

# COMMITTEE MEMBERS CONTACT DETAILS

NAME	PHONE/ MOBILE	EMAIL
<b>CHAIRMAN</b> <b>SOCIAL EVENTS ORGANISER</b>  <b>DIANE SMITH</b>		
<b>SECRETARY</b>  <b>DAVE SUTTON</b>		
<b>TREASURER</b>  <b>FRANCES BARBOUR</b>		
<b>SPEAKER ORGANISER</b>  <b>JEANETTE PARMINTER</b>		
<b>MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY</b> <b>NEWSLETTER EDITOR</b> <b>VICE CHAIRMAN</b>  <b>JAN DOWDALL</b>		
<b>GROUPS COORDINATOR</b>  <b>LINDA BOSE</b>		

**FOR ENQUIRIES PLEASE RING THE ABOVE BETWEEN 9AM-6PM MONDAY TO FRIDAY ONLY. THANK YOU.**  
[www.u3asites.org.uk/canvey-thameside](http://www.u3asites.org.uk/canvey-thameside)



# LEARN, LAUGH, LIVE

## A TALK BY BARBARA CORDINA

We welcomed Barbara Cordina, the trustee of the U3A Eastern Region to our Friday meeting. The Eastern Region covers the 6 eastern counties of East Anglia, with over 139 U3As in all. She gave us a reminder of what the U3A stands for and said member engagement to her and other trustees was important, things we thought could be better and things we were happy with.

The overall principles of the U3A have been the same from the start, though the misleading University of the Third Age title is no longer used, just U3A. Self-help and shared learning are key, learning from and teaching each other. All are volunteers on the committee and group leaders, and in groups we learn from and teach each other. The U3A is a charity, but so are all individual U3As, with each U3A's committee making decisions, with central office there for advice, help and centralised spending to cut costs on things like insurance and licences. Covid hit the U3A closing some U3As and reducing numbers at most, and the recovering process continues. At its height there were 1045 U3As and 400,000 members. Most have a cost of around £20, like ours, with a portion going to central office. Most operate groups and monthly meetings, so ours is fairly typical. Like all voluntary organisations, going along, showing willing and getting stuck in are essential.

There are across all the U3As 40,000 interest groups, so on the main site there are 60 volunteer advisers to help group leaders. Centrally, there are 80 U3A online groups that are open to everyone, not just U3A members. The scope of the U3A across Britain can be seen on the national site with an interactive map of all the U3As. Apart from our sister U3A based at the Paddocks, most places near us, Benfleet, Hadleigh, Basildon etc. also have U3As. You can access the online resources on the national site. You will need to create an account and password. (I have used it to access my subject adviser, look at shared resources and even have an interesting discussion with several trustee members including the chair person.) You can also borrow resources. Worth a look, especially group leaders or people looking at forming new groups.

Cont .....

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Your newsletters contain the private contact details of many of your fellow members and we must ask you to ensure that when you have finished with your newsletter you dispose of it thoughtfully. Where possible please shred pages containing private contact details. While these members are happy to share their details with you, they might not be so happy to receive contact from anyone who has obtained their details from a thoughtlessly discarded newsletter. Many thanks.

## CHANGE OF PERSONAL DETAILS

I would be grateful if you could please let me know of any changes you have made to your:

HOME ADDRESS  
EMAIL ADDRESS  
TELEPHONE NUMBER/S  
I.C.E. CONTACT/S

as soon as possible so that I can update my records.

Many thanks, Jan

## CERTIFICATES AND LICENCES

Details of our U3A Insurance, our PPL Licence and our MPLC Umbrella Certificate can be found on our website [www.u3asites.org.uk/canvey-thameside](http://www.u3asites.org.uk/canvey-thameside) under the 'INFO' tab.

A PPL licence is required when recorded music, including radio and TV, is played in public.

