweet pea seeds, dried them and stored to plant later this year. Recycled junk mail envelopes make good seed packets. I still have to dig up the late crop of Potatoes and dry them for storage over winter.

A new seed catalogue arrived this week which sparked a bit of enthusiasm. I did have a few problems with seed germination this year so probably should buy all new expensive seed for next year. No Wilkinson's stores now but The Range does

sell reasonably cheap packets of most varieties. Just have to shop around to avoid or minimise the expensive postage. Free postage by some seed suppliers has been advertised but of course the seed count is reflected in the seed packet price. I will study the catalogues carefully and try to select more resilient varieties for our changing climate.

The Tomato plants are nearing the end of producing ripe fruit. I cut off the leaves so the plant puts energy into the fruit and also allow the sun to reach the fruit. The shorter day, less sunlight, means they do not grow and ripen very quickly. We had an abundance of cherry tomatoes over the summer months. Also, Beetroot, Cucumbers and Peppers provided a good crop but the lettuces did not like the heat. It never all comes together.

The broccoli and winter cabbage are growing again in the greenhouse after being decimated by caterpillars. Not quite dug a patch for them so will let them grow on in the greenhouse for a bit.

Still lots to clear up before winter so looking for a cooler dry autumn. I know we need a lot more rain so hoping for a few dry warm days in the mix.

Changing the subject, I have been a bit distracted writing this by watching and listening to a Channel on Freeview that plays music. I think it is relatively new and is currently playing music from the 60's. It's Freeview channel 75 and called 'Your Music'. Guess what? Linda and I know most of the songs and the lyrics so sing along also. Much like at our u3a Christmas Lunch with Chris Coleman playing the same kind of songs and music and us remembering all the words and joining in. Christmas dinner tickets are limited.

Sorry about the reminiscing. Enjoy your gardening now it a lot cooler. Keep covered, as the sun can still burn.

Take care. Michael

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.

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

We still have spaces for the **cruise in September 2027 with Ambassador**. If anyone has the brochure it's cruise number A12724 Autumnal Legends of the British Isles. Requires £200 on booking – selling at each meeting.

Sailing from **Tilbury on 9th Sept 2027**. Calling at St Marys , Cobh, Liverpool, Belfast, Tobermory, Lerwick and Invergordon. £200 required on booking.

If you are interested, could you please email Mel

Italian

Verena Carter 07808 513453

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 07905 314987

Beverley Brice 07522 368810

Christine Hartnell 07771 554174

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

Local History Group

Sue Green 01375 676441

Diane Wallace

*After a summer break the Local History Group will be meeting on **Monday October 26th 2pm** in the **Community Church Hall in Fobbing Road, Corringham**. Sue will be taking the lead. Diane will be helping in the background.*

Where the Group meets was once the Corringham Peculiar Peoples Church. This was a Christian movement founded in 1838 in Rochford in Essex by James Banyard, a farm workers son. There were chapels built across South Essex including Stanford-le-Hope and Grays, up to the East End of London. Sue and Diane have collected a lot of information about the Peculiars so have decided to make this the theme for October. If any group members have family recollections that could add to the discussion please bring them along. Look forward to meeting up again,

*Do any of our u3a members have experiences or family connections with the **London International Cruise Terminal** (formally Tilbury Riverside Passenger Terminal) in the past?*

*Sylak Ravenspine, an artist and part of the research team responsible for uncovering the history of this building and its people, for the **Back on Track** project. He is collecting oral histories from passengers, and especially people who worked at the terminal, or provided services to it, plus local dockers and users or workers. These may be your own recollections, or stories passed on to you by people you know. Also, if you have any relevant physical items, such as photos, work documents, etc, which you are prepared to share with Sylak, he will find them useful because such items help other people he talks to recall information about the terminal.*

To find out more or to take part in this project contact Sylak via:

Tel: 07986 969080

Email: sylak@essex.ink

London Walks

Dave Snow

07490 069740

Brian McDonald

For our walk this time we had a visit to Richmond on Thames, one of London's more affluent areas. We started by seeing the building which used to be occupied by The Crawdaddy Club. This was famous in the 1960s as the place where the Rolling Stones played on a regular basis just before they really became famous.

From here we made our way through the village-style side of Richmond to reach the river, passing many large mansions and the remains of a once splendid royal palace, now only the entrance archway remains. We walked along the river tow path to reach our lunch time destination overlooking the bridge and the river.

