



NEWSLETTER APRIL 2025

EDITOR'S COMMENTS



Editor: You can contact Phil Joiner at ww3aphil@gmail.com or 07728 748 131. Contributions for next month to be received by midnight on 19th April please.

Some of you will know that my 80th birthday is on 21st April. Out of the blue, Jackie Raine kindly penned me a poem which you can see on page 4. Thanks Jackie!

RENEWAL REMINDER

IT'S TIME TO
RENEW YOUR
MEMBERSHIP!

Diane Conway reminds us that our financial year ends on 31st March 2025 and she is now able to start collecting your membership fees for the year 2025/6. The committee has decided to

keep the same costs as last year, so membership will remain at £18.00 with a further £15.00 if not on email and who require their newsletter to be posted – if you know someone in this position, please give them a copy of this letter and the attachment.

As before, I urge you to try and pay by internet, phone or post office banking if you possible can. If this is not a possibility for you, please consider asking a friend or family member to pay on your behalf. If there is really no other option, we will accept a cheque. However I must insist that however you pay, you put your membership number and the words 'subs' or 'subs and post' in the reference box. You can add your surname if there is room but your number takes priority.

Also, if you are paying for more than 1 person or on behalf of someone else, don't forget to give all their details. I'm going to make a special plea to those who pay at the post office – last year I received a number of payments that merely said the name of the post office and it was impossible to find out who the payee was – Please make sure your number etc is shown in the reference box. I also attach the membership renewal form for you to complete and return to Mrs R Hay, 9 Shaftesbury IG101HN and she will send you your membership card (which will need to be shown to the convenor of your activities) in the SAE that you provide

COMMITTEE APPEAL

The Wanstead and Woodford u3a Committee are looking to recruit two new Committee Members. One would hold the position of IT Coordinator and also help out with Technical Support. The other would take on the role of joint Group Coordinator working closely with Val Lord, our existing Group Coordinator. Interested u3a members are invited to contact one of the Committee Members for further details.

Learn from your mistakes and painful experiences

UPCOMING SPEAKER



On Tuesday 1st April at 10.30 a.m.

(Doors open at 10.00 a.m.)

At: The Memorial Hall,
South Woodford 209 High Rd, E18 2PA.

Title: A funny thing happened on the way to the Old Bailey.

Speaker: Chris Truran

Chris spent nearly 39 years in the Metropolitan Police and he will regale us with the stupid things that criminals do to get themselves arrested, amongst other tales of stupidity.

OUR U3A

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS



Marsha Bloom, Norma Dudley, Carol Gyasi,
Bernard Kaye, Cynthia MacPherson
Karon Watkin

CURRENT VACANCIES

Boules	Bridge	Bridge Tuition
Evening Dinner 1	Film Group	French
History	Basic Italian	Local Walks
Looking at Art	Music Appreciation	Ten Pin Bowling
Trains, Boats and Planes		

Please note that Cards and Canasta, Racketball, Sunday Scrabble, and Table Tennis groups are now full.

FILM GROUP



Angela Barnes writes: Our March meeting brought us another dreadful mother! Brenda Blethyn played the mother of Jane Horrocks in Little Voice so excruciatingly well that I wondered how many others were wincing as much as I was! Horrocks was marvellous as the painfully shy young woman with the amazing ability to mimic the voices of everyone from Marilyn Monroe to Gracie Fields but completely dominated by her extrovert, foul mouthed mother. Michael Caine was on form as the sleazy talent scout who wanted to make LV a star. The film came out in 1998 and was enjoyed very much.

Our next film will definitely not have a vile mother in it. It could be All is True (2019) which is a story about Will Shakespeare's (Kenneth Branagh) later years when he returns to his home in Stratford upon Avon and his wife Anne Hathaway (Judy Dench). Our next meeting will be on Wednesday 9th April.

War is God's way of teaching Americans geography Page 1

OUR U3A



HEVER CASTLE ARRANGEMENTS FOR FRIDAY 25th APRIL 2025

Lynn Stillwell advises; Thanks to everyone that signed up for this trip.

There are 3 spaces left on the coach, so should anyone wish to sign up for the trip I will be at the next U3A meeting to take details.

