u3a Stanford-Le-Hope & District

Newsletter for November 2026

In Memory of our Founder and Honorary President: Julie Coker



On Thursday 29th October family and friends celebrated the life of our founder at St Mary and All Saints church Langdon Hills. As requested by Julie the dress code was bright and cheerful, which reflected perfectly how Julie Coker was in life.

Julie Coker was the founding organiser and along with Peter and Beryl Woodcock caused our u3a to be born in 2014.

As our inaugural Chairwomen she has left a wonderful legacy that is now Stanford-Le-Hope & District u3a.

With over 450 mainly retired local people who now have more friends, more things to do and more activities to take part in, thanks to people like Julie.

Such a cheerful and positive person, it was Julie who insisted that I stand as Chairman in 2014 and I had an amazing 6 years (due to Covid), as Chairman where the u3a ethos of "Learn Laugh Live", flourished with the emphasis on Laugh. Along with so many others, I will forever be grateful that Julie Coker was the person she was and she would be so proud of the legacy she leaves and she has the gratitude of many. *Colin Munro.*

All of the committee members and Chairs of this u3a echo Colin's thoughts- Julie was a force who inspired others to get things done. We remember her with gratitude and admiration.



********Our latest day Trip took us to **Greenwich** in the driving rain!

But the friendly Guide took us around the stately buildings without getting very wet, and gave us a short history of the buildings and pointed out places used in various films and tv series. Finally taking us to the Chapel and the magnificent Painted Hall. To complete the day, we were driven to afternoon Tea.





Photos by Jenny Lees, Maureen Turner and Chris Henderson

<u>Our speaker on 12th November is Judith Hood.</u>

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

Next Month -Thursday 10th December we will be entertained by vocalist Julia Plumb. Starting at school in concerts and end of term shows, Julia graduated to The Melvin Beddow Big Band at aged 17, then various pop bands, duos and trios including Blue Vision, Serious Heroes, Impulse, and was a founding member of five piece outfit Shot't'Funk which is still going strong to this day (and which she occasionally still deps for).
Currently mainly working as Jukebox Jules - solo vocal act, there are over 500 songs in Julia's repertoire from the 40's to the noughties and beyond, and covering a huge range of pop/Jazz/ Retro/Vintage/ rock/funk/reggae/soul/ covers. This repertoire is very varied and ensures that the songs appeal to a very wide cross section of the audience. Specific genre sets can be created for Jazz, 80's nights, Club Classics, Soul, Love songs etc… even films themes and show tunes can be arranged! On Thursday 10th December Julia will be singing a range of Christmas music.

If anyone would like a u3a 2027 Diary we are able to purchase them in Packs of 10. the cost would come down to £7.30 each. If you wish to order one can you make cheques payable to SLHu3a. Mel Fox will be taking orders at the November Meeting.

There are a few places left for the Christmas Dinner at North Stifford costing £43. Payable by Bank Transfer, Cheque or cash. Menus are available in the Events column on our u3a web site.

You will find me at the back of the Hall next to the Membership Desk.

Committee Chat

It was agreed that we will encourage members to renew their membership by Bank Transfer if possible, as this prevents large sums being carried to the banks. For Renewal next year the **March meeting** will be devoted to renewals only although members are welcome to have tea and a chat. This will be the only time when cash and cheques can be used for membership.

Vic Tolson and Colin Munro will lay our remembrance wreath – Vic is not well enough so **Colin and your new chair Chris Henderson will represent us**.

The Secretary Janet Deeney continues to be unwell so we are looking for another member who can shadow her with a view to eventually taking over. The u3a is not allowed to function without four key roles: chair, vice-chair, secretary and treasurer. As Julie Coker reminded us years ago - if we want to continue - more people will need to step forward to carry out these crucial positions! Think about whether you could help (job sharing is possible)!

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.

