

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 9th July 2026 Julian Whybra - A Lost English County – Winchcombeshire



2.00 pm Thursday 13th August Chelmsford u3a Summer Social

Thursday 10th September 2026 2:00pm – Andrew Baker - The Swinging Sixties

View from the Chair

The June members meeting had over ninety members attend, our guest speaker Andy Stuart talked about a fascinating subject - Tall Tales Or Real History. We heard several tales of what happened in the First World War, were these events real or just embellishments of another event? Through events that happened to members of his family we found out the truth. Andy will be a guest speaker again in the future and I look forward to his next topics.



The ukulele group is now at full capacity, however if you are interested, I will add you to my reserve list.

With all our groups that we have available at Chelmsford u3a we are attracting many new members. Our present membership level is at an all-time high of 772. It is important that we attract new members as this gives us the opportunity to start new activities, for example the Motorcycle Group. I would encourage you all to spread the word about us.

We are looking for volunteers to support the IT group. If you have any expertise on either smart phones or computer/laptop and would like to share your knowledge please contact myself

(alan.caddy@btinternet.com) or Lesley Wood, our Groups Coordinator.

There are still opportunities to find out more about how our Committee works. If you are interested, please contact me or any committee member to join the committee as an observer. Our next Committee meeting is on Wednesday 22nd July, at 10-00 am in meeting room 2 at Christchurch New London Road.

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Hazel Hughes. She was a member of many groups during her time and will be remembered with great affection by her friends.

Significant events from June 1926

On June 1st, 1926, Norma Jeane Mortenson, better known as Marilyn Monroe, was born in Los Angeles, California.

On June 23rd, 1926, The first Scholastic Aptitude Test (now commonly referred to as SAT) was administered to 8,000 high school students.

On Jun 28th, 1926, Mercedes-Benz formed when the world's oldest automobile manufacturers DMG and Benz & Cie merged.

Alan Caddy

New Craft and Chat Group

Leaders: Karen Smallwood and Geri Roe



The group will meet every two weeks on a Wednesday morning, starting on 5th August and based as Christ Church.

Members can bring their own crafting project and enjoy drinks and biscuits. £5. The group leaders enjoy knitting, crochet painting, felting, lino printing and needlework. We are happy to share our skills and learn from others. If you are interested please contact Geri at geriroe20@icloud.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.

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.

THAMES BARRIER VISIT Our apologies but due to a total breakdown in communication with Thames Barrier staff we have been unable to book this visit for 27th July. We are extremely sorry for the disappointment this may have caused. Our future programme now reads:

27th Jul Quiz on London at Christ Church
24th Aug Talk - The building of St. Pauls - speaker Alison Woollard
28th Sep Visit – The Roman Baths & St. Magnus the Martyr church
26th Oct Talk - London's Underground part II - speaker Tony Tuckwell
23rd Nov Talk - Historic Spitalfields – speaker Richard Pusey
14th Dec Film - Passport to Pimlico and refreshments

Note: **Reminder if you haven't already renewed** This year we have asked for a renewal fee of £10 for membership of the group. This should be sent to the membership secretary of the London Group, Chris Rycroft. Members who have joined in the last year do not have to renew this time

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

Sunday Lunch Group 1

Leader: John Tritton



Again, seven members enjoyed a meal, and each other's company, but this time at Ego in The Running Mare at Galleywood. We welcomed our new member Elizabeth Salter, who has volunteered to arrange our August meal.

Most of us were happy with our meals and the Sunday Roasts were fine, although as expected, the Yorkshire Puddings were almost as big as the plate! My soup starter was okay, but obviously out of a tin, as opposed to the 'homemade' flavour popular nowadays. The ice-cream desserts were appetising, with a good range of flavours (the chocolate, honeycomb and salted caramel trio comes highly recommended!).

A two-or three-course fixed-price menu was available, which some of us had ordered from, but for some reason this is not shown on their website. When the time came to pay, the set meals had not been itemised separately on the bill, but it was easy enough to just say what food and drink you had had, and leave a tip if you wanted as service charge had not been included.

As on previous occasions, the pub got busy towards the end of our meal, so we'll stick to our usual slot of 12:00 for 12:30. Thanks to Doreen for organising.

Wonder of Words

Leader: Lindsay Whitehouse

We had planned to hold our June meeting outside, but in the event, the cool air of the Library was a more comfortable place for us to meet. We challenged ourselves this month with our word game. The most used letter in the English alphabet is E. We were required to write a poem, or piece of prose without using the letter E.

- One member wrote about the dark side of a mean and moody character.
- Another member wrote a tale about telling someone to go away, although the words used were rather more harsh.
- Someone else wrote about a shepherdess called Sally.
- Finally, an English football fan wrote about the Tartan Army in Boston for the World Cup.

