



Charity No T1155593

Newsletter No 121

Learn Laugh and Live

February 2023

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Welcome to the latest edition of our monthly newsletter. Inside you will find u3a news and information, and reports from some of our interest/study groups. We can now celebrate our tenth anniversary. Our first meeting took place in February 2013. At our March meeting we wish to acknowledge this special event. We want to provide displays from various groups to showcase the pursuits available to members. The displays might take the form of pictures, photographs, written accounts, memories etc. If your own group would like to participate, please speak to me or any committee member.

An important request! In order that all members can fully enjoy our monthly meetings, we wish to make the first two rows of seats available for those who experience hearing difficulties. This has worked well in the past and we thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Our speaker at the next meeting will be Dr. Helen Fry. She is a distinguished speaker and successful author. She has also contributed to television documentaries. She has visited us previously and we are delighted to welcome her back. The title of her talk is "The Secret Escape Lines of World War 2".

And so... it happened in February. On the 17th February 1863 in Geneva an organisation called the International Committee for Relief to the Wounded was established. It soon changed its name to the Red Cross. Its chosen emblem was a red cross on a white background - the reverse of the Swiss national flag.

Please remember that you can now pay your membership subscription for 2023/24. The cost is still £20. There are several ways to pay. Speak to Gill, our membership secretary, for further details. I look forward to seeing you at our meeting on the 3rd February. We start at 10:30 a.m.

John Baker

[Link to South East Region](#)

Swanley and District u3a Committee Members 2022/2023

			
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
			Vacancy
Tony Scale Committee Member	Clive Rayner Treasurer	Alan Hamling Speaker Organizer	Committee Member

**Swanley and District U3A Monthly Meeting Friday February 3rd, 2023,
at the Alexandra Suite, St Mary's Road, Swanley BR8 7BU**

The February talk is entitled "M19 escape lines and "James Bond" gadgets" - Helen Fry
The talk is about M19 The organization that set up escape routes across Europe, during WWII and the people that risked their lives helping them.

Upcoming talks over the next 3 months

- March:- The story of RAF Biggin Hill - Bob Ogley
- April:- The Baby Boomer Nostalgic Show – Alan Haines
- May:- The AGM and a Quiz by David

Alan Hamling

Summary Of Activities During the Coming Months

OUTINGS

The date has not been confirmed yet for the trip to **Cambridge**. It will include a tour around an **eco-mosque**, time to look around the city and **afternoon cream tea** in **Grantchester**. The likely date will be either March 27th or April 27th and the cost will be approximately £45 including the tour and cream tea.

I am also organising a trip to **Ashdown Forest** on June 19th which will include a tour of the Forest with coffee and lunch. In the afternoon we will visit the Georgian **St Hill Manor** and estate and have a **cream tea** in the fantastic **Monkey Room**. Cost will be approximately £45 but has not been confirmed yet.

I will be taking bookings with payments for these outings next month at the **March** meeting.

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.

AFTERNOON QUIZZES

Tuesday January 31st 2pm.

Thursday February 16th 2pm.

EVENING QUIZZES

Wednesday February 8th 7.30pm.

Wednesday February 22nd 7.30pm.

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

David Collins.

MOTO (MEMBERS ON THEIR OWN) – WEDNESDAY, 1st February, 2023

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. Please turn left and we will be sitting along the back wall at table 78. Ideas for activities would be most welcome. 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.

**STROLLERS WALK IN FEBRUARY – WEDNESDAY, 8th FEBRUARY – for a walk around Danson Park.
Please meet in the Stables car park, which is in the park at – 10.15 a.m. for a 10.30 start.**

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

GROUP NEWS

Group Co-Ordinator News

At the **March 2023** Swanley U3A will be celebrating its **10th birthday**.

This will be an opportunity to display and promote our various group activities.

Tables and Display Notice boards will be available on the day to set up you displays.

To date the Antiques, Art & Craft, Creative Writing, London History & Walks and Photography groups have said they will be putting on some displays.

That still leaves over 20 other groups and we are sure some of you can come up with ideas and the goods to show what we the Swanley U3A have achieved collectively over the past 10yrs.

There will also be a sideshow of “10 years of Swanley U3A 2013-2023”. So if you have photos that you would like included, please speak to me at our next meeting or email them for inclusion.

I will be at the back of the hall at the February 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 organise the event.

We were hoping to start our ‘off the beaten track’ London walks in January but due too logistical reasons (lack of time!) this has been put back to February and 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

This month's offerings did not disappoint.



Audrey recalled how a friend of her mother had a connection with J&J Cash Ltd of Coventry and passed on some interesting items to her. This company (familiar to many of us for their clothing name tapes) made the ribbons for the Victory medal following WW1. They sent swatches to Wardles's who were a silk dyer in Macclesfield. Audrey has a sample sheet of coloured silks plus some ribbons made up ready for the medals. She also has framed a number of silk cards and other items made by J & J Cash – some of these were given to her by another member of our group.



