

Blackwater u3a

Newsletter

November 2023



Allen's fruit salad sculptures

u3a

Reg. Charity No. 1113334

From the Chair

In case you were thinking at last month's meeting that you had got rid of me, afraid not. Our deputy Chairman Ron did a sterling job standing in for me.

I would have been there except that I collected a dose of Covid. Now If you were/are thinking of doing what I did and becoming 'the man (or woman) on the European Airbus' in search of a bit of winter sunshine, do play safe and wear a mask as I can confirm that people coughing in the row or two behind may well have it and can give it to you, even having been injected. I suppose the man (or woman) 100 odd years ago on the Clapham Omnibus had similar problems with any remains of influenza still around, or come to that, finding winter sun in Clapham lol.

A double round of applause for Deputy Ron is in order as he also chaired the committee meeting for me, which reminds me that we still have places available if you fancy joining the fun. Speaking of 'fun', one of the topics I missed revolved around making our monthly meetings 'more fun'. If you have any good ideas please submit them as I have suggested that maybe if we have teams and each team nominate someone to stand on one leg on a chair with the opposite arm in the air, when they fell off we could award points and a round of applause for the particular amount of panache with which they accomplished it. But the idea was summarily dismissed out of hand, not sure why - something to do with health and safety I think. Therefore, please submit your suggestions for anything that you feel would make the monthly meeting more interesting or fun to attend.

Finally, asking for ideas reminds me that we had a successful annual lunch yesterday, Wednesday 18th in honour of all Co-ordinators and volunteers, who supplied some good feedback and suggestions and so you can see that if you volunteered you could, indeed would, be eligible for a free lunch and another good reason to volunteer.

Anyway, I will stop banging on, 'the games afoot' so I will just wish you an enjoyable month and look forward to jumping out and surprising you at next month's meeting.

Chairman Al

Deadline for the December/January Newsletter

The deadline for the next Newsletter will be **Friday 24th November**
Please submit items in the usual way to Frances Butcher
fabbutcher@talktalk.net.

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

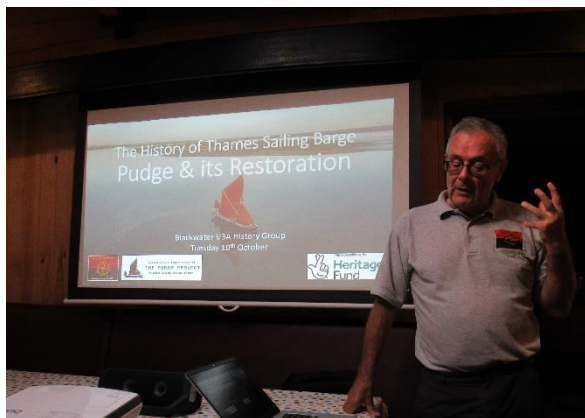
Chris Daines

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

History and STEAM Groups



On a fine, warm, sunny Tuesday 10th October we were treated to an illustrated talk and presentation given by John Rayment on board the sailing barge 'Pudge'.

Pudge was built in Rochester, Kent by the London & Rochester Trading Company and was one of the last two oden barges to be built. Most of her working life was spent carrying goods between London and Ipswich. In

1940 she was involved in 'Operation Dynamo' to help evacuate troops from the beach at Dunkirk.

The barge was acquired by the Thames Sailing Barge Trust in 1968 and was progressively restored over many years. In 2018 the Trust applied for Lottery Funding and was awarded £328,000. In addition to this, funding came from charitable trusts including Essex Heritage Trust, Garfield Weston, Foyle Foundation and Trinity House as well as members donations.

Initially, the work had a projected cost of £738,000 and removal of her fittings began during the summer of 2019 by volunteers. She moved into dry dock in May 2020 for the major works to begin and was finally completed in April 2023.



Pudge is now back sailing following her restoration by the Trust. The restoration which included replacing her decks, coamings, carlings, beams as well as a complete refit below deck was carried out by KJ Finch Shipwrights Ltd at Fullbridge and Trust volunteers.

Dates for your diary:

November 14th –The Fire Service at 2.00 pm in the Linton Room at West Maldon Community Centre.

Co-ordinator, Geoff Pugh 01621 843297

STEAM Group

Our last meeting was a combined session with History to visit the Barge Pudge. A full report is under the History Group heading.

