

MONTHLY MEETING

Monday
25th March 2024

DOORS OPEN 1.45 FOR A 2.15 START

At Bishops Hill Adult Community
College, Rayleigh Rd, CM13 1BD

Complimentary drinks and
biscuits will be served after the
talk

Please join us!

**Guest speaker:
Sarah Slater**

Kirtles, Corsets & Curtains

In this issue:

New trip announced to
Wat Tyler Country Park

More information on our
Members' Activities Day

Membership renewal

Announcement of our 2024
AGM

Hutton u3a
Open Day

Report and
more photos
inside...



Hutton U3A Contacts

Chairman	Sue	- chairman@huttonu3a.org.uk
Membership Secretary	Janet	- membership@huttonu3a.org.uk
Website	Paul	- webmaster@huttonu3a.org.uk
Newsletter	Colin	- newsletter@huttonu3a.org.uk
Treasurer	Gavin	- treasurer@huttonu3a.org.uk

Website:

www.huttonu3a.org.uk (ctrl + click to follow the link, iPads just touch)

Enter your email address or username. Enter your password. If you have forgotten your password, click on the text 'please click here'.

Current Membership: 500

Meetings & Diary Dates 2024

All talks will take place at Bishops Hill – booking is no longer necessary.

25 th Mar	<i>Kirtles, Corsets and Curtains</i>	Sarah Slater
16 th Apr	Hutton u3a Committee Meeting	
22 nd Apr	<i>Much Ado About Numbers</i>	Rob Eastaway
14 th May	Hutton u3a Committee Meeting	
20 th May	<i>AGM followed by: Titanic: the Ship that Never Sank</i>	Tony Harris

Note that these last two dates are earlier than usual due to the upcoming public holiday

Two points to note about our meetings at Bishops Hill

- Please do not enter the Main Hall before the advertised time, as we are busy setting up before this. If you do arrive too early, the café is open!
- There is more car parking space behind the Hall – follow the signs to the library.

**Booking is now open for our Members' Activities Day
10th July, New Hall School**

Full details in flyer to follow, by following the link below, or enquire and book at the monthly meeting.

**Don't forget to book for our Spring Party
11th May, Mountnessing Village Hall**

Don't miss this event, it's always great fun. See page 8 for the details.

Link for both events – login when prompted:

https://huttonu3a.org.uk/public/members/events/display_events.php

Hutton U3A

CHAIR'S REPORT

Sue Shaper

What a fantastic Open Morning we had on March 5th – such a lovely atmosphere and a huge team effort! Thank you so much to all of the committee, group leaders, performers, helpers on the group stalls, welcome team and other helpers. Everyone contributed, everyone made a difference and, as far as I know, everyone had a lot of fun. Thank you, too, to all who invited non-members to come along and find out what we do. We had over 60 visitors, including the Deputy Mayor, as well as our own members, and all of those I spoke to told me how impressed they were by our friendliness and enthusiasm and the huge array of different activities we offer. Even better than that was the feedback from existing members. Many told me how much they enjoyed having the opportunity to see what groups that they don't belong to get up to. Best of all, I spoke to quite a lot of people who were already members who had been inspired and energised into trying one or more new groups. Well done to all of us!

You may recall that at the end of May 2023 I secured a grant of £1,500 to help us build up our membership and create new opportunities within our programme. The Open Morning was made possible by this grant. Now that we are at the end of the grant period, I am required to write a report about how we spent the money and how it has benefitted our organisation and our individual members. I am looking for some case studies to demonstrate our impact. So, if you think that you could help me by providing a sentence about what joining Hutton u3a has meant to you please let me know – I would be very grateful.

As a result of Open Morning, we have gained a lot of new members, so our next challenge is to make sure that we have enough capacity in our groups to live up to the expectations of these newcomers. Therefore, at the next monthly meeting I will be inviting suggestions for new groups – and, of course, volunteers for leaders.

Finally, may I congratulate the Events Sub-committee for arranging the Spring Dance. We have also put together a wonderful programme for Members' Activities Day. We have tried extremely hard to keep our charge down in the face of rising costs and I'm very pleased that this year's fee will be £36 (£40 last year). Top quality speakers and lunch – a bargain! Early booking is advised!

Message from the Membership Secretary **Janet Holt**

Membership Renewal Reminder

Thank you to all of those who have renewed their Membership and a reminder for those yet to renew, membership ends on March 31st.

The renewal fee is £18, and it helps if you are able to use online banking. Details are in the renewal letter or can be found by selecting **Membership** and then **Membership Renewal** on the website. Please ensure you use the **membership account** and not the main account (used for groups/trips). If you are unable to pay this way, then you can pay by card at the monthly meeting or send a cheque, made payable to "Hutton U3A", check the date and write your membership number on the reverse.

The new Membership period starts on the first of April. You will not be able to take part in any groups or events from April if you have not renewed. Also, only fully paid-up members are eligible to vote in the AGM in May.

If there are any changes to your details you can update this

on the website by selecting Membership and then My Membership Details. We also recommend you check your ICE (In case of emergency details) Alternatively email me with changes.

April 2024 Newsletter

Colin Shaper

Group Leaders, Committee Members, and any other members wishing to contribute, should send entries by the afternoon of Tuesday 16th April to the email address: newsletter@huttonu3a.org.uk.

