



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](#)
- **View the latest U3a Covid advise for Group activities.** Click [here](#).
- **National u3a partner events** – The u3a has built partnerships across the UK so we can offer seminars, lectures and visits on a range of subjects, including: National Gallery, Royal Institution, Guildhall Art Gallery in London, click [here](#) for further details.

Useful links

Visit our Upminster u3a website to view our current list of active Groups, click [here](#)

Upminster u3a Committee – Contact details can be found on our website, click [here](#)

Diary Dates

Our next monthly meeting will be held on **Tuesday 18^h May 2021 at 2pm, via Zoom.**

This month's **Guest Speaker** will be: **Bernard Lockett**, talking on the heritage of **Gilbert & Sullivan.**

Future Guest Speakers' program

- 15th June '21 – Steven Dimmer, 'Four Candles – The Life and Times of Ronnie Barker'.
- 20th July '21 – Dr Dan Smith 'Environmental Impact of Mining'.
- 17th Aug '21 – Sarah Slater 'Working with the Ghosts of Hampton Court'.

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View from the Chair

Welcome back to another year of Upminster u3a. I am delighted that so many of you had confidence to renew your membership. Thank you all.

What excitement in April that we could go out again, shopping, not just for essentials. It is a sad reflection of my life so far this year that I found it easier to remember the security number of my credit card than its PIN number! However, I have managed to go to Roomes, the Taproom and the Pub, as well as chilling at a couple of restaurants (eh bah gum, that's a cold east wind!). Roll on 17th May, when we can finally sit in the warm to be served.



Although we are promised lifting of all restrictions in June, we don't yet know when the New Windmill Hall will reopen nor how many will be allowed inside. Until August at least we will continue to use Zoom for monthly meetings, as well as our AGM, which is due to take place in June. The agenda and other papers will be sent out to you all towards the end of May.

On 2nd June the first u3a Day will take place, both nationally and internationally. Whilst Upminster u3a hasn't planned any special events you may notice a few posters around the area publicising Upminster u3a to tell everyone that we're still here and busy.

Have fun and enjoy getting back together with family and friends.

Courtney



Upminster u3a's Desert Island Discs

I can't believe that almost 500 people in Uu3a are musical philistines or are just finding it difficult to reduce all their favourite music to just eight pieces.

Whatever the reason, **nobody** else has come forward with their selections, so I only have one more choice to go unless some of you send yours in to chrisslade1@sky.com or give me a call on 07906-433559.

This month's CASTAWAY was Norm Larsen.

Music:

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Pretty Woman | Roy Orbison |
| 2. Under the Boardwalk | The Drifters |
| 3. I am a Rock | Simon & Garfunkel |
| 4. Good Vibrations | Beach Boys |
| 5. Light my fire | Jose Feliciano |
| 6. American Pie | Don McClean |
| 7. Music was my first love | John Miles |
| 8. Miserere Mei | Allegri/Recorded by the 16 Choir and Orchestra |

Favourite piece from the 8 is number 8.

Book: Encyclopaedia Britannica.

Luxury Item: Curry.

Chris Slade



Groups Update

Garden Visits

This Group was about to start when the pandemic hit us. We are currently endeavouring to arrange our first visit for August.

History of London

Seven visits to four locations with over 200 Group members booked in have been arranged starting in mid-August. Further visits will be arranged as locations start to open up.

Petanque

Hoping to recommence playing towards the end of June.

Quizzes

After running 120 online quizzes over the past year's lockdowns, we are now waiting for our regular venue to reopen so that we can meet up again for **real**.

Technology Explained

Terry Smith has kindly agreed to continue to provide his knowledge and his home, once it is possible to do so, and Group members have been contacted to ascertain whether they still wish to remain part of the Group going forward.

Chris Slade

Mah Jong

A few people will continue playing on-line on Thursdays until 17th June.

Assuming no change to the 'road-map' for easing restrictions, a rota for playing in the garden on Tuesdays will continue until 11th May, (weather permitting!).



Then the rota will move indoors (one table) until 15th June, following which we hope to allow an unlimited number indoors from 22nd June.

Alan Woodhurst



Cinema Group

I have watched a few good films this month.

[Made in Italy, Netflix](#)

Made in Italy is a comedy drama, starring Liam Neeson and his real son, Michael Richardson, who play father and estranged son. They go to restore and sell a villa after his wife has died. An enjoyable film.



[A Time to Kill, Amazon Prime](#)

A Time to Kill, a fearless young lawyer and his assistant defend a black man accused of murdering two white men who raped his daughter. Written by John Grisham.

Starring Matthew McConaughey, Sandra Bullock and Samuel L. Jackson what a cast.

[Greenland, Amazon Prime](#)

An American disaster film starring Gerard Butler. A family struggles for survival in the face of a cataclysmic natural disaster. Kept me enthralled all the way through.

[Colette, BBC2](#)

Starring Keira Knightley and Domonic West, Colette is pushed by her husband to write novels under his name. Upon their success, she fights to make her talents known and challenging gender norms. It's a bit saucy but enjoyable.

