

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



3.00 pm Thursday 13th August Chelmsford u3a Summer Social – A music quiz, a singer and tea and cake.

Please note that this will commence at **3.00 p.m. not the usual 2.00 p.m.** The change to the timing is due to Christchurch holding a family fun day on the same day from 10.30 until 2.00 p.m. and therefore there will be no parking spaces available until their guests have departed.

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

Thursday 8th October 2026 2:00pm – Bobbie Darbyshire - A Beginning, A Muddle & An End: Where Do Novelists Get Their Ideas?

View from the Chair

The July members meeting had over eighty members attend, our guest speaker Julian Whybra talked about an interesting subject. We heard about the lost county of Winchcombeshire and how it is connected to several areas of the Cotswold's. Our next members meeting is on Thursday the 13th August and there will be no guest speaker, but our Summer Social with quizzes, raffles, cakes and savouries. We look forward to seeing you all.



The Tai Chi 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 has increased again and we are now at 797. As I mentioned last month it is important that

we continue to attract new members as this gives us the opportunity to start new activities, for example the Choir group. I would encourage you all to keep spreading the word about us and steer people to our Chelmsford u3a website website at <https://chelmsford.u3asite.uk>.

At next year's AGM a few members of our Committee will be stepping down having completed their time. This will create vacancies and offer opportunities to join the Committee. If you want to find out more

about how our Committee works and would be interested in a role, please contact me at alan.caddy@btinternet.com or any Committee member. If you are interested attending as an observer our next Committee meeting is on Wednesday 26th August, at 10.00 am in room 2 at Christchurch.

Significant events from July 1926

On July 1st 1926, Belgian scouting magazine Le Boy Scout Belge published "The Adventures of Totor" by cartoonist Herge, his first comic strip series and a precursor to Tintin.

On July 16th, 1926, National Geographic Magazine took the first natural-colour undersea photos.

On July 28th 1926, US and Panamanian pact was agreed for the safeguarding of the Panama Canal.

Alan Caddy

Reminder to Group Leaders
Please send copy for the September 2026 Newsletter to the editor, Andy Moir.
clem.moir@btinternet.com
All copy must arrive no later than Saturday 29th August 2026.

In memory of Hilda Russell

Hilda was born on 30th September, 1933 in Highams Park, now in the London Borough of Waltham Forest. She met Peter, her husband-to-be, at a local church Youth Club and they were married in April, 1958. They had two daughters, Catherine and Helen, and moved to Chelmsford in 1967, where they lived for 55 years.

Hilda became Secretary of Chelmsford u3a in its early years in the mid-1990s, and subsequently became Membership Secretary. Jointly, she and Peter set up the Short Walks Group in 2005, which continues today.

Very sadly, their daughter Catherine died in 2017. In June 2021, Hilda and Peter moved to a residential home near Marks Tey in order to live nearer to Helen and her family. Peter's life there was unhappily relatively short, and he died in December, 2021. Hilda's health deteriorated for some time and she passed away on 13th June.

A service to celebrate her life was held at Three Counties Crematorium, Braintree on 8th July. It was attended by her large and loving family - Helen, granddaughters and great grandchildren, and their families and friends.

Remembering with gratitude Hilda's service and friendship to Chelmsford u3a and its members over many years.

Janet Stuart



In memory of Cynthia Cronin

Cynthia Cronin sadly passed away last week and she will be greatly missed by all those who knew her.

Cynthia joined Chelmsford u3a more than 20 years ago and she used her boundless energy to help with committee affairs and served in several functions. She also formed and led the Tuesday Art Group, now Art for Pleasure, and she was its leader for 18 years.

She was the very epitome of the u3a, always ensuring that members were informed and cared for. She never seemed to tire of administering to her group and ran every aspect of the meetings, including purchasing the tea, coffee, milk and biscuits. Sadly she had a nasty fall a few years ago, and she stepped down as Leader in August 2024.

She continued her charity and church work, despite becoming impeded by a painful hip, a sign of the strong and determined woman she was. She also continued to attend the art group.

