

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 8th May 2025 - VE Day 80th Anniversary 'Street Party' – with very special guest of honour, the national hero Sir Winston Leonard Spencer Churchill (as portrayed by Tony Harris).



We would like to project a slideshow featuring photos and memorabilia from WW2. This is in preference to a physical display with inherent risk. If any members have ID cards, ration cards, coupons, medals, original photographs, or similar that they would like to see included in the slideshow, please scan or take photographs and email them to Eddie Wood ejwood34@gmail.com.

There will be food and drink including VE Day fruit cake (from a ministry of food leaflet). Feel free to come dressed in 1940s apparel.

This is a ticketed event and is now full but you can join the waiting list via the website:
<https://chelmsford.u3asite.uk/waiting-list-ve-day-street-party/>

We are looking for some volunteers to help with setting up on the day. If you could help please email Eddie Wood ejwood34@gmail.com.

Thursday 12th June 2025 - The history of spoken English by Charlie Haylock

Thursday 10th July 2025 - Our very own Robert Lloyd – My African childhood

Friday 25th July 2025 - Chelmsford u3a Summer Concert Featuring Hexachordia - see page 19 for more information

View from the Chair May 2025

As you know your continuing membership of Chelmsford u3a depends upon you renewing your membership every year on 1st March. We give members eight weeks grace but if they haven't paid their annual subscription by that time their membership will lapse. Sadly, every year we lose people, and we don't know why. This year 49 members have failed to renew within the period of grace and despite several reminders, have not been in touch to tell us why they are not renewing.

This might be a good time to remind everyone of the benefits of belonging to our u3a. Please pass on this information to your friends.

- Joining Chelmsford u3a is a great way to find and develop new interests and make friends in a relaxed environment. It only costs £12 per year to join (£8 if you already belong to another u3a)
- There are many good reasons to join:
 - Make a difference, stay active, keep learning and have fun.
 - Get out to meet face to face – learning together and making the most of life.
 - Access to online learning, training and resources to inspire you. Members can attend learning events and talks for free.
 - Meet other people with similar interests; learn new things and share your skills.

Who can join? Anyone who has the time to get together for fun things to do in retirement – there isn't a minimum or maximum age limit for membership.

u3a's "Learn To Live" Report Highlights the Importance of Non-Formal Learning in Promoting Well-Being in Later Life. Non-formal learning plays a crucial role in building community resilience and mitigating the impact of social isolation and loneliness, especially in the wake of the pandemic. This report shines a light on the immense value of a low-cost, non-formal learning model in promoting health and wellbeing in later life. It strongly advocates for greater recognition and targeted resources to ensure access for all communities.

If you've had a beneficial experience as a result of joining our u3a, please get your thoughts down on paper (or better still in an email) and get in touch with me. We would love to feature your story on our website, newsletter and publicity material, but don't worry we won't reveal your identity.

This is the last chance for you to buy tickets for the coach outing to Elton Hall near Peterborough on Monday 30th June. See the flyer on page 18 of this newsletter.

Are you interested in helping to start a Tai Chi Group?

The Third Age Trust is delighted to share their new film featuring Croydon u3a's Tai Chi group. The film is the latest in the "Share Something Brilliant Today" series which showcases skill sharing within u3a. Within the film, the members explain that the meditative nature of Tai Chi enables them to unwind. Paulette explains, "Tai Chi is all about very slow, very controlled movement, and I think that's what I like about it." In addition to the calm found within the Tai Chi group itself, the members also talk about the community they have found within u3a. Chris says about the impact u3a has had on his life, "You do get the feeling of belonging, and it does take away the loneliness. It's sort of a little family, isn't it?" The group follow YouTube videos, learning the practice of Tai Chi together. This is an example of the non-formal learning model that is unique to the u3a environment which sees members learning from and with each other. Please get in touch with Brian Littlechild if you think Tai Chi would be a good group to run in Chelmsford u3a.



Do you consider yourself to be adventurous? Do you like to try new experiences and challenges? One of our members has been talking to a friend who helps run an Interest Group in Harrogate u3a called "Anything but Grey" where members organise one-off activities suggested by the group. Things they have tried or will be trying include: Ghost Walk; Folk Concert; Escape Room; Climbing Wall; Potters Wheel;

Dancing Class; Cocktail Mixing; Go Karting; Day at the races; Archery; Horse Riding and Open Water Swimming! If you are interested in being part of such a group, please let Jackie Large know, she can be contacted via email: snowberry505@gmail.com