Our next meeting is on Monday November 13th at 9.30 am at the West Maldon Community Centre Jubilee room. Dennis will be talking on Genetic Engineering. What is it? How do you do it? What are Genetically Modified Crops? Should we have them? Are they worth the risks? The USA does have them along with many countries but Britain does not.

How do you have a genetically modified human? How can we prevent or alter inherited diseases? What successes have there been?

All u3a members are welcome to come along to this meeting.

Co-ordinators, Dennis Eraut 01621 829758 and Peter Holmes 01621 854108

Art Appreciation

Our next meeting in November is on the 21st - not our usual fourth Tuesday in the month – but still at 2.00 pm at the West Maldon Community Centre.

This time we are going back to our old favourite, Professor Kloss on Italian Renaissance artists. We will have two DVDs on Michelangelo, firstly one on his Florentine period and then one on his Roman works. They are about half an hour each so we will have an interval and time for discussion with tea or coffee. Some of these are among the most amazing sculptures ever created. Do come along and also make plans for next year's sessions.

Co-ordinator, Dennis Eraut 01621 829758

Golf Group

The Blackwater u3a golfing group usually meet twice a month, on the 2nd Friday for the group's main event at one of our local golf courses and on the 4th Friday for our monthly secondary event. This alternates between Little Channels, Chelmsford, golf course or Rivenhall Golf Course and always meeting at 10.30 am at the golf course car parks.

Our Christmas Lunch will be at Rivenhall Golf Club on 8th December at 1.00 pm.

Co-ordinator, John Rowsell 01621 740820

Short Walks Group

Five members set off from West Maldon Community Centre on a chilly morning when we all wished we had brought our gloves but once the sun starting shining we were soon warmed up.

Our route this time was towards the Promenade park, passing the allotments in Poulton Close and on joining Mundon Road we made our way along the footpath running parallel to Limebrook Way towards Morrison's supermarket. On reaching Farnbridge Road we decided to cross to the new development (Handley Gardens) and follow the paths towards said supermarket where we stopped for refreshments. Once refreshed we made our way back to the Centre.

Our next walk, weather permitting, will take place on **Monday 20th November**, meeting outside the West Maldon Community Centre at 10.00 am. If interested in joining us for a circular walk around Maldon lasting between 1½ to 2 hours please contact either Robyn, or myself.

Co-ordinators - Di Martin 01621 85634) and Robyn Slade 01621 928536

London Theatre Group

Please come and help choose, from a selection of six shows, the one we will go to see in the Spring. I will be in the Jubilee room with the list of shows - and details about them available to help you make a choice. Hope to see anyone who is interested, and even if you have not been part of the group before, do come and see what is on offer.

Co-Ordinator, Brenda Broom 01621 841520

Card and Board Games

Our October meeting was well supported with four tables of enthusiastic players. Canaster continued to be popular with more people wanting to play and learn the rules. Alongside of this, the old favourites of Rummikub, Sequence and Othello were played.

The next meeting will be on November 7th at 2.00 pm in the Linton room, West Maldon Community Centre.

We will be having our Christmas lunch in the Linton Room instead of playing our games, on Tuesday December 5th at 2.00 pm. Everyone to contribute to the food as before.

Co-ordinator, Sheila Rowsell 01621 740820

Shakespeare Group

We have now finished 'A Winter's Tale' a story of jealousy leading to disaster, and an abandoned daughter of the King of Sicily with a shepherd on another island.

The story picks up for the second half of the play 16 years later when the daughter is reunited with her old father and the two rival families are brought together and all is well that ends well as they say.

We will start our new play Henry IV Part II on November 10th at 2.00 pm in West Maldon Community Centre. This will be our fifteenth Shakespeare play so we are really getting a feel for many of the themes that crop up again and again. This time we will be reading from the Arden edition and not the Oxford Schools edition. It is full of notes and explanatory text so it will be interesting to see the difference.

New members are welcome.

Co-ordinator, Dennis Eraut 01621 829758

Walking Group

In September a small group of walkers enjoyed a visit to the picturesque village of Terling in warm sunshine, followed by a coffee at Owls Hill café.

With the changing of seasons we will be walking locally for the next few months, hoping that the weather continues to be kind to us.

November 23rd – Blackwater Leisure Centre

December – no walk

2024

January 25th – Tesco, Fullbridge

February 22nd – Morrisons

All walks commence at 10.00 am.

Co-ordinator, John Mayes 01245 222530

Wine Group 1

We did not meet in October but are looking forward to tasting a selection of wines chosen by Jacky and Peter on Friday 10th November.