After lunch we made our way up to the top of Richmond Hill to get some splendid views of the Thames as it meanders along its way to eventually reach Oxford. From here we saw a house belonging to Mick Jagger, and although he no longer lives there, he lets his ex-wife Jerry Hall use it when she is in London. Just further along was Wick House owned by Pete Townsend of The Who fame. As we made our way down the hill, we saw the open expanse of Petersham Meadows, these are protected from builders by an Act of Parliament. At the bottom of the

hill, we passed the entrance to Richmond Park, once the hunting grounds of royalty.

We then returned to the river and walked along the towpath to return to the town, and our train home. A very interesting and pleasant walk.

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.

For our September lunch we tried **The Kings Arms in Orsett**. This one was a one of our first lunches but it was not successful so we tried again.

More enjoyable this time fortunately! We were eight on one table and four next to each other.

The service was possibly a little slow but we all ordered, as we arrived, so that worked well.

The food was really tasty with large portions especially the seafood platter. We thought could serve two!

Sadly we have lost a member. Val passed away a few weeks ago in Hospital. A shock as, although unwell, Val was at our last lunch. We raised a toast to her and will miss her!

Mixed Craft Group

Marilyn Edgings **01375 677425**

Barbara Purser **01375 677095**

. If you would like to join us please contact either Barbara or Marilyn or you can just turn up at The Baptist Church, Springhouse Road on the first Tuesday of the month at 2.00 pm until 4.00 pm. Refreshments are available, and we will make you most welcome.

photos by Marilyn Edgings

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**

October's walk will be on Friday 9th October, starting from Beacon Field car park, the far end of Dry Street, best approached from South Hill (sharp turn right) just before the turn for Westley Heights.

Everybody is welcome, you don't need to own a dog, come and join us just for a walk, we are an extremely friendly group.

We always meet at 10am and walk for approximately 1 to 1.5 hours unless otherwise stated. **The only advice is just wear suitable shoes.**

Photography Group

Jenny Lees

01375 360786

Mel Fox

Photography Fun at the Faversham Hop Festival.



I decided to offer returning to this engaging place after a significant gap as taking up peoples' Saturday was as much a chance as any of our usual Fridays.

Faversham has grown and is encompassing more music and therefore more stages, one in each extremity of the town. About 6 in all. I can envision it becoming a strong music venue but a lot more thought needs to go into the siting of the stages and the distribution of the hop stalls. There was much focus on drink and food of course but many premises were withholding the use of their toilets, even to people dining and eating there. Not a very fair practice. I'll refer back to toilets later.

I hesitate to guess the numbers there but apart from the odd jostle, people were very civilised and friendly. It was very much a family affair with pushchairs and wheelchairs even, able to negotiate the crowds. It



was quite a crush in certain areas but erecting barriers didn't really work as friendly negotiation won the day.

Finding something to photograph was easy and people were happy to pose as whatever they had decided to be. The Raven Drummers were a friendly and photogenic lot, even spread around, as unluckily we didn't get to see them perform. The various troupes of 'Morris' Dancers had gone to town on their costumes. Unfortunately, many of our photos



remain unused as the background to their tireless dancing was bunches of portable toilets. Organisers need to give some thought to the placement of these very necessary items. I have photos of some much more appropriate backdrops.

Many dignitaries in the form of Mayors and Mayoresses had been invited to attend the celebrations, all clad in their regalia which was quite a sight. There was lots of interesting architecture including revamped pubs and The Royal, a lovely old cinema.



We found our way around quite easily but had to ask for directions to the Creek from which last time I was invited on a test run of a newly renovated very large boat.

I could see when we reached the Creek that we were at the opposite end to where this event took place. It was obviously low tide but our helpful and cheerful local also said that water had been in short supply of late, due to the drought. From here we had

an excellent view of the town, dominated by Shepherd Neames' Brewery. It was now time for further refreshment as it had been a very warm, tiring but extremely pleasant day. We wandered over the bridge and up the hill where I noticed a sign for a Tea Room and Antique Centre. We all breathed a heavy sigh of relief when we found an empty table and a cosy place with lovely smiling people and an agreeable menu. We had wonderful service, even though they did forget my order for a while. It gave me a chance to look at the antiques, and I didn't buy any. It was a fitting end to lovely day surrounded everywhere by lovely people and – they let us use their toilet!

Jenny Lees. *(and photos)*

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

Our Autumn programme is underway with much success. We have a couple of quizzes coming up in the next few weeks but could do with more if you hear of any. If you wish to join the mailing list to see where we are going get in touch. You do not

have to go to every quiz, just when you are available. If you have not joined us for a while and wish the emails to stop, let me know.

