



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

## View from the Chair

New year, new calendar.

2021 continues the Japanese theme - but for the first time in many years, my calendar was bought in the UK. I have hardly looked at last year's pictures of the Japanese Gardens in Portland, so let's hope this year I can get more use out of my Hokusai calendar.



I'm hoping that 2021 will allow us to meet friends again and travel abroad once more, and that my next year's calendar will show scenes of Greenland or Iceland (not the shop!).

Last year was challenging for us all and now, as we look forward to spring, I'm sure you share my wish that the vaccine would hurry up so we can resume our groups and meetings and hug our families again.

*Happy New Year.*

*Courtney*

## Diary Dates

Our monthly meeting in January will be held on **Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2021 at 2pm, via Zoom.**

January's **Guest Speaker** will be **Brian Fernley on the USAAF's impact on a typical English village during WWII.**

## Future Guest Speakers' program

- **16<sup>th</sup> February 21** Ian Keable - The History of Cartoons.
- **16<sup>th</sup> March 21** Debbie Lee - Waste Recycling.
- **20<sup>th</sup> April 21** Dr Pat Garrod - 100,000 miles around the world on a motorbike

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



## News & Notices

**u3a - Winter Learning Programmes**, click [here](#) for details.

**Third Age Trust** have issued updated Covid 19 Guidance, click [here](#).

**SE Essex Organic Gardeners'** next group meeting will be **Mon 18<sup>th</sup> January at 8pm.**

A 'Zoom' presentation by Catherine Dawson, Technical Director, Melcourt Industries Ltd. For further details click [here](#) for joining instructions. Please ring/message 07967 851521; email [caroleshorney@hotmail.com](mailto:caroleshorney@hotmail.com)

**U3a 'keeping in touch' (KIT) Facebook page.** A book by Dorothy Carnegie "[Don't Grow Old, Grow Up](#)". She says, "growing old is a contradiction. Old age sets in when there is no longer any growth of mind or personality.

**Join Uu3a STEMM Zoom sessions for mental stimulation through this lockdown.**

Any member of Upminster u3a is invited to Zoom with the STEMMers on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month from 11h00 till about 12h30. Please email [lynhaynes88@gmail.com](mailto:lynhaynes88@gmail.com) if you would like to receive the Zoom links, I have a subscription for up to 100 devices. STEMM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Maths and Medicine) speakers share their experience with us on a number of topics. You do NOT need to hail from a STEMM background. Join us for interesting insights into worlds beyond the here and now.

**STEMM Zoom on 21<sup>st</sup> January** Dr Dexter Penn is a medical doctor, an entrepreneur who founded Kalgera, and a member of the All-Parliamentary Group for Longevity. Click [here](#) for details.

**STEMM Zoom on 4<sup>th</sup> February** Maria Turkenburg, Lucy Atkinson and Lynda Dunlop on **Young People and Environmental Voice**. Click [here](#) for details.

**Jigsaw Puzzles.** We are running a little short on puzzles, so would anybody who has one/some to give or lend, please contact **Chris Slade** at [chrisslade1@sky.com](mailto:chrisslade1@sky.com) or tele 07906-433559. I will arrange to collect from you when it is possible to do so.

**Vaccines** You may wish to make sure you have your NHS number to hand in preparation for being contacted by the NHS to book your appointment for your Covid vaccine.



## Groups Update

### Walking with Wildlife January 2021

Unfortunately, with the current restrictions, it does not look like I will be leading wildlife walks any time soon.

The last outing with the group, strictly limiting to a maximum of 6 people, was to Bowers Marsh, an RSPB reserve near Pitsea. There, over three different days, I managed to see 55 different bird species. On the last day David Morrison, Natalie Kehr and I saw a Ruff, several Fieldfare and two Marsh Harriers amongst the 37 species we saw that day. Ruff at this time of year have this wonderful, scalloped pattern to their feathers on their backs seen in the photo, which is not from the sighting at Bowers Marsh, but taken from the internet.



*A Ruff*

Normally on the 1st of January it is traditional to start a new bird count for the year in the hope of getting up to 200 different species for the year. For 2020 I have a personal count of 84 species which is quite low. In previous years we have met at Rainham Marshes RSPB reserve to start this count, it always turned into quite a social gathering, however not this year. This year they reported the following :- 2 Dark-bellied Brent Geese, 2 Barnacle Geese, 2 Egyptian Geese, 48 Shelduck, 238 Shoveler, 62 Gadwall, 1529 Wigeon, 60 Pintail, 260 Teal, 11 Pochard, 19 Tufted Duck, Little Grebe, 6 Water Rail, 90 Coot, 44 Avocet, 4 Grey Plover, 2000 Lapwing, 6 Curlew, 55 Black-tailed Godwit, 967 Dunlin, 3 Common Snipe, Common Sandpiper, 66 Redshank, adult Mediterranean Gull, 2 Yellow-legged Gull, Caspian Gull, Short-eared Owl, 6 Marsh Harrier, Sparrowhawk, Buzzard, 2 Kingfisher, Kestrel, Peregrine, 72 Jackdaw, 59 Rook, 2 Raven, 3 Chiffchaff, 25 Cetti's Warbler, male Blackcap, 4 Song Thrush, 200 Redwing, 3000 Starling, 22 Blackbird, 400 Fieldfare, 6 Stonechat, 5 Water Pipit, 4 Rock Pipit, 2 Greenfinch. A total of 48 different species.

