

April 2023

Newsletter No. 105



"Spring unlocks the flowers to paint the laughing soil." Bishop
Reginald Heber
EDITOR'S NOTES

I hope everyone had a lovely Easter and we can now look forward to some warmer weather!

Thanks very much to those of you who responded to requests for contributions. In addition to regular group reports, I am trying to include a spotlight on other groups. This edition highlights the four language groups that are well established.

Chris Burnikell

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Dear Members,

I forward my best wishes to you all and hope that all is well.

We have now had a few months at Enfield Baptist Church and we have had a few issues to deal with but it's been great that we have all worked together to resolve them.

Thank you to Gaynor for booking some great speakers and I personally look forward to hearing the ones in the next few months, so please make the effort to attend. If anyone would like to speak at one of the monthly meetings on a topic/interest that you feel others would enjoy, please let myself and Gaynor know.

It was great to speak to a number of our new members at the "new members meeting" held on 31st March 2023. Thank you for all your feedback and ideas.

Moving forward I would like to inform you that I have been reviewing the yearly membership fee, I have been to a number of London Region meetings where this has been discussed. I will give more details at the June monthly meeting.

Kind Regards
Michael

u3a COMMITTEE IN FOCUS

Get to know your committee.... Elected in October 2022, these are the people who keep the u3a running - and more members are always needed!

Treasurer - Stephanie Milverton

I heard about the u3a from my Mum as when she lost my Dad she was introduced by a friend to the local group in Malmesbury.

After a year of losing my husband I found myself wondering about u3a, I noticed a poster in the library about Enfield u3a so went along in March 2017.



Since joining I have made new local friends and currently belong to games, canasta, outings, walking group, Sunday lunch club and freedom pass outings.

Due to the change of venue and day I can no longer attend the monthly meetings so decided to leave the committee as treasurer. Sadly no one came forward so with Gill's help I am continuing in the role of treasurer which I enjoy and have been doing since October 2019.

Apart from u3a filling my time I belong to a knitting group in Waltham Cross where we do charity knits including premature baby hats and cardigans, twiddle muffs, blankets for care homes and Battersea dogs home and covers for penguins who were caught in an oil slick.

I enjoy spending time with my family, old school friends and work friends.

Vice Chairman - Chris Truran



I joined the U3A after a discussion with a friend at badminton over a cup of coffee. He attended Barnet U3a and said if I wanted to fill my spare time/days with interesting subjects and people I should visit Enfield u3a.

So when I retired from Hackney Council as a Trading Standards officer I made my way to St Pauls and the rest is history.

I found everyone to be friendly and opening, I immediately joined the walking group, book club, museum and galleries group, and more recently the moving images group. I have also been known to go on the odd freedom pass trip without having a pass.

MONTHLY MEETINGS

Details of forthcoming talks:

MAY 10TH Roger Hance. Nature through the seasons - spring and summer. Nature photographer shows us the flora and fauna that can be found in the British Isles during Spring/Summer.

JUNE 14TH John Field. The life and times of Houdini
Hear about his deprived childhood and his fascination with magic. His track up the showbiz ladder and his sensational publicity stunts. Finally the truth about his death and its consequences.

JULY 12TH Gary Jones CBE. Meet the patients

Gary was awarded his CBE for services to emergency nursing with over 40 years experience in emergency care. This talk covers a number of patient events in hospital A & E Departments.

LEARNING EVENTS

u3a members can join a wide range of online talks, workshops and courses for free with their membership! Most of these opportunities are presented by members themselves; sharing their knowledge or skills with others across the movement. Below are free talks (on Zoom) scheduled for the next few weeks. Just go to the main trust website and click on the < Events > tab / online talks.

- Cotton and Linen: Environmental impact of Textile
- Exploring World Faiths: Fleeing for Faiths
- U3a Science Network - 3 different speakers
- Let's Talk about Autism
- Family History: using census data
- Mindfulness and Meditation
- Toulouse Letrec and the Cabarets of Paris
- War in Ukraine 1919
- Discussing Climate Change
- The world of 1890's Montmatre, Paris



GROUPS REPORT

Groups continue to thrive - thanks to the leaders out there. There have been some changes in leaders, venues and timings so please check the list within this newsletter. If there are any errors, please let me know ASAP. Leaders are still required for the

Gardening group and Holidays. We now have someone prepared to lead the Latin group. If you are interested in this, please email me so I can pass on details. If you are interested in helping out with these groups, there is lots of support available from the Trust and neighbouring u3as.

