

# COMMITTEE MEMBERS CONTACT DETAILS

Chairman	<b>Diane Smith</b>		
Secretary	<b>Dave Sutton</b>		
Treasurer	<b>Frances Barbour</b>		
Membership Secretary	<b>Margaret Routledge</b>		
Events Organiser	<b>Diane Smith</b>		
Groups Coordinator	<b>Linda Bose</b>		
Speaker Organiser	<b>Jeanette Parminter</b>		

## 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.**

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



u3a

# CANVEY THAMESIDE U3A

## MARCH 2024

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## A WHIP and a WAND

Paul reports on a talk by Rebecca Harris MP

We welcomed back our MP, Rebecca Harris to speak to our Friday meeting. She reminded us of her role as a whip, now with the marvellous title of Comptroller of the Royal Household, after previously being Lord Commissioner of the Treasury. She brought her red box in and explained the whip's role was to ensure Commons business ran smoothly, the correct ministers were in place for questions, MPs were there for key debates and votes, and to look after and check up on her group of 26, mainly male grandees. Her new whip title dates to 1399, and Rebecca is the first female to hold the title. She equated her role, in football terms, as manager/groundsman with the speaker as the referee. As one of her roles is to ensure the correct minister is there to speak, and if he or she isn't there, she must speak on their behalf, getting the right person there is essential. During a major terrorist security alert, when the Commons was locked down, Rebecca was relieved that the minister had made it into the house before the lockdown. Rebecca has been a whip for 7 years but said she had no ministerial ambitions, and did not crave national media attention, as only the local media can interview her. So you will see Rebecca and other local MPs in the Echo (one in particular being in every day....but I digress). When she was Lord Commissioner of the Treasury, signing off spending for the NHS, Education, etc was one of her duties, as two of the four had to sign each "cheque" off, her biggest being £387 billion. She also dealt with intestate deaths, where the estate goes to the crown.

In her new role as whip attached to the Royal Household, she has two colleagues, the Vice Chamberlain who tells the king what is going on in the Commons, and the Treasurer. As Comptroller, she has a wand, i.e. a wand of office, officially part of the crown jewels. She carries this at royal garden parties to stop the Royal Family being mobbed by keen fans before tea and sandwiches (I bet no crusts) as a reward. Rebecca then went on to 3 specific things she was involved in as Comptroller.

When the late Queen died, on Tuesday night, with the funeral on Saturday, Rebecca was told she had to attend in an email. (Keep checking your emails folks), She discovered there was a lot of marching and hadn't a clue what the dress protocol was. The answer, showing it was the usual male expectation, of morning suit or dress uniform wasn't very helpful, but it was decided day dress and hat were required. Rebecca decided what was worn at the last royal funeral wasn't much use, so went to Ede and Ravenscroft to access a suitable coat for a funeral. (You will be impressed, or probably not, that I too had an outfit from this illustrious outfitters, as they also do graduation gowns.)

## NEW MEMBERS

Canvey Thameside U3A gives a warm welcome to the following new members:

CAROL LAMBERT  
SUE MUSGREAVES  
BREEDA NEAVES  
JANICE SINCLAIR  
BARBARA TOPHAM  
ANDREW VINTON

## 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 our records.

Many thanks, Margaret

## 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





# 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



In January the group saw the film "One Life" starring Anthony Hopkins. In February we saw the film "The Holdovers". Very different films, but they were enjoyed by all. Our next outing in March will be to see "Wicked Little Letters" starring Olivia Colman and Timothy Spall.

The group meets once a month.

New members are very welcome.

## BRITISH DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME

You should put your clocks forward on  
Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> March, Easter Day



at  
1am!



### A GUIDE TO: PUTTING YOUR CLOCKS FORWARD

SMARTPHONE  
LEAVE IT ALONE.  
IT DOES IT WITH  
MAGIC.



SUNDIAL  
MOVE ONE HOUSE  
TO THE RIGHT.



COOKER  
YOU'LL NEED A  
MASTERS IN  
ELECTRONIC ENGINEERING  
OR A HAMMER



CAR CLOCK  
NOT WORTH IT.  
WAIT SIX MONTHS.