Book Exchange

Val Griffiths

The Book Stall continues to be popular with a wide choice on offer each month.

It thrives with your donations, and we are happy to accept those unwanted books you have at home. Please browse at your leisure!

Speaker Secretary's Report

Margaret Bright

Our speaker in February was a change to the one previously advertised who was unfortunately indisposed. We therefore welcomed Paul Westgate who was able to step in at short notice and who presented a multimedia talk on *The Cabarets of Paris*.

I was very sad to miss this presentation, not only because it was something in which I was interested but also because it was the first time that we had been able to include a suggestion from a Hutton u3a member in our programme. However, I received several emails telling me how much people had enjoyed the talk and how interesting it was, so feel free to keep those suggestions coming. I even understand that members of the Dance Group took it upon themselves to practice the can-can at their recent meeting. However, as they were unable to incorporate the splits at the end I won't be booking them any time soon.

The speaker at our next monthly meeting on 25th March will be Sarah Slater speaking about *Kirtles, Corsets and Curtains*. Sarah has joined us in the past on Zoom speaking about the ghosts of Hampton Court Palace. She is a guide at the Palace and often conducts her tours in historical costume. It is these Georgian costumes that she will be telling us about.

Look forward to seeing you on Monday.

Groups Co-ordinator's Report

**Sue Shaper (acting)
Jenny Marsh (room bookings)**

Many groups are reporting a surge in applications to join following the Open Morning. Indeed, some are now considering moving to larger venues in order to accommodate everyone. Other groups are now at capacity, and we are considering starting second groups to clear the waiting lists. Obviously, this is going to take time to set up so please bear with us. Please continue to use our "application to join groups" button so that we can monitor demand. You can also help by letting me have your ideas for any new groups that you would like to see.

Hutton u3a Annual General Meeting and Committee Elections 2024

In the next few days members will be receiving information about the forthcoming AGM and Elections. Please check your email inbox and, if necessary, SPAM.

This information will include a Nomination Form for the Committee Elections and a request form for a Proxy Vote at the AGM, if you are unable to attend.

The deadline for sending the Proxy Vote request to The Secretary is **Friday 12th April 2024**.

The closing date for Nominations for the Committee Elections to be received by The Secretary is **Wednesday 17th April 2024**.

The Committee are currently aware of three vacancies including the officer posts of Treasurer and Vice Chair (2), which need to be filled at the AGM.

All members wishing to stand for the Committee must send a completed Nomination Form to the Secretary by the deadline. **The Constitution does not allow for nominations for election to be made at the AGM.**

Formal Notice of the AGM, together with supporting papers, will be sent to members on **Friday 19th April 2024**.

It would also be useful if members with any questions for the AGM would let the Secretary know by **3rd May 2024**.

The Annual General Meeting will be held at Bishops Hill on **Monday 20th May 2024 beginning at 2:00pm**.

Sue Shaper, Chair Hutton u3a

ADVANCE PROGRAMME OUTLINE

HUTTON u3a MEMBERS' ACTIVITIES DAY

Wednesday July 10th

At New Hall School, Chelmsford

Booking is now open.

In fact, nearly half of the places have already been taken. Book now to avoid disappointment!

Details on the website and in the flyer sent out with this newsletter.

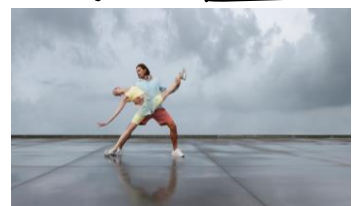
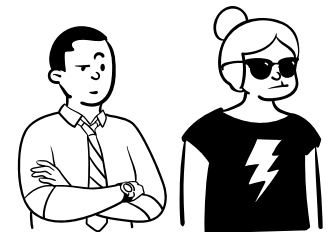
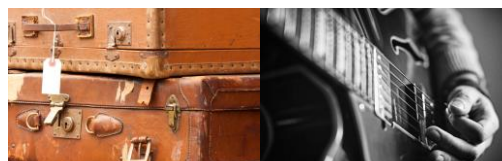
KEYNOTE SPEAKER:

Dr Tim Beanland, Head of Knowledge and Learning, Alzheimer's Society



WORKSHOPS / SEMINARS

Antiques, The Eye, History of Warley Hospital, Irish Folk sing-along, Japanese arts, Make do and mend, Meditation, Papercraft, Political Cartoons, Self-defence, Senior ballet, Sign language



FINALE:

An actor's life with Neil Gore

Hutton u3a Open Day



Table tennis, Pétanque, Mahjong, Gardening, French Conversation, History and London walks, Shakespeare Groups



Art – Painting, Trips & Visits, Get by in German, Archaeology and Photography Groups and Sue with Deputy Mayor, Mark Haigh.

Thank you to Robert Tiffin for all of these lovely photos.

“Well done for today, great idea and it worked so well. It was good to see so many members contributing to make it a success.” Eileen

“On behalf of all my group can I thank you for having arranged this event today. It seems to me it is exactly the kind of added value that you can provide. We had six potential new members and even if some do not come through, the very activity that seeking them inspires is the life-blood of any group.” Michael

“What a success this morning was. All credit to you and the committee for putting the initiative in place.” Tony

“Just wanted to say what a great morning at the Open Day. A really good turnout of members and quite a few non-members. I think just looking down the hall nearly every stand had people interested. Everybody I spoke to said they had an entertaining morning going round chatting.” Joan

Spring Party

Book your place at the members' Spring Party on Saturday, 11th May at Mountnessing Village Hall, 7.00 for 7.30 pm.

