



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

However, due to current Covid restrictions, our **monthly meetings are held via Zoom**, until further notice. Members will be invited to join the Zoom session **via email**.

News & Notices

London Region of u3as – Summer Talks May to August 2021. For further information about the range on offer and registration, click [here](#)

Special Subject Week – Open to all u3a members in the UK Exploring World Faiths 12th –16th April To register click [here](#)

U3a Membership Renewal 2021

A big thank you to all those members who have confirmed to me that they will continue their membership and have paid the renewal fee either by bank transfer or by cheque.

This year has been particularly difficult for us all, and it is pleasing to me to see how you have all helped by paying online where possible. **Members who have not renewed by the end of April will be considered lapsed and attendance at meetings or groups cannot continue until fees are paid.** All group leaders can see who, in their groups, are current members and therefore eligible to continue attending.

Thank you.

Terry Smith - Membership Secretary

Diary Dates

Our monthly meeting in March will be held on **Tuesday 20^h April 2021 at 2pm, via Zoom.**

April's **Guest Speaker** will be:
Paul Barwick, A talk on the MI6 spy Gareth Williams in 2010.

Future Guest Speakers' program

- 18th May 21 Bernard Lockett, talking on the heritage of Gilbert & Sullivan.
- 15th June 21 Speaker to be advised.

Content

[Page 1 News & Notices & Speakers](#)

[Page 2 View from the Chair](#)

[Page 3 Desert Island Discs](#)

[Page 4 Uu3a Coach Trips](#)

[Page 5 Uu3a Coast trips cont'd & Cinema Grp](#)

[Page 6 Poetry & Quiz](#)

[Page 7 Friday Art Group & Photography](#)

[Page 8 Walking with Wildlife](#)

[Page 9 STEMM & Coffee Mornings Group](#)

[Page 10 Quiz Answers](#)

Upminster u3a Committee – Contact details can be found on our website, click: <https://u3asites.org.uk/upminster/contact>



View from the Chair

So, a year has passed, and we're still in a lockdown. Roll on 12th April and a slight return to normality.

Whilst it seems as if nothing has changed, in fact so much has been going on under our noses. Nationally u3a has developed new ways to keep in touch – including a Facebook group called just that – ‘[Keeping in Touch](#)’, which is open for any u3a member to join. There's also a virtual u3a called [Trust u3a](#) for those who cannot join meetings because of disability or because they are full time careers. These are open for all Upminster u3a members to join as well. U3a radio podcasts are available to download, and the national newsletter goes out to thousands of members across the country.

Closer to home, London Region has been arranging talks and presentations, as well as links to museums and galleries, available to all London members.

Finally, let's not forget our own group leaders who have been keeping things going via phone, email and zoom, until we can get together again and enjoy proper social contact. Thank you to everyone who responded to my appeal for a group coordinator, [we're still looking for volunteers please](#).

*Spring is sprung, the grass is ris
I wonder where the birdie is?
The bird is on the wing, they say.
But that's absurd –
The wing is on the bird.*



Image courtesy of the Editor

Last month after the presentation, some members stayed on for a “virtual chat” via Zoom's breakout rooms. Great fun, which we will repeat, and the Tuesday coffee mornings are restarting (see note later in this newsletter).

Courtney

p.s. Anyone who would like a copy of the slides from last month's talk given by Farhana on recycling, would you please email me uu3acourtneychair@gmail.com



Upminster u3a's Desert Island Discs

This month's CASTAWAY was Chris Marvin

Music:

- | | |
|---|------------------|
| 1. Sittin' on the Dock of the Bay | Otis Reading |
| 2. Go your own way | Fleetwood Mac |
| 3. Under the Boardwalk | The Drifters |
| 4. Georgia on my mind | Michael Bolton |
| 5. Africa | Toto |
| 6. Climb Ev'ry Mountain | Barbra Streisand |
| 7. Freedom | George Michael |
| 8. Come Alive | Hugh Jackman |

Favourite piece from the 8 is number 4.

Book: The Brigandshaw Chronicles by Peter Rimmer.

Luxury Item: A solar-powered radio.

I very much doubt that there is a Uu3a member who has not heard the programme in its 78-year history and mentally considered which music they would choose.

I have to say that I found it very difficult to select just 8 pieces, but why don't you try it, and send your selection plus a book and a luxury item to chrisslade1@sky.com for inclusion in a future Newsletter.

Groups Update

History of London

I have a few places left on [the 28 September '21, 2.00 p.m.](#) visit to **Salters' Hall**, the home of the Salters' Livery Company near Moorgate station.

If you would be interested in coming along, let me know at chrisslade1@sky.com or on [07906-433559](tel:07906433559) and I will provide full details.

