

COMMITTEE MEMBERS CONTACT DETAILS

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

FOR ENQUIRIES PLEASE RING THE ABOVE BETWEEN 9AM-6PM MONDAY TO FRIDAY ONLY. THANK YOU.
www.u3asites.org.uk/canvey-thameside



SOIL, SWEAT & TEARS

A TALK BY BRIAN CARLINE

We welcomed Brian Carline to our Friday meeting to give an amusing side to what is many people's pet hate, gardening, as well as some practical tips. Intermingled were many jokes. Unfortunately, I started

writing them down thinking they were real tips before the penny dropped.



Brian had a particular dislike of know-alls, who we have all met in gardening, whether the professional ones on TV or the amateur ones down the allotment. I loved the advice as to how you tell the soil is ready to have sown seeds (not February!): sit on the soil with your bare bum to judge the temperature. His next target were the hundreds of garden tools on display in garden centres. The garden claw is useless on Essex clay, the trusty fork being better.



The garden wand or portable flame thrower, did a good job of incinerating the leaves of weeds, but left the root for them to grow again. Shoes with spikes to put air in the soil were also ridiculed, and I can see you would get stuck. He reminded us of the need for a circuit breaker when using power tools, and then told us of the

maniacs with pressure washers, definitely not suitable for brittle greenhouse glass. The village where he lives at 10am on Sunday is when all the chainsaws come out, though there is probably little left to massacre. He also said borrowing tools never worked, only in the owner's garden. (I find you never get them back).

Brian then told us the tools that were worth having. The hoe aero x, put air into the soil and was good on weeds.

The onion hoe was good for getting in between plants with its narrow blade. The adze was good on Essex clay clods as was the Chillington fork. I think the message was simple, tools that matched the job. The dibber was good for small holes for plants and bulbs, with a cricket stump and mallet better for deeper holes. He said people set blades on lawnmowers too low, to reduce cutting, and ended up massacring the lawn. On lawns he showed us the edger, , great for straight edges, but warned us to be careful as your lawn shrinks every time you use it.

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 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

GRID-JIG SOLUTION



THEMED CROSSWORD SOLUTION



NEXT MONTHS MEMBERS MEETING IS OUR CHRISTMAS MEETING



Our members are invited
to come along and
enjoy our last meeting
of the year.



There will be free refreshments and
lots of fun.



Pruning was usually a licence to mutilate, when it should be about shaping, removing dead wood and encouraging flowering. Again, he said have a vision of the shape you want and always under prune, as you can't stick back on the bits if you over prune. Always wear eye protectors when doing all these jobs.

Next were the plants never to plant. Before his list, I would say never take plants that are being offered to you from neighbours (grow everywhere) and some types of bamboo (impossible to get rid of and grows everywhere). His list was Russian vine (grows too fast), rambling roses (thorns) and leylandii (puts resin in the soil that stops anything else growing, takes up all the moisture. I would add, the more you hack it the more it grows, and impossible to kill.)

Brian then moved on to garden pests. Weeds seem to be about the only thing that has grown well this summer. Clearly, they don't need water! On slugs and snails, pellets occasionally, slug pots with beer, not bran (attracts mice). Hostas are particularly loved by slugs. Copper, coarse gravel and coffee granules were suggested. Aphids (green fly, black fly etc). Insecticides were not recommended, but the idea of companion plants was, where you plant plants in between to deter them. Marigolds and basil were suggested, with lavender for roses. Diluted garlic liquid works well on most pests. Cats poo is a problem. Apparently they don't like deep heat/ralgex. (They don't like a shotgun either, but probably a bit drastic. The garlic pellets work until it rains.)

To encourage bulb growth, tomorite works well. I then started taking down the hamster poo formula (very sad), but loved the tulips from hamster jam punchline.

Brian then opened it up to the audience for questions. For clover in lawns he suggested verdone, though if I killed all the clover on my lawn, there wouldn't be any lawn left, and the bees like it. For foxes (shotgun again?), old man's wee and ammonia on tea towels were suggested. For black spot on roses, a copper-based fungicide (for black spot, avoid dodgy pirates.....)

My favourite amongst a load of witty sayings was that if your garden looks average, and your neighbour's looks immaculate (and, of course, he regularly reminds you), when it snows they all look the same.

