

Blackwater u3a Newsletter

March 2024

**COULD THIS
BE THE
FINAL
EDITION ?**

u3a

Reg. Charity No. 1113334

From the Chair

And so a very warm welcome to February, literally as the weather forecast is saying it could be a balmy or even barmy, depending on how you look at it - 17 degrees, yes that's Celsius not Fahrenheit.

So, I had written an extremely funny article this month, probably one of the funniest I have ever written or come to that will write. In fact I would have welcomed your views. However, sadly I have somehow lost it, the article not the plot.

It's a pity because as I hinted last month we are in desperate need of a new Editor. Not quite as desperate as the committee was last year when they asked me to be Chairman after I had wandered in one day to get out of the rain; but pretty desperate and by that you will have gathered that so far we have not had anyone come forward.

Well I put this extremely funny article down somewhere on my Mac while I waited to see if there was any more I could add after our next day's committee meeting, at which by the way, it was decided we needed to write a separate article from the committee concerning the role of Newsletter Editor and why this could be one of the last Newsletters you get to read.

Now muggins here was given the task of starting it off and when it was completed this morning I looked around for my 'From the Chair article' and it was gone, yes I know annoying isn't it! But how do you think I feel having to retype the whole thing again, I can't remember where I put it, but have to remember what I put in it, if you know what I mean. I tell you there are dark forces abroad. They say Eric Arthur Blair, aka George Orwell (no relation to Tony), used to write his articles up to 6 times, perhaps his typewriter was like my Mac, things disappeared on it. Back to today, I will let you know if I ever find it, well that's if we still have a Newsletter of course.

On other issues it was nice to see so many of you at this month's meeting; Speaker was good wasn't he? It wasn't my street he was up, but hey ho. You clearly all felt you would like to be able to provide your views on monthly meeting content and were prepared to be signed in to prove it and didn't our Sue do a great job, ticking you off, in the nicest possible way of course. An added bonus for next month you get Deputy Chairman Ron.

All the best meanwhile

Allen

From the Committee - Why our front page has a hint that this Newsletter may end very soon.

As has been hinted in the 'From the Chair' article, we shall soon be losing our editor and without an Editor, even small and humble periodicals like this cannot be published.

Even assuming we only issue it on line, we still need an Editor. We are the only u3a of our local cluster group who produce a Newsletter physically as well as online.

This is a role that can be based at home provided you have an internet connection and computer and of course this role has the potential to be shared with another person.

Please act ASAP as training will be given.

Deadline for the April Newsletter

The deadline for the next Newsletter will be Friday 22nd March 2024. Please submit items in the usual way to Frances Butcher. fabbutcher@talktalk.net

Canasta group

Eight of us met on Thursday 15th February at West Maldon Community Centre Linton room for some very enjoyable games of Canasta. I do believe we are grasping the fundamentals of the game now. The first pair to score 5,000 are the winners, and for the first time since the group started, that was achieved.

The next meet will be on Thursday 21st March. I will be away for that session but I will organise a deputy for the day. As usual let me know if you are not going to be there.

Co-ordinator, Stephy Eraut 01621 829758

Membership Renewal

The latest version of the Blackwater u3a Membership Renewal Form is now available on the website. A completed and signed form is required in order to renew your subscription. This is important, especially if there has been a change in your Gift Aid status or you have changed address, contact details or phone numbers.

The Committee has agreed that the new fee for this year 2024/25 will be £25.00. If you belong to another u3a and wish to be a full member of the Blackwater u3a the fee will be £21.00.

As with many other things, the costs involved in administering the u3a have risen hence the need to increase the subscription. The new subscription year begins on **1st April 2024** and the fee can be paid by Bank Transfer, Cash, Cheque or Card (to the Treasurer at a monthly meeting).

Membership Secretary, Sue Watson 01621 852941

Treasurer's Request

When making payments by Bank Transfer please make payments for the following categories:

Membership Payments/Dairies

Sort Code: 60-13-37 Account No: 49519611

Account: Blackwater U3A

Quoting: 'Membership' or 'Diary'

Group Activities/Events

Sort Code: 60-13-37 Account No: 49532057

Account: Blackwater U3A No 2

Quoting: 'Theatre' / 'History' etc.