[Leonardo, Netflix](#)

Leonardo, is a new series on Netflix, starring Aidan Turner who played Ross Poldark in the 2015 adaptation of The Poldark Novels. It recounts Leonardo da Vinci's extraordinary life through the works that made him famous. The series does merge fact and fiction.

[TV](#)

I have been watching **Martin and Roman's Weekend Best**, ITV Saturday and Sunday 9.25am. It is just an easy watch programme.

Richard Osman's **House of Games**, BBC2 6pm every weekday. If you haven't watched this great quiz programme, make sure to record it, it's only 30 minutes long and great fun.

Well, that's it from me take care love,

Linda Weiss



Art History/Appreciation Group

Lockdown is easing, the sun is making an appearance, so following the 'rule of six' we have organised a series of garden meetings. Hopefully, the weather will be kind to us. It will be wonderful to get together again to discuss our lockdown activities and plan for the future.

Chris Mecham

Short walks



We have started our walks again. Our first walk was in Hornchurch Country Park, but we hope to get down to Southend, in the near future.

As soon as we are allowed, we will start our walks in London keeping away from really built-up areas.

Helen and Russ

Beer Tasting Group

The group has been holding monthly beer tasting sessions via zoom since the beginning of the year [which have been successful], but we're all keen to get back to pubs and our regular activities. We've had a couple of ladies join the group since lockdown, which is good.

We'll be returning to the Upminster Taproom courtyard at the beginning of May and thereafter we'll be visiting local micropubs, both indoors and outdoors in groups of six and visiting interesting pubs further afield. Unfortunately, we can't visit beer festivals [there are none!] nor breweries at the moment [no tours available yet], but hopefully that will become possible as things improve during the year.

I'll be putting together a provisional schedule for the group so we have a couple of events each month, but this will be subject to change once more options become available.

Kevin Kilbey



Local History Group

I have been looking into last year's plans I had for the group. At the moment the places on our list to visit have not reopened, or providing any dates for when they are likely to do so. I will contact our members when visits can resume. However, I do not feel this will be before June when all restrictions will have hopefully lifted.

Owing to various reasons I would like **to step back from leading the group**. Would anyone like to come forward to take over or even run it with me. I am happy to continue in the meantime. Anyone wishing to run the group or assist me should contact a member of the committee. Contact details can be found on our [website](#).

Take care and keep safe.

Frances Faldo

Scrabble Group meetings

As the scrabble group has only 8 members all meetings have taken place pre-COVID monthly in my home. Taking account of the requirements of Stage 3 of the roadmap out of lockdown I intend to commence meetings again starting on 26th May, indoors for a group of 6 or below.

Unusually, should all 8 be present, then the group will be split with one half seated outdoors under cover. Social distancing and the usual hygiene measures will be followed.

Along with all other u3a members it will be great to get together again.

Carol Thomas

Friday Art Group

Bridie received the groups Top Banana Award for her painting of a Vase and Flowers, using acrylic paint for the first time.

This was one of several excellent pieces of art produced by the Friday art group. Let's hope we will be able to meet again soon. Until then, we will keep in touch via weekly zoom coffee breaks.

Sandra Ward





Evening Theatre Group

Hello theatre lovers. Have you missed going to the theatre? I can't wait to get back and see a really good laugh out loud show. I understand that in the current situation not everyone wishes to travel to London by train, so I am looking to restart in the New Year. In the meantime, the aim is to support our local theatres.



We travel together from Upminster station. I also try to book a pre-theatre meal or a glass of wine. This gives new members a chance to chat and make new friends.

Any questions or if you would like to join us, please email me at chrism6020@gmail.com. You will be assured of a warm welcome. Stay safe and look forward to seeing you.

Chris(tine)

Poetry Appreciation Group



Robert Browning, Emily Dickinson and Brian Patten's work were the subject of discussion this month, along with our guest poet, Don Marquis.

World Poetry Day was held in March and we talked about the programmes which BBC4 hosted. In fact, most of the evening was dedicated to what was a varied and enjoyable event.

Moving forward, we hope to commence 'live', socially distanced meetings, government restrictions permitting, in June, and this was agreed by the majority who attended the April meeting. We are very keen to meet up in person. Whilst Zooming has been our way of holding our monthly meetings, to hold outdoor garden gatherings would not be feasible for our subject matter! Fingers crossed!

Michelle Blythe

Thursday Art Group

We have been meeting for the past few Thursdays in my garden and Summerhouse, despite mixed weather. It has been very pleasant. We have not exceeded the magic number six.

We have been drawing from flowers and plants and prepared reference sketches. Some of our group have health problems, but as we were allowed a minimum 6 this has worked out ok for us. It has proved to me the benefit of our u3a in that we humans love to mix.

June Preston.



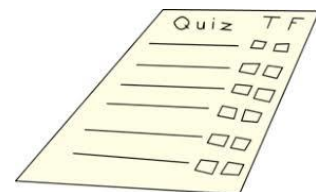
Upminster, Cranham & Hornchurch Quiz

This is my [last quiz](#) as lockdown is starting to ease. I cannot believe that it is the 14th quiz!

Hope that there was something of interest to you and prompted you to find out more about your local history.