Co-ordinator, Frances Butcher 01621 853352

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 2.00 pm during the summer months in the Maldon Promenade Park.

Co-ordinator, John Mundy 01621 854065

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

Tai Chi

Our Tai Chi group has now completed the 108-move set and we will be going back over the set to reinforce what we have already learnt. So please come along if you're thinking about joining the group as we have plenty of space in the hall at present. Try it and see, and at £2 or £3 a session including refreshments, what a bargain.

Co-ordinators, Peter Harden 07754 536639 or Sue Thomson 01621 852751

Birding Group

On a spectacularly sunny day on Friday 6th October nine of us visited Abberton Essex Wildlife reserve. We headed for Bay hide, the furthest away. It has two spits for the birds to gather and so provided open areas for good viewing. The other hides are rather open expanses of water but we did see many Pintails on the shore edge uptails all!

We saw 31 species, including 3 Great White Egrets which are becoming quite common over wet areas generally. I would be happy to forward the list which Robyn diligently compiles for me. Just ask.

Our next trip will be on Friday 3rd November when we will visit Hanningfield Essex Wildlife Trust reserve. We will meet at West Maldon Community Centre at 9.30 am for car share.

I'm hoping to arrange a booking for our Christmas lunch at the Woodham Walter Bell for Friday 1st December. Sign up for this at the next meeting.
Kind regards.

Co-ordinator, Stephy Eraut 01621 829758

Cribbage Group

We had our usual monthly get together on Wednesday 11th October with only eight of us attending due to a few members being under the weather for one reason or another.

Most of the games this time were lengthy with plenty of low scoring hands. The highest score possible in a hand is 29 points which requires the player to **hold the following cards - a Jack plus three of the four 5s in the pack.** At the start of each hand a card from the pack is turned over (called the CUT card which is primarily used for scoring). That also needs to be a 5 but of the same suite as the Jack held in the hand. The chances of that happening in a hand are very low.

Our performance on the day was two hands that made 16 points and only one reaching 17. The rest of the hands scored less, much less in many cases. Despite this a good time was had by all as usual.
Ron Martin

Many thanks to Ron for hosting the meeting this month.

Co-ordinator, Terri Hardcastle 01621 929656

Group Co-ordinators' Lunch

On Wednesday 18th October, the majority of our Blackwater u3a Group Co-ordinators joined the committee for an informal lunch. The purpose of the day was to firstly, thank them for everything they do for us all in organising events and sessions for the 40 different interest groups the organisation puts on for members.



The committee wanted to understand how groups are progressing and identify any particular issues. The co-ordinators were also asked for their ideas and suggestions on a number of subjects and how we might move forward in the New Year.

Well done to Jenny O'Connor, Esther Pugh and Allen Griffiths for the fabulous catering and everyone else who assisted on the day.

Janet Watson, Interest Group Leader



Canasta Group

Our last Canasta group was well attended and enjoyed by eleven. We need even numbers for it to work well, so, if there is anyone who would like to go on the reserve list for when we become short of members, do let me know.

We meet in the Linton Room on the 3rd Thursday the month between 2.00 and 4.00 pm.

Co-ordinator, Stephy01621 829758

Reading Group

'The Authenticity Project' by Clare Pooley, this month's choice, was enthusiastically received by the majority of members. It tells the story of a group of strangers brought together by a simple notebook, left in a café owned by Monica, and written in by a flamboyant ageing artist, Julian Jessop. Julian, a widower, details how his life, once very busy socially, is now one of loneliness, especially since his wife died. He leaves the book with his story for anyone who finds it to add their story or throw it away.

Monica writes in it and it accidentally finds its way to Thailand before coming home with a young Australian, Riley, with whom Monica has a brief dalliance. We meet Hazard, on a spiralling path to self destruction because of addiction issues and Alice, a new young mum, trying to present an idyllic life as an influencer with her little girl but in reality struggling to cope with all the pressures and demands that a young baby has and coping with a husband who lacks understanding of her needs.

We loved the storyline and the characters and there are surprising revelations at the end that none of us was prepared for, as the truth comes out. This was a brilliant debut novel and we awarded a mark of 8½.

Co-ordinator, Gill Swanson 07975 920460

Play Reading

At our October meeting we read Dead Ernest, a comedy by Nina Warner Hooker.

