



Newsletter No 124

Learn Laugh and Live

May 2023

In this Issue

Charity No T1155593

Monthly Meeting	2
Annual General Meeting	3
Summary Of Activities	3
Group Co-Ordinators Review	3
News from the Groups	7-13
Membership Information	14
Newsletter Info / Contacts	15
Groups Timetable	16

Welcome to the May edition of the Swanley and District u3a newsletter. You will have previously heard me say that it is our main channel of communication with members and contains a variety of news and information. I urge everyone to read it! I am pleased and proud that we are able to produce a newsletter each month. This is certainly not the case with many u3a groups in Kent.

Our next meeting will be on the 5th May at the Alexandra Suite and will include our Annual General Meeting. The AGM provides an opportunity to report and reflect on the previous twelve months, elect our committee, and discuss any issues relevant to our organisation. I hope you will be able to attend. In addition, Dave Collins will be presenting one of his

popular quizzes. I need to ask you to continue to bring your own mugs/cups to the meeting. Our volunteers who serve the tea and coffee do a tremendous job, but they no longer have access to a dishwasher. Your co-operation with this request will make life considerably easier for the team who serve the refreshments. A quick reminder! If you have not already paid, please be aware that annual subscriptions are now due. Speak to Gill, our membership secretary, for information on how to pay.

I look forward to seeing you all on Friday the 5th May. We start at 10:30 a.m.

John Baker Chairman

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 Committee Members 2022/2023

Swanley and District U3A Monthly Meeting Friday May 5th, 2023, at the Alexandra Suite, St Mary's Road, Swanley BR8 7BU

The AGM and a Quiz by David

Upcoming talks over the next 3 months.

- June:- A Policeman's Lot !!! Neil Sadler
- July:- The Shetland Bus WWII Gilly Halcrow

August:-

Alan Hamling

Swanley & District U3A AGM Friday 5th May 2023, 10.00am, at the Alexandra Suite, St Marys Road, Swanley BR8 7BU

A notice of our intention to hold the AGM was included in our March newsletter earlier this year.

We will be holding the 2023 AGM on Friday 5th May at 10.00 am.

Please find the following documents attached to the newsletter for your consideration:

- 1. Last year's minutes of the AGM held on 6th May 2022.
- 2. The agenda for the meeting on the 5^{th} May 2023; and
- 3. A Statement of Income & Expenditure for the year ended 1st April 2023.

Please bring these copies to the AGM on Friday 5th May 2023 for reference during the meeting.

I would be grateful if you could forward any questions you may have to Carol Willingham at carolw8920@gmail.com by no later than 4.00pm on Thursday 4th May 2023. Carol Willingham

Business Secretary

Summary Of Activities During the Coming Month (s)

PETWORTH HOUSE AND PARK -JULY 3rd

There are still some places available for this trip. 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 park. JMW Turner was a frequent visitor and drew much inspiration for his paintings, many of which 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, making it easily accessible from the house. It is a very attractive town, full of antique shops and places to eat. Even if you've been before, there is much you may have missed among its many treasures on display. We aim to leave about 9am to get there for coffee at about 10:30am and leave about 3:45pm. The journey takes approx. an hour and a half. Pickups will be at Hextable and Swanley (times in the June newsletter) You are free to bring a picnic, have lunch in the café or go into the town. Price includes coach travel and a reduced NT entry. **The cost is £45 Please bring cheque books to the May or June meeting**. *I am opening this to friends and partners who may not be u3a members*.

It would help to quicken the queue if you could print your name and email address on a slip of paper and pickup point 'S or H.' If you are travelling alone, I will also need your ICE contact number. (ICE = in case of emergency)

Do hope you are able to join us. It should be a pleasant day trip in July. **Sandra** sandratreloar04@btinternet.com

Board and Card Games Afternoon.

The next get together is Monday 22nd May, 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 games along that 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

Joyce Wood

MOTO (MEMBERS ON THEIR OWN) – WEDNESDAY, 3RD MAY 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. PLEASE NOTE: A CHANGE OF VENUE for THE JUNE MOTO MEETING ON WEDNESDAY, 7th JUNE TO the café in the BIRCHWOOD GOLF CLUB (off Birchwood Drive). We will be sitting in the area with the armchairs near the entrance. Parking is free. Notices regarding cameras are for security reasons and not for parking fees.