Chris Burnikell.

GROUP SPOTLIGHT

There are 4 different languages offered to u3a members - Spanish has 2 groups for different levels. Below the group coordinators have given an insight into how they operate.

French (Intermediate) Every other Tuesday afternoon, from 2.30- 5.00, a group of French enthusiasts meet in a local home to explore the language, history, culture and cuisine of France. We use conversation, translation from English into French, crosswords and a range of novels to help develop our language skills.

The group has been running for over ten years, with the number of participants varying according to circumstances and limited by the number of chairs. As a collaborative group, we make use of individual talents and internet researches to support our learning and enjoyment. What's the collective noun for a group of Francophiles? A 'fistful' or a 'flurry' perhaps?

Deirdre Barrie.

German



We have had a small group of German enthusiasts for many years, originally meeting at the home of the group organiser. During Covid lockdown we switched to Zoom meetings; this seemed to be convenient for everyone, so we continue to meet every Monday on Zoom. We have no native German speaker, and our levels of knowledge vary, so we sometimes struggle; we manage by helping each other out. The activities in our sessions include conversations about current events, solving German crosswords which we find on-line, and reading German books; we have read a few novels and are currently working through a biography. The group currently has four members; we would welcome any new member who has at least a moderate knowledge of German - none of us would be able to give tuition to a beginner.



Peter Kenny

Spanish

Quite a lot has changed since I last wrote a report for the newsletter. Most significant is that we now have two Spanish groups running:- Beginners and Intermediate.

The Intermediate members are those who were part of the Zoom group during lockdown. Most of the group have been attending for over three years, some, indeed, for over five. This group meets on the first and third Fridays in the month. As we have two excellent Spanish speakers, we tend to use the time to chat in Spanish (with occasional lapses into English when we don't know the vocabulary). We have covered various topics, including favourite books, memories of school, the future and anything, might interest everyone assuming, of course, that to say it in Spanish!

The Beginners group was formed in October 2021. We meet on the second and fourth Fridays of the month. At the moment, there are seven of us. It is more of a 'learning use a combination of



we know roughly how

formed in October second and fourth. At the moment, is more of a 'learning use a combination of

resources, including an audio course and various YouTube videos - including ones

Are you interested in learning a new language or different cultures? I have always been fascinated with the culture of the Orient. A new group could look at literature, History, art, music... the possibilities are endless. Would you be interested in this or a similar group focussing on a different part of the world?

If so, please contact the groups co-ordinator.



FREEDOM PASS TRIPS



The Geffrye Museum, Hackney, after several years of closure for renovation and enlargement, is now known as the Museum of the Home. Well-known to us from previous visits, the Rooms Through Time, which display some of the ways in which homes have evolved

in the past 400 years, have been brought up to date. There is now, however, more emphasis on the lives of people rather than just their furnishings.

In the new Home Galleries, personal records are on display, illustrating the lives of servants through time as well as their employers. Diversity in the population of the borough is well illustrated through people's personal memories of making a new home and adapting to life in Hackney.

Although a quiet time of the year for gardening during our January visit, it was clear to see, from Gardens through Time, how they have developed in the city through the centuries.



In February, we visited KEATS HOUSE, Hampstead. Originally divided into



two, one half of it was home to John Keats, romantic poet, for two years when he was invited to stay as a lodger by his friend, Charles Brown. It was here that he composed the famous 'La Belle Dame sans Merci' and his great odes of Spring including 'Ode to a Nightingale'. Here, too, he fell in love with his neighbours' daughter Fanny Brawne. Sadly, his ill-health prevented them from

contemplating marriage and he left, in 1820, for the warmer climate of Rome where he died, in 1821, at the age of 25. Fanny's modest engagement ring on display is a touching reminder of their romance. Walking through the rooms, still containing many of their original features, it was easy to imagine this as a comfortable home to a middle-class family in the attractive village of Hampstead which was then being developed. An exhibition gallery reminds visitors of the influence that Keats and other Romantic poets have had on our society.

