# Committee Members Contact Details

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<th>Name</th>
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<td><strong>Chairman</strong></td>
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<td>Jeanette Parminter</td>
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<td>Linda Bose</td>
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<td><strong>Catering/Refreshments</strong></td>
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*For enquiries please ring between 9am-6pm Monday to Friday only*

www.u3asites.org.uk/canvey-thameside
We welcomed Ann McLaren, the President of the Essex Ramblers to brief us on the history of the association and the benefits of a good walk.

Rambling became popular in the early 20th century, as industrial workers gained days off and sought to use that leisure time in the fresh air away from the northern towns and dark satanic mills. The official network of public footpaths, many as routes to villages, work, churches etc., was great but huge areas of land remained closed off including Edale Moor and Kinder Scout in Derbyshire. Small-scale organised trespasses had occurred before the famous mass trespass on Kinder Scout in 1932. People were jailed, but the start of the right to walk freely campaign had begun, followed by the Ramblers Association in 1935. Its name and logo (now a tree) have changed, but the organisation run by volunteers, maintains its main aim of opening up access to the countryside. In 1949, definitive maps of rights of way were held by local authorities with Ordnance survey putting them on maps in 1960. Important signs showing the start of paths when they leave roads came in 1968, with the legal “bible” of the rights of way added in 1983. The Essex Ramblers started in 1984, and now has 21 branches. Disputes with landowners over blocked paths and the Ramblers fight to get them open added members. A recent venture for the 2012 Olympics was to design a route from Hadleigh Country Park Mountain Bike course to Stratford via the White Water Centre at Waltham Abbey, 72 miles in all (not a morning stroll!) Work started on an Essex coastal path (and there is a lot of coast if you think about all the creeks and rivers) in 2015 as part of the round England coastal walk plan. This is due to be completed by 2020. (Brexit and the Sadlers Farm/A13/A130 never-ending roadworks are due to be finished earlier than that though, so……!!!)

Ann talked about her own work (and marriage!), all due to the Ramblers, including her ever popular pub walks in Essex. (You are supposed to do the walk as well as visit the pub though!)

At the Committee meeting of 5th February 2018 the following members suggestions (from the meeting of 18th January) were put to the Committee who discussed the issues and made the decisions below:

1. “Would the queue getting in move quicker if raffle table was somewhere else?”

This idea has previously been suggested but we feel that the time it takes to check everyone in, at approximately 10 minutes, isn’t asking our members to queue too long and we also feel that if the raffle table was moved elsewhere it would be overlooked.

2. “If doing a buffet again please place food on each table for 8/9 people as done at other U3A.”

The arrangements for future food refreshments will be reviewed nearer the time.
The Aims of the Ramblers include keeping paths accessible and in good order, with many working parties involved in this never-ending job, especially as Essex County Council Highways Dept., responsible for paths, has been hit by the cuts, so doesn’t do much. They stress the beauty of the countryside being available for all to enjoy by continuing their campaign for the right to roam. (There is a lot of MOD land in Essex that affects some of this). Apart from on public footpaths, they are campaigning for more access to open wild land and accessible woodland. Ann told us footpaths in fields have to be a certain width, which I did not know, and it is a lot wider than many are. Farmers have to re-instate them after ploughing etc., which I did know, though, again, it doesn’t always happen. Reasons for rambling include health, fitness and exercise; relaxation and escape from the cares of life (e.g. Brexit), interesting and often spectacular sights and socialising, meeting new friends and sharing experiences. The Essex Ramblers have groups that cater for shorter walks, if a whole day’s walk is beyond you, with a pub always involved.

On Ordnance Survey maps, the orange covered 4cm=1km maps are best for walking. Green dots on the maps are footpaths (no horses and supposed to be no cycles) and green dashes bridleways (horses can use these too). Byways are also marked on maps, that vehicles can use, but I doubt you’d want to take your Fiesta on them! (When you buy a map, you get a code so you can download the app and the map direct to your phone and IPad. This is great, but bear in mind you won’t get a signal in many remote places, which is why the actual map is usually needed.)

On a walk, sensible and comfortable footwear is essential. Walking sandals with the important gripping soles are great on dry flat paths (but not on Kinder Scout in the snow!) Taking some food, water, waterproof coat and waterproof sheet to sit on is sensible advice.

Finally, Ann told us about one of the current campaigns the Ramblers are working on. Network Rail wants to close 130 crossings due to alleged safety concerns. A public enquiry is at work on this and the Ramblers are appealing each planned one with some success.

