



# u3a Upminster Newsletter

September 2021



We meet at the  
**New Windmill Hall, Upminster, RM14 2QH**  
on the **3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday** each month.

## News & Notices

- **London Region Autumn Talks.** For details of the full range of concerts, workshops, and other events, click [here](#).
- **Hutton u3a is organising a Members' Activities Day on Tuesday, 26<sup>th</sup> October at New Hall School, Boreham.** See page 10 for full details.

## Useful links

- **Visit our Upminster u3a website to view our current list of active Groups,** click [here](#)
- **View the latest u3a Covid advice for Group activities.** Click [here](#)
- **Upminster u3a Committee** – Contact details can be found on our website, click [here](#)

For future news articles and feedback email

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**Deadline for emailing articles is the 1<sup>st</sup> of each month.**

**The Editor reserves the right to amend or omit content.**

## Diary Dates

**We resume our regular meetings at the New Windmill Hall, Upminster, RM14 2QH, on **Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> September '21, doors open at 1.30pm.****

This month's **Guest Speaker** will be:

- **Howard Slater, A talk on George and Ira Gershwin.**

### *Future Guest Speakers' program*

- *19<sup>th</sup> Oct '21 – Lucy Allen, Life of a Stuntwoman.*
- *18<sup>th</sup> Nov '21 – Dennis Lynch, The History of Havering.*

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## View from the Chair

It's nearly 2 years since I packed a suitcase for a holiday – and I had almost forgotten what to take. It was only a short break in my home country of Northumberland, a long weekend that's all. But what to take – a jumper obviously, socks, a mac of course because you can't trust the weather. However, it was the other, little things that I usually take with me – I couldn't remember and when I did remember, I couldn't find them!

Image courtesy of Courtney



This was only the warmup for the big holiday at the end of the month – abroad once again. Passport – both kinds (Covid & UK) – and insurance – swimsuits of course, but do I need a towel? How many books should I load on the Kindle? Should I download some radio programs or podcasts, and don't forget the earphones and chargers. If I look carefully in my cupboards, I may

find an old list of what I used to pack for my holidays: the clothes will be the same since there was no need to buy new these past 18 months.

The things that we used to find easy have become more difficult, because we are less practiced. I hope that we all soon regain our skills at going out, meeting people, being in crowded places, theatres, clubs, and pubs – and joining group meetings again.

We are **going back to the New Windmill Hall this month (doors open at 1.30 pm, slightly later than before)**. Since we have no idea how many, if any of you, will come to the meeting, we're not offering teas and coffees yet, so please bring your own. Once we have a clearer idea of how many members will be joining us, refreshments will resume at future meetings. Books and jigsaw puzzles will be "open", and Howard Slater, the speaker, will be talking about George & Ira Gershwin.

See you there on Tuesday, 21<sup>st</sup> September **(and please remember to bring your membership card for ease of entry)**.

*Courtney*



## Upminster u3a's Desert Island Discs

This month's castaway was Sally Emes.

1. Unforgettable - Nat King Cole
2. Wuthering Heights - Kate Bush
3. Bridge Over Troubled Water - Simon & Garfunkel
4. Son Of A Preacher Man - Dusty Springfield
5. String Of Pearls - Glenn Miller
6. Only The Lonely - Roy Orbison
7. Love Me Tender - Elvis Presley
8. Everybody Loves Somebody - Dean Martin



**Favourite piece** - Unforgettable

**Book** - Bloodline - Sidney Sheldon

**Luxury Item** - Solar powered radio

**Did you know 1** - The original working title for 'Unforgettable' was 'Incomparable' - which, I would have to agree, doesn't work nearly as well.

**Did you know 2** - On 15 August 1964 'Everybody Loves Somebody' knocked the Beatles' Hard Day's Night off the number 1 spot on the American record charts.

**Did you know 3** - The tune for 'Love Me Tender' was based on an American Civil War song 'Aura Lee, Aura Lee', published in 1861.

*Chris Slade*

## Coffee Mornings

Hello ladies, good news our Coffee Mornings are going to be up and running again on **Tuesday Oct 5th - 11am, Roomes Cafe**, looking forward to seeing you all again. It's been so long since we've been together, please bring your Uu3a pass in case we don't recognise each other 😊.