We shall be dancing and singing to the fabulous Simply 60s band. The cost is £24 per person, including a fish and chip supper. Please bring your own drinks and glasses (and cutlery if you want to).

Bookings on-line from February 26th by following this link:

https://huttonu3a.org.uk/public/members/events/display_events.php

Remember to login first. Or once logged in, click on the 'Events' menu option.

Don't forget to advise of any dietary requirements (veggie burgers are available) along with the names of members with whom you might wish to share a table. Bookings will also be taken at the monthly meeting on 25th March.

Any queries, please contact Eileen Damsell (details on the attached contact list).

Hu3a Photography Competition – Number 3.



The theme for this third competition is:

CIRCLES (interpret as you wish!)

The closing date for entries is 6:00pm on Friday 10th May 2024

Entries must be emailed to: - photography@huttonu3a.org.uk

Please get involved and good luck.

There are a few simple rules:

- *The photograph must have been taken by the member submitting the image. Only one photograph may be entered by each member.*
- *Photographs must be submitted as email attachments using the jpg format.*
- *Photographs must be submitted by the deadline to the photography email address.*
- *The filename of the picture must start with the membership number of the member submitting the image followed by a title for the picture: - E.g. 6789LondonEye.jpg.*
- *It is the responsibility of the member submitting the image to ensure that any, and all, recognisable people in the picture agree that their image be shared both within Hutton u3a and publicly on the internet from where it might be copied.*
- *By submitting an image, you are agreeing that it can be published in the Huttonu3a Newsletter and may be used by Huttonu3a at meetings, on its website and on social media.*
- *The competition will be judged by members of the Hu3a Photography Group as they see fit, and the decision of the judges is final.*
- *By submitting an image to the competition, members are agreeing to these rules.*

Group Activities

ARCHAEOLOGY

Tony Newbould

On 1st March, a small group journeyed to Saffron Walden to visit the Museum. We enjoyed a curator-led tour of the museum, which kept unfolding gallery after gallery of an eclectic range of exhibits, donated from the mid-1800s onwards.

Whilst archaeology was our main aim, we found any number of materials and items outside this remit that excited us individually and severally.

All in all, it was a most enjoyable visit, and with so much on display, the museum warrants a return trip to explore the exhibits in greater depth.

With current member involvement in the arranged trips and activities in need of a boost to make these viable in the future, it was pleasing that a number of current, and prospective new members signed up to the group at the March Hutton u3a Open Morning. We look forward to welcoming them to forthcoming events, and to including their interests in archaeology in future programmes.

There will be no trip in April, the meeting date coinciding with Easter. The next event will be held on 3rd May 2024, when we make a morning visit to the Thurrock Museum in Grays for a curator-led tour, subject to there being a sufficient level of support.

ART APPRECIATION & GALLERY VISITS

Jean Stone

At the end of February, twelve of us visited Two Temple Place. This is a beautiful neo-Gothic mansion house that was completed in 1895 and belonged to William Waldorf Astor. The interiors of the house are adorned with gilding, marble, stained glass and mahogany wood panelling.

The Glass Heart exhibition that was on examined how glass-making skills in the UK have evolved over the last 170 years to express human stories and ideas.

Our next meeting is on Wednesday 27th March when we are visiting The Blavatnik Galleries at The Imperial War Museum.

ART GROUP

Chris Birchley

These are the last images from the painting group concerning the work of Van Gogh. We were fortunate in having a model who posed in a similar position to *The Postman* by Van Gogh. Ours is *Not the Postman*.



Painting group will meet Thursday 21st 10am-12pm

ASTRONOMY

Geoff Towler

Between 1958 and 1963 there was a secret American programme called Orion aimed at building a 4000-tonne spaceship that would use 2600 nuclear bombs to propel it into space. A former Englishman named Freeman Dyson headed it up. However, the work abruptly came to an end with the signing of the 1963 Partial Test Ban Treaty.

Nuclear spacecraft are now back on the agenda as in 2020 the US government awarded \$100 million to three firms to develop a new nuclear-powered spacecraft. Thankfully it will not be powered by bombs, but by a nuclear reactor.

There will be no oxygen to create combustion, but instead a propellant gas will be heated to approximately 2,500K by the nuclear reactor, and ejected via a nozzle in a process called Nuclear Thermal Propulsion (NTP). Alternatively, the fission energy could ionise a suitable gas that would be fired out the back of the spacecraft. This is known as Nuclear Electric Propulsion (NEP) and can produce low thrust over long periods of continuous acceleration.

BWX, the firm responsible for developing the propulsion system, says it could be ready as soon as 2027.

NASA is already considering several nuclear-powered missions. A report from 2021 indicates a craft will orbit various moons of Uranus and Jupiter. Another could orbit and land on Neptune's moon Triton.

It is also envisaged that a nuclear-powered rocket will enter into a polar orbit around the Sun.

It is felt that the first crewed mission to Mars will be in the 2030's using some form of this technology.

This may not be quite the dream of Freeman Dyson, but nuclear rockets should soon become a reality.

Our next meeting will be by Zoom on Tuesday 9th April at 1.45 for a 2pm start.