Chris Slade



Coach Trips Group

We need one or two more people to join our group. This is not an onerous commitment and we have the benefit of organising the visits we want to go on. We meet in person or virtually two or three times a year to discuss ideas about where we should go then each of us takes two destinations that they would like to visit and plans suitable visits, drafts information sheets and makes the bookings with the venues. When bookings come in from members for your trips you hold on to the booking forms but pass on the money to the Treasurer for banking. About a week before the visit, you email the people who booked with confirmation of timings then on the day you make sure everyone has turned up and you liaise with the venue when you arrive.

If you are interested, please email pamelafreer@samson-freer.co.uk

Coach Trips Planned for 2021/2

Please note that this is what we would like to do but some of the prices cannot be confirmed because most of the places are still closed and some are waiting until they re-open to decide on pricing for summer and later. We are thus not taking bookings at the moment, but we hope to be able to have more clarity by the end of April. Note that some venue prices have gone up since last year and all the coach costs have gone up, though not by too much. When we have the details finalised, we will send out full information and booking forms for each individual trip in the usual way. Meanwhile save the dates for any trips you would like to come on.

Provisionally Wednesday **30 June 2021** – **South Coast Art Trail** – Approx. £26 for gallery admissions and coach.

NB This trip is the one **postponed** from **March 2020** and is fully booked but obviously some people may not find the new date suitable so there may be a few places available nearer the time. If you had previously booked for this trip, we would write to you personally with full details of the replacement trip as soon as we have them and if you no longer want to go or are unable to make the new date, we will obviously refund any money you paid last year.

- Thursday **29 July 2021** – **Ware Boat Trip with lunch included** – Approx. £47.00 including lunch, boat and coach.
- Friday **27 August 2021** – **Penshurst Place House and Gardens** – Approx. £36.75 for house and garden admissions and tours and coach
- Friday **24 September 2021** – **Brogdale Fruit Collection and Faversham** – Approx. £29.00 for Brogdale admission and tour, Faversham walk/museum admission and coach.
- Tuesday **26 October 2021** – **Canterbury** – Approx. £17.00 for coach. Variety of optional walks, admissions, and tours at extra charge to be selected when booking.

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Coach Trips – Continued from previous page...

- Thursday **18 November 2021** – [Ely Christmas Market and Oliver Cromwell's House](#) – Approx. £28 for admission to market and Cromwell's House (with included tour) and coach.
- Wednesday **08 December 2021** – [Christmas lunch and tour at Hever Castle](#) – Approx. £51.00 for admission, 3 course lunch and coach.
- Wednesday **23 February 2022** – [St Albans](#) – Approx. £27.50 for guided walk, admission to 2 museums and Cathedral with guided tour and coach.
- Monday **28 March 2022** – [Knole House](#) – Approx. £27.50 for admission to house, conservation studio, gatehouse tower and deer park and coach.

Beryl, Chris, Lesley, Julia and Pamela

Cinema Group

I don't know about you, but I'm finding TV rather boring lately, luckily with the weather getting better we can get out into the garden or go for walks. I have managed to find a few good films that I think you might like.



[War on Grandpa](#), I found this film on Amazon Prime

Peter is thrilled that his Grandpa (Robert De Niro) is coming to live with his family until Grandpa moved into his room and he had to have the creepy attic. Peter declares war on his Grandpa, it's a bit of silly fun but it did make me laugh out loud.

[Yes Day](#), On Netflix

A Mother (Jennifer Garner) and Father who usually say no decide to say yes to their kids wildest requests for a whole day, with a few ground rules, giving them all a whirlwind day of fun and adventure. I really enjoyed it.

[Crazy Rich Asians](#), Netflix

This is a romantic comedy-drama film, my cinema group went to see this, and all enjoyed it.

[Escape from Pretoria](#), Amazon Prime

Based on a true story and starring Daniel Radcliffe, in 1979 Tim Jenkin and Stephen Lee are two white South Africans carrying out anti-apartheid missions in South Africa, they are arrested, and Tim is sentenced to 12 years, Stephen 8, a very good thriller

Linda Weiss



Poetry Appreciation Group

Since the start of the Poetry Appreciation Group in September 2017, we have covered a vast and varied selection of poetry and prose, and this month has been no exception. We read and discussed an American poet, [Maya Angelou](#), the civil rights activist, exploring the essence of humanity.

We also looked at one of [Clive Webster's](#) poems. This poem was written for children and adults alike and concerns the power of books and the imagination to make those magical journeys for us – a pleasant occupation during the current lockdown.



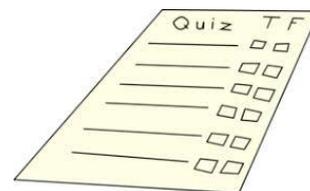
Finally, we visited APHRODITE's POOL by Paul Mahon and soaked up the atmosphere of the Greek islands in a holiday setting. Our next Zoom meeting will highlight the delights of WORLD POETRY DAY televised recently.

Michelle Blythe

Upminster, Cranham & Hornchurch Quiz.



1. When did what is now known as 'The Old Chapel' in Upminster open for worship? *Picture to the left, courtesy of Russ Barnett.*



2. There was a grocer's shop on Upminster Hill. What was its name?

3. On the corner of Champion road and St Mary's Lane there are some flats called The Hollies. What was there in the 1920's?