Arrangements for the day are as follows: Pick up from Hawkey Hall at 9.45a.m. so please be on time. The journey will be approximately 1 hour and a half with a comfort break should anyone need it, and we will leave Hever at 5.00p.m. There is a café at the Castle, but please feel free to bring along your own packed lunch as there are picnic facilities in the grounds.

Please note that the café operates on a cashless basis, so please bring along your debit/credit card. Also please bring along your U3A member card with emergency contact details on the back. Your ticket gives you entry to the Castle, the gardens, the exhibition of the costumes for Wolf Hall, the Military Museum, the Miniature Model Houses and the Maze. All of which you can explore at your leisure. There will be an opportunity to join a group of one of the gardening team for a tour of their Celebration of Spring event where you will get gardening tips and advice.

Please make a note of my telephone number in case you have to contact me at any time. 07957 760071



FIDDLER ON THE ROOF

Janet Taylor advises: I have now received the tickets for Fiddler on the Roof, so those of you who have reserved a ticket, could you please arrange to make payment. Payment can be made on line using the same banking details as you use to renew membership. To help Diane our treasurer please, in the reference, put as an example Name/Fiddler U3A number, if you use this method could you please send me an email and tell me the date you did so, so that I can update my records. Payment can also be made at the April/May meetings by Sum Up with your debit or credit card. If you choose this method, once paid, can you pop over to the outings table and let me know. Many thanks. As a last resort if you are not able to do either of the above, a cheque will be accepted. Your cooperation would be appreciated so I can distribute your tickets at the May/June meeting. Email for advising online payments is twotaylorss@btinternet.com



FREE TICKETS FOR KEW GARDENS

We still have available free tickets for members of our U3A, for entry to Kew Gardens. Allocation will be limited to one per person. You will need to supply your current U3A number. The scheme runs until 31st October 2025. Tickets must be collected at our monthly meeting, The ticket will not cover special events such as the orchid festival.

OUR U3A



THE GRUMPIES

Ron Prince reports: At the beginning of March the "Grumpies" held their 3rd meeting. This time we met for lunch at Bread and Oregon in George Lane. The conversations varied from politics to holidays encompassing all manner of subjects in between, the only subject that we have banned is sport - especially football. After about 2 hours we decided it was time to call it a day and go home.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday 3rd of March when we will meet at 1.00p.m. at The Bell, George Lane. For more information, or to join the group, contact Ron on 0777 5600 543 or email ronw_wu3a@hotmail.com

P.S. Found in the Memorial Hall after the March meeting. A small "3D TriSport" clip-on electronic timer. To have it returned, contact Ron (number above) or ask at the next open meeting on 1st April.



MUSIC APPRECIATION

Edna Edwards writes: The Music Appreciation group meets on the third Wednesday of each month in the Salvation Army Hall in South Woodford from 2.00p.m. to 4.00p.m. Ian Brown presents a programme of classical music, featuring a different theme each time. His aim is to introduce us to less familiar music of well-known composers. This month's programme is titled "Clowning Around", which sounds like it could be fun. We have plenty of room for new members, so why not give it a try?



FPR 1

On a sunny 6th March, 13 members visited Two Temple Place on the Victoria Embankment. It was built in the 1890s for William Waldorf Astor as an ornate historical working office. It also included a bedroom, although Lord Astor didn't officially live in the building. At either end of the Great Hall the walls of which are covered with carved wooden panels, are two stunning stained glass windows. One is of the sunset, the other of sunrise. The colours in the windows are very bright with a lot of detail to be seen. There is also a spectacular stained glass ceiling in the Upper Gallery. The building was damaged in the war and after being repaired was Grade 2 listed in 1960. It is presently owned by the Bulldog Trust, a social charity, and has a small café and gift shop.

Two Temple Place holds various events and exhibitions throughout the year and we enjoyed the present one called Lives Less Ordinary which dealt with working class Britain in the 1950s to now. It included artists from working class backgrounds reflecting on experiences of their culture and communities. These were illustrated by film, ceramics, paintings and photographs many of which reminded us of our childhood home and living in these times

Although small, Two Temple Place is well worth a visit, not only for the exhibitions but also for its fascinating architecture and history. Our thanks to Angela Scales for organising our visit and the day.