BOARD GAMES

Margaret Bright

Eleven of us met on Friday 8th March to try out a cornucopia of games that were new to most of us; *Scotland Yard*, *Sequence*, *Wide World*, *Upwords* and *Ticket to Ride (London)*. We played these with varying degrees of success and noise level. The *Upwords* table were a very studious lot, giving the game the attention it deserved. The detectives chasing the villain in *Scotland Yard* joined forces and were completely bamboozled by said villain. Who says crime doesn't pay! I have no words to describe the table playing *Sequence* – what a raucous bunch! I think I'll have to split them up next month or make them stand in the corners.

Our numbers are increasing but we still have room for others to join us so if you fancy a fun Friday afternoon, apply on the website to join the group and you will be most welcome. Our next meeting is on Friday 12th April at 2:00pm at Hutton Community Centre.

BOOK GROUP – A

Margaret Bolton

At this month's meeting we discussed *The Whalebone Theatre* by Joanna Quinn. We are now reading *Philip: The Final Portrait* by Gyles Brandreth. Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 9th April at 2.15pm.

BOOK GROUP – PURPLE PRIDE

Judy Warner

Meeting at Madeleine's, we discussed *The Marriage Portrait* by Maggie O'Farrell. A complete change of scene from her last novel *Hamnet*, this one is set in Renaissance Italy and is a portrait of a real woman but treated as fiction. We all found it a "slow burn", but were mesmerised by the descriptions of place, food and dress as it built towards a galloping climax. Page one reveals that the heroine suggests her husband is planning to kill her, which could have suggested no plot surprises left, but not so. It captivated us all.

Next month we will be meeting at Mary's on April 9th to discuss *Swingtime* by Zadie Smith.

BOOK GROUP – THURSDAYS

Margaret Albon

We all enjoyed our last book *Snakehead* by Peter May, which we thought was very good. This is a further episode in his Chinese series, which maintains the same high standard as his previous books.

Our current book is *The Miniaturist* by Jessie Burton. This is set in 17th century Amsterdam. Nella is a young bride who joins her husband, a wealthy merchant in a rather strange household.

CANASTA

Leonora Morris

This group meets on the third Thursday; the next meeting will be on April 18th from 2-4pm.

CANASTA B

Leonora Morris

This group meets on the first Thursday; the next meeting will be on April 4th from 2-4pm.

CHESS

John Thompson

Our chess group started on 16th of October and now meets on the first and third Mondays in the month at 2pm. If you would like to join us, contact John.

CINEMA

Lesley Lee

On Wednesday 21st February eight of us went to see *Bob Marley: One Love* at the Everyman, Chelmsford. This celebrates the life and music of an icon who inspired generations through his message of love and unity. On the big screen for the first time, discover Bob's powerful story of overcoming adversity and the journey behind his revolutionary music. We scored the film at the end and 8.8 was the average overall. I'm not sure how much others in the group knew about his life but I didn't know very much, and it was very informative.

Comments included - some of the white actors sounded wooden ; good and emotional ; superb ; He really wanted peace and worked towards this using his music.

Following an enjoyable Open Morning we can welcome 15 new members to the cinema group. A big thank you to Rosemary and Sheila for looking after the Cinema table and sharing their enjoyment in films we see and how it all works, noting names of those interested. This allowed me to support the tea and coffee queue getting their drinks.

Our next film will be *The Taste of Things* on 20th March at 11:45. at the same cinema.

COMPUTING HELP AND TEACHING

Roy Fisher & Alex Hakim

We have not yet had our March meeting which is Friday the 22nd at 2pm and our April meeting will be on the 23rd. As usual, we will send out a reminder to regular attendees but if any member wants to attend either of these meetings, please Email both Alex and Roy.

CRAFTS

Judy Mellor

We had a very successful meeting this afternoon and we produced six collage pictures with paper torn from tissue paper and magazine pictures.



At our next meeting on Friday 19th April, we will attempt to pebble paint.

CRIBBAGE

Sue Russell

After overwhelming interest for cribbage at the open day, we had a very enjoyable taster session in March. For some it was a new experience and for others it took them back to games played many years ago. With so many interested in joining cribbage, we hope to set up a second Cribbage group in the near future. The existing group will continue to meet on 3rd Tuesday at The Chequers pub at 2pm. Please do contact Sue if you would like to join us. Beginners, experienced players and anyone in-between are very welcome in both groups.

DANCE

Jenny Marsh

Our dance meetings continue to be enjoyed by all. Thirty minutes of dance keep fit and then steps learnt to a particular dance. We had five new members join us but still only have two men, who need support from some more Fred Astaires or Gene Kellys.

Our next meeting is Friday 19th of April 1.30-2.30pm at Hutton Community Centre.

DISCUSSION**Eileen Damsell**

We had a good debate on the question of the return of cultural icons to their original country. One thing that did come up was that to maintain these artefacts in pristine condition involved some considerable expenditure. Therefore, should compensation be paid to the current 'owners' for looking after returning artefacts. Also, who would pay the transportation costs? Some thought that there were certain items that should be given back, but others wondered once started, where would it end, how far would we go back in history! At the next meeting Wednesday, 27th March, we will talk about *How to stay healthy*.

