



Charity No T1155593

Newsletter No 132

Learn Laugh and Live

January 2024

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Welcome to our first newsletter of 2024. I hope you all had an enjoyable Christmas. I send you my best wishes for a “Happy New Year”! Inside this newsletter you will find reports from some of our groups as well as information about future events. Membership for 2024/25 can now be renewed. It can be paid in a variety of ways - by bank transfer (BACS), cheque or cash. Speak to Gill, our membership secretary, for further details. Recent correspondence from the Kent u3a network showed that we compare well with other groups across the county with regard to value for money. We still charge a subscription fee of £20 for the year (£1.67 per month or just 38p per week). We also produce twelve newsletters annually.

Not all u3a groups manage to do this. Probably one area I would seek to address is to increase the number of study/interest groups we promote.

I thought the speaker at our December meeting was excellent. I always enjoy listening to Andy Thomas. Our speaker for January will be Ian Bevan. The title of his talk is “Boxers, Bandits and a Blind Beggar”. It sounds intriguing!

We are seeking to enlist the help of a member who would be willing to act as a reserve to assist in the distribution of our newsletter. Training will be given! Speak to me if you think you might be able to help, I look forward to seeing you all at the Alexandra Suite on the 5th January. We start at 10:30 am

John Baker

[Link to South East Region](#)

Swanley and District u3a Committee Members 2023/2024

			
John Baker Chair	David Collins Vice-Chair	Carol Willingham Business Secretary	Allan Hayward Group Co-Ordinator
			
Gill Baker Membership Secretary	Janet Hamling Minutes Secretary	Penny Collins Social Secretary	Sandra Treloar Committee Member
			
Tony Scale Committee Member	Clive Rayner Treasurer	Alan Hamling Speaker Organizer	Jacky Taylor Publicity Secretary

Swanley and District U3A Monthly Meeting Friday January 5th, 2024, at the Alexandra Suite, St Mary's Road, Swanley BR8 7BU

The January talk is entitled "Boxers, Bandits and a blind beggar" - Ian Bevan
The talk is about; 'Bethnal Green one of the original Tower Hamlets, has a long and varied history from a medieval village. It became renowned for boxing.'

Upcoming talks over the next 3 months

February 2024:- Doodle Bugs and Rockets - Bob Ogle
March 2024:- Mrs Thatcher the Iron lady - Tony Harris
April 2024:- The Baby Boomer nostalgic show part 2 - Alan Haines

Alan Hamling

Summary Of Activities During the Coming Month (s)

Membership for 2024-2025

Our new membership year begins at the beginning of April 2024, and runs until March 2025. The cost is remaining at £20.

The renewal process for the new year is open from January 2024, and runs through until April. You can renew at any time in that period.

You can do this as follows:

a) Our preferred option is that you pay your £20 renewal subscription by bank transfer.

The bank details are:

Bank: NatWest

Account number: 51170027

Sort code: 60 21 10

Account name: Swanley & District U3A

IMPORTANT - When your bank asks you to insert a reference, please put your surname and membership number so we know who made the payment! (For example - BAKER117)

PLUS, Please confirm that you have made this payment by emailing Gill Baker at gillbaker@talktalk.net If you are paying for a spouse or partner in addition to yourself, please provide both names and membership numbers in the email.

b) If you prefer, pay by cash or cheque at one of the monthly meetings. Cheques made payable to Swanley and District U3A please.

c) Or pay by post to me at the address below with a cheque (please don't send cash in the post)

Your new membership card will be available at the monthly meeting.

If you prefer to receive it by post, please send a stamped addressed envelope to

Gill Baker at 24 St Davids Road, Hextable, BR8 7RJ

Please let me know if any of your contact details have changed - address, email, phone numbers etc.

We hope that you will want to stay with us for another year, but if you have decided not to renew, it would be very helpful if you could let me know. You are welcome to rejoin at any time if that is the case.

I hope this covers everything – please contact me if you need any clarification.

Many thanks!

Gill Baker Membership Secretary

A Look Back at the Christmas Lunch

Christmas Lunch 2023

Thank you to all those who came to the Christmas lunch – I thought it was a lovely meal, and the room looked very pretty.



This year, we decided to have a 'seated' meal rather than the carvery where people have to queue and then help themselves. I would be interested to know which version you prefer, so we can plan for December 2024! If you were on Tables 8, 9 or 10 this year, I will try to make sure you are on a table that gets served earlier next time!



Thank you to Dave for the table quiz, and to Carol for the photos...

Gill Baker

Group News

Antiques and Collectables Christmas Outing



Ten of our group were available to enjoy a good morning in Otford for our now traditional Christmas excursion to find treasure.

