



Upminster u3a Newsletter



“Learn, Laugh, Live“

March 2024

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

News & Notices

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 19 March '24, doors open at 1pm

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Future Guest Speakers at Monthly Meetings

19 March	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mark Carroll, talking about DNA. 2. Gillian Ford, organiser of Upminster Dementia Choir. Gillian is also Deputy Leader of the Council, Cabinet Member for Adults & Wellbeing and represents Havering Residents' Association, Cranham Ward.
16 April	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Andrew Baker, talking about British politics. Andrew was a teacher/headmaster (40 years plus) / best-selling author on contemporary British politics / published author on his time as a headmaster / highly acclaimed cruise ship lecturer. 2. TBA.

View from the Chair



I have been lucky to travel quite a lot in my lifetime, and its only when I consider what I have done I am amazed by it. The world has become a smaller and more accessible place, but it hasn't always been this way.

I vividly remember having the opportunity to go skiing when at school, but the only way my parents could afford this was if we didn't have a family holiday that year and so the sacrifice was made. (I didn't know about this until later in life from my sister).

It has made me appreciate travel even more with its unique and meaningful experiences which excite and inspire.

It also humbles me to see for myself how other people in the world live, although its fast becoming similar in many places with the advent of KFCs and McDonalds springing up in the most unusual places.

With travel we are able to embrace cultural and social differences and to realise that not everyone's life is lived in the same way, but it is important to keep an open mind as we can all teach and inspire others.



I intend to travel as much as I can in the future and to try to be a better person in this big, wide world.

Susan Mayes



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Membership Information

In February we welcomed 10 new members. Unfortunately, at the end of January, we were informed of the death of another member, so the total number of current paid up members at the end of February was 635.

The new members are:

Joan Despard, Sara and Kevin Green, Amanda Hamilton, Christopher Kober, Gill Lanigan, Toni Rust, Susan Seeley, Anita Smyth, and one member who did not wish to be named.

186 people attended our February meeting, of whom 15 were guests.

Membership 2024/5

Membership renewal notices will be sent out in March. Please do not pay for the new year before you receive your notice.

Your Trustees have reviewed membership fees and are pleased to be able, yet again, to offer existing members who renew a substantial discount on the subscription for new members. Despite the severe inflation, we have been able to hold the increase in subscriptions to only £1 for the year and we have held the postal subscription fee unchanged at £26.00 extra. So, the fees for the year starting on 1 April will be:

Basic Subscriptions:

- Existing Members renewing before 31 May 2024: £11.00
- New Members Joining after 1 April 2024: £17.00
- Subscription for members requiring postal contact: £43.00 including basic membership subscription.

Gift Aid

Tax rules and personal circumstances are always changing, so it is necessary to review your Gift Aid status every year. If you signed up to allow us to collect the Gift Aid on your subscription you may need to cancel this permission. On the other hand, if you are now having to pay tax because your pension has increased or you are now paying tax on interest income, then you may be able to allow us to reclaim the Gift Aid. There will be a box on the Membership Renewal form for you to change your Gift Aid status, if necessary. Please note that Gift Aid is only available on the basic subscription so, if your taxable income is above £11 this year, you can let us collect the Gift Aid. The amount we collect in Gift Aid allows us to keep your subscriptions low so please allow us to collect it if you can.

Pamela Freer



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Notices and Information

February Barn Dance – how it was!

The Social committee arranged a Barn Dance evening at the New Windmill Hall, Upminster, with a professional caller.

It was an evening filled with laughter, great music and wholesome fun with friends and family. The emphasis is always on the fun side, and getting the dancing wrong is as much fun as getting it right!



It was lovely to see everybody on the dance floor - yes, I mean **everybody** throughout the evening enjoying themselves.



The Social Committee was grateful for everybody who was able to come along to support us and make this event a success.

Annette Gaskin.