DISCUSSION ON ZOOM**Peter Froebel & Sue Schols****27th February – Climate change / Global warming**

We had seven members attending today's discussion on *Climate change/global warming*. We all agreed that there was definitely an urgent need to reduce greenhouse gases, although there were comments about the previous cycles of extreme weather.

But with our use of fossil fuels still too high, is the change to EV's really going to solve the problem quickly enough?

However, it was mooted that Earth will survive and restore itself, but not sure about Man's survival.

12th March – Plastic pollution

Our discussion for this week was "Plastic Pollution". There were seven participants, and the discussion ranged from variations in recycling methods across the country, and types of pods for dishwashers and washing machines. We discussed how to minimise the waste in medication packaging, and there is apparently a scheme set up by Boots which apparently enables people to deposit blister packs.

Plastics are also very variable in composition, which makes it hard to group them all together for recycling.

This was an interesting discussion, and we will meet again on Tuesday 26th when we will be discussing *The Social, Psychological and Practical Effects of Lockdown*.

New members welcome – please contact Peter Froebel or Sue Schols.

FAMILY HISTORY**Peter Tedder**

The Family History group met on 11 March 2024 at the Hutton Community Centre.

We welcomed three new members. We went round the group asking about their research and family stories. We heard many things, including finding family links on a trip to Kent and a man who found himself helping on an RNLI rescue.

There were also reported problems with the complexity of the Ancestry website. Peter promised to do a presentation on using Ancestry at the next meeting.

We discussed the British Newspaper Archive. It's a good source of stories about ancestors, rather than bald facts, but many local papers have not been digitised and articles are often illegible because of the poor quality of the print.

Peter reported that new military records were being made available all the time and, recently, information was coming online about the Merchant Navy.

There was a report about some Victorian roof tiles which, on the back, had an imprint of a child's hand. Now that machines could make tiles some people demanded that their tiles be hand-made and, at a time when school attendance wasn't mandatory, child labour was still being used.

Meetings are held monthly on the 2nd Monday. The next meeting will be on 8 April 2024 at 2pm at Hutton Community Centre.

FOOD AND DRINK GROUP**Chris & Ray Tozer***This report from Christine Bachmann*

Thank you very much to Christine and Ray, who have kindly agreed to take over as leaders of the group. They bring to the role lots of experience, great ideas and marvellous enthusiasm for food and drink. We are very fortunate to have them as our new leaders, starting this month.

Our February meeting was a second visit to the Phoenix Smokery Restaurant, where we enjoyed a wonderful three-course dinner of delicious smoked foods, prepared by the talented Sid. The main courses arrived covered by smoke-filled domes (see photo). It was another great evening spent in lovely company.

Thank you to Christine and Ray, who are kindly hosting our next meeting, on Thursday, 21st March. The theme is Irish food and drink, with St Patrick's Day being this month.

GARDENING – PRACTICAL**Barbara Lewis**

This month the garden group got together at Myra's house. The weather wasn't kind enough for us to be outside so we gathered around the dining table for some seed sowing. We looked at different types of seeds, composts and containers and different sowing methods. Those that didn't mind getting dirty, sowed a few themselves. Hopefully at future meetings the weather will allow us to meet outside.

Next month we plan to meet up at a garden centre and consider selecting our plants.

HISTORY**Judy Warner**

Our March meeting on the 21st will start at 4pm for this month only. We will be developing our picture of PreNHS care by examining the history and development of local hospitals and relating them to the organisation of hospitals before the NHS, which we looked at last month. Hopefully also a discussion of our own family experiences.

In April we revert to a 3.30 - 5pm timetable. New members welcome.

LANGUAGES – FRENCH CONVERSATION

Michael Duggett

We – four group members – with assorted flags, 'wine' bottles, posters and 'menus' and a guest appearance from René - had a very successful Open day alongside all the other groups and in principle signed up six new members, whom we look forward to meeting soon.

Following the Open Day our usual meeting happened the next day as per schedule, and Sim led us in discussions of Peru, and Argentina – the scene of past and future travel by members - family events among our members, television appearances, confusing infants, and birthdays.

LANGUAGES – GET BY IN GERMAN

Tricia King

Our next meeting is on Friday 12th April, when I am hoping to welcome some new members to the group as there was interest on the u3a Open Day.

Look forward to seeing you all. Bis bald.

LANGUAGES – SPANISH

Margaret Gil

Our next meetings, on Zoom as usual, will be on Thursdays 21st March and 18th April. We will continue revising topics as necessary and revisiting some aspects of grammar as requested by group members.

MAHJONG

Ann Thomas

Mahjong is a game played with small, intricately decorated tiles. It is a game of skill, strategy and luck. We are all learning together in our group and no prior experience is required to play.

We meet on the 2nd Friday of each month at 2.00 pm so why not come along for a free trial session and see if Mahjong is for you. Our next meeting is on Friday 11th April.

MONEY & INVESTMENT

Karen Redner

We continue to discuss topics relating to money and investing wisely at our monthly meetings, but as our next monthly meeting would coincide with April Fool's Day when there is always a risk of the topic for discussion not being taken seriously - we shall meet a little later than usual that month!

So in April we will be sharing Members' suggestions of day trips from Home and short breaks which are both fun and affordable, so if a Member recommends, say, a trip in a hot air balloon over Essex, we shall know it will not be followed by the words "April Fool!"