We rummaged for an hour, and then met up in the lovely Hospice of Hope café opposite, to have lunch together. Here is a selection of the purchased treasure!



Gill Baker

Looking at Art Group

Dulwich Picture Gallery “Rubens and Women”

Members of the Looking at Art group recently visited the Dulwich Picture Gallery in order to see an exhibition featuring the work of the Flemish artist, Peter Paul Rubens (1577-1640).



His name invariably conjures up images of a certain type of 17th century woman! This collection set out to alter the narrative and provide a more nuanced view of his art. Over forty paintings and drawings from the artist’s career had been assembled to challenge the popular assumptions about his work. The variety of Rubens’ art was quite remarkable -large



canvases on mythological themes, portraits, and chalk drawings. The latter were stunning!

They were drawn with meticulous attention to detail, often in preparation for much larger paintings. We learned that many of his female nude studies were based on male models. Apparently, they were more easily available at the time! This exhibition was quite small, but very interesting. The Dulwich Picture Gallery is always well worth a visit. At this time of year it was tastefully decorated with a Christmas theme.



To conclude, a useful quotation - "Rubens may be famous for making pictures of women, but it was the women who made Rubens the master."

After an hour we adjourned to a nearby pub for lunch, before retracing our route along the South Circular and eventually to Swanley.

John Baker

Board and Card Games Afternoon

Our next get together is Monday 22nd January 2024 between 2 - 4pm at the Howard Centre, 39 Egerton Avenue, Hextable, Kent. BR8 7LG.

Everybody is welcome, I have a selection of games, however if you have any games that you would like to play bring them along. We hire the room so there is a charge of £3. You can get drinks at the centre if you wish.

Just come along or email for further details Joyce.wood1925@gmail.com

Joyce Wood

Croquet Pétanque Table Tennis and Kurling

On Friday December 10th 20 of the combined sports people met at the Bull in Swanley for their annual Christmas dinner, the meal was as always superb with our hard-working waitress getting every order right despite my forgetting the paperwork!



After the meal we held a Christmas jumper competition This was won by Mavis with Pam getting second place. I think all enjoyed it.

New age Kurling on or last meeting of the year we held an informal tournament this was a lot of fun the winners were Dave , Lyn and Annie they are now the proud owners of a very valuable GOLD medal.





I will be retaking names for Kurling, Croquet, Petanque , and Table tennis from the next meeting It is hoped that we can do the Kurling every week until March giving more people a chance to play this very fun sport. The next Table tennis is on Friday 19th January 2024

William Hammond

QUIZ DATES

4 quizzes at the Red Lion in the next month – 2 in the afternoon with no charge but voluntary donations to the RNLI requested and 2 in the evening with £3 entry, half the money given in prizes, the other half to the RNLI

AFTERNOON QUIZZES

Thursday January 4th 2pm.

Thursday January 18th 2pm.

EVENING QUIZZES

Wednesday January 10th 7.30pm.

Wednesday January 31st 7.30pm.

Please come along if you would like to join a U3A team on any of these dates.

David Collins

OUTING

FINDERS KEEPERS – LONG MELFORD

Our Finders Keepers outing to Long Melford is on Monday February 5th

Pick up points:

Hextable 8.30am.

Swanley 8.40am.

We expect to arrive home approximately 5.30pm.

FUTURE OUTING

I plan to organise an outing to Ipswich including a River Cruise in May.

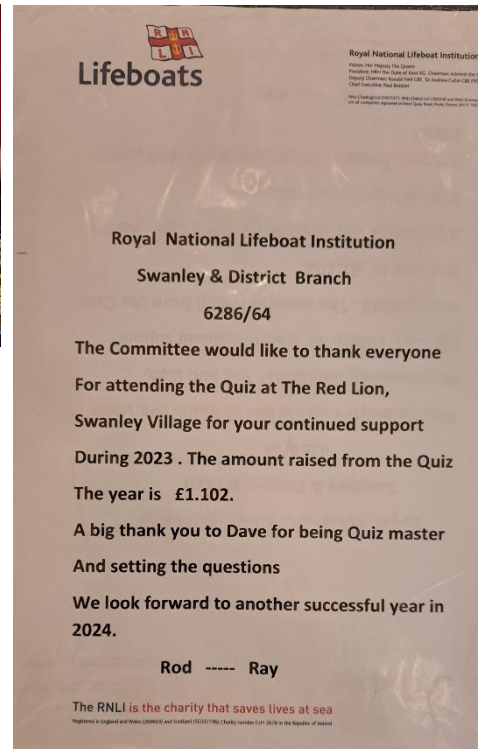
Details to follow.

Penny Collins

Quizzes



Quizzes at The Red Lion Money raised over the year for The RNLI is £1.102.



Big thank you to Dave for being Quizmaster.