## Birthdays of the Month



# APRIL

- 4<sup>th</sup> **Ray Jenkins**  
 5<sup>th</sup> **Derek Draper**  
 6<sup>th</sup> **Ann Scanlon**  
 11<sup>th</sup> **Fred Bradshaw**  
 13<sup>th</sup> **Sheila Brown**  
 13<sup>th</sup> **Pamela Martin**  
 14<sup>th</sup> **Maureen Bradshaw**  
 15<sup>th</sup> **Brendan Campbell**  
 22<sup>nd</sup> **Margaret Routledge**  
 23<sup>rd</sup> **Pat Plant**  
 25<sup>th</sup> **Sylvia Millin**  
 25<sup>th</sup> **Barbara Crumpton**  
 26<sup>th</sup> **Doreen Siddington**  
 26<sup>th</sup> **Linda Braysher**  
 29<sup>th</sup> **Margaret Hawkins**  
 29<sup>th</sup> **Jean Gayler**



# HAPPY BIRTHDAY

HAPPY BIRTHDAY HAPPY BIRTHDAY HAPPY BIRTHDAY HAPPY BIRTHDAY

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If your name is not shown here, please let Margaret know your birthday to add to our records.



# THEATRE



Our first trip for this year will be **Sister Act**, on **Monday 15th April**, which is an evening performance. The show is at the Dominion theatre and our tickets are for the stalls. Our trip includes coach travel to London and return.

Based on the hit movie with a "gorgeous" score inspired by Motown, **Sister Act** is described as "fun and feel-good" musical theatre. According to advertising, Beverly Knight and Ruth Jones are in the show until June. Singer/songwriter Lemar and Lesley Joseph are also expected to be on the bill.

Sylvie, Jan and Barbara  
 U3A Theatre Convenors

# CROCHET & KNITTING

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





# 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



# NEWS & INFORMATION

## MONTHLY MEETINGS 2024

These are the 2024 monthly members' meetings for your diary.

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

**19th APRIL**

**GUEST SPEAKER: Don't Shout – A Deaf Choir**

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17th MAY \* 21st JUNE \* 19th JULY  
16th AUGUST \* 20th SEPTEMBER \* 18th OCTOBER  
22nd 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 park until after 9.30 please.



# CODEWORD

	6		13		17		24		16		15		15	
20	17	22	22	10	12		15	22	17	4	15	22	23	15
	12		17		14		11		23		26		11	
17	5	4	23	2	23	4	1		9	19	10	12	5	3
	23		12		12		25		19				17	
15	6	6	18	4	17	14	10		23	15	16	23	12	10
	19		4				22		22		23			
17	11	5	15	3	15	11		20	23	12	18	15	25	10
			22		22		21			18		19		
8	23	18	25	10	4		19	12	18	4	17	13	11	10
	14				3		21		19		4		4	
9	19	17	22	4	15		23	25	24	11	23	5	23	4
	17		15		16		4		10		18		24	
23	12	6	17	25	15	19	18		22	19	6	6	11	10
	17		25		7		19		13		1		1	

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



1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

Codewords are like crossword puzzles - but have no clues! Instead, every letter of the alphabet has been replaced by a number, the same number representing the same letter throughout the puzzle.

To start you off three letters are revealed. With these letters filled in throughout the puzzle, you'll have enough clues to start guessing words and discovering other letters.

**SOLUTION PAGE 22**

# DINING CLUB



See our centre-page report on the Dining Club visit to Myra Turkish Restaurant!

The Dining Club venues for the next two months are:-

Tuesday, 19<sup>th</sup> March 2024 @ 1pm - The Anchor Inn, Benfleet. Please note that deposits must be paid at the U3A meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> March.

Monday, 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2024 @ 1pm – Poppy’s Café, Benfleet.

# EVENTS

Our upcoming coach trip is the Mystery Tour on the 27<sup>th</sup> of March, which is full, and we have a waiting list.

**The next proposed trip will be announced at the March monthly meeting!**

An update on November’s visit to Thursford – this is fully booked, and we have a very long waiting list. Just a reminder that the second payment is due at the June monthly meeting.

# 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



# SYLLACROSTIC

Fill in the answers to the 8 clues by selecting the correct syllables from the list below. Each syllable can only be used once and the number of syllables to be used is shown in brackets. When the correct words are filled in, the first and last letters reading down will reveal a British landmark.

VEL, MA, IL, BE, CAT, LU, KWA, IM, HER, UL, GA, NO, TUM, GER, IC, NIP, PER, LA, TI, IT, MAN, AGE, CHA

1. A white whale \_\_\_\_\_ (3)
2. Demand - do it, or else \_\_\_\_\_ (4)
3. Mint family herb \_\_\_\_\_ (2)
4. African currency \_\_\_\_\_ (2)
5. Put at risk \_\_\_\_\_ (3)
6. Work of prose fiction \_\_\_\_\_ (3)
7. North European languages \_\_\_\_\_ (3)
8. Inherited identity, culture etc \_\_\_\_\_ (3)





# SUDOKU

9	2			1		7		
	1	3	7	2				
6					9			
		8					4	
		7	1		8	6		
	9					5		
			5					7
				9	7	8	1	
		6		8			2	5

Each row, column and square (9 spaces each) needs to be filled with the numbers 1-9, without repeating any numbers within the row, column or square.