An MPLC Umbrella Certificate allows us to show films and TV shows

# CHRISTMAS HUMOUR



## ARROWS CROSSWORD SOLUTION

	O	P	E		P	C	F					
B	A	Z	A	A	R	E	R	R	A	T	A	
	H		S	T	R	O	B	E		B	A	N
G	U	S	T	O		O	B	E	Y		L	
		L	A	P	A	Z		M	E	C	C	A
T	O	O		P	E	N	P	A	L		P	
	S	O	P		P			T	R	A	P	S
A	P	P	A	L	L	E	D		L	Y	R	E
	R		L	A	Y	E	R		Y		Y	
B	E	T		T		L	A	D		O		A
	Y	O	U	T	H		M	I	N	N	O	W
		P	A	E	A	N		V	I	C	A	R
I	N	S	E	R	T		C	E	L	E	R	Y

## CRYPTIC CROSSWORD SOLUTION

T	A	R	Z	A	N		C	A	R	R	O	T
Y	E	I		K		C	N					R
R		L	E	M	O	N		V	A	L	V	E
A		I	L		A		I		E			A
N	A	C	R	E		V	A	L	I	A	N	T
T		S				E						N
S	A	F	E	S	T		J	E	T	S	A	M
	A			S			X					A
C	A	B	A	R	E	T		T	A	C	K	Y
A		L	A		A		E		O			P
C	L	E	A	N		F	A	N	C	Y		O
H		C		F		D		P				L
E	A	R	T	H	Y		A	S	S	U	M	E



## CHRISTMAS PRESENTS PUZZLE SOLUTION

- Tree = 15
- Ornament = 55
- Snowman = 35
- Snowflake = 35

- Let A = tree
- Let B = Ornament
- Let C = Snowman
- Let D = Snowflake

Then write the four equations:

- (1)  $A + C + 2D = 120$
- (2)  $A + 2B + C = 160$
- (3)  $2A + B + D = 120$
- (4)  $D + 3C = 140$



Barbara finally discussed the possibility of U3As working together. This could be in any ways individual committee determine, such as sharing interest groups to widen what is available, more formal working together (an example being 4 U3As, where any member could go to any activities of any of the U3As) and actual merging of U3As, happening more due to Covid.

Obviously, a voluntary organisation needs volunteers and active participants, particularly one as relatively small as ours is. Many people do this already and have done so since its founding in 2014, and some of us can remember that first meeting, I am sure everyone that participates and helps gains more from being an active member. We need more members to bring in fresh ideas and enthusiasm, so if you know friends who might be interested, invite them along to a Friday meeting. Support existing groups so no more fold, and discuss with friends other groups you could start. There will be key vacancies on the committee next August, so this is a real chance to be part of the organisation that delivers for you. We are coming to a crucial time for our U3A, and, like all U3As, active members keep it fresh and moving forward.

Paul.



## MERRY CHRISTMAS



# GROUPS



## ART



The Art Group hold their meetings at  
The Jubilee Hall at the rear of  
Waterside Farm Sports Centre on  
alternate Thursdays from 10am – 12pm

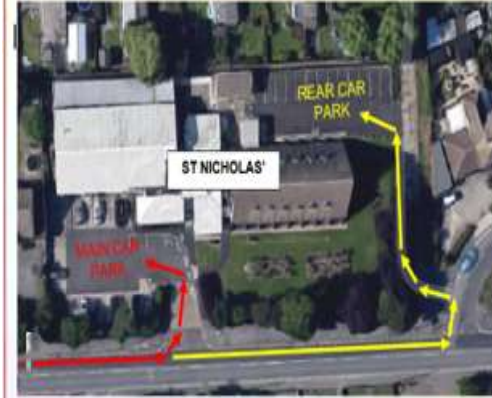


## CINEMA



THIS GROUP IS  
FOR MEMBERS WHO WOULD  
LIKE TO VISIT THE CINEMA  
AS A GROUP

### PARKING AT ST. NICHOLAS'S CHURCH



### PARKING AT ST. NICHOLAS'S CHURCH

We appreciate parking can be tight when we have a full Friday meeting, especially if you arrive close to 10am. Although most members do park sensibly, we have been asked by the church to remind members again not to double park or block people in as not all the cars in the car parks are for our meeting and to take special care if parking on the road by the side particularly to leave plenty of access room for prams etc. to get down the middle. Sensible parking prevents embarrassing interruptions to the meeting asking people to move cars.

