

Blackwater u3a Newsletter

August 2026



Awaiting a tour of the Houses of Parliament - see page 6

u3a

Reg. Charity No. 1113334

A letter from the Chair

This month's effort comes from a very hot lounge, with fans making a brave attempt to cool me down.

What is it with British weather? Always a topic (and usually first on the list) in any conversation. We don't like it hot or cold, wet or dry, windy or still – so what do we want?

I remember 1976 very well – I was living in central Bristol and can recall standpipes for the water. There weren't any heat warnings – or if there were they clearly weren't for me in my 20's. We would gather at Clifton, over the Avon, and eat nothing but ice creams and drink mainly lager, as I recall. Water was definitely the last resort. The evenings were long and slightly cooler, and a suntan was obligatory. I am a fair maid, so I ended up like a lobster, shouting at anyone who tried to touch any of the (very) red parts of my body.

Yet here I am reminiscing with rose coloured glasses. Nowadays weather is a hot topic for all of the wrong reasons. We seem to acknowledge global warming, but, in truth, nobody does much to deal with it. In winter we seem to have more rain, but perhaps fewer cold spells (thank goodness – it only takes a hint of ice underfoot to keep me indoors). Spring comes earlier to catch us all out (winter or summer wardrobe? And be prepared to change that daily) summers are longer (I think), hotter (3 heat waves in 3 months) and sometimes autumn lasts in a pleasantly warm haze or disappears into shorter days as if it never existed. This is not what I recall from my childhood, but it is the new reality, and I don't like it!

So, for the rest of this heatwave and those to come – don't forget it's only July – take care, heed the warnings and carry on the British tradition of weather talking

Chris Walker

Deadline for the September Newsletter

The deadline for the September Newsletter will be **Friday, 21st August**

Please submit items in the usual way to Di Martin:

dironmar@btinternet.com

Treasurer's Request

When making payments by Bank Transfer please make payments for the following categories:

Membership Payments/Diaries

Sort Code: 60-13-37 Account No: 49519611

Account: Blackwater U3A

Quoting: 'Membership' or 'Diary'

Group Activities/Events

Sort Code: 60-13-37 Account No: 49532057

Account: Blackwater U3A No 2

Quoting: 'Theatre' / 'History' etc.

Payments by cheque should be made payable to 'Blackwater U3A'.
Payments can also be made at the Monthly Meetings by Debit/Credit Cards.

Thank you, *Chris Daines*

Support and Befriending Group

If you are in need of some help or support, please telephone one of the following numbers and they will try to put you in touch with someone who can help.

Dennis Eraut	01621 829758
Christine Wright	01621 853171
Roger Wilson	01621 842455

We have a short list of members who have offered to be called upon to provide help if needed but additional names would be much appreciated. If you would be prepared to provide very occasional assistance, please contact any of the above.

West Maldon Community Centre

The centre will be closed for its annual maintenance week from Monday 24th August until Monday 31st August (Bank Holiday Monday) reopening on Tuesday 1st September.

Beacon Training Courses

Over the years Beacon has run frequent training courses for users mostly aimed at group leaders and committee members on the various parts of Beacon.

I don't think our uptake has been particularly great in the past and I don't really see that changing in the immediate future, but just in case anyone is interested, the way bookings for courses has changed with immediate effect.

The text of part of an e-mail I received on 14th July 2026 from Pam Young, Beacon Training Lead, follows which explains what is happening and how future course bookings may be made.

QUOTE

To make it easier for everyone to find out about our training sessions and then to book on them, we've just published a new page on our website:
<https://beacon.u3a.org.uk/training>

We'll advertise all of our upcoming sessions there, giving more information on what will be included so you can pick the right course for you. So please let all of your Beacon users know by circulating this email urgently.

It's really easy to book a place too. Simply click the Register button for the relevant course. You will receive your joining instructions and as the courses have limited numbers you will be told immediately if the course is full. We are not running all of our courses this month.

Please note, **all registrations must be booked in this way**. We can't accept emailed requests for any course now but if you have any other questions, please let us know.