P.S. Gentlemen you know you are always welcome as well because we can share you

*Angela McDonald*



## Coach Trips

We had another successful coach trip in August: to Penshurst Place in Kent (see elsewhere in the newsletter) and we are pleased to confirm that we have now finalised arrangements for a trip to **the Ely Christmas Market on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> November**. While in Ely we will also be paying a visit to Oliver Cromwell's House. Booking for this visit is now open. We are also close to finalising plans for a **Christmas lunch at Hever Castle on Wednesday 08<sup>th</sup> December**. Booking for this will open as soon as we confirm the details.

Booking is also still open for the following previously announced trips:

**15<sup>th</sup> September – South Coast Art Trail** – Visiting Eastbourne, Bexhill, and Hastings art galleries or just the beaches

**24<sup>th</sup> September – Brogdale and Faversham**

**26<sup>th</sup> October – Canterbury**

Full details and booking forms for all the above trips are on the web site. If you can't access the web site text 07941 295343 with your address and the trips you are interested in, and we will send the details to you in the post.

## Coach Trips Group

In April we appealed for one or two other members to join our coach trips group. Unfortunately, no-one responded. We have our trips covered up to March 2022, but now really need more members, as we will soon be losing two of our number and it is not viable to run 11 or 12 trips a year with just three of us.

Belonging to our group is not an onerous commitment and we have the benefit of organising visits we ourselves want to go on. We will next meet in November to start thinking about 2022/23 coach trips so committing to joining us won't interfere with your remaining summer commitments.

If you can help our u3a to continue to offer these very popular trips please email [pamelafreer@samson-freer.co.uk](mailto:pamelafreer@samson-freer.co.uk) with your phone number and I will ring you to discuss the details.

***A Thank you from two coach trippers*** – I would like to thank **Beryl** for all the hard work she put into the organizing the Ware lunch and boat trip outing in July – everything went off smoothly and I know how difficult that is to do. This was the first u3a trip I have been on since Covid and must say how much I and my friend enjoyed it. The pub lunch menu was simple, but tasty and the weather for once was good (no rain). So, thank you once again **Beryl** for a very enjoyable trip. **Kind regards Carole Paul.**





## Visits to Places of Interest

We managed our first visit of 2021 on 03<sup>rd</sup> August. Eighteen of us went to Fulham Palace where we were divided into two groups and had private tours of the palace and its close surroundings. This palace was first the principal home then the country retreat of the Bishops of London from AD704 until 1973.

Image courtesy of Pam



It still has some of the Tudor features but, like many such buildings it was added to, and some older parts were demolished over the centuries, so it is today a mixture of periods. Notable features are the Chapel, the Great Hall, and the Tudor Courtyard. It is set in 13 acres of grounds on the banks of the Thames and the grounds include a magnificent walled garden.

There is also a lovely café and a barrow from which you can buy garden produce. The garden is open every day and the Palace is currently open only Wednesday to Sunday, but without a guided tour it is all free to visit and well worth the long journey.

*Beryl, Chris, Lesley, Julia, Pamela*

## The (Urban) Geology group

We meet on the occasional Saturday. The next outing will be on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> September. We will probably meet at a London tube station and walk to another station looking at the exotic stones in buildings.

Our resource is the 39 Urban Geology walks produced by Ruth Siddall, from UCL. They have changed the way I interact with London and may do the same for you.

This group has vacancies. If you would like to join the next walk, contact Natalie on 07759 734428 or [natalie@kehr.co.uk](mailto:natalie@kehr.co.uk)

*Natalie Kehr*



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## Knitting, crochet and sewing

Now that we are double jabbed, I have decided to start up this group again. Obviously, some of you will not have been able to join a group like this during this pandemic time. The first date of our meeting will be Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> September at 10 o'clock. If you think that it is a group for you, please contact me for further details on [beryl.patient@btinternet.com](mailto:beryl.patient@btinternet.com)

*Beryl Patient*

## Theatre Matinee Group

Carole and I met up for the first time in many months last Friday. We both enjoyed a pleasant visit to Penshurst Place, my first outing with the u3a in well over a year. It was a really nice day out; the weather was kind to us, and it was extremely good to see so many faces after such a long time – **thank you Chris** for organizing this trip.

