



Newsletter No 126

Learn Laugh and Live

July 2023

In this Issue

Monthly Meeting	2
Summary Of Activities	3
Quiz dates and outings	7
News from the Groups	8-13
Newsletter Info / Contacts	14
Groups Timetable	15

Welcome to our newsletter for the month of July. Inside you will find news items, general information, and reports from some of our interest groups. Many thanks to our Gardening Group for the splendid plant sale they arranged at our last meeting. I hope lots of you purchased something for your summer garden.

We continue our drive to increase our membership. Ideally, we would like to reach the total of three hundred which we had before the arrival of the pandemic. We recently acquired some new information leaflets. I would urge you to take one and pass it on to a friend. In fact, "Bring A Friend" is going to be our strategy in the coming weeks. Please join in and help us in our membership campaign!

A couple of reminders. Once again, I need to ask you to bring your own mugs/cups to the monthly meeting. This greatly assists our volunteers who prepare and serve the refreshments. Secondly, please remember to tap in your car registration at the machine in the Alexandra Suite reception. This will avoid any parking charges.

The speaker at our next meeting will be Gilly Halcrow. The title of her talk is "The Shetland Bus". It tells the story of the courageous Norwegian sailors and the brave men and women of the SOE who maintained links between occupied Norway and Britain during World War 2. Not only did they need to evade capture by Nazi forces, but they also faced sub-Arctic storms in the North Sea. It promises to be a fascinating talk.

Finally, many thanks to Penny for organising a most enjoyable trip to Ashdown Forest. It was a very rewarding day which culminated with a visit to Saint Hill Manor.

I look forward to seeing you all on Friday 7th July. We start at 10:30 a.m.

John Baker Chairman

Swanley and District u3a Committee Members 2023/2024

			
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
			
Tony Scale Committee Member	Clive Rayner Treasurer	Alan Hamling Speaker Organizer	Jacky Taylor Publicity Secretary

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

The July talk is entitled "The Shetland Bus WWII" -Gilly Halcrow

'This is the story of the brave Norwegian sailors, organised by the SOE, in their fishing boats who kept links open between occupied Norway and Britain during WWII, taking agents in with supplies for the resistance and escaping refugees out.'

Upcoming talks over the next 3 months.

August:- [The red arrows](#) Smoke and Go – Guy Bartlett
 September:- From one to a thousand - Richard P Winston
 October:- The 60's a decade of change - Paul Robbins

Alan Hamling

Summary Of Activities During the Coming Month (s)

MOTO (MEMBERS ON THEIR OWN) – WEDNESDAY, 5th JULY 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 Café at the Birchwood Golf Club (off Birchwood Drive).

We will be sitting inside the restaurant in the armchairs. Parking is free. Notices regarding cameras are for security reasons and not for parking fees. 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.

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

Sheila Botterill

STROLLERS WALK IN JUNE – WEDNESDAY, 12th JULY – For a walk to the five arches through Cray Meadows and afterwards for a coffee/tea at the Farm Shop. Meet in Water Lane off North Cray Road, at 10.15 a.m. for a 10.30 start.

STROLLERS WALK IN AUGUST WILL TAKE PLACE ON 9 TH AUGUST- VENUE TO BE ADVISED.

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

Bring a Friend Friday

We invite you to bring a friend(s) who is not a member of our group to join our next meeting on 7th July. They can find out more about us and listen to the speaker, Guy Bartlett, whose topic is "Red Arrows - smoke and go". Your friend(s) are welcome to complete an application form at the meeting or they can take a form away to complete at their leisure, if they decide to become a member.

The usual refreshments will be available after the meeting to give you and your friend(s) time to chat to the committee and other members.

Jacky Taylor Publicity Secretary

Board and card games afternoon.

The next get together is Monday 24th July 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

Outings and Trips

Ashdown Forest and Saint Hill Manor on June 19th

Members of our u3a travelled by coach for a trip to Ashdown Forest including a visit to Saint Hill Manor. Our first stop was in East Grinstead to pick up Liz, our City and Village guide. She wasted no time in pointing out the old half-timbered buildings along the High Street with their strangely tiled roofs. We continued our journey through Forest Row to Heaven Farm. A welcome visit here allowed us a quick break for tea and coffee. The rest of the morning was spent touring Ashdown Forest. I have to admit that I had not realised how large the area is. Located between the North and South Downs (we could see both in the distance), it comprises woodland, heath, agricultural



land and several attractive villages. Our guide was able to entertain and inform us with historical anecdotes and details of the local wildlife. Perhaps my favourite village was Hartfield. It was once the home of AA. Milne and his son, Christopher Robin. Not surprisingly, it was the inspiration for all of the much loved Winnie the Pooh stories. We paused at the strangely named “Friends Clump” to stretch our legs and admire the views. We returned to Heaven Farm for a ploughman’s lunch and a glass of wine (well, for some of us, anyway!)