UNQUOTE

If any group leader or committee member wishes to book a place on a course please follow the link <https://beacon.u3a.org.uk/training>

Ron Martin - Blackwater Beacon Systems Co-ordinator

Cluster Group Members Message to Group Co-ordinators

If you have anyone joining your group from one of our Cluster Group, please complete a Cluster Group Member form and send this to me so that I can add the individual's details to Beacon.

The form is available on our website under 'Forms'.

Gerry Davis - Membership Secretary 01621 843217

Cribbage Group

Eleven of us happily turned up to a lovely air conditioned room for this July's crib meeting and soon settled into some hotly contested games! It was lovely to see Chris back and, as usual, he soon showed his skills as he and Mary won four games. They won the first two games in just 30 minutes! Sue W had the highest score, gaining 18 points.

We meet every second Wednesday at WMCC at 2.00pm.

Co-ordinator: Terri Hardcastle 07934 349959

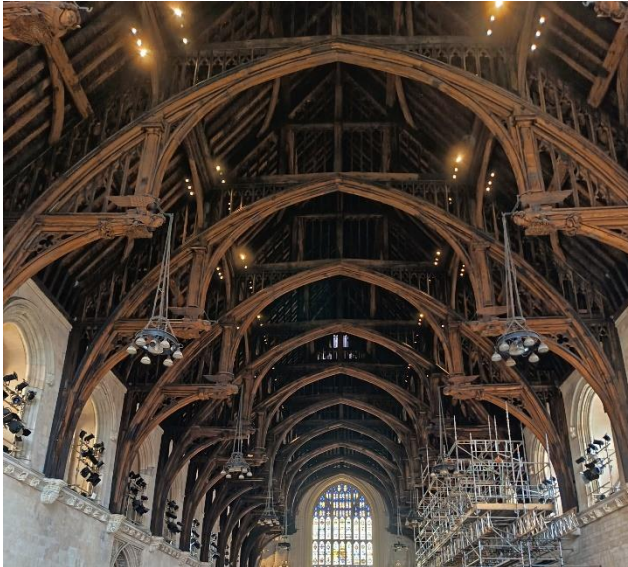
Rummikub

There were nine members all together and we had two new members join which was great. They are Angela and Helen so that made three groups, two of three members and one of four members.

Marg won in her group, Jenny won in her group, and I won in my group. We all had a very enjoyable morning so if anyone would like to join us you are very welcome

Co-ordinator: Patricia Harding 01621 843099

History and Science Group



On 17th July we enjoyed a memorable and informative visit to the Houses of Parliament, one of Britain's most historic buildings and important buildings. Our afternoon began at Parliament Square, meeting by the Churchill Statue before entering through Cromwell Green for security and meeting our guide in Westminster Hall.

The tour began in Westminster Hall, the oldest surviving part of the Parliamentary estate. Built in the late 11th century during the reign of William II, one of the few structures to survive the devastating fire of 1834. Over its 900-year history, it has hosted coronation banquets, royal trials, and addresses by world leaders.

St Stephen's Chapel was once the heart of political and religious life for seven centuries. Although it was largely destroyed in 1834, its legacy remains. The House of Commons first met here the 16th century.



Our guide explained how the Commons evolved from meetings held in monastic buildings to its current chamber. The modern chamber is a post-war reconstruction, re opened in 1950 after being destroyed

during the Blitz. We saw where MPs debate legislation, question ministers, and hold Prime Minister's Questions, the most watched parliamentary session of the week.

We then visited the richly decorated House of Lords, designed in the Gothic Revival Style by Sir Charles Barry and AWN Pugin. The Lords' chamber is known for its ornate red benches and ceremonial role in the State Opening of Parliament.

Our Group gained a deeper appreciation of how the Palace of Westminster evolved from a medieval royal residence into the modern home of British democracy.

It was a day that combined history, architecture, and civic understanding – a highlight of our u3a calendar. *Geoff Pugh*

There will not be a meeting in August and the next will be on Tuesday 8th September where we shall be visiting the Essex Fire Museum at Grays, Essex, which is being organised by Peter Holmes.