That exercise was particularly challenging for everyone, it certainly exercised our grey matter and creativity.

Our discussion centred on the eternal conflict of Passion versus Reason. An interesting and challenging debate was best summed up by one of our members saying:

If Passion is the fire, Reason is the fireplace

All of us then wrote a short story about passion versus reason. All the writing captured our attention. Subjects tackled included a personal battle against the scales showing a person's weight, how to manage an intense dislike of Donald Trump, the battle to overcome personal lethargy, and the dichotomy of logical reasons for not wanting a family pet being beaten by the emotion of handling a lovely fur baby.

Lindsay Whitehouse Group Leader



There is a WhatsApp Group for u3a Members

The u3a WhatsApp group specifically available to members of the Chelmsford u3a is now up and running and available to interested parties.

The intention is that it can be a notice board to see if like minded people would care to join in with a specific activity... (i.e. "Would You Be Interested in Going?" - shortened to "WYBIG")

For example, "There's a Fleetwood Mac Tribute act coming up at Chelmsford Social Club - is anyone interested in going as a group?" or "A new Mexican restaurant has opened up in the city centre. Would anyone be interested in joining me to try it out "



This isn't intended to replace any existing u3a activity. It's aimed at one-off situations that MAY be of interest to some members. These functions would not need to be u3a activities and would be organised by the participants - so the u3a Chelmsford organisation would not be responsible if anything goes wrong.

If interested then please email me at markforster3000@aol.com

A summary of our activities can be seen on the webpage markforster3000.wixsite.com/wybig

Local History Group

Leader: Jane Humphreys 01245 259590



On 2nd June ten of us gathered on the Stone Bridge to find out what Alan Pamphilon had in store for us this time.

I have followed him round Old Moulsham learning how the non-conformist Victorian businessmen constructed New London Road. I have been on the trail of Marconi in central Chelmsford and also around Writtle. I have learnt about the pioneering women of Chelmsford. This time Alan set us a different challenge: to look at various of the buildings from Stone Bridge to the railway station, hear about their history, but then rate whether we thought they were Good, Bad or Ugly. We were also allowed Fabulous, but some of us thought we needed a category between Good and Bad.

Our first building was the old Pearl Assurance building on the south-east corner of the bridge. We all agreed this was a fine 1930s Art Deco building in brick with Crittall windows, and it is locally recognised as being 'of historical interest'. Views were not quite unanimous about the building on the opposite side of the river – Cater House. This was built in the 1960s on the site of the Wesleyan Methodist chapel which had suffered from subsidence before the river banks were strengthened. The typical concrete style was rated Ugly by many but the balustrade for the first floor car park and motifs down the side of the block of flats have some charm.

Walking up the High Street we looked at number 71 (currently the empty Claire's) with the corporate styling from Montague Burton (outfitters for men, women and children on different storeys) in the 1930s, and at number 26 – the Mansion House. Built in 1755 for Dr Benjamin Pugh, pioneer in the safe delivery of babies, and champion of vaccination for smallpox, this Grade II listed building was until 2022 used by Royal Bank of Scotland. Today separate entrances allow different businesses to operate on the ground and first floors, but the upper levels were renovated back to their 1755 state in 2018.

At the top of the High Street and into Tindal Square many buildings reflect the importance of this area as the original market place over 800 years ago and the continual centre of community activity. 95 High Street is a bland building with perhaps the least character of the row on that side. In the early 1900s it was occupied by a chemist and hairdresser, with the basement used by Mr Stiff the photographer. In the 1950s it was the only a retail shop opened by Christy & Norris, the Broomfield Road manufacturer of domestic electrical appliances. Most recently it has been Allegro Music. Now it is empty, but with a striking artwork by Concrete Canvas who are responsible for a growing number of artworks around our city centre.





On the other side of the High Street it's one distinguished building after another dating from the Georgian period to the early 1900s. NatWest Bank was Young Fred Spalding's shop designed by Frederick Chancellor. The Saracens Head is the only original coaching inn in Chelmsford (excluding Moulsham), was the second home of the fire brigade, and was the WWII base for the American Red Cross. Next door the fine building erected for Sparrows Bank became Barclays Bank and is now Middletons steakhouse with apartments above. From the same period are the former Post Office and bank chambers on the corner of Waterloo Lane. On the opposite corner is the old police station designed by Frank Whitmore (also

responsible for Central Park) in 1903 with tunnels under New Street linking between the police cells and the courtrooms in the Shire Hall.