The 2 websites are:

www.ramblers.org.uk
www.essexarearamblers.co.uk

Ann’s talk hopefully encouraged more of us to go walking, and, if you prefer some company and, no doubt, some refreshment, we have a walking group in the U3A and they would welcome you joining them.

Paul. (PS Apologies for getting Brexit in this twice!)
**THE CANASTA GROUP MEET ON**
**ALTERNATE TUESDAYS AT 2PM**

For further information please contact the Group Convenor Jan Paris

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**BADMINTON**

The Badminton Group hold their meetings at Waterside Farm Sports Centre every Thursday

For further information please contact the Group Convenor Faye

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**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 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

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The Committee would be grateful if you could inform us of any members events e.g. landmark birthday/anniversary/occasion/bereavement/marriage/illness/hospitalisation/etc. in order that we may send a card on behalf of Canvey Thameside U3A.

Many thanks.

Please contact Jan, our Membership Secretary, with details.

If you have put your year of birth on your membership form we would like to acknowledge your important birthdays. If you DO NOT wish your landmark birthday to be publicly acknowledged please let Jan know.

Not all of our members have included their year of birth on their application form and we are therefore unable to ascertain if their birthday is a special event.

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**PARKING AT ST. NICHOLAS’ 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, Jackie.
If your name is not shown here your birth date was omitted from your membership form. Please let Jan know your birthday and year to add to our records.

Apologies to BRIAN BIGGS whose birthday was on 9th FEBRUARY but his details were omitted from the January newsletter. Sorry Brian.

2nd Barbara O’Connor 14th Geraldine Denmark
3rd Doreen Martin 21st Linda Lawrence
3rd Diane Goddard 22nd Arthur Huckle
3rd Susan Stenton 23rd Roy Smith
4th Sue Sturdy 23rd Sandra Jones
4th Sylvia Barden 24th Margarét Fairhall
5th Pat Petty 24th Lynn Foreman
10th Rose Ward 26th Ruby Wright
13th Myra Khan 28th Eileen Harris

SPECIAL FEBRUARY ‘MILESTONE’ BIRTHDAYS

3rd LESLEY SLADE is 65
24th CHRISTINE BROOM is 75

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
**DARTS**

The Darts Group holds regular meetings on alternate Tuesdays at the Conservative Club, Long Road.
Yvonne

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**DINING CLUB**

Our next venue is the Islander Fish and Chip Restaurant, Canvey Island Tuesday 19th February at 12 midday.

Price £12.00 (includes tip) of which the choice is fish and chips or vegetarian option, bread and butter, dessert and tea/coffee.

Hope to see you all there.

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**LONDON ATTRACTIONS TRIP**

Monday 8th April
£20

We will be visiting the Houses of Parliament
A guided tour around the building viewing the famous magnificent rooms, etc.

There will then be time for a D.I.Y. Lunch
Our next stop is Tower Bridge
A guided tour around the bridge and it’s mechanism, etc.

Don’t delay in putting your name on the booking sheet for this trip. Payment in full is required please.

There are only 48 places and they will be allocated on a first come first served basis.

One name per line on the booking sheet please.
If two names are on one line the second name will have to be put at the end of the list and may not obtain a place as there are only 48 spaces per trip.
MONTHLY MEETINGS 2019
These are the 2019 Friday monthly meeting dates for your diary
To be held at St. Nicholas’ Church Hall, Long Road, Canvey Island
FRIDAYS - between 9.45am – 12pm
15th March
26th April
17th May
21st June
19th July
16th August
20th September
18th October
15th November
20th 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 parking until after 9.30 please

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 a small very friendly group and always have lots of fun and laughter. It also keeps our brains very active.
New members are more than welcome to join us.
Regards, Jan & Joan

LADIES CLUB
The Ladies Club meets at the Morrison’s Community Room
Our lovely group had a great meeting this morning and discussed lots of potentially exciting new ideas/events for this year.
Next meeting is 20 February at Morrison’s community room 10 am to 11 am.
Many thanks
Love Marianne and Anne xx

These are the 2019 Friday monthly meeting dates for your diary

COME TO THE DARK SIDE. THERE’S MORE SHADE.
Local History

Next talk:

Date – Wednesday 20th February 2019
Venue – St Anne’s Church Hall, St Anne’s Road, Canvey
Time – 2pm
Talk Title – WW1 Review of Canvey Island people at war
Presenter – Martin Lepley from the Cast & Crew dramatic group
Cost including tea, coffee & biscuits - £3