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

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.* ***





Here are some photos from our October amble at Plotlands (Langdon Nature Reserve)



Our November amble will be in **Gloucester Park,** Cranes Farm Road, Basildon SS14 3DE (Basildon Sporting Village), on **Thursday 19th November.** Meet us where you come in through the entrance gates at **10.30am**. Look forward to seeing you there.

Bird Watching

Dave Snow **07490 069740**



By Martin Gibb

This month we decided to visit Hanningfield Reservoir. When we arrived, we saw that the water levels in the reservoir were very low due to the recent high temperatures. Even so we were not disappointed with the types and numbers of birds that we saw.



From the first hide that we visited we were treated to a large group of Cormorants sunning themselves on the water's edge. Mixed in with these were a number of herons and egrets. On the water were several Great Crested Grebe, diving under for their food. We also saw a group of Tufted Duck drifting along.

After a while we moved on to another hide further round the lake. From here we saw some Bar Tailed Godwits, a number of Teal and wading amongst them a few Red Shank. *by Chris Gomm*
While we sat watching these we were treated to the arrival of a large flock of geese, both Canada Geese and Greylag flying in over our heads to land gracefully, but noisily, on the water in front of us.

A really good morning despite the low water levels.

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

We have had some wet Wednesdays, so let's hope we will get to enjoy some games before **we close for our Christmas break on Wednesday 25th November** when we will enjoy coffee mince pie and cake.

Our New Year Lunch is on 27th January and
the following week **3rd February** we will back at the Springhouse playing again. As always, we will donate to a local charity instead of sending Christmas cards: this Year it's Thurrock ReEngage.

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.

With our Friday Pétanque year coming to an end, it's time for our annual presentation buffet at **The Welcome Social Club on Friday 11th December**, with winners and runners-up prizes and a very enjoyable "Miller" buffet.

We've had a very good year but it is the first time that we have cancelled our meetings due to it being too hot! After each morning's play and whenever the weather prevents play, we meet at the great café that is Thameside Visitors Centre.

Member's that are unable to play will be meeting us there for a chat and coffee. A very enjoyable way to spend Friday mornings.



Photo by Colin Munro

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 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 15thDecember 25. 12.30 for 1pm sit down – 4.30pm.

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. A couple of places left.

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 .

Deadline for December's Newsletter is 30th November please.

For January – the 6th Jan 2027

Committee Meetings are 23rd Nov and 4th Jan.

Couples Lunch

Dave and Jean Angus 07711 359127

Marilyn and Graham Edgings are part of our Couples Lunch Group and as you will know Marilyn is also Interest Groups' Co-ordinator and she shared at the dining table today that she had received some complaints from some Members that they were not happy that we included reports that are not always complimentary to the restaurant we have visited so we felt we should explain to Members.

The reason we include the controversial comments about any restaurant, when appropriate, is so that Members will know what to expect if they decide to visit a particular restaurant and, on this occasion, it was The Kings Head at Orsett.

Although we had been there at least twice before this was the worst meal we have ever had. We waited over an hour for the food to be served; table booked for 1pm and food arrived at



2.30pm. Three Members had decided to have starters but that should not have delayed the food being served by such a long time, we were all starving and Jean had just got up to enquire when we could expect to be served when the food arrived. We have all heard of al Dente but in this case the green vegetables were rock hard. Vee had pork that was so hard she could not cut it and she had particularly asked not to have any pepper with her food because of allergy to it, but she knew some had been included because her mouth was hot after eating some food. Jean and Ray both had Cottage Pie and the vegetables were al Dente ROCK and the Cottage Pie cold so they were returned to be heated up and neither of them were charged for their meals. The ice-creams and desserts were OK. Those that had Fish & Chips were pleased with their meals that were served hot.