It is people like Cynthia who help make the u3a such a wonderful, friendly place to be and she made so many lives better.

I send my condolences to her family and friends. We will all miss her so much.
Les Cooper

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.

Our future programme now reads:

- | | |
|----------------------|--|
| 24 th Aug | Talk - The building of St. Pauls - speaker Alison Woollard |
| 28 th Sep | Visit – The Roman Baths & The Roman Baths & The Pool of London (sadly St. Magnus the Martyr church is closed on Mondays) Flyer on page 17 of the newsletter and on the website. |
| 26 th Oct | Talk - London's Underground part II - speaker Tony Tuckwell |
| 23 rd Nov | Talk - Historic Spitalfields – speaker Richard Pusey |
| 14 th Dec | Film - Passport to Pimlico and refreshments |

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

Wonder of Words

Leader: Lindsay Whitehouse

We were grateful for the relatively cool environment in the Library for our July meeting. We welcomed one new member who quickly made a positive contribution to the group.

The latest scene from our audio project was read out. The members reading the parts ad-libbed some dialogue, and did so with humour.

Our fun words exercise involved taking the title of one word from books, plays or songs, and adding two more words to present a completely different title. We enjoyed some politically incorrect efforts which amused us.

We discussed Andy Burnham's recent announcement around Government policies and his desire to equalise the resources devoted to academic and vocational training for young people. In general terms we approved of this idea and we recognised the importance of both development routes.

That discussion led to our writing exercise where we were required to write a story about bumping into a former teacher. The range of stories was impressive. We explored the affection shown towards a former teacher by a group of girls who baked a cake for her. There was, inevitably, a story about a teacher who was keen on corporal punishment and a story about another teacher who was dismissive about a pupil's future career prospects, only for that pupil to prove them wrong. One story was an affectionate memory of a glamorous French teacher and another about a teacher who became a priest. Finally, there was a tale of the downfall of a teacher who finished his days in prison.

If the idea of writing and exploring different ideas appeals to you please contact me via the website.
Lindsay Whitehouse Group Leader

Sunday Lunch Group 1

Leader: John Tritton

Four very select people went to Shish Meze in Moulsham Street for lunch on Sunday, July 5th, but we were so busy chatting and enjoying ourselves that we completely forgot to take a picture for you to enjoy – therefore we ask you to imagine us in the one provided, which shows how nice it is inside!

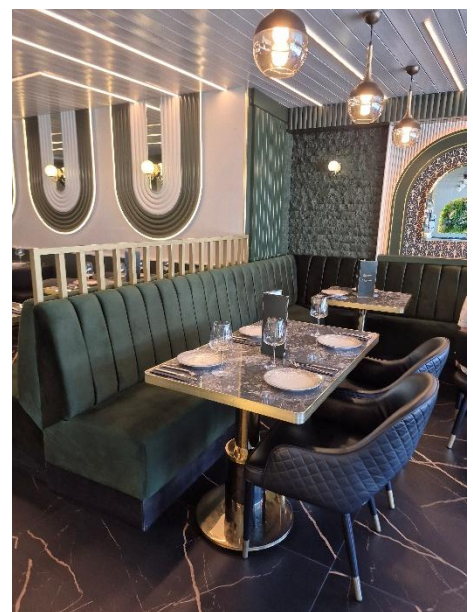
The food was very good and plentiful – we all had something different and it was really excellent. One brave soul had a starter, but was very generous and shared it!

The menu is varied, and the restaurant is fully air-conditioned, which these days is a blessing.

Jenny Barnes

The next meal on 2nd August will be organised by Elizabeth Salter.

If you are interested in joining the group, contact John at: tritton405@gmail.com



Lunch Club 4

Leader: Val Norfolk



Lunch club 4 met up on July 15th and had a lovely lunch at Sans Chinese restaurant. We all enjoyed our meal there with lots of choices to choose.

We will definitely go there again. Organised by Shaun.