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

STROLLERS WALK IN APRIL – WEDNESDAY, 10th MAY – for a walk around Lullingstone and possibly the lavender fields. Please park in the Lullingstone Visitor car park at 10.15 a.m. for a 10.30 start.

STROLLERS WALK IN JUNE – WEDNESDAY, 14th JUNE – for a walk round Hall Place Grounds and Gardens, Bexley and afterwards in the Tea Rooms. The Owl Experience is open for anyone who would like to try it (£4). Please meet at the main entrance 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: <u>sheila.derek@btinternet.com</u> Sheila Botterill

OUTINGS

CAMBRIDGE OUTING- April 27th

We had a heart-stopping moment when the coach was late and we discovered the driver was ill, but fortunately all was not lost as he had arranged a replacement coach and driver. The coach duly arrived, and we set off to pick up our friendly tour guide Alex.



Our first stop was to have coffee and biscuits at the Cambridge Central Mosque. It had only opened in 2019 and then almost immediately had to close for a time during the Covid lockdowns. The Mosque was designed by David Marks, who also designed the Treetop Walkway in Kew Gardens.

The Mosque was built to house many new worshippers but also to welcome the whole community as well as visitors from home and abroad. Its great appeal is in its eco-friendly building. We were welcomed by the sight of a wonderful garden full of colourful tulips and seating for anyone choosing to rest there. Then we saw the breath-taking

building with huge tree sculptures holding up the roof and windows to let in as much light as possible. Gold calligraphy around the walls shows prayers from the Koran and there is an amazing marble floor





with octagonal and other shapes making a remarkable pattern. There are six clocks on the wall. The one in the middle tells the time and the other five surrounding clocks give the times of the five daily prayers. Before praying, the worshippers must

wash their faces, hands, and feet. The ablution rooms are scrupulously clean and modern with foot showers and toilets that flush themselves. The Prayer Hall can hold up to 1000 people and the design of the tree sculptures symbolises the four Imams of Sunni Islam.

After the visit, we went into the centre of Cambridge to have lunch. We walked past some of the University Colleges including the oldest, Peterhouse, and some of us were amused to watch the varying skills of the punters on the River Cam. There was also time to visit the famous Fitzwilliam Museum.

After lunch, the coach took us through the village of Grantchester, where the TV series Grantchester was filmed. We were told that Grantchester was renowned for skinny-dipping and that famous poets who lived there, Lord Byron and Rupert Brooke, both indulged in this pursuit. Apparently, the war poet Rupert Brooke loved and was loved by men and women alike. We passed the house of another famous resident, Jeffrey Archer, who has a statue of Brooke in his garden.

We finished a most enjoyable tour in a beautiful garden conservatory where we were served afternoon tea.

Penny and David Collins.

OUTINGS

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 May 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 May 2nd 2pm. Tuesday May 16th 2pm. EVENING QUIZZES Wednesday May 10th 7.30pm. Wednesday May 24th 7.30pm.

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

David Collins.

NEW MEMBERS

We are organising a meeting for new members at the Red Lion in Swanley Village at 12.30pm on Wednesday May 17th. Light refreshments will be provided.

This is an opportunity to meet other new members and committee members and find out more of what our u3a has to offer. If you have joined us since October 2022 and have not received an invitation, please speak to either of us at the May meeting or send an e mail to dacollins53@hotmail.co.uk if you would like to attend.

David and Penny

Group News

Antiques and Collectables group.

It still surprises me that our group members manage to bring along intriguing items to every meeting – always a diverse range of topics, and always with an interesting story or two to tell.

This month, although contributions included three collections of newspapers, the subjects could not have been more different!



Firstly, John showed us his recent purchases of copies of the New Musical Express (NME), from 1971 – 1972. John regularly bought this as a weekly publication in the 70s (cost 5p). The paper ran from 1952 to 2018, and then continued online. Originally issued with the title 'The Accordion Times and Musical Express', in 1952 it changed hands and was relaunched as the NME and was produced in standard newsprint. Every week it included a singles chart of the top 12 selling singles (an unscientific process of a few phone calls to

record shops). The first number one it featured was 'Here in my Heart' by Al Martino.

Next, Audrey passed round three publications her family obtained at the time of Queen Elizabeth's coronation in June 1953. These are in excellent condition and detail the events of the day. Apparently, 27 million people watched the ceremony on TV, for many this was the first event they saw broadcast. A further 11 million listened on the radio, and around 3 million lined the streets. 8251 were invited to the ceremony, representing 129 nations and territories.