Payments by cheque should be made payable to 'Blackwater U3A'.

Payments can also be made at the Monthly Meetings by Debit/Credit Cards.

Thank you

Chris Daines

Table Tennis 1

Our group meets on Mondays from 9.15 till 11.45 am at West Maldon Community Centre. We are a mixed achievement group and have a good time with a little instruction from the better players. We are currently getting 16 plus players, with several welcome newcomers, and rotate play so that everyone gets a game with different partners. We can still accept more players at present.

Co-ordinator, Peter Harden 07754 536639

Deputy, Jack Veash 07388 420968

Table Tennis 2

We meet on Thursday afternoons at West Maldon Community Centre between 2.30 and 4.30 pm. We have four tables for our use and play doubles and singles, depending on numbers.

New members are welcome with or without previous experience and a bat can be lent if necessary. Sensible non slip trainers are essential. The cost is £3 per session which includes refreshments. For further information please contact

Co-ordinator, Kath Little 07762 312838

Petanque Group

The Petanque group is extremely popular, consisting of members from Blackwater, South Woodham Ferrers, Limebrook and Maldon. Attendance is averaging over a dozen at a time and total membership is nearly thirty. Play takes place every Tuesday afternoon starting at 1.30 pm during the winter months (GMT) in the Maldon Promenade Park.

Co-ordinator, John Mundy 01621 854065

Local Theatres Group

Payment can be made by Bank Transfer Payments:

Sort Code: 60-13-37 Account No: 49532057

Account: Blackwater U3A No 2 Quoting: the reference for your choice(s) of show



**Locomotive for Murder – Improvised Whodunit - Chelmsford Theatre
Saturday 6th April 2024 at 2.30 pm Tickets: £17.50**

Pinch Punch welcomes you aboard Locomotive for Murder, an improvised comedy murder mystery where killing the cast and cracking the case is in your hands. Expect outrageous accents and shaky alibis. Four characters board a train, but not everyone will survive. Thankfully, a world-famous detective is ready to solve the case. But who is the murderer? Only one person knows: the murderer themselves.

Can you help solve the case? Using audience stories and suggestions, Pinch Punch create a never-to-be-repeated whodunnit. If you love comedy or murder mysteries, then this is the show for you.

Payment to be made by 8th March 2024, please.
Quote Local Theatre (Murder)



**The Winter's Tale –
Chelmsford Theatre Studio
Wednesday 22nd May at 7.15
pm Tickets: £14.50**

King Leontes of Sicilia is crippled with an all-consuming jealousy when his friend, King Polixenes of Bohemia, stays with him and

his wife Hermione. What follows is a tale where a marriage is destroyed, a child is abandoned and all hope is seemingly lost for two lovers.

Celebrating its tenth anniversary, The Winter's Tale is an award-winning modern ballet classic, packed with emotional turmoil heightened by Joby Talbot's compelling score and Bob Crowley's atmospheric designs.

Royal Opera Screening

Payment to be made by 8th March 2024, please.

Quote Local Theatre (Winter)



**King Arthur - Mercury
Theatre Colchester
Thursday 30th May at 2.00
pm Tickets: £25.50**

Camelot is in trouble. King Arthur knows that if he doesn't turn things around, this civilisation will be forgotten, and be known as nothing more than a rather dull time in British history. But when three hapless

squires approach him about changing that legacy..... a legend is born.

Teaming up with one of UK theatre's best comedy writers and directors, **John Nicholson** (*Peepolykus*), award-winning funny men **Le Navet Bete** (*The Three Musketeers, Treasure Island, Dracula: The Bloody Truth*) are back with a brand-new laugh-out-loud show for the ages. A comedy for the whole family, this hilarious retelling of the Arthurian legends will have audiences crying with laughter and become part of the legend themselves

Payment to be made by 5 April 2024, please.

Quote Local Theatre (Arthur)

Please note if you wish to have tickets these **MUST** be paid in advance so we can ensure purchasing them. Thank you.