In Tindal Square, numbers 3, 4 and 5 aren't very inspiring but it is good to see that Fred Spalding's photographic labs remain on the roofline of No3. Walking through the passage next to No5 we came into the Cathedral precinct and paused to admire the varied stonework of the south side. As we left the precinct it was a surprise to find a K6 style telephone box still officially in working order, though about to be decommissioned for lack of use. The walk along Duke Street took us past County Hall built in two sections in the 1930s (can you spot the join?) next to the original 1909 County Hall. Journey's end for this walk was the Anne Knight building built in 1823 as the Quaker Meeting House from where we could admire the Railway Tavern built in 1843 as a coffee house – and of course the station itself.

There was so much to take in about the history of the High Street area as reflected in its buildings that a walk that would normally take ten minutes took two hours – but it was a good challenge to stop, look and reflect.

For our July meeting we are back at Boreham Village Hall to hear from Jools McCusker Maxwell, archaeologist at Southend Museum, about the last voyage of The London, a warship which sank in 1665. Then on 4th August we will be catching up with the latest developments at Copped Hall, Epping, with a guided tour of the property starting at 11am. Please contact Nick Bailey 07854 822225, or nickbailey01245@outlook.com for more information about this.

The next 3 items in our 2026 programme are:

7 th July	The London shipwreck: her final voyage	Jools McCusker Maxwell
4 th August	VISIT: Copped Hall	
1 st September	The Essex executioner: life and times of William Calcraft	Lindsay Whitehouse

Visitors are welcome to meetings, held at Boreham Village Hall starting at 2.15pm, for £3.

Jane Humphreys

Short Walks Group

Leader: Robert Lloyd



Our walk from The Rose and Crown pub in Great Waltham to Little Waltham and then along the River Chelmer to Croxton Mill and back to the pub.

Book Group

Leader: Andy Moir

Our June book was *We Begin at the End* by Chris Whitaker. It is mostly set in the fictional small town of Cape Haven, California and also for a while in Montana. It starts with the release from prison of Vincent King after thirty years, and his return to his childhood home.

The group were unanimous in their praise. Comments included wonderful, compelling, loved it, brilliant, enthralling. Also we loved the character of Duchess (the Outlaw), who is a tough thirteen-year-old, grown up too soon caring for her dysfunctional mum and protecting her younger brother, Robin. Some of the lesser characters were also admired, and pivotal in the story.

We all commented on the complex plot, ambiguous clues. The author's ability to lead you along one path, then redirect the reader. Two members had read it before and noticed details they had missed the first time around.

Liz Dean

Our books for the next three meeting are:

Mon Jul 20 th	The Predicament by William Boyd
Mon Aug 17 th	The Fire Court by Andrew Taylor
Mon Sep 21 st	The Guardian of Lies by Kate Furnivall

Lunch Club 4

Leader: Val Norfolk

Anita booked lunch club 4 at the Harvester only five attended but we had a really good time and lots of laughs and the company was brilliant.



Church Visiting Group

Group Leader: Brian Greatrex, Administrator: Michael Gray

Church Visiting on June 3rd

St Mary the Virgin Little Dunmow and The Black Chapel North End

Each Essex village church is unique but the two we visited on Wednesday are particularly unusual. Little Dunmow is a remnant of a huge Augustinian monastery and Black Chapel is a tiny medieval church and priest's lodging combined.



St Mary the Virgin is the dedication of the church, presumably also of the original monastery. What constitutes the church, as we see it now, is the south-east wing of the chancel of the abbey church. It benefits from the four splendid decorated mediaeval windows with the beautiful tracery. It also benefits from the five pillars and four arches on the northern side which were the division of the chancel and its southern aisle.

After coffee and cakes kindly provided by Jenny Kirby, Sonia Merrit gave us more information about this lovely ecclesiastical fragment. She pointed out the detailed carving of animals in the blind arcade along the south wall and the decorated piscina in the sanctuary. The close association of the Fitzwalter family over

the centuries is shown by the superb tomb commemorating Baron Fitzwalter and his wife. His feet are missing as is the head of the lion but there are remains of paint on the tomb of this 'Agincourt dressed' leader. It is an evocative place.



The Black Chapel is a small timber framed building with a house as part of the structure. It is situated on the road to Dunmow and is easy to miss. June Brown lives in the house and looks after the building. Its early life was as a church with the altar at the east end, communion rails, screen and pews facing the altar. But in the late seventeenth, early eighteenth centuries the sermon became the focus of the service. So, the layout of the Black Chapel was severely altered. A triple decked pulpit was created halfway along the north wall, box pews made either side of the pulpit, pews cut and turned for congregations to face the preacher.

On the stairway up to the gallery there are some well-defined wall paintings from the sixteen hundreds. In the gallery there is a little organ with four stops. The other small object in this diminutive church is the font which is reputed to be the smallest in England. It is nineteenth century but an earlier design and it is about twelve inches across the bowl.