Afterwards they feasted on Coronation Chicken, something that was specially devised to feed foreign guests.



Then Tony displayed some copies of The War Papers from 1930s and 40s. These were published in 1977 as re-issues, and Tony purchased them from a place in Brentwood. The articles and advertisements were fascinating to read. In one, there was a large notice of information about new ration books that were being issued – people were required to wait for announcements and attend only at the correct time on the correct date at the correct place. It sounded similar to our recent instructions for receiving Covid jabs.



Wendy also had an item purchased at Brentwood – a small Edwardian silver-plated match holder. This was dated around 1901 and is in the style of a mini book. It is double hinged and has a section for matches, and another for stamps. There is a match striker on one side and a small ring to attach it to a fob, plus a name plate on the front. A pretty thing.



Judy had brought along another pretty item – a brass sovereign case

from the late 19th century. This was designed to look like a watch to deter thieves and could be attached to a chain around the neck. Unfortunately, there were no sovereigns inside!



Anna showed us some lovely old family portrait photos that she had inherited through her family. Anna had no information about who the individuals were, which was a shame. It highlighted the importance of labelling photos and keeping records for future generations to see when it is too late to speak to the subjects themselves.

My contribution was an art deco knife sharpener, with a Bakelite handle. I bought this from a shop in Suffolk, where the dealer didn't

know what it was until I told her. It was made by Spong – the same company that became famous for the mincing machines that you attached to your table. The factory was founded in 1856 by James Spong, who was an inventor –e.g. walking sticks with handles that turned into tobacco pipes, bean



slicers, revolving lamps, burglar alarms, whisks, bread slicers, ice cream freezers, a portable fire escape, a portable shower, and knife sharpeners! The mincer was made in various sizes, for households, institutions, and butchers. The largest was designed for the processing of whale meat!

Gill Baker

Digging4cake Gardening Group Visit to Pashley Manor Tulip Festival 26 April 2023



Did you know that tulips originated as a wildflower in the Middle East, and that a Sultan in the Ottoman Ages brought them to Turkey where they must have crept into Europe and on to our

shores? After researching information about these bulbs, 10 members from the Gardening Group took much pleasure in admiring the huge displays and varieties of these beautiful specimen species at Pashley Manor Gardens during their famous Tulip Festival. There were stunning displays of tulips including miniature pinks, two tone orange and glorious red parrot tulips all around the Gardens which gave us inspiration to try new varieties in our own gardens next autumn; some members were even tempted to order bulbs for planting later this year, I hope she has warned her gardener when the somewhat large order arrives!!

We all had a great time admiring not only the bright cheerful flowers at Pashley, but enjoyed the many differing statues around the grounds as well as admiring the original Tudor front of the House which was owned by Anne Boleyn's great grandfather and is now currently in the safe hands of the Sellick family who are still deeply involved in its day to day running. We will be tempted to return for other special days at Pashley this year including their Rose Week in June and Craft Show in August. Of course, members of our Digging for Cake group rounded off their day with delicious homemade refreshments - the pavlova was to die for!

(photos courtesy of Phil Saunders)



(These youngsters always on their mobile phones, what are they like!)

Liz Davies

Birdwatching Group Wednesday 19th April at Sevenoaks Nature Reserve, Bradbourne Vale Road, TN13 3DH

Seven of us met at the Sevenoaks Nature Reserve on a dry, sunny but cold morning with Spring flowers in evidence. The reserve offers several 'lakes' of varying sizes with good paths and hides. One particular lake has some trees on which herons have for some years built their nests and this year was no exception although there were less of them. From the path one was able to see one or two young ones as their heads showed above the nest rim.







(Group Photo courtesy Paule Inness)

(Bird & Plant photos courtesy Tony Scale)



Birds seen were Robin, Blackcap, Heron, Moorhen, Teal, Chiffchaff, Blackbird, Jay, Great tit, A pair of Swans, Tufted duck, Lapwing, Cormorant, Shelduck, Canada goose, Pied wagtail, Greylag goose, Great crested grebe, Woodpigeon, A pair of Coots with three young making a total of 20 species.





The next visit is planned for Elmley Nature Reserve on Wednesday, 17th. May meeting at 10a.m. for a 10.15a.m. start.