Co-Ordinator, Janet Watson 0795 292 5164

Reading Group

This month's book was our first by the well known author, Robert Harris. 'V2' as the title suggests, is about the development of the V2 rocket and the efforts by the British to locate its launch area and destroy it. Although it is a work of fiction, the subject was real – the V2s caused considerable damage in London during the Second World War as Hitler, in November 1944, fearing defeat, ordered ten thousand to be built. We meet real life German figures, Werner von Braun and SS General Hans Kammler, but the two central characters are works of fiction. Dr Rudi Graf is an engineer working on developing rockets for space travel and Kay Caton-Walsh is an officer in the Women's Auxiliary Air Force. Graf is brought over from Peenemunde, a German scientific research centre and rocket development site, to Scheveningen on the Dutch coast from where the rockets were fired, to improve the reliability of the rockets and to oversee the production of new rockets. He is concerned by the demands for increased numbers of untested rockets and sceptical about the chances of Germany winning the war.

Kay's job involves mathematically calculating the curve of the rocket's passage to then discover its source. Eventually Graf sabotages one launch and is arrested by the Gestapo but saved by his friend and fellow engineer, Von Braun. Several of the German engineers defect to London and America where they work on the American Space Programme. In the story Graf and Kay meet in London where he is brought for debriefing. The two realise that they have both been misled about the success of their separate missions and there is the spark of an attraction between them.

Unfortunately, as sometimes happens, the book didn't appeal to all members with some thinking it was too heavily weighted with scientific detail but others thought it was an interesting story. One of our members had actually been to the museum at Peenemunde where she learned that over 20,000 conscripted workers from occupied countries died making the V2, the number being more than those killed in the rocket attacks on London. As with most stories relating to the war, it is not always an easy read and it certainly made you think about people caught up in situations through no fault of their own and having to make difficult decisions in order to survive.

Our average mark was 7½ and he is an author that we will probably read again in the future.

Co-ordinator, Gill Swanson 07975 920460

Play Reading Group

Due to illness etc. we only had four people at our meeting. However, we managed very well, doubling up on parts, as we re-read 'The Sleeper Murders' by Don Woods.

When an ex con Myra Owen is requested to go to her twin sister's smart residence, she is unaware that she is being drawn into a very raw deal. When her sister and her husband are reported as being killed in a car crash Myra finds herself inheriting all their possessions. Irma Stott, a sinister, out of nowhere character, blackmails her on the grounds that she has been used as a version of a 'sleeper' i.e. a special agent who lies dormant until he is activated to cause the maximum amount of damage. There are a series of macabre twists until the final moment when a bloodstained figure emerges from the deep freeze enabling the police to unmask the plot.

Co-ordinator, Anita Parkes 01621 857730

Wine Group 1

We met in February to explore the rising trend in low and no-alcohol wines. Apparently consumption of alcohol is steadily decreasing, particularly among younger people, and wine makers are keen to produce de-alcoholised wine to ensure they retain their share of the market.

Non-alcoholic wine starts off in the traditional way of fermenting good quality grapes to produce a wine with flavour and character. An additional process is then required to remove the alcohol, and three possible methods are used; vacuum distillation, spinning cone columns or reverse osmosis. The first two methods need costly equipment and involve heating the wine. Consequently, non-alcoholic wine is not necessarily cheaper, but it does avoid taxation (up to 1.2% abv).

We tried 4 bottles, 2 from Spain, 1 from South Africa and 1 from Australia. It has to be said that none of us liked any of them as they were all too sweet. It appears that the wine industry has a lot more work to do to produce a palatable non-alcoholic wine before we would drink it.

However the Rioja Crianza and Appassimento opened at the end of the tasting were enjoyed by all.

Our next meeting will be hosted by Val and Roger on 5th April.

Co-ordinator, Frances Butcher 01621 853352

Nature Walks



It was a shorter walk this month. We welcomed three new Blackwater u3a members to the group and 13 of us set off from St. Peter's Church in Goldhanger with its churchyard of snowdrops and violets. After negotiating the only stile of the route, we walked along hedgerows (which had been recently hacked back) and across fields to reach the sea wall. The mud slowed us down a little after all the recent rain, but we took our time and kept going without incident. We stopped and listened to the skylarks hovering above the fields and watched them drop so quickly from great heights to the ground.

