



Newsletter No 123

[Learn Laugh and Live](#)

April 2023

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Welcome to the April edition of our monthly newsletter. Inside you will find the usual news items, u3a information and group reports. There are also some photographs taken at our tenth anniversary meeting in March. I want to thank those groups who put together displays as part of the celebrations. Much appreciated! The answers to the London Quiz can be found in this newsletter. Once again, thank you to those who took part. Prizes for winners will be awarded at the April meeting. It was a shame that local traffic congestion caused the late arrival of our guest speaker, Bob Ogley. He was extremely apologetic and did manage to speak for about thirty minutes. We are making arrangements for him to return and continue the fascinating story of Biggin Hill as soon as we have an available date.

Our list of members continues to grow. The annual subscription is still £20. This equates to about 38p per week. Good value for money! There are several ways to pay. Speak to Gill, our membership secretary, for further details. I need to remind you that the meeting on the 5th May will include our AGM. In addition, Dave will provide a quiz for us. Our speaker at the April meeting will be Alan Haines. He is a popular speaker who is always in demand at local u3a groups and other organisations. His topic is the Baby Boomer Years. This promises to be an entertaining journey through the 1950's and 60's.

PLEASE REMEMBER! Our next meeting is on Friday 14th April. This is to avoid clashing with the Easter weekend.

I look forward to seeing you on the 14th April. We start at 10:30 a.m.

John Baker Chairman

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 April 14th, 2023, at the Alexandra Suite, St Mary's Road, Swanley BR8 7BU

The April talk is entitled "The Baby Boomer Nostalgic Show" – Alan Haines

The talk is about; The memories of the 1950's, 1960's and 1970's and are dredged up in this hilarious reminiscence.

Upcoming talks over the next 3 months

May:- The AGM and a Quiz by David

June:- A Policeman's Lot !!! - Neil Sadler

July:- The Shetland Bus WWII - Gilly Halcrow

Alan Hamling

Summary Of Activities During the Coming Month

GROUP NEWS

Group Co-Ordinator News

Thank you to all the groups that took part in celebrating Swanley's U3A 10th Birthday last month by putting on tabletop displays, supply articles & photos and the 'complete the jigsaw puzzle' was very popular. Your support was very much appreciated.

There are some photos from the event later in the newsletter.

Our Spanish Group now has a new leader Ruth Wilkinson who has taken over from Leigh Aldrich. We would like to thank Leigh for all his hard work leading the group over the last few years and wish Ruth every success in her new role. So, if you want to brush up on your Spanish or learn a new language before jetting off on those summer holidays now could be a good time to sign up.

Now the train strikes appear to be over, hopefully our 'off the beaten track walks' get back on schedule. This month there will be a new walk - Wapping Station to Shadwell Station and details have been sent to all those that have signed up for the walks. The Wapping Station circular walk via Tower Hill done in early March will be repeated in May.

If you want to be added to the distribution list for these walks please sign up at the back of the hall at the main meeting.

Alan Hayward

MOTO (MEMBERS ON THEIR OWN) – WEDNESDAY, 5th APRIL, 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 84. 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. PLEASE NOTE THE APRIL MOTO MEETING WILL TAKE PLACE ON WEDNESDAY, 5th APRIL, 2023 and the MAY MOTO MEETING ON WEDNESDAY, 3rd MAY, 2023.

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

Sheila Botterill

STROLLERS WALK IN APRIL – WEDNESDAY, 12th APRIL – for a walk around Joydens Wood.

Please park in the Birchwood Golf Club car park (first one on the left as you drive in) at 10.15 a.m. for a 10.30 start. STROLLERS WALK IN MAY – WEDNESDAY, 10th MAY – for a walk round Lullingstone and possibly the Lavender fields. Meet in the Lullingstone Visitor Centre carpark 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.

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

Sheila Botterill

OUTINGS

The Cambridge trip on April 27th has proved to be very popular and is now full.

Pick-ups:

8.45 Hextable Village Green Bus Stop. 8.55 Swanley ASDA Warehouse Bus Stop.

Coffee provided on arrival at the Mosque but please either buy lunch in Cambridge or bring a packed lunch.

Afternoon Cream Tea in Grantchester.

We leave Cambridge at 4.45 and should arrive home 6.15 to 6.30.