Rod Sharman

Thank you to Dave for providing the lovely Quizzes throughout the year – this was taken at the Christmas Quiz when during the interval each team made a lovely festive hat! Modelled beautifully by our Chair!

Gill Baker



MOTO (MEMBERS ON THEIR OWN) – WEDNESDAY, 3rd JANUARY, 2024

This is for all members who are living on their own and would like to meet up and have a coffee/tea and chat. Please come and join the group in the Mulberry Café at RUXLEY GARDEN CENTRE. We will be sitting inside the restaurant at the far-left hand side. The group is intended to be a way for people to arrange their own meetings, outings, activities in small groups. Please note the change of venue.

It would be helpful if you let me know you if intend to come so that I have some idea of numbers.

AN APOLOGY – I apologise for any confusion at the meeting in December. Ruxley reserved all the tables in the area we usually meet for a large group, so Barbara and I sat at the table next to the cash desk. I am sorry if we missed anyone.

My contact details are Tel: 01322 559534, email: sheila.derek@btinternet.com

Sheila Botterill

JANUARY STROLLERS – There will be no Strollers Walk on WEDNESDAY, 10TH JANUARY, 2024 –partly because I am struggling with my hip but also, I think we should wait until the weather improves.

My contact details are Tel: 01322 559534, email: sheila.derek@btinternet.com

Sheila Botterill

Newsletter

The closing date for the next newsletter will be Friday 29th December. Please send articles and pictures to tscale001@gmail.com , thank you. *Tony*



Contact Details

Chair	John Baker	johnbaker52@talktalk.net
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Membership	Gill Baker	gillbaker@talktalk.net
Group Co-ordinator	Alan Hayward	achayward2512@yahoo.co.uk
Assistant Co-ordinator	David Collins	dacollins53@hotmail.co.uk

For contact details of group leaders please contact Alan Hayward
achayward2512@yahoo.co.uk or **David Collins** dacollins53@hotmail.co.uk

Website-<https://u3asites.org.uk/Swanley>

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Swanley U3a Group Timetable October 2023

Group	Leader	Meeting Day
Antiques and Collectables	Gill and John Baker	3 rd Tuesday Morning
Art and Craft	Penny Collins	2 nd Tuesday Afternoon
Art Appreciation	Margaret Austin	1 st Monday Morning
Art/Painting & Drawing Art Outdoors	Gill Baker	2 nd & 4 th Tuesday Evening
Art – Looking at Art	Gill & John Baker	As Notified
Bird Watching	Leader As Advised	3 rd Wednesday Morning
Board & Card Games	Joyce Wood	2 nd or 4 th Monday Afternoon at Howard Centre Hextable
Book Group	Sue Scott & Wendy Keable	2 nd Monday pm Swanley Library
Bowls (Indoors)	Bob Mellor	4 th Thurs pm at the Whiteoak's
Bridge	Carolyn & Colin Chapman	1 st Wednesday Morning
Chess	Terry Bennet	4 th Wednesday Morning
Creative Writing	Penny Collins	1 st Thursday Morning
Croquet	Bill Hammond	Wednesday Afternoons- Summer
Gardening	Sandy English	4 th Wednesday Afternoon
Geography	Penny and Dave Collins	3 rd Friday Morning
Family History	Clive Taylor	4 th Thurs 10:30 @ Swanley Library
History Modern	Jackie Griffiths	4 th Tuesday Afternoon
History of London 1	John Baker	2 nd Thursday Morning
History of London 2	John Baker	4 th Thursday Morning
Let's Speak French	Barbara Ramsey	1 st & 3 rd Wednesday Morning
London History Walks	Alan Hayward & John Baker	As Notified
MOTO (Members on their own)	Sheila Botterill	1 st Wednesday Morning
Music Making	Mark Fittock	Every Tuesday Morning
Petanque	Bill Hammond	2 nd & 4 th Tue pm.Princes Park Dfd
Photography (Digital)	Alan Hayward	2 nd Friday Afternoon
Play Reading	Penny Collins	3 rd Friday Morning
Quiz Team	Dave Collins	As Notified in Newsletter
Rugby-Walking & Appreciation	Alan Hayward & John Baker	As Notified
Singing Group		Not meeting at present
Spanish	Ruth Wilkinson	Every Thursday Morning
Strollers	Sheila Botterill	2 nd Wednesday Morning
Table Tennis	Bill Hammond	1 st & 3 rd Friday Afternoon
Theatre Trips	Sandy Treloar	As Notified
Word Magic on Zoom	Gill Heath	2 nd Wednesday Morning
Walking Group	Clive Rayner	As Notified in Newsletter
Wine and Dine	Santha Blankley	As Notified
Wine Tasting	Robert Brickell	4 th Wednesday Evening