Plenty of small birds

including blue tits and long tailed tits darted across our path and the yellow gorse brightened the verge. When we reached the sea wall the tide was out and plenty of ducks and small waders such as redshanks were visible. Thanks to Terri Hardcastle for the photograph.

We took advantage of The Chequers public house at the end of our walk for hot drinks and plenty of socialising.

For the 15th March I have booked a visit to Lauriston Farm near Goldhanger. This will include a walk, a talk about biodynamic farming and a hot drink. **£6 in cash payable on the day.** Numbers are limited to 20 and I only have 2 places left so please book a place with me if you hope to come. We will leave West Maldon Community Centre by car share at 9.30 am.

Co-ordinator, Gerry Davis 01621 843217

Potholes – Is help at hand?

The following is an article published by Hertfordshire County Council on 10th January 2024

An autonomous robot, developed by tech company Robotiz3d and academics at the University of Liverpool, in partnership with our Highways Engineers, is set to pass its first test outside of a laboratory environment on the roads of Hertfordshire.

Using state of the art imaging technology the team working on the project have now developed the first Autonomous Road Repair System (ARRES). The robot, officially called ARRES PREVENT, identifies and characterises cracks and potholes in the road using Artificial Intelligence (AI). It then automatically fills the cracks to keep out surface water, which in turn helps to prevent potholes forming. It has the potential to save time and money as well as reducing the disruption potholes cause to road users. The brand-new technology could revolutionise the way Hertfordshire and the rest of the world deal with potholes and issues with road surfaces in the future.

The majority of funding for this exciting project has come from Innovate UK, but other investors have also been involved at different stages of technology development.

The new vehicle is currently still in its pilot phase and has been tested in a laboratory environment extensively, but it is due to hit the roads of Hertfordshire early this year for a ‘real-life’ road repair on a residential street in the county. This piece of kit is the first of its kind in the world and has been in development since 2020.

Submitted by Ron Martin

Golf Group

The Blackwater u3a golfing group plays twice a month on the 2nd and 4th Fridays of the month at 10.30 am. All members have a list of dates and venues. If you are interested in joining, please speak to the

Co-ordinator, John Rowsell 01621 740820

Gardening group

On 19th February nineteen members enjoyed a memorable outing to the property mentioned below.

We were treated with great hospitality starting with soup, cheese scones and tea/coffee, following on with a conducted tour split into two groups led by the owners of Blunt Hall Alan and Les Gamblin.

They bought the property 13 years ago and set about the restoration of the house and garden which was completely overgrown. They have done a great job and should be very proud of their achievements.



After an extensive tour we were given more refreshments, cake and tea/coffee. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the visit and approval was given for a visit next year in a different season, probably June.

Blunts Hall is a Grade II listed property set in three acres of managed garden. Mentioned in the Domesday Book as a manorial site, the original structure dates to 1230, with 17th, 18th, and 19th century additions. Blunts Hall Ringwork, within the grounds of the Hall, is a scheduled

Ancient Monument. Archeological excavations undertaken in 1958 and documentary evidence suggest the ringwork was constructed in 1141, as a site for an adulterine castle (baronial castle erected without a royal charter, commonly built during the ‘anarchy’ of Stephen’s reign). It was abandoned during the reign of King Henry II.

For centuries residents of Blunts Hall were tenant farmers, until the late nineteenth century when Charles Hedley Strutt, son of the 2nd Baron Lord Rayleigh of Terling became the owner and continued farming the land. He moved from farming to politics and in 1895 became the Honorable Charles Strutt MP for Maldon until 1906. Charles’ brother Edward Strutt founded Lord Rayleigh’s Dairies in 1900 at the site of the Hall Farm which continued successfully until 1929 when the business was sold to the Express Dairy Company. Much of the house and garden you see today is the influence of Charles Strutt. During his time as an MP his improvements were intended to lift the house from farmhouse to manor house. A lime avenue was planted along the new driveway to the property in 1900.