Book Group

Leader: Andy Moir

Our July book was *The Predicament* by William Boyd. Set in 1963, the novel follows travel writer and reluctant spy Gabriel Dax. Sent to Guatemala by his MI6 handler and former lover, Faith Green, he witnesses the assassination of a leftist presidential candidate. Later sent to West Berlin, Dax uncovers a chilling plot to assassinate U.S. President John F. Kennedy when he visits West Berlin.

The group were, as frequently happens, divided in their opinion of the book. Views varied from “This book is a perfect example to me of the value of belonging to the Book Group - I enjoyed it no end and would gladly read more by William Boyd - but left to my own devices, I wouldn’t have looked at it.” To “Thanks for the opportunity to read a spy novel which I don’t usually do. My decision to neglect this sector is confirmed”

Another interesting and good natured meeting.

Our books for the next three meeting are:

Mon Aug 17 th	The Fire Court by Andrew Taylor
Mon Sep 21 st	The Guardian of Lies by Kate Furnivall
Mon Oct 19 th	Go Set A Watchman by Harper Lee

French (Beginners) Group

Leader: Andrew Drondfield



Salut!

Very enjoyable coffee morning at 'café des débutants'

Andrew Drondfield

Church Visiting Group

Group Leader: Brian Greatrex, Administrator: Michael Gray

Church Visiting on July 1st 2026

Black Notley and St Michael's Braintree

It is a very impressive approach to St Peter and St Paul's Black Notley. This little Norman church is set within an ancient mediaeval farming estate with an enormous barn and other significant buildings. It is almost as though the church was originally the private church for the estate.



We were introduced to the place by Gill Ridgewell, after Lila McGowan and Lisa Gregson had plied us with coffee and delicious cake in the delightful church hall. There are two Norman windows in the north wall but what you see today dates from the decorated mediaeval period. The Victorian screen, pulpit and choir stalls were installed under the direction of the Rev Edward Nottidge. One of the most interesting items is the huge hollowed out chest with its iron binding and locks. The other early iron work is on the south door which has been transferred to a much younger wooden door. There are massive wooden beams in the west end supporting the bell chamber and the small tower and spire.

John Ray, the renowned seventeenth naturalist, is buried near the south porch and his tomb can be seen through the windows. There is a plan to create a stained glass window featuring his interests and achievements but retaining clear glass in the centre so that his tomb can be seen from inside the church.



St Michael's Church Braintree is set right in the middle of the town and was originally built in the twelfth century. Some of the windows date from then. There are Roman bricks in the walls. Earlier in its life it had just a central nave in the body of the church but it was extended in the Victorian period to provide the north and south aisles. Above the chancel on the south side the Braintree Grammar School was incorporated into the building with the stairway leading up to the Master's dwelling. The most notable student was John Ray who became famous as a botanist; he virtually created the scientific approach to the subject. He actually lectured in Greek and Mathematics at Cambridge. Thomas Huntley's eighteenth-century clock was rediscovered in the muniment room, accessed through a trap door in the vestry. The mechanism is displayed in the north chapel, behind the organ.



We were given a warm welcome to the church – churchwarden Cyril Bamforth spoke engagingly about its long history, and the Rev Nigel Adams gave us some insight into its function as a diverse, urban community.

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

Our next visit on August 5th takes us to St Mary the Virgin Tollesbury and St Nicholas Tolleshunt D'Arcy.

Spanish Conversation Group

Leader: David Gout

There were a few absentees for our meeting on 15 July 2026 – holidays, illness, other commitments – but that allowed plenty of opportunity for the seven of us attending to exercise our Spanish skills.

Two of us who had been on holiday in Norfolk told us about what they had done on their respective trips. Another two of us had been closer to home (Southend) for very differing reasons – one had been to the Cliffs Pavilion to see a production of Barnum, another had been to Adventureland for his grandson's eighth birthday!

One of our members had prepared a quiz on all aspects Spanish, ranging from the age at which a person is allowed to start driving a car (18) to where you would find the famous Picasso painting "Guernica" (the Museo Reina Sofia in Madrid).