We are delighted to say that Jeanette was able to join us all again but of course we do miss Michael and the jokes that he always shared with us. We felt sorry for our waitress as she seemed to be the only waitress on duty making her super busy. Jean and Dave had booked a dining room that we had previously used knowing it would accommodate Dawn's wheelchair. On arrival we were told we would be sitting in an area that was three steep steps down from the main area and so making Dawn's wheelchair impossible to get down and she and Richard left with no meal and we were all bitterly disappointed about that. We said we would lift Dawn's wheelchair down but health & safety would not allow that. We were told a booking had been accepted for a Wake so our booking was moved without us being told. The only good thing about the meal was that as things were so bad we all had something to chat and laugh about as we could not believe what else could go wrong. But here's to the next time Couples Lunch when we hope we will have a good meal as well as lots of fun and laughter.

With kind regards Dave and Jean Angus

Cribbage

John Green 01375 676411

Next meetings of the Group will be Tuesday 10th and 24th November at 1.30pm in Gardner Hall, Fobbing. Cost £3 covers Hall hire and refreshments. All welcome.

Curry Night

Please use these until further notice.

Denise Oakley

21 members came with us for a delicious curry at Zaals restaurant. Denise and Nadia kindly acted as hosts and assured me everyone enjoyed themselves and many people took home doggy bags.
Our next curry night will be Thursday 14th January 2027

Disabled Amblers

Dave and Jean Angus

DISABILITY AMBLE WALKING GROUP: When we announced the start of this Group, we said we said they would be short circular walks on flat ground, using Parks or Country Parks and initially we will run from April – October in the hope of ensuring we walk in slightly better weather. Well, how time flies when you are having fun and it is October already and so we are closing the Group for 2026 and will look at restarting in April 2027 by making an announcement in the Stanford u3a Newsletter in the usual way. The Group has not had as many Members join it as we might have anticipated but those who have joined have had a good time. We will be spending time over the winter months looking at venues for 2027 walks to go. In the meantime, we will be keeping warm and dry indoors. Best wishes for 2027 from Dave and Jean Angus.

Family History

Sue Green **01375 676441**

Peter Craggs **07759 817821**

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.

On the first meeting it was the theme Autumn, the colours of autumn are so warm, we had lots of different arrangements, we had an orange glass dish in the shape of a leaf, baskets, logs and bark all filled with orange and yellow flowers, the green leaves and of course the dead brown ones that have fallen from the trees.



The second meeting was our own choice, there were a few larger displays, one of our members does an arrangement for the church for their service on Sunday, we each take a turn. To end we always have a nice cup of tea, you are welcome to join us if you wish.



Photos and report by Brenda Osborne

Gardening Allotment News

Michael Farman

November Allotment News The recent Summer/Autumn weather appears to have created a whole new set of records. The 6th October was a significant day as it was the 117 consecutive day when somewhere in the UK recorded a day/night temperature no lower than 20 deg c. Also, on that day we had an amazing 8mm of rain, quite significant as during the previous two months less that 3mm of rain was recorded. Just recently it seems to rain most days but hey we need it.

One downside is I have not dug up and dried all my main crop potatoes. Been busy today rectifying that. Last month I said the grass had revived with the rain in September but now everywhere is green and lush.

Mainly at the plot I have been cutting down and composting the dead and dried plant material, saving any seed to dry and store for next year. The seed I collected previously I have dried packaged and labelled.

In the old cabbage area, I have planted a few rows of strawberry plants The rain has watered them in well saving me the job. Notice today a few weeds and grass beginning to grow. I have cleared a space to plant garlic and winter onions. 'The Range' had a good selection The soil digs quite easily now it is softened with the rain. Also, will need to dig an area for the Broad beans.

Quite amazingly we are still picking tomatoes, pepper and cucumber but as it's colder and fewer hours of sun the ripening process in much longer

I planted out the broccoli and winter cabbage plants, and now it is cooler and wetter they are growing in the warm daytime sun.

Enjoy your gardening and clearing ready for winter now it is a lot cooler. 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



photo by Mel

Romantic Journeys of Yorkshire. After what seemed an interminable wait the day arrived for our departure. The late September weather was sunshine and blue skies which mostly stayed for the week. After settling in and enjoying an evening meal we adjourned to the reception area enjoying making new friends and playing card games.