Co-ordinators: Peter Holmes, Dennis Eraut and Geoff Pugh

Art Appreciation Group

Last month we had another DVD from Prof. Kloss of the Smithsonian institute in the series of artists of the Renaissance. This time the two talks were on Venice, the first being about its foundation and the architecture of its famous buildings such as the huge Basilica of St Marco and the Doges Palace. The Basilica has some of the best Mosaics in Italy as well as outside copies of the four large bronze horses stolen from Constantinople. The second talk was more about the artists of Venice, especially Carpaccio and his scenes of everyday life in Venice in the C15th and Gentile Bellini.

Our talk on 28th July is by Dennis who will be presenting "What 3 Great Pictures say". This will be an analysis in detail of three paintings, firstly an Egyptian wall painting of 1,350 BC, secondly Caravaggio's painting of 1601 and finally one by Rubens from 1609. many details will be highlighted and shown blown up in size. The idea is to look carefully at a picture and spend time analysing it to see what the artist meant to convey to the onlooker.

There is no meeting in August and the next one will be on 22nd September.

Co-ordinator: Dennis Eraut 01621 829758

Gardening Group

Sadly, our visit to "The Mount " near Harlow had to be cancelled as we only had seven people putting their names down - not sure if this was due to holidays, the extreme heat or maybe just too far away.

Unfortunately, due to personal circumstances I will have to cancel the August visit.

September will be a visit to "Furzelea", Bicknacre Road, Danbury, CM3 4JR Cost will be £10 to include entrance and light refreshments

Co-ordinator: Sandy Cowan 07734 795426

Play Reading Group

This morning it was lovely to welcome a new member, Penny, who has recently moved into the area and who was in a Play Reading Group with another u3a. We have a few vacancies so if anyone else would like to see what we do, you would be very welcome to join us at a "taster" session.

Our July play was an adaptation of "Cards on the table" by Agatha Christie. We meet the enigmatic, Mr Shaitana, a wealthy collector of snuff boxes and objet d'art. He has a dinner party to which Superintendent Battle and crime novelist, Mrs Oliver, are invited to watch his collection of four people, all of whom have committed murder and got away with it. During the evening, when the group play bridge, the host is murdered so it must be one of the four. Battle and Oliver work together to establish the killer but not before two more murders take place.

We ended up playing more than one part but that added to the fun of the occasion, trying to solve the mystery with a few red herrings thrown into the mix.

Co-ordinator: Gill Swanson 07975 920460

Shakespeare Group

We have nearly finished our reading of Richard III, and I think it has been quite popular. Several of us prefer the history plays to the rest and certainly I do.

We have actually read twenty three of his plays over the last few years since the group began, so in September, we are branching out with a new playwright contemporary with Shakespeare, Christopher Marlowe. It will be interesting to compare these authors especially as there is some doubt as to whether Shakespeare wrote every line in his plays. Dual authorship is likely and perhaps even groups threw in ideas before the final version from Shakespeare.

No meetings in August so we resume on 11th September at 2pm. Would anyone like to come and join us?

Co-ordinator: Dennis Eraut 01621 829758

CHAI (Churches of Historical & Architectural Interest) Group

On a very warm day, the CHAI group visited St Andrews' Church, Hatfield Peverel, where we were greeted by the current churchwarden who gave a very interesting talk on the Church's history.

The church has a documented history stretching back nearly 1,000 years, beginning as a late 11th century religious foundation created by Ingelrica, a Saxon noblewoman connected to William the Conqueror. Ingelrica spent her final years in Hatfield Peverel and was buried in the church. Her son William Peverel later converted it into a Benedictine priory. Its surviving nave is the remnant of a once larger monastic church that endured fire, medieval rebuilding, and major Victorian restoration.

At the Dissolution, the priory housed a prior and four monks. The monastic buildings were largely demolished, and the nave became the parish church.

In 1231, a major fire destroyed much of the priory: the tower, offices, utensils, and bells were lost (the bells melted). The presbytery, vestments, chalices, and books were saved. The priory was rebuilt soon afterwards.

