

General Meetings are held on the **second Thursday** of the month at 2.00pm  
at Christ Church, 164 New London Road, Chelmsford CM2 0AW

## General Meeting Speakers

**Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> September at 2pm Amanda Sutherland – Make Do And Mend - Reuse, Recreate and Restyle your Wardrobe.**

Having received both BTEC and national diploma levels in fashion design and styling, Amanda will show the most fabulous garment recreations that can be achieved from charity shop finds and old keepsakes. with simple yet effective methods. Demonstrating various ways in adapting everyday clothing, from worn and badly fitting garments into exciting and unique fashion pieces. At the end of the presentation the ever popular gift shop will be open for members to browse the latest collections of Amanda's own label, with the opportunity to buy a range of fabric, jewellery and eco accessories at a member's group discount.



**Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> September at 7.30 pm Chelmsford u3a Late Summer Concert Featuring SongCycle.** This event is free but it is advisable to reserve your place go to <https://chelmsford.u3asite.uk/a-concert-by-song-cycle/>

**Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> October at 2pm Jo O'Brien – Chiropractor.**

**Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> November at 2pm Mary and Graham Brace – Wildlife Photographers & Conservationists with a presentation on Brazil**

**Friday 6<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December at 2pm Christmas Party with Tony Harris as Henry VIII**



Last year we had more members wishing to attend the Christmas Social than we could safely accommodate in the hall. This year therefore we are having two Christmas Socials. On Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December and Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> December, both starting at 2:00pm. We have the same entertainer booked on both days and will endeavour to make both events as similar as possible. We will be selling raffle tickets at both events to raise money for our Am Dram Group to help pay for costumes, props and scenery for their production scheduled for April 2025.

We will need volunteers on both days to help run the event. I am looking to form a committee to organise and run our two Christmas Socials this year. If you would like to help in any way please contact me on: [ejwood34@gmail.com](mailto:ejwood34@gmail.com) 01245 601359. So that I can keep an eye on numbers for both safety and catering, could members please let me know on which day you would like to attend.



### Meeting of Potential New Book Group

The current u3a Book Group is full and a number of people have expressed interest in joining a second book group. An initial meeting to set up the group will take place at 2.00pm on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> September at Christ Church, New London Road, Chelmsford.

If you are interested in joining the group please contact Lesley Wood [Chelmsfordu3achair@yahoo.com](mailto:Chelmsfordu3achair@yahoo.com)

### View from the Chair

Last month we were treated to a very different type of presentation at our members meeting, when Karen Lawrie encouraged us to take part in some chair exercises. Such exercises are good for improving posture, flexibility, muscle strength, circulation and balance. Karen's message was clear – if you don't use it you'll lose it!

After a few warm up exercises whilst still seated, involving first our arms and then our legs, we put the two together, in a routine performed to the rather appropriately named song 'I would walk 500 miles' by the Proclaimers! Then we upped the pace and performed Chair Can-Can to music by Offenbach!



This was followed by some standing exercises – holding on to the back of the chair. I think everyone enjoyed it – even those of us that aren't used to exercising found it to be a lot of fun! Unfortunately Karen hasn't the capacity to hold regular exercise classes for us, but you might be interested in this video on YouTube which is approved by the NHS and demonstrates many similar chair-based exercises in a 10 minute routine. Unfortunately there is no music, but you could always play your own! Click here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EJgZygWBKaE>

## **Committee Update**

We had a committee meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> of August. There weren't many items for the agenda so we took the opportunity to put our heads together and discuss what we were going to do to recruit new committee members. We currently have 600 members, and our membership is still growing at something like 12 per month. Whilst this is encouraging it seems that we are not recruiting many members with the skills, confidence and enthusiasm to start new Interest Groups or join the committee.

Over the last 18 months or so we have advertised the role of Secretary a number of times but have had no applicants. This is particularly worrying, as the role has to be filled by someone as it is one for the four 'officer' roles we are obliged to have under the terms of our constitution. In extreme cases u3as have had to be 'dissolved' because they cannot recruit new officers to the committee. If this happens all the interest groups have to stop meeting and any funds they have accumulated have to be returned to the Third Age Trust.

Over the coming months your committee will be exploring ways we can recruit new members from those that are approaching retirement. You can help too by letting us know if you have any contacts with your old employers in the area who might be able to share information about the u3a with employees. You could also share information about the u3a with anyone who you know that may soon be retiring or is cutting back their hours to work part-time. Even if they aren't interested in joining u3a themselves, perhaps they would be willing put us in touch with their employer to share information.

As you know we will be hosting an evening concert on 27<sup>th</sup> September featuring Song Cycle. Whilst many of our members have booked tickets for the concert, there are still plenty of seats available. The committee agreed that these seats should be offered to the general public and in effect this will be a kind of Open Evening. We will have promotional material on hand and members of the committee will do their best to attract new and potential members during the refreshments break.