4. Where was the shop where you could see coffee beans being roasted?

5. What was the name of the butchers in Corbet's Tey Road, near the traffic lights?

6. Who is developing St George's Hospital in Hornchurch for housing?

7. When was Gaynes school built?

8. Where is Doggett's corner?

9. There were plans for a railway station in Cranham. Where was this?

10. When did Cranham village have its first post office and where was it?

Russ Barnett



Friday Art Group



Kathy's watercolour contributed to her receiving Top Banana Award from Jim. Bertie again got in on the act.

This month's paintings were inspired by Women's History Month & International Women's Day.

The Group have continued catching up on Zoom meetings and have been quite critical

after watching Drawers Off amongst the plethora of Art progs on various TV channels. Recommended for your mental health & wellbeing: Gardening, the Arts & Football. Our favourite: sitting down Art. Take care ya all.

Sandra Ward



Photography Group



Picture by Terry Smith

Our monthly meetings will continue using Zoom until the first Monday in June when all being well, we can meet up again as a group.

To see some of the March 'Colour Composition' Photos, please use the link below.

<http://quickconnect.to/Uu3A-photos/photo>

Terry Simms



Walking with Wildlife February 2021

At the end of March, in line with the government relaxation of the COVID regulations, I was able to restart walks. This time in groups of six members we went to Cely Woods. Unfortunately, the bluebells there were not yet in bloom, they are a magnificent sight, and yet not as popular as other bluebell sites. The native bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) has a delicate flower and can be distinguished from the Spanish bluebell in having thinner leaves and the fact that the flowers appear mostly on one side of the flower stalk, rather than all round in the case of the Spanish.



A picture of Cely woods from 2019.

Terry Smith



STEMM - A Zooming Colonial Year

We've all been home-based for a year (that has dragged speedily by) and we are fast approaching the first anniversary of STEMM's first Zoom session. During April to August we ran STEMM every Thursday, opening attendance to any Uu3a member. Through the Autumn and Winter, we dropped down to fortnightly STEMM Zooms. Our 32 speakers hailed from America, Africa, Scotland, and England introducing a total of 620 of us to a range of interesting STEMM topics.

The plan is to continue with Zoom STEMM group meetings until guidelines for live meetings are clear and feasible and accommodation to match the spacing regulation-needs.

COMING UP...

1st April Gender gap in STEM ~ Dr Tara Shirazi.

15th April The Eco-Shrine ~ Diana Graham is an Eco-Artist.

6th May Damers First School in Dorchester, 4-9 year olds sharing their Environmental Awareness achievements.

20th May Vedic Maths ~ Dr Cheryl Periton.

Do join us... email me on lynhaynes88@gmail.com and I will send you the Zoom link.

Lyn Haynes

Coffee Mornings Group return

(but not quite as you remember them!)



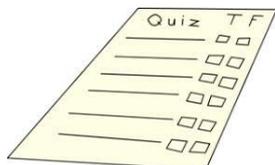
The zoom chat rooms after last month's meeting gave us the idea of bringing back the coffee get togethers – via zoom naturally. Would you like to join our coffee chat on the first Tuesday each month, starting at 11am on 4th May? We can promise lots of gossip and giggles – but no coffee (you must bring your own).

Please email Angela angieatadelphi@hotmail.com at the coffee morning group to be included.

Angela McDonald



Quiz Answers.



1. It opened for worship on 8 June 1800 as a Congregational church. When the congregation outgrew The Chapel, a new Congregational church was built in Station Road in about 1911. The Old Chapel is listed Grade 2 and at one stage was on the English Heritage's "At Risk" register.
2. Moores. It was still in business in the 1950's. Carlton Close flats now occupies the site.
3. Holly Hotel until 1927. By 1934 ownership had changed and it was renamed the Cranleigh Hotel. By 1939 the business seems to have gone into administration. The property was requisitioned by the Army during World War 2 and in about 1947 it was converted to its current use.
4. In Station Road Upminster by Time Tees nearer to the traffic lights.
5. Dewhurst. It was part of the Vestey Group founded in 1897.
6. Bellway Plc. The 29-acre site in Suttons Lane was sold in March 2018.
7. 1936. It is part of Loxford School Trust that comprises 7 academies.
8. It's where Upminster Road crosses Hacton Lane/Wingletye Lane. It can possibly be attributed to James Doggett who lived in Hunts farmhouse in the late 1700's.
9. It was on the plot of land just beyond Wantz bridge adjacent to the railway line. In 1959 Judith Anne Court was built on the site by a private developer.
10. 1925 as a sub-post office Cranham in a prefabricated hut where the current day Cranham Garage is located. In 1945, the sub-post office moved to the opposite side of the road near the present site of the Social Centre. Today there is another sub-post office that is in Tesco, Front Lane.



Russ Barnett