An old gentleman, Mr Cole, is found murdered in his own house and it seems that a robbery has been committed. Suspicion falls on the various people staying in the house, an old Dorset cottage with a tunnel which plays an important part in the play. As the plot unravels, with the police following various clues, we come to some surprising conclusions. All in all, an interesting morning.

Co-ordinator, Anita Parkes 01621 857730

Rummikub Group

There were thirteen members at our last meeting so that made four groups - one of four and three of three. Terri, Linda, John and I won out of the groups.

I tried to do the scores in my group; I think I did it right but it is quite complicated. Still the more you do it the better it will be. It is a good game and a lovely group.

Co-ordinator, Patricia Harding 01621 843099

Local Theatres Group

Here are some up and coming shows for the New Year.

January 2024

Sunday 7th – The Nutcracker at Chelmsford Theatre at 3.00 pm

Tickets £15.00

Friday 26th – My Fair Lady at the Mercury Theatre, Colchester at 7.30 pm

Tickets £26.50

February 2024

Friday 23rd – Swinging at the Cotton Club at Chelmsford Theatre at 7.30 pm

Tickets £24.00

March 2024

Friday 1st – The Importance of being Earnest at Mercury Theatre, Colchester at 7.30 pm

Tickets £15.00

April 2024

Saturday 6th – Locomotive for Murder – Improvised Whodunnit at Chelmsford Theatre at 7.30 pm

Tickets £18.00

May 2024

Wednesday 22nd – The Winter's Tale at the Chelmsford Theatre at 7.15 pm

Tickets £16.50

Thursday 30th – King Arthur at the Mercury Theatre, Colchester at 2.00 pm

Tickets £25.50

July 2024

Wednesday 17th – Mousetrap 70th Anniversary at the Mercury Theatre, Colchester at 2.30 pm

Tickets £28.00

Bank Transfer Payments:

Sort Code: 60-13-37

Account No: 49532057

Account: Blackwater U3A No 2

Quoting: Local Theatre (followed by Nut /

Fair / Cotton / Earnest / Murder / Winter / Arthur / Mouse as appropriate).

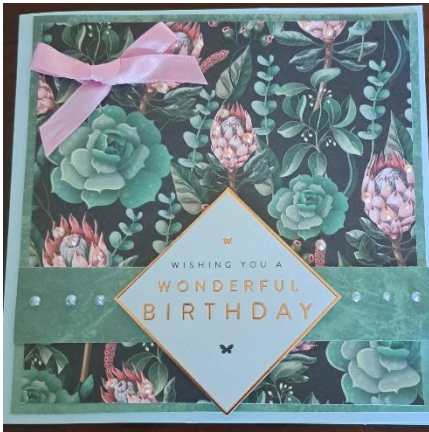
Please note if you wish to have tickets these **MUST** be paid for at least 6 weeks before the event to ensure we can purchase them.

Co-ordinator, Janet Watson 07952 925164

Card Making Group

Another very quiet month for card making with only a couple of sessions to come at the end of the month.

One Member has Covid (yes it is still around) and another couple are away. However, we did nearly all manage to celebrate a birthday party earlier this month with several unusual cards being



given. In addition, some Christmas Cards have been made at home, (never too early to start). We still have vacancies if any u3a members would like to join us.

Co-ordinator, Kathy
Leggett 01621 852377



Places of Worship



The October outing for the Places of Worship group gave us the opportunity to visit London. Westminster Abbey is patron of St Mary's Church, Maldon, as it is for many churches. The second Saturday of October each year is designated the National Pilgrimage to the Shrine of St Edward the Confessor as part of the annual celebrations of St Edward, King of England and re-founder of Westminster Abbey, which he rebuilt and consecrated in 1065. The oldest door in the UK which today leads to the Chapter House, is assignable to the Anglo Saxon period. Tests in 2005 indicate that the tree grew in eastern England, possibly from Essex, was felled in 1032 AD and the door constructed in 1050 AD.

Westminster Abbey has the greatest number of monuments and wall tablets in the UK, some 600. One of the most famous is the tomb of the Unknown Warrior, sited close to the West door. The interior of Westminster Abbey is beautiful. How the master builders, craftsmen and workers created such an awe inspiring Place of Worship is beyond our imagination. We all enjoyed a generous welcome from the Abbey staff and finished our visit by attending Evensong. Some of us were privileged to be seated in the choir stalls, alongside the Abbey's choristers.

November 3rd - visit to All Saints' Church, The Street, Feering, CO5 9QJ - arrival 10.30 am.