We would also like to ask our members not to arrive at the car park until after 9.30 please.

Many thanks,



\*\*\*DON'T FORGET TO VISIT OUR WEBSITE\*\*\*

[www.u3asites.org.uk/canvey-thameside](http://www.u3asites.org.uk/canvey-thameside)



There's lots of information about our U3A, events details, groups information, news, etc.  
and on the 'Links' page there are links to other websites that are full of help and information.  
E.g. local services, local travel information, sites that warn of scams, etc. etc. etc.

Please bookmark our site or add it to your favourites in your web browsers.

*[If this is all Greek to you why not join the computer group!](#)*



## Birthdays of the Month



# JANUARY

5<sup>th</sup> Anthony Whitehead

6<sup>th</sup> Jeanne Beaver

7<sup>th</sup> Phyllis Palmer

7<sup>th</sup> John Stevens

8<sup>th</sup> Sandra Wren

8<sup>th</sup> Pat Banham

10<sup>th</sup> Carol Howlett

12<sup>th</sup> Jennifer Martin

21<sup>st</sup> Christine Carlson

21<sup>st</sup> Val Parish

22<sup>nd</sup> Denise Tanner

24<sup>th</sup> Brenda Martin

30<sup>th</sup> Steve Blackwell

31<sup>st</sup> Janis Nixon

31<sup>st</sup> Linda Powell



HAPPY BIRTHDAY HAPPY BIRTHDAY HAPPY BIRTHDAY HAPPY BIRTHDAY HAPPY BIRTHDAY

HAPPY BIRTHDAY HAPPY BIRTHDAY HAPPY BIRTHDAY HAPPY BIRTHDAY HAPPY BIRTHDAY

If your name is not shown here your birth date was omitted from your membership form.  
Please let Jan know your birthday to add to our records.

## CANASTA

### AND PERHAPS WHY YOU SHOULD THINK OF JOINING THE GROUP

Canasta – what on earth is Canasta? Isn't it the Spanish word for basket? Is it a card game? Is it easy to learn and fun to play?

Perhaps as you flicked through the pages of the monthly newsletter or as you noticed the group information slips on Linda's desk at the monthly meeting, a passing thought may have been "I wonder what Canasta is"? Then you have flicked the page over or continued on passed the table and dismissed the thought of Canasta and joining the Canasta group.

Or, perhaps you lingered a while on that page or paused to look at the Canasta Group information slip and thought of finding out a bit more about the game and the group.

#### What is Canasta?

Canasta is an easy to learn card game which is played by four or 6 players in two teams with two standard decks of cards and wild cards. Each card has a score value and the object of the game is for each team to score points and one team to reach 5000 points before the opposing team.

To score points players in each team together attempt to make canastas. A canasta is a group of seven cards of the same numerical rank. A team "goes out" by one of the team playing all the cards in his hand. The points are then counted and a new game begins again until one team reaches 5000 points.

Then you may have asked yourself:

- If I am interested in joining this group, is the group a friendly one?
- Do they welcome new group members with open arms?
- Do they help new group members learn the game?
- Does that help continue until the new member is comfortable with the game?
- Would it be a way of pleasantly passing an afternoon, learning new card skills with a group of friendly group members, some of whom I may currently know, or other members I will get to know and become friends with?
- Will playing help keep my brain active with a gentle workout?
- Does the alternate Tuesdays and Wednesdays timetable fit in my schedule without a commitment?
- Do the playing times of 2pm to 5pm suit me?
- Would I be able to play just occasionally if other commitments crop up?
- Does playing in the Morrison's community room have its attractions because it's free and convenient to pick up some shopping before or after the game?



On the other hand, if you have played Canasta in the past, you may be thinking whether you would enjoy getting reacquainted with the game. Perhaps you play occasionally with other non-u3a groups already and you may be thinking it would be good to meet and play with new players. You probably then are asking yourself the same questions a member with no Canasta knowledge has.

Well, there is just one answer to those questions and that answer is YES.