Our thanks to Prue Jones for this report, and to Peter, Barbara and Prue for providing photographs.

Our next visit on July 1st is to St Peter and St Paul Black Notley and St Michael Braintree followed in August by St Mary the Virgin Tollesbury and St Nicholas Tolleshunt D'Arcy

Bus Pass Group

Leader Maurice Austin

Friday 12th June took us to Colchester and Wivenhoe using a new bus link. We had been to both places before, but usually using Colchester as a transfer point destination and Wivenhoe greeted us with dampish weather two years ago!

Anyway, fourteen of us boarded the First 375 at Chelmsford Bus Station, no-one else joined us so, once again, the u3a justified the running of the service! We left a minute early, according to my mobile, but we didn't see anyone else running to catch us! The service is operated with a double decker, so most of us went upstairs to take advantage of the splendid views, particularly of the Blackwater estuary. We picked up very few fellow travellers until Maldon when it started to get busy!

This route goes into Maldon past the Leisure Centre and conveniently drops off outside the promenade, several of our party were heard planning trips there. We then went towards Heybridge, but instead of going through the village, we served the huge new housing development to the north of Maldon before rejoining the traditional route through Tiptree and Birch, past Colchester Zoo into England's first City, once known as England's oldest recorded town.

The trip is very interesting and passes through lovely countryside. The second half after Maldon was very busy and we were pretty full when arriving in Colchester. The trip was only about seven minutes longer than the traditional A12 route, but it did seem much longer. Indeed, for some, it seemed as though it might never end!

Half the group decided to stay in Colchester and explore the excellent range of shops and the castle with its magnificent gardens, largely planned by a former tutor of mine at Writtle College, the incredible Christine Lavelle, who has just been awarded the highest possible gardening award by the RHS. Of course, part of the motivation for staying in Colchester was the accumulation of gastric juices; as well as the long journey time, we had started a bit later than usual!

Anyway, the other half changed buses to get to Wivenhoe. In good weather, this is an easy process in the High Street, and we were blessed with a dry and sunny day. We didn't have long to wait for another double decker for the half hour trip.

Again, the party split into two, the hardy ones walked to the riverbank (the River Colne), the rest of us made a quick search for a refreshment stop. Several found a lovely traditional tearoom, Trinity Patisserie in the High Street which, amongst other items, served me the best chilli con carne and jacket potato I have ever had away from home.

It was beginning to get too warm to do much so we had a gentle stroll to the water front, watched the boats, listened to the sea gulls and the clanking of the cables on the yacht masts and amble past the rather nice modernish buildings, admiring the many wonderful tubs and troughs and hanging baskets which are such a feature of the town.

Our now diminished (in quantity!) group boarded a single decker back to Colchester where we joined some others of the group for our final ride home. Interestingly, the single deck trip back to Colchester was significantly different to our high-level views going to Wivenhoe. It was still pleasant, but the perspective was very different! At the so-called Bus Station in Colchester, both routes back departed at similar times, so we split again. My little group took the 375 back, once again, it was very busy to Tiptree, fairly busy to Maldon and very quiet in the Chelmsford stretch. But the views were excellent!



Our next trip will be on Friday 10 July when we will go to another favourite, Burnham on Crouch. We will catch the First 331 from stand 4 at the bus station which is due to arrive at 1059. I will aim to catch the 1530 bus back which will get back to Chelmsford at 1646. There are buses back at least hourly until 2035. So, if anyone wanted to get back early, or feels like an evening "on the town", I can give alternative departures!

I look forward to seeing you.
Maurice Austen

Travel Group

Group Leader: Anne Brereton

Our holidays for next year are being mapped out now but in the meantime after our Sicily holiday I am going with Riviera Travel to Marrakesh in November. If anyone has this on their bucket list and would like to join me please contact me. annebrereton@yahoo.com and I will send you details.

If anyone books to go on a Riviera Travel holiday tell them that they belong to Chelmsford u3a, this ensures that Chelmsford u3a gets some commission payment that goes into u3a funds.

Anne Brereton

Birding Group

Leader Alan Alexander 01245 248030 Mobile 07712 818499

On Friday 26th June members of the group attended Walton-on-the-Naze Essex Wildlife Trust Reserve on a gloriously sunny day, there was a cooling sea breeze which kept the temperature comfortable. There are several habitats on the reserve, but we concentrated on the clifftop, woodland and scrub areas.



We saw Skylark, Woodpigeons, Goldfinch, Swallow, Sand Martin were in abundance due to the nature of the cliffs here. Heron Gull, Pied Wagtail, Magpie. Pheasant, Spotted Flycatcher, Swift, Whitethroat, Female Greenfinch, Kestrel, Crow, Cormorant, Black Headed Gull, Dunnock, Greater Black Backed Gull, Green Woodpecker, and a Yellowhammer.

