



# Newsletter No 118

[Learn Laugh and Live](#)

**November 2022**

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Welcome to the November edition of our Swanley and District u3a newsletter. This month's edition contains news of future events and reports on the numerous activities and visits that have taken place recently. It will include the story of our strange visit to the Finnish and Norwegian churches in Rotherhithe. Further details inside! Our membership continues to grow and now stands at 241. I extend a warm welcome to those members who have recently joined us. The October meeting was attended by almost 120 people. In percentage terms this figure would be envied by most other u3a groups.

The speaker at our November meeting will be Tony Harris. He has visited us on previous occasions and has always been very popular. The title of his talk is

“Backstage Secrets.” It will be a look at his own stage career and some of the bizarre superstitions associated with the acting profession. I am certain that it will be thoroughly entertaining.

I need to ask you to bring your cups/mugs to the meeting. Catering problems at the Alexandra Suite are ongoing. Meanwhile, I look forward to seeing you all on the 4th November. We start at 10:30

And finally, it happened in November... On the 9th November 1979 at the North American Air Defence Command in Colorado, a technician loaded a test tape into a computer. Unfortunately, he forgot to switch the system to “test.” It suggested one thousand Soviet nuclear missiles had been launched. Armageddon was imminent. There was a collective sigh of relief when the false alarm was confirmed a few minutes later.

**John Baker**

**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 November 4th**

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

The November talk is entitled "Back stage secrets" - Tony Harris

The talk is a Hilarious look at acting superstitions and the career of Tony the actor from the Royal Shakespeare Co to now.

**Upcoming talks over the next 3 months**

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

January: - Reliving our own story - Andrew J. Baker

February: - M19 escape lines and "James Bond" gadgets - Helen Fry **Alan Hamling**

## Summary Of Activities During the Coming Months

### OUTINGS

CRUISING INTO CHRISTMAS- Monday November 28th.

Pick-ups: 1pm Hextable Bus Stop 1.05 Asda Warehouse Bus Stop, travelling to Greenwich, where there will be time to visit museums and the market and have refreshments.

We meet our tour guide at 3.45 at Greenwich Pier and 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 and a hot drink.

This trip is now full.

In an emergency phone 07518 750463.

**Penny Collins.**

### QUIZ DATES

My Quiz dates this month at the Red Lion are:

Tuesday November 15th 2pm. There is no charge for this quiz with voluntary donations to the RNLI requested.

Wednesday November 23rd 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.

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

**David Collins.**

### Board Games and Card Afternoon

Our 2nd meeting had 11 members taking part. We all enjoyed playing Tri-Ominos, Logo, Sequence, Mind the Gap, Boggle, Crowns and Cards.

Please note our next 2 meetings will be on the 2nd Monday of each month, 14th November 2pm and 12th December at 2pm at The Howard Centre, Hextable.

Please email [Joyce.wood@sky.com](mailto:Joyce.wood@sky.com) if you would like to join our group.

**Joyce Wood**

**MOTO (MEMBERS ON THEIR OWN) – WEDNESDAY 2nd 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 December meeting will be on December 7<sup>th</sup>.**

My contact details are Tel: 01322 559534, email: [sheila.derek@btinternet.com](mailto:sheila.derek@btinternet.com)

**Sheila Botterill**

**STROLLERS WALK IN DANSON PARK**

Eleven members enjoyed a Strollers Walk in Danson Park and around the lake on 12<sup>th</sup> October and afterwards some refreshments at the Stables Café.

**NEXT STROLLERS WALK – 9th NOVEMBER – for a walk in Hextable taking in the Avenue of Limes** and a circuit of Swanley Park and back to the Church for coffee. Meet at the church where there is free parking – 10.15 a.m. for a 10.30 start.

**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.

**PLEASE NOTE THERE WILL BE NO FORMAL STROLLERS WALK ARRANGED FOR DECEMBER. THE WALK IN JANUARY WILL TAKE PLACE ON 11<sup>th</sup>.** Details to follow next month.

My contact details are Tel: 01322 559534, email: [sheila.derek@btinternet.com](mailto:sheila.derek@btinternet.com)

**Sheila Botterill**

**‘Cinderella’ at the Orchard Theatre**

I now have the tickets for the pantomime on December 14th so they can be collected from me at the monthly meeting. If you aren't able to come to the November meeting, they can be collected at the December one. If there is anyone with transport problems, please let me know.

[Sandratreloar04@btinternet.com](mailto:Sandratreloar04@btinternet.com)

**Sandra Treloar**

## **Croquet and Petanque**

Croquet has finished for the winter, thanks to all who supported it see you in March. Petanque will continue till it gets to cold. In November I will be running new age curling at White Oak indoor bowling club. Numbers will be limited, if you want to have a go, I will be taking names after the meeting.

**William Hammond**

## **GROUP NEWS**

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

A very successful Group Leaders / Helpers social was held on Friday 21st October at the Red Lion in Swanley village. Thanks goes to Penny & Dave Colins for assistance in organising the event and to Jane & co. at the Red Lion for the excellent buffet lunch.