In the meantime please consider joining us as a Trustee on the committee. We have a 'vacancies' page on our website where you will find a description for the secretary role and details of whom to contact - <https://chelmsford.u3asite.uk/vacancies-committee-and-elections/>

We have another trustee vacancy, that has no particular role attached to it at the present time. This is an opportunity for someone to familiarise themselves with the running of the u3a, to try out an existing role by shadowing someone, or indeed identify an area that would benefit from more attention.

## **Third Age Trust Update**

The Trust has recently announced the appointment of Iain Cassidy as their new CEO. Iain joins the Trust from a role as CEO of Open Age, a London based charity that champions an active life for older adults. Iain replaces Sam Mauger who has been in post for the last 8 years.

Iain says he "will work hard, for and with, the amazing volunteers who give up their time to run over 1,000 u3as in the UK". He promises to be "a strong advocate for our members, raising our profile within the positive ageing movement, and growing our membership, so that many more people can come together and learn new things and have fun - now and well into the future."

Lesley Wood  
Chelmsfordu3achair@yahoo.com

## London - The City & its People Group

Leader: Berry Cornell

If you would like to join the London Group please contact the membership secretary Chris Rycroft for further information: Tel no. 01245 473047 email: [c.rycroft123@btinternet.com](mailto:c.rycroft123@btinternet.com).

The Group **usually** meets up on 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month at 2pm but **dates in bold** are exceptions due to Bank holidays, Christmas and availability. Meetings are held at Christ Church, New London Road, Chelmsford.



### Future Programme 2024

- 23<sup>rd</sup> Sept Visit to “Shakespeare’s Globe, Story and Tour”. **This visit is now full.**
- 28<sup>th</sup> Oct Talk: Along London’s Capital Ring Walk, speaker Tony Tuckwell
- 25<sup>th</sup> Nov Visit to Wimbledon – a flyer will be in the October newsletter.
- 16<sup>th</sup> Dec** Visit Essex Records Office – films (Details to follow), tea and cakes.

**Committee:** Berry Cornell Convenor 01277 355823, Susie Fowkes, Chris Rycroft, David Marsh, Dave Sayers, Bob Smith Deputy Convenor.

## Spanish Conversation Group

Leader: Lindsay Whitehouse



There were thirteen of us for our monthly meeting in Chelmsford Library on 21<sup>st</sup> August 2024 and we followed it by going for lunch at the Spanish tapas themed restaurant El Chigre in Moulsham Street.

We spent the first twenty minutes or so of our meeting looking at some colloquial Spanish phrases and trying to work out how they translated into English. Some not very literally! For example, we say “the coast is clear”, but the Spanish version harks back to the Middle Ages by saying “there aren’t any Moors on the coast.”

We also looked at a list of Spanish words which at first sight would translate literally, but in practice mean something quite different. A trap for the unwary! Examples include “embarazada” which means “pregnant” – there is a very different word for “embarrassed;” “miseria” which means poverty, not misery; and “sensible” which means “sensitive” - not sensible which translates as sensato! And if you say “estoy constipado” it means that you have a heavy cold, not what we would think. Care required when obtaining the right medication!

During our news slot, one of our members described the weeklong immersive Spanish course for non-Spanish speakers in Madrid that she will be attending next month. Spanish from dawn to dusk, no English allowed! It sounds quite daunting, but we believe that she will benefit greatly from it.

Our lunch included several favourite tapas items including paella, Serrano ham, croquettes, aubergine (not sure if it was baked or fried, but very nice nevertheless), prawns, Spanish omelette, and patatas bravas (potatoes cooked in a tomato and garlic sauce).

Our group is currently at full capacity, so we are not seeking additional members at the moment. However, if you can hold a basic conversation in Spanish and wish to be put onto our waiting list, please click the link

to our website. The next meeting for the group will be on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> September 2024 at 10:30am at Chelmsford Library in a meeting room on the first floor.

David Gout

### **Art Appreciation Group**

Leader: Brenda Kelly

This month we journeyed to Gainsborough's House in Sudbury, Suffolk. It re-opened in November 2022 after being closed for three years for extensive renovations. Now, it combines the former house of Thomas Gainsborough (1727-1788), the great portraitist and landscape artist, with an attractive new extension and gallery, plus an excellent cafe and beautiful garden, all worth a visit. At the time of our visit, there was an exhibition 'Revealing Nature: the Art of Cedric Morris and Lett-Haines' in the new extension.

