

Blackwater u3a Newsletter

October 2026



Love conkers all

u3a

Reg. Charity No. 1113334

A letter from the Chair

At this month's meeting, we had a talk by the man from Tiptree, who very kindly handed out samples. The talk was interesting and informative, and I will be visiting the museum at Tiptree (and, of course, the tearooms and shop) again very soon.

But I thought I would share with you my efforts at jam making this year, which has been an unusual one, to say the least.

All the fruit ripened earlier, as expected this year. So, I was making blackcurrant jam in late June/early July, blackberry in July. The gooseberries arrived early but all disappeared before I had chance to make any jam (blame the grandchildren). Raspberries didn't make it down the garden either. The really big surprise this year was the grape crop – both black and green – which we have been begging people to take away for the past few weeks. I'm sure people are avoiding us....

So, looking ahead, should we plan for the changes in seasons to come? How do you organise where to plant, what to plant and when? Should I go into the wine trade (I'm a bit old for that now),

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Group Co-ordinators and the many helpers within Blackwater u3a as without them groups will fold. More volunteers are always welcome.

Chris Walker

Deadline for the November Newsletter

The deadline for the November Newsletter will be **Friday, 23rd October**. Please submit items in the usual way to Di Martin:

dironmar@btinternet.com

Noticeboard and Information Table

A reminder that we have a noticeboard and information table at the monthly meetings for promoting local events and useful information. If anyone has posters or leaflets, they would like to be included, please pass them on to me at the meetings.

Karen Grove

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.

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

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

Possible new group

Do you enjoy listening to Classic FM or Radio 3?

Or do you sing in a local choral society or play in an orchestra?

If so, would you be interested in joining a new **Music Appreciation Group?**

I am suggesting a group that meets once a month on the third or fourth Tuesday morning (probably 10am-12noon) of each month to listen to and discuss a wide variety of short pieces of 'classical' music available on YouTube or other sources.

The group would meet at first (and perhaps every month) at my house in Hatfield Peverel but if participants wish, it could move between other members' houses with the host choosing the playlist. We can share our preferred composers, performers or instruments and discuss why we like some choices but not necessarily all. Further down the line we might decide to attend local concerts together if a programme is attractive.

Please sign the sheet at the next monthly meeting if this sounds interesting or send me a text on 07447 427445.

Philippa Moody

History and Science Group

For our September meeting, a small group visited the Essex Fire museum in Grays. We were welcomed by a group of volunteers, some of whom were retired fire fighters; all very enthusiastic and proud of the what the Fire Service does to protect the community. During an introductory talk, we learned that the fire service dates back to Roman times when it was formed as part of the army. Equipped with rudimentary tools such as leather buckets and hooks to drag thatch from the burning buildings, they did their best to fight frequent fires in the wooden buildings.



Organised civilian firefighting didn't arrive until the 17th century when the larger towns had enough money to create dedicated teams with fire engines which were little more than hand-pulled carts

containing water and a hand-operated pump. Later, bigger engines were horse pulled but it wasn't until the invention of steam engines that powered pumps were available. The National Fire Service as we know it today, was formed in WW2, supported by the Auxiliary Fire Service which dealt with incendiary bombs and casualty rescue. After the war, the NFS and AFS were stood down with fire service responsibility passing to County Councils.



Our visit concluded with a guided tour of the museum which contains an amazing collection of vintage fire engines, equipment and clothing.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 13th October and will be a visit to the Museum of Chelmsford. Details will be circulated to group members but, if you are interested, please contact Dennis Eraft on 01621 829758 or denniseraut@gmail.com

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

Art Appreciation Group

Our October meeting is not on the usual fourth Tuesday of the month but on **the third Tuesday (20th)** because we are visiting the Autumn exhibition of the Geedon Gallery near Fingringhoe. The Geedon is our favourite commercial gallery and always puts on a superb collection of works by contemporary artists mainly working in Essex. Come and see the paintings, sculptures, ceramics and jewellery and choose your best three items.