Some sources: British History Online, Wikipedia, The Story of Upminster booklets, National Library of Scotland (Ordnance Survey Maps – Six-inch England and Wales, 1842–1952) and living in Upminster for most of my life.

1. The National School and one of the Trinity United Reform church halls had a common use after WW2. What was this?
2. Where was the Eastern Electricity showroom in Upminster?
3. When did the Mayor cut the ribbon to open the Lidl supermarket? _
4. What is the significance of the proposed renaming of Sanders School to Sanders Drapers?
5. When was the Hornchurch swimming pool built?
6. Where is Hornchurch Football Club grounds?
7. How did Stubbers get its name and what was it originally?
8. What was the name of the first Baronet who lived in Cranham Hall?
9. When did the 346 bus route first start to operate?
10. The Abraham family as millers owned Upminster Windmill. What other businesses did they have?



Russ Barnett



Photography Group

To see some of the April 'Reflections' Photos please use the link below.

Quickconnect.to/Uu3A-photos/photo

Our next meeting is on the 17th May, when we can meet up again as a group at Hyde Hall.

Terry Simms



Picture by Dave Faldo

Walking with Wildlife

In April we managed two walks. The first was to the Manor, otherwise known as Dagnam Park, and the second to RSPB Rainham Marshes. If you want to see deer, go to Dagnam Park as we saw over 300



fallow deer there in several groups, the closest being right near the car park.

Rainham marshes is always a good place for birding, and over the 3 walks we managed to see over 60 different bird species, including the breeding Avocets, Redshank and Lapwing. All the migrant birds are starting to arrive, and there were plenty of swifts, sand martins and swallows to be seen, as well as the summer warblers, whitethroat, sedge warblers and reed warblers. However, the highlight of the visit was a water vole seen on the Friday walk. These little animals are becoming more abundant at Rainham Marshes.



Picture courtesy of Richard Saville

Very soon, after the 17th May, we will be able to go out again as one big group. There will be one more walk in groups of 6 before that.

Terry Smith



Walking Group

As we are an outdoors group, we have never stopped walking. To walk and talk with your friends, sharing time together is a joy, especially just now!

You must complete a proper *RISK ASSESSMENT* to take more than six.

The number of lovely walkers has been limited, at one stage it was just me and one other. Now an *UNLIMITED* number of people can walk together. However, a realistic group size, bearing in mind distancing etc., is about 10. The u3a as a charity may carry out organised activities when following government guidelines. I used the ramblers risk assessment, as they are a recognised walking organisation.

People are careful and most reluctant to venture onto underground trains or any other crowded transport currently. Several solutions are noted below to help get you out and exercise. One solution is to use overground trains. The c2c service [after 9:30] for example to Southend taking in the fresh air, maybe a Rossi ice cream, fish n chips, a paddle, or a stroll on the pier. If you avoid weekends and the central area, it's not at all crowded. A senior rail rover ticket, Monday to Friday, is £7. Oh! and the loos are all open!

Thinking of travelling to our great metropolis? How about the c2c to Limehouse and walk outside around Canary Wharf [it is not crowded] and down through Millwall Dock onto Mudchute Farm. Then returning along the riverside path or take a D.L.R. train back to Limehouse. There is no cost with your freedom pass.

Our group is making the most of the great Essex Countryside. Several parks invite a visit. Belhus Woods for the lakes, South Weald for the trees and scenery. Thorndon Park has a good mix of both. The latter two incorporating my workout route is guaranteed to get you fitter after all the time indoors. All three have take-away cafes and loos open.

A senior car park pass for the Essex parks is £50 per year. It's soon recouped with regular visits and cafe discounts. 7 parks are covered, including Belhus Woods, Cudmore Grove East Mersea, Danbury, Great Notley, Braintree, Hadleigh, Thorndon and South Weald. You can purchase the Explorer Pass through [MiPermit](#), or at the parks' visitor centres.

Further out most of Essex has places to walk far from the madding crowd. Transport is by car, so no contact worries.

So, get your boots on, get out and go walking.

Norman



Quiz Answers.

1. They were both used as temporary school classrooms for Upminster Junior Primary school due to 'the bulge' after WW2.

2. It was in Corbets Tey Road, opposite the park.

3. On 15th March 2018.

4. It is to honour flying officer [Raimund Sanders Draper](#) who, as an American volunteer with [RAF](#) Hornchurch, deliberately crashed his Spitfire to avoiding hitting the school. This was on 24th March 1943.



5. In 1956. Harrow Lodge Park.

6. Its location is Hornchurch Stadium Bridge Avenue.

7. It took its name after William Stubber, Yeoman, who formed the estate in the years between 1439 and his death in 1484. The estate originated as a free tenement of the manor of North Ockendon.

8. It was Sir Francis Petre in about 1642. The third Baronet was a [Jesuit](#) and close adviser to King James II. The title became extinct on the death of the fifth Baronet in 1722.

9. This was on 26th September 1988.

10. Some of the Abrahams family set up as coal merchants in the 1880's. There had been a steam mill for several years. Another family member ran a baker's shop.

Russ Barnett

I am sure we would all wish to thank Russ for preparing our monthly quiz during the lockdown.