The surviving Norman features include: a round headed window (c.1100) in the north wall, The Romanesque west doorway (c.1125–1150) with chevron ornament, the blocked 12th century tower arch (the last remnant of the priory's central tower). The present church is the surviving nave of the original cruciform priory church.

A north aisle was added to the nave in 1280 and later widened with alterations to the western bays. In 1317 a traceried oak screen was installed dividing the eastern part of it; this screen has survived within the church.

In the late 16th century, a south vestry was added and in 1820 a south aisle was constructed. In the 19th century, major restoration works renewed most external surfaces and altered internal arrangements.



Today, St Andrew's is a Grade II listed building, and it remains the parish church of Hatfield Peverel, paired with All Saints, Ulting. The church retains visible layers of its Norman, medieval, and Victorian past.

After the talk and walk around the Church we were treated to refreshments prepared by the churchwarden's wife which was a very pleasant end to our delightful and interesting visit. Lunch was at the Coffee Lounge within the village Hall after which we made our way to the Fullbridge Church, Maldon.

We were greeted by the church leader, Simon, who welcomed us to the church and after a brief introduction we were given an overview of the church by Shelia. Simon then explained the church's community aims, values and its outreach philosophies.

Fullbridge Church traces its beginnings to the Brethren movement, which emerged around 1830 and grew rapidly across Britain during the late 19th century. By the early 20th century, Brethren assemblies increasingly co-operated in outreach, including through Counties Evangelistic Work (a national evangelistic organisation).

In 1922, evangelist Samuel Glen held a tent mission beside the canal in Heybridge which led to twenty-six conversions, forming the nucleus of a new Christian fellowship. Meetings were in rented rooms before deciding they needed a permanent building when In 1937 a central plot was acquired, and the congregation completed Fullbridge Gospel Hall, the first dedicated building for the fellowship. Over the next fifty years, the building underwent several internal alterations to modernise the facilities.

The church's name changed from Fullbridge Gospel Hall to Fullbridge Evangelical Church in 1991, reflecting a broader evangelical identity while retaining Brethren roots.

Significant expansion and a major redevelopment began in summer 2002 and was finished in spring 2003, adding: a second storey with two rooms, a minor hall, new kitchen and toilets and renovation of the main hall and roof.

In 2012, Fullbridge Church celebrated 75 years since the opening of the Gospel Hall, marking its long-standing presence in Maldon's Christian community. In 2023, plans were submitted to extend the building and improve pedestrian access. The work was completed in 2025 making it a modern functional building which is utilised by various groups and organisations, including children and vulnerable adults. The church partners and supports a variety of different charities and organisations through giving resources and time.

A tour of this impressive building took place, and we were shown how the space on two levels was fully utilised. An underfloor font is used for christenings and baptisms (see photograph),

A very enlightening and welcoming visit to the church, which gave our group an appreciation of how and what the Fullbridge church brings to the communities of the Maldon district.

Simon and the other members of the church were thanked for their efforts at very short notice and providing refreshments.

Chris Elliott

Friday, 14th August a guided tour of Chelmsford Cathedral has been arranged for 9.45am. The tour will last around an hour. Our tour guide will be Wes, a knowledgeable volunteer at the Cathedral. Tea and coffee will be provided afterwards. Meet at WMCC at 8.50am to enable us to get to Sandon Park & Ride for 9.20am. If you wish to meet either directly at the Cathedral or at the Park & Ride, please let Geoff know.

No other visit is planned for the afternoon. *Geoff Pugh 07579 028328*

Co-ordinators: Geoff Pugh, Jim Skelly and Di Martin



Reading Group

Our choice this month was our second book by the author, Gillian McAllister, called "Just another missing person". We meet Julia Day, a police officer, investigating the disappearance of a young woman who seems to have literally vanished into thin air, going into an enclosed alley and never coming out.

As the tale unfolds, we see Julia desperate to solve the case after failing to do so with a previous missing person, a case which still haunts her. The father of that missing girl blackmails Julia into planting evidence to implicate his daughter's boyfriend, whom he is convinced has murdered her.