We will meet at the WMCC at 1.15pm and travel by car share to the gallery. People can go straight there and arrive just after 2.00pm as long as they tell me in advance. We are usually welcomed with a glass of wine or tea or coffee so I need to know the numbers. So please sign up at the Wednesday monthly meeting or email or phone me to say you are coming.

Sue Thomson's talk on Edward Bawden will be reviewed next month as it was too late for this edition.

November's meeting is on the 24th.

Please do come along and support one of our volunteers.

Co-ordinator: Dennis Eraut 01621 829758

RAGs (Real Ale Group)

Our September meeting was at The Cricketers, Danbury. In the end, six of us attended and we sampled just 2 beers of different types, both produced by Shepherd Neame in Faversham.

Whitstable Bay Pale Ale, score 8

And Spitfire Amble Ale, score 7.4

A relaxed and enjoyable afternoon was had by all.

Next meeting is on the 28th October at the Carpenters Arms, Maldon. Then on to somewhere else.

For the rest of the year, 2026, here are the following dates and venues.

November 25th White Hart, Witham

December 16th Rons house. Address to be supplied later. Bring your own beer as we usual do for this type of do.

Plan for next year meetings to be decided sometime, have a think with ideas.

Co-ordinator: Paul Allen 07712 052303

Cribbage Group

Nine of us met for our September gathering. We were missing some lucky folk who were on holiday! We had a table of four, a table of three and a table of two players. Mary beat me by four games to two, but the amazing coincidence was that twice we had identical hands.....never have I seen that before! John and Neil tied with the highest score, obtaining 17 points.



We meet every second Wednesday at WMCC at 2.00pm.

Co-ordinator: Terri Hardcastle 07934 349959

Gardening Group

Monday 19th October at 2 pm. WMCC. Talk to be confirmed

Monday 16th November at 2 pm. WMCC. Talk by Richard Wollaston on the history of the N.G.S. and some of their gardens . Cost £6 to include hall hire/lecture costs and refreshments.

Monday 21st December at 2 pm. WMCC. Annual Quiz etc. Cost £2 to include hall hire and refreshments.

Co-ordinator: Sandy Cowan 07734 795426

Wine Tasting Group

As our next meeting is on Friday 25th September, a report will be in November's newsletter.

Co-ordinator: Frances Butcher 01621 853352

CHAI (Churches of Historical & Architectural Interest) Group

Our planned morning visit and lunch unfortunately had to be cancelled but fortunately we were still able to visit St John the Baptist Monastery. In Tolleshunt Knights.

On arrival we were greeted by one of the monks and taken to the refectory for refreshments and after we were taken on a tour of the Monastery buildings. This monk said he arrived at the Monastery nine years ago from Switzerland. Many of the monks and nuns arrive from Europe and beyond. Some people stay for short periods as a “retreat” helping with the many chores.

The Monastery was founded in 1959 by Archimandrite Sophrony (Sakharov), who is now widely known as Saint Sophrony of Essex. In 2019 the Ecumenical Patriarchate in Constantinople added him to their list of saints with his feast day being 11th July (the day of his death).



Outside new church



On the outside wall of one of the buildings

From the beginning there were monks and nuns on the site because Elder Sophrony was unable to oversee two separate communities. As a “double monastery” it is rare within Orthodox monasteries. It is the oldest Orthodox religious community in the United Kingdom. The Monastery belongs to the Eastern Orthodox Christian Church under the jurisdiction of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in Constantinople.

Our tour took us to the oldest ‘church’ within the Monastery which was very small and dark, then to the brighter and more spacious second ‘church’ and finally to the new ‘church’ which was completed and consecrated in 2025.