Ann's Quiz

1. Which Premier League team are known as The Cherries?
2. On what river does Cardiff stand?
3. Which actress played the first landlady of the Queen Vic?
4. What is the music used to introduce Desert Island Discs?
5. Who wrote Jane Eyre?
6. What was Cliff Richard's first hit?
7. What colour is the Woolsack in the House of Lords?
8. Who is the manager of the English football team?
9. To what family does the leek belong?
10. In which county is Pendle Hill?

Answers on Page 27

Ramblers

Chris Gomm 07905 117622

Westley Heights Country Park

We will meet on Thursday 22nd October at 10:30 in the car park which is situated behind the Crown (Miller and Carter), High Road, SS16 6HU.

This walk covers around 4.5 miles in lovely surroundings in a mixture of woodland and open spaces with views looking down towards the River Thames. Let's hope that we have a clear, warm and most of all a dry day.

I'm looking forward to seeing as many that will be able to come and join us.
Any further enquiries please call Christine Gomm 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**

Singles lunch

Christine Codd

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

For our single lunch group in September we went to the Miller and Carter and everyone enjoyed the meal. The service and the atmosphere were good, but I have some sad news that Val Morrish has sadly passed away. She will be missed by all of us and thoughts and prayers are with the family so if anyone would like to join us can they let me know

Photo on Christine's phone



Sunday Singles

Margaret Lambert 07811 235274

Chris Brown- 01708 852023

The Sunday lunch group of eleven people are going to Masons restaurants on the 13th of September . The number includes two people from our waiting list.

Quiz Answers :

- | | | |
|------------------------|--------------------|----------------|
| 1.AFC. Bournemouth | 2. River Taff | 3.Anita Dobson |
| 4.By the sleepy lagoon | 5 Charlotte Bronte | 6.Move It 1958 |
| 7.Red | 8.Thomas Tuchel | 9.Allium/onion |
| 10.Lancashire | | |

Ten Pin Bowling

Jean Jardine 07551 952211

We will be meeting again on Thursday October 1st and November 5th

Get in touch if you would like to join us.

Ten Pin Tuesday

Kevin Brice 07973 349288

The Ten Pin Tuesday interest group normally meets on the third Tuesday of each month, other than during school holidays.

Our next session will be **Tuesday 13th October 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 thereafter.**

New members welcome, *please email or ring first.*

Day Trips

Sue Dunn

Sue Moss

HEVER CASTLE SPECTACULAR TUESDAY 1st DECEMBER 2026 COST £70.

This trip will be on sale at the next General meeting on the 8th OCTOBER.

The day includes the coach, castle tour, 3 course Christmas lunch and the light show which switches on at

4 pm. This trip has already created a good deal of interest so I would advise you to come along and put your names on the list to ensure you will not be disappointed.

Please make your menu selection on the form provided and bring it along with your booking form and payment to the meeting.

Payment by bank transfer, cheque or cash please.

THE MENU CHOICE IS EITHER THE STANDARD CHRISTMAS MEAL OR THE ALTERNATIVE VEGAN/ VEGETARIAN OPTION.

YOU CANNOT MIX & MATCH FROM BOTH.

Also please advise us of any allergies so we can notify the restaurant in advance of our visit

Coach Pick up times

LH – 9.30

SH – 9. 40

TO – 9.50



ACCESSIBILITY INFORMATION

Group members will need to cross the road from the coach park to the main entrance. A golf buggy will be available at the ticket huts to assist those with limited mobility. It can accommodate up to five people at a time, and multiple trips may be required if there are several people who need assistance. The buggy will drop off at the Moat Café and Gift Shop, after which the main paths in the gardens are flat. To return, the buggy can be accessed at the Information Hut.

Regarding accessibility, the Castle's ground floor is accessible via three small steps. To reach the first floor, visitors must navigate a stone spiral staircase with a handrail. The second floor is accessible via wide wooden steps. For those using wheelchairs, we regret that motorised wheelchairs or mobility scooters cannot be used inside the Courtyard or Castle due to the building's historic nature. We allow manual wheelchairs on the ground floor of the Castle only. Manual wheelchairs are available for a refundable deposit of £25 at the Hever Shop, and we recommend booking them in advance. Please note, there are several steps at the Castle's entrance and Courtyard, and due to health and safety reasons, ramps cannot be installed. For more detailed accessibility information, please visit our website <https://www.hevercastle.co.uk/visit/location-accessibility>