Forthcoming events

Monday 18th March we will visit Hyde Hall, postcode CM3 8ET. [Meet at West Maldon Community Centre at 1.30 pm for car share.](#)

Monday 15th April we will visit Brooklea, Ulting Wick postcode CM9 6QX for the tulips. Meet at West Maldon Community Centre at 1.30 pm for car share.

Co-ordinator, Stephy Eraut 01621 829758

CAN YOU BE OF HELP TO YOUR FRIENDS IN THE U3A ?

The volunteers in our Support and Befriending Group have recently been of great help to one of our members who needed to get to two of our local hospitals over a period of six weeks. We organised a rota of eleven volunteers to drive on days when they were available. If we had not done this the journey could not have happened. I think it shows a very valuable side to our u3a community.

You never know, one day you might be in need. We would like to have some more volunteers to drive people in difficult situations which they can't manage for whatever reason. You would only be asked if you were free on that day and it is usually just a day.

Please could you get in touch if you think you could help in the future. Dennis Eraut, Sheila Rowsell and Christine Wright

Support and Befriending Group

If you are in need of some help or support, please telephone one of the following numbers and they will try to put you in touch with someone who can help.

Sheila Rowsell	01621 740820,
Dennis Eraut	01621 829758,
Christine Wright	01621 853171

Rummikub Group

There were nine members in February, so that made three groups of three and we all sat with different people.

It was good not to play with the same members and you get to know different people, which is very nice. Sue won in her group, I won in my group but I don't know who won in the other group.

We were still playing right up till 12 o'clock. The time goes so quickly when you are playing this really good game with lovely members.

Co-ordinator; Patricia Harding 01621 8543099

Walking Group



In January we had a lovely walk around Heybridge paths, passing Chigbrough Lakes and crossing the new road being built, before heading back for refreshments at Tesco. Another of John's interesting walks.
Sylvie

On 28th March meet at Daisy Meadow Carpark, Heybridge Basin

Co-ordinator, John Mayes 01245 222530

Short Walks

At our recent meeting we decided to walk to the Promenade Park using the various footpaths through the local housing estates. When we reached our destination, it began raining so we decided to stop for our customary refreshments and chose the small cafe at the petting zoo as this was under cover. The rain had stopped by the time we were ready to leave and the sun was shining which was a bonus for our return to the Centre.

For various reasons only four of us were able to join the walk. Each month the numbers seem to dwindle but I am sure this will increase over the coming months. If you would like to join us for a leisurely stroll around Maldon, please contact either Robyn, or myself.

Our next walk will be on Monday, 18th March, meeting at 10.00 am outside West Maldon Community Centre.

Co-ordinators, Di Martin 01621 856347 and Robyn Slade 01621 928536

Art Appreciation Group

Our next meeting is on Tuesday March 26th at 2.00 pm. This time we will have three presentations from our own members so do please come along and support them.

Firstly Brenda Broom on T.S.Lowry; most of you will recognise his style but what about the man? Second up will be John Hayes on Charles Dadd and his illustrations. Now he was an odd character. Last of the three is Sue Thomson on contemporary artist, Sheree Valentine Daines and I am sure you will love her colourful, almost impressionistic Paintings.

Do come along and new members are always welcome.

Co-ordinator, Dennis Eraut 01621 829758

Birding group

We will meet at West Maldon Community Centre at 9.30 am on Friday 5th April for car share to Abberton reservoir, focusing on early Nightingales.