The address is Elmley Nature Reserve, 1Kings Hill Cottages, Minster on Sea, Sheerness. ME12 All members wishing to join us will be welcome.

Valerie Bamber



Theatre Group - Sandra Treloar

'The Shawshank Redemption' Orchard Theatre12th April 2:30pm

Having neither watched the film nor read the book, I was delighted that my first experience of this intense and challenging story was via the excellent production at the Orchard Theatre. The play deals with corruption and brutality in the prison system and as such might have been a truly uncomfortable watch. However live theatre does not allow for an unhealthy dwelling on the excesses of abusive behaviour that are possible in a book or on a film. We knew exactly what was happening to the protagonist but were spared the gory detail thanks to very good use of stagecraft and some excellent acting which allowed us to be challenged by the horror ,but also inspired by the kindness present in the relationships between the prisoners.

Well done to all concerned and a big thanks to Sandy for organising such a worthwhile afternoon out.

Gill Heath

Walking Group

Wednesday 17th May 2023 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 <u>christinatyleruk@yahoo.co.uk</u> or 07790 066491 to let her know you are coming and whether you will be staying for lunch.

Thursday 25th May 10.00 for 10.15

Meet Mark at "The Black Horse" pub Tumblefield Road Stansted TN15 7PR for a four mile walk through the fields and woods around some of the more remote areas on the North Downs. There will be some hills and, if we are lucky, still lots of bluebells. Directions: By car: From the Farningham roundabout, take the A20 away from London for about 4.5 miles. After going under the M20 flyover, take the second turning left into Ash Lane, go ahead for about half a mile then take the first turning right into Hatham Green Lane. Go ahead for about half a mile when you will feed into Plaxdale Green Road. Keep going ahead along it to find Tumblefield Road about a quarter of a mile down on the right by the church. You will see the pub as you turn right. Please contact Mark at <u>fittock75@gmail.com</u> or 01322 665026 to let him know you are coming and to let him know if you will be staying for lunch.

Clive Rayner

Shoreham/Otford Walk 26 April

Just a couple of pictures from the walk and the Pub afterwards.





With best wishes to All

Morva Henry

WINE GROUP

The Wine Group recently held a meeting before its annual summer break. In a change to our normal routine, this time members were invited to bring a bottle to share with colleagues. Normally, the wines are selected and acquired by Bob, our group leader. We resolved to do things slightly differently.



We assembled with a variety of red and white wines from around the world - Greece, France, Chile, Portugal, Italy, and Spain. Each member gave a brief introduction to the wine they had brought to the meeting and then the tasting commenced! A Greek Assyrtiko started the proceedings in fine style. It was followed by a Chilean Chardonnay and a French Chablis. Perfect drinking to accompany an alfresco meal on a summer's day (or a grey Wednesday evening in Hextable!)

The reds which followed began with Porta 6, a little-known wine from Portugal. It was followed by two very good Chiantis from Italy. The evening concluded with a truly excellent Faustino 1 Rioja from Spain.

Most of the wines were locally sourced from supermarkets or online retailers. Our thanks go to Bob who looks after us and guides us so well. We have all greatly increased our knowledge of wines and enjoyed the opportunity to sample different styles and flavours. We look forward to revisiting the world of wine in September to further increase our knowledge and appreciation.

John Baker

Membership for 2023-2024 – LAST REMINDER ABOUT RENEWALS

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. Please note that the membership list will be revised after the May meeting, and anyone who has not paid their renewal fee will be removed from the list. You will be able to re-join at a later date if you wish. Please contact me if you want to discuss this with me.

You can pay 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

The closing date for the next newsletter will be Friday 26th May. Please send articles and pictures to <u>tscale001@gmail.com</u>, thank you. **7***ony*



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 Assistant Co-ordinator	Alan Hayward David Collins	<u>achayward2512@yahoo.co.uk</u> <u>dacollins53@hotmail.co.uk</u>	

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

The views and opinions expressed in this newsletter are of a general nature and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of Swanley and District U3A or any part of the University of the Third Age unless specifically stated. All rights reserved, any reproduction without permission is prohibited.

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	1st 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	4th Wednesday Morning
Creative Writing	Penny Collins	1 st Thursday Morning
Croquet	Bill Hammond	Every Wednesday Afternoon
Gardening	Sandy English	4th Wednesday Afternoon
History Modern	Jackie Griffiths	4th 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	1st 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
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

Group Timetable

Newsletter No: 124 May 2023