Joy Lewis

West End Theatre group

I had never had a trip to 'Phantom of the Opera' on my to-do list, but decided to take the opportunity when tickets were available. I had thought it would just be a musical, although the clue is in the title. Not just an opera, with singing that was almost too big for the theatre; dancing that made you want to feel that free; costumes that made you want to pull out your sewing machine. The story carried you to the depths of despair that the Phantom felt when he had to relinquish his love. Such a journey, and yes, I sobbed at the end and wished it wasn't the end. I will be looking out for more shows I didn't know I wanted to see. Thanks to Gaynor for organisation.



Susannah Grant-Hasey

Social Group

The Social Group spent a very nice afternoon in February with a talk and beautiful slides of Sicily, a lovely island with lots of history and amazing flowers. The speakers were Anne Johnson and John Wallington, and we all thoroughly enjoyed it.



The March meeting included members showing their colourful Easter bonnets. Our next few meetings are as follows:-
26th April Barnet U3A Ukulele Group
24th May Games and cards
28th June Strawberry Cream Tea and a short quiz

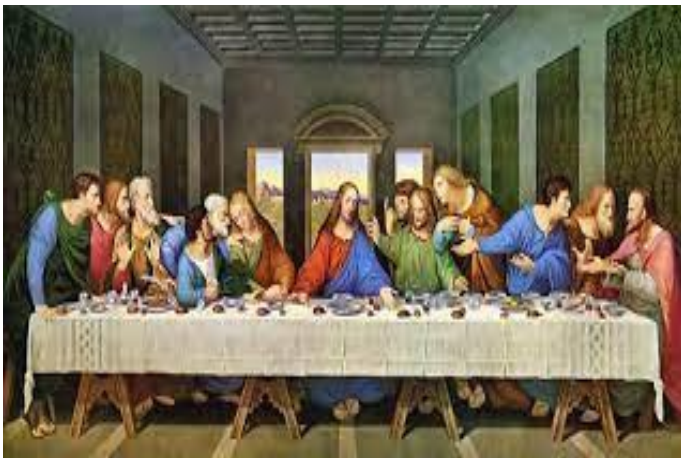
The meetings are held at Christ Church Hall, Chase Side Enfield EN2 6NB at 2pm, to start at 2.30. All members of U3A are welcome, the entry fee is £2, apart from the June meeting, which is £3 to help cover the extra costs.

Art Appreciation 2

We have recently been comparing different periods in the art world and here are just three examples.

Renaissance 1400s -1600s

'The Last Supper' by Leonardo Da Vinci.



In this period they looked back at classical art from Ancient Rome and Greece. Artists appreciated subjects like, music, art and theatre as well as religion.

They looked to achieve balance and mathematical composition.



Baroque 1600s - 1730s

'The Entombment' by Caravaggio

These paintings told a story, extravagance, showing emotion, drama, energy and the use of light and dark.



Rococo 1700s - 1770s



'The

Swing' by Jean-Honore

Fragonard

During this period the paintings were more ornamental, light hearted, elaborate and used pastel colours.

The word Rococo comes from the French word Rocaille which is a method of decorating furniture and interiors with pebbles and seashells.

The information about art and art history available is amazing and so interesting.

Gill Long

Walkie Talkie Group

January 2023 - Forty Hall and Myddleton House



Although it was not raining at the time, it had been very wet for several days before and the paths were very muddy. Some of the group tried the "country path" but found it

very soggy! We had a good wander round the gardens welcoming the first signs of Spring. The gardens are well known for their snowdrops which were well on their way but, perhaps more surprising, there were also daffodils and anemones showing their glories. We then returned to Forty Hall.

February - Regent's Canal

In February we finally managed the postponed walk from Kings Cross to Little Venice along the Regents Canal. Twenty four of us gathered at Kings Cross station and made our way out through the smart new shops, restaurants and offices in the old goods yard to find our way to the canal. We wandered passed St Pancras Lock and the Gasholder Apartments (quite a contrast), through Camden Market over some rather wobbly pontoons to a quieter stretch of the canal. Parts of the path which were closed off when the walk was originally planned last year were now open, making it easier and there was a long stretch passed London Zoo where a few of the residents could be glimpsed. Soon after "Blow-up Bridge" (Macclesfield Bridge), so called after a barge carrying gunpowder blew up in 1874, we came into Lissom Grove and Warwick Avenue. After passing through the lovely basin of Little Venice we reached Paddington.