So, a really entertaining talk. Not sure how much was real gardening, but it didn't really matter.

Paul

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

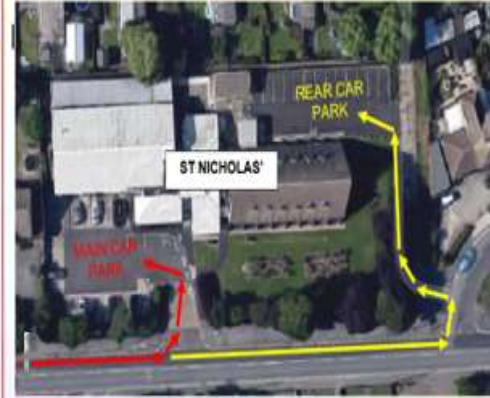


CINEMA



**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,

CANVEY THAMESIDE U3A COMMITTEE VACANCIES

We are looking for a member to take over the management of our u3a website.

The site is already up and running and needs regular updating.

We also need a new Membership Secretary.

This post covers the annual membership renewal and upkeep of our members records. Issuing new member applications with membership application forms, updating our records with their details and providing the new members with a membership cards.

It also includes the upkeep of the U3A national magazine members mailing list.

Jan has been the Website Editor and Membership Secretary for eight years and would now like to retire from these posts.



Birthdays of the Month



DECEMBER

2 nd	Dennis Thorne
4 th	Norma Thorne
4 th	Jean Gould
5 th	Sheila Hurdle
8 th	Cath Stringer
9 th	Christine Beck
9 th	Pat Kiely
9 th	Jim McDermott
10 th	Marian Patten
11 th	Brenda Findlay
11 th	Gordon Clubb
13 th	Carole Edwards
15 th	David Sutton
17 th	Barbara Stables
18 th	Sandra Franklin
19 th	Christy Nixon
25 th	Irene Smith
25 th	Margaret Harmes
28 th	Paul Bancroft
29 th	Ken Hawkins
29 th	Charles Summers
31 st	Jean Cann



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



Poppy Factory

100

Last month we visited The Poppy Factory where a member of staff gave us a talk about its history and to have the opportunity to make our own poppies.

In 1922 the Disabled Society, received a grant to employ disabled ex-service personnel to make remembrance poppies in England. They set up in a factory on the Old Kent Road in London. Soon the factory was employing 50 disabled veterans. The factory made a million poppies within two months.

The old factory eventually proved too small as demand increased, and in 1926 the factory moved to a disused brewery in Richmond. Housing for the workforce and their families was built on adjacent land and in 1932 the present factory was built.



The production team works year-round to create Remembrance wreaths by hand for The Royal British Legion's Poppy Appeal, as well as special wreaths for the British Royal Family who all have their own specific design.

Beyond its production work, The Poppy Factory supports ex-Forces job seekers to overcome barriers and move towards employment. The charity's employment service was launched in 2010 and has grown to make up 90 per cent of The Poppy Factory's work.

Since 1928, The Poppy Factory has also organised the annual Field of Remembrance at Westminster Abbey. We were shown different sorts of crosses that are used in the Field of Remembrance that represent the different religions as well as non-believers.



After the presentation, we were able to see one of the workers, Stephen, make poppy wreaths. We were able to "help" or in my case, hinder Stephen in his task.

Stephen has been working at the Poppy Factory for 31 years and his wife was on hand to show us how to make the poppies.

Afterwards, we had the opportunity to buy Poppy souvenirs at the shop.

Frances

NEWS & INFORMATION

MONTHLY MEETINGS 2022

These are the 2022 Friday monthly meeting dates for your diary

To be held at St. Nicholas' Church Hall,
Long Road, Canvey Island
FRIDAYS - between 9.45am – 12pm

16th 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 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of every month

DINING CLUB



We have booked Christmas Lunch for Wednesday 14th December at 12 noon for 12.30pm at the Oysterfleet Lighthouse Restaurant.

You can book your place at the meeting on Friday 25th November. We would also request that you ask for a menu sheet to indicate your dinner preferences and give this to Jeanette or Frances with your payment.