Gainsborough lived in the house until the age of thirteen and we saw his desk and some of his portrait paintings of famous people of his day. They were very realistic and you could almost imagine them sitting there. In another room there was a large printing press. On climbing the steep stairs we found other rooms, one a music room containing a harpsichord and other instruments, further portraits and landscapes, including one by John Constable.



Flowers in a Portuguese Landscape by Cedric Morris

The top floor room was filled with beautiful paintings of irises in many different colours by Cedric Morris (1889-1982). Apart from being an artist, he was a keen plantsman and one time planted 1000 new iris seedlings. He lived with his partner, Arthur Lett-Haines (1894-1978), who called himself 'the English Surrealist', in Cornwall, Paris, and Suffolk. Together in Suffolk they founded the 'East Anglian School of Painting and Drawing' first in Dedham, then later in Benton End, Maggi Hambling was a pupil and they also knew Lucien Freud. Morris had some beautiful water colours of flowers and birds, as well as portraits. Lett-Haines' pictures were more Surrealistic. A very enjoyable visit.

In September we stay at home, meeting in a member's house, to discuss 'Paintings with Hats in them'. It should be interesting.

### **Art for Pleasure Group**

Leader: Les Cooper

After leading the Art Tuesday Group for many years Cynthia Cronin has retired and Les Cooper has become the Leader. The name of the group has been changed to Art for Pleasure. Les can be contacted via the Chelmsford u3a website.

## Birding Group

Leader Alan Alexander 01245 248030 Mobile 07712 818499



Dabchick or Little Grebe

On 23<sup>rd</sup> August the Birding Group met at Cockaynes Wood, Alresford. Three members attended and enjoyed a stroll around a new wood for the Chelmsford U3A Birding Group. In addition to the woods there were areas of heath, plus pools created by the digging associated with historic gravel extraction.

It was, however, the middle of summer and there were few birds about. We did see Dabchick, Coot, Common Tern, Herring Gull, Crow, Great Tit. Also on view were a number of colourful dragonflies.

## Our 2024 Programme

27<sup>th</sup> September. Rainham Marshes

25<sup>th</sup> October. Thameside

22<sup>nd</sup> November. Blue House Farm

**New members are very welcome to join us, please** feel free to contact me on the numbers above, or by the U3A website email address. We meet at 10am on the fourth Friday of the month at the chosen venue and set off about ten minutes later. The walking is not arduous, we usually spend more time standing or sitting in hides enjoying the spectacle of nature. There is no fee to join the group and **all abilities are more than welcome** whether an experienced birder or total novice.

If members would like to be added to our growing WhatsApp Group, please let me know and give me your mobile number. As always, if any members have ideas or suggestions for visits, please let me know. I will send all members an email nearer the time, confirming the location and that we can go ahead.

## Bus Pass Group

Group Leader: Maurice Austin

“Oh Mr Austin, whatever are you on?

We wanted to go to Lavenham

But instead, you bussed to Maldon.” [With apologies to George and Thomas Le Brunn.]

Friday 9 August saw 11 of us waiting for the First 371 to Colchester where we would change for a much-anticipated ride through the beautiful north Essex and Suffolk countryside to Lavenham. The bus left ten minutes late and was driven as hard as traffic conditions allowed through Chelmer Village, past our long awaited nearly ready railway station to Boreham. On the way, the windscreen wipers started operating and we were sorely disappointed. The forecast had encouraged light clothing, just one umbrella between us and a feeling of euphoria that, at last, we were to have a day out in nice weather. There seemed to be no rain, but the wipers were still beating time. Perhaps the driver was cleaning the windscreen though there was so sign of fluid.

A passenger rang the bell to get off at Boreham. Quite naturally, the bus stopped, and everyone waited for

the door to open to let the passenger off and the rest of us to continue our journey and, hopefully, make up for time already lost. The door wouldn't open. Conversation at the front, passenger pressed the exit button above the door and disembarked. Door wouldn't close, driver fiddled and wiggled things, we went off but only for a couple of stops. Driver got out, fiddled again, got on the phone, opened the engine cover, more wiggling (heard, not seen!), more phoning. Waiting.

After prompting by our Hazel, we were told another bus would be sent out. That's all!

What to do, we were already losing the connection time built into our schedule. We could wait for the replacement and take a chance we could connect at Colchester but with a 2-hourly service, that was risky. We could use Colchester to get to a host of other places but without a set of timetables to peruse, that could be an issue. But wait! A 73 to Heybridge Basin and Maldon was due soon, so we changed our schedule for the day! And abandoned ship, or bus!



All Saint's Church, Maldon by Sandra Barnett.



This is what Maldon is all about! Both pics by Sandra Barnett.