The visit was rounded off with ice-creams all round.

We do not meet in July, so our next meeting is due to be on **28th August at Lea Vally, Fishers Green**. I will email members with full details nearer to the date.

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 10 am 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.

Art Appreciation Group

Leader: Brenda Kelly

Because of the extreme heat, we delayed by a week our June visit to Gainsborough's House for the exhibition 'Gainsborough, Constable and Turner; Inventing Landscapes' until Tuesday 30th June. A report of our visit will be in next month's Newsletter.

On Tuesday July 28th we will meet at a member's house to discuss 'My Favourite Still Life', and on Tuesday 25th August, we shall be travelling to Tate Britain for the Whistler exhibition.

Science Group

Leader: Chris Bellamy chrisallenbellamy@btinternet.com

Deputy: Paul Chaplin paulchaplin@talktalk.net

Chelmsford u3a Science Group – Air Ambulance Visit



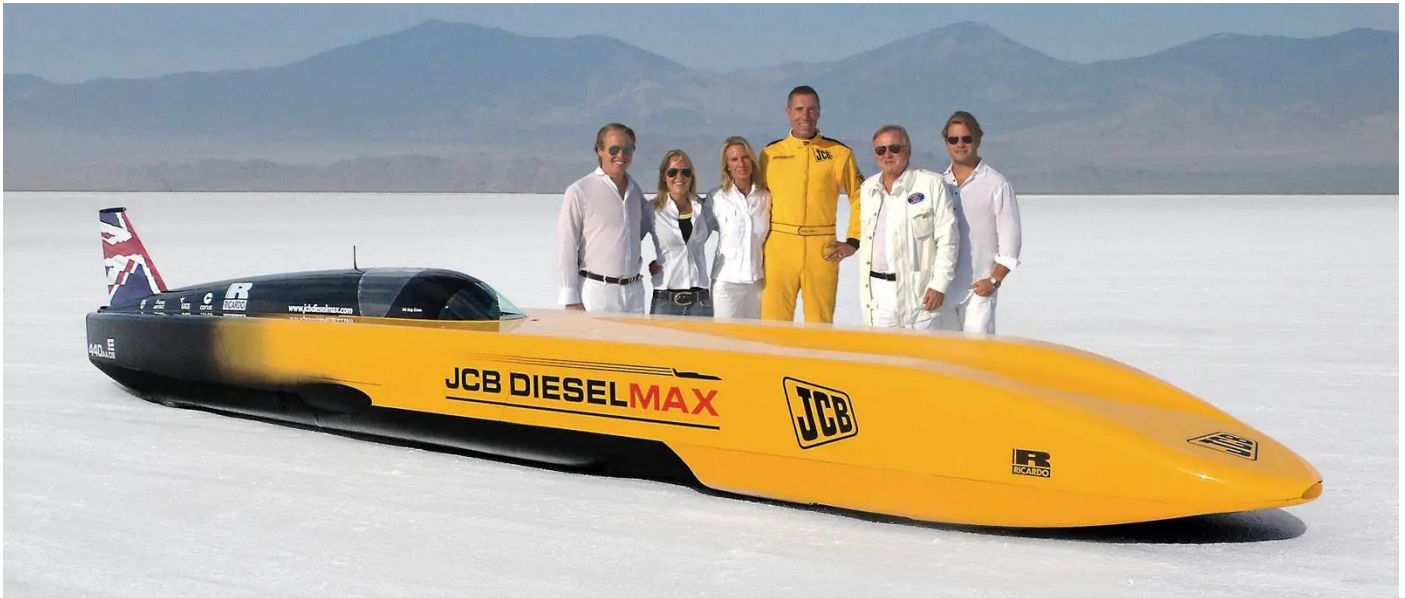
The Science Group is visiting the Essex & Herts Air Ambulance Visitor Centre at their North Weald Airfield base. on Thurs **16 July 2026 at 2.30pm.**

Alongside learning about the service, members will explore the **science and engineering behind the AW169 helicopter**, including its advanced navigation, medical technology and flight systems.

Numbers are limited to 20 so booking is essential. More information is available from the organiser Chris Bellamy who can be contacted by Email on chrisallenbellamy@btinternet.com and on our Chelmsford u3a website at https://chelmsford.u3asite.uk/u3a_events/visit-by-chelmsford-u3a-science-group-to-essex-herts-air-ambulance-visitor-centre/

Report for Chelmsford u3a Science Group Thursday 18th June 2026

The timing for this presentation could not have been better. Paul Chaplin gave an introduction and showed two videos one of JCB DieselMax and the other JCB HydroMax. This year is the 20th anniversary JCB DieselMax conceived by construction equipment manufacturer JCB who currently holds the world speed record of 350.092mph for a diesel engine car. This was achieved in August 2006 which went almost unnoticed.