MORE U3A



TRAINS BOATS AND PLANES

Ann Speed reports: On Tuesday 11th March, Richard Moules lead a group of friendly members on a very enjoyable and interesting visit to the Museum of Docklands. There was no special exhibition, but we perused the core collection of the history of the evolution of the London docklands. I grew up in the area and the changes were a constant in my childhood, so for me it was a very nostalgic experience. Afterwards we enjoyed lively discussions over lunch in the nearby Weatherspoon's - the old Dock's Counting House. The journey was made special by Richard's unique understanding of the transport system to make it as accessible as possible for the group members.

The next special exhibition at the Museum of London starts on the 4th April and is dedicated to mudlarking.



LOOKING AT ART

John Lawrence informs us: Our next visit is to The Royal Academy of Arts is on Friday 28th March, Meet at South Woodford Tube, the bench by the last carriage at 09.40 for a 09.45 departure going to Oxford Circus then onto to Piccadilly We should arrive about 10.30 when we can take coffee etc at their RA cafe. They have some free exhibitions and displays in the Collection Gallery.



SHARED QUIZ

The second U3A shared quiz hosted by Buckhurst Hill was a great success and apparently was a fun afternoon. Thank you to Buckhurst Hill and Roding Valley U3A for their hard work. We have told you about the quiz on 21st March, which is probably too late for this newsletter and hope you were able to go. WWWU3A are hosting the shared quiz at Loughton Bowling Club on 25th April from 1.30 to 3.30 p.m. Please give us your names to let us know you are coming. If you can help out in any way it would be much appreciated. Please contact Val on lordval99@btinternet.com



Editor: Members may know that if you book your holidays with Riviera Travel 01283 901502, you get a 10% discount which is credited to our U3A. Mention when booking that you are a member of Wanstead and Woodford U3A and they will do the rest and it will not cost you a penny. I did it 3 times last year and our Treasurer received a decent amount of money for our U3A. I have confirmed with Riviera that this offer still applies. Just one of the ways to help keep our membership fees as low as they are.

I'm self taught . That's why I know nothing!

LOCAL/LONDON NEWS



SOHO THEATRE WALTHAMSTOW

Soho Theatre Walthamstow will open on 2nd May. The intensive restoration work to the Grade II former Granada Cinema has returned the much-loved heritage landmark to its former glory. Its transformation into a multi-purpose cultural venue will offer the borough's residents, communities and businesses an invaluable asset for many years to come. This announcement is just the start: there's so much more to come in the run-up to the opening in May.



REPAIR CAFÉ

Saturday April 26th

10.00 a.m. to 11.00 a.m.
at Woodford Memorial Hall
ALL SERVICES ARE FREE

Broken lamp? Bike needs an MOT? Holey jumper? Tangled jewellery? Do you have some toys or seeds to swap? Glasses held together with Sellotape? Bring them along to the Repair Cafe and we will try to give them a new lease of life.



SILVERTOWN TUNNEL

This will open to road traffic on 7th April 2025. Motorists will need to pay – with tolls being introduced on both the new Silvertown and the existing Blackwall tunnels between 6.00 a.m. and 10.00p.m.

These are the selected web site addresses for interesting visits

TOURS OF LINCOLN'S INN

<https://www.lincolnsinn.org.uk/the-estate/tours-of-lincolns-inn/>

TOURS OF VAN GOGHS HOUSE

<https://vangoghhouse.co.uk/tours/>

TOURS OF BIG BEN

<https://www.parliament.uk/visiting/visiting-and-tours/big-ben-tour/>

ACTIVITIES AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/>

HAMPTON COURT GARDENS FREE GARDEN DAYS

<https://www.hrp.org.uk/hampton-court-palace/whats-on/hampton-court-gardens/#gs.kwt5nc>

SUPREME COURT FREE EXHIBITION

<https://supremecourt.uk/visit-the-court/exhibitions-and-events>

FILMING OF ANTIQUE ROAD SHOW AT FINCHLEY ON 1ST JUNE

<https://lostintv.com/tv-show?id=1354>

If something goes wrong, blame yourself, not anyone else Page 3

POETRY CORNER

ST GEORGE'S DAY 23RD APRIL

An English Knight for us to share,
With many countries he's connected there,
He died a martyr for his faith
A dragon involved along the way !
Though we're not quite sure when or where !
St George's flag, rarely seen.
Once a source of a nation's pride, ,
By some rebels , has been taken aside,
Sadly even a brave Knight would have cried !

