



Charity No T1155593

# Newsletter No 120

[Learn Laugh and Live](#)     **January 2023**

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Happy New Year and welcome to our first newsletter of 2023! As usual, you will find inside news items, reports and other information about Swanley and District u3a. This year is an important milestone for us as we celebrate our tenth birthday. Our very first meeting took place in February 2013. We are currently in a strong and sound position with almost 250 members. Consequently, we can look to the future with optimism and confidence. We hope to mark our special birthday with some displays and /or presentations from our interest groups at the March meeting. I must ask you to continue to bring your own mugs and cups to our meetings. This greatly helps our hardworking volunteers who serve the refreshments. I also have to tell you that in

January

refurbishment work will be carried out at the Alexandra Suite. As a result, there will be reduced toilet facilities available at our next meeting.

Our speaker at the January meeting will be Andrew Baker (no relation!). His talk has the intriguing title "Reliving Our Own Story". He will consider many of the social and cultural changes the country has experienced since 1945. I am sure it will be a fascinating journey through our recent shared history. And so ...it happened in January. On the 11th of January 1569 the winning tickets from the first national lottery were drawn at the old St. Pauls Cathedral. The aim was to raise funds to improve England's coastal defences. Tickets had been sold three years previously! The first prize was £5000 paid partly in cash and partly in plate, tapestries, and linen.

I look forward to seeing you at our meeting on the 6th January. We start at 10:30 a.m.

**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 January 6<sup>th</sup> 2023 at**

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

The January talk is entitled "Reliving our own story" – Andrew J. Baker, the talk covers the many social and cultural changes the country has experienced since 1945.

**Upcoming talks over the next 2 months**

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

March: - The story of RAF Biggin Hill - Bob Ogley

**Alan Hamling**

## **Summary Of Activities During the Coming Months**

### **OUTINGS**

I am planning a trip to Cambridge in March with a tour around an eco-mosque, time to look around the city and afternoon cream tea in Grantchester. More details next month.

**Penny Collins.**

### **CREATIVE WRITING**

The Creative Writing group have produced a booklet of our work during the past year with a variety of stories and poems. Copies will be available at the January meeting at £1 a copy.

**Penny Collins.**

### **QUIZ DATES**

I will be running 4 quizzes at the Red Lion this 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.

My quizzes raised £950 for the RNLI in 2022. Many thanks to all who donated.

**AFTERNOON QUIZZES Thursday**

January 5th 2pm.

Thursday January 19th 2pm.

**EVENING QUIZZES**

Wednesday January 11th 7.30pm.

Wednesday January 25th 7.30pm.

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

**David Collins**

### **An invitation to join the U3A Choir and musicians at their Christmas Carol singing.**

Thank you to Sue Scott and the band of singers and to Mark Fittock and the musicians for a very pleasant afternoon singing carols together. It was good to join together to sing all the long remembered traditional carols. At the interval we were treated to mulled wine and delicious mince pies served with cream and very brandied brandy butter. Good job I wasn't driving!! Another happy Christmas event. Thank you to all concerned.

**Sandy Treloar**

## **GROUP NEWS**

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

An updated (November 2022) Swanley Groups Directory is now available on our website and our Group Timetable can be found at the end of the newsletter. At the March 2023 Swanley U3A will be celebrating its 10th birthday and we need your help. We would like to put on some displays of what the various groups do.

Notice boards are available for articles to be attached and tables for displays from craft groups and we also have our own projector for showing photos and slideshows.

So now it is over to you to put your thinking caps on and come up with ideas and the goods for your interest groups to show what we the Swanley U3A have achieved collectively over the past 10yrs.

I will be at the back of the hall at the January meeting so please let me know your ideas and what you require in the way of notice boards tables etc. for your group so we can begin organising the event.

Our off the beaten track London walks will begin again in January but the dates at the present time are still to be confirmed - subject to rail strikes etc.

**Alan Hayward**

## News from the Groups

### Antiques and Collectables Group



We arranged long in advance, that we would meet in Otford to repeat the enjoyable outing experienced in previous years. There were a few ‘Shall we? Can we?’ phone calls because of the snow and ice, but in the end most people decided to go. Our custom is to visit the Antique Emporium and buy up all their best bargains, spending no more than £10. I booked a table at the Hospices of Hope Charity Shop tearoom a few days in advance, as we like to ‘show and tell’ our purchases over coffee and cake.