Co-ordinator Dawn Mundy dawnmundy21@btinternet.com

Members on Their Own (MOTO) Group

During October we met for coffee twice - once at St Mary's Church and also at the Lakeside Café in the Promenade Park. We also enjoyed lunch at The Queen's Head on The Hythe. Some of us went on a Chelmsford Theatre Backstage Tour which was very interesting.



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

*Co-ordinator, Robyn Slade
01621 928536*

Nature Walks

Twelve of us were due to walk around Hall Farm Lake on 20th October but the inclement weather forced me to cancel the event. However, here are some more dates for your diary.

Friday November 17th, Burnham on Crouch. Meet at WMCC at 9.30 am for car share.

Friday December 15th, Maldon Promenade Park Tree Trail. Meet at 10.00 am outside the Museum in the Park.

Please let me know if you plan to join either of the walks. Sign up sheets will be available at the monthly meeting. If you would like to be added to the group but cannot make the dates above, let me know. You will then receive e-mails from me with details of events or changes.

The group aims to walk on the third Friday morning of each month, making stops along the way to observe natural phenomena. It is your responsibility to ensure you are wearing appropriate footwear and clothing to suit the conditions. It is your responsibility to look after your safety at all times on the walk, particularly on uneven and slippery ground and when crossing or walking along roads.

Co-ordinator, Gerry Davis 01621 843217

Flower Arranging

At our September meeting we used sunflowers for our arrangements.



The theme for October will be either Halloween or fireworks, with the members choosing their own style of arrangement.

Our last meeting for the year will be on **Tuesday, 28th November**, when we will be attempting an asymmetrical design entitled 'a hint of frost' using white flowers. As usual our meeting will take place in the Linton Room from 9.30-11.30 am.

We have been invited again to take part in All Saints Christmas Tree Festival taking place between 8th and 10th December. The trees can be viewed between 10.00 am-5.00 pm Friday and Saturday and 11.00 am-3.00 pm on Sunday. There will be shoppers' carols from 12.30 pm on 9th December.

Co-ordinator, Di Martin 01621 856347

Local News

The Maldon Society

Tiptree Heath: Its history and current conservation

The Maldon Society's monthly public talk will be held on Thursday, 2nd November and will be given by Joan Pinch who will tell us the history and current conservation of the heath. The common was first recorded in 1401, when it would have been possible to walk on heathland all the way from Maldon to Colchester. The Heath is a rare protected Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) because there are three species of heather – Ling, Cross-leaved and Bell which have been allowed to flourish, and its diversity of habitats.

The doors of the Cygnet Room behind the Swan Hotel, High Street, Maldon will open at 6.30 pm with the meeting starting at 7.00 pm. The latest Maldon planning applications can also be viewed on our informative noticeboard.

Please pre-register by emailing maldonsociety@aol.com or ring Dorreen on 01621 853428.

Time to Have Your Say!

2023 Residents and Business Survey Goes Live

Residents, businesses, and organisations in the Maldon District are being invited to take part in the Council's annual survey to be in with a chance of winning a prize.

It can be completed by going to www.maldon.gov.uk/yourviews

Two entries will be selected at random and will win a £50 voucher as a thank you for taking part.

Getting as much feedback as possible will help the Council set its priorities and plans for the future, and to establish the services that meet your needs. The Survey is available until Sunday 26th November.

Shopping Responsibly

u3a members who used SILO until its recent closure (where you take your own containers to purchase the products you want) will be pleased to hear that Whole Health Foods in Edwards Walk has taken on this business and will be pleased to not only see you, but hear which products you would like them to stock.

Blackwater u3a Holiday to Norfolk in September

Our holiday hotel this year was at the Sprowston Manor Hotel, a 19th century former Manor House that sits within beautiful grounds, just 3.5 miles from the city of Norwich. The rooms, staff, food and amenities were excellent. Some of us took advantage of the lovely swimming pool, the spa and walks in the extensive grounds. We were fortunate to have our favourite driver Phil, whom we first met in 2015 on our first holiday with Just for Groups to Derbyshire. That experience began the first chapter of happy holiday memories with u3a friends.