The new indoor bowls group is now up and running and they have held their first meeting at the White Oaks leisure centre.

If you are interested in joining this or any other any of the other activity groups, please see me at the back of the hall at our monthly meeting.

### **London Off the Beaten Track Walk Tuesday 8th November**

This is a circular walk from London Bridge Station around the Leather-market Street, Bermondsey Street and square, Grange Row and Tanner Street area. Although this walk is full it will be repeated in the new year. There will also be new Off the beaten Track walks starting early in 2023.

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

**Alan Hayward**

## News from the Groups

### Art & Craft Group



'makes' from our October meeting.  
They are small milk churns decorated with deco patch and inks and beads

**Pat Buss**



## Birdwatching Group

Wednesday 19th September

After a long pause the birdwatching group took flight over to Sevenoaks Wildlife Reserve. Seven of us met with ideal weather conditions.



We had a slow walk around some of the reserve visiting three of the hides. Much discussion and reference to ID books made it an interesting visit. Birds seen were: tufted duck, coot, cormorant, great crested grebe, black headed gull, wren, grey heron, mallard, robin, blue tit, moorhen, jay, magpie, long tailed tit, Canada goose, greylag goose, swan, shoveler, teal, green sandpiper (kindly shown to us by a lady with a telescope), gadwall, pigeon, carrion crow, little egret, lapwing, Egyptian goose, herring gull.

Bird remaining elusive and not seen kingfisher!

Our next trip will be on Wednesday 16th November at RSPB Rainham Marshes RM19 1SZ. Meet at 10am (traffic permitting) in the cafe, open from 9.30 if hot drinks are wanted. There is no cost for RSPB members. Non-member fee is £6. Parking is free.

If you would like to join us, you will be most welcome. Please contact [anniekk57@gmail.com](mailto:anniekk57@gmail.com)

**Anne Cheale**



## Digging4cakes - Goldington Garden Visit on 28 September 2022



Sixteen members of our gardening group descended upon Goldington House and Gardens, near Ashford, on what was a sunny dry day albeit a little on the cool side. The estate is situated directly off the A20 a short distance west of Ashford.



The original house is thought to have been built circa 1165 with the development of the existing building commencing in 1620, by a Captain Nicholas Toke. The Toke family then continued to reside in the house for several centuries. Unfortunately, the house was closed on the day of our visit so was not included, however we did visit a delightful corner of the house which is used as a restaurant.

The gardens were designed by Reginald Blomfield RA, an author, in 1895 and was his first garden commission. The design layout is of separate 'garden rooms' with varying planting and colour schemes. The results are formal yew trees, hedges and box topiary, a rose garden, several water features and wide lawns all balanced by a walled kitchen garden. From the main pathway there is access to an Italian Garden with access to the walled garden area in which, apart from the original greenhouses, there is a delphinium collection and a large number of plots with vegetables and occasional fruit trees. It was here we saw number







of volunteers busy preparing beds for flowers and produce, which the estate is largely dependent upon.

We concluded a delightful visit after enjoying a very good ploughman's lunch which was followed by a cup of welcome coffee/ tea before we departed.

**Valerie Bamber**

## CLERKENWELL TO BLACKFRIARS

### History of London Group

Members of the London History Group recently travelled to the City for a walk from Clerkenwell to Blackfriars. Our first stopping place was at the Museum of the Order of St. John. It is located at St. John's Gate and tells the story of the Knights Hospitallers. Also known as the Knights of St. John of Jerusalem, the order was founded in the 11<sup>th</sup> century. Their role was to provide care for poor, sick or injured pilgrims who travelled to the Holy Land. The museum has an extensive collection of artefacts spanning a period of over nine hundred years. It is now the headquarters of the St. John's Ambulance Service. The small museum is well worth a visit if you find yourself in this part of London. Entry is free.

We walked through Charterhouse Square stopping to admire the magnificent art deco splendour of the Florin Court apartments. Lunch was taken in a small pub in Cloth Fair, near Smithfield Market. In the afternoon we continued our walk and visited the small church of St. Bartholomew the Less. It is located just inside the gates of St. Barts Hospital, one of London's hidden secrets. Our journey proceeded past the 18<sup>th</sup> century Watch House next to St. Sepulchres Church. It was built to protect the graveyard from robbers who would steal bodies and sell them for medical research.



We carried on passing the Old Bailey, Cutlers Hall, Amen Corner and Carter Lane. The imposing building which was once the school for members of the St. Pauls Cathedral Choir is now a youth hostel. Wardrobe Place is a very small hidden square which was the home of the Royal Wardrobe in the 14<sup>th</sup> century. It was an office and storeroom for ceremonial robes.

Our walk concluded with a stroll through Ireland Yard and Playhouse Yard. Shakespeare's plays were once performed here, and he purchased a house nearby. We eventually reached Blackfriars Station from where a train returned us to Swanley.