Anyone is free to join us, we are a friendly group, and you don't have to have David Attenborough's knowledge. Please sign up at the next meeting or contact me on 07710677789 stephyeraut@gmail.com

Co-ordinator, Stephy Eraut 01621 829758

Cribbage Group

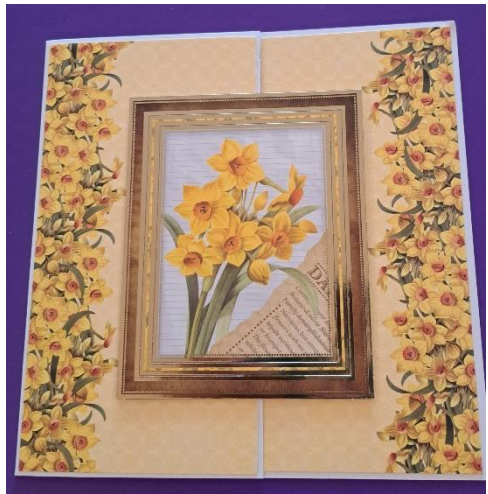
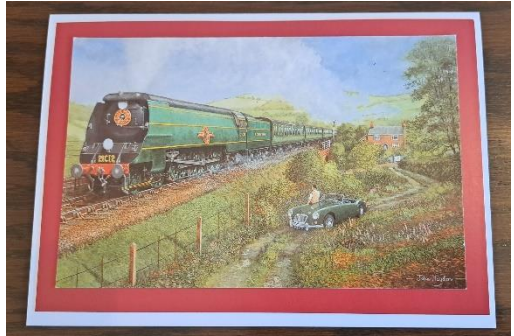
With quite a few lucky members away on holiday we just had 9 members for our February meeting. We played 3 tables of 3 and this month both Ron and Peter C won two games each, but Sue W had the highest points of the afternoon with 17 points. It was a very enjoyable afternoon with lots of laughs and some delicious chocolate biscuits at tea break.

We meet every 2nd Wednesday afternoon of the month at 2.00 pm at West Maldon Community Centre.

Co-ordinator, Terri Hardcastle 01621 929656

Card Makers Group

February has been another quiet month with only three sessions. But some very different cards were produced by using up some old stock and also making several cards for men. Unfortunately, one of our members has now left us due to family commitments.



Sessions are now on hold until the middle of March as my family are visiting for a few days.

Best wishes to all the u3a, I miss you.

Co-ordinator, Kathy Leggett 01621 852377



Local News

The Maldon Society talk to be given by Adrian Wright on Thursday 4th April is 'Shaking Planet - Earthquakes including Essex'. The doors of the Cygnet Room will open at 6.30 with the meeting starting at 7.00 pm. Pre-registration is extremely important as entry on the door cannot be guaranteed. Members of the Society and members of the public are advised to pre-register at maldonsociety@aol.com or ring Dorreen on 01621 853428

How you can help the Maldon Society

There is currently a committee of six members with four additional friends who are managing our oral history recordings and website. If you are interested in joining us, there is an opportunity to come along to any of our committee meetings when you can see and hear the programme of business discussed and learn about our 'behind the scenes work'. Our contact address is maldonsociety@aol.com or please talk to committee members you know.

London Theatre Group

Thank you to all those who have already paid the £17 coach fare for our trip on 25th April. Just to remind you - I give out the tickets on the coach now, so all you have to do is be ready to board the coach at West Maldon Community Centre at 9.15 am on Thursday 25th April. If you arrive by car please park at the far end of the car park. Please contact me if you have any questions about the trip.

Co-ordinator, Brenda Broom 01621 841520

Flower Arranging

Our February meeting will see the members using daffodils in a spiral arrangement. We have used this style before with roses or carnations but not with daffodils, therefore it will be interesting to see how we manage.

As our March meeting is the nearest to Easter we have chosen this as our theme for our arrangements. There will be no formal design with members choosing to interpret Easter in their own way but I am sure eggs, chicks and rabbits, albeit miniature, may well make an appearance.

Our meeting will take place on Tuesday, 26th March, in the Linton Room from 9.30 am until 11.30 am.

Co-ordinator, Di Martin 01621 856347

History & Science Group

Our speaker for the February meeting was David Williams, a familiar face to the u3a. He gave an illustrated talk on 'Wren's Churches'.

Sir Christopher Wren was born 20th October 1632 and died on 25th February 1723 aged 90. He was an English architect, astronomer, mathematician and physicist who was one of the most highly acclaimed architects in the history of England. Known for his work in the English Baroque style, he was accorded responsibility for rebuilding 52 churches in the City of London after the Great Fire of London in 1666, including St Paul's Cathedral. Many of these buildings survive to this day; others have been substantially altered or rebuilt.