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:

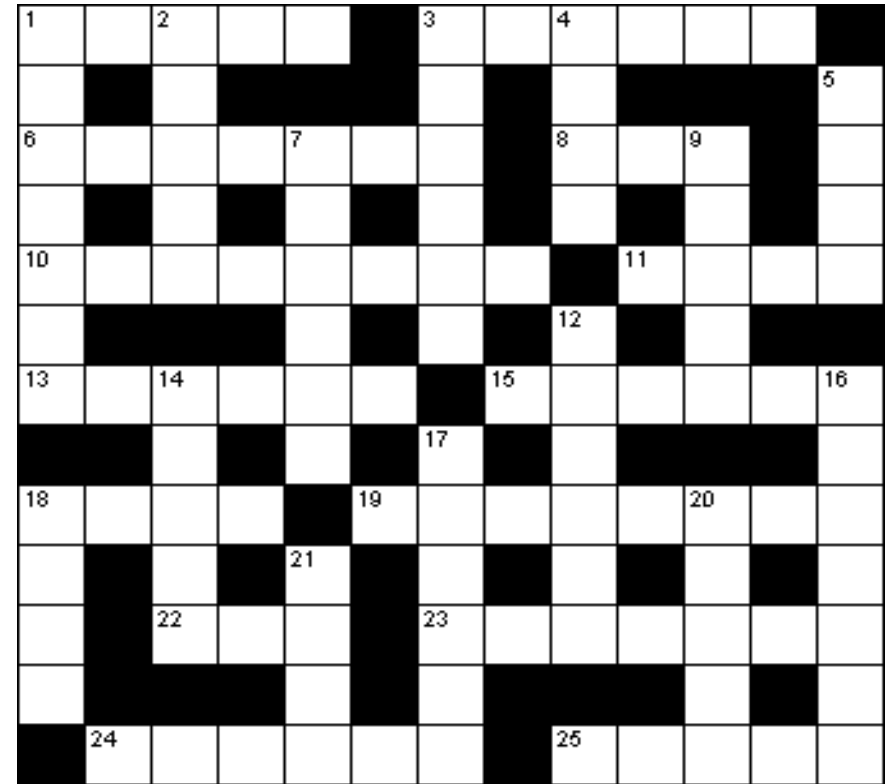
EVERY TUESDAY
(2 morning sessions)

At: THE JUBILEE HALL
at the rear of Waterside Farm Sports Centre

The sessions are run by Karen Lawrie



THEMED CROSSWORD



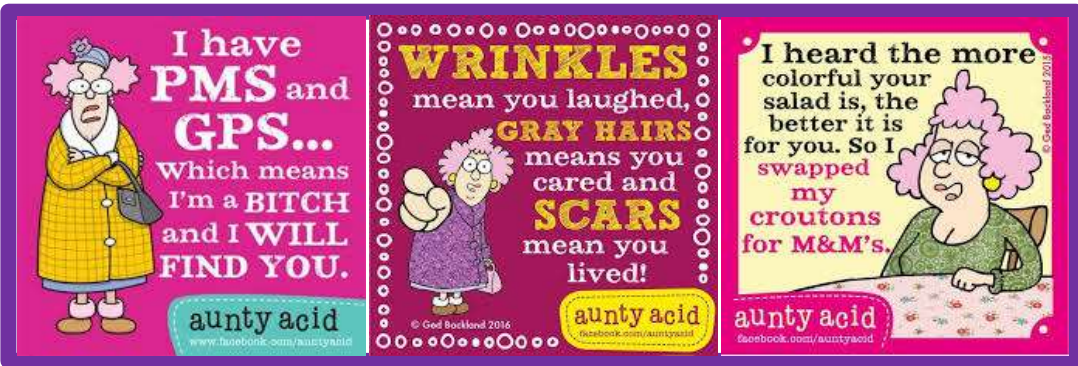
ACROSS

1. Fruit (5)
3. Retail food seller (6)
6. Italian rice (7)
8. Consume (5)
10. Type of lobster (8)
11. Used to season and preserve food (4)
13. Sampled (6)
15. Pestle and ____ (6)
18. Aromatic leaves (4)
19. Thick syrup (8)
22. Cereal grass (3)
23. Pear-shaped tropical fruit (7)
24. Type of cake (6)
25. Very thin pancake (5)

DOWN

1. Downy fruit (7)
2. Shaped and dried dough (5)
3. Game bird (6)
4. Kitchen appliance (4)
5. Open pastry with fruit filling (4)
7. Sticky candy (6)
9. Heated bread (5)
12. Edible tuber (6)
14. Sweetener (5)
16. Cooked meat or fish coated in egg and breadcrumbs and fried (7)
17. Thick soup (6)
18. Cook slowly in liquid (4)
20. Large edible ray (5)
21. Vegetable (4)

AUNTY ACID ANECDOTES



JUST



I got a new stick deodorant today.
The instructions said:
Remove cap and push up bottom.
I can barely walk,
but whenever I fart,
the room smells lovely.