My contact number on the day will be 07518 750463.

The Ashdown Forest trip on June 19th 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.

There are still a small number of places available. Cost is £54 payable with booking at the April 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 1 in the evening with £3 entry, half the money given in prizes, the other half to the RNLI.

AFTERNOON QUIZZES

Tuesday April 4th 2pm.

Tuesday April 18th 2pm.

EVENING QUIZZES

Wednesday April 12th 7.30pm.

Wednesday April 26th 7.30pm.

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

David Collins.

A TRIP TO PETWORTH HOUSE AND PARK JULY 3RD



This house in Sussex is a National Trust treasure, housing one of the finest collections of art, furniture and sculptures and is set in a beautiful deer park.

JMW Turner was a frequent visitor and drew much inspiration for his many paintings, both in and outside the house. Many of his paintings are on display.

Petworth has been a family home for over 900 years and was a gift by the widow of Henry 1 to her brother. He very soon afterwards married the daughter of the powerful Percy family. The town of Petworth was built after the house and surrounds it. It is a very attractive town, full of antique shops and places to eat.

If you are interested, please sign up at the meeting. The price will depend on the number but will be around £35-40. The group price for NT members is £15.50. Please try to only sign up if you are sure you will be able to go, as I will fix the price on the numbers going and collect cheques at the May Meeting.

Thank you.

Sandra Treloar sandratreloar04@btinternet.com

Swanley and District u3a 10th Anniversary – 2013-2023

Here are some photos taken at the last meeting when we celebrated our 10th Anniversary – thank you to all the groups who contributed information and items for the display! We look forward to the next ten years!

John Baker



LONDON HISTORY QUIZ - THE ANSWERS!

1. Which London theatre was the first to install electric lighting? The Savoy in 1881
 2. Which London station can be entered from both sides of the Thames? Blackfriars
 3. What is the name of London's oldest hospital? St. Barts founded in 1123.
 4. How many steps are there to the top of the Monument? 311
 5. By what name is the Shaftsbury memorial Fountain better known? Eros
 6. How many professional football clubs are there in London? 13
 7. What is the name of London's oldest surviving music hall? Wilton's which opened in 1859
 8. How many people officially died in the Great Fire of London? 8 (Almost certainly not true!)
 9. Which London Underground Line is celebrating its 160th anniversary? Metropolitan Line
 10. What is unusual about 23 and 24 Leinster Gardens in Bayswater? They are false front buildings, not real houses. They were built to conceal an open-air section of the Metropolitan Line railway. Clue – the doors have no letter box!
- Many thanks to all the people who took part. It was a fun quiz, but we do have some winners! Prizes will be awarded at our April monthly meeting.

John Baker

Board and card games afternoon.

The next get together is Monday 24th April, between 2 - 4 pm at the Howard Centre, 39 Egerton Avenue, Hextable, Kent. BR8 7LG

Everybody welcome, I have a selection of games however do bring any along you want to play. We hire the room so there is a charge of £3.

Just come along or email for further details Joyce.wood@sky.com

Thank you,
Joyce

Croquet and Petanque

Hi time to dust off the mallets and boules, Croquet will start on Wednesday April 5th, at 2.30 till 4 pm at the rec behind the council offices. Cost is £3. Petanque will start Tuesday April 11th at Princes park Dartford (Dartford football club). We don't charge for this, but I am asking for a voluntary donation of 50p which will be going to the mayor's charity. This starts at 2pm and goes on till we have had enough. Both are weather permitting.

New age Kurling: this was only supposed to be a stopgap till spring, but it seem to have become popular. If the need is there, I will continue it. The next one is on Monday April 3rd, then 17th.

Bill Hammond

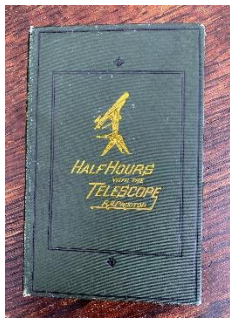
News from the Groups

Antiques and Collectables

This month, Jenny brought along a beautiful ladies' pendant watch on a chain, which was made by Constantin Mathey in the late 19th century. It has lovely patterns and enamelling on the dial. Jenny is not sure where her family acquired it. She said a jeweller offered her £40 for it a few years ago, but we all felt it is probably worth more than that.