**John Baker**



## London Off the Beaten Track Bermondsey Linear Walk

On a bright sunny morning 11th October, around 22 of us set off with John and Alan for a history walk around Rotherhithe, Bermondsey, Shad Thames and finishing at London Bridge. We took in some beautiful views of Tower Bridge and the City skyline. Alan and John pointed out various points of interest on the way, things you would never notice otherwise. Winding in and around the narrow streets of Jacob's Island we took in a mixture of old warehouses and new buildings which have now turned into very "des res." We stopped at a cafe for refreshments before moving on to Tooley Street and London Bridge where our walk of 2.7 miles ended. Well done and thank you both.



Chambers Wharf Jetty Tower Bridge & City



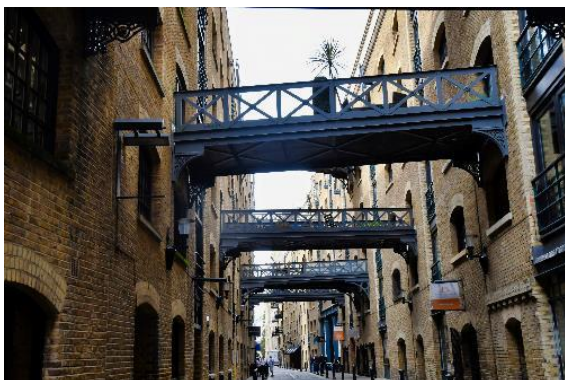
Tempus & Springfields Wharf



Butler Wharf - Barge Gardens – City



St Savior's Dock



Shad Thames



Tooley Street Fire Station

**Mavis Treen**

**“TERVETULOA KIRKKOOMME” \***

We recently repeated our historical walk in the Rotherhithe district of London. Under a grey sky with occasional rain, we walked from Canada Water to the River Thames and followed the footpath to Rotherhithe village. Outside St. Mary’s church we recalled the story of the Mayflower which set sail for Virginia from here in July 1620. The ship’s captain, Christopher Jones, is buried in the graveyard. At lunchtime we arrived at London’s Finnish church - Merimieskirkko. By prior arrangement, the café opened early for us. We received a very warm and friendly welcome and were able to purchase a light lunch. The Finnish cinnamon buns were particularly tasty. The volunteer staff were extremely helpful and were intrigued by the notion of a u3a London History Group. The Welfare Officer, Salla Korteniema, gave us a short talk about the history of the church. We also learned a little bit of Finnish history and the complexities of the Finnish language. The church building is quite modern and was built in 1958. It started in 1875 as a mission to provide help and support for Finns in London. At that time ships from all over the world, especially Scandinavia, came to the busy docks. It has recently undergone considerable refurbishment. In addition to a place of worship, it is home to a café, a shop, and a sauna. Two Finnish Xmas Fairs are planned for late November and early December. We expressed our thanks, said our goodbyes, and walked the short distance to St. Olav’s, the Norwegian church. This older building dates from 1927, but began as a mission for seafarers in the 1860’s. Once again, we were made very welcome. The priest, Dag Magnus Havgar, told us the history of the church and its role today. He pointed out various stained glass windows and statues. He reminded us that, according to legend, Olav and his Vikings were responsible for the destruction of an early London Bridge. Their ships attached ropes and pulled the wooden structure down! It was soon time to make our way to the nearby Rotherhithe Station to begin the journey home. It had proved to be an enjoyable day made very special by our Scandinavian hosts.



\*The title of this report means “Welcome to our church” in Finnish.

**John and Alan**



## **Walking Groups**

Wednesday 16th November 10.00 for 10.15 Meet Christina at Darent Car Park, on the A25 at Westerham TN16 1TD for a walk of between 4.5 to 5 miles on the Squerryes Estate through fields and woods with good views. It can be muddy by the river and there are a couple of steep parts, but it will be mostly moderately flat. All stiles have been replaced with kissing gates. I suggest lunch at “The Grasshopper on the Green” after. Directions: by car: Leave the M25 at junction 5 and continue down the A21 then take the second exit onto the A25 heading towards Westerham. The car park is on the right, just before you reach the town. The charge is £2 for 3 hours and £4 all day By public transport: You can get there on a 246 bus from Bromley or a 401 bus from Sevenoaks. Please contact Christina at christinatyloruk@yahoo.co.uk or 07790 066491 to let her know you are coming and whether you will be staying for lunch.

Thursday 24th November 10.00 for 10.15

Meet Chris at “The Darnley Arms,” The Street, Cobham DA12 3BZ for a walk of about between three and four miles. Directions: By car: Take the A2 coastbound. Go past the “Tollgate” at Gravesend and also the “Inn on the Lake,” on the left. Take the next exit on the left after the “Inn on the Lake” marked for Higham and Cobham. Follow directions to Cobham. Upon reaching Cobham, the “Darnley Arms” is on the right and you can park at the rear. By public transport: Sole Street station is about a mile away. Please contact Chris at christopherchild1944@hotmail.co.uk or 07729 931175 to let him know you are coming and whether you will be

**Clive Rayner**

## Newsletter

The closing date for the next newsletter will be Friday 25<sup>th</sup> November. 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

