



Charity No T1155593

# Newsletter No 117

Learn Laugh and Live

**October 2022**

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Welcome to the October edition of our Swanley and District U3A newsletter. Once again you will be able to read reports from some of our groups. You will also find out about future events and activities. Our membership is now over 230. This is very encouraging. I know that several new members have joined us in recent months. I extend a warm, if somewhat belated, welcome to you all!

I hope everyone enjoyed our last meeting. Imogen Corrigan was an excellent speaker. She made her talk interesting, informative and enjoyable. We will ask her to return. I am looking forward to our October speaker. Andy Bustin will take us into the world of television and film production. We will learn some inside information on many of the popular TV programmes.

I have to ask you all to continue to bring your mug/cup to the meeting for tea and coffee. The catering difficulties at the Alexandra Suite remain unresolved at the time of writing. This newsletter is distributed to members by email. We will endeavour to have some abridged copies available at the meeting. Please remember that they are intended for those people without access to the internet. Some members have discovered that the newsletter often finds its way into their junk mail. I have no idea why, but it is worth checking!

And finally, it happened in October... On the 17th October 1814, an accident at a brewery in Tottenham Court Road resulted in the London Beer Flood. An estimated 323 000 gallons of beer were released into the streets causing widespread chaos and damage. The smell of stale beer lasted for months.

I look forward to seeing you at the meeting on the 7th October. We start at 10:30.

**John Baker**

[Link to South East Region](#)

**Swanley and District u3a Committee Members 2022/2023**

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

**Swanley and District U3A Monthly Meeting Friday October 7th**

**at the Alexandra Suite, St Mary's Road, Swanley BR8 7BU**

The October talk is entitled "My life as a Film and TV extra" - Andy Bustin

I talk about life behind the scenes whilst making TV Programmes, adverts and films and the differences therein.

**Upcoming talks over the next 3 months**

November Back stage secrets - Tony Harris

December A Dickens of a Christmas and God Bless Us Everyone - Bertie Pearce

January Reliving our own story - Andrew J. Baker

**Alan Hamling**

## Summary Of Activities During the Coming Months

### OUTINGS

BLETCHLEY PARK- Monday October 31st. Please note change of date and let Penny know if you are now no longer able to go by the October 7th monthly meeting, so that we can try to allocate your place elsewhere.

Pick-ups: 8.55 Hextable Bus Stop 9.00 Asda Warehouse Bus Stop

There are two tours. Half the group will join the tour at 12.30 and the other half, the second tour at 1.30.

Refreshments are available to buy. You can bring your own food but there are no inside facilities to eat food not bought in their cafe if it is wet.

We will leave at approximately 4pm and should arrive home around 6pm.

My phone number is 07518 750463.

CRUISING INTO CHRISTMAS- Monday November 28th.

Leaving at approximately 1pm for Greenwich, where there will be time to visit museums and the market.

We will then have a Boat Trip on the Thames from Greenwich to Westminster with the river lit up.

This will be followed by a Coach Tour of the London Lights, finishing with a fish and chips supper.

This trip is now full. If anyone on the list has not paid the £49 cost, please do so by the next monthly meeting on October 7th. Otherwise, your place will have to be allocated to someone else as there is a waiting list.

**Penny Collins.**

## **QUIZ DATES**

My Quiz dates this month at the Red Lion are:

Thursday October 6th 2pm. There is no charge for this quiz with voluntary donations to the RNLI requested.

Wednesday October 12th 7.30pm. There is a £3 charge per head for this quiz with half the money given in prizes and the other half going to the RNLI.

Thursday October 20th 2pm. There is no charge for this quiz with voluntary donations to the RNLI requested.

Wednesday October 26th 7.30 pm. There is a £3 charge per head for this quiz with half the money given in prizes and the other half going to the RNLI.

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

**David Collins.**

## **MOTO (MEMBERS ON THEIR OWN) – WEDNESDAY 5TH NOVEMBER 2022**

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 us at the Mulberry Tree café at Ruxley Manor Garden Centre. We will be inside the restaurant on the far left-hand side. Please bring some ideas for activities. 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.