Tuesday started with an early start and we were off on our first train ride. In Settle we were met by our guide for the train ride. On route he gave us information on how and why the railway was built



and pointed out some of the landmarks including a spectacular viaduct. We were met by the coach at Kirby Stevens for a trip to Hawes. Due to road closure we saw beautiful villages and views of Yorkshire and travelled along roads not meant for coaches. The Visit to Hawes was cut short because of the diversions but it is a lovely village full of crafts and teashops. The afternoon saw us enjoying another train ride.

The following day we visited Skipton . An enjoyable town with a busy market, and medieval castle . From there we drove over Haworth Moor to Haworth, the home of the Bronte Family. The house was full of interesting photos and objects and the family church next door was well worth the visit . After lunch there was a



short coach trip to the station for a steam train trip which took many of us back down memory lane.

Thursday was more relaxing with us enjoying a peaceful walk around Bolton Abbey which Henry V111 tried to ruin but the villagers saved part of it for their Parish Church.











although the stepping stones proved tempting for a few. This was followed by an afternoon in Grassington, a cobbled hilly town currently used for filming 'All Creatures Great and Small', and with a wonderful river walk too.

Enjoyed by everyone we gave Mel an M&S token as a sign of our appreciation.

For the next Holiday she has been looking at Northumbria staying in Alnwick with visits to Seahouses and Lindisfarne. Maybe in May/ June 2028.

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 me

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

Come and join us line dancing each week in the New Year.
We are starting again on Wednesday 6th January at Horndon on the Hill village hall between 10:15-11:45am.
We have fun, enjoy the music - and are also doing some exercise!
We have places available. Everyone is welcome including beginners.
Bring some water and wear sensible shoes/trainers. The cost is £2 per session.
See you there!

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year 

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.*

The October meeting of the group had a look at the history of the Peculiar People in Corringham and Stanford-le-Hope. We meet in one of the Peculiar Peoples Chapels so it was interesting to look at how the movement was formed and how different the services were to other Church services. We looked at the rise of the movement and its eventual decline through photographs, press clippings and articles.

Our next meeting on Monday 23rd November in the Community Church Hall, Fobbing Road at 2pm will require a bit of homework! We are all to bring a A4 sheet of memories about where we all grew up to share with the group. We are hoping to learn more about each other as few of the group were brought up in Thurrock. Memories could be of the village, town city they grew up in, the house, the area-anything really of interest. Should be an interesting meeting.

London Walks

Dave Snow 07490 069740

Brian McDonald

This month the group went around Pimlico. We were once again lucky with the weather and had the only dry day of the week.

We left the station and walked towards the church of Saint Saviour's, built in 1864. We found out that Laurence Olivier's father was a rector here and Laurence spent some of his early years in a house opposite. From here we saw a small pre-school, where a young lady called Diana Spencer was a teacher's assistant. She later married the then Prince Charles. A bench in her memory stands outside the main doors to the building.

From here we made our way down to the Thames to see the new US embassy on the other bank, basically a big square box. Also, we saw a statue of William Huskisson, who has the distinction of being the first person in history to be killed by a train. Our walk then took us along the river passing Dolphin Square, home to many MPs when staying in London. It also has a reputation as a centre of several scandals. We continued along the river to see the last remaining section of what

was once the Grosvenor Canal, a major supplier of water to the surrounding housing.

We then made our way to have a well-earned lunch. After lunch we entered Ecclestone Square, almost a small village in itself, consisting of old mews houses along a cobbled street. Compared with the hustle and bustle of the area around, very tranquil place. Then a visit to a





very art and craft church with stained glass, stencilling, shapes in wood and metal called St James the Less. Our walk then

headed back towards Pimlico Station and home.

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.

In October we lunched at the Treacle Mine, as requested by some ladies, as we enjoyed their meals on previous visits. Two meals for £15. Many of us shared the fish and chips deal. Not Cod at that price!
Some of us had the coffee and mini dessert choice. Much better for the waist lines!
Christmas meal booked.
Nearly another year gone!

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.