For the 20th anniversary JCB are currently testing a hydrogen powered internal combustion engine of their own design in a car in order to attempt to beat their previous record. Look out for JCB HydroMax in August which is due to run on the Bonneville Salt Flats Utah in the USA. Currently testing is taking place on an airfield to check all systems work. Then it will be shipped over to the Bonneville Salt Flats.

JCB designed a new diesel engine in house in 2004 and called it the 444 – a 4.4 litre diesel engine with four cylinders. This engine goes into a range of their excavators and equipment. Sir Anthony Bamford now Lord Bamford CEO of JCB was so pleased with this engine he decided to go for the land speed record for a diesel engine driven car. The engines using a standard block were reengineered for the speed record.

Two engines are required to get sufficient power. JCB are using the same principle as the Railton Special which broke the land speed record in 1938 with a top speed of 353.30mph. Reid Railton found a simple way to use two engines by having a front engine powering both front wheels and the rear engine powering the rear two wheels. Today the engines are managed by software – which caused a number of problems when the racing engines were installed. Once this was overcome the car's top speed was governed by the speed rating of the tyres and it did not get into sixth gear even! The team realised there is scope to improve the record, then the financial meltdown of 2008 put an end to that idea.

Both cars have been designed without using a wind tunnel test as the cars are too long and 'rolling roads' can't go fast enough! They used computational fluid dynamics instead for both cars. Lessons from DieselMax have been transferred to HydroMax such as the air inlets which are now a slot in the side of the body instead of a snorkel for the rear engine and many other tweaks were needed.

If you are curious about this record-breaking speed attempt. Google JCB HydroMax and there will be a choice of videos. Enjoy!

Paul Chaplin

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: Karen Smallwood

The garden group didn't meet in July because our outing was scheduled for one of the days of extreme heat.

Our next visit will be to Bassets in on 23rd July. Please contact me if you would like to join the Garden Group.

Karen Smallwood

Kasmallwood@sky.com

Cycling for Fun Group

Leader: Tony Cox 07758817759

Well, after the disappointment of having to cancel our planned ride to The Stores at Gt. Waltham because of May's heatwave we welcomed June with much more typical British weather.

Our ride was on 12th June and the lure of the famous almond croissants at The Stores convinced us to try to get there again. The weather was dry and seventeen degrees and as you can see from the pictures everyone wrapped up warm.



As usual we organised two routes, the shorter one was seven miles out and the same back whilst the longer route was fourteen miles out. The café was as friendly as usual and they didn't mind us reorganising their outside seating so we could all sit together. Due to unfortunate circumstances the final almond croissant was gone before I could order. Such is life - no names but he knows who he is...

Our second June ride on the 23rd was right in the middle of the next heatwave with an amber weather warning. After careful consideration and consulting the riders via our WhatsApp group we decided to continue with the ride but made a number of important changes:

- We offered only the short ride
- Scheduled regular hydrations stops and advised every rider to bring water
- Strongly advised riders to wear lots of sunscreen and thinnish clothing,
- Brought forward the start time to 9am and set a finish time of 11.30 to avoid the hottest part of the day.

Everybody responded well to those moves and the turnout was good. We welcomed Kevin for his first ride with us. The ride was from Central Park Café to Butts Green Garden Centre and was only six miles out and seven back. We were really pleased with the number of people out - and one person celebrated her own 'personal best' speed to the café.



Reminder to Group Leaders
Please send copy for the August 2026 Newsletter to the editor, Andy Moir.
All copy must arrive no later than Friday 31st July 2026.

Chelmsford u3a Committee

Position	Name
Chair	Alan Caddy
Vice Chair	John Burrow
Secretary	Sue Osbourn
Treasurer	Wendy Hubbard
Membership Secretary	Alan Mayo
Speaker Organiser/Deputy Treasurer	Eddie Wood 01245 601359
Newsletter Coordinator/Minutes Secretary	Lynn Regan
Groups Coordinator	Lesley Wood
Deputy Groups Coordinator & Printed Newsletter	Brian Littlechild
Social Media/Digital Champion	Karen Smallwood
Marketing/Advertising	Mike Harmer
Monthly Meetings Organiser/Support Groups coordinator	Ann Goddard
Committee Member	Ann Bell

Interest Groups List (as of 30/06/2026)

Group Leaders may be contacted by phone or by email via the relevant group page in our website

