



Upminster u3a Newsletter

"Learn, Laugh, Live"



January 2024

Wishing each of our Members a Happy and Healthy 2024

We meet at
The New Windmill Hall, Upminster, RM14 2QH
on the 3rd Tuesday of each month.

News & Notices

u3a Festival
18 – 20 July in the city of York
See page 5 for information

London Region Events click [here](#)

Useful Links

Upminster u3a website click [here](#)

Upminster u3a Committee
Contact details click [here](#)

For future news, articles, and feedback,
please email
Barbara Smith, Newsletter Editor
uu3abarbara489@btinternet.com

Newsletter entries must be received by Barbara by the
1st of each month. Thank you.

The Editor reserves the right to amend or omit
content.

For your Diary



Our next meeting will be on
Tuesday 16 January, '24 doors open at 1pm

Inside this Newsletter

Page	
2	List of Future Guest Speakers/View from the Chair
3-5	Membership Information/Notices and Information/Monthly Quiz
6	Groups: Practical IT/Table Tennis/Coffee Morning
7-8	Coach Trips/Photography/Ancestry
9	Short Walks/Crochet
10	Quiz Answers



Upminster u3a Newsletter

"Learn, Laugh, Live"



January 2024

Wishing each of our Members a Happy and Healthy 2024

Future Guest Speakers at Monthly Meetings

Please note that some speakers are different to those shown in previous newsletters

16 Jan	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Gary Lucas - talking about Hitchcock's Leytonstone 2. Richard Jeremiah-Clarke from Connect Lifetime Mortgages together with Legal and General to talk about Equity Release.
20 Feb	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Veronica King - talking about her time as a store detective. 2. Gillian Ford, organiser of Upminster Dementia Choir (originally scheduled to talk at November meeting). Gillian is also Deputy Leader of the Council, Cabinet Member for Adults & Wellbeing and represents Havering Residents' Association, Cranham Ward.

View from the Chair

Welcome to 2024.



Time has always fascinated me because of the control it has over our lives. In ancient times people had the need to compartmentalise it and it developed eventually to what we have today – seconds, minutes, hours, weeks, months and years.

Within all these come our birthdays, marriages and precious moments generally. Thus, all the special moments - good or bad - have a built-in element in time in our lives.

We all remember big events like JFK's assassination and can fix this to a time and place. We remember when our children were born and when we lose loved ones. These are all moments in time which have come and gone.

As we enter a new year, cherish the time we have with each other – time goes so quickly and cannot be retrieved except through memories.

Make the most of 2024!

Susan Mayes



Upminster u3a Newsletter

"Learn, Laugh, Live"



January 2024

Wishing each of our Members a Happy and Healthy 2024

Membership Information

In December we welcomed one new member, Elizabeth Lange. Forms were sent out to another four potential members.

As at the end of December we still had only 618 current paid-up members as we were informed of the death of one of our long-standing members.

Pamela Freer

Notices and Information

Social Event - Barn Dance



You will read elsewhere in the newsletter about the great success of last month's Christmas Party. Unfortunately, due to space constraints, and the inevitable Health & Safety guidelines, some 20 people who were on the waiting list were unable to join us.

To avoid this happening to you for the Barn Dance on **13 February**, for which there are currently some tickets available, make sure that you are at the January monthly meeting to obtain yours.

If you are unable to be there, either get a friend to get one for you, or contact me at chrisslade1@sky.com or on **07906-433559**.

Chris Slade.

Out and About In London

The free Canary Wharf Winter Lights return again this year for the eighth time, with 13 new, temporary installations joining the ever-present light artworks. They will be on daily from **Wednesday 17 - Saturday 27 January between 5 and 10 p.m.**

A map showing the installations will be available on-line at [Canary Wharf Winter Lights Festival London.](#)

Chris Slade.

Continued...



Upminster u3a Newsletter

"Learn, Laugh, Live"



January 2024

Wishing each of our Members a Happy and Healthy 2024

This was the first Christmas party organised by the newly-formed Social Committee and a great time was had by all. According to the feedback we have received, it was a great success.



We took on board the comments we had from Members who attended the Coronation Party - that people would like round tables, plus they like the idea of a dance floor in the middle of the hall with space for all to enjoy.

Paul, the entertainer, was a hit with bringing people to the dance floor.