Old British Motor Cycle and Car Enthusiasts



Graham Edgings 01375 677425

Len Knowles, who is a volunteer at Barnard's Farm, kindly organised a group visit to **Barnards which is on the A128 Brentwood Road just past Orsett.** We arrived at 10.30 and to start the tour we were greeted at the tea room with teas, coffees and cakes kindly made by Jill, Len's wife. After a quick talk on safety we split into two groups and were shown around the vintage cars, motor cycles and bicycles.



As you can imagine we were interested in these old vehicles and spent a lot of our time admiring them and learning about their previous owners and asking questions. The owner of Barnards told us about various experiences he had when doing long runs with the cars.

At the moment they are preparing five vintage cars for the London to Brighton run which is in November.



After the tour of the garages we then went on a miniature railway which runs around the estate. We saw many sculptures which are lit up at night. Barnards Farm is certainly a place to visit which

isn't too far away, so if you have a few hours to spare why not take yourselves and/or the grandchildren there on open days. I think you will be pleasantly surprised.



Photos by John Turp and Colin Munro

"Paws on the Go"

Eileen Drewer 01375 403315

Our next walk will be on Friday 13th November. Meeting at **10am at Mucking** visitors centre. It will be a circular walk around the paths, which can become muddy. This will be an 'on lead' walk (visitors centre rules). Probably 1 hour 'ish. We can refresh at the end of the walk, at the visitors centre cafe, there is a dog house outside in case the weather is 'inclement'.

Hope you can come, everyone is welcome even if you don't have a 'hound'.

Octobers' walk was from the Beacon Field car park through the woods.



<u>Photography Group</u>

Jenny Lees 01375 360786

Mel Fox

'Leave only footprints, take only photographs.'



Our October theme was - Trees ,
and the venue was Westley Heights.

Autumn colours were shown mostly in the bracken undergrowth as the
leaves in the trees showed mostly various shades of green. The car park
was crowded and many varieties of dog were out being walked by their owners or walkers. One lady was accompanied by 7 dogs.



Barbara Purser instantly noticed the Woodsman statue, standing tall and dark at the start of our walk. Some of you may remember the Woodsman Poacher statue from when it stood in St. Martin's Square in Basildon for about 10 years. The statue was carved by local sculptor Dave Chapple from an oak tree which fell in the hurricane Of 1987 in Langdon Hills Country Park. It was erected in 1996 but was not properly maintained so was subsequently removed in 2008. Nick Stanley, warden of Langdon Hills Country Park and the Friends of Langdon Hills Country Park arranged for the 15ft high statue to be restored and eventually reinstated in its current location in July 2021, close to where it fell. The low light and darkness on the day of our visit made it quite a difficult subject to photograph but we gathered round it anyway.

Since Neolithic times people have lived and worked on the Langdon Hills, some built settlements, harvested the woodlands and farmed the land. There are over 50 species of breeding birds and over 30 species of butterflies. The park has Site of Special Scientific Interest Status (SSI).



It's a good place to come and photograph the bluebells.



Contrasting pictures of the Thames Gateway Port can be taken from here, framed by the surrounding trees and fields. This is one way to record our heritage before it shrinks and disappears.
It was a very windy day when we visited so we avoided the densely packed areas with the creaking, swaying trees. We weren't lucky enough to see much in the way of animal wildlife but investigated their habitats and I was happy to see bracket fungi, a favourite of mine. There were lots of berries and Rosehips about too.

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**

At last a play with a sense of humour – we so enjoyed it!

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

Mixed results this last month for some of the quizzes attended. They were all fun but our prowess at making paper aeroplanes fell short! We have quite a few quizzes booked in before Christmas so will be busy. If you want to join the mailing list to find out where we are going, get in touch

Ann's Quiz

1. Who is known as 'Il Papa'?

2.Who wrote the Father Brown stories ?

3. What is Papa Johns?

4.Which German Chancellor was known as 'Mutti' ?

5.Where did Old Mother Hubbard live ?

6.Who is considered to be the Father of Geometry?