The 73 duly arrived and the very pleasant and careful driver took us through the pretty villages of Ulting and Langford to Heybridge, Heybridge Basin and on to Maldon. Two of our party got off at the Basin and walked along the Chelmer & Blackwater Navigation into Maldon (see the next page). The rest of us got off at The White Horse and split into little groups depending on whether a little walk, a coffee and cake or fish and chips was required. We decided to gather at the same stop late for a direct bus back to Chelmsford.

What we didn't know was that road works prevented the 331 from using the High Street. There had been a closure which the website had said finished the previous day. Several of us saw a man in an orange vest

marked GAS stick leaflets on the timetable cases saying this stop is closed until October(!). Well, some of the stops were not closed as some routes were, using them, some had been diverted but used a different stop. It was only “our” routes which were seriously affected. The public was clearly in disarray, many people were lost, no doubt, there were many getting to their destination late that day.

Nevertheless, we got through all this! Some walked to St. Peter’s Hospital for the direct bus, most of us caught the pretty route 73 back. A different driver, rather taciturn but an excellent driver.

Despite the issues, everyone had a nice time, and our WhatsApp group was full of charming comments. Rita Eden wrote

”Pam and I had a wonderful walk from Heybridge to Maldon park along the canal, it took 52 minutes. We parted at the park to go our separate ways only to meet up again at the High Street stop where a man came along to post a notification, no buses here until 6 October. So off we set to St Peter’s Hospital, where we had to run for the 31. Not easy in sandals but job done and very relieved to be back in Chelmsford. What a wonderful adventure, thank you Maurice.”

Whilst all this was going on, two of us actually got to Lavenham! The Byotts from Hutton cheated somewhat by catching a train to Sudbury and then the cross-country bus. They too had a lovely time and have sent some pictures to whet our appetites for a future attempt! Jayne has suggested we consider becoming a Bus pass/train journey group to give a wider range of trips. I would welcome your views.



Photos of Lavenham by Jayne Byott

As you know, I was asked not to arrange a bus pass trip **on Friday 13 September** as the Chelmsford u3a has a coach trip to Buckingham Palace. Now that the coach trip has been filled, I **will** put on an afternoon trip. First have recently won some contracts in the Harlow area and have introduced some interesting “positioning” trips. We will catch the new First 19 from the Bus Station, stand 6 at 14.20, this goes via Cooksmill Green and Epping to Harlow arriving at 15.38. We can have tea and a cake in one of the nice cafes in the town centre and catch the direct 16.15 59 back to Chelmsford Rail Station at 17.08 (and on to the university).

As promised, I will organise another trip to Southend on **Saturday 7 September** when I will use the Ensign 99 “Rossi” open-top bus service to Shoeburyness, East Beach. As bus passes are available at all times on Saturdays, we will catch the **09.17/09.21 X30** from stand 1 at Chelmsford Bus Station which is due at Southend, at 10.24. I shall go on the Ensign 99 open-top bus to Shoeburyness, East Beach. Concessionary fares are £3 return. There are some nice cafes in Shoeburyness and on the Garrison. One can ride back or even walk along the sea-front to Southend.

Maurice Austin.

## Book Group

Leader: Andy Moir

At our August meeting we discussed Act of Oblivion by Robert Harris. The historical novel starts in 1660 when after Cromwell's death Charles II returns as the new king. Under the Act of Oblivion all crimes committed during the English Civil War are forgiven except for the people who signed Charles I death warrant.

Under the provisions of the Act, the fifty-nine men who signed the king's death warrant and participated in his execution have been found guilty in absentia of high treason. Some of the Roundheads, including Oliver Cromwell, are already dead. Others have been captured, hung drawn, and quartered and some have fled abroad.

Two of these men, Colonel Edward Whalley and his son-in law Colonel William Goffe escape on a ship bound for the New England. In London, Richard Nayler, secretary of the regicide committee of the Privy Council, is charged with bringing the traitors to justice and he will stop at nothing to find them. A substantial bounty hangs over their heads for their capture—dead or alive.

Most of the group enjoyed the novel and thought that the book painted a vivid picture of life in 17<sup>th</sup> century London, including the plague and the great Fire of London, and of life in New England colonies at that time. The one criticism that some of us had was that the book was too long, a common complaint we have of books written by successful authors.

### Our books for the next three meeting are:

Mon Sep 16 <sup>th</sup>	A Quality of Silence by Rosamund Lupton
Mon Oct 21 <sup>st</sup>	The shadows of men by Abir Mukherjee
Mon Nov 18 <sup>th</sup>	A lesson in Chemistry by Bonnie Garmus

## Church Visiting Group

Group Leader: Brian Greatrex Administrator: Michael Gray

RAYLEIGH, Holy Trinity and HOCKLEY, St Peter and St Paul on Wednesday 7 August.