Volunteers Needed for u3a Week: 20-28 September 2025

u3a Week is an annual event to showcase the activity, learning and fun which takes place across the movement every day. It is a celebration of positive ageing, highlighting our members' lived experience. Your committee is keen to arrange an event that showcases Chelmsford u3a's Interest groups and needs volunteers to help us plan and organise it. Please get in touch with Eddie Wood if you are willing to be part of a small planning group. Here are some ideas adopted by other u3a groups to celebrate u3a week have included:

- Featuring "A Week in the Life of a u3a Member" (see this example <https://sources.u3a.org.uk/week-in-the-life>). Would you be able to contribute a similar story?
- Setting a challenge to Try Something new, e.g join an existing group, help create a new group, organise an activity one off event/taster session?
- Write an article for Chelmsford u3a newsletter either about your group's activity or about something that relates to Life Long Learning and its benefits.

u3a Council meet for the first time

The new u3a Council came together in London last month to meet for the first time, to discuss how they will work together with the Board and engage with members in their regions and nations. The Council will act as a conduit between u3a members and the Trust, feeding members' thoughts, ideas and concerns into the ongoing development of the u3a movement. Sue Russell (front row seating 4th from left) is the new Chair of the Council. Ian Matthews, represents the East of England and is standing 5th from the left.



Lesley Wood chair@chelmsfordu3a.org.uk

Brain Littlechild brian.littlechild@blueyonder.co.uk

Spanish Conversation Group

Leader: David Gout



There were a few absentees for our meeting on 16 April 2025 – two were ill and one was in Spain – but that meant plenty of opportunity for the rest of us to exercise our Spanish skills.

We started off with three exercises to improve our word knowledge. The first was to look at a number of Spanish words that have two meanings. Did you know that the Spanish for wives (esposas) can also mean handcuffs? We also tried to pair up Spanish words that mean the same as each other (little and small is an English equivalent), and looked at a number of Spanish colloquial phrases.

News items included a trip to Milan, a first game of golf after a lengthy break, and a visit to the theatre to see a version of the old Peter Sellars film, Doctor Strangelove!

We also asked everybody to bring along an article from a newspaper or magazine that had interested them. Coincidentally two of our members both brought articles about the Peruvian author and politician, Mario Vargas Llosa, who died earlier week. A third followed the South American political theme by talking about Javier Millal, the current president of Argentina, who is trying to turn the country around with some rather unorthodox methods. Other articles talked about included canned paella (!) and the recent 20th anniversary of King Charles and Queen Camilla. All these articles prompted plenty of discussion with everybody involved.

Next month we plan to use some of the surplus funds in our kitty to go out for a meal after our meeting, probably at El Chigre. If you can hold a basic conversation in Spanish and would like to come to our meetings, please click the link to our website. Whatever your ability, participating in our meetings will give you the confidence to speak and understand Spanish. The next meeting for the group will be on Wednesday 21st May 2025 at 10:30am at Chelmsford Library in Meeting Room 3 on the first floor.

David Gout

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.

The Group **usually** meets up on 4th 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.



Programme for the beginning of 2025

- 19th May** Talk: London Livery Companies speaker David Williams
- 23rd Jun Annual London Walk – Bishopsgate architecture and much more (**flyer on page 17**)
- 28th July Visit to Highgate Cemetery (flyer in June newsletter)
- 18th Aug** The Aristocracy moving West & the London Squares in the early 19th Century – Speaker Tony Tuckwell
- 22nd Sept Visit to Kew Gardens (flyer in August newsletter)

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

Lunch Club 3

Leaders: Laraine Linard and Barbara Childs

Nestled in the Essex countryside near Maldon there is restaurant called The Tin Roof. So on a lovely sunny day, it was this month's venue for Lunch Club 3. Although some members had eaten there on previous occasions it was a first for our group. It has a very eclectic menu so there was something for everyone's tastes with the likes of Bubble & Squeak (a firm favourite with many) to seafood platters and fish finger sandwiches.

It is one of those restaurants where you choose your meal at the table and then go to the counter to place your order. Having ordered your food, you then return to your table and the waitress brings the food to you. Those of us who had not eaten there before did not realise that all your food would be brought at the same time! For example, one member had ordered soup and salmon and because they arrived together and were both hot dishes, he had to alternate eating between the two so they could be eaten whilst still hot. The writer had ordered lemon meringue pie which arrived at the table before her main course. It was a very generous portion, to say the least so some of those who had not ordered any dessert decided to order it too. Unfortunately, their size of pie was not as big but suffice it to say the writer did share the bigger portion with other diners!

Most embarrassing moment for the writer – walking from the ladies through the entire restaurant to the water cooler only to find when she returned to her seat that she had been trailing a long piece of toilet roll on her shoe!!! Red faced to say the least, she will be returning to the restaurant again albeit not for little while!