* * * * *



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Future Social Event

After the terrific Barn Dance last month, the Social Committee's next event will be an **ABBA PARTY** and, according to the radio last week, “*Everybody has their favourite ABBA song*”.



**Thursday 30 May
6.30 – 9.00 p.m.
Live at the New Windmill Hall**



Food, Wine, Entertainment, Dancing, Free Raffle.

All for less than 157 Swedish Krona - £12.00!!

Tickets to members only will be on sale at the

March monthly meeting 19.3.24.

If you are unable to be there, ask a friend to get one for you. Don't take a chance, but should there be any tickets unsold, they will be available after the meeting from

Chris Slade chrisslade1@sky.com or on 07906 433559



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Lost Property

A scarf was left behind following the Barn Dance at the New Windmill Hall. Please contact **Chris Slade** chrisslade1@sky.com or on **07906 433559** if it was yours and you'd like it back.

* * * * *

Editor correction: Please note that the surname of Michelle **Blythe**, the leader of the Poetry Appreciation Groups 1 and 2, is as shown here. Twice, in the past few months, I have inadvertently misspelt her surname (the 'e' was missing) in connection with the articles she has contributed to the newsletter for the groups. My apologies are sent once more to Michelle. **Barbara Smith, Newsletter Editor.**



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Monthly Quiz

All related to the month of March, which was, in the Gregorian and Julian calendars the first month of the year, not the third.

1. What was the name of the super tanker that ran aground off the Cornish coast in 1967, causing the worst oil spill in UK history?
2. What is the name of the Quarter Day that falls on 25 March?
3. Who was the first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic Ocean in March 1932?
4. Name the March sisters in the novel “Little Women” by Louisa May Alcott?
5. On 1 March 1990, what did the Royal Navy abolish?
6. Name the best friend of Harry Potter, born on 1 March, who first meets the boy-wizard when they share a compartment on the Hogwart's Express.
7. On 29 March 2004, Ireland became the first country in the world to do what?
8. The Beatles' first album was released in March 1963. What was it called?
9. Julius Caesar was assassinated on it, but for what were the Ides (15th) of March known?
10. Coca Cola was sold for the first time in glass bottles on 12 March in which decade?

Chris Slade

Groups Update

Delighted that **Bananagrams** (see page 8) got quickly off to a great start. Not so much success with the other suggestions in last month's Newsletter, **Crib, Italian, and Mosaics**. If you missed the item last month but might be interested in any of these plus **Backgammon**, please contact me, **Chris Slade** (see below).

Pins, Needles & Hooks 2 - This Group is currently on hold due to a lack of members. If anybody would be interested helping to get the Group restarted, please let me know: **chrisslade1@sky.com** or on **07906 433559**.

Coffee Morning

In this very unpredictable weather, it's nice to know that coffee and a chat at Roomes Cafe at 11am on Tuesdays 12 and 26 March is predictable! See you there.

Angela McDonald



Cinema Group



The choice of film for February was “Bob Marley” - “One Love”, at Romford Vue cinema, which was very well attended.

This film is a respectful, soulful, emotional and inspirational tribute to Bob Marley. On the big screen for the first time, the film discovers Bob Marley’s powerful story of overcoming adversity and the journey behind the revolutionary music.

“One Love” celebrates the life and music of an icon who inspired generations through his message of love and unity.

A very interesting film that highlights the political unrest in Jamaica during the 1970’s and an island on the brink of civil unrest.

Annette Gaskin

Short Walks

We have 2 walks to tell you about this month:

1. **Hornchurch Country Park.** After atrocious weather earlier on in the week, it was dry and sunny on the day of our walk. Even so, there were a few puddles on the paths.

We walked along part of the Hornchurch Country Park History Trail and the Ingrebourne Marshes that has SSSI status, past the lake and Albyns Farm, ending up at the new Covid-19 Memorial Woodland before returning along a slightly different route back to the Ingrebourne Nature Discovery Centre. Most of us had refreshments there.