Greenwich Old Naval College

Friday 23rd October. Reminder for coach pick-up times

Lampits Hill – 9.00

Springhouse – 9.10

The Oak – 9.20

Theatre Shows

Tina Smith 07899 915184

Carol Lindsell 07906 436445

29th October 2026

Pick up times for Dolly Parton are : 11.0am Lampits Hill

11.15 am Springhouse bus stop

11.30 am The Oaks, Grays

Looking forward to seeing you all

UKE3A

Mo Wakeling 07902 649122

From September the Ukulele Group will have a change of leadership. Madeline will be stepping aside as Group Leader after 4 years and Mo Wakeling, also a member of the Uke3A will be taking over. It will be a great opportunity for the group as Mo has musical experience and the enthusiasm to teach us new techniques and new songs

WINE APPRECIATION GROUP

Graham Hodgson 01375 675588

Jean Jardine 07551 952211

It's Wine O'Clock

Paula Mullooly 07754 727011

Ann's Column

It is often said that should never revisit a place which meant a lot to you, but this visit was certainly an exception. It is a small market town on the river Deben, in Suffolk, a favourite with the yachting and sailing fraternity. But it is the place where I went to primary school ,where my brothers spent their schooldays, and where our Dad worked; it is also where I got my first Saturday job in a bakery/cafe. I was quite happy serving customers as long as they didn't want coffee, the machine frightened me. So our **trip to Woodbridge** was a real trip back in time. It was a bit drizzly but that didn't deter us as we walked down to the river and the Tide Mill. The tide was out, and the harbour was so much more crowded than 50+ years ago, but the flavour of the area hadn't changed. After coffee on the quayside, and watching the trains(even they had been modernised), we walked up Quay Street which immediately brought back memories of very regular dental appointments. We then turned right into The Thoroughfare and still there on the right was the gentlemen's

outfitters from where my brothers' school uniforms were obtained. I had to go to Ipswich for mine.

All the shops had changed, apart from the above, but, of course, life moves on. The shoe shop where we had our feet x-rayed had changed into a furniture shop and is now shut. It is so sad to see these family businesses shut, I believe it's called progress!

After a look round a couple of bookshops and something to eat, we headed back to the coach for our trip to Waldringfield to pick up our boat for a cruise up the Deben. The sun had come out and it was a very peaceful journey, with commentary, upriver to Old Felixstowe, which I remember for picnics on the sand, All in all it was an emotional day of reminiscing for me, and I hope everyone else enjoyed their visit to Woodbridge and the Deben. I shall be going back with my youngest brother sometime next year.

Ann

Note from the Editor

– Apologies to those who cannot find reports about their groups here. As I am on the u3a Holiday at the end of September and then flying out to Malta for a week in October it was necessary to put the Newsletter together early. A few groups meet at the end of the month so they are not included – I am happy to put them into the next newsletter.

As I am also the new Chair, I will miss the next General Meeting on October 9th as I'll still be in Malta. You may have realised that I had not planned to be the next chair (Kevin stepping down was a surprise) so holidays were booked before tis knowledge. Apologies again!!

Deadline for November's Newsletter will be 3rd November

Group Timetable					
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Week 1					
am	Golf		Boules(Springhouse) Line Dancing 1 Flower Arranging.	Ten Pin Bowling	PÉTANQUE/BOULES (Billet). Lunch and Chat
pm	Golf Quilting O B M UKE3A(Ukulele)	Mixed Craft. Italian Beginners	Canasta. Boules pm (Springhouse)	Board Games	Lunch & Chat
Week 2					
am	London Walks Golf		Boules (Springhouse) Line Dancing 1		PÉTANQUE/BOULES (Billet) Photography Paws on the Go
pm	London Walks	Scrabble/Cribbage Every two weeks	Canasta. Boules pm (Springhouse) Singles Lunch	SLH&District u3a General Meeting	Music Makers Photography
Week 3					
am	Golf	10 Pin Tuesday	Flower Arranging Boules (Springhouse) Line Dancing 1	Ambling	Gallery Visits PÉTANQUE/BOULES (Billet)
pm	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
Week 4 Last					
am	Golf.		Boules (Springhouse) Line Dancing 1	Rambling	Birdwatching PÉTANQUE/BOULES (Billet).
pm	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.
touch; often a Saturday.