March - Slades Hill - Oakwood

On a cold, damp morning twelve enthusiastic (?) walkers set off from Slades Hill to walk along the edge of Enfield Golf Club and the Merryhills Brook to Boxers Lake and through to Oakwood Park where we stopped at the café for welcome refreshments. Then on via Green Dragon Lane- when the sun appeared - and through to the Cheyne Walk Open Space where Salmons Brook (like all the other water courses passed) was flowing healthily. This led us to Gladbeck Way and back to Enfield Chase station.

Gill Fletcher

BURNS NIGHT IN ENFIELD

A personal glimpse of one celebration from this years Burns' Night, celebrated on January 25th each year.

Marion, a Scot born in Bo'ness and Richard celebrated Burns night with a group of 21 guests which included School friends, NCT, dog walking and work colleagues as well as family members. Many were familiar to one another having been to previous celebrations and so knew the custom: to be prepared to contribute some entertainment in the form of a poem, song, musical rendition, story or commentary.

Richard, dressed in a tartan kilt, ginger wig and Beret with "sporrán" (a soft animal toy) greeted all. The evening began with he and Marion singing Scottish songs Then he told a very believable story about a child which he'd helped but turned out to be a ghost story!

The "sporrán" was gently thrown into the lap of a confident guest who then gave their contribution. Thus continued the festivities often with much hilarity and wit as jokes were read out from phones and familiar poems. A break for refreshment, eagerly enjoyed as Marion had cooked Haggis, neeps (turnips) and tatties and Chanachan, a sweet dish with double cream and raspberries on top. A variety of drinks were offered, particularly whisky.

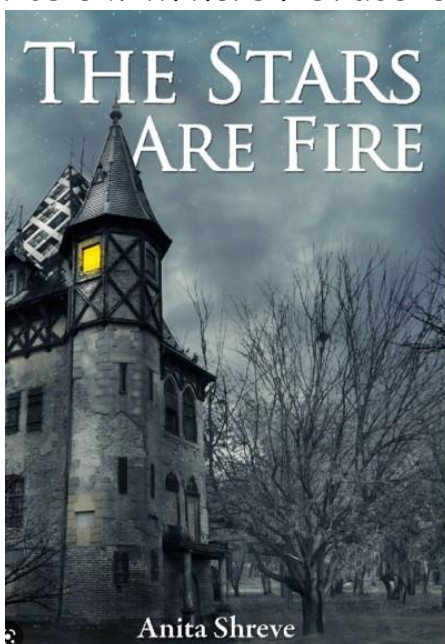


Margaret Evans

BOOK REVIEW

The Stars are Fire by Anita Shreeve

Set in Maine this novel follows the lives of Grace, a young housewife with two young children, married to Gene, a surveyor, whose mother has always disapproved of Grace. Grace is best friends with Rosie and Tim, who live nearby in their small coastal town. Gene is terribly brutal in his sexual relations with Grace who looks enviously at her friends' close and joyful relationship. In the Spring 1947 it seldom stops raining, but in the Summer drought ensues, to be followed by a huge fire, lasting up to 2 weeks, that devastates many settlements on the coast. With her husband gone to help with firefighting efforts will Grace, who's heavily pregnant, be able to keep her children safe and sound, plus help Rosie with hers? Grace is nothing if not resourceful and strong, but her husband



is missing and she has to rely on the kindness of others till she devises a plan to make a new life for them all. Through all the heartbreak all around her, Grace's courage shines through and the reader wishes with all their heart for a good ending. But many vicissitudes are only around the corner.

Anita Shreeve's talent ensures the reader is drawn right into the heart of the story and you will love this book, which will probably lead you to try others by this brilliant author.

Ana De Carvalho

Biscuit Quiz - While you're having a cuppa, see if you can identify the biscuits from the clues.

- 1 Your body's internal system
- 2 A drink with a high salary
- 3 An Antarctic waiter
- 4 An American whiskey
- 5 A most coveted award
- 6 Gorge yourself on these
- 7 Redhead
- 8 Has lots of members
- 9 Elite Idiots
- 10 Frozen diamonds
- 11 Can be found round the cooker
- 12 Half a loaf
- 13 This drink bites
- 14 Snap Off
- 15 Popular Holiday Resort



GROUPS JANUARY 2023

Contact details are in your membership pack or available with AGM posting.