Wendy showed us a collection of old card games from the 1920s and 30s. The first was called Precedence and was dedicated to the Right Honourable James Lowther. Lowther was Speaker in the House of Commons from 1905 to 1921, the longest serving speaker of the 20th century. He famously said: 'There are three golden rules for Parliamentary speakers: Stand up. Speak up. Shut up.' The game is a form of solitaire. The second game, Progress, published by Castell, was beautifully illustrated with scenes from A Pilgrim's Progress. The third game, Kargo, (or Car Golf), also by Castell, promised to 'bring to your card table all the excitement of the golf course.' It claimed to be 'the most thrilling game in years.'



Tony purchased his book 'Half Hours with the Telescope' by RA Proctor when he was ten years old, from a second-hand bookshop in Orpington. It was published in 1907 and is full of very detailed charts and information about stars and planets. Tony was inspired by this to take his Star Man badge as a boy scout in the 50s and has held an interest in space ever since.

Tony also brought along a 1953 annual from the Motorcycle magazine – Tony used to race motorbikes, and he had forgotten that a photo of himself from his younger days was tucked inside the book.



Audrey bought a lovely album of floral postcards on her last trip to the Detling Antique fair. This was full of 80 beautiful photographs of flowers and flowering plants taken from 1920-1940 by Swiss photographer Thor E Gyger. The colours are extremely vivid even today.



Judy has a silver cup that she found in her mother’s possessions, but there is no information about the connection with the family. It is a trophy awarded to an E Watson for coming first in a Fives tournament at Rugby School in 1884. Fives was a game played in public schools; it was a handball game, within a walled court, with a hard ball similar in size to a golf ball. It is still played today.

Our newest member Sue brought a fascinating object along – a ceramic plaque which depicted King Ludwig 111. She told us that Rear Admiral Hermann Ludwig von Reuter was responsible for handing over



the defeated German fleet to the British in Scapa Flow in 1919 but instead controversially scuttled the ships. Later, in 1930 the battleship SMS Von de Tann was raised for metal salvage and towed to Rosyth to be scrapped. The plaque was brought up from the officers’ wardroom and given to Sue’s father who was a naval tailor. It doesn’t look like it spent so long under water!

John and I have recently been ‘mudlarking’ on the foreshore of the Thames underneath the Millennium Bridge. We joined a group led by the Thames Explorer Trust, for a talk and then an hour of exploration. The Thames is a rich source of history, and there is still a lot of evidence from previous centuries. You can only mudlark if you have a license, and you are not allowed to dig. In the past, people threw all discarded items into the river, and you can see fragments of different kinds of pottery, some of which can be as early as 16th century. There are plenty of Tudor roof tiles, animal bones, old glass fragments, nails, and oyster shells. Oysters were an important food source for the Victorian working class.



There are also many fragments of clay pipes – tobacco was introduced to Tudor England by Sir Walter Rayleigh. To start with, pipes were very small as tobacco was so expensive, but these increased in size as imports expanded. Many were prefilled, as single use smokes, and were discarded afterwards. The earliest were plain and undecorated, but by the mid-18th century, they were more ornate, made using moulds and were used as advertisements or political messages. There were over 1000 clay pipe makers in London by the 18th century, and they continued to flourish until the 20th century when cigarettes became fashionable. Thousands of pipe stems and bowls can still be seen along the Thames.



Gill Baker

Birdwatching Group Wednesday 15th March



(Photo courtesy Paule Inness)



(Sketch courtesy Paule Inness)

Five group members met at Riverside Country Park, near Gillingham, on a dry but breezy morning. As soon as we saw the very low tide, we realised that we would not see many wading birds. They prefer to be at the water's edge foraging in the mud. The surrounding trees and scrubland were, unfortunately, quiet too.

We did have a very pleasant walk around the area and an excellent social catch up.

Birds that we did see were: Black headed gull, Red shank, Oyster catcher, Teal, Bar tailed and Black tailed godwit, Magpie, Carrion crow, Feral pigeon, Chaffinch, Robin, Shelduck, Blackbird, Wren.

Our next Birdwatching Group meeting will be local at Sevenoaks Nature Reserve, Bradbourne Vale Road, TN13 3DH. Wednesday 19th April, to meet at 10.15 for 10.30.