Penny brought along her 'Wobble Head' Kangaroo – this was made of wood by the Spanish firm Goula and dates from the 60's. Penny purchased it on one of our antique group days out. I have some similar Goula figures which I love. They all have a small spring attaching the head to the body to make them wobble.



Tim had several pieces of crested china, mostly souvenirs of different places - there was a small jug from Gravesend, and a commemorative item for William Rufus, who was shot by mistake in the New Forest. We also liked the model of the First World War memorial in Dartford which stands at the entrance to Central Park.

Tony showed us some more of his favourite rocks – a slice of agate which has been polished to show up the lovely colours, a piece of quartz which was pink because of the minerals in the area, and another quartz which came from the Dorset coast. This was a large pebble that had broken open to reveal beautiful sparkling quartz inside, which had been created when water entered the hollow stone.



Tony had the oldest objects by far, as these were probably several thousand years old!

Jenny's lovely plate belonged to her grandmother, and was made by Wedgwood, in an Oriental style, dating from around 1812 – 1929. It is in good condition, despite having been hanging on the wall for some years.



My brass bell weights were recently bought in Otford - they are very tactile, ranging from 4lb to 2oz. They date from around 1880 and would have been used on balance scales in banks, grocers and butchers. They are filled with a lead plug and calibrated to the weight shown on the front. The oldest evidence of balance scales was found in Ancient Egypt on murals dating

from 2600BC, believed to be a system of measurement used to calculate gold yields.



Lastly, John displayed another old dinner plate, this time one of several we have that belonged to his grandmother who lived in Eltham. It was made by Keeling & Co based in Burslem, who operated between 1886 and 1936. The pattern is the Marlborough design and the marks on the bottom indicate a manufacturing date of 1908. His grandmother was in service until she married the gardener in 1915, and John thinks the plates may have been given to the couple by their employer antiques and Collectables Group

Gill Baker

Board and Card Games Group.

Board and Card Games Afternoon.

Will take place on the 13th and 27th February at the Howard Centre, 39 Egerton Avenue, Hextable, Kent.BR8 7LG. Between 2-4 pm.

I have a selection of games but do bring along any games you want to play.

Charge is £3 towards the hire of the room.

Please email Joyce.wood@sky.com

or just turn up on the day if you want to join us.

**Thank you,
Joyce**

Art Appreciation Group

The group decided this month to share 'arty' Christmas cards we had received and find out a little about the artist behind the image. This is getting harder to do – we seem to receive fewer cards as we have got older, for various reasons – higher postage fees, more 'E' versions being used, more people giving to charities instead of sending cards, and so on.

However, we all produced something for the meeting!

Lynne had a card entitled 'Stride for Stride' of two racehorses jumping over a fence. This is by the equestrian painter Jane Braithwaite, who lives in the Yorkshire Dales and has always had an affinity with horses. She was a teacher for 23 years, and then ran a country clothing business. She now spends her time painting cityscapes and portraits, and her main love – horses. She has won awards for her artwork inspired by racing, polo, and eventing.



Christina brought a picture by Rik Wouters, a Belgian artist. Wouters studied sculpture at art school and worked in his father's sculpture workshop. He later went to Paris and studied the Impressionists. He began painting and often used his wife Helene as a model. It is her in the portrait 'Reading Woman'. His work was vibrant and colourful, mainly of still life images and interiors. He was one of the Fauvist group of artists. Unfortunately, in WW1, Wouters was detained in a prisoner of war camp. He was sent home in 1915 due to ill health but died the following year of eye cancer, aged 34.

Tim received a card featuring 'The Procession of the Magi' by Benvenuto Cellini. This image is from the Magi Chapel in Florence. Cellini covered the walls in frescoes for the Medici family, who effectively ruled Florence at that time – around 1459. The east wall features the procession led by Caspar on his white horse and is an interesting portrayal of pomp and secular elegance. Cellini included a number of members of the Medici family and other important dignitaries of the time.





Anna's card was of an image by Jessie Wilcox Smith, who was an American illustrator (1863-1935) who is best known for her illustrations of children's stories and nursery rhymes. One of her most famous projects was to illustrate a 1916 publication of 'The Water Babies' by Charles Kingsley.



Next, we looked at a card belonging to Margaret of a painting by Charles Altamont Doyle, father of Arthur Conan Doyle. It shows people skating on Duddingston Loch near Edinburgh. Charles was employed as a surveyor but to supplement his income he illustrated books and publications. His work was of fairies and fantasy scenes – these became rather macabre as he slipped into depression and alcoholism. He was eventually consigned to an asylum until he died.

I chose a rather lovely, sketched study of an angel, by Giovanni Francesco Barbieri, (1591 – 1666) who was known as Il Guercino – the Squinter, because he was cross-eyed. He was



self-taught but studied under various older artists. He worked on commissions such as the altars and ceilings in the Vatican for Pope Gregory XV. There are many impressive paintings by him, but I rather prefer the simple practice drawings using red 'sanguine' and white chalk plus ink.