Russ Barnett.



Continued...



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2. Inns of Court. These 2 walks took place in February.

We started the walk at the Tower of London and the Thames Path. It is not as well used as the South Bank but it affords great views of that side of the river, especially of Southwark Cathedral, which is quite imposing when you see it from afar.



After coffee at the really nice Garden Cafe on Middle Temple Lane, we strolled through the Inner Temple Gardens. The crocuses and snowdrops were out and it is worth going there just to see the very old and imposing plane trees.

We then made our way through Inner Temple to Temple church, built in the 11th century but very badly bomb damaged.

After this, we then walked over to the Courts of Justice and behind them the Great Hall and Library in Lincoln’s Inn. The whole area is filled with beautiful buildings.

It is so peaceful and well worth a visit.

Helen Stewart.

Bananagrams

The first afternoon of Bananagrams fun took place on Friday 22nd February at The Windmill Pub, with 8 of us competing for space on 2 tables to win the title of Top Banana. In u3a style we did as much chatting and laughing as we did playing the game.

We will meet on the 4th Friday of each month, with the next game scheduled for **22nd March at 2pm**. It’s easy to play and you don’t have to be good at spelling, just good at having fun. Please contact me if you’d like to join us, everyone is welcome. **07962 213793 and pashton290@gmail.com.**



Pauline Ashton



Creative Writing

This month the group’s chosen title was ‘Help!’ and, as usual, everyone’s interpretations were very varied. We all agreed that Fiona’s story was one of the best.

HELP!

Phew! thought Darren, as they emerged, blinking, into the sunshine. *That seemed to go all right.* He smiled at his beautiful bride Sarah.

“Married at last.” he whispered.

Darren had had good reason for thinking that this day would never come. Sarah’s family, now assembling themselves into a phalanx of huge hats, morning suits, button holes and fascinators, had been far from welcoming when he first met them.

“And tell me, my boy,” her father had drawled, “Sarah says that you are a drummer. What does a drummer do?”

“Well, I er um....” Darren swallowed hard, and wished he had a glass of water, “I, um, drum. In a band I mean, of course.”

“Oh,” said the older man, looking at Darren as though he was a particularly gruesome specimen in the lab where he was a consultant pathologist, “that pays well, does it?”

“We have had quite a few gigs recently. Locally, I mean, of course.” He caught Sarah’s eye, and they smiled as they remembered the evening they had met. Sarah was at a hen night in a pub where the band was playing. “We might even be going to London next month. I’m working in a supermarket until the band really takes off.”

“A supermarket?” said her mother, with a mixture of horror and amazement, “And what supermarket would that be?”

“Ahh, we won’t be meeting you then,” she said when Darren had replied. “We go – hahaha - elsewhere.”

Somehow, despite the opposition, the young couple continued their courtship. Darren knew that his lovely gentle Sarah would never want to get married without her parents’ blessing. Then, eventually, and very gradually, they came round. In fact, they more than came round. The engagement was announced, and Sarah’s mother began planning the big society wedding she had always dreamed about for her daughter.

Darren glanced behind him, expecting to see smiling faces, but he was amazed at the universal glare of disapproval.

“How could you?” mouthed his new mother-in-law, while his own mother sported a rictus grin which fooled no one. His father-in-law looked as if he had just discovered anthrax in his lab, while Darren’s own dad, looking rather sheepish, gave him a sly wink. The only people who seemed cheerful were his mates in the band, who were gathered in a giggling group in the corner of the church yard.

What on earth had happened, the poor bridegroom thought, or rather, what had been found out? The lovely Sarah still had a serene expression.

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“What’s the matter with everyone,” Darren whispered. Sarah glanced behind her.

“Gosh, I see what you mean.” She looked troubled. “Daddy was fine in the car, coming here. But now his face is like a thunder cloud.”

“I didn’t do anything wrong, did I? I didn’t fluff my lines?”

