

The deadline for contributions to the next Newsletter is Wednesday 26 November 2025
Please send items for publication to the Newsletter Editor - email: aru3a-news@mail.com

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The autumn has truly set in, as I'm writing this the clocks have gone back, and Halloween is on its way. It is a lovely time of year with the trees turning golden with leaves and conkers on the ground.

The beetle drive went down well and became very competitive as the afternoon progressed especially after all the lovely cake that was contributed by members on the day.



I was part of a small walking group that had a lovely day in London walking from Wapping frequenting pubs of historical interest along the way. The architecture of old warehouses turned into apartments were interesting to see.

I wonder how many gardeners have grown pumpkins this year? My husband Matt tried not to grow too many as I'm not that keen on pumpkins to eat but still managed more than my grandsons will be able to carve. Luckily a lady from the allotment has taken them to use in a school so they haven't gone to waste.

Lots of people work hard behind the scenes to support our u3a and special thanks go to Margaret Laird who pulls together our newsletter every month, Janet Berry who supports our committee, and Pam Foster who is our Beacon administrator. We wouldn't be able to operate without them.

We also need to ensure the hall gets put back correctly after our monthly meeting, so thanks go to those that help us put the tables and chairs out ready for the meeting, and can everyone help to make sure the chairs are stacked on similar chairs when bringing them forward at the end of the meeting.

I'm unfortunately going to be away for the meeting in November however I'm sure Ray as Vice chair will do a sterling job in my absence. I look forward to seeing you all at the Christmas party in December.

Marion Cain
Chair

NEXT MEETING

6th November 2025

Doors open at 1:15 pm
Meeting starts at 1:45 pm

FORTHCOMING SPEAKERS

6th November
Paul Hounsell, Purfleet
Heritage & Military Centre
Gunpowder & Magazine
History

4th December
Christmas get-together

8th January 2026
Tony Harris
Pantomime Dame

5th February
Howard Slater
Bob Hope

GROUP MEETINGS CALENDAR

MONDAYS

Walking	Weekly	9.45	Richard Paternoster, Anne and Ray Hill
Are you Curious	4 th Monday of month	2:00 - 4:00	Carol Collins
Beer Appreciation	2 nd Monday of month	2:00 - 4:00	Terry Lake
Bird Watching	2 nd Monday of the month	TBA	Paul Nice
Card and Paper Craft	3 rd Monday of month	1:30 pm	Wendy Paternoster
Discussion	3 rd Monday of month	2:30 - 4:30	David & Barbara Hine
Knit and Chat	4 th Monday of month	2:30 - 4:30	Barbara Hine
Petanque (Boules)	2 nd and 4 th Monday of month	10:00	Linda Deadman
Rummikub		2:00 – 4:00	Pam Leys
Supper Club	1st Monday of month	6:00 pm	Val Stenson

TUESDAYS

Book Club (2)	3 rd Tuesday of month	10:30	Maureen Pointer
Cross-Stitch	Every other Tuesday	10:00	Anne Hill
French Conversation	1 st & 3 rd Tuesday of month	2:30 - 4:00	Carol Clifford
Local History (2)	2nd Tuesday of the month	2:00	Graham Collins & Carol Collins
Petanque (Boules)	1 st & 3 rd Tuesday of month	2:00 – 4:00	Beryl Horrex/Janet Toms
Snooker (2)	3 rd Tuesday of the month	11:00 – 1:00	David Hine
Short Mat Bowls	Every other Tuesday	2:00 – 4:00	John Stenson
Ten Pin Bowling	Fortnightly	11:00	Jacqui & Keith Baker

WEDNESDAYS

Knitting & Sewing	4 th Wednesday of month	2:00 - 4:00	Katherine Lake
Line Dancing	2 nd and 4 th Wed of the	2:00 - 3:00	Jill Nettleship
Local History (1)	2 nd Wednesday of month	p.m.	Sandra Dawson
Table Tennis	Weekly	7:30	John Owen

THURSDAYS

Cribbage (cards)	4 th Thursday in month	10:00 - 12:00	Keith Baker
Gardening Group	2 nd Thursday of month	2:00 - 4:00	Paul Nice & Marion Cain
Knitting (2)	Fortnightly	2:00 - 4:00	Sue Dodkin
Serendipity	Monthly (Normally a	All day	Serendipity Team
Snooker	2 nd Thursday of month	11:00 - 1:00	David Lazell