Historic February

5th A 4.1 magnitude earthquake is recorded under the Bristol Channel. (20th Feb 2014)
5th Immigration minister Mark Harper resigns from the government after it was disclosed that his cleaner did not have permission to work in the UK. (8th Feb 2014)
5th Part of the South Devon Railway sea wall carrying the railway line linking London with the west of England is washed away by a powerful storm that has hit the UK overnight. (5th Feb 2014)
10th All London Buses were suspended and the London Underground was severely disrupted due to heavy snow. (2nd Feb 2009)
25th Police in Gloucester begin excavations at 25 Cromwell Street, the home of 52-year-old builder Fred West. (24th Feb 1994)
30th Sky Television begins broadcasting as the first satellite TV service in Britain (5th Feb 1989)
75th World War II: Last heavy air-raids on London. (26th Feb 1944)
75th PAYE (Pay as you earn) system of tax collection introduced. (10th Feb 1944)
200th British explorer William Smith discovers the South Shetland Islands, and claims them in the name of King George III. (19th Feb 1819)

Curious Facts?

There is a popular story that during the heat of the space race in the 1960's, the U.S. National Aeronautics and Space Administration decided it needed a ball point pen to write in the zero gravity confines of its space capsules. After considerable research and development, the Astronaut Pen was developed at a cost of about $1 million U.S. The pen worked and also enjoyed some modest success as a novelty item back here on Earth. The Soviet Union, faced with the same problem, used a pencil. Sadly, the story is not true.

It is reported that in hot weather the Eiffel Tower grows by up to six inches, which would seem to imply that in cold weather it can shrink by up to six inches. Draw your own analogies. [Unconfirmed]

ELEVEN PLUS TWO is an anagram of TWELVE PLUS ONE

In the last 200 years the population of our planet has grown exponentially, at a rate of 1.9% per year. If it continued at this rate, with the population doubling every 40 years, by 2600 we would all be standing literally shoulder to shoulder. [Source: The Universe in a Nutshell, Prof Stephen Hawking]

The minuet and trio of Haydn’s Symphony No 47 in G (1772) is a musical palindrome; the whole movement sounds exactly the same whether played backwards or forwards.

If all the blood vessels in the adult human body were laid end to end they would stretch to approximately 160,000 kilometres; four times around the Earth.

Sir Isaac Newton predicted that the world would end in 2060. As well as being arguably Britain's greatest ever scientist, Newton was also an alchemist and theologian, and he wrote approximately 4500 pages trying to predict Armageddon. [Source: reported in many national newspapers. Date found in texts stored at the Hebrew National Library.]
**LESSON IN EMPLOYEE RELATIONSHIP**

Steve Cleary was in his early 50's, retired and had started a second career. However, he just couldn't seem to get to work on time. Every day he was 5, 10, 15 minutes late. However, he was a good worker, really clever, so the owner was in a quandary about how to deal with it. Finally, one day he called Steve into the office for a talk.

"Steven, I have to tell you, I like your work ethic, you do a top class job, but you're being late so often is quite a worry.'

"Yes, I realise that, sir, and I am working on it.' replied Steve.

"I'm pleased to hear that, you are a team player. It's odd though, you're coming in late. I know you're retired from the Royal Navy. What did they say if you came in late there?"

"They said, "Good morning, Admiral".'

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**A FUNNY TRUE STORY**

Police Officer Bryant found a perfect hiding place for watching for speeding motorists. One day, the officer was amazed when everyone was under the speed limit, so Bryant investigated and found the problem. 10 year old Dennis was standing on the side of the road with a huge hand painted sign which said "Radar Trap Ahead." A little more investigative work led the officer to the boy's accomplice, another boy about 100 yards beyond the radar trap with a sign reading "Tips" and a bucket at his feet, full of change.

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**PC/LAPTOPS and PHOTOGRAPHY**

The PC/Laptop and Photographic groups meet regularly every two weeks, from 1.30–3.30pm, at B.O.P.H, Charfleets Close. Please check the online diary for future meeting dates.

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. (Please see page 16)

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**SCRABBLE**

We are a lovely friendly group who meet in each other's houses once a month from 2.30 – 5pm.

We have space for new members so if you are interested please contact me.

We all have fun and we use the dictionaries (it is called cheating, but we see it as learning!!!!!!)

Please check the online diary for future meeting dates.