Unfortunately, the antiques shop was closed! So, we sat down in the café anyway and had a natter and some cake, and then we all went home.

Most of us had a good rummage in the charity shop before we left, and several purchases were made, so the shop was happy, and most of us went home with something.

I was pleased to find some tiny vintage Christmas cake decorations to add to my collection – I don’t bake cakes, and I don’t like Christmas cake, but the figures make a nice display, and remind me of my childhood Christmases.

**Gill Baker**

### **Board and Card Games Group.**

Unfortunately due to the bad weather the December meeting was cancelled. In January we are meeting twice, on Monday 9/1/23 and Monday 23/1/23 at the Howard Centre, 39 Egerton Avenue, Hextable. BR8 7LG. Between 2- 4pm. Bring along any games you wish to play. Everybody welcome. Please email [Joyce.wood@sky.com](mailto:Joyce.wood@sky.com) if you want to join us.

### **Joyce Wood**

#### **Cinderella at the Orchard Theatre**

15 members enjoyed a warming afternoon at this pantomime with icy conditions outside.

There was of course, the traditional Cinderella and her fairy Godmother, the dashing Prince and Dandini, as well as two wonderfully costumed Ugly Sisters, who with their every entrance revealed one outrageous outfit after another. Although they seemed to lack, in my opinion, a connection with the audience, there was one very funny scene when both sisters tried in vain to make the silver slipper fit their feet.

Bobby Davro, as Buttons, was the star of the show and he held it together very ably. The atmosphere was 'lively' as 4 or 5 secondary schools were in, but he won them all over with his experienced and professional talent and his ability, for example, to remember all the countries of the world, or his antics during the alternative 12 days of Christmas involving, among other things, frying pans and buckets-- and 5 toilet rolls, strung together and which were thrown about the theatre, much to the delight of the schoolchildren who loved the slapstick and were eager to join in at any opportunity.

The sets, which included a silver coach rising up over the stage and towards the audience, were very effective, the costumes colourful and the live orchestra excellent. We got involved in the happy atmosphere which at times was hilarious. We had very good seats, just high enough to have a good view of the back of the stage. All in all, an enjoyable experience

**Sandra Treloar**

## Digging 4 Cake Gardening Group



Well, another year of garden visits has come to a close. We have seen some truly beautiful places and met lots of very welcoming owners plus of course plenty of tea and cake.

We had a very successful plant sale back in June and we thank you all for buying our plants. We hope they are doing well for you.

We finished our year with 20 members gathering for Christmas Lunch at The Chequers, Crockenhill. The food was great, there was fun and games and a good time was had by all.

Our next meeting will be on 22nd February at the Wilmington Hall 2pm.  
When we will be making plans for next year and starting all over again.



If you enjoy gardens, tea, and cake, why not come along and join us.

**Sandy English Group Leader**

## **Membership for 2023-2024**

Our new membership year begins at the beginning of April 2023 and runs until March 2024. The cost is remaining at £20. In order to effectively manage the administration of all the renewals I hope we will get; I would be grateful if you could pay your subscription any time between now and the start of April. You can do this as follows:

- a) By cash or cheque one of the monthly meetings. Cheques made payable to Swanley and District U3A.
- b) By post to me at the address below with a cheque (please don't send cash in the post)
- c) Existing members now also have the option of paying their £20 renewal subscription by bank transfer. The bank details are:

Bank: NatWest Account number: 51170027 Sort code: 60 21 10

Account name: Swanley and 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](mailto: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.

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

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

Many thanks!

**Gill Baker**

**Membership Secretary**



## Newsletter

The closing date for the next newsletter will be Friday 27<sup>th</sup> January. Please send articles and pictures to [tscale001@gmail.com](mailto:tscale001@gmail.com) , thank you. *Tony*



### Contact Details

<b>Chair</b>	<b>John Baker</b>	<a href="mailto:johnbaker52@talktalk.net">johnbaker52@talktalk.net</a>
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<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 PM at Howard Centre Hextable
Book Group	Sue Scott & Wendy Keable	2 <sup>nd</sup> Monday Afternoon Swanley Library
Bowls (Indoors)	Bob Mellor & John Underwood	4 <sup>th</sup> Thursday PM at the Whiteoak's Centre
Chess	Terry Bennet	4 <sup>th</sup> Wednesday Morning
Creative Writing	Penny Collins	1 <sup>st</sup> Thursday Morning
Croquet	Bill Hammond	Every Wednesday Afternoon
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 AM 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 PM 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