Lunch in the lovely Abbey Gardens, Bury St Edmunds got the holiday off to an excellent start on Monday 25th September. Light rain greeted us as we boarded the coach on



Tuesday morning for a guided tour around the city of Norwich, but the sun came out as we were escorted on foot through the busy streets to the Cathedral; free for visitors to explore with an excellent refectory for that welcome tea and cake. On Wednesday morning we were driven to Aylsham to catch the 11.00 am 15¹/₄ inch narrow gauge steam train to Wroxham through pretty countryside. The line is called the Bure Valley Railway. Phil was at Wroxham ready to drive us to Horning, where we boarded the Mississippi Paddleboat Steamer for an hour and a half cruise on the Broads. The welcome on board and the commentary were excellent, a recommended trip if you are in that area of Norfolk. Some were lucky to spot a kingfisher or two, great crested grebe, and cormorants.



We heard that to own a house on the water's edge you need plenty of ready cash, as mortgages will not be awarded, because the properties are built on soft ground and subsidence is a major risk. We did see evidence of this to some very impressive properties.

The highlight of the week for me was the visit to Sandringham. It's a rather quirky house, not very attractive on the outside and the added wing is architecturally a mismatch. The inside is definitely

furnished and loved as a family home. The young children must love the long corridors to play in and the soft sofas to bounce on. The grounds are beautifully sculptured and you won't be surprised to hear that the King has planted thousands more new trees this year. The guides allocated to each of the ground floor rooms open to the public engaged you in conversation and were very knowledgeable. Seeing family photos of the royal family was delightful. Especially one of the late Queen Elizabeth II whose photograph was taken with her sitting in her favourite chair by a lamp on a sideboard and you can see the chair left in the position that she liked best.



On Friday our return journey took us on the coastal road, past Great Yarmouth for a lunch stop at Southwold, where the sun, views and refreshments were very much enjoyed by many who visited the pier.

Thank you to each of you who have supported our Just for Groups holidays; we have enjoyed your

company very much. However, this was my final holiday as co-ordinator. I am happy to share my experiences from arranging holidays with a new co-ordinator if required.

Dawn Mundy

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

NOVEMBER	Garden Group and Shakespeare
DECEMBER	Flower Arranging and History
JANUARY	Cribbage and Rummikub

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

NOVEMBER	Real Ale and Wine Group 2
DECEMBER	Scrabble and Table Tennis 2
JANUARY	Walkers and Tai Chi

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*

Speakers' Corner

November 1st
December 6th
2024

January 3rd
February 7th
March 6th

The History of Auctions, Tim Turner
Christmas Celebration

to be confirmed
Our Street, Brian Carline
The Titanic, Steve Lester

Our October meeting featured Mike Fogg and Penny McAvoy, speaking on Maldon's Moot Hall. There were some great views from the roof terrace, also the rather grim accommodation for any unfortunate enjoying an extended stay. The Moot Hall is well worth a visit.

Speaker Organiser, John Hayes 01621 843855

Art Group

Our Group project for October was to have been Autumn but there's not a lot of Autumn colour about yet. The photographs are of work in progress on 18th October, and we will continue with the theme.



Co-ordinator, Anita Sandison 01621

Committee Members 2023/4

Allen Griffiths	Chair	01621 732191
Ron Martin	Vice Chair	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	Database Manager	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

November 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.

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	Dennis Eraut	01621 829758
	Geoff Pugh	01621 843297
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	
STEAM	Dennis Eraut	01621 829758
	Peter Holmes	01621 854108
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

November 2023 Programme

RED INDICATES A MORNING MEETING

BLUE INDICATES AN AFTERNOON MEETING

BLACK INDICATES UNSPECIFIED TIMING

Monday	Tuesday	Wed'day	Thursday	Friday	Sat	Sun
		1 Monthly Meeting	2 Table Tennis 2 Card Makers Maldon Society	3 Birding Places of Worship	4 MOTO	5
6 Table Tennis 1 Tai Chi	7 Card Makers Petanque Card and Board Games	8 Art Cribbage	9 Play Reading Table Tennis 2 Card makers Reading Local Theatre	10 Golf Singing Shakespeare Wine Group1	11 MOTO	12
13 Table Tennis 1 Meditation STEAM Tai Chi	14 Card Makers Petanque History	15 Art Family History Local Theatre	16 Rummikub Table Tennis 2 Card Makers Canasta	17 Nature Walk	18	19
20 Table Tennis 1 Short Walks Tai Chi	21 Card Makers Petanque Art Appreciat Scrabble	22 Art Real Ale	23 Walkers Table Tennis 2 Card Makers	24 Golf Singing Local Theatre Newsletter Deadline	25	26
27 Table Tennis 1 Meditation Tai Chi	28 Card Makers Flower Arranging Petanque	29 Art	30 Card Makers			