We had some amazing raffle prizes also. A fun afternoon indeed.



The Social Committee would like to thank everybody for their support through our first year with social events and we look forward to 2024 with new things on the horizon.

Annette Gaskin.



Upminster u3a Newsletter

"Learn, Laugh, Live"



January 2024

Wishing each of our Members a Happy and Healthy 2024

First ever u3a Festival this year.....

18 – 20 July in the beautiful city of York - held at the University of York based around their exhibition centre.

Members will be running a wide variety of activities - talks, sporting events, musical entertainment and workshops which will make this u3a national festival something to remember.

Rooms on campus will be £61.80pp for bed and breakfast. They are all ensuite single rooms with tea and coffee making facilities. There are no larger rooms available on site. **For further information, including accommodation bookings: [u3a - Festival 2024](#)**

Barbara Smith.

We are including CDs and film DVDs on the book table at our Monthly Meetings. If anybody has either, or both, that they no longer listen to or watch, please bring them along.

Chris Slade.

Monthly Quiz

All the following questions are based on "things", events or anniversaries that relate to the month of January.

1. In 1502, explorers landed at a place they called River of January in South America. Which nationality were they?
2. Previously known as The Daily Universal Register, which newspaper began publishing on 1 January 1785?
3. The euro was launched on 1 January in which year? a) 1993 b) 1995 c) 1997 d)1999
4. But, on 1 January, in which year did Euro banknotes and coins enter circulation?
5. Which commonwealth nation was founded on 1 January 1901 with Edmund Barton as the first Prime Minister?
6. After the end of French rule in 1804, which country became the first free black republic in the world and the second independent country in the Americas?
7. What are the British birth flowers for the month?
Just had to put this one in!
8. National Trivia Day falls on what day in January?
9. What winter storm is defined by moderate to heavy falling snow, winds up to 30 mph, and snow cover reducing visibility to 200 metres or less.
10. What is the full moon's name that occurs in January?

Chris Slade



Upminster u3a Newsletter

"Learn, Laugh, Live"



January 2024

Wishing each of our Members a Happy and Healthy 2024

Groups Update

Practical IT

We ended 2023 by passing on a scam warning about phone calls claiming to be from Openreach.

If you think you would find scam warnings useful, then why not join the group? You will be added to the mailing list, but will be under no obligation to come along to any of the Saturday morning meetings.

Obviously at each meeting tackling immediate problems is our top priority, but I plan to start 2024 by showing people how to add hyperlinks to documents and emails. Every time you use a computer or smart phone you use hyperlinks created by someone else. It is very useful to be able to create one's own hyperlinks. We will practice by creating an index to some poems by the wonderful Brian Bilston so those sessions should appeal to everyone with a sense of humour.

Natalie Kehr

Table Tennis

How about a New Year resolution to take a little more exercise?

Table Tennis will recommence on **Thursday 11 January 1.30 - 3.30 p.m.** at **Cranham Community Centre** - on-site free parking available.

Not too serious, just played for fun. Some of you will no doubt have played a while back, so why not give it another go?



There is a charge of £3.50 towards the cost of the hall, but the more people who play should lead to a reduction.

Alan Bowdery

Coffee Morning

Welcome to the new year 2024 Coffee Mornings at Rooms Café on the usual day and time - Tuesdays Jan 16 and Jan 30 at 11am.

Looking forward to meeting new Members who like coffee and a chat.



Angela McDonald



Upminster u3a Newsletter

"Learn, Laugh, Live"



January 2024

Wishing each of our Members a Happy and Healthy 2024

Coach Trips

Coach Trips 1

On 8 December we went on a coach trip to Sissinghurst Castle for what has now become a bit of a tradition – a Christmas meal in a lovely place. Sissinghurst was the home of Vita Sackville West and Harold Nicholson in the 1930s and it was they who developed the gardens that are now nationally famous. Even in December there was plenty to see in the gardens which are brilliantly maintained mainly by volunteers. There are buildings on the site but no castle as such – the name was an ironic joke bestowed by prisoners who found their living conditions far from luxurious when the property was leased by the government in the Seven Years War to house 3000 captured French sailors.

Most of us didn't have time to visit the exhibitions in the various buildings still standing but concentrated on a stroll round the gardens and a very good three course meal in a former granary with a lovely beamed roof.