Everywhere within the buildings were beautiful frescos of saints adorning the walls and ceilings. It was explained that dry-powder pigments were mixed, together with egg yolk, into the wet plaster. This then becomes permanent, so the painter had to work quickly before the plaster dried. Outside the buildings were wonderful mosaics on the walls.

Prayers are said in English, Greek and Russian using the repetition of the Jesus Prayer.



Floor of new church



Inside new church

The community is not completely self-sufficient, but we noticed several poly-tunnels growing vegetables together with nearby fruit trees.

We then took a short car drive to the nearby All Saints Church, a grade II listed building, which dates back to at least the 12th century.

The church was almost derelict by the early 1950s and a gale in 1953, brought down a section of the roof and restoration of the church was beyond the means of the local community. In 1958 the Church of England agreed to sell the church to the Greek Orthodox Church who restored it as a chapel.

In 1768, the church had a timber belfry with two bells and a shingled spire, the bell dated 1575 was stolen, and the other bell was removed for safe-keeping in the monastery, which also keeps the now-broken font.

The church has 15th and 19th century details, with walls of stone rubble which have been mainly plastered and repaired with red brick with limestone dressings. The nave walls date from the 12th century, the

chancel was rebuilt in the 13th century and has a 19th century east window. The south porch, which dates from around 1500, is timber-framed and the roofs are of handmade red clay tiles.



All Saints porch

The graves in the old churchyard include local soldiers who died in both world wars.

Having thanked our guide, we returned to Maldon reflecting on the peace and quiet of the Monastery and All Saints Church. *Di Martin*

Our planned visits on Friday 9th October are awaiting confirmation. Once agreed group members will be notified by email and a sign-up sheet will be in the Linton Room at the monthly meeting.

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

Rummikub

At our last meeting we had three groups of three to each table.

Janet won on her table, Robyn won on hers and I won on mine. We had some very good games enjoyed by all.

We are always looking for new members to join us so if you want a jolly good couple of hours come to WMCC on the third Thursday of each month at 10am and you will be made very welcome. *Sylvie for Patricia*

Co-ordinator: Patricia Harding 01621 843099

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

Play Reading Group

August's play was "A pack of lies" by Hugh Whitmore. This was an interesting study of spying in suburbia in the sixties with a family learning that their closest friends and neighbours are actually Russian spies.

The story is based on real life spies, Helen and Peter Kroger, who had successfully blended into British life, posing as Canadians. When an MI5 officer asks their neighbours, Barbara and Bob Jackson and their teenage daughter, Julie, if they can occupy a room for surveillance, the family is, at first, very reluctant to get involved but they do agree. As the surveillance increases, they are told that their friends are, indeed, Soviet spies. When in their company, they find it difficult to seem casual and normal until the spies are arrested and they realise the friendship was merely a sham, a cover to make them appear respectable. Barbara suffers emotionally and physically from this betrayal and, at the end, her teenage daughter destroys all the gifts she had received from the Krogers.

It was a wordy play but one we all enjoyed reading.

Co-ordinator: Gill Swanson 07975 920460

Reading Group

"Saving Missy" is a debut novel by Beth Morrey. It was an easy read and we meet Missy (Millicent) whom we believe to be a lonely widow. It is difficult to warm to her as a character as she seems bitter, angry and resentful. After collapsing in the street, she is helped by passers-by, and this leads to unlikely friendships in her late 70s.

After falling for, and marrying, the very charismatic Leo, Missy's life becomes centred on their children although she seems to find it hard to show them love. Leo is wrapped up in his own world and Missy loses her own identity and confidence. She is estranged from her daughter for reasons we find out later and her only son and grandson are in Australia.

As she settles into her new friendship group, she finds some new meaning and purpose and mellows slightly. We learn that she is not, in fact, a widow but Leo is in a home for dementia sufferers. Some really enjoyed it while others were less enthusiastic, but it did get an average mark of 7.