“Even Princess Diana did that. Everyone forgave her. No, I am sure you were perfect. And so was I.”

That photographer’s taking a long time to get his act together, thought Darren, considering he’s the best in the area.

As Darren continued to stand on the church steps, his mind went back to the service. He remembered the point when they knelt, facing the altar, for the prayers and blessing. The hassocks were special ones, lovingly embroidered by Sarah’s aunt in an evening class. She was thrilled that they were going to be used at last. As they knelt, Darren had thought he detected a slight ripple of sound in the congregation behind them. A sort of combination of sharp intakes of breath, and suppressed giggles. He had thought it was because the hassocks were not as firmly stuffed as they looked, and the couple both wobbled a bit as they sank to their knees. But then it was time to go and sign the registers, and Darren forgot all about it.

The cameraman finally began marshalling the troops. Starting with the bride and groom alone, he added in the other participants in the usual order. Everyone smiled for the camera, but, in between shots, the frostiness continued. At last came the grand finale, with everyone crowded in behind them, in tiers along the steps.

But that was still not the end. The photographer began a series of informal, or novelty shots of the couple in various poses, in picturesque parts of the churchyard.

“How about a re-enactment of the proposal?” He arranged Sarah on a bench by the rose bed. “Now you kneel down in front of her.” As Darren complied, rather awkwardly, and looking more as if he was going to do a bit of weeding, the photographer let out a huge snort of laughter.

“Oh mate!” he said, “Are you sure you want this?”

“It’s a bit late now,” Darren was understandably rather huffy, “I married her an hour ago.”

“No, I mean your shoes.”

“Have you stepped in something?” Sarah peered over his shoulder, and collapsed into giggles.

“Honestly, those friends of yours! No wonder my family was annoyed! But it is rather funny.”

Darren, the only person not in on the joke, tried to look at his feet from a kneeling position, but only succeeded in falling over. CLICK went the camera, as he lay prostrate before her.

“That’s the best one of the lot.”

“It’s got to be the boys in the band,” said Darren later. “I thought my best man was being a bit over-helpful, holding out my shoes all ready for me to put my feet in. He took more care of them than of the ring”.

Darren had seated himself on the bench, and taken his shoes off when he finally saw the large **H E** clearly painted in white paint on the left sole, and the **L P** on the right.

“Shall we try and scrape it off?” said his new wife.

“No,” said Darren firmly. “I’m going to keep them forever. I think they are going to bring us luck!”

By Fiona Richards

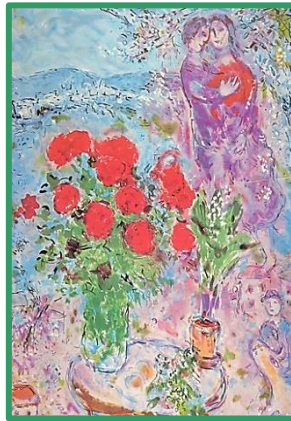
Jill Hilton



Art History/Appreciation: Marc Chagall (1887-1985) - Love and Luminosity

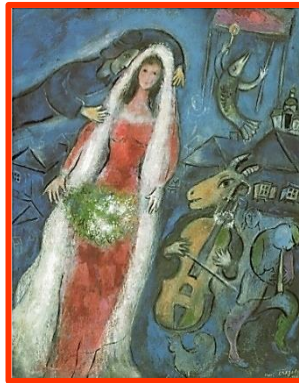
On a cold, wet, winter’s day we stepped into a vivid, vibrant, world of colour – the world of artist Marc Chagall. A wonderful exhibition at the Alon Zakaim Fine Art Gallery. Also, a rare opportunity as few UK galleries feature Chagall’s work.

Lovers and Bouquet



Chagall’s paintings have a sense of mystery and fantasy and his dreamlike vision of the world is unique. His originality lies in his personal synthesis of influences he took from all sides. He drew on the rich imagery of his Russian Jewish heritage alongside the prevailing avant-garde movements of the early 20th century. Gathering together everything he saw, Chagall created his own personal, poetic world.