<https://chelmsford.u3asite.uk/>

Name of Group	Day of Month	Time	Group Leader	Phone
All Day Walks	2 nd Monday		Berry Cornell	01277 355823
Art Appreciation	4 th Tuesday	14.00	Brenda Kelly	01277 840621
Art Club	Mondays	11.15	Peter Anderton	07773 074105
Art for Pleasure	Tuesdays	9.30	Les Cooper	07976 292362
Birding	4 th Friday	10.00	Alan Alexander	07712 818499
Book Group	3 rd Monday	14.30	Andy Moir	01245 440007
Bookworms	1 st Thursday	14.20	Marian Jenkins	07986 616748
Bridge (beginners)	Tuesdays	14.00	Alan Cardus	07962407748
Bus Pass Group	2 nd Friday	varies	Maurice Austin	01245 492328
Canasta/Card Games	1 st & 3 rd Monday	13.30	Julie Haggar	07511 629563
Choir Group	1 st & 3 rd Wednesday	14:00	Deborah Aloba	07940 384785
Church Visits	1 st Wednesday	10.15	Brian Greatrex	01245 258833
Coach Outings	Various		Malcolm Lonsdale	07849269397
Cycling for Fun	2 nd Fri, 4 th Tues	varies	Tony Cox	077588 17569
Discussion Group	2 nd Tuesday	13.00	Brian Littlechild	07860 826204
Family History	4 th Friday	14.00	Lesley Wood	01245 601359
Fishing Group	Wednesdays		Alan Caddy	07894 702913
French Conversation	2 nd & 4 th Wed	14.00	David Hall	01245 284409
French Beginners	1 st Friday		Andrew Dronsfield	07940 388393
Garden Group	4 th Thursday	14.00	Karen Smallwood	
IT group	2 nd Wednesday	10.00	Lyn Parsons	07514 402428
International Dining	3 rd Monday	19.00	Jennie Cappin	01245 358629
Jazz and Blues	3 rd Wednesday	10.30	Heinz Kassier	07843 800455
Local History	1 st Tuesday	14.15	Jane Humphreys	01245 259590
London City and its People	4 th Monday	14.00	Berry Cornell	01277 355823
Lunch Club 1	Last Friday	12.30	John Heathcote	01245 380766
Lunch Club 2	4 th Tuesday	12.30	Harry Glaser	01245 462760
Lunch Club 3	1 st Thursday	12.30	Laraine Linard & Barbara Childs	07855 312752
Lunch Club 4	3 rd Wednesday	12.30	Val Norfolk	07500 444518
Mah-Jong	1 st & 3 rd Tuesday	14.00	Chris Paget	01245 474811
Motorcycle	4 th Wednesday		Dave Lambert	07908 895437
Philosophy	Thurs 4-weekly	11.00	Julia McClure	07941 480240
Philosophy & Religion	1 st Monday	10.00	Jim Mackay	07452 988260

Name of Group	Day of Month	Time	Group Leader	Phone
Philosophy & Religion 2	4 th Wednesday	14.00	Jim Mackay	07452 988260
Photos on Face Book	Online		Alan Mayo	07979 540053
Pickleball Monday	Monday weekly	13.45	Gillian Stimson	07856 203630
Pickleball Tuesday	Tuesday weekly	15.00	Jayne Hughes	01245 495151
Pickleball Thursday	Thursday weekly	12.00	Neil Carroll	07964 386056
Poetry Appreciation	2 nd Wednesday	14.00	Judith Boniface	01245 266316
Quiz	4 th Thursday	10.00	Laraine Linard	07855 312752
Rock & Pop Appreciation	2 nd Wednesday	15.00	Bruce Knight	07963 592328
Science Group	3 rd Thursday	13.45	Chris Bellamy	01277 353481
Sewing, Knitting & Crochet	3 rd Thursday	11.00	Jacqui Norfolk	07714 258517
Short Walks	3 rd Friday	10.00	Robert Lloyd	01245 466167
Spanish Conversation	3 rd Wednesday	10.30	David Gout	01245 268923
Summer Evening Walks	4 th Wednesday	16.30	Alan Mayo	07979 540053
Sunday Lunch 1	1 st Sunday	varies	John Tritton	07800 964652
Sunday Lunch 2	3 rd Sunday	varies	Lesley Wood	01245 601359
Tai Chi	Tuesdays	14.00	Alan Caddy	07894 702913
Ten Pin Bowling	2 nd & 4 th Fridays	10.30	Roger & Ruth Spall	01245 466486
Textiles (Fun with)	3 rd Monday	11.15	Chris McFarland	01245 263112
Theatre Outings	As and when		Lesley Wood	01245 601359
The Wonder of Words	3 rd Wednesday	14.00	Lindsay Whitehouse	01245 356363
Travel Group	See website		Anne Brereton	07710411418
Ukulele	Friday 10 July		Alan Caddy	07894 702913
Walking Group	1 st & 3 rd Fridays	10.00	Alan Mayo	07979 540053
WYBIG	As & when		Mark Foster	07531 726417