Thank you, Alan, for hosting.

We meet again next month for another foodie venture.



IT Group

Leader: Lyn Parsons

The next meeting of the IT Group will be on Wednesday 14th May at Christ Church 10.00-11.30. Tea/coffee available. Please join us if you need any IT support with your devices.

At the last meeting of the IT group a member asked if we could run some events about staying safe when using our mobile phones. We could look to do this in the future.

However, looking down this month's list of u3a on-line learning events there are a number of events that may touch on this subject.

These online courses are open to all u3a members not just those involved in the IT Group.

Fri 9th May 10.00 am.: Staying safe on-line

Tues 13th May 2.00 pm: Staying Safe on Social Media and Making your device easier to use.

All these events take place on Zoom, They are free but you have to book. You can read more about them and book your place by following this link: <https://chelmsford.u3asite.uk/national-u3a-events/>

Book Group

Leader: Andy Moir

Our books for the next meeting are:

Mon May 19 th	The Figurine by Victoria Hislop
Mon Jun 16 th	American Dirt by Jeanine Cummins

Local History Group

Leader: Jane Humphreys 01245 259590



On 1st April we welcomed back Andrew Wiltshire to talk about ‘The Last Hussar’ – the story of his father. George Harry Wiltshire was born in Hackney on 9 October 1884, the second of four children born in the space of five years. George’s father and uncle had tried their luck in the Nevada silver rush, and even acquired rights in a mine, but the father was a gambler and lost everything to ‘Mexican Jake’. He returned to England sick and broke and married his sweetheart in 1880. When he died ten years later in 1890 followed very soon by George’s mother, George, aged 6, and his brother William, aged 3, were placed in Hackney Union Workhouse. As orphans they were moved to Hackney’s boarding school in Brentwood – so George became an Essex boy. George’s musical talent was spotted by the school bandmaster who taught him to read music and to play the trumpet. At 15 the recruiting sergeant from Colchester took George and other orphans to train in the army. He was too young to fight in the Boer War, but old enough at 16 to be on duty for Queen Victoria’s funeral in 1901. He served in the 20th Hussars (looking very smart in his uniform) and became the colonel’s trumpeter.

George travelled widely as a Hussar from Simla in India, to Egypt, but saw most service when he was transferred to the Rhodesia Native regiment, fighting during WWI in German East Africa. After the War he served in the Colonial Service, including preparing Salisbury (now Harare) racecourse to become an airfield. He retired in 1934 with a good pension and travelled to Australia to marry the young lady he had originally met on home leave in Leytonstone in 1923 – but he found she had married someone else. Like his father before him, George gambled his way back to Leytonstone, and in November 1935 married Joyce Leech at St John’s Church, Buckhurst Hill. George was now 51, Joyce was 26. During WWII George was an Air Raid Warden.

George’s long retirement in Buckhurst Hill was disturbed by a letter from the Regiment in 1982. As the last surviving member of the 20th Hussars, he was invited to fly from Northolt to Hohne camp in Germany. There he was presented to Princess Anne, colonel-in-chief of the 14th/20th King’s Hussars, at the presentation of the new guidon (regimental flag). He relished this adventure, aged 98, and died aged 99 in February 1984.

Local History will be out and about for the next two months, returning to our regular meeting venue for our July meeting. Anyone wishing to join the walk on 13th May should meet Lesley Wood on the Stone Bridge at the end of the High Street at 2pm. Please bring £8 to pay Alan Pamphilon on the day.

Our next three meetings are

13 th May	WALK: Forgotten History of Chelmsford	Alan Pamphilon
3 rd June	WALK: Great Bardfield	Dr Janet Dyson
1 st July	The Great Flood of 1953	Cherry Burroughs

Visitors are welcome to meetings, held at Boreham Village Hall, for £3. For details of the walks please contact Nick Bailey nickbailey01245@outlook.com

Jane Humphreys

Essex Historical Association
The North Sea Floods of 1953 By Cherry Boroughs (author)
2.30pm Saturday 17th May 2025
At Trinity Methodist Church, Chelmsford
All Welcome £5 for non-members

Cycling for Fun

Leader: Tony Cox

We had two very successful rides in April - and excellent weather!

On Tuesday April 11th we met at the Central Park Café at 9.30am for a cuppa and a chat and then at 10.00 the eleven riders rode through Chelmsford City Centre heading for Beaulieu Park. Following the cycle path towards Chelmer Road we went past the Rugby Club and then crossed Springfield Road and through the quiet residential streets of Springfield before crossing over White Hart Lane into Beaulieu Park. There we explored the maze of new houses on very quiet roads to the Beaulieu Square Café. Along the way we had our first puncture. And there is always someone around to help.