There are lots of twists and turns and at times, it was confusing. We discussed the credibility and plausibility of some of the events. There is police corruption, parents breaking the law to protect their children, missing people turning up.

Although some people liked her style of writing the story met with a rather lukewarm response and received an average mark of 6.

Co-ordinator: Gill Swanson 07975 920460

Petanque Group

The Petanque group is extremely popular, consisting of members from Blackwater, South Woodham Ferrers, Limebrook and Maldon. Attendance is averaging over a dozen at a time and total membership is nearly thirty.

The Petanque group is at full capacity so there will now have to be a waiting list. If anyone would like to set up a second group, I would be happy to assist in getting it started.

Play takes place every Tuesday afternoon in the Maldon Promenade Park meeting at 2pm. Please arrive 10 minutes before so we can allocate teams.

Co-ordinator: Phil Hopkins 07902 918574

Wine Tasting Group

Our June wine tasting had been planned as an outdoor lunchtime event in mid-summer but unfortunately it fell in the middle of a heatwave. We were reluctant to cancel it completely but moved it back until 5 pm when the sun had gone off the garden and the air was slightly cooler.

We sampled a range of Australian wines which, with the exception of one, had been purchased from Naked Wines and in keeping with the Australian theme, kangaroo burgers were cooked on the barbecue.

Despite initial fears about the weather, it turned into a very pleasant, sociable evening in the garden.

Our next meeting is on 30th July hosted by Jacky and Peter.

Co-ordinator: Frances Butcher 01621 853352

Country Dancing

The first session of the 2026-2027 season starts on **Thursday, 10th September**. We hope new members will consider joining us and existing members will continue to support our friendly and inclusive Country Dancing Group and try to encourage others to come along to help keep the numbers buoyant.

Remember dancing is known to be very beneficial for the wellbeing; it involves gentle exercise, some thought and coordination and working as part of a friendly supportive group, all factors which can make such a difference to life's happiness!!

Co-ordinator: John Rogers 07860 162328
or email diana.rogers2@btinternet.com

Table Tennis 1 & Tai Chi

There will no meeting on Monday 24th as WMCC is closed that week for annual maintenance, or 31st August (Bank Holiday).

Table Tennis: Monday mornings 9.30am till 12pm all standards accepted.

Tai Chi: Monday afternoons 2pm till 4pm learners and all standards welcome.

Both groups are progressing well with good numbers attending.

Co-ordinator: Peter Harden 07754536639

Table Tennis 2

There will not be any table tennis 2 on Thursday 27th August as WMCC is closed that week for annual maintenance.

We meet on Thursday afternoons at West Maldon Community Centre between 2.30pm and 4.30pm. We have four tables for our use and play doubles and singles, depending on numbers. The group is now full; however, I am happy to add names to a waiting list.

Co-ordinator: Kath Little 07762 312838

Blackwater u3a Facebook Page

I'd like to share more information and photos about the different groups on our Facebook page. If you have any news or photos, I can include to help promote your group, please let me know.

I would like to hear from anyone who has an event or group they would like to share information on.

I can be contacted via the Blackwater u3a Facebook Messenger or by email karengrove64@gmail.com or 07834 763006

Karen Grove

Flower Arranging

At our June meeting the arrangements by four members represented a cake, a slice of cake and muffins.



We do not meet in July, but five members took part in St Mary's Flower Festival when the theme was "a memorable year", and we chose the Great Fire of London for our overall display. Thanks must go to Sylvie, Esther, Sonia and Val for providing the arrangements and buildings and a special "thank you" to Terri who unfortunately was unable to join us but who did provide various items towards the display.

As we do not meet in August our next meeting will be on Tuesday, 22nd September from 9.30am to 11.30am in the Linton Room when our arrangements will be on a harvest theme.

Co-ordinator: Di Martin 01621 856347

Curry Club

In June we paid a second visit to The Indian Grill, situated on the Bentall's Estate in Heybridge. Our welcome was warm, even though the booking made online had not been registered so they were not expecting us. There was a football match on that evening, so they were pleased with our custom.