After completing two crosswords in Spanish (not cryptic!), we played our version of Just A Minute where everybody has to talk briefly in Spanish on a random topic sprung upon them. This teaches us to think on our feet. Topics included life in the Year 2100; what achievements are you most proud of (passing Maths O Level and a driving test were the response!), and if you were an animal, what sort would you wish to be a be (our member would wish to be a dog – lots of good food, plenty of walks etc).

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 19th August 2026 at 10:30am at Room 2, Christ Church, New London Road, Chelmsford.

Fun With Textiles Group

Leader Chris McFarland

This month we were guided by Jenny, one of our members, to make an abstract collage. We were given a short list of materials to take along including a range of fabrics in our colour choice and some buttons plus the usual sewing kit.



Jenny described how she started the process of deciding which fabrics to use and where to place them, then it was our turn to experiment. When we were all happy with our designs we then had a go at making

Suffolk puffs and adding them in to the collage along with the buttons. Needless to say none of the work was quite finished but by next session.....

Next month Geri is going to demonstrate felting

Science Group

Leader: Chris Bellamy chrisallenbellamy@btinternet.com

Deputy: Paul Chaplin paulchaplin@talktalk.net

Report on Visit to Essex and Herts Air Ambulance Thursday 16th July 2026

Essex and Herts Air Ambulance have two bases in Essex one at Earles Colne the other at North Weald. We visited North Weald which meant a drive through the aerodrome which was interesting. Many of the hangers are in use with various organisations and I spotted old buses stored on hard standings including two bendy buses! The E&H AA is housed in a new hanger with various facilities and a large hanger for the helicopter. On the side of the hanger in big letters are the words 'We can't fly without you' so you know you are in the right carpark!



We were made to feel at home with tea coffee and biscuits on arrival and were given an introductory talk by Ian Thomas one of the many 450 volunteers. The room we were in had the inside shape of the helicopter illuminated on the floor with the positions of the stretcher and kit and personal marked on the floor.

The helicopter was undergoing some repairs in the hanger, so after the talk we were able to see it up close and meet the two pilots. Not long ago one pilot was employed with a member of the medical team up front navigating and communicating and assisting the pilot, but that changed recently to two pilots who take it in turn to fly the craft whilst the other is busy with navigation, communicating with base looking out for other aircraft and other checks which is more work than the pilot does!

Some takeaways from a most interesting visit and the most surprising is 'we take the hospital to you'. The highly trained medical team have on average seven calls a day treating about 1,900 patients a year. They carry out such measures as necessary to stabilise the patient including blood transfer. They then usually transport the patient by road to the appropriate hospital. About 17% of patients are transferred by the helicopter to hospital.

The E&H AA consumes money at the rate of £1million each month! Each mission with the helicopter costs approximately £2,800. They are unable to get Lottery money because they are unable to fulfil the Lottery's strict funding criteria. Many patients survive but for some long enough to say goodbye to their loved ones and regrettably others not at all.

The helicopter has two jet fuelled turbine engines driving the 5 blade rotor and the essential fan tail. In all it weighs about 5 tonnes. The down draft is substantial when taking off or landing and this can cause dust and debris to be blown about. To prevent grit and dust entering the engine the incoming air is filtered which was quite an innovation to protect the engines given the large volume of air the engines require.

The E&HAA was formed in 1997 and is now one of 21 throughout England and Wales. Cornwall was the first county to set up an air ambulance service a few years before Essex which in 2017 merged with Hertfordshire AA. They are run as charities and are independent of the NHS. As well as the helicopters they run four (two at each site) rapid response vehicles.

It was disappointing that the take up for the visit was low and members missed a very interesting afternoon.

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.**

Birding Group

Leader Alan Alexander 01245 248030 Mobile 07712 818499

The Birding Group do not meet in July, so no long list of sightings for you to scroll through this month.

Our next meeting is due to be on **28th August at Lea Valley, 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.