Quiz – get in touch;
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	
Bird Watching	Dave Snow	07490 069740	
Board Games	Sue Higgins (Thurs) Margaret Lambert (Friday)	07901254299 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	
Canasta	Pauline Kerridge	01375 462232	
Chess	Robert Morrison	-	
Couples Lunch	Dave & Jean Angus	07711 359127	
Cribbage	John Green	01375 676441	
Curry Night	Denise Oakley Nadia Gaut		
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	Susan Moss	07905 314987	

(Wed)	Beverley Brice Christine Hartnell	07522 368810 07771 554174	
Line Dancing 2(alt.Tues)	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 Sue Moss	01375 403315 07905 314987	
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	07811 235274	
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	Mo Wakeling	07902 649122	
WINE APPRECIATION GROUP	Graham Hodgson Jean Jardine	01375 675588 07551 952211	

Contact details for Stanford-le-Hope and District u3a

Chair – Chris Henderson

Vice-Chair–Danni Tate

Treasurer –Mel Fox

Assistant Treasurer – Sue Green

Secretary & Policy Documents –Janet Deeney

Minutes Secretary & Suggestion Box – Jean Angus

Membership Secretary – Richard Fox

Newsletter Editor – Chris Henderson For items for the newsletter.

Interest Group Co-ordinator –Marilyn Edgings

Welfare and Disabilities Co-Ordinator

Advance Notice Email – Chris Henderson For problems with Advance Email

Stanford-le-Hope and District u3a Website Managers–

Michael Farman Chris Gomm

Trip Organisers–Sue Moss & Sue Dunn,

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

National u3a Organisation www.u3a.org.uk Tel 020-8466-6139

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Essex CM1 1AT



Stanford-Le-Hope and District Event Booking Form

Event Name (Trip/visit/show)		
Date of Event		
Your Name & Membership No.		
Your Contact Mobile Number – Essential for contacting you on the day		
In Case of Emergency Mobile phone number(S)	Numbers	Names
Email address		
Cheque/Cash value*(Indicate if it is bank transfer, cheque or cash) Cheques payable to SLH u3a	£	Bnk Trans/Cash /Cheque

*Separate payment required for each event

YOU CAN ONLY BOOK FOR TWO PEOPLE

If you are booking for one other person, please list clearly their name and contact details here: Name: _____ Contact Number: _____ ICE Name: _____ ICE Number(s): _____

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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HEVER CASTLE CHRISTMAS LUNCH MENU (1/12/26)

Name: _____

SPECIAL DIETARY REQUIREMENTS (INCLUDING ALLERGIES):

Menus include a glass of Warm Mulled Wine on arrival (Alcoholic or Non-Alcoholic). Fresh bread & butter, chilled water, and tea or coffee are all included

Please circle your choices

Standard Menu

Hot Smoked Salmon Rillettes Pickled Cucumber, Apple, Crème Fraîche & Crisp Toast (Gluten Free on Request, Dairy Free On Request)

Roasted Carved Breast of Local Bronze Turkey, Pigs in Blankets, Roasted Potatoes, Chestnut Stuffing, Seasonal Vegetables & Gravy (Gluten Free On Request, Dairy Free on Request)

Hever Castle Christmas Pudding Armagnac Custard & Griottines Cherries (Gluten Free, Dairy Free on Request,

Vegetarian/Vegan Menu

(These will be substituted when relevant Dietary Requirements are added to the Booking Form)

Smooth White Cauliflower Soup Roasted Cauliflower & Lightly Spiced Olive Oil (Gluten Free, Dairy Free, Vegan)

Chestnut & Onion Roast Roasted Potatoes, Glazed Root Vegetables, Brussel Sprouts & Mushroom Sauce (Gluten Free, Dairy Free, Vegan)

Lemon Posset Mulled Plum Compote & Vanilla Shortbread Crumb (Gluten Free, Dairy Free, Vegan)

Christmas Lunch Tuesday 15th December 12.30 – 4.30pm Price £43pp

Mercure Thurrock Stifford Hall, North Stifford RM16 5UE 01708–719988

NAME_____

TelephoneNo._____

Sit with (2 Preferred Names)

1_____

2_____

Special Dietary Requirements i.e. Gluten Free, Vegetarian

Starters Please select your preference

Butternut Squash Soup served with Herb Flat Bread

☐

Chicken Liver Parfait served with Toasted Brioche

☐

and a Spicy Cranberry Chutney

Prawn & Salmon Fishcake with a Chilli & Lime Dip

☐

~ Main Course ~

Breast of Turkey with Cranberry Stuffing & Pigs in Blankets

☐

Herb Crusted Salmon Fillet with a Lemon & Dill Hollandaise sauce

☐

Fricassee of Asparagus & Wild Mushrooms in a Filo Pastry Case

☐

All served with golden roasted potatoes and winter vegetables

~ Dessert ~

White Chocolate & Raspberry Cheesecake

☐

Traditional Christmas Pudding served with Brandy Sauce

☐

Cherry & Chocolate Tart served with clotted cream

☐

~ To Follow ~ Tea / Coffee & mince pie