We were welcomed to Holy Trinity with convivial coffee and cake in the Parish Centre, while we waited for the morning service to finish. Our knowledgeable guides Gordon and Ann started the tour in the church yard, and ended it up the tower. On the way they shared their extensive stock of stories and

histories – the Tudor porch, used variously as a shelter for the homeless and a school, and the many additions and restorations, including the new Parish Centre, not yet thirty years old, and the even more recent digital organ. The rood loft and the gallery, both no more, the inscriptions on the pillars, the rare Queen Anne coat of arms. And the 300 year old mystery of the Reverend Philip Shore, buried in the chancel when he died in Rayleigh [“gout in the bowels”] on his way home to Sussex from Cambridge. But why was he here at all, and why was he not taken home ?

Our guide to the lovely parish church on high ground just outside the village of Hockley was Liz. The starry cast of her fascinating story included King Cnut – the battle of Ashingdon again – Ann of Cleves, Lord Petre, Thomas Cromwell, and Protestant martyr William Tyms.



The materials include red tile, red brick, a shingle spire and much rubble with limestone dressing. Among many treasures, a broken altar slab, unearthed last century, probably buried to save it from destruction, a beautiful Tudor chalice, a fine set of Stations of the Cross, and two gravestones – Samson, the world’s strongest man, who ended his days in a Hockley bungalow in 1962, and right by the porch, a coffin-shaped slab to William Waigh, 1791 , who specifically asked to be interred on this spot outside the church door; having been 'trampled' on in life, he wished to receive the same treatment after death!

Our next visit on Wednesday September 4 takes us to the coast: GREAT WAKERING St Nicholas and NORTH SHOEBURY St Mary the Virgin; a detailed briefing with you on August 28

### **Lunch Club 3**

Leaders: Laraine Linard and Barbara Childs

Alan chose a new venue, for Julys' Lunch Club 3 get-together, The William B in Hatfield Peverel and very happy to report that it did not disappoint.

Although we had to pre-order our choices from the menu, there was plenty of variety and everyone enjoyed their chosen meals very much. The prices were very reasonable too. What was impressive, was that we were served very quickly and attentively, nothing was too much trouble and once we had everything we needed, we were not bombarded with the usual interruption of “*Is everything alright etc ???*”

As we were seated at a table to accommodate all twelve of us, we were able to have a lively conversation across the table without the need to shout! All in all, it was a very enjoyable dining experience and one venue I think we will certainly use again. Our thanks to Alan for hosting.

## Local History Group

Leader: Jane Humphreys 01245 259590

Local History members enjoyed a double bill in August. On the 6<sup>th</sup> we met at our usual venue of Boreham Village Hall to hear from Mike Fogg and Trevor Rand about the history and restoration of Rayleigh windmill. Thomas Higgs built the tallest tower mill in Essex on the farm adjacent to Rayleigh Mount. Higgs soon was bankrupt, and the mill was bought for £1530 in 1817. It competed against two existing mills, and sadly was never viable, even when it was converted to steam power in 1906. It remained in the Brown family from 1888 until 1964 when it was sold, with the barns and fields, to Rayleigh Council for around £35,000. By this stage most of the buildings had been vandalised but the mill opened as a museum on 16 May 1970. A public appeal resulted in the cap and stocks being put back in 1974. The next major change came through funding from the Thames Gateway South Essex Partnership in 2005. Rochford Council demolished the outbuildings but retained one to become a social centre, allowing the windmill to become an award-winning tourist attraction, and also a venue for weddings and other events. There was also funding for sails to be fixed to the stocks restoring the windmill to how it would have looked originally.

Trevor Rand gave us a personal view of the mill, as his great-grandfather, James Crabb, was the miller engaged by the Browns until 1906. Trevor remains very involved with the life of the mill, and encouraged us to visit. The mill is open from April to October, from 10am to 1pm on Wednesdays, and from 1pm to 4pm on Saturdays and Sundays. In 2024 the last opportunity to visit is Sunday 27 October, or you can take the virtual tour on YouTube.



The sun shone for us on 19 August in Stock. We started in the former telephone exchange which is now home to Stock and Buttsbury Heritage Society – a cosy fit for the 14 of us and our 3 hosts. Charles Phillips walked us through a chronological history of the adjacent parishes of Buttsbury and Stock, starting with the location of neolithic axe heads and ending 100 years ago in 1924 with the arrival of the telephone exchange. Karen Boutillier encouraged us to join them for monthly meetings of the Heritage Society on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of each month.