So why not join our friendly group and enjoy a relaxing game of cards in great company while keeping your mind active and giving your brain a gentle workout at the same time.



[The group meets on alternate Tuesdays and Wednesdays between 2pm and 5pm in The Morrison's Community room].



# CRAFT



**GROUP NOW FULL**

We meet every 4 weeks.  
We provide everything.  
The cost is £4 per session.  
You take home your masterpieces!  
Refreshments can be bought instore or bring your own.

**WE MEET IN THE COMMUNITY ROOM,  
MORRISONS STORE, NORTHWICK ROAD**

**FROM 13.30 TO 15.30**



# CRIBBAGE

The crib group is full as we meet at people's houses and 8 is our maximum. Perhaps if anyone else wants to play a new group could be formed?

We aim to meet about every two weeks but this will depend on people's other commitments.

Jan



# A Very Merry Christmas



# and a Happy and



# Prosperous New Year



**HAPPY  
NEW YEAR**



## MONTHLY MEETINGS 2023

These are the 2023 Friday monthly meeting dates for your diary

To be held at St. Nicholas' Church Hall,  
Long Road, Canvey Island  
Once a month on Fridays  
between 9.45am – 12pm

20 <sup>th</sup> JANUARY	21 <sup>st</sup> JULY
17 <sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY	18 <sup>th</sup> AUGUST
17 <sup>th</sup> MARCH	15 <sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER
21 <sup>st</sup> APRIL	20 <sup>th</sup> OCTOBER
19 <sup>th</sup> MAY	17 <sup>th</sup> <u>or</u> 24 <sup>th</sup>
16 <sup>th</sup> JUNE	NOVEMBER
	15 <sup>th</sup> DECEMBER

**DOORS WILL OPEN at 9.45**

We aim to be seated by 10am ready for notices to be read, etc.

We would ask that our members do not arrive at the car park until after 9.30 please

## CROCHET & KNITTING




This group meets on 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays of every month



## DINING CLUB

**WATCH THIS SPACE FOR  
DETAILS OF FUTURE  
DINING EVENTS**

# INDOOR GAMES

The Indoor Games group meets every other Wednesday at the Jubilee Hall from 1.45pm till 3.45pm.

We play a variety of games - mostly board and card games.

We are full at the moment but if you would like to start a second indoor games group please contact Linda, our Groups Co-ordinator.

Regards, Jan & Den



## KEEP FIT

Our Keep Fit Group meetings are held:

**EVERY TUESDAY**  
(2 morning sessions)

**At: THE JUBILEE HALL**

*at the rear of Waterside Farm Sports Centre*

**The sessions are run by Karen Lawrie**

*(Who was our guest speaker at our May Friday meeting and everyone at that meeting had a great time!)*



# NEWS & INFORMATION

u3a

## LOOK!



**WE HAVE  
MEMBERSHIP  
VACANCIES!**



**IF YOU HAVE FRIENDS OR RELATIVES  
YOU THINK WOULD LIKE TO JOIN OUR  
U3A PLEASE CONTACT JAN FOR  
INFORMATION ON HOW THEY CAN  
JOIN.**

**You can pick up application forms from Jan at our  
monthly Friday meetings.**

**You can also contact Jan by email or telephone.**

**Her details are on the back of our newsletter and  
there is an email link to her on our website  
'Contacts' page.**





# ARROWS CROSSWORD

Hawaiian island		Shaped dough		On		Stray	Acquire Misprint		Taxi		Devotee	
Fair						Seep					Baby powder	
Relish		Lighting Sailing vessel							Prohibit Annually			
						Comply Enforce				Mud		Part of a church
Also	South American city Hawk								Holy city			
			Crony	Writing friend								Be nosy
Drench Shocked				Second of two		Long fish	Snares Unit of weight					
								Ancient stringed instrument				
Wager		Tier Goes beyond							Plunge	One time		Amiss
			Arab federation, initially		Young man Headwear					Nothing		Paddle
Young person						Small fish						
Put in	Hymn of praise								Clergyman			
						Vegetable						

SOLUTION PAGE 22



## MINION MOMENTS

**I AM "WONDER WOMAN"**



I wonder where I left my keys, I wonder where I put my purse, I wonder where my money went.