Linda
**SOCIAL & FAMILY HISTORY**

Good to see numbers up to 8-10 again with new members. Do encourage others to come so we can broaden our experience and help members with their research. We continue to meet fortnightly, Wednesdays, from 2-4pm in Morrisons Community Room. We are on a programme of alternating talks from me (and anyone else who fancies having a go!) and members’ support meetings. The Ally Pally Family History event: details are on line, just putting Alexandra Palace events in a search engine. It is cheaper to book in advance, but you can turn up on the day. Ally Pally isn’t the easiest place to get to from Essex: one possibility is C2C to Fenchurch St., Circle line from Tower Hill round to Moorgate, then an overground service stops at Ally Pally station (at the bottom of the hill). It is 26th/27th April, though the 26th is our Friday meeting at St. Nick’s (a week later because of the clash with Good Friday).

27th February: The first general meeting. You can bring research you are looking at and ask for someone to look over it, ask members to check records on Ancestry or Find My Past if you aren’t a member, bring along resources to look at. Anything really, linked vaguely to family history. These meetings will be good if you are new and don't know where to start, have more experience and have hit a brick wall or somewhere in between. These meetings are once a month.

27th February: Members Support Meeting. You can bring research you are looking at you need help with, brick walls to knock down, ask members with subscriptions to look things up for you, share resources etc. These sessions are for anyone from clueless (where we all were once), stuck or world's expert. We haven't got the Who Do You Think You Are staff or budget, but can help. For instance, I am trying, and largely failing, to look up my half uncles and aunts and their families, one of whom only appears to have got married, but nothing else (including being born and dying. Vampire?)

13th March: 1901. Using sources to construct life for my paternal grandfather then. Also, "Times were hard etc...."

27th March: Members Support Meeting.

10th April: More insights into the life and times of the merchant navy, according to my wife's father, at the start of WW2. The mule ships and zebras were later in the war. We also looked at his air service for an African Airline out of Salisbury, Rhodesia.

24th April: Members Support Meeting.

8th May: Transport for the People 1. Overview.

22nd May: Members Support Meeting.

5th June: Transport for the People 2. Sharrabangs (charabancs).

19th June: Members Support Meeting.

3rd July: Transport for the People 3. Oh I do like to be beside the seaside...

17th July: Members Support Meeting.


14th August: Members Support Meeting.

28th August: 1861: Captain Charles Campion of Scarborough. (My wife's ggg grandfather).

11th September: 1861: Ellin/Ellen Bond a child mill worker in Burnley. (sister of my wife's ggg grandfather.)

25th September: Members Support Meeting. (I won't be at this meeting.)

After that, not long until Christmas again!

Paul

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**CATCHWORD**

**ACROSS**
1. Just what the doctor ___ (7)
4. ___ and sweet (5)
6. To ___ is human (3)
8. ___ comic (7)
10. Pins and ___ (7)
11. ___ button (5)
12. The devil is in the ___ (6)
13. Belt and ___ (6)
16. ___ on the cake (5)
18. Time is of the ___ (7)
20. Finders ___ (7)
22. Like a red ___ to a bull (3)
23. Older and ___ (5)
24. Free ___ (7)

**DOWN**
1. A drop in the ___ (5)
2. It is always ___ just before the dawn (7)
3. Cease and ___ (6)
4. All at ___ (3)
5. In ___ days (5)
7. A ___ stone gathers no moss (7)
9. ___ and shovels (5)
11. Catch ___ (7)
12. Eat, ___ and be merry (5)
14. Operated by remote ___ (7)
15. The lion, king of ___ (6)
17. ___ of interest (5)
19. Rough around the ___ (5)
21. Play it by ___ (3)

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**SUDOKU**

The object is to insert the numbers in the boxes to satisfy only one condition: each row, column and 3x3 box must contain the digits 1 through 9 exactly once. What could be simpler?
Can you work out the name of each animal, mammal, reptile, fish, bird or insect from the following anagrams? Word lengths are shown in brackets.

LONE EGG DEAL (6,5)  A RADAR CUB (9)
TIP UP SHAMPOO (12)  RAPTOR (6)
LAST BOARS (9)  NIP HOLD (7)
A LONE PET (8)  GREAT DRIP (9)
ANY CAR (6)  A MALL (5)
SO EMU (5)  A PENCIL (7)
NO CALF (6)  OR BELTS (7)
AT GORILLA (9)  PAROLED (7)
MAIN GOLF (8)  FIG FEAR (7)

Can you fit the words correctly into the grid?