The Bride



After Bella’s sudden death in 1944 Chagall preserved her memory through his paintings

The paintings in the exhibition date from the latter part of Chagall’s career. They particularly “investigate the effect love had on his art works” – Alon Zakaim. Love of his first wife Bella, his second wife Vara, the deep affection he felt for his home town, Vitebsk, and his adopted home in France – love of life.

“In our lives as in the artist’s palette, there is only one colour – the colour of love” – Marc Chagall.

Continued...



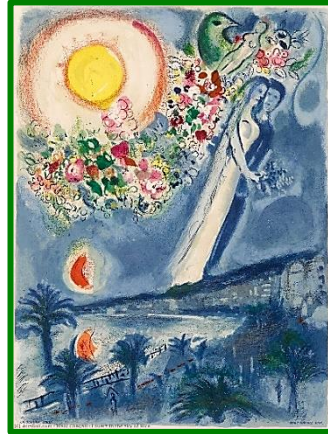
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Lovers in the Sky of Nice



Chagall pays tribute to his homeland and the culture which shaped him

The extremely warm welcome we were given by Alon Zakaim, personally, and also his team enhanced our visit. They spent time with us providing background information and answering our many questions.

Chris Mecham

Classical Appreciation (Group leader: Malcolm Henderson)

Our first meeting of 2024 was attended by a full house of 12 people. We started with a couple of less well-known symphonies - Beethoven's fourth Symphony does not have a knick-name unlike most of his others, e.g. Eroica (3rd) or Pastoral (6th). We heard the 4th movement, a Rondo, i.e. lots of lively music. Saint-Saens is most well-known for his suite the Carnival of Animals, but we heard his 3rd Symphony – nicknamed the Organ Symphony for obvious, potentially deafening reasons – and what glorious music it is.

We then went on to a very famous piece of music, a tone poem written by Jean Sibelius in 1899, called Finlandia. Very beautiful patriotic music, which will be familiar to many people.

Finally, we had George Gershwin's Rhapsody in Blue, played by Andre Previn on piano, but who was also conducting the orchestra at the same time - a very clever accomplishment. Rhapsody in Blue was originally composed in 1924 for piano and a jazz band, but is now usually played with an orchestra.

Our next meeting will probably be on the 25th of March - Malcolm is hoping to arrange a visit of the group to the Handel and the neighbouring (Jimmy!) Hendrix Museum in London.

As usual, Malcom punctuated his delivery with masses of snippets of information about many aspects of classical music – did you know that Grand Pianos start at a length 6 feet, but do not consider purchasing anything less than 9 feet if you want a really good tone.

Richard Saville



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Papercrafting

Our Papercrafting group meets on the 1st Monday of every month at the Cranham Community Centre RM14 1SR, 2.30 - 4.30 where we make 2 cards, using different techniques.



At the moment we have 12 members and cannot accommodate any more; however, if interested, we can put your name on a waiting list. **Contact Sheila Burton 07949 307336/Shirley Smithson 01708 226934.**

Sheila Burton

POETRY APPRECIATION

We met on a wet and windy morning; however, this did not dampen our spirits and our meeting was much enjoyed and very successful. Our subject matter scanned the globe from Russia to the United States. We discussed the works of Anna Akhmatova, a highly acclaimed Russian dissident poet along with Pasternak, Mandelstam, and Tsvetaeva, poets who formed part of the Silver Age of art and culture, pre-Revolution. She led a colourful life, was married three times, and on the honeymoon of the first marriage had a fling with Amadeo Modigliani, the Italian artist, who settled in Paris. Much of her work remained unpublished throughout her life, which ended in 1966. Her last husband died in the Gulag where her son remained for about seven years under Stalin's terrors.

