



Charity No T1155593

Newsletter No 133

Learn Laugh and Live

February 2024

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Welcome to our newsletter for February 2024. We are very pleased that so many of you have renewed your membership for the coming year. Please remember that there are various methods of payment: by bank transfer (BACS), cheque or cash. Gill, our membership secretary, will be happy to answer any questions you might have. As I have said previously, the annual subscription of £20 is very good value for money! This newsletter contains reports on interest group activities and information about future events. We always welcome newsletter contributions. Why not write a short piece telling us the news from your group?

I hope you all enjoyed the speaker at our last meeting, Ian Bevan. His stories about Bethnal Green were fascinating. Coincidentally, the next "Off The Beaten Track" walk will take place in this district of London. Alan and I have put together a route which includes many of the places mentioned in Ian's talk, plus a few more! This month we are delighted to welcome back Bob Ogle. It is always a pleasure to listen to him. The title of his talk is "Doodlebugs and Rockets".

I shall finish with three reminders. Firstly, please remember to bring your cup or mug to the meeting. It makes life much easier for our volunteers who prepare the tea and coffee. Secondly, do not forget to switch off your mobile phone once the meeting starts. Thirdly, we are still seeking a volunteer to act as a reserve for sending out our monthly newsletter. Training will be given. There is always a small number of abridged newsletters at the monthly meeting, but they are intended for members who do not have internet access. I look forward to seeing you at the Alexandra Suite on the 2nd February. We start at 10:30 a.m.

John Baker

[Link to South East Region](#)

Swanley and District u3a Committee Members 2024/2025

			
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 & Asst: Graham Withers	Alan Hamling Speaker Organizer	Jacky Taylor Publicity Secretary

Swanley and District U3A Monthly Meeting Friday February 2nd, 2024, at the Alexandra Suite, St Mary's Road, Swanley BR8 7BU

The February talk is entitled "Doodle Bugs and Rockets" – Bob Ogley

Upcoming talks over the next 2 months

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)

Group Co-Ordinator News

Swanley u3a have 36 different interest groups but you can also join u3a Interest Groups Online(IGO) to enjoy from the comfort of your own home via Zoom.

Have any of you joined or tried this? We would be interested to know what you thoughts are, so just come and have a chat at the back of the hall at our main meeting.

Joint Group Activity

The Art, Photography, Creative Writing, Play Reading, and Word Magic groups are combing for a joint group sharing activity on Tues 30th Jan based on the theme 'Sunshine and Shadows' (report will be in the March newsletter as date is after this newsletter deadline). If other group leaders are interested in doing joint group sharing activities, please let me know.

Our 'London of the Beaten Track Walks' are restarting at the end of February with walks around the Bethnal Green and Whitechapel areas. The first of these is a circular walk around parts of Bethnal Green starting from Shoreditch station. Date Thurs 29th Feb and repeating on Tues 5th March.

An email will be going out to all those that have signed up for the London walks.

If you are interested in being added to the list, please register at the back of the hall at our main meeting in the Alexandra Suite.

Alan Hayward

Birdwatching Group

There will be a trip to [Cliffe Pools](#) on Wednesday 21st February. Meet at 10:00 a.m. for 10:15 start. The address is RSPB Cliffe Pools, Salt lane, Rochester. ME3 7SX

This will be our first trip to this site; looking forward to seeing you all there. Please click on the link above to have a look.

Board and Card Games afternoon

We will be meeting on Monday 26/2 between 2- 4 at the Howard Centre, Egerton Avenue, Hextable, Kent. BR8 7LG .

Everybody welcome bring along any games you want to play, just turn up or email Joyce.wood1925@ [gmail.com](mailto:Joyce.wood1925@gmail.com) if you need any more information.

Joyce Wood

Bridge Group

The next bridge meeting is on Wed 7th Feb at 10.00am.

The exciting, or scary, news is that we are going to introduce scoring. Scoring will be optional, if you aren't ready to score that's fine but if you want to start seeing on paper how things are going then please bring a pen to the next meeting. A score sheet will be available for you at our house on the 7th.

Later plans are to add a bit more information once you get the hang of basic scoring. As everyone who wants to is going to score their own score then if you wish to score using vulnerability and doubles please do so.

Looking forward to seeing you on the 7th.

Carolyn

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.