Cycling for Fun Group

Leader: Tony Cox 07758817759



Our first ride in July was planned for Friday 10 July but as well as the warm weather we were hit by u3a members heading for holidays before the schools broke up! It turned out that six of our eight Support Team members that provide ride leaders, backmarkers and safety for our rides were all unavailable. This meant that we couldn't guarantee that our rides on 10th July would be safe and properly supervised. As the u3a National body considers cycling a sporting activity and requires us to meet stringent safety rules we decided that it would not be prudent to ride that day. Though it is only fair to say that most of our people had a good chuckle about being described as 'sportspeople'! But the serious point is that we promise a safe environment and we couldn't guarantee that.



So on to our next scheduled ride on Tuesday 28th July. This time it seemed that many of our normal riders would be on holiday or on grandparent duties. With two days to go before the ride we only had four takers. However our numbers were boosted as fine weather tempted people out and ten of us rode from Central Park Café to The Bakehouse at Cooksmill Green and back - six miles in each direction. We welcomed a new member Suzanne W for our first ride with us on a splendid Brompton and we were delighted that Linda S, one of our original riders from March 2025 was able to rejoin us. We also had two new people riding with us on a trial basis - so welcome to Steve and Richard. Everyone enjoyed the fine weather and we all managed to have our cuppas and cakes outside but in the shade. An excellent result. People also enjoyed the return route that seemed to be downhill all the way. Well, the clue is in the name Chelmsford.

We continue to attract new riders and the Group is very successful. Well done everyone.

Tony Cox 07758817559

Garden Group

Group Leader: Karen Smallwood



The garden group visited Keeway last week. Keeway is a mature county garden in Burnham-on-crouch, with amazing views over the River Crouch.

There was a beautiful terrace with a bench surrounded by colourful borders crammed with a variety of plants. The garden was host to many bird boxes of which looked big enough for a family of owls. The gardener was happy to chat and show us around the greenhouse and veg patch.

Art Appreciation Group

Leader: Brenda Kelly

At the end of last month we visited Gainsborough's House in Sudbury to see the exhibition 'Gainsborough, Turner & Constable: Inventing Landscape'. 2026 marks the 250th anniversary of the birth of John Constable (1776-1837) and this exhibition shows how these three artists explored the emergence of the tradition of landscape painting in Britain. The picture that dominated the room was Constable's huge painting 'The Leaping Horse', which was on loan from the Royal Academy, as well as his picture 'Salisbury Cathedral from the Meadows'. Turner's 'View of Abergavenny' had not been on public display since 1799, while Gainsborough's 'Landscape with Cattle' had not been seen since the 1950s. It was a small but very interesting exhibition.

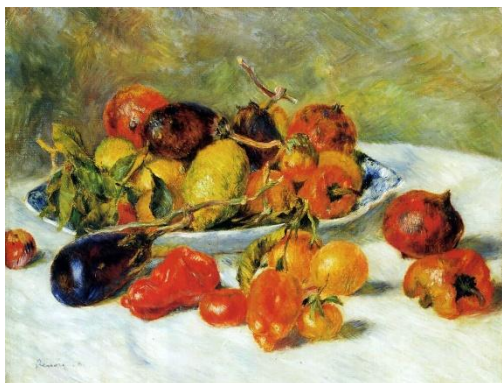


We then climbed to two other galleries - one in particular we liked - it showed the work of David Dawson,

who had worked under Lucien Freud. His oil paintings of the sheep in his native countryside of Wales were extremely lifelike.

Visiting Gainsborough's House is always enjoyable - apart from a chance to visit his actual home - there is a lovely garden where we relaxed and enjoyed refreshments.

This month we gathered at a member's house to talk about 'My Favourite Still Life'. This genre of painting never seems as widely publicised as those of portraits, landscapes or everyday life but our research produced a number of lovely paintings. We saw Van Gogh's 'Branches with Almond Blossom', Odilon Redon's 'Bouquet of Flowers'. 'Yellow Flowers in a Small Milk Churn' by David Hockney and Van Gogh's 'Sunflowers' of which there are a number of copies throughout the world.