MONEY MATTERS IN THE NEWS

Joy Lenard

The Spring Budget proved to be a super starting point for a lively and wide-ranging discussion this month. The meeting certainly covered something of interest for everyone. Our friendly group is at its maximum size with a waiting list, we are constrained on numbers as we meet in a private house.

Next month we turn our attention to the subject of Energy.

PETANQUE

Steve and Sue Priem



Easter came early for the Hutton Hurlers with an Easter egg Hunt and accompanying Easter Bunny ears and hats. It didn't improve our playing but was a lot of fun!

The Hutton Hurlers continue to enjoy our weekly sessions, we have definitely all improved it's just a shame we're not consistent! Fortunately, our love of the post-match coffee has not diminished, and the banter continues.

We are also pleased to announce we have one place available if you are interested in joining us. We offer a free taster session before committing, please contact us for details.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Mike Capon

Members of the Photography Group very much enjoyed their visit to the Natural History Museum to view the 'Wildlife Photographer of the Year' exhibition. We recommend this to other Hu3a members with an interest in wildlife or photography. The group also enjoyed their 'pub lunch' which followed the visit.

Our monthly meeting was again well attended, and we welcomed two new members to the group. We reviewed images on the theme of 'Transport', which had been uploaded by members, and discussed the issues of filing and printing images in the digital age.

Our next meeting is on Tuesday 16th April and is free to all group members from the 2023/4 year. Amongst other things, we will be reviewing our images on the theme of the 'Urban Landscape'.

The Photography Group has always been a popular, vibrant, and active group. New members are very welcome. No technical expertise is needed. The group usually meet at Bishops Hill on the 3rd Tuesday of each month beginning at 2:00pm. The group also plan to hold a photoshoot session, or other group activity, every other month. Meetings provide members with an opportunity to share their photographs, discuss aspects of photography that are of interest and work jointly on photographic projects.

If you are interested in joining the group, have a camera that has been languishing in a drawer, perhaps since you retired, and want to dust it down and try your eye or use a mobile phone to capture your images and wish to know more about the group then contact Mike for further details.

The group's photographs can be viewed by visiting the Hu3a Photo Flickr site:
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/109211966@N06/albums>

PICKLEBALL

Linda Dorrington & Mary Walker

Pickleball continues to thrive with several on a waiting list. From 10th of April we will be moving to the Brentwood Centre which will give us more room to play.

PLAY READING

Elsbeth Morten

This month's meeting was a rehearsal of *Monkey Nuts* by Toni Neobard and Kate Broad, a radio play we had read some time ago. As we were taking part in the open morning, it seemed to make sense to discuss who could attend, who would take each part and time which excerpt would be read.

Whether the rehearsal helped we leave up to those who attended the open morning, all I can say is we had a lot of fun which is one of the main aims of our group.

POETRY

Margaret Bright

Having made our performance debut at the Open Morning, which may have been more exciting for us than for our audience, we got back to business as usual on Wednesday 13th March.

We continued with our reading of World War 1 poetry, looking at Isaac Rosenberg, Wilfred Owen and Siegfried Sassoon. Reading poems by these three men in juxtaposition reinforced the varied styles of poets writing about different aspects of the same war; ironic humour and anger appearing in their writing, together with desperation regarding the pointlessness of the fighting.

We were deeply moved by all of them, and I doubt that we have ever felt more in need of our tea break!

We will probably conclude this topic next month on Wednesday 10th April at 2:00pm. The session will consist of reviewing John Macrae, and Charles Sorley in detail with a brief look at the poets whose names appear on the plaque in Westminster Abbey that we have not been able to cover. We will remember them.

QUIZ

Clive Waddington

After a very close finish, the *Happy Bunnies* were victorious in the March quiz. With a score of 74 out of a possible 84, the *Bunnies* had a flawless knowledge of Andrew Lloyd Webber musicals as well as a maximum score on a round about Auctions. Our next quiz is on Wednesday 3 April.

The Open Morning quiz was won by Roger and Val Griffiths with a score of 28 (out of 34). They will be receiving their prize at the next monthly meeting.

Thank you to all those who had a go! The answers are as follows:

Television Detectives

1. 'Pepper' Anderson - Angie Dickinson
2. George Gently - Martin Shaw
3. Sherlock Holmes - Jeremy Brett
4. Maggie Forbes - Jill Gascogne
5. Jonathan and Jennifer Hart - Robert Wagner and Stephanie Powers
6. Frank Cannon - William Conrad
7. John Luther - Idris Elba
8. Cormoran Strike - Tom Burke
9. Thomas Lynley - Nathaniel Parker
10. Mary Beth Lacy and Christine Cagney - Tyne Daly and Sharon Gless

General Knowledge

1. Sistine Chapel
2. Hillary Rodham Clinton
3. Gyles Brandreth
4. Vienna
5. M&Ms

6. Edward VI
 7. Blanket
 8. George Harrison
 9. Sachin Tendulkar
 10. Adams, Johnson, Harrison, Roosevelt, Bush
-

RUMMIKUB

Leonora Morris

The next dates for April are:
Wednesday 10th April at 11.15am
and
Wednesday 24th April at 2.00pm
Both at my house

RUMMIKUB ON-LINE

Roy Fisher

We haven't yet had our March meeting which will be at 10:00 on Tuesday the 26th. Our April meeting will be on the 23rd. If you would like to join us at either of these meetings, or get some On-Line Rummikub tuition please contact Roy for instructions.