Subject	Group Leader	Day and time
Art	Eileen Flack	3rd Monday 1pm
Art Appreciation I	Chris Abbot	1 st Wednesday 10.30 am
Art Appreciation II	Gill Long	3 rd Thursday 2 pm
Art Galleries/Museums	Pat Bishop	As arranged and notified
Board Games/Cards	Gaynor Green	3 rd Thursdays 2.00 pm
Book Club I	Soo Hynes	3 rd Monday 2.30pm
Book Club II	Jenny Kirby	3 rd Monday 2.00pm
Book Club III	Chris Burnikell	1 st Thursday 10.30am
Canasta	Dee Patterson	4 th Thursday 2pm
Cardmaking/Handicrafts	Chris Burnikell	2 nd Fridays 10.30 a.m.

Chess	Ramesh	1 st & 3 rd Wednesdays 3 pm
Discussion Group	Ann Pretty	3 rd Friday 10.30am
Freedom Pass Trips	Joy Lewis	As arranged & notified
French Int./Advanced	Deirdre Barrie	2 nd & 4 th Tuesday 2.00 pm
German	Peter Kenny	Monday 2.30pm <u>not</u> 2 nd in the month
History I	Hadi Samsami	Monday (alt) 11.30 am
History II	Cherie Ford	Tuesday (alt) 10.30 am
History III	Sheila Smale	1 st and 3 rd Thursday 2.00 pm
Italian	Mike Eppel	Every other Tuesday 11.00 am
Mahjong	Chris Burnikell	2 nd and 4 th Monday 2.00 pm
Moving Image Club	Judy Hunt	1 st Wednesday 2.00pm
Outings	Gaynor Green	As arranged and notified
Photography	Sue Bell	4 th Tuesday 10 am
Play Reading I	Marianne Lanji	2 nd Thursday 12-2pm
Pub Quiz	Gill Fletcher	As arranged & notified
Scrabble I	Ann Oakley	1 st Friday 2.00 pm
Scrabble 2	Mike Eppel	1 st Wednesday 2.30 pm
Social group	Sue Sims	4 th Wednesday 2.30 pm
Spanish Beg./Inter	Ann Kent	Fridays 10.30 am
Sunday Lunch group	Gill Fletcher	3 rd Sunday
Theatre Visits	Gaynor Green	As arranged and notified
Walking Group	Gill Fletcher	2 nd Thursday 10.30am

QUICK CALENDAR OF GROUPS

Mondays	pm: Book Club I; Book Club II; German; History; Mahjong;
Tuesdays	a.m: History II, Photography, Italian for Beginners p.m: French Intermediate/Advanced, Moving Images.
Wednesdays	a.m: Art Appreciation, p.m: Social group; Scrabble II; Chess
Thursdays	a.m: Walks; Play-reading; Book Club III, Play reading p.m: History III, Art Appreciation II, Board Games, Canasta
Fridays	a.m: Discussion Group: Spanish, Cardmaking/handicrafts pm: Scrabble 1

Sundays	Sunday lunch group
As arranged and notified	Freedom Pass Trips; Barbican Rehearsals (LSO); Theatre Trips, Outings; Art Galleries/Museums; pub quiz.

Answers to Quiz

1	Digestive	9	Cream Crackers
2	Rich Tea	10	Ice Gems
3	Penguin	11	Hobnobs
4	Bourbon	12	Shortbread
5	Blue Ribbon	13	Brandy Snaps
6	Cheddars	14	Breakaway
7	Gingernut	15	Nice
8	Club		

Did you know.....?

Spring was formerly referred to as lent, which was changed to springtime around the 1300s, and eventually was shortened to spring. Spring is derived from the time of year when plants begin to grow again or spring from the earth.



CONTACTS:

Registered Charity No. 1070139

Website: www.enfieldu3a.org.uk

Trust Website: <https://www.u3a.org.uk>

London Region Website: <https://u3asites.org.uk/london-region/home>

LOCAL CONTACTS

General enquiries; Penny Hosking 07756 239378

Group Information: Chris Burnikell 02082452686 [chris @cburni.co.uk](mailto:chris@cburni.co.uk)

Membership; Chris Truran 07881 711508

Treasurer; Stephanie Milverton 07968 286560