The return journey took us through a different part of Springfield and then along the Bunny Walk and into the City Centre before finishing back at Central Park after a 10 mile round trip. A very successful trip through parts of Chelmsford that were new to many of us. All achieved safely and with good humour.



For our second ride on Friday April 24th we again met at Central Park Café and again we had eleven riders. We went past the Bus Station on to Broomfield Road, continued to Patching Hall Lane and in Broomfield village we took the new cycle path to Broomfield Hospital. Then along a hard farm track to Broads Green and the Stores Café at Gt. Waltham.

After another cuppa we enjoyed a fast run (along the route of the Tour de France race in 2014) towards the Chignalls and then rode through Melbourne and Admiral's Park to Central Park. A 12 mile round trip that introduced people to new roads and a new cafe. We were really impressed by how confidently the new riders coped with unfamiliar roads and a few hills. An excellent day out.

Science Group

Leader: Chris Bellamy

Science Group Talk 2.15pm Thursday 15th May
'Unusual Views from a London Bus' by Ian Mercer
Catholic Church Hall, Melbourne Avenue, CM1 2DU.

Non-members of the Science group are welcome. £2 for non-members.

Chelmsford u2a Science Group Meeting 17th April 2025.

Quantum Physics – Stranger than Fiction?

This year is the International Year of Quantum Science and Technology

David Hall who is one of our members volunteered to give this talk. David ended on a slide which quoted Richard P Feynman who said “If you think you understand quantum mechanics, you don’t understand quantum mechanics”. So was there any point in giving the talk? Yes! David used demonstrations, animations on the screen and showed a video which attempted to explain things.

The theme of the lecture was light. His first demonstration showed a laser beam being reflected off a mirror – the light taking the same path as a rolling ball bouncing off the surface. The next demonstration was a laser beam which passed through two adjacent slits (the famous ‘Young’s slits’) and projected onto a white screen. The result is a series of red dots, of which 5 or more could be seen. This was explained by an animation where the light passing through the slits and interfere with each other producing ‘high’ and ‘low’ points. Both these demonstrations (and animation) can easily be explained by assuming light is a wave.

In the next demonstration an electroscope was set up and a charge applied to the top plate causing the needle to swing round into a horizontal position. If the top plate is discharged by touching it with a finger, the needle returns to the vertical position, confirming that the charge has been removed. Next, he charged it up once again and shone a white light onto the top plate – nothing happened. But when a UV light (much more energetic) was directed at the top plate instead, it gave up its charge – WITHOUT BEING PHYSICALLY TOUCHED. This takes a lot more explaining, and David told the audience that it can only be explained by considering light to be a stream of particles, known as photons.

Photons are examples of quantum physics, as are electrons, and physicists then started to consider the two-slit experiment with single photons or single electrons passing through the two slits – and there is the central mystery of Quantum Physics: how can one particle manage to go through two slits at once? David explained that he wasn’t going to be answering that, since no one knows! This was further elaborated when David then showed a video called ‘Dr Quantum’, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q1YqgPAtzho>. In particular, this video explained that although the single electrons can produce a two-slit result consisting of a pattern of bright lines, when an observation is made to find out which slit each electron is passing through, the electrons suddenly stop behaving like waves and return to the particle behaviour! If you are interested in the subject, I recommend you watch this video.

Now you can appreciate Richard P Feynman’s quotation! After this David when on to explain some of the applications of Quantum Physics – such as Quantum Computers and Quantum Communications. Both quite baffling!

Thanks, David, for preparing and giving us this talk and providing us with much to think about. David also took questions and the audience were hungry for more physics!

Paul Chaplin (with help from David!)

Chelmsford Science and Engineering Society
Regenerative Agriculture: The Future Of Food And Farming?
A talk by Henry Matthews, Farmer and Agriculture Course Manager at ARU Writtle.
21st May 2025, 19:00 – 21:00 Anglia Ruskin University

Among the many problems facing the world is how the projected 9 billion people who will be living on the planet in 2050 can be fed. Currently there are over 2.3 billion people globally who are food insecure while the farming industry struggles to meet the challenges of climate change and disruptions to global supply chains. While the late 20th century witnessed dramatic increases in the production of food this came at a cost of loss of biodiversity, diffuse pollution and a decline in the nutritive quality of what we eat. This talk will evaluate these issues and assess the movement towards a more regenerative approach to farming and food production.