Peter Brierley, a Yorkshireman who has lived in Stock since 1949, then led us on a walk to enjoy a few of the historic highlights. The High Street today is a busy through road between Chelmsford and Billericay, but



as we stood on the grass we could see the early Victorian workers cottages, the War Memorial in Portland stone naming 41 victims of WWI and 10 from WWII, and two pubs – The Hoop and The Bear (but we didn't see the resident ghost). Walking along Mill Lane we passed Bakers Field with the huge 'new' telephone exchange, mainly used as a store because someone miscalculated the likely number of local residents to be served.

The Victorian Roman Catholic church was previously the RC school. Turning into Common Lane we saw the former workhouse, now five small private houses. This was built from local red brick. Nearby is

the site where clay for bricks was dug out and then mixed with ash which proved to make much stronger bricks, ideal for use underground, and now universally known as 'Stock bricks'.

Common Lane was previously part of the trackway taking salt from Maldon across Essex, but now ends on the Common where the cricket pitch is well used. The open ground, and much else, is owned by Lord Petre. We ended at the Village Hall built in the grounds of the former Orchard House Boys Home run by West Ham Central Mission. Greenwoods, on the main road, had been used as a refuge for families, children, the elderly, and anyone who needed help. The Mission recognised there was a specific need to house teenage boys and built Orchard House on the site of the former Orchard Cottage. It was closed in 1980 and is now a residential home, while Greenwoods is an upmarket spa and leisure facility.

On Tuesday 3 September we will meet at 2pm at Badynghams, Great Waltham, home of Alan and Marion Baker. Alan will lead us on a walk around the village including a visit to the parish church of St Mary and St Lawrence. Our Local History Group year starts in October, with membership costing £12. Visitors are welcome to meetings, held at Boreham Village Hall, for £3.

The next three meetings are:

1<sup>st</sup> October John Ray - Father of Natural History

by Jennifer Rowland

5<sup>th</sup> November A Sailor's Life

by Phil Lyons

3<sup>rd</sup> December The Mayflower

by Cathy Shelbourne

Jane Humphreys

### Science Group

Leader: Chris Bellamy

### Science Group Meeting Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> September

**A talk by James Wilkinson , former artist in residence at the Stables Studio, Hylands House**

James Wilkinson is a portrait/ action painter/ photographer of the stars at the V Festivals. He has moved to the Pop Nouveau Gallery in Sudbury Suffolk. Yje gallery includes portraits, photographs and collections of albums/ LPs and pop art memorabilia,.

Notice: Paul Chaplin is now deputy Leader. Thanks to Robert LLOYD for all his work as Treasurer over ten years. He has resigned and we need a replacement.

Science Group talks are held in the Catholic Church Hall in Melbourne Avenue, Chelmsford CM1 2DU. Doors open at 1.30pm and the talks start at 2.15pm. Tea/Coffee before the talk. **Non-members of the Science group are welcome. £2 for non-members.**

### **Garden Group**

Group Leader: Chris Bellamy Secretary: Val Green

Garden Group Visit to 8 Dene Court, Chignall Rd. Chelmsford on Thur. 22<sup>nd</sup> September.



Members enjoyed the guided tour by the owner of the compact town garden with dense plantings of colourful perennials & roses. Unusual clematis adorned a pergola & the walls.

Next Visit - 2 p.m. Thur. 26<sup>th</sup> September at Dragons, Boyton Cross, Chelmsford CM1 4LS .A1060. NGS 21. The group have visited in the past. Visitors can walk around the 3/4 acre garden paths viewing the colour themed borders of plant combinations, fernery, clematis, grasses, ponds, patio, scree garden, small vegetable plot, summerhouses, stream and views of farmland. - Entry, coffee/ tea and cake £10.- please email [chrisallenbellamy@btinternet.com](mailto:chrisallenbellamy@btinternet.com) if attending by Friday 20<sup>th</sup> September.

N.B Ed Fairey, of Mayfield Farm, Ardleigh. NGS 52, whose garden we visited a few years ago will be speaking about the National Garden Scheme to Galleywood Horticultural Society at the Keene Hall, Galleywood in the evening at 7.30 p.m. Thur. 26<sup>th</sup> September. u3a members welcome.

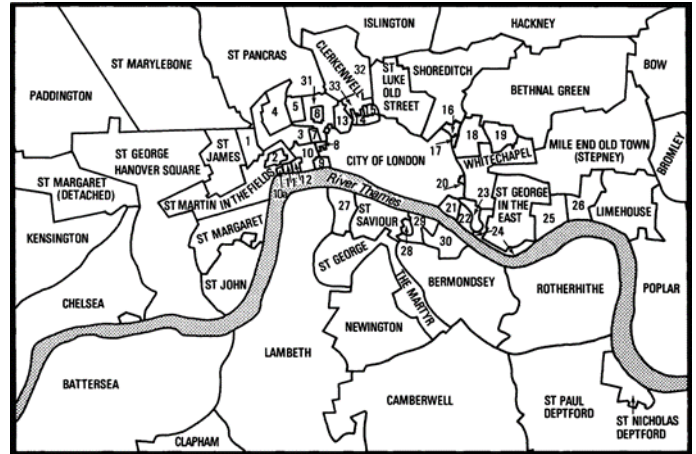
### **Family History Group**

Group Leader: Lesley Wood

Twelve of us met at Christ Church on 23<sup>rd</sup> August to discuss the difficulties of researching our London ancestors. Since a high proportion of the population has always lived in London, most of us have had to tackle the tracing of London ancestry at some stage in our research.