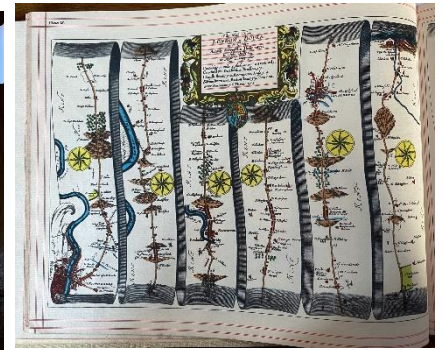
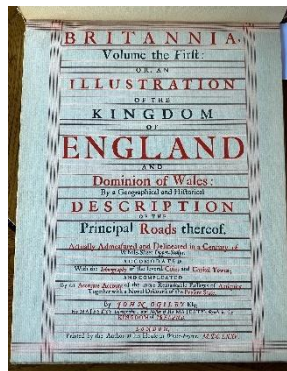
Many thanks!

Gill Baker Membership Secretary

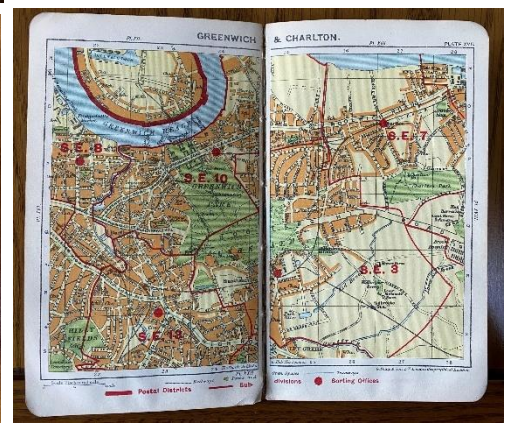
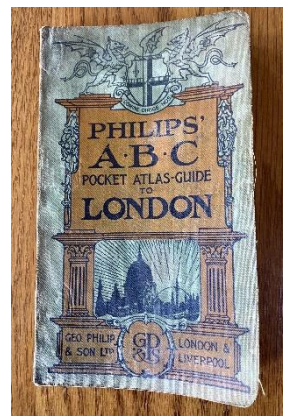
Group News

Antiques and Collectables Group

We had no special topic for our first meeting of the year, but there was a coincidental theme around travel from some of the members. Judy showed us a beautiful book which was a copy of one first published in 1675 by John Ogilby. It is 'An Illustration of the Kingdom of England and the Dominion of Wales'. It was given to Judy's husband's uncle by Alexander Duckham, who had bought the original and made copies for his friends in 1939. It has beautiful drawings and diagrams of major roads and the areas around them.



John also had some old maps – he had been given a London map book by his brother. This was 'Philips ABC Pocket Guide to London', published in 1923. We



were interested to see local maps of places that had changed considerably over the years. This was a forerunner of the A-Z London street atlas which was compiled by Phyllis Pearsall & first published in 1936. Continuing the motoring theme, Audrey brought along an old RAC badge which would have been fixed to the front of a car belonging to an RAC member. From 1901, if someone had a problem with their vehicle, they could phone a patrolman who would arrive on a motorbike with a sidecar to give assistance. They wore a uniform, and if a car with a badge went past, the patrolman was expected to salute the driver. The organisation was called 'The Royal Automobile Club' because of King Edward V11's interest in motoring.



Two people had walking sticks - Dave purchased one in Chichester which had an animal's head. He was told that it had belonged to Richard Branson's mother. Dave later wrote a story inspired by the stick. We were not sure what animal it portrayed – possibly a giraffe. Dave didn't know what type of wood it was made from, but he had discovered that someone who collects walking sticks is called a Rabologist. Look out for that question to come up in one of his quizzes!



Anna also had a walking stick. Hers is wooden with a rounded head, and it was given to her by her father. He claimed it had been carved from the

wreckage of a war time Zeppelin. Anna has no evidence to back this up, but it is an intriguing claim.

Moving away from travel, I showed the group some women's magazines that I had picked up at Detling. 'Woman and Beauty' was published in 1954 and cost two shillings. It is filled with useful fashion and homemaking tips for women, and the adverts are fascinating too. Apparently, according to the Electricity Service Centre, the foundations of modern living are the electric cooker, water heater, washing machine and refrigerator, and low bills are a certainty. Times have changed!



Tony passed round several newspapers which were facsimile copies of war papers. They included the Evening News and the Daily Mirror. They have lots of interesting photographs and features from World War 2. Tony likes to collect these from antique fairs.



Lastly, Wendy brought along a medal which had belonged to Tony's mother. She was in a church choir in New Eltham in the 1960s. The Royal School of Church Music (RSCM) is a Christian music education organisation dedicated to the promotion of music in Christian worship. It began in Bullers Wood in 1929 but is now based in Salisbury. Choristers were given different medals to denote their grade and level of musical achievement.