John showed the group a collection of home-made cards depicting winter trees which he had received over several years. He claimed not to know who they were by....

Gill Baker



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

PLEASE NOTE THE MARCH MOTO MEETING WILL TAKE PLACE ON WEDNESDAY, 1st MARCH, 2023.

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

Sheila Botterill

STROLLERS WALK IN FEBRUARY – WEDNESDAY, 8th FEBRUARY – for a walk around Danson Park.

Please meet in the Stables car park, which is in the park at – 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.

THE STROLLERS WALK IN MARCH WILL TAKE PLACE ON WEDNESDAY, 8th MARCH. Details will follow next month.

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

Sheila Botterill

Birdwatching Group

Birding visit 18/01/2023

This was the first visit of the year end we had chosen Danson Park as it offers the possibility



(Photograph courtesy of Paule Inness)

of seeing a variety of birds. The park is the largest in the Bexleyheath area covering seventy-eight acres pre-dating the 13th. century and home to several local events through the year.

Six of us met in the Stable car park on a very cold and frosty but sunny morning from where we did a circular walk through a small, wooded area and then on to an open grass area alongside a small stream before accessing a path which took us around the lake.



(photographs of Ring-necked Parakeets and Black Swan courtesy of Valerie Bamber)

During our visit we saw the following birds. Blue Tits, Long Tailed Tits, Pied Wagtail, Magpies, Carrion Crows, Ring Necked Parakeets, Wood Pigeons, Feral Pigeons, Robins, Cormorant, Grey Heron, Black Backed Gull, Coots, Moorhens, Canada geese, Lesser Black Backed Gull, Egyptian Geese, Mute Swan Black Swan, Mallards, Herring Gull and Great Tits.

An enjoyable morning ending with lunch in The Stable for five.

Our next visit will be to Bough Beech on Wednesday 15th. February at 10.15 a.m. for a 10.30 a.m. start. and is open to anyone who would like to join us and be most welcome.

Valerie Bamber

New Kurling and Christmas Dinner

The combined croquet/table tennis/pétanque Christmas dinner at the Bull, which was greatly enjoyed by all.



New Kurling restarted in great fashion on the 16th January, with a perfect 10 being scored by Lynn Rhodes. I'm attaching more photos as proof!



Croquet and Petanque will restart in March and there are a few vacancies if people are interested.

Regards,

Bill Hammond

Walking Group

Friday 10th February 2023 10.00 for 10.15

Meet **Morva** at “**The Pied Bull**”, **High Street, Farningham, DA4 0DG** for a walk along the river towards Horton Kirby, through Farningham Woods and back into the village. **Directions: By car:** Take the A20 away from Swanley. When you reach the Farningham roundabout, by the petrol station, turn right heading towards the village. At the crossroads, turn left and you will find “The Pied Bull” about half a mile up on the right. The pub has a small car park but can also park in the streets nearby. **By public transport:** The nearest railway stations are at Farningham Road and Eynsford, both about 1.5 miles away. Please contact Morva (07811 643960, email morva.henry@icloud.com) to let her know you are coming and to stay whether you will be staying for lunch.

Tuesday 28th February 2023 10.00 for 10.15

Meet **Clive** at “**The George**”, **Taylor's Lane, Trottiscliffe ME19 5DR** for a walk of between three and four miles. **Directions: By car:** Leave the M20 at junction two and when you reach the roundabout at the end of the slip road, turn right and go ahead, down the hill, to the next roundabout. Turn left onto the A227 heading towards Meopham and Gravesend and after 1.75 miles, turn right into Vigo Hill and follow the road through to Trottiscliffe village. The pub is at the far end by the village green. Please contact Clive on 01474 706173/07748 852686 or email me at clivetheilex@gmail.com to let me know that you are coming and whether you will be staying for lunch.

Clive

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 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 24th February. Please send articles and pictures to tscale001@gmail.com , thank you. *Tony*



Contact Details

Chair	John Baker	johnbaker52@talktalk.net
Vice Chair	David Collins	dacollins53@hotmail.com
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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Group Timetable

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 and Art Outdoors	Gill Baker	2 nd & 4 th Tuesday Evening 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 Afternoon Swanley Library
Bowls (Indoors)	Bob Mellor & John Underwood	4 th Thursday Afternoon at the Whiteoak's Centre
Chess	Terry Bennet	4 th Wednesday Morning
Creative Writing	Penny Collins	1 st Thursday Morning
Croquet	Bill Hammond	Every Wednesday Afternoon
Gardening	Sandy English	4 th Wednesday Afternoon
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 or as Notified
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 Tuesday Afternoon Princes Park Dartford
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	Sue Scott	3 rd Tuesday Afternoon
Spanish	Leigh Aldrich	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