## MUSICAL MINDBENDERS

Can you solve the 4 pop song puzzles below? The performers' initials and the year are given as an additional clue.

SIGHT

HEARING

TASTE



TIME

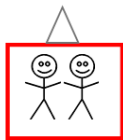
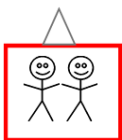
(XTC, 1982)

RHYWALKINGTHM

(TB, 1974/5)

DOOGROF

(TT, 1995)



(SQ, 1968)

SOLUTIONS PAGE 22

## SUNDAY GROUP

Are you at a loose end or would like company at the weekend?

Join the Sunday Group

We aim to meet once a month, mostly on Sunday, to have lunch, visit places of interest etc. We have 18 members, with an average of 12 who attend each time. Suggestions from group members about local places to visit are always welcome. We meet at the Paddocks and then arrange car shares.

Sunday roast is a favourite with the group! We had a lovely time at The Toby Carvery, Rettendon on 25<sup>th</sup> February.



Our next venue will be Izzy's in Furtherwick Road, Canvey.





# SOCIAL, FAMILY & LOCAL HISTORY

HISTORY



**WE MEET AT THE CAFE/BAR IN SANDY BAY, THORNEY BAY ROAD**  
(The bar is left past the entrance, near the pool)

In February, Sue Sutton gave us an excellent talk from her family research, centred on Bata in East Tilbury. Thanks to Sue for the presentation and all the photos and info that went with it. It was also great to see 15 members at the talk, as this makes the work people put in worthwhile.

We continue with our 4 weekly meetings on Tuesdays at Sandy Bay from 10.00am. We start with drinks, so please continue to bring the money as I pay in one go, and then have an hour or so for the meeting and feedback. The revised schedule follows - I am still looking for volunteers for July onwards.

**5th March:** Graham Stevens has kindly agreed to come back with more from the archive, this time talking on Canvey characters.

**2nd April:** In an estate of modern prefabs, I am doing a talk on the original post war prefabs. If you have any family connections with prefabs, pictures, memories etc please bring them in.

**30th April:** I will look at the origins of and historical reasons for the Doomsday Book, and what it tells us about our area in 1086.

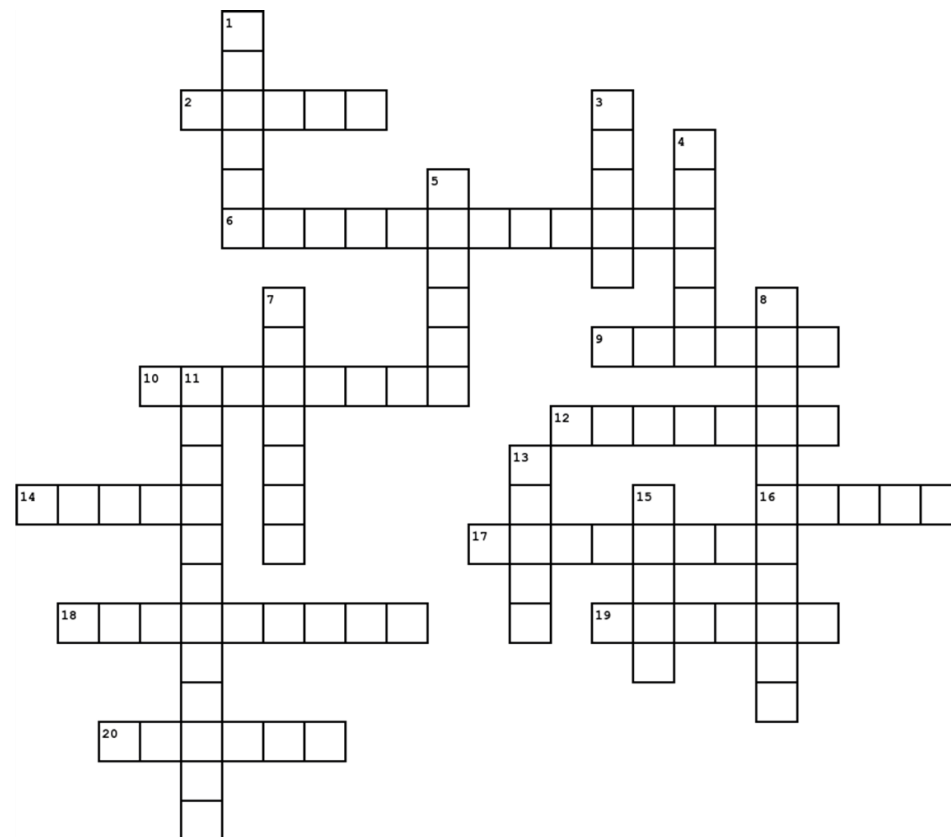
**28th May:** Pam will do her talk on Pammie the first 10 years.