7.Who was Luke Skywalker's father

8.Who was John the Baptist's mother?

9.Who played the part of Donna in Mamma Mia?.

10.Which Nobel prize was awarded to Mother Teresa ?

Answers on Page 31

Ramblers

Chris Gomm 07905 117622

Davy Down Riverside Walk - Thursday 19th November

I apologise for bringing this month's walk forward by a week. This is due to other commitments taking place.
It's is a fairly flat and easy walk along the Mardyke Valley taking in Brannett's Wood, which is one of the oldest surviving woodlands in Essex.
We will meet at the **Davy Down Car Park, Back Lane (off Pilgrims Lane) North Stifford RM16 5UL at 10:30 on Thursday 19th November** for this interesting walk with a mix of Woodland and Pathway passing over the Mardyke and with lovely views of the Railway Viaduct in front of us.
For those that would like to join us for refreshments I'd propose going to The Dog and Partridge in North Stifford where we can find lunch and refreshments at the end of our walk. If you do join us there, travelling by car, please be sure to register your car at the bar.
I hope that you'll be able to join me.
Chris G.

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 October we went to the Halfway House where we all had a lovely meal as always. The menu has a good selection and plenty to eat. In November we are going to The Ship at East Tilbury. I am sure we will have a good time there!

Sunday Singles

Margaret Lambert 07811 235274

Chris Brown- 01708 852023

The Sunday Singles lunch group is going well with meals at various venues . In October we went to the Swan in Horndon on the Hill for the first time which was enjoyed by all .We had to choose our meal from the menus beforehand which mostly went well .The November meal is at the Ship and the December meal is at the Springhouse .Regards Margaret .

Ten Pin Bowling

Jean Jardine 07551 952211

We will meeting again on Thursday December 3rd.

Get in touch if you would like to join us.

Answers

1. The Pope	2. G K Chesterton.	3.A Pizza parlour
4.Angela Merkel.	5. In a cupboard.	6. Euclid.
7. Darth Vader.	8.Elizabeth	9.Meryl Streep
10 Peace Prize		

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. 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 17th November 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

SINGIN' IN THE RAIN
WEDNESDAY 10th FEBRUARY at THE CLIFFS PAVILION WESTCLIFF

2.30 MATINEE PERFORMANCE. COST £60
This trip is on sale at the General meeting 12th November
All seats are in the front stalls with easy access to the auditorium.

The coach will depart from The Oak 9.40 and pick up at the usual locations on the way to Southend ,where you can shop, have coffee or if the weather is clement maybe a bracing stroll along the seafront. You will also have time to eat lunch at the venue of your choice and the coach will return to pick up in time for the 2.30 performance. Hope you can join us. There will only be one coach for this trip so places are limited.
Please remember to fill in your booking form before you get to the head of the queue. Payment can be made by cash, cheque or bank transfer.

Theatre Shows

Tina Smith 07899915184

Carol Lindsell 07906436445

New

Phantom of the Opera at Her Majesty's Theatre, London
26th May 2027 matinee performance
Cost: £60 ticket, coach and driver tip
I know this may seem a long way away but we have to book early to secure decent seats at a good price. I have already seen this show twice and it is one of my favourites and I highly recommend it whether you have seen it before or if it will be your first visit.

Brick Lane Music Hall -50 members of our group came to see the fabulous performance and afternoon tea featuring Dolly Parton and Kenny Roger's etc. tribute acts. They sang all the old favourites 9 to 5, Coat of Many Colours ,Islands in the Stream etc. we had the opportunity to line dance. A big thank you to Sue Moss who taught some of us how to line dance, so we could show off our moves, but it was also great fun watching others. Apologies to those who were unable to sit with their friends for the afternoon tea but in the ethos of the u3a I hope you were able to make new friends. Thank you to everyone who came and for your very kind comments. So until next time - Ye ha!