For more details see the CES website at <https://ces.org.uk/>

Art Appreciation Group

Leader: Brenda Kelly

This month we travelled up to the National Gallery for the exhibition 'Siena: The Rise of Painting 1300-1350'. It was like entering another world - the beginning of the 14th century in central Italy. In Siena, artists Duccio, Martini and brothers Lorenzetti were producing paintings in vivid colours - gold, red, blue - on wooden panels: the Madonna and Child, Christ on the Crucifix, various saints. It was a vibrant city of artists - we saw some beautiful altarpieces, illuminated manuscripts, carved ivory Madonnas, sculpted figures of the Saints, rugs and silks. It was a feast of colour produced in the natural world before the advent of electricity.



The Raising of Lazarus by Duccio (about 1308–11)

In May we will come more up towards the present day with a talk by Margaret Mills on 'Aubrey Beardsley' at Christ Church on Tuesday 27th May.

Wonder of Words

Leader: Lindsay Whitehouse

We welcomed two new members to the April meeting. This month we wrote in pairs and created a radio script based on a domestic dispute between couples who live together. All the writers worked hard to develop a simple real life dispute into an entertaining and realistic short audio story.

The causes of the various disputes were all quite different. One emanated from a couple who won some money on the lottery arguing about how to spend it (ah if only!). Another story revolved around the lady of the house wanting her husband to re-decorate the living room of their home, but the man was reluctant to do so and he was prevaricating. The third story was a major domestic crisis triggered by a dispute about leaving the toilet seat up, or down, depending on your point of view as to how it should be left.

Everyone greatly enjoyed the challenge of writing in pairs, and we all agreed that it was helpful to have another person around to bounce ideas off. All the writers did exceptionally well to weave an interesting story into such routine real life disagreements. There was no shortage of humour or use of irony as the stories unfolded.

We may look to develop these scripts into something that could actually be performed to an audience at some point in the future.

We still have vacancies for a few more newcomers, please go to the website for a more detailed description of what we do, and then click on the contact details. We would be delighted to welcome newcomers. This group is not about the dry academic aspects of writing, it is all about having fun and sharing ideas. It is more than just writing, it is about using words in their widest context, to include a little bit of performance.

Birding Group

Leader Alan Alexander 01245 248030 Mobile 07712 818499



On 25th April, thirteen members of the Birding Group met at RSPB Fingringhoe Reserve. We met in the carpark by the visitor centre, before setting off to the nearest hide. As soon as we entered the woodlands, we were surrounded by birdsong. The most prominent was the Nightingales announcing their return to UK shores.

The Nightingale has a beautiful and distinctive song, but, over the years I have been a member of and now leader, it has been very elusive. They sing to attract a mate, not the unwanted attention of a dozen birdwatchers.

We made our way to Laurie's Hide and saw Black Headed Gulls, Canada Geese, Moorhen, Tufted Duck, Egret, Oystercatcher, and also heard a Cettis Warbler. As we left the hide we saw Shell duck, Wren, Greenfinch, and Common Tern. Continuing our walk through the woods and to other hides we also saw Magpie, Buzzard, Chaffinch, Brent Geese and Lesser Whitethroat. At a pond that we passed on route to the Kingfisher Hide a Reed

Warbler was putting on quite a singing display, but we were not able to see it amongst its natural habitat. Finally, at the Kingfisher Hide we saw Coot, Pochard, Greylag and Swan.

Our next meeting is on 23rd May at Blue House Farm. I will email full details to group members nearer the time.

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

Leader: Maurice Austin

Our previous April trips have taken place in inclement weather, and we have spent too much time huddled in open-sided bus shelters and dodging rain. This month's trip was to an urban destination so there would be plenty of opportunity to keep warm and dry. We were blessed with the hottest and brightest day of the year which would have been ideal for strolling lazily around a pretty country venue! So-and-so's Law applied!

Eleven of us turned up to catch the First Essex 351 to Romford, we were expecting four more to join us enroute, and they duly did. We were gathered at stand six expecting to catch the bus that was waiting there. The departure time approached, we all expected a driver to stroll across from the offices. One did approach casually, our spirits rose, then he turned on his heel and just ambled away.

The conversation changed to a discussion about the time some drivers took over breakfast; about their ability to read timetables, and even a suggestion that some operated on a different time zone to passengers. To lighten the mood, Maurice told a story about a the long-serving cook in the old bus station who was never known to wash her frying pan but still produced superb fry-ups. I am advised this is known as proving the pan! Just then, about ten minutes late, a 351 rushed in, loaded some 25 passengers and started the delayed trip to Brentwood. The driver was polite, not very communicative and no-one tried to make him so!

Rush hour traffic had cleared by then and we made good progress except through Ingatestone village where the usual car parking slowed us up. We soon reached the outskirts of Shenfield, where we discovered the reason for our late running. Road works! Any time the driver had picked up was lost, and more, resulting in us missing the connecting bus we were aiming for. Still, there was only 13 minutes to wait, and the weather was pleasant, dry and warm.