HAPPY BIRTHDAY PHIL

A date in spring, to do your thing
Joiner, a verb , a doing word,
We were taught in school,
Never was a name so apt ,or cool!
From a long list of interests & choice
Thanks to you , and u3a, we now have a voice,

Both poems from our member Jackie Raine.

(With apologies to Nellie the Elephant)

Donald the President packed his trunk,
And said hello to the White House.
In he came with a trumpety Trump,
Trump Trump Trump

Donald the President twitched his tusk,
And said hello to his mate Elon Musk
Then he thought he'd take a big chance
By being in league with J D Vance
In a plot to embarrass Zelensky
Trump Trump Trump

Donald the President got on a plane
And trundled off to see Putin
If he gets a cease fire, it'll be no surprise
If he wins the Nobel Peace Prize
Trump Trump Trump

COMIC RELIEF



"Why aren't you wearing a clown nose?"

From Billy Holmes of Dufield originally published in The Daily Mail

YOU MUST BE JOKING

Elephant lovers want to ban Ivory sales by setting up a tusk force.
My Laurel Bush was green all year. That's because it's Hardy!
My cat isn't himself. He must be feline ill.
A man just assaulted me with milk, cream and butter. How dairy.
The person who invented the door knocker got a No-bell prize.
I held the door open for a clown. I thought it was a nice jester.
I forgot the French for strawberry, so I looked it up in a fraise book.
This man was so lazy he taught his dog to throw the stick.
If there is an earthquake, the geologists always find fault.
Man at the optician's 'asked.' Have you got one in English?
Rival gangs threw grass at each other. It was a turf war.
At least if you are retired, nobody can fire you.
If you lose your glasses, how can you see to look for them!



A cat died and went to Heaven. God met the animal at the Pearly Gates and said, "You have been a good cat all of these years. Anything you want is yours for the asking." The cat thought for a moment and then said, "All my life I lived on a farm and slept on hard, wooden floors... I would like a real fluffy pillow to sleep on." God said, "Say no more." Instantly, the cat had a HUGE fluffy pillow. A few days later, 12 mice were simultaneously killed in an accident and they all went up to Heaven together. God met the mice at the Pearly Gates of Heaven, with the exact same offer that He made to the cat.

The mice said, "Well, we have had to run all of our lives... from cats, dogs, and even from people with brooms. If we could just have some little roller skates, we would never have to run again." God answered, "It is done." All the mice had beautiful little roller skates. About a week later, God decided to check on the cat... He found her sound asleep on her fluffy pillow. God gently awakened the cat and asked, "Is everything okay? How have you been doing? Are you happy?" The cat replied, "Oh, everything is just WONDERFUL... I've never been so happy in my life! My pillow is always fluffy and those little "Meals-on-Wheels" that You have been sending over are delicious."



In a trial in Florida, an attorney called his first witness, an elderly grandmother, to the stand. He approached her and asked, "Mrs Jones, do you know me?" She responded, "Why, yes, I do know you, Mr Williams. I've known you since you were a boy, and frankly, you've been a big disappointment to me. You lie, you cheat on your wife, and you manipulate people and talk about them behind their backs Yes, I know you". The lawyer was stunned. Not knowing what else to do, he pointed across the room and asked, "Mrs Jones, do you know the defence attorney?"

She again replied, "Why yes, I do. I've known Mr Bradley since he was a youngster, too. He's lazy, bigoted, and he has a drinking problem. and his law practice is one of the worst in the entire state. Not to mention he cheated on his wife with three different women. One of them was your wife. Yes, I know him". The defence attorney nearly died. The judge asked both counsellors to approach the bench and, in a very quiet voice, said, "If either of you idiots asks her if she knows me, I'll send you to the electric chair.