Now, what are we going to do about the Theatre Matinee Group? Over the past year we have been joined by several new members who have shown an interest in our group, so Carole and I are hoping that we still have enough people interested in going into London to see a show. Before this awful pandemic hit us, we had about 150 people on our books and regularly had between 15 to 25 people going with us to the theatre each month, sometimes twice a month.

Carole will start looking at shows for the new year, if there is anything you would particularly want to see, please let us know.

We would be really interested to hear whether you feel confident about going into London now – especially as we return right in the middle of the “rush hour”. Maybe, like me, you are wary about going on a tube, or maybe being in a theatre makes you nervous. Get in touch with us, let us know what you think. It would be helpful to us if you could confirm that you are still interested in being part of The Theatre Matinee Group – thank you.

Looking forward to seeing many of you at The Windmill Hall for a face-to-face Uu3a meeting on the 21<sup>st</sup> September.

*Carole and Susan*

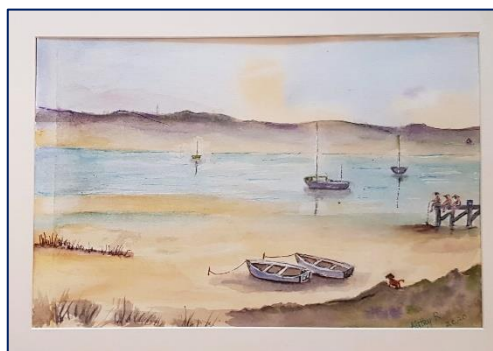


## Friday Art

Although the Friday Art Group have been on their summer break, some are still painting at home. Kathy certainly has shown her skills after family holidays. Wish I was there!



Images  
courtesy of  
Kathy  
Rowland



*Sandra Ward*

## Modern London Group

The Modern London group has changed its dates to outings on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday and meetings at my home on the afternoons of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursdays. Our definition of "London" is broad. I am hoping that a future visit will be to the RSPB Rainham reserve to see if promises the architects made about the visitors' centre have been fulfilled.

My definition of "Modern" is also broad. In the past I have included St Stephen Walbrook, the church Wren designed immediately before he was commissioned to design St Paul's. However, it has a Henry Moore altar piece, so I included it. One of our future visits will be to see how old churches are being repurposed.

Future Modern London visits will be to The Londoner, (a very fancy new boutique hotel in Leicester Square) and to the developments round Battersea Power Station.

The group has vacancies, if you would like to join us, email me on [natalie@kehr.co.uk](mailto:natalie@kehr.co.uk)

*Natalie Kehr*

## Mah Jong

By the time you read this, our playing will be back to normal. Reminder: all existing Mah Jong group members may just turn up on alternate Tuesday/Thursday/both from 1-45 pm. There is no need to let us know, unless arriving after 1-55pm, in which case email & we will reserve a place for you. Anyone else may send a request to join later when space available to [afwoodhurst@hotmail.com](mailto:afwoodhurst@hotmail.com)

*Alan Woodhurst*



## Cinema Group

Hello there, I'm confused should I put my quilt back on my bed or not, one night it's freezing the next I wake up boiling with only a blanket on. I know winter won't be long, but let's hope we have a bit more summer.

### **Ladies of Letters, ITV Hub or Amazon Prime, or Catch up, Comedy drama**

If you haven't seen it, please, please try and find it, it was on **ITV or Amazon Prime**.

It sounds odd, well it is odd, but wonderful as well, you just must watch a couple of the episodes and you will be hooked. It stars two of our nation's treasures, Maureen Lipman and Anne Reid, two middle-aged, very different widows become friends via letters.

### **Cruella, Disney**

Starring Emma Stone and Emma Thompson, is a live action prequel film following a girl grifter who is determined to make a name for herself in the fashion world, when she befriends fashion legend Baroness Von Hellman, she embraces her wicked side to become the revenge-bent Cruella.