Events in July 2026

MON		TUE		WED		THU		FRI		SAT		SUN	
	29		30		1		2		3		4		5
11:15 am: Art Club		9:30 am: Art for Pleasure		7:00 am: Fishing		10:30 am: Philosophy 2		9:45 am: Walking Group				12:00 pm: Sunday lunch Group 1	
1:45 pm: Pickleball Monday		2:00 pm: Bridge (Beginners)		10:30 am: Church Visits		12:00 pm: Lunch Club 3		10:30 am: French (Beginners)					
		2:00 pm: Tai Chi		2:00 pm: Poetry		12:00 pm: Pickleball Thursday		2:00 pm: ukulele					
		3:00 pm: Pickleball Tuesday				2:30 pm: Book Worms							
	6		7		8		9		10		11		12
10:00 am: Philosophy & Religion		9:30 am: Art for Pleasure		10:00 am: IT Group		12:00 pm: Pickleball Thursday		Bus Pass Group					
11:15 am: Art Club		2:00 pm: Bridge (Beginners)		2:00 pm: French Conversation		2:00 pm: Monthly Meeting		10:00 am: Cycling for Fun					
1:30 pm: Canasta/Card Games		2:00 pm: Local History		3:00 pm: Rock & Pop Appreciation				10:30 am: Ten Pin Bowling					
1:45 pm: Pickleball Monday		2:00 pm: Mah-Jong						2:00 pm: ukulele					
		2:00 pm: Tai Chi											
		3:00 pm: Pickleball Tuesday											
	13		14		15		16		17		18		19
All day Walks		9:30 am: Art for Pleasure		10:30 am: Jazz and Blues Group		10:00 am: Sewing and Crochet		9:45 am: Walking Group		Allegra (Musical): Harold Pinter Theatre London		12:00 pm: Sunday lunch Group 2	
11:15 am: Art Club		2:00 pm: Bridge (Beginners)		10:30 am: Spanish Conversation		12:00 pm: Pickleball Thursday		10:00 am: Short Walks					
1:45 pm: Pickleball Monday		2:00 pm: Discussion Group		12:30 pm: Lunch Club 4		2:15 pm: Science Group		2:00 pm: ukulele					
		2:00 pm: Tai Chi		2:00 pm: Wonder of Words									
		3:00 pm: Pickleball Tuesday											
	20		21		22		23		24		25		26
11:15 am: Art Club		Mah-Jong		2:00 pm: French Conversation		10:00 am: Quiz Group		Motorcycle					
1:30 pm: Canasta/Card Games		9:30 am: Art for Pleasure		2:00 pm: Philosophy & Religion 2		12:00 pm: Pickleball Thursday		10:00 am: Birding					
1:45 pm: Pickleball Monday		2:00 pm: Bridge (Beginners)				2:00 pm: Garden Group		10:30 am: Ten Pin Bowling					
2:30 pm: Book Group		2:00 pm: Tai Chi						12:30 pm: Luncheon Group 1					
3:00 pm: Fun with Textiles		3:00 pm: Pickleball Tuesday						2:00 pm: Family History					
7:00 pm: International								2:00 pm: ukulele					

	27	28	29	30	31	1	2
	👤 11:15 am: Art Club	👤 9:30 am: Art for Pleasure		👤 12:00 pm: Pickleball Thursday	👤 2:00 pm: ukulele		👤 12:00 pm: Sunday lunch Group 1
	👤 1:45 pm: Pickleball Monday	👤 10:00 am: Cycling for Fun					
	👤 2:00 pm: London: the City and its People Group	👤 12:30 pm: Lunch Club 2					
		👤 2:00 pm: Bridge (Beginners)					
		👤 2:00 pm: Tai Chi					
		👤 2:30 pm: Art Appreciation					
		👤 3:00 pm: Pickleball Tuesday					

INTO THE WOODS

Noel Coward Theatre

St Martins Lane

London WC2N 4AP

Date: 12 November 2026

Time: 2.30

Seats: Stalls

Price: £75 including coach travel

Stephen Sondheim and James Lapine's production. The Baker and his wife. A witch with a curse. A boy and his cow. A girl in a red cloak. A maiden with long flowing hair. A servant covered in cinders. All journey deep into the dark woods. They want to:

- To sell the cow
- To visit the mother
- To see the king
- To lift the spell



As the adventure unfolds and paths entwine, wishes are made, slippers are lost, beanstalks take flight and new friendships are forged – revealing that life beyond 'Happily ever after' can still be full of magic, even when there's darkness.

Please get in touch with Linda Burrow before 9 July 2026 to secure your ticket.

Email: lindaashleyburrow@yahoo.com