**I DID A PUSH-UP TODAY.**




WELL, ACTUALLY I FELL DOWN, BUT I HAD TO USE MY MY ARMS TO GET BACK UP, SO... CLOSE ENOUGH

NOW I NEED CHOCOLATE



THEY SAY "DON'T TRY THIS AT HOME" SO I'M COMING OVER TO YOUR HOUSE TO TRY IT.








## PC/LAPTOPS & PHOTOGRAPHY

The PC/Laptop and Photographic groups meet regularly every two weeks, from 1.30–3.30pm, at B.O.P.H, Charfleets Close.



*If anyone has old photos they wish repaired or transferred to disc, we are willing to do this.*

*A small donation would be welcome for this service, if possible.*

## GROUP CONVENORS

We have had to remove eight pages in our monthly newsletter due to the removal of our groups that do not have convenors.

All u3a groups require the involvement of its members to run interest groups and to promote the ethos of the u3a movement but unfortunately, except for a notable few committed convenors, our members appear reluctant to get involved.

Becoming a Group Convenor does not have to be an onerous task, and help is available if you are thinking of becoming one, so if you have an interest or skill that you think may be of interest to other members, please discuss it with Linda, our Groups Co-ordinator.

Thank you.

YOUR U3A NEEDS

# YOU



# SOCIAL, FAMILY & LOCAL HISTORY



**WE MEET AT THE CAFE/BAR IN SANDY BAY,  
THORNEY BAY ROAD**

(The bar is left past the entrance, near the pool)

**AFTER 18<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER WE WILL MEET EVERY 4<sup>th</sup>  
TUESDAY FROM 10AM**



**10th January:** The changing face of Canvey seaside resort, led by me.

**7<sup>th</sup> February:** Member's Show and Tell meeting. We have done lots of these, but a while ago. You bring in a source, document, picture or anything and do a brief (5-10 mins) talk on this ancestor. Obviously, this works best the more that is brought in. It can be absolutely anything, but what you have learnt from the 1921 census is a possibility. We, well I, also love scandal, intrigue etc.

We continue 4 weekly meetings after this, **7th February, 7th March, 4th April, 2nd May, 30th May**, etc. If you want to do a slot with a talk on any aspect of what we do, then please email me. You have escaped the Christmas Quiz! I know you will be really upset, but there you are.....

Paul

**PLEASE FEEL FREE TO FORWARD THIS TO ANY MEMBERS  
THAT MIGHT BE INTERESTED**



## ARE YOU SITTING COMFORTABLY?



### YARN OF THE SEAT IN STAND

Freddie and John were fortunate enough to have a season ticket to watch Chelsea. They could not help noticing that there was always a spare seat next to them (B14) and they had a friend who would love to buy a season ticket, especially if all three could have seats together.

One half-time Freddie went to the ticket office and asked if they could buy the season ticket for B14. The official said that unfortunately the ticket had been sold. Nevertheless, week after week the seat was still empty.

Then on Boxing day, much to Freddie and Eddie's amazement the seat was taken for the first time that season. John could not resist asking the newcomer, 'Where have you been all season'. Don't ask he said, the wife bought the season ticket back last summer, and kept it for a surprise Christmas present.

### TRY BEFORE YOU BUY!

Myra was going to the Christmas office party but needed a new party dress.

In the clothing store she asked, 'May I try on that dress in the window, please?'

'Certainly not, madam,' responded the salesgirl, 'You'll have to use the fitting room like everyone else.'

### FUNNY CHRISTMAS STORY!

Just before Xmas, an honest politician, a generous lawyer and Santa Claus all got into the lift (elevator) at the Ritz Hotel in London.





As the lift travelled from the 5th floor down to the ground level, one-by-one they noticed a £50 note lying on the lift's floor.


















Which one picked up the £50 note, and handed it in at reception?

Santa of course, the other two don't actually exist!