Ten of us enjoyed a range of foods from a varied menu which seemed to please all tastes. The service was professional and timely. We had arranged to meet half an hour earlier than usual, 6.30pm instead of 7pm, because in several restaurants we have had lengthy waits for our food. Not so on this occasion. Drinks were offered immediately, poppadums followed, and our orders were taken. The food was tasty and hot, and we did not have to wait too long for it. When it came time to paying the bill, we were able to pay individually with no problem because they had allocated our names to our orders at the start. Very well organised!

It was a hot evening, and the restaurant does not have air conditioning, but it was nevertheless cool inside, with a through draught of air making the environment very pleasant.

Our next meeting will be in August. Members of the group will be notified of the venue via the WhatsApp group.

There is a waiting list to join this group.

Co-ordinator: Gerry Davis 01621 843217.

Golf Group

The Golf group is a small friendly group which plays at different local golf courses on the second and fourth Fridays of each month. All members have a list of dates and venues. If you are interested, please contact the co-ordinator.

Our next meeting is on Friday 14th August at Bunsay Downs golf club. Meet at 10.15am in the car park.

Co-ordinator: Peter Holmes 01621 854108

peterholmes4427@gmail.com

Members on Their Own (MOTO) GROUP

In July some of us went to the "Last Night of the Proms" by the Witham Choral Society.

On another evening, we enjoyed Maldon Choral Society's "A Little Summertime Jazz" concert.

A few of us joined the History and Science Group's guided tour of the Houses of Parliament, which was excellent. Thank you, Geoff.

Our lunch together this month was at Oliver's Nurseries.



We also enjoyed an open-air concert by the Maldon Orchestra on Little Totham Common.

If you are interested in joining this group or finding out more about it, please contact the Co-ordinator.

Co-ordinator: Robyn Slade 01621 928536

Blackwater u3a Community Garden

The team usually meet on a Friday morning for about an hour and volunteers are always welcome.

The garden was created in 2010 for the benefit of residents and visitors to Maldon as it is on the corner of New Street leading to the White Horse car park entrance.

Over the years, the garden has been awarded several certificates from Maldon in Bloom.

Please contact Dorreen for further information
dorreen@dorreenlinton.uk or 01621 853428.

Card and Board Games Group

We meet on the first Tuesday of the month in the Linton Room from 2-4pm.

Co-ordinator: Sheila Rowsell 01621 740820

Walking Group

August 27th - Wickham Bishops Church, CM8 3LA

September 24th - Goldhanger Church corner, CM9 8AS

October 22nd – Hatfield Peveral Village Hall, CM3 2HP

We walk on the fourth Thursday of the month, starting at 10am. New walkers would be very welcome and if you are interested, please ring me, or see me at the monthly meeting.

Co-ordinator: John Mayes 01245 222530

RAGs (Real Ale Group)

This meeting was at a member's home where we were treated to a lovely BBQ put on by Geoff.



Six of us attended and we sampled 6 beers of different types, as follows:

Tribute, St Austell, 4.2% score 7.6
Old Speckled Hen, 4.8%, score 7
Datum Attitude Transatlantic Pale, 4.6% score 6
Doom Bar, 4.3%, score 8
Theakston Old Peculiar, 5.6%, score 6.7
Grimbergen Blonde 6.7%, score 7.4

A relaxed and enjoyable afternoon was had by all. Thank you, Geoff.

Next meeting is on the 26th August. Place to be confirmed later.

Co-ordinator: Paul Allen 07712 052303

Canasta

We meet every third Thursday of the month in the Linton room, from 2-4pm for fun games of Canasta.

New players always welcome.

Co-ordinator: Stephy Eraut 07710 677789

Monthly Meeting Speaker's Corner

5th August – The August meeting is celebrating twenty-one years of Blackwater u3a. Some of our previous Chairmen will be present and may say a few words. Some of our groups will be displaying stands of their work, particularly Art Group 1 (Mundon) and Art Group 2 (Heybridge).