So, our character assassination of bus drivers was proven to be unfair and the reason for our driver's lack of communication became obvious - he didn't like running late any more than we did!

Jane Chambers had researched the 1910/20's housing development in Gidea Park and invited members to join her on a trip round the "100 Best Houses" in Romford Garden Suburb Conservation Area, and later, to

Raphael Park. Half a dozen did so and had a great time. Their trip was enhanced by Jeannie (aka Jessica!) utilising her considerable charms in “chatting up” residents and encouraging them to share local knowledge of the development. Thanks to both Jane and Jeannie.



When the rest of the party reached Romford, we split into little groups, some going on pre-planned expeditions. The remainder hunted for an eating place. Romford has many of these and varied tastes were catered for. Some of us tried “The Grumpy Grandad”. The food was plentiful, well-priced and well-served. Apart from one of the customers, no Grumpy Grandads were noted but one male waiter who seemed to have the “front of house” role was rather too intrusive and obsequious for my taste.

By the time we had finished lunch, it had become very warm. Some of us ambled round the shops. Mike Nel and I had a look at the street market, spent some time sitting on a tomb stone in St Edward the Confessor’s church yard chatting then ambling back to catch our homeward bound bus. We were the only u3a members aboard, presumably others had gone home early.

We were also the only ones on the lightly loaded 351 from Brentwood which was driven by another of “my” eastern European former colleagues

who greeted me warmly. He had to deal with the same hold-ups that we had encountered earlier but with just three passengers until we reached the big roundabout where the old A12 crosses the Brentwood and Shenfield by-passes. Another First bus was parked on the edge of the roundabout and its driver was frantically waving his hi-vis jacket indicating for us to park behind him. A brief conversation, then some two dozen passengers were transferred onto our bus, including most of our party. Serves them right for leaving Romford before the planned time without the permission of the Escape Committee!

Apparently, the earlier bus had been delayed by a red warning light flashing in Brentwood High Street. Whatever remedial action had been taken was not enough to prevent the breakdown they encountered. It is worthy of note that David Marsh, who forecast last month’s bus breakdown was on board!

Despite all the trials and tribulations, it seems from the buzz of conversation on board and the weight of my in-box after the event, that everyone enjoyed their day out.

The next Bus Pass Group outing will be on Friday 9 May. The long-term weather forecast suggests a reasonable chance of good weather, so we will risk a trip to the seaside at Burnham-on Crouch.



We will meet at Chelmsford Bus Station, stand 2 for the 10.00 First Essex 331 to Burnham, which is due there at 11.14.

The planned return is from Burnham at 15.00 on the 15.35 First 331 for Chelmsford which is due to arrive in Chelmsford Bus Station at 16.51. There are other buses back at least hourly for those who want to get home early. For night-owls, the last bus back leaves at 20.35 hours!

I look forward to seeing you then.

Church Visiting Group

Group Leader: Brian Greatrex Administrator: Michael Gray

April 2nd St Mary Debden and St Mary Widdington

Spring sunshine for our first foray this year to the north of the county, two neighbouring churches, both dedicated to St Mary.

At Debden we were welcomed to the cosy meeting room for coffee. Churchwarden Ursula Lyons led us down to the nave for an introduction to this fascinating church, its unique Chiswell Chapel – a lovely example of Strawberry Hill Gothick from 1787 – its Coade Stone font and its 14th century oak chest, iron-bound, now empty, but with two compartments, for plate and for vestments.



More refreshments across the valley in Widdington where Churchwarden Sonia Whalley welcomed us with coffee and a copy each of an illustrated plan of the church. Then we were at leisure to explore, ticking off the strangely located sundial, the 15th century brass now occupying a prominent position at the north door, the banner, the Victorian font – inspired by fragments of its ancient predecessor – the screen made by local craftsmen in 1912, and the two organs: the modest nave instrument, its fine tone demonstrated by our own organist, and the intriguing gallery organ, electronic, with a case constructed by a carpenter from the village.



Our next visit, on May 14 – not the first Wednesday ! - takes us to two equally fascinating churches on the southern fringes of the county, in Rainham and nearby Wennington – wonderful buildings, oases of historic tranquillity amid the marshland and the modern industrial sprawl. Not to be missed..

Garden Group

Group Leader: Chris Bellamy



In April twenty-six members visited Heyrons in High Easter. They enjoyed an interesting explanation of the conversion over 40 years of a rundown farm and buildings into a well laid out and colourfully planted garden. It has also grassed areas and trees, with views over the Essex countryside.