Co-ordinator: Gill Swanson 07975 920460

Members on Their Own (MOTO) GROUP

On a bright sunny day in September, we met for coffee at The Lakeside Café, The Hythe, Maldon.



Lunching at the Jolly Sailor.

One Sunday afternoon we went to the Witham Public Hall to hear the Maldon Orchestra perform Classic TV Themed music which was amazing.

Some of the MOTO members went on the Blackwater U3A Holiday to Yorkshire which was very enjoyable.

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

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

Birding Group

Our meeting on Friday 11th September was the most perfect day for watching birds, Layer Breton Causeway was the venue.

We were not disappointed with good, impressive views of thirty plus great white egrets who looked enormous alongside the little egret. Then there were many, many spoonbills who delighted us with their tripping through the water feeding with their long bills. Pochard, gadwall, tufted duck, great crested and little grebe floating on the water with cormorants hanging out in the dead tree hanging their wings out to dry. Plenty of lapwing were gathered along the shoreline with a few pied wagtail and noisy Egyptian geese.

After an exhilarating one hour plus we called in at the first hide at Abberton. We were not greeted with numbers of much at all. The water was low because of the drought and the scrub is getting high enough to obstruct our views of waterbirds so we called it a day and had a delicious lunch at Gardeners Farm on the way home.

Our next visit will be to Fingringhoe on Friday 2nd October. Car share as usual, meeting at 9.30am at WMCC. I hope to see you then.

Co-ordinator: Stephy Eraut 07710677789

Shakespeare Group

We have begun reading Edward II by Christopher Marlowe who was a contemporary of Shakespeare and one of the most famous Elizabethan playwrights and poets. He also wrote Hero and Leander, Tamburlane, the Great, Dido Queen of Carthage and The Tragical History of Doctor Faustus.

An interesting man and he may have been killed as a young man in a pub brawl.

Our October meetings will be on 9th and 23rd. We welcome new members for our reading of the plays. Would anyone like to come and join us?

Co-ordinator: Dennis Eraut 01621 829758

Blackwater u3a Holiday Group

In September we had a very enjoyable 5 day holiday staying at Leeds and visiting the beautiful Yorkshire Dales and the "Calendar Girls Country". We noticed that the countryside was a lot greener than in Essex.



One afternoon we went on the Leeds to Liverpool canal on a cruise and there was a commentary on the narrowboat provided by TV's award winning comedian Dave Spikey and it was all about the canal's history which was very interesting. A very large grey crane landed on the opposite bank, which was thrilling to see.



We visited Castle Howard, a stately home north of York. The Castle has recently undergone regeneration and the rooms are resplendent in rich brocade and silk curtains and new covers for the sofas, and it has been freshly painted. The walled garden was amazing.



We are now stepping down from being the co-ordinators of this group. If you are interested in being the next co-ordinator/s, please let us know.

Thank you to everyone who came on this holiday.

Co-ordinators: Liz Jones 07979 664587 and Robyn Slade 01621 928536

Local Theatres Group

A Picture of Dorian Gray Colchester

Mercury Theatre

Friday 30th October at 7pm

Tickets £23.00 (including booking fee)



“Welcome to this, our temple of bliss, our theatre of the depraved.”
In these dying days of the 19th Century, let The Mistress and her company of outcasts take you on a journey into the darkest depths of the human heart. Every sordid detail of Oscar Wilde’s classic tale is presented in musical form for your delight and delectation.

But our performance tonight comes with a warning! As you travel into the soul of this cruel and heartless creature, you might just discover at its centre lies a mirror that shows you your own.

This world premiere production is presented by Louche Bouche Productions, from the writer of *Liberty Hall* (Mercury Theatre Studio, 2025).

Payment to be made by 10th October 2026, please.

Bank Transfer Payments: Sort Code: 60-13-37 Account No: 49532057

**Account: Blackwater U3A No 2
(Gray)**

Quoting: Local Theatre

The Nutcracker Chelmsford Theatre Studio

Tuesday 1st December at 7.15 pm

Tickets: £16.50 (including booking fee)



Recorded live from The Royal Ballet and Opera.