FRIDAYS

Canasta	2 nd Friday of the month	2:30 - 4:30	Ian Foster
Book Club (1)	3 rd Friday of month	2:00	Pat Wilkinson
I.T.	4 th Friday of month	2:00 - 4:00	Robert Nickless
Local History (3)	1 st Friday of month	10:00	Sue Morris. Sue Mitchell & Karen Hunter
Photography	2 nd Friday of month	Inside 2:30 - 4:30 Outside 2:00 - 4:00	Roger Young
Ladder Golf	Alternate Fridays	6:00- 8:00	Anne & Rae Hill
Solo/canasta	4 th Friday of the month	7:00 - 9:00	Ian Foster
Walking	2 Fridays per month	Mid	Phil Kelly

SATURDAY

Petanque (Boules)	2 nd & 4 th Saturday of month	10:00 - 12:00	Rosemarie Barrows
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SUNDAY

Sunday Lunch Club	Monthly, various dates	1:00 - 3:00	Carol Collins
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Other Various Dates

Garden Visits			Janet Arrowsmith
Theatre Trips			Claire Ham

Noticeboard



**Thursday, the 4th of December is our U3A Christmas get-together.
This will be at the Ashingdon Memorial Hall from 1.30 to 4 pm.**

This includes live music from a new band this year. The ticket will also include a glass of mulled wine alcoholic or non-alcoholic. Please feel free to bring food and drink and of course wear your Christmas jumpers. The tickets will be on sale at the next U3A meeting for £5 each we hope to save many of you as possible please see Rosemarie for tickets.



Dates for your diary

Walks with Phil

On Friday 7 November let's meet, ready to car share by 9.45, at Ashingdon and East Hawkwell Community Hall. We will drive to South Woodham Ferrers and park near Marsh Farm Country Park (opposite Hullbridge on the other bank of the River Crouch). We will walk east to the confluence of the Crouch with Clements Green Creek where we will loop around and eventually rejoin the north bank of the Crouch and return to our cars. Probably only about 90 minutes actual walking. Very level but possibly bracing, with good vistas and some varieties of birds to look at.

Only one week later on Friday 14 November (to adjust our pattern to fit in with our Christmas lunch) I propose an urban "green" walk, which I expect still to be pleasant exercise. Wear footwear suitable for mainly very firm ground. Let's meet at the main free car park in Priory Park Southend ready to walk by 9.45. Maybe you have guessed; we are going to follow that mighty river, Prittlebrook, upstream in a westerly direction. It is a continuous very level path away from traffic, except that there are road crossings at varying intervals. The signposts refer to it as *a green* path. The intention is to walk as far as possible for about 50 minutes and then retrace our steps. But you are free to turn earlier or later if you wish, as the chances of getting lost are pretty slim. On our return to Priory Park, we can adjourn to the cafe, if you like, and discuss our adventure!

On Friday 28 November let's meet at Magnolia Park ready to walk by 9.45. We will walk in an anticlockwise direction via Rouncefall, Beckney Woods, and the Greensward clinic. There is some up and down, and the walk could take nearly 2 hours. But the terrain is varied with different bits of woodland and some vistas.

All members capable of walking, with breaks, for up to 2 hours are very welcome to join us on any or all of these walks. There are no formalities; just turn up with suitable footwear, and perhaps some fluid. But any concerns text or ring me.

Hoping to see you on these walks

Phil Kelly

Monday Health Walks

Rae, Anne and Richard invite any of our u3a members to join us on our weekly, Monday walks from Magnolia Park. We start walking at 10.am so meet at 9.45.am to allow time to put on boots etc., to enable a prompt departure at 10 am. Walk distance is about 2 to 3 miles at a pace to suit the ability of the slowest walker. Please use suitable foot wear for unmade sometimes muddy footpaths and bring suitable rainwear etc for our changeable weather.

Richard Paternoster

Serendipity

For anyone booking a place on Serendipity trips, please kindly remember to put your name in the reference part if paying by bank transfer. Please put the name of your trip on the back of your cheque if paying by this method.

Please remember to put your name on the list at the Serendipity desk and method of payment. Often the Serendipity organising group pays for tickets upfront and needs to claim the money back from U3A in a timely manner.

Please be aware, if you buy a ticket and cannot attend, it is your responsibility to find another buyer.

Thursday, January 29th - 10am.

Breakfast at Wallasea Marina.

£5 deposit, please pay at November meeting.

Anne, Rae Hill. Serendipity Organising Group

Thursday, February 19th. Train time tba - Tickets £31

The Last Days of Pompeii. Immersive Experience. Excel, London.