The Cubist, George Braque, produced the intriguing painting 'Violin and Candlestick'. Cézanne in the South of France produced numerous Still Life's, loving their shape and form. Rembrandt brought us down to earth with 'The Slaughtered Ox', while Renoir in 'Fruits from the Midi' showed us the vivid colours and different textures of Mediterranean fruit. Finally bringing us up to modern times, one of our group produced a still life painting by her mother, reminiscing different events in her life showing a row of houses, jars of marmalade, book, African violets and scale weights. A great idea. In all we had a very interesting afternoon.

Next month we visit the Whistler exhibition at Tate Britain.

Bus Pass Group Leader Maurice Austin

Friday 10 July saw us visiting a favourite destination, Burnham-on-Crouch. We welcomed a new member, Shaun. Nine of us gathered for the 09.45 First Essex 331 from Chelmsford Bus Station. One more u3a member joined at Manor Farm shop bringing us up to double figures! It was another very hot day, but all the bus windows were open creating a lovely cool breeze. The bus was about half full until Maldon where there was the usual "mass departure".

Our driver drove hard and fast, resulting in a bit of early running and a couple of minutes "kill-time break" where no-one got on or off. After the town centre roundabout in Maldon, we encountered one of those enormous Dutch flower lorries parked right on the corner, causing mayhem and delay. We now had an excuse to drive hard!

The route normally goes through Latchingdon but we took a long diversion via Purleigh Roundbush which took us along the Dengie Ridge which gave spectacular views of the Crouch estuary which would not normally be seen from the lower vantage point if we had been in a car. We rejoined the usual route at Althorne and were surprised at the redevelopment of the area.



We then went through Southminster to arrive only about seven minutes later than expected. The reason for the diversion was road resurfacing in Latchingdon which, according to the website, had been finished the week previously! Never mind, it opened up a grand view and enabled us to travel on roads not normally served by bus.

As usual, the party broke into groups to find a coffee and cake stop of choice and drifted off to do their own thing. There are so many things to do in Burnham, lots of pretty buildings to explore, a riverside that is so full of flowers it is like a garden, many quirky shops and places just to sit and watch the world go by.



We all came home at different times, dependent upon other commitments! The bus I came home on travelled the normal route through Latchingdon where the road did show signs of being resurfaced but not that day! Were we taken on an unnecessary diversion? Never mind if we did, it was well worth it!

Our next trip will be on Friday 14 August, when we go to another favourite destination, Southend-on-Sea. We will catch the 09.27 X30 from stand 2 of Chelmsford Bus Station which is due to arrive at Southern Travel Centre at 10.37.

I aim to catch either the 15.05 or 15.35 X30s which are due back in Chelmsford at 16.14 and 16.45 respectively. There are two buses each hour until late evening and then roughly hourly all night, so, if anyone wanted to get back early, or feels like an evening/night “on the town”, I can give alternative departures!

The wonderful Ensign 99 open top service is operating half-hourly between Leigh-on-Sea and Shoeburyness again this year, to a much simpler timetable! I intend using that although our passes don’t give us free travel. There is a reduced fare available, an all-day concession ticket is £6.50.

There is also the wonderful pier, the pier railway, lots of ice-cream and fish and chips!

I look forward to seeing you.