At a cosy Christmas party, young Clara meets the mysterious magician Drosselmeyer, who gives her a nutcracker doll. When the guests have departed and the house is asleep, Clara sneaks downstairs in search of the doll. Instead, she finds Drosselmeyer, who whisks her away on a journey into a whole world of enchantment: fantastical landscapes of flurried snow and glittering confection where toys come alive, and the magic never stops.

Peter Wright's production of this festive family favourite sparkles to the wondrous swell of Tchaikovsky's orchestral score, alongside the glow and grandeur of Julia Trevelyan Oman's period designs.

Payment to be made by 10th October 2026, please.

Bank Transfer Payments: Sort Code: 60-13-37 Account No:
49532057

**Account: Blackwater U3A No 2
(Nut)**

Quoting: Local Theatre

Country Superstars

Chelmsford Theatre

Sunday 17th January 2027 at 7:30 pm

Tickets: £32.00 (including booking fee)



The world's biggest country music tribute show is rolling into town with an award-winning cast! Seen in London's West End and honoured at the Grand Ole Opry, this

internationally acclaimed production is a must-see for all country music fans. The show features lead impressionists Sarah Jayne and Andy Crust, who have been personally endorsed by Dolly Parton and Kenny Rogers. Hosted by Sarah Jayne as Dolly, it includes 12 award-winning impersonations of legends like Kenny Rogers, Johnny Cash, Shania Twain, and Luke Combs, all backed by the Country Superstars Band.

Every detail is thoughtfully crafted, from vocal accuracy and authentic costumes to stunning video backdrops. The show even features a special message from Dolly herself.

Sing along to timeless classics like 9 to 5, The Gambler, Islands in the Stream and more. It's a great night out for any fan!

Payment to be made by 10th October 2026, please.

Bank Transfer Payments:

Sort Code: 60-13-37

Account No: 49532057

**Account: Blackwater U3A No 2
(Country)**

Quoting: Local Theatre

Please note if you wish to have tickets these MUST be paid in advance so we can ensure purchasing these, some events are popular, and tickets needs to be purchased well in advance. Thank you.

Any suggestions for shows, please let me know.

Co-ordinator: Janet Watson 0795 292 5164

Walking Group

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

November 26th – Tesco, Fullbridge

December – no meeting

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

Table Tennis 1 & Tai Chi

Table Tennis 1: Please note that we now have a waiting list in operation. Should you wish to join us in the future please contact me.

Tai Chi: . Monday afternoons 2pm till 4pm. We are still accepting new joiners of any standard

To BOTH above it would be very helpful if you could let me know that you no longer wish to come to these groups as it will let me take on new joiners.

Co-ordinator: Peter Harden 07754536639

Table Tennis 2

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

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.

Co-ordinator: Peter Holmes 01621 854108

peterholmes4427@gmail.com

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

Country Dancing

We had twelve people at our 10th September meeting so a viable number, but we could do with a few more.

Our October dates are 8th and 22nd meeting at Langford Village Hall, CM9 6AW, from 10am to 12 noon.

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

Curry Club

The group will be meeting on Wednesday 30th September. Group members will be notified by the WhatsApp group.

There are a few people on the waiting list to join if anyone wants to start another group.

Co-ordinator: Gerry Davis 01621 843217.

Blackwater u3a Community Garden

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

If interested, please contact Dorreen Linton for further information dorren@dorreenlinton.uk or 01621 853428.

Flower Arranging

Our meeting in September saw the members creating arrangements on a harvest theme.



Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, 27th October from 9.30am to 11.30am in the Linton Room when our arrangements will be based on “Remembrance” as this is the closest to Remembrance Day.