PLEASE NOTE THAT ALL MOTO MEETINGS NOW TAKE PLACE ON THE FIRST WEDNESDAY IN THE MONTH TO AVOID CLASHING WITH OTHER GROUPS – therefore the November meeting will be on November 2nd. My contact details are Tel: 01322 559534, email: sheila.derek@btinternet.com

**Sheila Botterill**

## **STROLLERS WALK IN HEXTABLE**

Twelve members enjoyed a Strollers Walk in Hextable on 14th September starting at St Peter's church and walking along Rowhill Road and into the woods, coming out opposite Mabel Road and continuing back to St. Peter's Church for refreshments.

NEXT STROLLERS WALK – 12th OCTOBER – 10.15 for 10.30 start for a walk around Danson Park and lake. Meet at the Stables car park.

ALL FUTURE WALKS NOW TAKE PLACE ON THE SECOND WEDNESDAY IN THE MONTH.

This is an initiative for people who like walking at a slower pace. All welcome not just for people on their own. Please let me know if you intend to come.

## **FUTURE STROLLERS WALK -**

WEDNESDAY, 9th NOVEMBER – for a walk in Hextable and the Avenue of Limes - details to follow.

PLEASE NOTE THERE WILL BE NO FORMAL STROLLERS WALK ARRANGED FOR DECEMBER. My contact details are Tel: 01322 559534, email: sheila.derek@btinternet.com

**Sheila Botterill**

## **U3A Christmas Meal**

Just a reminder that there are still a few places left for the Christmas Lunch at Pedham Place Golf Centre on Friday December 9th from 12.30. Cost £25. See me at the next meeting if you would like to attend. Please can you bring cash or a cheque payable to Swanley and District U3A if you have not yet paid.

Many thanks

**Gill Baker**

## **! COME TO THE PANTO!**

I have some tickets available for Cinderella at the **Orchard** theatre on **14<sup>th</sup> December** for a Matinee performance at **2pm**. These seats are in the stalls at a concessionary price of **£20** so very good value for money. If you would like to join in some traditional merriment at Christmas time, please bring a cheque made out to 'Swanley and District U3A' to the next meeting.

This offer is open to friends as well as members.

**Sandra Treloar** [sandratreloar04@btinternet.com](mailto:sandratreloar04@btinternet.com)

## **GROUP NEWS**

### **NEW GROUP – Board Games and Cards**

#### **Board Games and Cards afternoon.**

Our 1st meeting was very successful with 14 members taking part, we enjoyed playing Sequence, Mind the Gap, Crowns, Logo, Rummikub and Tri-Ominos  
Our next meeting will be on 24/10 at 2pm @ Howard Centre, Hextable.  
Please email [Joyce.wood@sky.com](mailto:Joyce.wood@sky.com) if you want to come along and join us.

Thank you,  
**Joyce**

### **Group Co-Ordinator News**

We now have a new Indoors Bowls group. They will meet once a month at White Oaks Leisure centre Day and time still to be confirmed. Dress code is white top and grey trousers and flat shoes or bowling shoes. There is a cost involved for the hire of a rink. If you required more information or are interested in joining, please sign up at back of the hall at them main monthly meeting.

Group Leaders / Helpers Social Event Friday 21st Oct at the Red Lion Swanley Village. An invitation email was sent out to all group leaders, if you haven't yet responded see me at the main monthly meeting.

### **Dates for forthcoming events**

London Off the Beaten Track Walk Thursday 20th October

A repeat of Rotherhithe Part 2 walk from Canada Water to Rotherhithe (meet Swanley Station 09.30hrs

2 Bermondsey Walks on the 11th October and 8th November are both full but will be repeated next year.

The

If you are interested in these walks, please sign up to the email distribution list at the monthly meeting.

### **Strollers Walks**

Weds 12th Oct and Weds 9th November.

### **Outings**

CRUISING INTO CHRISTMAS- Monday November 28th

**Alan Hayward**

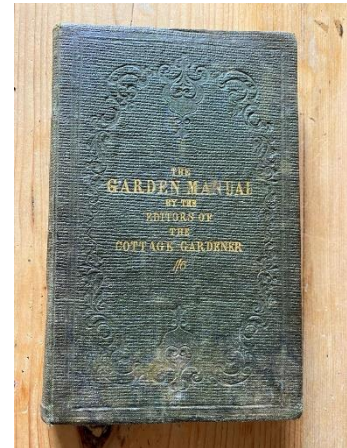


## News from the Groups

### Antiques and Collectables Group

Our antiques meeting began this time with a mystery object from Judy that she had found in her father's possessions. It was a small brass cylinder with a lens inside. Nobody had a clue, but Judy's son had done some research and found out that it was a Pocket Spectroscope, made by William Ladd and Co of London, probably around 1867. Apparently, this is a device that measures the spectrum of light – to be honest I'm still not sure what it does or why, but a nice tactile thing!