At this time of year, as it is cold, putting feed out for birds is a good idea. If you do, you will be rewarded by getting lots of different birds coming to your garden. I recently watched a flock of long tailed tits on my feeders that were busily feeding on the sunflower hearts along with coal tits, blue tits, and great tits only to be frightened off by the arrival of a number of ring necked parakeets. This reminds me to encourage you to sign up for the **RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch on the 29th-31st January** and to record what you see in your garden.

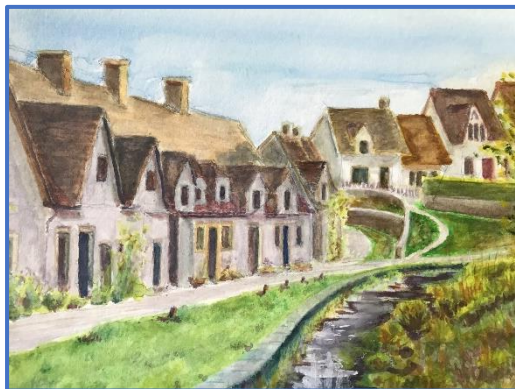
Once again, I encourage you to share your sightings with others on our **Telegram group "UU3A Walking with Wildlife"**.

*Terry Smith*

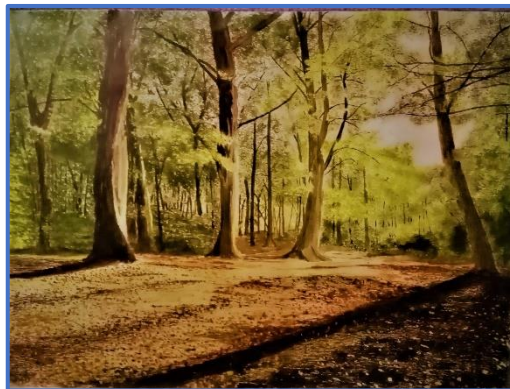


## Art Group 2 & 3

No news is not good news as there is nothing to report as our two Thursday art groups haven't met up for a while. We normally try out a new technique or subject... even mixing paint in a very sociable way. I shall be delighted when we all have the precious vaccine and can return to normal. Very best wishes to you all and thanks for all the phone calls.



By Derek Graves



By Carole Drew

*June Preston*

## Cinema Group



Well Christmas has come and gone, and a New Year has started, I hope it is a better one than last year. Here are a few programmes I have watched; I hope you can find them on catch up or on whichever App you have your TV. I didn't realize that the London New Year's Eve lights went ahead so missed them, but managed to find them on catch up, look for Happy New Year Live.

**Celebrity, a 21 Century Story BBC 2 series.** Excellent documentary hosted by the lovey Stephen Fry.

**Billy Connolly - It's been a pleasure, ITV** It was a very nostalgic programme, which I have put on permanent save, as I enjoyed it so much.

**The Repair Shop at Christmas BBC1.** was a very special programme they repaired an old rocking horse and a lovely carousel.

**The Great British Celebrity Sewing Bee, BBC1.** The celebrities did a fantastic job.

**Bradley Walsh and Son, Breaking Dad, the unseen bits ITV.** It's such a pleasure watching this Father and Son take on daring Feats a new series starts on Monday 4 Jan ITV 8pm.

**Dr Who was just great, BBC1.** I'm not always a fan, but I really enjoyed this new episode.

**Bridgerton, A Netflix series, 8 episodes.** Loved this and watched one episode after another. *Linda Weiss*





## STEMM Group

Pat Scrutton, based in Dunblane, is an active member of the **Intergenerational National Network** <https://otbds.org/projects/intergenerational-national-network/> that brings together people across Scotland (and further afield) who have an interest in intergenerational practice and, increasingly, multigenerational working.

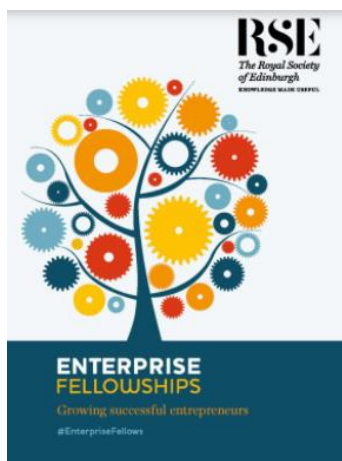
Pat shared five STEMM projects in Scotland that she prefers to call cross-generational, emphasising that true sharing of experience must avoid a top-down approach.