If the meeting dates do not suit you, please let me know what dates/times you would prefer.

SCRABBLE

Lois Morton

The next games will be on Thursday, 11th April at 2pm at Margaret's house.

SHAKESPEARE

Alastair West

At our meeting on 4th March at Hutton CC we spent some time discussing the U3A Open Morning on 5th March at which four members had agreed to give two short presentations. Chas and Maggie had prepared the murder scene from *Macbeth* and Sue and Pat the scene in *Much Ado* where Beatrice tells Benedick to kill Claudio. By way of rehearsal, both pairs presented their scenes to the group – to much appreciation and acclaim. We then continued with our reading and viewing of Twelfth Night and reached the end of Act 2 where Malvolio has been tricked into thinking that Olivia is in love with him. Because of the Bank Holiday our next meeting is on 29 April at Hutton CC from 2.00 – 4.00pm when we will continue with *Twelfth Night*.

The zoom group met on the 18th March and after a brief introduction to the play we read the whole of Marlowe's *Dr Faustus* to the end with gusto. Our next zoom meeting is on 19th April at 2.00pm – 4.00pm when we will round off our work on Marlowe with a discussion of *Dr Faustus* and the Melvyn Bragg programme and a reading of extracts from two other plays.

New members for either group are welcome.

STEM

John Ward

The last STEM meeting was held on Wednesday 28th February, at Bishops Hill, when Martin Jollyman presented a session on Logic. His talk started with an explanation of the inception of logical thought as adopted and defined by the Greek philosophers including Aristotle. He then led us through changes that took place through the Renaissance period and into the Age of Reason. From here we entered the modern period and the 19th Century when George Boole developed a new form of logic; Boolean Algebra. This involved logical decision operators such as 'And', 'Or' and 'Not'. This form of

thinking was adopted some 50 years later when telephony systems were first developed at the turn of the century. Subsequently, in the post-war period the same form of logic was adopted by computing engineers and is now deeply embedded in the silicon chips that support the many forms of IT we see and use today.

The current programme for STEM sessions in 2024 is on the web site for members to view. A visit is being organized by the Trips and Visits team for later in the year. As and when details are available the programme on the Hutton u3a web page will be updated. Suggestions from members are always welcome; volunteers to run sessions, however short, even more so.

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday 27th March when the topic will be UK Weather for the coming decades. Use will be made of a recording of an existing u3a Zoom presentation.

Considerable interest was expressed at the Open morning on 5 March. As a result, the membership has expanded and we may need to seek a larger room for our meetings in the future. Please visit the Group page on the website to look at the planned program and/or contact John for further details. All events, other than trips, run from 3pm to 5pm on the fourth Wednesday of the month at Bishops Hill.

TABLE TENNIS

Gloria & Ian Turner

The Table Tennis Group continues to meet every Thursday in the Hutton Community Centre at 7.00pm for our hour-long sessions. We are a mixed ability group and welcome and encourage any Hutton u3a member who wishes to come along and join us. All you need is a bat and sensible trainers for playing in the sports hall.

If you want more information, please contact Ian or Gloria; details are on the Contact List.

TELEVISION

Gillian Lindsell

At this month's meeting, we covered several television programmes and discussed many other topics as well. *Monty Don's Spanish Gardens* was very popular!

At our next meeting on Monday 11th April, one of the programmes we will be discussing is *Australia* with Simon Reeves (BBC2 Sundays at 7 p.m).

TOWN STUDY

Gillian Lindsell and Jean Emmerson

We have almost finished our tour of the Cinque Ports and Essex Islands now and we start our new term on Friday 3rd May.

This term, May, June and July, we are going to discuss Norwich, the various industries there and the castles, museums and cathedrals.

TRIPS & VISITS

Sue Shaper and Mike Capon

The group held its annual meeting this month. Peter Capon gave an excellent presentation on The Guilds of London and many of us would now like to visit some of these lovely buildings. Group members were also given the chance to reflect on the past year's trips and offer suggestions for the future programme, all of which will greatly help the sub-committee in planning more outings.

This month saw a concert trip (report shown later in the newsletter) and this month we launch a new trip focussing on the industrial heritage around Wat Tyler Park (flyer on page 16). We still have three places for Leighton House, one place for the play *Locomotive for Murder* and one place for the Wang concert. Booking for these is via the events page on the website or visit the Trips & Visits enquiry desk at the monthly meeting.

Coming soon in the April newsletter: new trips will be announced including a trip to Arundel on September 12th.

TRIPS & VISIT – Beethoven at the Barbican

This report by Alastair and Marion West

A group of us made our own way by train to the Barbican Centre in London with time to get something to eat and to meet up with others who'd travelled independently for an evening concert with the London Symphony Orchestra conducted by Francois Xavier-Roth. The concert hall was very full at all levels; our seats were in the centre rear circle with an excellent view of the performers.

The concert began with Beethoven's Symphony No 2, an early work which is rarely played but in this performance was full of energy and spirit. Next on the programme was a piano concerto by the award winning contemporary South Korean composer, Unsuk Chin, with Bertrand Chamayou as the soloist. We were all surprised by the size and composition of the orchestra which featured an unusually wide array of instruments. None of us was familiar with this composer and it was a memorable listening challenge for all of us, provoking responses ranging from beautiful, extraordinary, difficult, mesmerising, to the worst thing I've ever heard. Most of the audience, which seemed to include many Koreans, loved it and when the composer was brought onto the stage they gave her an enthusiastic reception.