Maurice Austin

Local History Group

Leader: Jane Humphreys 01245 259590

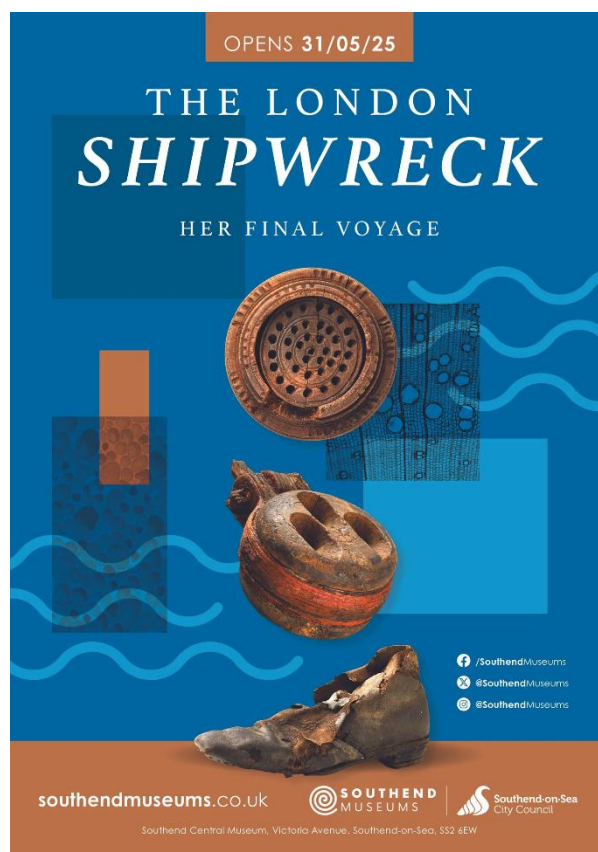
On 7th July we welcomed Jools McCusker Maxwell, Curator of Archaeology for Southend Museums to talk about the finds from the wreck of The London. This warship was built at Chatham in 1656 to serve in the Anglo-Spanish war and was a second rate ship of the line with 64 guns. At the restoration of the monarchy The London carried James, the Duke of York and younger brother of Charles II back from the Netherlands. By 1665 England was at war with the Dutch. On 7th March The London was moored in the Thames estuary near Thurrock and was loaded with gunpowder. Preparing to sail, she had over 300 people on board with sailors saying farewell to their families. Suddenly she exploded and all bar about 12 people were killed, as noted by Samuel Pepys in his diary. Ship explosions happened to about 1 in 12 vessels – sailors smoked pipes and used candles for lighting.

The wreck site was lost and rediscovered more than once with all sorts of people keen to recover the bronze cannons (or even the iron cannons used as ballast). Most recently the site was identified in 2005 as part of the works for the London Gateway Port development, and investigated from 2014 to 2016 by Cotswold Archaeology with funding from Historic England. The site is at risk because the wood of the ship is eaten away as the silt of the estuary moves. It has also been the victim of heritage crime with unauthorised divers recovering artefacts to sell on the antiquaries market.

For ten months to May 2026 Southend Museum was pleased to display many of the artefacts recovered and stabilised. These included a leather boot which had survived because it was waterlogged. Many were found and appeared to be new – perhaps stock for sale. They were particularly interesting because historically shoes and boots had straight feet, but a number of these boots were shaped either for left feet or right feet indicating a change in fashion. Another leather item was a luxury book cover decorated with gold leaf and vermillion, the size to fit a personal logbook. Two items were made in Germany – one a distinctive fragment of a jug, and another a well-preserved sundial in a brass case. The prize piece was a very rare 17th century gun carriage weighing a ton with 4 wheels attached by an axle.

Although this exhibition has now closed, Jools encouraged us to explore one of the four Southend Museums – the Central, Beecroft Art Gallery, Southchurch Hall and Prittlewell Priory. New this year at the Beecroft is the Collections Centre on the second floor.

For August once again we are out visiting. This time the destination is Copped Hall, Epping to see the latest developments in restoring the house and walled garden. We meet there at 11am on Tuesday 4th August. Please contact Nick Bailey 07854 822225, or nickbailey01245@outlook.com for more information about this.



The next 3 items in our 2026 programme are:

4 th August	VISIT: Copped Hall, Epping	
1 st September	The Essex executioner: life and times of William Calcraft	Lindsay Whitehouse
6 th October	VISIT: Moot Hall, Maldon	

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

Jane Humphreys

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
Marketing/Advertising	Mike Harmer
Monthly Meetings Organiser/Support Groups coordinator	Ann Goddard
Committee Member	Ann Bell
Committee Member	Susie Nankivell

LONDON – THE CITY & ITS PEOPLE GROUP

Visit to the Roman Baths & The Pool of London area

28th September 2026 meeting at 11am Tower Hill Underground station

9.56 Chelmsford 10.02 Ingatestone

(Remember rail card if you have one and restricted travel between 4-7pm.)