We will be having a talk from John Attwell, a Community Ranger for Essex Wildlife Trust, on the innovative partnership project focussed around Tollesbury, Mersea and Salcott.

This will be followed by a strawberry cream tea, a raffle and social time..

2nd September – From Titanic to The Batman: The Highs & Lows of a Stuntwoman's Life by Lucy Allen.

Join Lucy Allen as she shares her journey into the elite world of stunt performers in film and TV. With over 30 years of experience, she reveals the thrills, challenges, and behind-the-scenes secrets of stunt work - plus, enjoy a 10-minute film of Lucy in action!

7th October – From teenage years to retirement - my career in emergency nursing by Gary Jones.

Art Group 1 – Mundon

We finally had our Goldilocks Wednesday on 22nd July when it was not too hot, not too cold, etc, etc!!

The group has been smaller than usual, as members are taking holidays or, in Sandra's case, arranging her exhibition of Mandalas. Sandra Potts has an exhibition at the Maeldune Centre until 4th August - highly recommended!

After cancelling the meeting during the very hottest temperatures, we decided to continue to meet in the hall, which isn't air-conditioned but does have fans and drawn curtains help keep it manageable. We appreciate the chat and friendly support - and there is a shady carpark!

Finally, we've had a suitable morning for working outdoors; five of us went to Hyde Hall on 22nd July, settling in the Winter Garden and the Cottage Garden to sketch and paint.

Please contact me if you would like a taster session and all materials provided.

Co-ordinator: Anita Sandison 01621 741351

asandison@gmail.com

Art Group 2 – Heybridge

Not a lot of news to report, just to say that we are not meeting in August but some of us will be displaying pictures at the Blackwater u3a birthday celebration meeting on 5th August.



We get our meetings underway again in September and so may have more news, and pictures to share, ready for the October newsletter. If anyone would like to join us, then we do have a couple of spare places, or you may just want to come along first to see what we get up to. Get in touch with Carol if you are interested.

Carol Greenhalgh on 07585 593028.

Committee Members 2026/7

Chris Walker	Chair	01621 840385
Peter Harden	Vice Chair and Cluster Group Representative	07754 536639
Chris Daines	Treasurer	07973 342283
Karen Grove	Secretary and Facebook Representative	karengrove64@gmail.com
Theresa Rogers	Minutes Secretary	01621 332169
Janet Watson	Groups Co-ordinator	07952 925164
Jenny O'Connor	Monthly Meeting Co-ordinator	07903 959450
Liz Walden	Website Manager	07985 202924
Gerry Davis	Membership Secretary	01621 843217

Database Manager

Ron Martin 01621 856347

Newsletter Production:

Editor	Di Martin	01621 856347
Publisher	Roger Wilson	01621 842455

August Programme

As well as the schedules on the back of this booklet, please check the Events page on the Blackwater u3a website and the Newsletter items for the latest up to date information.

OUR CLUSTER GROUP

Do you know what our cluster group is and what it enables you to do?

Our cluster group consists of seven u3as all in the local area, they are all listed in our newsletter and on our web site.

What this means is that you are able to join any of their groups as long as there is space. Again, you only have to look at their web sites to find out what groups they are running and who to contact. You do not have to join these u3As, but you will be asked to show your membership card or number and have your emergency contact recorded. There are already in the newsletter some long standing joint groups with Maldon u3a which in future will be called cluster groups as there are many others currently running such as table tennis and tai chi to name a couple.

Well, what are you waiting for, there are so many different groups available.