**4 LETTER WORDS**
ARIA
TREK

**5 LETTER WORDS**
BASIL
BROKE
ENDED
EQUAL
IGLOO
LITHE
LIVID
OLIVE
PAUSE
RAVEN

**6 LETTER WORDS**
ASPIRE
ELDEST
RARELY
SHAPES
SHERRY
SLEIGH

**7 LETTER WORDS**
ADDRESS
INSIPID
LOCATED
PROSPER
SCIENCE
STUDENT
UMPIRES
VACCINE

**8 LETTER WORDS**
DECLARED
INVOLVED

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**THEATRE**

9 to 5

Wednesday 26th June
Savoy Theatre, London
Matinee performance - £56

£10 DEPOSIT TO HOLD YOUR PLACE
There are a couple of seats left

WE WILL ROCK YOU

Wednesday 6th November
Cliffs Pavilion, Westcliff
£28 FOR TICKET ONLY
You will need to make your own way there.
Seats reserved in first 4 rows of the balcony

£10 DEPOSIT TO HOLD YOUR PLACE
You will need to make your own way there.

There are a few seats left

We hope to have another show booked soon for some time in September
Watch this space

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**SOLUTION PAGE 26**
TRIVIAL PURSUIT

We have a full quota of players at the moment as we meet at people’s houses and therefore have limited space. However if you are interested in coming at odd times when people are on holiday, etc. please contact me.

Regards
Den

UKULELE

We meet every Wednesday at Tony’s house between 10am and 12pm
Please contact Margaret for full details

We welcome everybody who wishes to play the ukulele and have fun

WALKING

Our regular meeting place is the Labworth car park every Tuesday at 11am.

We walk locally on Canvey Island and hope to plan future walks to Langdon Hills and other interesting places in the future.

We look forward to welcoming you all ~ in your sensible shoes!

LADIES CLUB NEWS

Dear Ladies

I have been looking into coach trips for a day at the seaside. These are with Kirby’s coaches (booking Tel. no 01268 777 777 (website is www.kirbyscoaches.co.uk)

Pick up at Sadlers Farm

May: Friday 17th Broadstairs £24 pick-up time 9.35am drop off approx 7pm
Saturday 18th Brighton £25 pick-up time 9.05am drop off approx 8pm

June: Tuesday 4th Hastings £24 pick-up time 10.05am drop off approx 7.30pm
Saturday 15th Herne Bay and Whitstable £24 pickup time 9.35am drop off approx 7.30pm
Monday 24th Eastbourne £25 pickup time 8.35am drop off approx. 9pm

Other coach trips:

February: KEW GARDENS ORCHID FESTIVAL Saturday 23rd £40 pick-up at Rayleigh Station 9.10am drop off approx 7.30pm

March: THE VIEW FROM THE SHARD Sunday 10th £42 pick-up at Rayleigh Station at 9.10am drop off approx 6pm

March: KENSINGTON PALACE AND GARDENS Friday 15th £39 pick-up at Sadlers Farm at 9.35am drop off approx 7.30pm

April: THE SHARD & BATEAUX AFTERNOON TEA CRUISE Friday 26th £75 pick-up at Rayleigh Station at 9am drop off approx 7pm

SPA DAY

There are several beauty salons in an eight mile radius that offer pamper sessions, some even have facilities for small groups of ladies i.e. Leigh Sanctuary Day Spa. But beware some of the treatments are quite costly so it may be better value to look at any packages that are on offer.

That’s all for now. Take care in the cold weather and keep warm.

Love Marianne xx
THE SPIES OF CANVEY ISLAND

The group had 22 members attending and 1 presenting a talk on ‘The Spies of Canvey Island’. The talk centred on police files from WW1 investigating 2 families living on Canvey Island during WW1 with one of the families being expelled from the UK and leaving to live in Madeira.

The core of the presentation centred on Warships being totally destroyed whilst moored in Chatham Dockyard on the Medway river and Dover dockyard further around in the channel, mostly during the early period of the war, 1914/15.

These ships were HMS Princess Irene, HMS Natal, HMS Bulwark, HMS Glatton & HMS Vanguard and inquiries concluded each had been subjected to internal accidental explosions (if you believe that).

Loss of life had been extreme with 352 on Princess Irene including civilians, between 7 to 800 on HMS Bulwark, 77 on HMS Glatton & 350 officers and men together with 10 civilians on HMS Natal. HMS Natal actually exploded and sank within 10 minutes, Princess Irene was blasted to pieces with a 10 ton piece landing on the Isle of Grain and damage to life and property up to 20 miles away.

Many of the stories emitting from these disasters are tragic with victims including children.

The talk did not reach and firm conclusions regarding sabotage in the docking areas, but left listeners to make their own conclusion.
The Dining Club started 2019 with a lunch at the Douro Valley Restaurant in Furtherwick Road. 42 diners enjoyed an excellent Portuguese meal and everyone agreed that it is a restaurant to recommend.