Richard Wollaston, our host, guided members around on a warm sunny afternoon. Coffee, tea, delicious cake and conversation in the patio area concluded an enjoyable visit. .

Next Meeting - 2 p.m. Thursday 29th May
Visit to Essex County Cricket Club at the Ambassador Cruise Line Ground ,
New Writtle Street, Chelmsford CM2 0PG.

Stuart Kerrison Head Groundsman will show us around and explain his range of duties at this First Class Cricket Ground. He will discuss the square, outfield, turf management, machinery usage and maintenance etc.

Meet in the ECCC car park at the entrance to the ground, having paid parking machine. Please email chrisallenbellamy@btinternet.com by Friday 23rd May if attending.

NB. Visit is on 5th. Thursday as I was asked to move from our usual Thursday, to avoid clashing with Chelmsford u3a's visit to Wallingford/ Oxford on Thursday 22nd May. If you are interested in going on the trip contact annebrereton@yahoo.com

Summer Evening Walks

Leader: Alan Mayo

Our first outing of this summer, with twenty walkers, took place on April 30th although our normal date is the 4th Wednesday from April to September. We met at 4:30 at the Six Bells, Boreham, on a gorgeous summer evening and set off through the Essex countryside , rapeseed fields, footpaths and bluebell woods.



Sixteen of us dined after the walk when we had excellent service and very welcome drinks. This is our 3rd year with this group and so far we have not repeated a route and whilst I will not be repeating any this year, I still have to work out another five routes (although we might visit a familiar pub). There's nothing like a warm English summer evening and to walk in one in April was a real bonus – here's to the next five months.

Reminder to Group Leaders
Please send copy for the June 2025 Newsletter to the editor, Andy Moir.
All copy must arrive no later than Friday 30th May 2025.

Chelmsford u3a Committee

Position	Name
Chair	Lesley Wood
Vice Chair	Alan Caddy
Secretary	Janet Parsons
Treasurer	Wendy Hubbard
Membership Secretary	Alan Mayo
Membership Assistant	Lynn Regan
Speaker Organiser/Deputy Treasurer	Eddie Wood 01245 601359
Newsletter Coordinator	Lynn Regan
Groups Coordinator	Lesley Wood
Assistant Groups Coordinator	Brian Littlechild
Recruitment & Public Relations	Alan Caddy
Marketing Communications	Peter Anderton
Committee Member	Ann Bell
Committee Member	Mike Harmer

Volunteers not on the Committee:

Web Manager	Andy Moir
Newsletter Editor	Andy Moir

LONDON – THE CITY & ITS PEOPLE GROUP
Annual Walk - Visit to the Modern Towers of Bishopsgate
23rd June 2025 meeting at Liverpool Street Station

Dear 'London Group' Fellow Walkers,

Alison Woollard & Terry Pipe will be leading our next London walk, around and through Bishopsgate on 23rd June. Bishopsgate is an amazing area only a few minutes walk from Liverpool Street station.

New City We'll examine some of the new towers which have been built on and around Bishopsgate and look at the challenges which architects and builders have faced in creating them. Also we'll think about the town planning ideas which have formed this area of the city.



After the walk you have the option to ascend 22 Bishopsgate or 8 Bishopsgate and view the whole of London from the viewing platforms. Tickets for these viewing platforms are free and can be obtained before the walk by scanning a QR code on your phone. A number of tickets can be obtained on one 'scan' but you do have to be able to scan QR codes on your own phone or know someone who does! There is also a roof garden close by at 120 Fenchurch Street which is free and doesn't require tickets.



We'll catch the 9.56 from Chelmsford, 10.02 from Ingatestone and will meet our guides just by platform 11 at 10.30am. **If you have one, please remember your rail card.** Lunch arrangements and time to return home are your choice. As usual please bring £10 pp in an envelope ready to give to me at Liverpool St station.

Our number is restricted to 40, twenty people per guide, so please let me know as soon as you are able, preferably by email to: mayberrynotes@outlook.com. If for some reason you are not able to use email then telephone me on 01277 355823. I will confirm your booking.

We look forward to seeing you
Best wishes,
Berry & the 'London Group' committee

My mobile only on the day in case of emergency so please do not use to book the walk:
07811 091771 Bob's 07790 133727



ELTON HALL

HOUSE AND GARDENS



- **Tickets still available for our trip to Elton Hall on Monday 30th June 2025**
- **Coach pickups at Chelmer Village 09.15, Chelmsford Railway Station 09.25 & Writtle Green 9.35**
- **Cost £40 per person**
- **Includes private tour of the Hall and access to the gardens**
- **Tea, coffee & biscuits included upon arrival.**
- **Optional lunch pre-bookable at Bosworth Café**
- **<https://eltonhall.com>**

u3a

CHELMSFORD

Contact Lesley Wood for more details: chair@chelmsfordu3a.org.uk

Chelmsford u3a Summer Concert Featuring Hexachordia

Friday 25th July 7:00pm Christ church Main Hall



Hexachordia offers a fresh approach to early music and aim to put the music in its historical context, thus appealing to audiences new to early music as well as those who have a well-established love of the genre.