**We work alongside local folk to create a healthier, happier Possilpark (NE Glasgow) by creating opportunities to grow, work, socialise, play, and learn together.**

<https://www.concretegarden.org.uk>



<http://www.glasgowsciencefestival.org.uk/>



Her short talk generated plenty of discussion and Pat then shared numerous other cross-generational projects.

The **Citadel Youth Centre** in Leith that has effectively morphed into a community centre with young and older folk learning alongside each other. **United for All Ages** works towards creating stronger communities and a stronger country by bringing older and younger people together and tackling some of Britain's biggest social and economic issues.

Our STEMM group members aim to encourage our 'next generations' to want to engage in STEMM activities and learning, doing our bit for the future.

**Fun with Physics** with Keith Gibbs who had prepared a vast array of live demos and videos of physics experiments that can be done, safely, at home. The session was recorded so that some of the activities can be trialled with grandchildren. We can access Keith's resources on:

<http://www.schoolphysics.co.uk/> and [https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLaYCLfMYteyQ-trjRU-th\\_MSUMfL4kSA](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLaYCLfMYteyQ-trjRU-th_MSUMfL4kSA)

2020: The year that was, in which we learnt how to work Zoom and ran 26 sessions in contrast to the two live talks in January and February. We have planned for a Zooming STEMM existence till at least May 2021.

*Lyn Haynes*



## Poetry Appreciation

*A very Happy New Year to you All!*

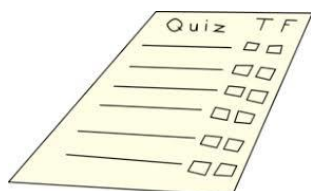
The Group continues to meet each month and we decided to meet via Zoom in December. We usually take a break during the months of August and December. However, giving the circumstances at the time, we held a festive meeting on Zoom. This was much enjoyed, and we discussed works of Betjeman and William Blake.



Our next Zoom meeting will be at the end of January. Hopefully, we will be able to meet again in person later this year.

*Michelle Blythe*

## Upminster, Cranham & Hornchurch Quiz.



1. Silver Horn sold ice cream in Upminster. Where was it?
2. Near Hornchurch station there is a Sainsbury's Local. What was previously there?
3. When was Hornchurch swimming pool/leisure centre built?
4. What is the current use for Upminster Hall?
5. What are the names of the 2 local rivers that both notionally run north to south?
6. Where was the Upminster pitch and putt golf course before it was off Hall Lane?
7. What is on the site of the former Cranham Hall Farm?
8. Where was there the brewery in Hornchurch?
9. Cranham was an ancient parish in part of which Hundred?
10. What was the name of the shop in Station Road, Upminster where you could buy school uniforms?

*Russ*



## Singing for Fun

We are very sad to advise the death of one of our members, **Carol Vine**. Carol died on the 12 December as a result of a severe stroke, whilst in hospital being treated for pneumonia. Her family were with her.

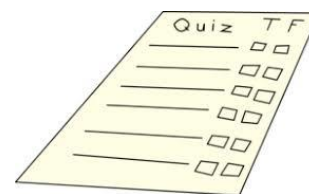
Many of you will remember Carol as a lovely lady, not only an active member of Upminster u3a helping with the teas at monthly meetings, but also as **Leader of the Upminster u3a choir**, and singing in the WI choir at the Royal Albert Hall. She also organised quizzes and barn dances to raise money for charities such as Help for Heroes and Blesma.

We send our condolences to Paul and her family: she will be sadly missed.

## *Upminster u3a Committee*

### Quiz Answers.

1. It was in Corbets Tey Road, almost opposite Stewart Avenue.
2. A petrol station.
3. 1956.
4. Since 1927 it has been the clubhouse of Upminster Golf Club. It is listed Grade 2. The present house dates to circa 1500. At that time, it was owned by the abbots of Waltham Abbey.
5. The rivers Ingrebourne and Ravensbourne. The former rises from the headwaters in Navestock and South Weald and flows to the river Thames. The latter used to rise at Gallows Corner (not visible now) and flows to the river Beam.
6. Upminster Park. I remember it there in the 1950's. There used to be a water fountain by the tennis courts.
7. Cranham Hall Mews that is a development of about 10 dwellings, built in about 2010.
8. It was either side of the High Street. It was founded in 1789 as Hornchurch Brewery Co. Ltd. and after several changes in ownership brewing ceased in 1929.
9. Chafford Hundred of Essex. Its area was 1,879 acres.
10. Kinda's. It closed in 2017 after about 65 years of trading.



## *Russ*