Our second poem for discussion was the American poet Robert Frost, who spent three years living in England. Although reared in the city, his love was for the countryside and was inspired by the war poets, Seamus Heaney, W B Yeats, Keats, Hardy, amongst others. His life was somewhat tragic and this was reflected in many of his works. He won many awards and honorary degrees for his work, and at the age of 86, recited from memory a poem at J F Kennedy's inauguration in the 1960s. He was the winner of four Pulitzer prizes.

The Guest Poems were - **Group 1** - We Sat at The Window (Bournemouth 1875), by Thomas Hardy.
Group 2 - The Harvest Bow, by Seamus Heaney.

We look forward to our Spring meeting in April.

Michelle Blythe

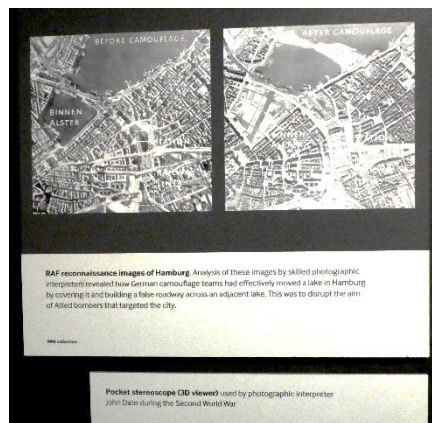


Visits to Places of Interest

We started the year with a free visit to the **Imperial War Museum** to see the special exhibition on spies and deception generally since the First World War. A tube strike was threatened on the day of our visit so we discovered a very simple way to get there, involving a short walk from Fenchurch Street, then a bus that stopped right outside (no. 344). Much less walking and fuss than taking trains to Elephant & Castle.



The thing I found most fascinating was the incredible role played in our security by artists. In 1917, both our side and the Germans employed camouflage techniques to great advantage. On our side we had the 'dazzle ships'. Our ships were painted with all kinds of shapes and colours which did not make them invisible but disguised their size and shape and made it almost impossible to discern the direction in which they were headed. **See photo above.** The Germans went even better. They disguised a whole lake in Hamburg by covering it over with a painted cloth then painting a fake road on a cloth over the lake next to it, thus totally confusing our pilots as to where they were and leading to bombs being dropped in less damaging places.



However, there was far more to see than camouflage. There were James Bond style gadgets, stories of the daring of individual spies and spy rings and short films where actual spies spoke about their craft. Altogether, a very interesting visit.

Thanks to Russ Barnett for the photos.

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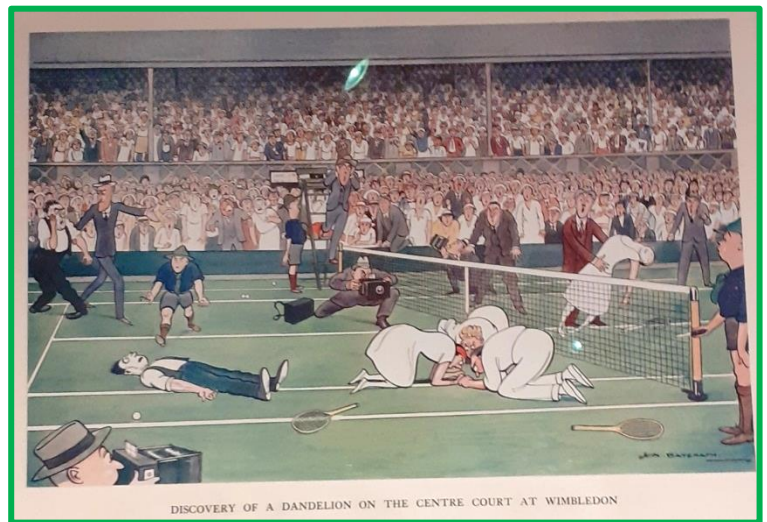
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In February we went to the **Cartoon Museum**. There we had a wonderful talk by Steve Marchant, the 'Learning Co-ordinator' of the Museum. He walked us round the exhibition pointing out all the highlights and changing styles of cartoons since the first ever cartoons, which were extremely elaborate, to very recent times when the cartoons often consist of just a few lines. The first cartoons had to be etched backwards on to copper plates and then hand printed and sold individually. Most of the early cartoons were political and some were unintelligible if you didn't have a close understanding of 19th century politics, but most were still really interesting (and amusing, if wryly so) to modern audiences.