### **Jungle Cruise, Disney, Action, Adventure, Comedy**

Starring Dwayne Johnson, Emily Blunt and Jack Whitehall, a good fun film

Lilly enlists the aid of wisecracking skipper Frank Wolff to take her down the Amazon in this ramshackle boat. Together they search for an ancient tree that holds the power to heal.

### **Just Like Heaven, Netflix**

American romantic comedy film starring Reese Witherspoon and Mark Ruffalo. Elizabeth is in a serious accident, three months later, David moves into her apartment, Elizabeth's spirit starts to appear to David.

### **The Old Man and A Gun Film 4, crime drama**

This was Robert Redford's last film it's based on a true story, at the age of 70 Forrest Tucker makes an escape from San Quentin and conducts a string of heists that confound the authorities. Great Film.

### **Richard Osman BBC 2 6pm every weekday**

This is the best programme of the week, it has just returned with a new series, which started on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> August, that week the guests were Reeta Chakrabarti, Olga Koch, Andres Maxwell, and Gareth Thomas, who was just wonderful. Please try and find it on catch up, you won't be disappointed.

*Linda Weiss*





## Art History/Appreciation 2 (Visiting Art Galleries)

Meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday. This group is supposed to shadow Chris Mecham's group, but this is not always possible. Our next visits on the first Tuesday of the month will be to the Wallace Collection. This has very famous pictures e.g. The Laughing Cavalier, Fragonard's The Swing, and lots of Dutch art including Rembrandts. It also has fabulous furniture, including pieces owned by Marie Antoinette.

Bloomberg Collections now has great descriptions of 44 items in the collection, so that will keep us busy for at least 2 visits. We also meet at my home on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday before the main u3a monthly meeting. We **have vacancies**. [natalie@kehr.co.uk](mailto:natalie@kehr.co.uk)

*Natalie Kehr*

## Art History/Appreciation 3

### GROUP REUNION

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday in August was so special for our group as it was the first time in many months that we had all been together. It was as if no time had elapsed. We were instantly comfortable together and so happy to see each other. Our summer party was a time for conversation, laughter, and delicious food, for which we thank Rosemary, our host.



A highlight of the afternoon was an art history team game based on BBC radio's 'Just A Minute', with Chris as the Chairperson. Each team chose a painting from a selection she brought along. We then pooled our knowledge and comments about it. Our elected speaker had the floor for just a minute. It was "Just Two or Three minutes." We had lots to say, such is the knowledge and enthusiasm we have gained in the group.

The results – Hesitation – definitely not!  
– Repetition – ditto  
– Deviation – a little, but only to do with the subject in hand!

We were all declared 'winners' and went home triumphant and so happy having had such a lovely afternoon.

*Patricia Wilkins*





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## Miscellaneous

### Classical Music

Do we have anyone interested in classical music and vinyl records? I have a friend who has inherited a collection of classical vinyl records.

Rather than simply giving them to a charity shop she would like them to go to someone with whom she has a connection even if it is as tenuous as friend of a friend of a friend.

If you can find them a good home contact Natalie on 07759 734428 or email [natalie@kehr.co.uk](mailto:natalie@kehr.co.uk)

*Natalie Kehr*

### An invitation from Hutton u3a

**Hutton u3a** would like to invite members of other local u3as to their **Members' Activities Day**, being held on Tuesday, 26<sup>th</sup> October 2021 at New Hall School, Boreham, Chelmsford, CM3 3HS. It is an all-day programme from 9.15 to 17.15 with choices of morning and afternoon activity sessions, plus two speakers, a two-course lunch, and all refreshments throughout the day. The price is £29.00.

Here is link

[https://huttonu3a.org.uk/public/events/Hu3a\\_activities\\_day\\_other\\_u3as.pdf](https://huttonu3a.org.uk/public/events/Hu3a_activities_day_other_u3as.pdf)

to the programme and booking form. Payment can be made by electronic transfer or cheque. We look forward to greeting your members.

Any queries, please call or email me.

Kind regards,

**Eileen Damsell**, Social secretary-Hutton u3a  
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