Chrissy is moving house and whilst de-cluttering, had come across some interesting books. One of these was an 1863 Garden Manual published by those involved in the weekly periodical – The Cottage Gardener. This is a small book packed with useful tips about every aspect of gardening. It covers mulching, composting, pruning, trenching, top-dressing, hot-bedding, crop rotation, how to design and set out your garden, and information about many types of plant. All still very useful.



Tim brought along a pack of cards advertising Capstan Navy Cut cigarettes – 'Made to make friends. He also showed us some old pennies from the 19th Century. This included some large heavy copper pennies which were phased out from the 1850s when a smaller, lighter bronze version was introduced. Queen Victoria's 'bun' penny was issued until 1894, so called because of her hairstyle. This small collection included images of several different monarchs – Queen Victoria, King William IV, and King George VI. Since the introduction of decimalisation in 1971, new coins have only depicted one monarch – now about to change when King Charles III coins are minted. He will face to the left, as tradition requires alternate positions for each new monarch.

Wendy showed us a small part of her Minton Versailles patterned tea set – this style was made between 1966 and 1979. She found it at a boot fair for £20. She doesn't use it but keeps it on display in a cabinet. The Minton factory was established way back in 1793 and was a very successful family-run business in Stoke on Trent, Staffordshire for many years. After WW2, interest in Staffordshire pottery declined, and the company eventually merged with Royal Doulton.





After his father died, Tony came across a letter signed by George VI, commending his father Reginald for serving in the Home Guard. He was a firearms instructor. There is an interesting photograph of his father and others practising how to march – unusually, they carried sub-machine guns hung from their waists. These were made in the US in WWI but were not used, so the US government donated them to Britain.

I found some small card discs at an antique fair and discovered that they were used as caps for early milk bottles. Originally, from 1880s, milk bottles had porcelain stoppers held on by wire. With a growing awareness of hygiene issues and the spread of disease, cardboard tops were introduced to keep out flies, and to keep the milk airtight. Dairies used them to promote their business. Children collected the caps to play games such as Pogs or Tazos. This became so popular that long after the foil milk bottle tops were introduced in the 1950s, caps were still made specifically for use in games.



John and I recently visited Portugal and were very taken with the old ceramic tiles seen on the buildings around the cities of Lisbon and Porto. They are known as Azulejos, meaning small, polished stone. Introduced by the Moors in the 13th century, they often depict blue and white designs. They were used as decoration on the outside and interiors of public buildings and private houses, and they also provided insulation against the heat. An added advantage was that were easy to clean. We saw magnificent tile murals at the Sao Bento Railway Station in Porto, and John purchased some old house tiles when he went to the village of Castelo Rodrigo.



**Gill Baker**



## Digging For Cake Gardening Group - Garden visit to Knowle Hill Farm 24 August 2022



For our August meeting we visited a beautiful garden at Knowle Hill Farm Ulcombe. It sits 400 ft up on the North Downs overlooking the Kentish Weald and is filled with plants that thrive in warm dry conditions. There was certainly a huge variety.



We were warmly welcomed by Elizabeth, the owner with tea/coffee and of course cake! This was much appreciated as many members had a difficult journey due to road closures.

We were shown round the very large garden that has been divided into areas to be used according to the direction of the sun. Orchard, BBQ area with pond and lawned areas just to name a few.



The owners have been living there for 40 years and have invested in a bore hole to use for the garden. This has been very handy in the recent hot weather. They started the garden from scratch after most of the large trees were lost in the hurricane of 1987. Although there are still some trees well over a hundred years old. Elizabeth said it is still work in progress, as a garden is always evolving.

It was a great sunny day, enjoyed by all.

**Sue Saunders**



## “THE HEART OF GRAVESEND” -A HISTORY WALK WITH CHRISTOPH BULL



At the beginning of September nineteen members met outside Gravesend library for a history walk led by Christoph Bull. His knowledge of Gravesend and its history is extensive and was delivered in his usual enthusiastic manner. The library is actually an impressive Carnegie building dating from 1905. It also happens to be Christoph’s former place of work. He explained the derivation of the town’s name. It has nothing to do with graves! Ask me about the correct story next time you see me. It’s

complicated! He told us how 19th century Gravesend had been a busy tourist destination. Visitors arrived in their hundreds by steam boat from London. Many would hire donkeys for a ride to the top of nearby Windmill Hill. The influx of tourists created considerable wealth for the town.