We watched an extremely clever You Tube video about London's population and expansion since Roman times – called The Growth of London Every Year. In 1700 just over half a million people lived in London which represented about 10% of the total population. By 1801 London's population had risen to about a 1 million. The lure of the capital city meant that some of our more rural family branches migrated to London especially during the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Today just under 9 million people live in London, representing 13% of the total population of the UK.

In the 1500s The City of London alone consisted of 109 parishes! Confusingly, many of them were dedicated to the same patron saint! So as to distinguish between them they were often given a geographical location such as a street name or 'in the East'. Our ancestors moved around a lot (often referred to as staying one step-ahead of the rent man!) and although a move might only be a couple of streets away this often put them in a different parish and this made it difficult to keep track of them.



Another complication is that Westminster also ranked as a city in its own right, and kept its own records. In the 17th Century there was a growth of population outside the two cities of London and Westminster and the corridor of land between them filled rapidly. The city also expanded to the North and West into Middlesex, to the south & West into Surrey and Kent and to the East into Essex. The parish and civil records for these areas were retained by the relevant county archives.

In 1834, with the reform of the Poor Law, most parishes were grouped into areas called Poor Law Unions. In 1889 it was decided that a local government authority was needed for London and the County of London was formed. The City of London retained its own administration but in 1899 the rest of the 'Metropolis' was organised into Metropolitan Boroughs. In 1965 the old London County Council was abolished and replaced by the Greater London Council. The rest of the county of Middlesex was now incorporated as were large parts of Surrey and Essex, and some smaller segments of Hertfordshire and Kent.

There can be considerable confusion when the same name was used for the metropolitan borough and the Greater London borough, covering different areas. For example the old City of Westminster was a metropolitan borough, but the London Borough of Westminster includes areas such as Paddington and St Marylebone, not in the city of Westminster.

If you would like to expand your knowledge of genealogy and its related subjects you would be welcome to join our group. We meet on the 4<sup>th</sup> Friday of the month at Christ Church from 13.30 to 16.00. Please contact me for more details.

Lesley Wood

Mike Drury

Sad news has reached us of the passing of Mick Drury on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> August. Mick had been a u3a member for many years, and was a member of the London Group, 10 Pin Bowling Group, Lunch Club 3, the Travel and Coach Outings groups. We offer our condolences to his wife Cynthia and hope that she will find solace amongst her u3a friends during this sad and distressing time.

Lesley Wood

**Reminder to Group Leaders**  
**Please send copy for the October 2024 Newsletter to the editor, Andy Moir.**  
**All copy must arrive no later than Friday 27<sup>th</sup> September 2024.**

**Please would contributors use the Calibri Font size 12. For MS Word use Paragraph settings; line spacing single and spacing 0 before and after lines.**

### Chelmsford u3a Committee

<b>Position</b>	<b>Name</b>
Chair	Lesley Wood
Vice Chair	Alan Caddy
Secretary	Marie Neale
Treasurer	Wendy Hubbard
Membership Secretary	Diane Read 077144 32360
Speaker Organiser/Deputy Treasurer	Eddie Wood 01245 601359
Newsletter Coordinator	Lynn Regan
Monthly Meetings Organiser	David Marsh/Brian Littlechild
Marketing/Recruitment	Alan Caddy
Groups Coordinator	Lesley Wood
Social Media/Deputy Web Manager	Allan Goldsmith
Publicity & Advertising	Peter Anderton
Committee Member	Ann Bell
Committee Member	Nick Bailey

#### **Volunteers not on the Committee:**

Web Manager	Andy Moir
Newsletter Editor	Andy Moir

# CHELMSFORD U3A LATE SUMMER CONCERT FEATURING SONGCYCLE

FRIDAY 27<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 7.30 PM  
CHRIST CHURCH MAIN HALL



*SONGCYCLE, IS AN ALL SINGING, ALL CYCLING  
MALE VOICE QUARTET WITH A PASSION FOR  
SINGING EVERYTHING FROM BACH TO THE  
BEATLES!*

Refreshments will be served during the interval

Free Admission to all Chelmsford u3a members but please reserve your ticket via our website:

<https://chelmsford.u3asite.uk/chelmsford-u3a-ticketed-events/>

### Interest Groups (as of June 2024)

You must be a member of Chelmsford u3a before you join an Interest Group. However, if you would like a taster session before you join contact the Group Leader either by phone or by email.