UKE3A

Mo Wakeling 07902 649122

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

Our well attended October meeting started with a South African white Chenin Blanc from this year. It had tastes of apricot, pear with a touch of vanilla. It can be enjoyed with poached salmon and lightly spiced vegetables, 13% volume.

Because we couldn't find a South African Rose from our usual suppliers we enjoyed a French 2025 Rose - Cote De Provence which was light in colour with berry and citrus flavours, 13% volume.

Back to South Africa for our red wine, a full-bodied deeply coloured red with a taste of dark fruits. A Gable Lodge Shiraz from the Western Cape enjoying the cooling effect of sea breezes from the ocean 90 km away, 13% volume. We enjoyed our monthly quiz organised by Win as well as the nibbles organised by Jean, we are now looking forward to our Christmas meal and 2027 and thinking of a winery trip next year.

It's Wine O'Clock

Paula Mullooly 07754 727011

With the autumnal nights drawing in, some of us will be shifting from a cool refreshing white wine to a warmer red in the evenings. This month's deal at Morrison's was 25% off when buying six or more bottles. Total saving was £37.88.

Sparkling – Mionetto prosecco Italy 11% £11.75. £8.50 with More Card. No multibuy discount. With its elegance, this Prosecco expresses the characteristics of Glera grapes of the province of Treviso. Pairs well with lighter dishes like chicken and fish or as a celebratory toast. Cheers!

White - Peter Lehmann The Barossan Chardonnay Australia 2025 12% volume. £13. With More Card £9. With multibuy 25% discount £6.75. This chardonnay is soft, generous and delicious with stone fruit and citrus flavours.

Pairs well with richer shellfish dishes, such as lobster, crab or scallops with brown-butter sauce or creamy pastas and risottos.

Rosé - The Rugirosa Blush rosé wine. Italy 2025. 10.5% volume. £10. With More Card discount £6.25. With multibuy 25% discount £4.68. Firstly, the bottle caught my eye. Great marketing tactics. This refreshing rosé wine has delicate floral aromas, with flavours of strawberry and lychee, It's perfect as an aperitif or paired with light pasta dishes or shellfish salads.

Red - Piccini Toscana Private Collection Italy. 2022 13.5% volume. Usually £12.75. With More Card £9. With multibuy 25% discount £6.75. Very Primitivo like. Vanilla oak that is borderline too strong but ultimately ends on the elegant side. Low tannins. Pairs well with beef, lamb or cured meat dishes.



The lesson was "What makes wine special?" The quiz was won by Nicola (again!), taking home the "It's Wine O'clock" wall plaque prize.

Next meeting is 16th November 2026.

Ann's Column

Following last month's reminiscing trip, I will continue this month. I ,too, have found the 60's music channel and it takes me right back to my college days. After formal supper on a Thursday, it was a quick dash to one of the Common rooms to watch Top of the Pops. (there were no individual TVs then). No one else asked to watch anything different for that half-hour, And it was girls only (young ladies), members of the opposite sex were not allowed in the halls of residence on a Thursday evening, it was hairwash night.

The College authorities were in loco parentis until we were 21. I can remember my Mum having to sign papers to have my wisdom teeth removed in hospital, being just shy of 21. Mind you, having left school at the end of July, aged 18, and arriving at college 6/7 weeks later I really didn't feel that grown-up. We left school on the last day of term, still wearing uniform, no gap year, into College where people still kept an eye on us and lectures had to be attended, certainly for the first year. Still I enjoyed it and made some good friends, with whom I am still in contact

Ann.

I have just watched the young Bee Gees, now waiting for Neil Diamond. It's great!

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 BaileyDawn 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	
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(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	
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	

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**	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. *Art at Mucking*	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 *Couples Lunch*	Play Reading 1 .

LINE DANCING 2 meets every fortnight on Tuesday morning. Quiz – get in touch; often a Saturday. Curry Club – get in touch to book a place.

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 items for the newsletter.

Interest Group Co-ordinator -Marilyn Edgings

Welfare and Disabilities Co-Ordinator –Eileen Drewer

Advance Notice Email - Chris Henderson 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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