The wide diversity of Hexachordia's music along with the large number of instruments they play, guarantees a rich tapestry of sound.

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-summer-concert-featuring-hexachordia/>

Interest Groups (as of Dec 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	E-Mail
All Day Walks	2 nd Monday		Berry Cornell	01277355823	Via website
Amateur Dramatics			Alan Caddy		Via website
Art Appreciation	4 th Tuesday	14.00	Brenda Kelly	01277840621	Via website
Art Club	Mondays Weekly	11.15 – 14.15	Peter Anderton	07773074105	Peter.anderton@s cion-uk.com
Art for Pleasure	Tuesdays Weekly	9.30	Les Cooper		Via website
Birding	4 th Friday	10.00	Alan Alexander	07712818499	Via website
Book Group	3 rd Monday	14.30	Andy Moir		Via website
Book Worms	1 st Thursday	14.30	Jane Hickman		Via website
Bridge (beginners)	Tuesdays	14.00	Alan Cardus		Via website
Buss Pass Group	2 nd Friday	varies	Maurice Austin		Via Website
Church Visits	1 st Wed	10.15	Brian Greatrex & Michael Gray	01245258833	Via website
Coach Outings	Various		Malcolm Lonsdale		Via website
Cycling for Fun	2 nd Fri a.m. and 4 th Tues a.m.		Tony Cox		Via website
Discussion Group	2 nd Tues	13.00- 15.00	Brian Littlechild		brian.littlechild@ blueyonder.co.uk
Family History	4th Friday	14.00	Lesley Wood	01245601359	lesleywood54@ yahoo.com
Fishing Group	Wednesdays		Alan Caddy		Via Website
French Conversation	2 nd & 4 th Wednesday	14 -15.15	Marie Neale		Via Website
Garden Group	4 th Thursday	14.00	Chris Bellamy Val Green	01277353481	Via website
Information Technology	2 nd Wednesday	10.00	Lyn Parsons		Via Website
International Dining	3 rd Monday	Evenings	Jennie Cappin	01245 358629	Via website
Jazz and Blues Group	3 rd Wednesday	10.30- 12.30	Heinz Kassier		kassier2@gmail. com
Local History	1 st Tuesday	14.15	Jane Humphreys	01245 259590	Via website
London the City & its people	4 th 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 th Tuesday	12.30	Harry Glaser	01245 462760	Via website
Lunch Club 3	1 st Thursday	12.30	Laraine Linard Barbara Childs	01245 475444	Via website
Lunch Club 4	3 rd Wednesday	12.30	Laraine Linard Barbara Childs		Via website
Mah-Jong	1 st & 3 rd Tuesday	14.00	Chris Paget	01245 474811	chrispaget@lineone.net
Philosophy	Thursday 4-weekly	11.00	Julia McClure	07941 480240	Via Website
Philosophy & Religion	1 st Monday	10.00	Jim Mackay		Jim88mackay@aol.co.uk
Photographs on Face Book	Online		Alan Mayo	07979 540053	Via Website
Pickleball Monday	Monday Weekly	14.00	Alan Mayo	07979 540053	Via Website
Pickleball Tuesday	Tuesday Weekly	15.00	Jayne Hughes		Via Website
Poetry Appreciation	2nd Wed	14.00	Judith & Tony Boniface	01245 266316	Via Website
Science Group	3 rd Thursday	13.45	Chris Bellamy	01277353481	Via website
Sewing, Knitting & Crochet	3rd Thursday		Jacqui Norfolk	07714 258517	jacqui.norfolk@outlook.com
Short Walks	3 rd Friday	10.00	Robert Lloyd	01245466167	Via website
Spanish Conversation	3 rd Wednesday	10.30	David Gout		Via website
Summer evening walks	4 th Wed	Apr -Sep	Alan Mayo	07979 540053	Via website
Sunday Lunch	1 st Sunday	13.00	Lesley Wood	01245601359	Via the website
Sunday Lunch 2	3 rd 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 st & 3 rd Friday	10.00	Alan Mayo	07979 540053	Via website
The Wonder of Words	3 rd Wednesday	14.00	Lindsay Whitehouse	01245 356363	Via website