As time progressed, topics widened and newspapers started printing daily cartoons so they reached ever wider audiences. During the 2nd World War, cartoons were used to get important messages across to the general public and, after the War, cartoons became massively popular in children's comics. Now that fewer people are reading newspapers and only a few newspapers print daily cartoons, the market for printed cartoons has shrunk but now there is a big market for animated cartoons. This market is now growing very fast, as computer technology enables the individual frames to be mechanically produced instead of each frame having to be drawn by an artist.

The cartoon **to the right** was one most of us enjoyed. The attention to detail was amazing and the social comment quite biting, while still being funny.

The war-time cartoon **below** is self-explanatory



DISCOVERY OF A DANDELION ON THE CENTRE COURT AT WIMBLEDON



Although the museum is well worth a visit for adults, it is also a good place to take children as there is a spacious education room where children can learn to draw cartoons for themselves. Maybe if you are child-minding, sitting on a dreary school holiday, you could treat yourself to a visit and know that your wards are likely to have a great time too.

Thanks to Sue Hartley for the photos.

Pamela Freer

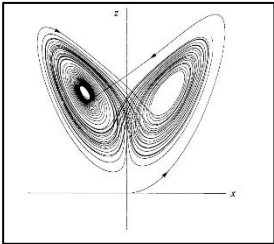


STEMM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics and Medicine)

The Chaos Theory can induce panic in many, but any fears were calmed due to the succinct and lucid manner in which Dr Ron Bennett led us through the associated complexities.

To begin to grasp the science, one needs to start at the beginning with Edward Lorenz’s definition of chaos “when the present determines the future, but the approximate present does not appropriately determine the future.” Lorenz was a mathematician and meteorologist who, in the 1960s, was exploring the difficulties presented when trying to forecast the weather. For example, some of the influencing factors include: the high jet stream that flows west to east; the lower-situated trade winds in the northern hemisphere that blow from the NE; the equatorial air movements. Then consider that micro-climates are influenced by topological conditions. Now we can appreciate the complex permutations and combinations of the possible outcomes.

Lorenz adapted complex behaviours ‘captured’ in mathematical expressions. He used iterative processes, to build simple models with simple equations through the removal of most of the complex factors. He treated the weather forecasting scenario as a ‘weather in a box’ 3D system that is heated from below. When the equations are iteratively processed (nowadays using super-computers) and graphed in 3-D, the trajectories are not constant or linear. The graphs revealed that the ‘behaviour in the phase-space’ produce chaotic systems and the trajectories random. After many iterations Lorenz observed that an amazing butterfly wing pattern began to emerge. Hence the origin of the much-quoted saying from 1972: “If the flap of a butterfly's wings (in Brazil) can be instrumental in generating a tornado (in Texas), it can equally well be instrumental in preventing a tornado.”



Modern weather forecasting is mainly determined using supercomputers, though AI is starting to take over the task. A limitation of any computing chip is its capacity: it cannot do infinite calculations, i.e. using more and more digital places. The issue with AI-forecasting is that there is not yet a sufficient quantity of AI-generated data to build reliable forecasts.

Chaos Theory is not restricted to weather forecasting. In chemistry, the Belousov–Zhabotinsky reaction (BZ reaction) is a simple oscillating reaction in which chemical equilibrium is not reached, as evidenced by stunning colour changes. Repetitions of the chemical experiment can never be accurate enough, regardless of the degree of scientific precision and accuracy applied.