Gravesend has managed to keep many of its old buildings, particularly in the High Street where there are several early 19th century shops. The Old Town Hall was built in 1836. We walked through the market which was established in 1268 and rebuilt in 1898. It boasts a fine statue of Queen Victoria. Christoph had many stories to tell us including the sad tale of Robert Pocock (1760-1830). He was a successful author, historian and publisher who eventually fell on hard times and died penniless. Outside



St. Georges Church is a statue of Pocahontas. She died in the town at the start of her return journey to North America in 1617. Her true story has little in common with the Disney version.

Our morning walk finished at the Town Pier. This is thought to be the oldest cast iron pier in the world and is a Grade 2 listed building. A regular ferry service will take you across the river to Tilbury. At this point several of us, together with Christoph, enjoyed lunch in the Three Daws pub next to the river. This historic inn has its origins in the 15th century. It was an ideal location to finish our Gravesend walk.



I will endeavour to arrange another history walk with Christoph, probably in the new year.

**John Baker**

## **Wine and Dine**

This year has been, so far, an excellent one for the group. We have met 3 times (once every 3 months) and hopefully will meet again in November. The group was set up for people to meet in convivial surroundings to partake of good food and wine and to discover new restaurants which offer good value for money. The conversation is a bonus!

Generally, the restaurants are all within an easy drive from Swanley. This year we have been to Indian Essence in Petts Wood, Bartellas in Meopham and Samuel Palmer in Shoreham. All 3 were excellent venues and we hope to end the year by going to The Malt Shovel in Eynsford for a Thai evening in November - so an eclectic mixture of cuisines.

We are always open to new suggestions/venues and we now have a few spaces for new members, so if you wish to join the group or just have a suggestion for a venue, you are more than welcome to write to me at [Santhablankley@ntlworld.com](mailto:Santhablankley@ntlworld.com) to register your interest. I look forward to hearing from you.

**Santha Blankley**

## **Walking Groups**

Monday 17th October 10.00 for 10.15 Meet Christine at “The Poacher and Partridge”, Hartlake Road, Tudeley, Tonbridge, Kent, TN11 0PH for a fairly flat walk of between four and four and a half miles. Directions: by car: Leave the A21 at the Tonbridge /A26/ Industrial Estate exit and continue along the A26. At the roundabout turn right into Tudeley Road. After two miles turn a sharp left into Hartlake Road. The pub is about half a mile along on the right. Please contact Christine on 07523 273755 or email her at [christine.raynsford@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:christine.raynsford@yahoo.co.uk) to let her know you are coming and whether you will be staying for lunch.

Tuesday 25th October 10.00 for 10.15 Meet Clive at “The White Swan”, Ash Road, Ash TN15 7HJ for a walk of between three and four miles. Directions: By car: From the Farningham roundabout, take the A20 away from London for a mile or two then take the second left turning into Scratcher’s Lane (signposted Fawkham Green and Longfield). Follow it round the back of Brands Hatch for a mile or two then take the third left into Fawkham Road (signposted FawkhamGreen/Ash/Hartley/Longfield). Go straight under an underpass and immediately turn right into Rogers Wood Lane (signposted Ash). Go ahead for about half a mile to reach a cross roads where you will need to go straight ahead into Billet Hill. Go ahead for a further half mile to emerge on Ash Road with the pub on your left. By public transport: Take a train from Swanley to Longfield then pick up a 423, 433 or 489 bus to New Ash Green. Get off in North Square, go back to Ash road and continue walking in the direction you were travelling. Turn left at the T-junction, still in Ash Road, and the pub is some way down on the right. Estimated walking time 15 minutes. Please contact Clive on 01474 706173/07748 852686 or email him on [clivetheilex@gmail.com](mailto:clivetheilex@gmail.com) to let him know you are coming and to say whether you will be staying for lunch

**Clive Rayner**

## Newsletter

The closing date for the next newsletter will be Friday 28<sup>th</sup> October. Please send articles and pictures to [tscale001@gmail.com](mailto:tscale001@gmail.com) , thank you. *Tony*