Our guides recommend changing at Stratford and taking the Central line to Mile End. Cross the platform to District line to Tower Hill. This is suggested due to possible 15 minute delays on Circle Line from Liverpool St.

Please record Berry's mobile no. 07811 091771 & Chris mobile no. 07880 632629 in case of emergencies on the day. Please do not pay before checking availability.

Group A (decided on the day) Will walk to the Roman Baths – archaeological remains of a 2nd century Roman house and private bathhouse discovered in 1848, for a tour while Group B does a tour of parts of the Pool of London area which stretches in distance from London Bridge to just below Tower Bridge and dates back to over a 1000 years.



The groups will meet up at the Walrus & the Carpenter for lunch (Tel No.020 7621 1647 If you wish to book or you may prefer your own choice for lunch) and to swap over.

Our number is restricted to 40 people, 20 per guide so please let me know as soon as possible if you want to come, preferably by email to: mayberrynotes@outlook.com. If for some reason you cannot use email, tel. Berry on 01277 355823. I will confirm your booking.

Cost: £25 pp for the Guided tours (payable online or by cheque sent to Berry including your telephone no. which we will record)

Please return tear off slip to Berry: mayberrynotes@outlook.com or address below

Tour of Roman Baths & the Pool of London £25 pp

Ch. U3A mem. No/s _____ No. places required _____

Names/s _____ £ _____

Email address _____ Tel.. no. _____

Please pay by BACs if possible payable to: The U3A Chelmsford A/C No 67361669

Sort code 08.92.99 Reference LGRBPL

Or by cheque payable to Chelmsford U3A and sent to:

Berry Cornell, 24 Park Drive, Ingatestone CM49DT For confirmation please include email address and telephone no.

Interest Groups List (as of 02/08/2026)

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

Name of Group	Day of Month	Time	Group Leader	Phone
Philosophy & Religion	1 st Monday	10.00	Jim Mackay	07452 988260
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 August 2026

MON		TUE		WED		THU		FRI		SAT		SUN	
	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											
	3		4		5		6		7		8		9
👤 10:00 am: Philosophy & Religion		👤 9:30 am: Art for Pleasure		👤 Craft and Chat		👤 10:30 am: Philosophy 2		👤 9:45 am: Walking Group					
👤 11:15 am: Art Club		👤 2:00 pm: Bridge (Beginners)		👤 Craft and Chat		👤 12:00 pm: Lunch Club 3		👤 10:30 am: French (Beginners)					
👤 1:30 pm: Canasta/Card Games		👤 2:00 pm: Local History		👤 7:00 am: Fishing		👤 12:00 pm: Pickleball Thursday		👤 2:00 pm: ukulele					
👤 1:45 pm: Pickleball Monday		👤 2:00 pm: Mah-Jong		👤 10:30 am: Church Visits		👤 2:30 pm: Book Worms							
		👤 2:00 pm: Tai Chi		👤 2:00 pm: Poetry									
		👤 3:00 pm: Pickleball Tuesday											
	10		11		12		13		14		15		16
👤 All day Walks		👤 9:30 am: Art for Pleasure		👤 10:00 am: IT Group		👤 12:00 pm: Pickleball Thursday		👤 Bus Pass Group				👤 12:00 pm: Sunday lunch Group 2	
👤 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					
👤 1:45 pm: Pickleball Monday		👤 2:00 pm: Discussion Group		👤 3:00 pm: Rock & Pop Appreciation				👤 10:30 am: Ten Pin Bowling					
		👤 2:00 pm: Tai Chi						👤 2:00 pm: ukulele					
		👤 3:00 pm: Pickleball Tuesday											

Event Categories

 Group Activity
  Holidays
  Monthly Meetings
  Outings
  Special Events
  All Categories



FAMILY FUN DAY

THURS 13TH AUG
10.30AM - 2PM

FREE

BBQ

CRAFTS

GAMES

CHRIST CHURCH URC
164 NEW LONDON ROAD CHELMSFORD CM2 0AW