Co-ordinator: Di Martin 01621 856347

Monthly Meeting Speaker’s Corner

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

4th November– A solo walk across Africa by Fran Sandham

Critically acclaimed author and public speaker Fran Sandham took on the challenge of a lifetime, by walking across Africa from Namibia's Skeleton Coast on the Atlantic to the Indian Ocean near Zanzibar – completely alone: no backup, no support team, no one to carry his gear, no sponsors, no film crew, no journalists, no fuss, no cheering crowds, and no strings attached. Above all, it had to be on a one-way ticket: no safety nets, no get-out clauses and nothing to fall back on...

2nd December – Christmas Party

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

Art Group 1 – Mundon

By chance, several members of the group have recently been working on portraits of family members, so during October we will have Portraits as a group activity.

One of our members, who particularly enjoys the topic, suggests a good starting point is working from a newspaper or magazine picture as it is very difficult to catch the likeness of a family member when you begin! Watch this space....

The photos this month show the variety of subjects and media covered during September.



Pauline Hinchcliffe – Watercolour



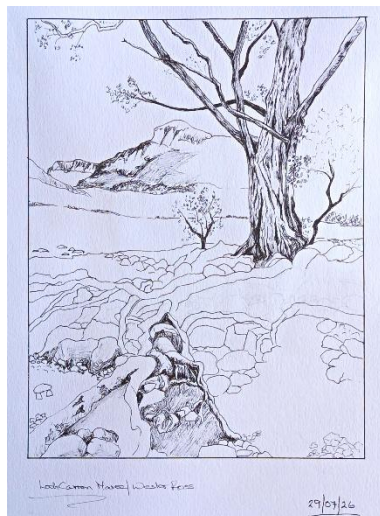
Anita Sandison –
Pastel pencil on
black paper



Jenny Riley – Watercolour



Jim Palmer - Pencil



Val Wilson – Pen and ink

If you would like to come for a taster session, you will be very welcome. Materials can be supplied if required.

Co-ordinator: Anita Sandison 01621 741351 asandison@gmail.com

Art Group 2 – Heybridge

We have just got back into the swing of things after our summer break and will be continuing our individual projects at our next meeting. In October, some of us will be brushing up our use of pastels and some will be introduced to this medium. We will all be looking for tips on making the best use of the various pastel materials and hopefully there may be a picture or two that we would like to share.



If anyone would like to see what we get up to then please do get in touch with Carol Greenhalgh. We do have a couple of spare places.

Co-ordinator: 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

October 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.

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

OCTOBER Rummikub and Gardening
NOVEMBER Cards and Board Games
DECEMBER Reading

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

OCTOBER Real Ale and Shakespeare
NOVEMBER Petanque and Theatre
DECEMBER CHAI and Table Tennis 1

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*

October 2026 Programme

RED INDICATES A MORNING MEETING

BLUE INDICATES AN AFTERNOON MEETING

BLACK INDICATES UNSPECIFIED TIMING

Monday	Tuesday	Wed	Thursday	Friday	Sat	Sun
			1 Table T 2	2 Birding Community garden Art 2	3 MOTO	4
5 Table T 1 Tai Chi	6 Pétanque Card and Board Games	7 Art 1 Monthly Meeting	8 Country dancing Play Reading Table T 2 Reading	9 Golf Singing Community garden CHAI Shakes- peare	10 MOTO	11
12 Table T 1 Tai Chi	13 Pétanque History and science	14 Art 1 Cribbage Croquet	15 Rummikub Table T 2 Canasta	16 Community garden Art 2	17	18
19 Table T 1 Tai Chi Gardening	20 Pétanque Art appreciation	21 Art 1	22 Walking Country dancing Table T 2	23 Golf Singing Community garden Shakes- peare News-letter deadline	24 MOTO	25
26 Table T 1 Tai Chi	27 Flower arranging Pétanque	28 Art 1 Croquet Real Ale	29 Table T 2	30 Community garden	31	