Pictures courtesy
of
Russ Barnett,
as usual.



Coach Trips 2

The Coach trips group deliberated in December and have now come up with the following program of trips for the Uu3a year, starting in April 2024. Booking is not open yet for any of them as the details are not finalised but if you fancy one then save the date in your diary.

- **April** Tuesday 30 – An afternoon visit to Chenies Manor House with a simple lunch en route
- **May** Wednesday 22 – Stowmarket Food Museum
- **June** Friday 28 – A guided tour of Parham House and time to enjoy the gardens
- **July** Monday 29 – A visit to Althorp House – the Grade I listed home of 19 generations of the Spencer family
- **August** Thursday 29 – The magnificent Nymans Gardens and the partially destroyed manor house
- **September** Monday 23 – A trip to the seaside
- **October** Wednesday 23 – A guided tour of the Elizabethan Burghley House
- **November** Friday 29 – The Christmas fair and light show at Waddesdon Manor
- **December** Tuesday 10 – Our Christmas lunch outing
- **January and February** – *No coach trips*
- **March** 2025 Monday 31 - Saffron Walden and Audley End.

Continued...



Upminster u3a Newsletter

"Learn, Laugh, Live"



January 2024

Wishing each of our Members a Happy and Healthy 2024

Coach Trips 3

The Leicester weekend away on 23-25 March is now fully booked. We had more people interested than we expected but we managed to obtain some more hotel rooms to accommodate everyone who wanted to come.

Coach Trips 4

The 12-16 May holiday to the area around Bath and Bristol is now re-launched at a much lower price and booking has opened. Everyone should have received the full details and a booking form. Please do not delay if you are interested in joining this holiday because, unlike a commercial holiday where people can book up to the last minute, we will have to close bookings *by the end of January*.

Pamela Freer

Photography

Our December meeting was a Christmas lunch for members and partners at the Jobbers Rest. An enjoyable time was had by all, with delicious food and great company.

In December we also had a lively Zoom meeting discussing our favourite members photographs taken during 2023. To see some of the photographs use the link below :

https://uu3a-photos.direct.quickconnect.to:57824/photo/#/shared_space/folder/1

Terry Sims

Ancestry Group

With a short break over the festive season, we shall recommence our meetings in January.

Last year saw a few of our members give very interesting talks on what their research had discovered - ranging from Immigrant German Pork Butchers, linking up with a very distant cousin in New Zealand, and one member tracing her ancestors back to the Warder looking after Mary Queen of Scots prior to her execution. One of our projects for 2024 will be looking at the occupations which I'm sure will result in some very interesting discussions.

We are at present at the maximum number for our meetings, but should you be interested in adding your name to the waiting list please contact me, mary.hunwicks@virgin.net.

Mary Hunwicks



Upminster u3a Newsletter

"Learn, Laugh, Live"



January 2024

Wishing each of our Members a Happy and Healthy 2024

Short Walks: **Thames Chase Forest Centre**

This was our first short walk of the New Year. As usual, we started off from the car park and then followed made-up paths as the ground was extremely wet. Our route took us past where the Millenium beacon once was and the orchard. The orchard is planted with traditional Essex apples and pears. After a brisk walk most of us had a well-earned drink in The Centre.



Russ Barnett

Crochet Group

This is a very small group, with several members being complete beginners at our first meeting. They are progressing well and the new year should see a completed project.

As teaching crochet is really a one-to-one process, there is no space for new members at the moment, but hopefully if there is anyone out there who wants to learn I'll be able to open up the group in the not-too-distant future, so please let me know and I'll add you to a waiting list, mary.hunwicks@virgin.net.

Mary Hunwicks



Upminster u3a Newsletter

"Learn, Laugh, Live"



January 2024

Wishing each of our Members a Happy and Healthy 2024

Quiz Answers

1. Portuguese.
2. The Times of London.
3. 1999, but only used for accounting purposes and electronic payments.
4. 2002.
5. Commonwealth of Australia.
6. Haiti.
7. Carnations and snowdrops.
8. 4th.
9. Blizzard.
10. Wolf moon - named after the howling of hungry wolves lamenting the scarcity of food in midwinter. Other names include old moon and ice moon.

Chris Slade

Finally, a reminder of the beauty of winter