In the afternoon we visited Saint Hill Manor. We first hear of it in the 16th century when it was called Saynt Hill. The splendid manor house was initially built in 1733 by the Crawford family. It was rebuilt in its present form in 1792 – a fine example of the late Georgian style, using local Sussex sandstone. The house has had several notable owners over the years – Dr. Crookshank, Margaret Biddle (wife of the US Ambassador), the Maharajah of Jaipur and L. Ron Hubbard. The latter lived here and completely refurnished the house in the 1960’s. He is best remembered as a prolific author, explorer, educator, photographer and the founder of the Scientology religion. Our local guides gave us a tour of the house. We admired the

furniture and paintings. In his study we even listened to the sounds of a very early mellotron. His desk was just as he left it in 1967 before travelling to the USA. He gave instructions not to move anything stating that he would return. He never did. The visit ended with a cream tea in the bizarrely decorated "monkey room". There was time to explore the grounds – lots of roses and a large lake – before or return journey to Swanley. Many thanks to Penny for organising this fascinating and enjoyable day.

John Baker

Petworth House 3rd July

Pick-ups

8:50am Hextable bus stop opposite St David's Rd

9:00am Swanley bus stop behind Asda (Bartholomew Way)

NEW TRIP

"Sussex Coastal Curios" Thursday, 28th September

This is a City and Village trip with a very knowledgeable Blue-Badge guide.

The day is both entertaining and easy on the feet, with morning coffee, plus a one course lunch. The day begins in Bramber, one of the prettiest villages in West Sussex where we have coffee and biscuits.

On then to Lancing College where our guide will show us the magnificent Gothic chapel, the heart of the college, whose pupils included Evelyn Waugh, Tom Sharp, and Sir Tim Rice.

We go back to Bramber for a chicken or vegetarian meal.

(Desserts and drinks are not included)

In genteel Goring we find the astonishing ceiling of the Catholic Church, where a local parishioner, over 5 years, has created a unique reproduction of Michelangelo's Sistine chapel.

Lastly, we drive to Worthing for time to buy refreshments and have a walk along the front.

Price is £50 to include coach, the services of a guide, morning coffee and a one course lunch.

If this interests you, please sign up at the July meeting. You can pay at the July or August meeting. Thank you.

Sandra Treloar

Message to Swanley U3A members.

You are invited to join the **Modern History Group**, which meets monthly on Zoom. Whilst it is good to meet face to face, Zoom is easy to use and makes it convenient to show slides, films etc.

The group is coordinated by Jackie Griffiths, and we discuss different topics for each meeting. Jackie has led the discussion for many topics, but other group members have also presented their own topics, and this has proved very successful and absorbing.

The subjects that we have already discussed are:

- The Spanish Civil War
- The Cold War
- Appeasement running up to World War 2
- Indian independence and partition
- The Cuban Missile Crisis
- The invasion and division of Cyprus
- The Siege of Gibraltar
- Relocation of communities from the Outports and Islands to mainland Newfoundland
- Mao Tse Tung and The Long March in China
- The Siege of Sidney Street
- Japanese economic recovery post WW2
- The lives of:
 - Eleanor Roosevelt
 - Lord Mountbatten
 - Margaret Bondfield
 - Gandhi

We could thoroughly endorse joining the group with a particularly knowledgeable leader in Jackie who spends a great deal of time researching some of these very interesting topics, most of which can be found on YouTube, to give background to them.

Sue Scott

QUIZ DATES

Just 2 quizzes at the Red Lion in the next month – 1 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.

EVENING QUIZ

Wednesday July 12th 7.30pm.

AFTERNOON QUIZ

Tuesday August 1st 2pm.

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

David Collins

FUTURE OUTING – A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

TIBERIUS DAEDIUS with a 2-course CHRISTMAS LUNCH

I am organising this outing to the Tereza Joanne Venue near Brick Lane, London on Wednesday November 8th. We will take a coach to the venue and enjoy a 2-course Christmas lunch followed by a performance of a Roman themed play with a murder to solve.

This is advanced notice as I will not be taking bookings until the August meeting.

Penny Collins

Group News

Birdwatching Group - Birding Visit 21st June. 2023 to [Rye Harbour Nature Reserve](#)

The June visit was to Rye Harbour on a warm sunny and slightly windy day where there were many visitors enjoying the reserve. In 2011 the Sussex Wildlife Trust took over the management of the reserve which covers the equivalent of six hundred football pitches of open and low-lying ground. The 'high points' are the crests of shingle storm ridges built up by tides and storms whilst 'low points' are between the ridges where salt marsh has now developed. Changes to the area means that now grazing can now take place.



In May 2021 a newly built visitors centre was opened with wheelchair access and provides educational facilities. information on wildlife and the many plants that grow there, a cafe and a shop. (click on link above to view)



Birds seen during the visit include:-

Common terns, Lesser Black Backed Gulls, Red Shanks, Cormorants, Whimbrel, Meadow pipits, Crows, Jackdaws, Blackbirds, Black Headed Gulls, Skylarks, Kestrel , Marsh Harriers, Sparrows, Oystercatchers, Avocets, Pied Wagtail and Common Gull.