St Paul's Cathedral



Wren, portrait c 1690



St Mary Abchurch

Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday 12th March in the Linton Room at 2.00 pm. Dennis Eraut will be giving an illustrated talk on 'The Early History of the Moot Hall in Maldon from Saxon times to the 16th century and The Darcy family'. Newish research reveals a new story on its origins. Who built the Tower now known as the Moot Hall? Why was it built? How did the Darcy family get involved? How did four Kings and Queens own so much of Maldon? It is a good story, and I am sure much of this talk will be new to you.

New members welcome

Co-ordinators, Geoff Pugh, Dennis Eraut and Peter Holmes

Art Group

The Group project for February was Acrylics. It's ages since most of us used acrylics - I am definitely looking forward to an improvement in my next attempt!



Robyn Slade



Val Wilson

Still Life arrangements will continue to be set up during March - note that because of ongoing work at the Hall we can't meet there on March 13th. If we have mild weather a trip to Hyde Hall might be possible.

Co-ordinator, Anita Sandison 01621 741351

Tai Chi

Tai Chi has become so popular we have a 'full house' for our Monday afternoon meetings. Although we cannot accept any new members at the moment, if you are interested please contact me and I will put your name on a waiting list.

Co-ordinator, Peter Harden 07754 536639

Speakers' Corner

Brian Carline took us 'down our street' and memory lane, with a lovely selection of anecdotes, memories and images, delivered without a microphone! All present showed their appreciation with a lengthy round of applause.

March 6th

The Titanic, Steve Lester

April 3rd

Dodgy Scales and Delivering the Mail Part One, Mike Fogg

May

Annual General Meeting

June

Saving Lives at Sea, Linda Cook from the RNLI

Speaker Organiser, John Hayes 01621 843855

Members on Their Own (MOTO) Group



During February we met for coffee as usual at St Mary's Church in the Octagon and also at 'Serendipity' in the High Street. We also enjoyed lunch at Mrs Salisburys at Wickham Bishops.

In March we look forward to meeting at Meadow Croft Nurseries, Wickford, for their spectacular Viola and Pansy Festival. We are also going to enjoy a Tapas night at Salero (the old post office).

If you are interested in joining this group or finding out more about it, please contact the

*Co-ordinator, Robyn Slade
01621 928536*

Committee Members 2023/4

Allen Griffiths	Chair	01621 732191
Ron Martin	Vice Chair and Database Manager	01621 856347
Chris Daines	Treasurer	07973 342283
Gill Swanson	Secretary	07975 920460
Esther Pugh	Committee Member	01621 843297
Sholto Morton	Minutes Secretary	01621 929238
Janet Watson	Groups Co-ordinator	07952 925164
Jenny O'Connor	Monthly Meeting Coordinator	07903 959450
Liz Walden	Website Manager	01621 852689
Sue Watson	Membership Secretary	01621 852941
Roger Wilson	Committee Member	01621 842455

Newsletter Production:

Editor	Frances Butcher	01621 853352
Publisher	Roger Wilson	01621 842455

Joint groups with Maldon U3A

Singing for Pleasure	Jacky Holmes	01621 854108
Tenpin Bowling	David Arnold	01621 853866

March Programme

As well as the schedule on the back of this booklet, please check the Events page on the Blackwater U3A website and the Newsletter items for the latest up to date information.

Local U3A contacts (Our Cluster Group)

You will find details of the other members of our Cluster Group on their websites.

Maldon	http:// www.maldonu3a.co.uk/
Heybridge	https://u3asites.org.uk/heybridge
Limebrook	https://u3asites.org.uk/limebrook-maldon/home
Burnham on Crouch	https://boc-u3a.org.uk/
Dengie	https://u3asites.org.uk/dengie/home
Crouch Valley	https://u3asites.org.uk/crouch-valley/home
South Woodham Ferrers	https://swf-u3a.org/

And of course, a reminder of our own website:

Blackwater U3A <https://u3asites.org.uk/blackwater/home>

Rotas for Refreshments

MARCH	Art and Art Appreciation
APRIL	Flower Arranging and History & Science
MAY	Birding and Card and Board Games

Doors will be open for helpers and co-ordinators setting up at 1.30 pm. Doors are open for other members at 2.00 pm. If you have insufficient members between your groups, please contact me in advance.