Gill Baker

Looking at Art Group

GUILDHALL ART GALLERY

Members of the Looking at Art group visited the Guildhall Art Gallery in the City of London. This little-known gallery is home to a huge collection of paintings owned by the City of London Corporation. The collection of over four thousand art treasures includes work by well-known artists and dates from 1670 to the present day. It is not possible to display all of the work in a small gallery. There is a particular strength in the Victorian material, including some Pre-Raphaelite pictures.

Our guide, Marion, took us around the building and explained the thematic approach to the displays. She paid particular attention to a number of paintings. These included:



“A Sonata of Beethoven (Alfred Emslie 1912) – a strangely haunting picture.

“Too Early” (James Tissot 1873) – a picture which seemed to provoke more questions than answers. Who was the woman in the pink dress?



“My First Sermon” and “My Second Sermon” – two paintings by John Millais which featured his young daughter.



“The Garden of Eden” (Hugh Riviere 1901) – a sad picture of love in the Victorian era.

We also looked at pictures by Marianne Stokes, William Logsdail, Grayson Perry, and a group of 20th century portraits by Sir Matthew Smith.



The gallery on the lower-level featured paintings showing aspects of London - all very different, but all very pleasing. We also had the opportunity to see a very early portfolio of the plays of William Shakespeare, published in 1623. Our final stop was to see the remains of the Roman Amphitheatre. This is nearly two thousand years old and was once the entertainment centre of Londinium. Having been lost for centuries, it was found by archaeologists in the 1980's.



It was a very enjoyable morning, and we were lucky to have such an excellent guide to enhance our time there. We ate lunch in a nearby (and quite historical!) pub before finding the train to take us home. I would recommend the Guildhall Art Gallery as a very worthwhile place to visit for anyone interested in art and London history.

John Baker

Croquet Pétanque Table Tennis and Kurling

Table tennis is this Friday 2nd at Whiteoak leisure centre ,at 2:00 p.m.

The next Kurling is Monday 12 February, unfortunately this is now full, and I cannot accommodate any more however if it is viable, I will look into running more sessions on a different day, if you are interested in this see me after the meeting.



I will be taking names for Croquet & Petanque this month ,with a view to starting next month (March) if you are interested come and see me.

William Hammond

QUIZ DATES

Unfortunately, I have not yet been able to fix any dates in February, so the only quiz I can advertise is the one at the end of January below, £3 entry, half the money in prizes and half going to the RNLI.

EVENING QUIZ

Wednesday January 31st 7.30pm.

Please come along if you would like to join a U3A team on the night. I will try to get some more dates to advertise at the February monthly meeting. Alternatively, my contact details are at the back of the newsletter so please feel free to contact me to find out if I have any more dates.

David Collins.

OUTINGS

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.

3 RIVERS TOUR

I am organising this 3 Rivers Tour to Suffolk on Monday May 13th.

Our coach will take us to a Garden Centre near Manningtree where we will meet our Blue Badge Guide and have time to buy morning coffee. We will drive along the river STOUR past Mistley Towers, through Manningtree and on to the mysterious Shotley Peninsula on the ORWELL estuary then across the Orwell Bridge.

We will stop for a carvery lunch and coffee in Woodbridge, a pretty village on the river DEBEN. After lunch we sit back and enjoy a 90-minute cruise on the Deben. The tidal estuary is one of the most scenic spots on the east coast. Our on-board commentary will tell of its rich wildlife and history. Tea and cake are included.

On our return the coach will be waiting to drive us home, leaving around 4.45pm.

The cost will be £65 to include the coach, guide, carvery lunch and river cruise with tea and cake. If you would like to go on this outing, please sign up at the February meeting and pay the cost either with your booking or at the March meeting to secure your place.

Penny Collins

MOTO (MEMBERS ON THEIR OWN) – WEDNESDAY, 7th FEBRUARY , 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 at 10 am. We will be sitting inside the restaurant at the far lefthand side. The group is intended to be a way for people to arrange their own meetings, outings, activities in small groups. It would be helpful if you let me know you if intend to come so that I have some idea of numbers.

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

Sheila Botterill

FEBRUARY STROLLERS – There will be no Strollers Walk on WEDNESDAY, 14th FEBRUARY, 2024 –partly because I am struggling with my hip but also, I think we should wait until the weather improves. People are welcome to arrange their own walks if they so wish.

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 23rd February. Please send articles and pictures to tscale001@gmail.com , thank you. *Tony*



Contact Details

Chair	John Baker	johnbaker52@talktalk.net
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Business Secretary	Carol Willingham	carolw8920@gmail.com
Social/Outings Coordinator	Penny Collins	pennycollins@hotmail.com 01322 669724
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