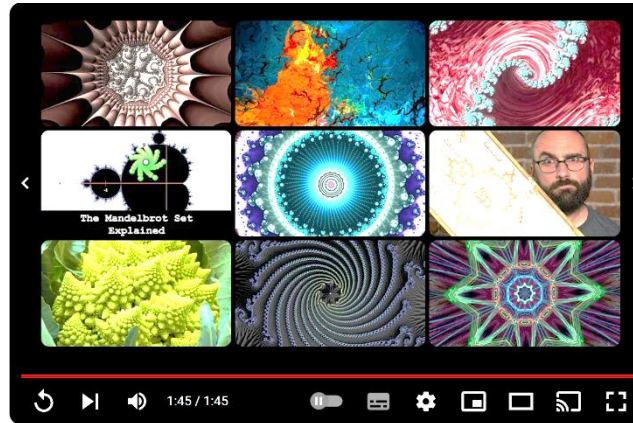
Do watch a video, such as <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o72GGxQgWt8>.

Complex numbers comprise real and imaginary numbers and can be used to generate graphic images, such as applying data to a Mandelbot Set of iterative simple equations. Zooming in on the image, digital pixilation reveals fractals that are similar but never identical.

Continued...



As one views The Mandelot Zoom Sequence video, spectacular colour enhanced images are revealed.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?reload=9&app=desktop&v=b005iHf8Z3g>.



Mandelbrot Zoom Sequence

Other simple equations, with applied iterations, can produce triangular fractals that are equally captivating. These have been named after Polish mathematician, Waclaw Sierpinski (1882-1969) and can be viewed at: [https://mathigon.org/course/fractals/sierpinski#:~:text=The20Sierpinski20triangle20is20a,1969\)20was20a20Polish20mathematician](https://mathigon.org/course/fractals/sierpinski#:~:text=The20Sierpinski20triangle20is20a,1969)20was20a20Polish20mathematician).

The Chaos Theory has been applied to predicting and understanding population trends in the wild, protein synthesis, Fibonacci numbers, climate change modelling and many more events, other than weather.

Ron emphasised that complexity in systems is due to miniscule differences in the initial parameters; that high levels of accuracy are not feasible, as explained by the Uncertainty Principle. The complexity of DNA formation *must* have had some order and maybe there are areas of accuracy, such as where the genes are located. Jason Lisle explores this in his science and religion book: ***Fractals: the secret Code of Creation***.

The take-home message was that all of this complexity comes from simple rules, with built-in mathematical iterations. Scholars write equations to understand nature. It’s all just beautiful: computerised graphic representations reveal infinite numbers of micro-infinities, and how maths, science and art can, and do, come together. We’d always perceived the Chaos Theory to be the domain of maths and physics, but now appreciate how it can be used to elucidate higher order life and existence.

Thank you, Ron, for making this hugely complex area of existence, graspable and totally fascinating.

NB: *If you have had difficulty in perusing this report, think about us trying to tame the chaos and complexities to which we were introduced into compiling this report.*

Lyn Haynes and Jacqueline Day



Upminster u3a Newsletter



“Learn, Laugh, Live“

March 2024

Coach Trips

All the places on our March (Royal Gunpowder Mills) and April (now on 1 May) (Chenies Manor) coach trips were quickly snapped up. Booking for our 22 May coach trip to the Food Museum in Suffolk will open on Sunday 10 March.

Don't forget the full list of trips is on our website if you want to save the dates of any future trips that appeal to you.

Pamela Freer

Quiz Answers

1. Torrey Canyon
2. Lady Day.
3. Amelia Earhart.
4. Amy, Beth, Jo, and Meg.
5. Rum rations.
6. Ron Weasley.
7. Introduce a total smoking ban.
8. Please, Please, Me,
9. The deadline day for settling debts in Rome.
10. 1890s (specifically 1894).

Chris Slade