Welcome Team:

Jenny and her buddies will be on hand to welcome new members.

Set-up and Clear-up rota

MARCH	Golf and Real Ale
APRIL	Nature Walks and Card Makers
MAY	Cribbage and Family History

When setting up the hall please start with the row furthest away from the speaker, leaving sufficient gangways as normal. When clearing up, please do not put the chairs away until requested by a committee member.

Thank you all for your co-operation, *Janet Watson*

Co-ordinators

Interest Groups Co-ordinator	Janet Watson	07952 925164
Art	Anita Sandison	01621 741351
Art Appreciation	Dennis Eraut	01621 829758
Birding	Stephy Eraut	01621 829758
Canasta	Stephy Eraut	01621 829758
Card and Board Games	Sheila Rowsell	01621 740820
Card Makers	Kathy Leggett	01621 852377
Community Garden	Dorreen Linton	01621 853428
Cribbage	Terri Hardcastle	01621 929656
Family History	Geoff Pugh	01621 843297
Flower Arranging	Di Martin	01621 856347
Gardening	Stephy Eraut	01621 829758
Golf	John Rowsell	01621 740820
History and Science	Dennis Eraut	01621 829758
	Geoff Pugh	01621 843297
	Peter Holmes	01621 854108
Local Theatres	Janet Watson	07952 925164
London Theatres	Brenda Broom	01621 841520
Luncheon Club 3	Sid Sutton	07711 258802
Meditation	Di Reddish	01621 810653
Memories	John Mundy	01621 854065
MOTO	Robyn Slade	01621 928536
Nature Walks	Gerry Davis	01621 843217
Petanque	John Mundy	01621 854065
Places of Worship	Dawn Mundy	01621 854065
Play Reading	Anita Parkes	01621 857730
Reading	Gill Swanson	07975 920460
Real Ale Group	Paul Allen	01621 856303
Rummikub Group	Pat Harding	01621 843099
Scottish Dancing	Diana Rogers	01621 853841
Scrabble	Sylvia Harden	07840 369496
Shakespeare	Dennis Eraut	01621 829758
Short Walks	Di Martin	01621 856347
	Robyn Slade	01621 928536
Social Group	vacant	
Table Tennis 1	Peter Harden	07754 536639
	Jack Veash	07388 420968
Table Tennis 2	Kath Little	07762 312838
Tai Chi	Peter Harden	07754 536639
Walkers	John Mayes	01245 222530
Wine Group 1	Frances Butcher	01621 853352
Wine Group 2	Paul Allen	01621 856303

March 2024 Programme

RED INDICATES A MORNING MEETING

BLUE INDICATES AN AFTERNOON MEETING

BLACK INDICATES UNSPECIFIED TIMING

Monday	Tuesday	Wed'day	Thursday	Friday	Sat	Sun
				1 Local Theatre	2 MOTO	3
4 Table Tennis 1 Meditation Tai Chi	5 Petanque Card and Board Games	6 Monthly Meeting	7 Table Tennis 2	8 Golf Singing Shakespeare	9 MOTO	10
11 Table Tennis 1 Tai Chi	12 Petanque History and Science	13 Cribbage	14 Play Reading Scottish Dance Reading Table Tennis 2	15 Nature Walk	16	17
18 Table Tennis 1 Meditation Short Walks Tai Chi Gardening	19 Card Makers Petanque Scrabble MOTO	20 Art Family History	21 Rummikub Table Tennis 2 Card Makers Canasta	22 Golf Singing Shakespeare Local Theatre Newsletter Deadline	23	24
25 Table Tennis 1 Tai Chi	26 Card Makers Flower Arranging Art Appreciat Petanque	27 Art Real Ale	28 Walkers Scottish Dance Table Tennis 2 Card Makers	29 GOOD FRIDAY	30	31 EASTER SUNDAY