## **Membership Cards Issue Notification: -**

### **Membership for 2022- 2023**

Memberships Fees for the Year have returned to the full price of £20.00

**Please could all new & re-joining members make their cheques for £20 made payable to 'Swanley and District U3A'.**

With best wishes to all members and keep safe

Gill Baker  
Membership Secretary

### **Contact Details**

<b>Chair</b>	<b>John Baker</b>	<a href="mailto:johnbaker52@talktalk.net">johnbaker52@talktalk.net</a>
<b>Vice Chair</b>	<b>David Collins</b>	<a href="mailto:dacollins53@hotmail.com">dacollins53@hotmail.com</a>
<b>Business Secretary</b>	<b>Carol Willingham</b>	<a href="mailto:carolw8920@gmail.com">carolw8920@gmail.com</a>
<b>Social/Outings Coordinator</b>	<b>Penny Collins</b>	<a href="mailto:pennycollins@hotmail.com">pennycollins@hotmail.com</a> 01322 669724
<b>Membership</b>	<b>Gill Baker</b>	<a href="mailto:gillbaker@talktalk.net">gillbaker@talktalk.net</a>
<b>Group Co-ordinator</b>	<b>Alan Hayward</b>	<a href="mailto:achayward2512@yahoo.co.uk">achayward2512@yahoo.co.uk</a>
<b>Assistant Co-ordinator</b>	<b>David Collins</b>	<a href="mailto:dacollins53@hotmail.co.uk">dacollins53@hotmail.co.uk</a>

**For contact details of group leaders please contact Alan Hayward**  
[achayward2512@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:achayward2512@yahoo.co.uk) or **David Collins** [dacollins53@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:dacollins53@hotmail.co.uk)

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

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**Group Timetable**

<b>Group</b>	<b>Leader</b>	<b>Meeting Day</b>
Antiques and Collectables	Gill and John Baker	3 <sup>rd</sup> Tuesday Morning
Art and Craft	Penny Collins	2 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesday Afternoon
Art Appreciation	Margaret Austin	1 <sup>st</sup> Monday Morning
Art Painting & Drawing and Art Outdoors	Gill Baker	2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Tuesday Evening As Notified
Bird Watching	Leader As Advised	3 <sup>rd</sup> Wednesday Morning
Board & Card Games	Joyce Wood	2 <sup>nd</sup> or 4 <sup>th</sup> Monday Afternoon at Howard Centre Hextable
Book Group	Sue Scott & Wendy Keable	2 <sup>nd</sup> Monday Afternoon Swanley Library
Chess	Tony Bennet	4 <sup>th</sup> Wednesday Morning
Creative Writing	Penny Collins	1 <sup>st</sup> Thursday Morning
Croquet	Bill Hammond	Every Wednesday Afternoon during Summer months
Gardening	Sandy English	4 <sup>th</sup> Wednesday Afternoon
History Modern	Jackie Griffiths	4 <sup>th</sup> Tuesday Afternoon
History of London 1	John Baker	2 <sup>nd</sup> Thursday Morning
History of London 2	John Baker	4 <sup>th</sup> Thursday Morning
Let's Speak French	Barbara Ramsey	1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Wednesday Morning or as Notified
London History Walks	Alan Hayward & John Baker	As Notified
MOTO (Members on their own)	Sheila Botterill	1 <sup>st</sup> Wednesday Morning
Music Making	Mark Fittock	Every Tuesday Morning
Petanque	Bill Hammond	2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Tuesday Afternoon Princes Park Dartford
Photography (Digital)	Alan Hayward	2 <sup>nd</sup> Friday Afternoon
Play Reading	Penny Collins	3 <sup>rd</sup> Friday Morning
Quiz Team	Dave Collins	As Notified in Newsletter
Rugby-Walking & Appreciation	Alan Hayward & John Baker	As Notified
Singing Group	Sue Scott	3 <sup>rd</sup> Tuesday Afternoon
Spanish	Leigh Aldrich	Every Thursday Morning
Strollers	Sheila Botterill	2 <sup>nd</sup> Wednesday Morning
Table Tennis	Bill Hammond	1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Friday Afternoon
Theatre Trips	Sandy Treloar	As Notified
Word Magic on Zoom	Gill Heath	2 <sup>nd</sup> Wednesday Morning
Walking Group	Clive Rayner	As Notified in Newsletter
Wine and Dine	Santha Blankley	As Notified
Wine Tasting	Robert Brickell	4 <sup>th</sup> Wednesday Evening