**25th June:** Georgia will lead this session on family history Brick Walls – more later in this Newsletter! (I am unable to attend this session.)

Meetings follow on **23rd July, 20th August, 17th September, 15th October, 12th November** and **10th December** and every 4 weeks thereafter.

## Composer Crossword

Can you identify these great composers of music from their forenames?



### Across

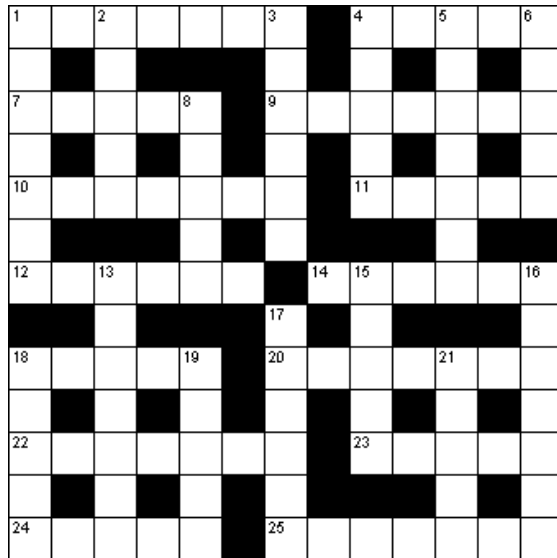
2. John
6. Dmitri
9. Samuel
10. Anton
12. Antonio
14. Max
16. Franz
17. Jean
18. Leonard
19. William
20. Antonin

### Down

1. Johannes
3. Erik
4. Gustav
5. Richard
7. Giacomo
8. Felix
11. Sergei
13. Edvard
15. Edward

# FUN STUFF

## CROSSWORD



### Across

1. Floorshow (7)
4. Spooky (5)
7. Detection device (5)
9. Vertical (7)
10. Inactivity (7)
11. Measuring implement (5)
12. Dictator (6)
14. Ecclesiastic (6)
18. Copious (5)
20. Drawn (7)
22. Pouch worn with a kilt (7)
23. Diadem (5)
24. Admittance (5)
25. Spiny anteater (7)

### Down

1. Transported (7)
2. Emblem (5)
3. Tropical bird (6)
4. Mistake (5)
5. Dependable follower (7)
6. Go in (5)
8. Magnitude relation (5)
13. Reinforcement (7)
15. Reasoned judgment (5)
16. Musical passage (7)
17. Opportunity (6)
18. Part of a church (5)
19. Ahead of time (5)
21. Obviate (5)

**SOLUTION PAGE 22**



# SOCIAL, FAMILY & LOCAL HISTORY



## OUR JUNE 2024 MEETING

On the 25<sup>th</sup> June, Georgia Draper will be doing a help session on Brick Walls in your family history, where you get stuck and can't make any progress.

Have you hit a brick wall in the search of your family history?

Why not share details with the group and see what we can discover.

**At any of the meetings before June**, please bring copies of any details of a brick wall you have encountered so you can give them out to members of the group, who will take them away and research them. They will be brought back on the 25<sup>th</sup> June to reveal anything that has been discovered. Even if a few people looking at it discover nothing new, at least you will be reassured you haven't missed something. Obviously, the more problems brought in and the more people take them away to help, the more successful this session will be.

So, whether you have hit a Brick Wall or would like to help someone who has, be sure to come along to the meetings leading up to and including 25<sup>th</sup> June.



# DINING CLUB

On our most recent outing, it really was a dark and stormy afternoon when 40 of us gathered at Myra Turkish Restaurant at Canvey Seafront.

The food and service were excellent - I treated myself to 3 courses: Taramasalata (posh name for smoked fish roe), Lamb Kebab with rice and salad and Limoncello for dessert. Sandy also forced me to have a glass of rose wine! Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves and the time just flew by.

The billing system was a bit tiresome as the tills were unable to produce individual bills. If we decide to go there again, we'll have to see if we can find a better way of working out the money.

Lots of happy pictures from our visit to Myra Turkish Restaurant.....



The Dining Club aims to meet once a month. Jeanette and I are looking for restaurants for the next few months, so if you have any suggestions just let us know and we'll do our best to book them.



Bon appétit!