DAD! You've got your things mixed up...
CHANGING ROOM

JOKING



I'm old enough to make my own decisions...
Just not young enough to remember what I decided.



I FEEL LIKE LIFE IS PASSING ME BY AND MY "CHECK ENGINE" LIGHT JUST CAME ON.

MINION MOMENTS



ARGUING WITH A WOMAN IS LIKE GETTING ARRESTED. EVERYTHING YOU SAY CAN AND WILL BE USED AGAINST YOU.



HOME: Where i can look ugly and enjoy it.



READ THIS OUT LOUD!
This is this cat.
This is is cat.
This is how cat.
This is to cat.
This is keep cat.
This is an cat.
This is idiot cat.
This is busy cat.
This is for cat.
This is forty cat.
This is seconds cat.
NOW GO BACK AND READ THE THIRD WORD ONLY IN EACH LINE FROM THE START.



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)

WE MEET EVERY 4th TUESDAY FROM 10AM

15th November: My great grandfather in the City of London Police, led by Geraldine.

13th December: It's a funny old game, Jimmy Greaves, by Pam.

10th January: The changing face of Canvey seaside resort.

We continue 4 weekly meetings, **7th February., 7th March, 4th April, 2nd May, 30th May** etc.

If you want to do one of these dates, please email me. If you want me to research a topic or revise one we did a while ago, let me know by email as well.

Paul

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



ARE YOU SITTING COMFORTABLY?



GETTING OUT OF A TICKET



A man in his 40's bought a new BMW and was out on the motorway for a nice evening drive. The top was down, the breeze was blowing through what was left of his hair and he decided to open her up.

As the needle jumped up to 80 mph, he suddenly saw flashing blue lights behind him. "There's no way they can catch a BMW," he thought to himself and opened her up further. The needle hit 90, 100.... Then the reality of the situation hit him. "What the hell am I doing?" he thought and pulled over. The cop came up to him, took his license without a word and examined it and the car.

"It's been a long day, this is the end of my shift and it's Friday the 13th. I don't feel like more paperwork, so if you can give me an excuse for your driving that I haven't heard before, you can go." The guy thinks for a second and says, "Last week my wife ran off with a cop. I was afraid you were trying to give her back." "Have a nice weekend," said the officer.

INTERESTING FACTS

STRANGE BUT TRUE FACTS ABOUT THE BRITISH LEGAL SYSTEM

The following laws are allegedly still in existence on the statute book in England and Wales:

It is illegal to enter the Houses of Parliament wearing a suit of armour.

It is illegal to eat mince pies on Christmas Day.

It could be regarded as an act of treason to place a postage stamp bearing the Queen's image upside down.

A pregnant woman can legally relieve herself in public.

The head of any dead whale found on the British coast becomes the property of the king and the tail the queen.

UNFORTUNATE GAFFES MADE BY OUR LEADERS

"That's enough health, I need a fag." Charles Kennedy, former leader of the Liberal Democrats and then Liberal Democrat spokesman, overheard after posing for photographers while promoting healthy food at a Glasgow supermarket in June 1999.

"People in the north die of ignorance and crisps." Former Conservative MP Edwina Currie, two weeks after becoming junior health minister, September 1986.

"There are more crimes in Britain now, due to the huge rise in the crime rate." Neil Kinnock, former leader of the Labour Party on BBC radio in 1985.

"I never could make out what those damned dots meant." Lord Randolph Churchill, former Chancellor of the Exchequer and father of Winston Churchill, on decimal points, 1906.

"It is obvious I shall have to abandon my hopes of getting the Queens head off the stamps." Tony Benn, former Labour politician and MP, 1965.

"Anyone who enjoys being in the House of Commons probably needs psychiatric help." Labour politician and former mayor of London Ken Livingstone.

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