Valerie Bamber

Gardening Group

Wednesday 28 June 2023 - Troutbeck Otford

This month 19 members of the Gardening group visited Troutbeck in the village of Otford. We were lucky. It was a bit overcast, but the rain held off.

Troutbeck is a 3-acre garden enclosed by the River Darent with a pond, wild area, and views to the North Downs. There is extensive structural planting with yew and box topiary. The garden owner Jenny Alban Davies is the author *The Gardener's Guide to Box :Designing shaping and caring for Buxus*.

Jenny gave us a tour of the grounds showing us how the garden had been split into room like areas with shaped hedging, amazing topiary and beautiful Cornus trees covered with pink and white flowers. The roses were in full bloom and looking beautiful.

There was a large pond with a seating area raised above the water where Jenny and her husband gave us tea and cake, and everyone enjoyed a relaxing time.



A very enjoyable afternoon and we look forward to next month's outing.

Sandy English

Croquet Petanque & Table Tennis

Croquet this is going well ,we have a few vacancies if you want to play. It is on Wednesday at 2.30 on the rec. (behind the clock tower) cost is £3.

Table tennis again we have spaces if you want to play The first and third Friday of the month at The Whiteoak sports centre the cost of this is £5.

Petanque is at the Prince's park Dartford on the second and fourth Tuesday, this is free , but we ask for a donation of 50p (voluntary) to charity 2.15 start.



Our group playing at the venue on Tuesday 27th June.

(photo courtesy Dartford FC Staff)



(photo courtesy Paule Inness)

New age Kurling. This was only supposed to be for the winter to replace croquet but, it has taken of so well that we now meet regular, the next one is Monday 3rd July at white oak indoor bowls club at 2pm cost £3 there is some spaces .

If you are interested in any of the above, contact me at billatwanley@yahoo.co.uk

If you are interested in any of the above, I will be at the back of the hall after the meeting on Friday 7th July.

William Hammond

A historical walk from Wapping to Shadwell

It was a chilly 1st day of June when Swanley U3A London Walkers set off for Wapping and Shadwell, areas of London on the north bank of the Thames steeped in history and grizzly intrigue, extreme poverty, squalor, prostitution and crime and a place of execution of offenders, as well as being a former busy commercial and shipping centre. In more modern times it has served as the home of Alf Garnet of “Until Death Us Do Part” and as a location in Del and Rodney’s “Only Fools and Horses”. Walkers were particularly interested in the famous riverside Prospect of Whitby pub, notorious in the 18th century as a haunt of smugglers, cut-throats and footpads, but also the site where the first fuchsia plant arriving in Britain from South America in 1788 was sold, and frequented by all the usual celebrities from Pepys, Johnson, Dickens and Turner to Princess Margaret.



Moving on, we passed the extensive Shadwell Basin and docks that were in operation until 1969 and now used for water sport activities or filled in to make way for pleasant parkland. Vast warehouses once lined these docks which have now been turned into luxury apartments.

Particularly striking was the enormous vaulted Great Tobacco Dock Warehouse where leaf tobacco from Virginia was stored, but now much underused as a venue for music and events.



Nearby in the late 19th century had stood Jamrach’s Animal Emporium, the largest pet shop in the world, commemorated by a statue of an escaped Bengal tiger and a small boy looking up in awe at him.

It was a pleasure to find Wilton’s Music Hall, the oldest surviving Victorian music hall in the country. Despite its dilapidated external appearance, the Hall has been saved from demolition by a

Heritage Lottery Fund grant and now regularly puts on theatre productions. Apart from bomb damage during WW2, two other significant battles have occurred in the area.

In 1986 the “Battle of Wapping” marked the scene of industrial protests against Rupert Murdoch’s News International group that had acquired the London Dock as a printing works effectively ending Fleet Street’s traditional role as the base for British newspapers. Earlier in 1936 Shadwell had been the scene of the Battle of Cable Street between Oswald Mosely’s Blackshirt fascists against the people of the East End, commemorated in a huge wall mural and a red plaque. “They shall not pass”!

Our thanks once more to Alan and John for their leadership and detailed research.

Robert Moy

Walking Group (s)

WEDNESDAY 19 JULY 2023 - ROYAL PARKS WALK

Meet at Swanley Station at 9.45 to purchase group tickets and catch the 10.05 to Victoria. We will then follow Buckingham Palace Road to watch the changing of the guard at 11AM. We then go through Green Park to Hyde Park Corner, then on into Hyde Park walking around the Serpentine lake to leave the park at Albert Gate. We then wend our way through Belgravia eventually stopping for late lunch at the “St Georges Tavern” in Belgrave Road behind Victoria station from where we catch a train back to Swanley. The walk is approximately five miles easy walking with plenty to see on route. Please let Mark Fittock know if you wish to attend and if you require lunch. Email. Fittock75@gmail.com or phone 01322 665026.

Clive Rayner

Newsletter

The closing date for the next newsletter will be Friday 28th July. 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>

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.

Swanley U3a 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		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