# CHRISTMAS PRESENT PUZZLE

DETERMINE THE VALUE OF EACH PICTURE, GIVEN THE TOTAL OF EACH HORIZONTAL ROW IN THE PRESENT BELOW

	=		=	_____
	=		=	_____

				
				= 120
				= 160
				= 120
				= 140



SOLUTION PAGE 22

# SUNDAY GROUP

ARE YOU AT A LOOSE END/ WOULD LIKE COMPANY AT THE WEEKEND?

JOIN THE SUNDAY GROUP.

WE HOPE TO MEET ONCE A MONTH, MOSTLY ON SUNDAY, TO HAVE LUNCHES, VISIT PLACES OF INTEREST, ETC.

SUGGESTIONS ARE MOST WELCOME.





# THEATRE





**PLEASE CONTACT THE CONVENORS FOR DETAILS OF FUTURE THEATRE EVENTS**



# WALKING



We intend to walk once a month, keeping the walks easy and as local as possible and will increase the frequency, walk length and travel further afield in the Spring.

Strong shoes/trainers or walking boots are recommended.

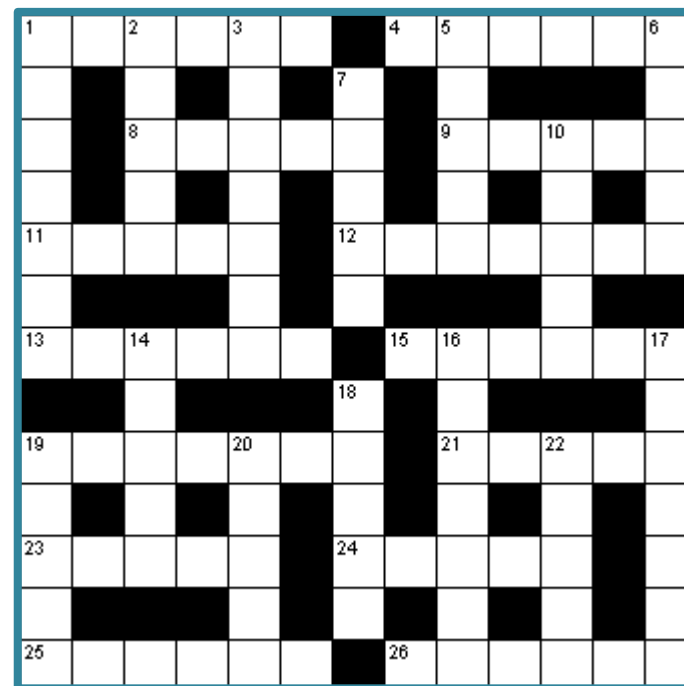
Please contact Sue and Dave for details of their next walk.

## ANDY CAPP



# FUN STUFF

## CRYPTIC CROSSWORD



### ACROSS

1. Discover star, zany jungle character (6)
4. Vehicle decay creates vegetable (6)
8. Fruit available in suitable month (5)
9. Brass instrument device located in carnival venue (5)
11. Crane rearranged for part of a shell (5)
12. Brave but sounds like a hollow insect (7)
13. Lowest risk in salsa festival (6)
15. Items thrown overboard produced a flow of water and weapon, initially (6)
19. Show variety, bet a car (7)
21. Secure youth leader, cheap (5)
23. Found neat vehicle answer (5)
24. Decorative illusion? (5)
25. Confused crude with hearty (6)
26. Take for granted confusion amuses (6)

### DOWN

1. Despots in publicity rant session (7)
2. Survived the past in barrel ice (5)
3. Drifting target lower (7)
5. Block found in Roman village (5)
6. Attend to something special? (5)
7. Young prince is part of the deal (5)
10. Thin school head relies on support (5)
14. Replace the head of a furniture item with letter beginning of February for a story (5)
16. Body of written work with no heading finishes and reaches out (7)
17. Perhaps arctic region suitable for dancing around (7)
18. Personnel can be symbolic when carried (5)
19. Sounds like a hoard of money (5)
20. Veteran chaps located farm (5)
22. Large rodent in decoy puzzle (5)

**SOLUTION PAGE 22**