Name of Group	Day of Month	Time	Group Leader	Phone	EMail
All Day Walks	2 <sup>nd</sup> Monday		Berry Cornell	01277355823	Via website
Amateur Dramatics			Alan Caddy		Via website
Art Appreciation	4 <sup>th</sup> Tuesday	14.00	Brenda Kelly	01277840621	Via website
Art Club	Mondays Weekly	9.30	Peter Anderton	07773074105	Peter.anderton@s cion-uk.com
Art Group	Tuesdays Weekly	9.30	Cynthia Cronin	01245461215	Via website
Birding	4 <sup>th</sup> Friday	10.00	Alan Alexander	07712818499	Via website
Book Group	3 <sup>rd</sup> Monday	14.30	Andy Moir	01245440007	Via website
Bridge (beginners)	Tuesdays	14.00	Alan Cardus		Via website
Buss Pass Group	2 <sup>nd</sup> Friday	varies	Maurice Austin		Via Website
Church Visits	1 <sup>st</sup> Wed	10.15	Brian Greatrex & Michael Gray	01245258833	Via website
Coach Outings	Various		Malcolm Lonsdale		Via website
Craft Workshops	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday	10.00 – 13.00	Julie Nicholson		Julnic138@gmail. com or via website
Discussion Group	2 <sup>nd</sup> Tues	13.00- 15.00	Brian Littlechild		brian.littlechild@ blueyonder.co.uk
Family History	4 <sup>th</sup> Friday	14.00	Lesley Wood	01245601359	lesleywood54@ yahoo.com
Fishing Group	Wednesdays		Alan Caddy		Via Website
French Conversation	2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Wednesday	14 -15.15	Marie Neale		Via Website
Garden Group	4 <sup>th</sup> Thursday	14.00	Chris Bellamy Val Green	01277353481	Via website
Information Technology	2 <sup>nd</sup> Wednesday	10.00	Lyn Parsons		Via Website
International Dining	3 <sup>rd</sup> Monday	Evenings	Jennie Cappin	01245 358629	Via website
Jazz and Blues Group	3 <sup>rd</sup> Wednesday	10.30- 12.30	Heinz Kassier		kassier2@gmail. com
Live Arts	Theatre Visits	As & when	John Heathcote	01245380766	liveartsgroup@aol .co.uk

Local History	1 <sup>st</sup> Tuesday	14.15	Jane Humphreys	01245 259590	Via website
London the City & its people	4 <sup>th</sup> Monday	14.00	Berry Cornell	01277 355823	Chris Rycroft via website
Lunch Club 1	Last Friday of month	12.30	John Heathcote	01245 380766	Via website
Lunch Club 2	4 <sup>th</sup> Tuesday	12.30	Harry Glaser	01245 462760	Via website
Lunch Club 3	1 <sup>st</sup> Thursday	12.30	Laraine Linard Barbara Childs	01245 475444	Via website
Mah-Jong	1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Tuesday	2.00	Chris Paget	01245 474811	chrispaget@lineone.net
Philosophy	Thursday 4-weekly	11.00	Julia McClure	07941 480240	Via Website
Philosophy & Religion	1 <sup>st</sup> Monday	10.00	Jim Mackay		Jim88mackay@aol.co.uk
Photographs on Face Book	Online		Alan Mayo	07979 540053	Via Website
Pickleball	Monday Weekly	2.00	Alan Mayo	07979 540053	Via Website
Poetry Appreciation	2nd Wed	14.00	Judith & Tony Boniface	01245 266316	Via Website
Science Group	3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursday	13.45	Chris Bellamy	01277353481	Via website
Sewing, Knitting & Crochet	3rd Thursday		Jacqui Norfolk	07714 258517	Jacqueline.n@virgin.net
Short Walks	3 <sup>rd</sup> Friday	10.00	Robert Lloyd	01245466167	Via website
Spanish Conversation	3 <sup>rd</sup> Wednesday	10.30	Lindsay Whitehouse	01245 356363	Via website
Summer evening walks	4 <sup>th</sup> Wed	Apr -Sep	Alan Mayo	07979 540053	Via website
Sunday Lunch	1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday	13.00	Lesley Wood	01245601359	Via the website
Ten Pin Bowling	2nd & 4th Fridays	10.30	Roger & Ruth Spall	01245466486	Via website
Travel Group	See website		Anne Brereton		cu3atravelgroup@outlook.com
Walking Group	1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Friday	10.00	Alan Mayo	07979 540053	Via website