After the interval the LSO gave a lively, crisp performance of Beethoven's Symphony No 8 which was an exhilarating conclusion to the evening.

This was an altogether memorable musical evening. Because neither of the Beethoven symphonies is played as often as the better-known 3rd, 5th, 7th or 9th, they took on a certain novelty in this performance. In an interview, the conductor said that he'd hoped the combination of these two symphonies with the contemporary piano concerto would set up interesting comparisons and contrasts. It certainly did so. We all walked back to Moorgate station for our journey home.

UKULELE

Terry Pearce

This month we chose and practised the six songs that we were going to play at the Hutton u3a open day event at Bishops Hill. We managed to play five before we ran out of time. Those five were: *Leaving on a Jet Plane*, *Blowing in the Wind*, *I have a Dream*, *Oh Boy* and *Take me Home Country Roads*.

The next meeting is a 2pm on the 21st of March and this meeting is at Bishops Hill.

UKULELE for BEGINNERS

David & Janet Holt

At our first session in March, we started with familiar tunes before we got "the u3a Blues" and learnt a standard twelve bar blues in C. This allows learners to get the basic structure before moving on to walk downs and turnarounds and other embellishments which you can put into your playing as your confidence grows.

We also started on two other new songs in order to introduce players to the chord of D. Not a favourite, but we're sure there will be some practising before the next class.

WALKING - EASY RAMBLES

Colin Shaper

Monday 5th March – Hanningfield Reservoir

Another large group – sixteen – collected for the walk from the Hanningfield Nature Reserve to the Fisheries Centre and back. This walk is always popular as there is a café at each end of the walk to encourage us on our way.

As the photo shows, the heavy rains we have been experiencing lately have at least been beneficial in restoring the water levels here.



WALKING - LONDON WALKS

Judy Warner

Our first 2024 walk will coincide with the March newsletter, so will be reported on in April.

April 24th Chelsea about 3 miles (possibly longer if we include Chelsea Physic Garden).

Fourteen places, then reserve list. Contact by email or sign up at March 25th meeting.

This walk will cover different aspects of the area to our visit some years ago. It will be a circular walk starting and ending at Sloane Square tube station. Meet for 10.15 departure from Stratford station, Elizabeth Line westbound platform.

WALKING – THURSDAY WALK

Chas Hammond

7th March - Ingatestone

Having cancelled the 2 previous walks through rain, it was good to get out for some fresh air today. Beginning at Ingatestone Hall, across fields, under the railway, over the A12 I expected to find the fields under water. Considering that they were saturated and that it rained every day in February with more since, I was pleased to see that the paths were mostly fairly good, although I did find enough mud for some photos.



There were lots of skylarks about, also this year I noticed lots

of 'white' violets.

March 14th – Navestock



Today's weather forecast was correct - temp rising to 16. We started from Navestock Church crossing fields (collecting a large bag of wild garlic in 2 minutes). Eventually finding our way onto a field with cattle including a newborn calf. Cows being quite heavy with relatively small feet, meant that the field was VERY boggy. Our adventurers bravely ignored cows and mud (almost) before emerging onto The

Mores and Bentley Church for a well-earned stop and listen to the birdsong.

Crossing the cricket pitch, past Alex's, Dudbrook Manor. This part of the walk reminds us of the lie of Essex being flat. At the bottom, we found a stream crossing our path to negotiate then up hill and down again and back to the church.

WALKING FOOTBALL

Ian Cameron

There was some interest at the open day and we have gained one new member already. Always room for more.

We meet on Wednesdays (not 3rd in the month) at Hutton Community Centre 12.30 - 13.30.

Shenfield u3a Theatre Trip

Fawlty Towers on Thursday 18th July, 2.30 pm at the Apollo Theatre, London.

The price is £51. We have four tickets available.

We make our own way to London, with some members meeting at the theatre and others meeting at Liverpool Street Station. We often have a light lunch beforehand.

If interested, please contact:

Irene Welch 01277 650424

Anne Mihailovic 07539 221220

If you have not already done so, please:

Remember to renew your membership before 31st March.

TRIPS AND VISITS

Guided Heritage Walk Wat Tyler Country Park Monday, April 29th 2024 9.30 – lunchtime.

An opportunity to have a guided tour of the park with Ken Porter, Chair of Basildon Heritage, and explore its history, followed by refreshments in The Green Centre where there is an exhibition and displays mounted by Basildon Heritage.



Members are responsible for their own travel arrangements. There is ample free parking.

**Pitsea Hall Lane
Pitsea, Basildon
Essex, SS16 4UH**

We will meet at The Green Centre at 9.30 am for a cup of tea and welcome.

Ken Porter will then lead the guided walk at a gentle pace and we will be back at the Centre about an hour and a half later.

Tea and a cake will be provided and there will be a chance to view the displays in the Centre.

Basildon Heritage is a voluntary organisation who are providing the talk and refreshments free of charge. We suggest a minimum donation of £10.00 per head, cash paid on the day.

Places are limited so please book: go to www.huttonu3a.org.uk and log on as a member and click on the “Events” button.