Peter Harden

Maldon and District	http:// www.maldonu3a.co.uk/
Limebrook	https://limebrook-maldon.u3asite.uk/
Burnham on Crouch	https://bocu3a.org/
Dengie	https://dengie.u3asite.uk/
Crouch Valley	https://u3asites.org.uk/crouch-valley/home
South Woodham Ferrers	https://swf.u3asite.uk/

And of course, a reminder of our own website:

Blackwater u3a <https://blackwater.u3asite.uk/>

Cluster Groups with Maldon u3a

Singing for Pleasure	Jacky Holmes	01621 854108
Tenpin Bowling	Alan Buck (Wed)	01245 227709
	David Coombes (Thurs)	01621 855358
Croquet	Geoff Macro	07462 333742
Padel Tennis	Ken Hazel	ken_hazell@icloud.com

Co-ordinators

Interest Groups Co-ordinator	Janet Watson	07952 925164
Art Group 1 (Mundon)	Anita Sandison	01621 741351
Art Group 2 (Heybridge)	Carol Greenhalgh	07585 593028
Art Appreciation	Dennis Eraut	01621 829758
Birding	Stephy Eraut	01621 829758
Canasta	Stephy Eraut	01621 829758
Card and Board Games	Sheila Rowsell	01621 740820
CHAI, <i>Churches of Historical and Architectural Interest</i>	Jim Skelly	01621 740799
	Di Martin	01621 856347
Community Garden	Dorreen Linton	01621 853428
Country Dancing	John Rogers	01621 853841
Cribbage	Terri Hardcastle	07934 349959
Curry Club	Gerry Davis	01621 843217
Facebook	Karen Grove	karengrove64@gmail.com
Family History	Geoff Pugh	01621 843297
Flower Arranging	Di Martin	01621 856347
Gardening	Sandy Cowan	07734 795426
Golf	Peter Holmes	01621 854108
History and Science	Dennis Eraut	01621 829758
	Geoff Pugh	01621 843297
	Peter Holmes	01621 854108
Local Theatres	Janet Watson	07952 925164
London Theatres	vacant	
Luncheon Club 3	Sid Sutton	07711 258802
MOTO	Robyn Slade	01621 928536
Petanque	Phil Hopkins	07902 918574
Play Reading	Anita Parkes	01621 857730
Reading	Gill Swanson	07975 920460
Real Ale Group	Paul Allen	01621 856303
Rummikub Group	Pat Harding	01621 843099
Shakespeare	Dennis Eraut	01621 829758
Table Tennis 1	Peter Harden	07754 536639
	Jack Veash	07388 420968
Table Tennis 2	Kath Little	07762 312838
Tai Chi	Peter Harden	07754 536639
Walkers	John Mayes	01245 222530
Wine Tasting	Frances Butcher	01621 853352

Rotas for Refreshments

AUGUST MOTO
SEPTEMBER Canasta and Play Reading
OCTOBER Rummikub and Gardening

Doors will be open for helpers and co-ordinators setting up at 1.30 pm.
Doors are open for other members at 2.00 pm. If you have insufficient members between your groups, please contact me in advance.

Welcome Team:

Jenny and her buddies will be on hand to welcome new members.

Set-up and Clear-up rota

AUGUST Golf and Curry Club
SEPTEMBER Art Appreciation and Table Tennis 2
OCTOBER Real Ale and Shakespeare

When setting up the hall please start with the row furthest away from the speaker, leaving sufficient gangways as normal. When clearing up, please do not put the chairs away until requested by a committee member.

Thank you all for your co-operation, *Janet Watson*

August 2026 Programme

RED INDICATES A MORNING MEETING

BLUE INDICATES AN AFTERNOON MEETING

BLACK INDICATES UNSPECIFIED TIMING

Monday	Tuesday	Wed	Thursday	Friday	Sat	Sun
					1 MOTO	2
3 Table T 1 Tai Chi	4 Pétanque Card and Board Games	5 Monthly Meeting	6 Table T 2	7	8	9
10 Table T 1 Tai Chi	11 Pétanque	12 Art 1 Cribbage Croquet	13 Play Reading Table T 2 Reading	14 Golf Singing CHAI	15 MOTO	16
17 Table T 1 Tai Chi	18 Pétanque	19 Art 1	20 Rummikub Table T 2 Canasta	21 News- letter deadline	22 MOTO	23
24 WMCC Closed this week	25 Pétanque	26 Art 1 Croquet Real Ale	27 Walking	28 Golf Singing	29	30
31 Bank Hol						