Car parking is £2.50 via payment machine that is cards only.

The website is currently showing that facilities and visitor centre are closed on Wednesdays.

Please feel free to come along and join our small, friendly group.

Annie Cheale

anniekk57@gmail.com

'Off The Beaten Track' Walk around Wapping.



(Town of Ramsgate)

On a very cold, but thankfully, dry day, 24 members enjoyed a walk around the sights of Wapping. We were led by Alan and John who did their level best to hammer some facts into our poor old brains. They had done a great deal of research so I hope some of the information will be retained.



(St Johns School)

After an easy train journey via Denmark Hill, we were in Wapping amongst the old wharves, now



(Old meets new at the Tower)

miraculously transformed into £million plus apartments. We passed several examples of old Waterman's stairs including King Henry's Stairs (previously named Execution Dock), St John's School founded 1695 and some interesting old pubs that were still managing to survive. We continued our walk around St Katherine's Dock, around the perimeter of the Tower, Hermitage Basin and to the Captain Kidd pub for an excellent lunch.



(Captain Kidd Pub)

An easy walk with plenty of interesting landmarks, Thank you Alan and John.

Judy Brickell

Gardening Group March visit to a Spring Garden in Faversham

(Photos by Phil Saunders)



Our first outing of the year was on Wednesday 22nd March , when 17 members of the Digging 4 Cake gardening group ventured out in the rain to Copton Ash , Faversham.

This is a private garden that takes part in the National Garden Scheme.

Tim , the owner told us that his parents had owned the house in the 1970's and his father's passion was fruit trees, so the whole 1.5 acres was a cherry orchard . In the 1990's when Tim and Gillian , his wife, took over they decided to gradually make it back into a garden. There are now very few cherry trees left.



It is mainly a Spring garden with lots of bulbs, hellebores, and blossom trees.



They have made grass paths between the flower beds which meanders round. They also propagate many plants for sale.

The hellebores were plentiful and of many varieties. Gillian was experimenting with trying to capture the seeds to grow on to reproduce an exact clone of the parent plant. She was doing this by tying bags over the flowers , hoping that the bees hadn't got to them first . After our tour round we enjoyed our all-important tea and homemade cake, which was delicious!



Sue Saunders

Walking Group

Thursday 13th April 10.00 for 10.15

Meet **Clive** at the **public car park, High Street, Kemsing TN15 6NB** for a flat walk of between three and four miles that goes south towards Kemsing station and Noah's Ark. **Directions:**
By car: From the Farningham roundabout, take the A20 away from London. A short way down, turn right onto the A225 and follow it through Eynsford and along the edge of Shoreham. When it turns right at the edge of Otford, turn left into the Pilgrims Way, and follow it for about a mile, eventually turning right into Childsbridge Lane (signposted for Seal). At the next crossroads a short way down, turn left into West End and follow it to reach the public car park on the left. **By public transport:** You can get a 431 or 432 bus from Otford station to Kemsing. Please contact Clive (01474 706173 or email clivetheilex@gmail.com) to let him know you are coming and say whether you will be staying for lunch at "The Bell" after.

Wednesday 26th April 10.00 for 10.15

Meet **Morva** at **Filston Lane car park, Shoreham, TN14 7SR** for a walk of between four and five miles which will include one climb up the hill to the cross by the woods. The rest of the walk is flat or downhill and we will pass through the golf course back towards Shoreham for lunch at "The Kings Arms" after. **Directions: by car:** Take the A20 to Farningham then turn right on the A225. Continue through Eynsford to Shoreham. Turn right adjacent to the station and continue under the railway bridge for a short distance to the village. Cross the bridge over the River Darent, carry on to the end of the road and turn left at the T-junction to find the public car park. **By public transport:** Go to Shoreham station and walk through the village to the car park. 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.

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.

If you have not yet renewed for this April, please can you do so as soon as possible, to ensure that you continue to receive the newsletter and the u3a magazine.

You can do this as follows:

- a) By cash or cheque at one of the monthly meetings. **Cheques made payable to Swanley and District U3A please.**
- b) By post to me at the address below with a cheque (please don't send cash in the post)
- c) You now also have the option of paying 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.

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

closing date for the next newsletter will be Friday 28th April. Please send articles and pictures to tscale001@gmail.com , thank you. Tony

The



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	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		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