Tickets have been purchased. Please visit the Serendipity Desk at the November meeting.

Explore the lost city of Pompeii through 360 degree projections.

Walk through the legendary sites such as the Villa of the Mysteries. Experience the Colosseum, relive the dramatic eruption of Vesuvius. Some benches and swivel chairs in selected rooms.

Anne/Rae Hill

Serendipity Organising Group

Ann & Jeff's trip to the Clink Museum London on Thursday 20- 11-25.

We will meet at Rochford station to catch the 9.36 train to Liverpool Street.

Time for a coffee and comfort break at Liverpool Street.

We will meet up again at 11.30 by WH Smiths to continue our journey.

Central line westbound to Bank then change to Northern Line southbound to London Bridge. Then a short walk to the Clink.

Many thanks,
Ann & Jeff King.

Theatre Group – November 2025

Everyone is welcome to join us - the more people the lower the price for all!

FYI Noreen Bishop has kindly agreed to join me as Theatre Group Coordinator, so feel free to speak to either of us regarding bookings, recommendations or any queries.

Please note, we cannot guarantee a particular performer will be on at the show we will be going to, but fingers crossed. We are a friendly bunch, and you are very welcome to come alone or with friends.

Fawlty Towers – Wednesday 26th November 2025 2:30pm Cliffs Pavilion

Tickets are ready for collection at the November meeting

The Bodyguard – Wednesday 14th January 2026 2:30pm

Cliffs Pavilion

Tickets £35.00 – Payment by November 2025 Meeting

The award-winning smash-hit musical is back for a UK and International Tour.

Former Secret Service agent turned bodyguard, Frank Farmer, is hired to protect superstar Rachel Marron from an unknown stalker. Each expects to be in charge – what they don't expect is to fall in love.



A 'BRILLIANT!' (*The Times*), breathtakingly romantic thriller, features irresistible classics including *Queen of the Night*, *So Emotional*, *One Moment in Time*, *Saving All My Love*, *Run to You*, *I Have Nothing*, *Greatest Love Of All*, *Million Dollar Bill*, *I Wanna Dance With Somebody* and one of the greatest hit songs of all time – *I Will Always Love You*.

The Signalman – Saturday 28th February 2026 2:30pm Palace Theatre

Tickets £36.00 – Payment by December 2025 Meeting



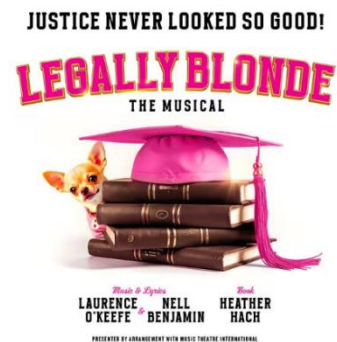
A hugely successful production of Charles Dickens' nerve-tingling ghostly masterpiece, set in 1880, this is the exquisitely unnerving tale of a tormented signalman who is haunted by visions of impending disaster on his isolated stretch of line. Can a well-meaning traveller, who chances upon the lonely signal box while out walking, calm the man's fears before he spirals into self-destruction?

Starring Chris Walker (Rob Hollins in *Doctors*) and John Burton (Sergeant Goodfellow in *Father Brown*).

5 Star Reviews: "The acting was superb...The Signalman may well become one of the season's most amazing theatrical performances...tremendous!" – The Malvern Gazette. "The Signalman is first class theatre that's wonderfully atmospheric and keeps you guessing right to the end" – Weekend Notes.

Legally Blonde – Wednesday 18th March 2026 2:30pm Cliffs Pavilion
Tickets £35.00 – Payment by January 2026 Meeting

The iconic international West End and Broadway smash hit musical comedy. This ultimate feel-good rom-com, based on the award-winning film, follows Elle Woods on her transformation from It girl fashionista to legal ace at Harvard Law School, all in the name of love. This must-see show is from the creative team behind Director Nikolai Foster's phenomenally successful *Kinky Boots*. Snap up your tickets asap.



Cast just announced, including Amber Davies (currently on Strictly)

G4 Phantoms of the Opera – Thursday 12th June 2026 19:30pm
Palace Theatre Tickets £35.00 – Payment February 2026 Meeting

A celebration of musical theatre with the UK's no1 vocal harmony quartet and original *X Factor* stars, **G4** return to unleash their unique trademark sound on the greatest showstoppers that musical theatre has to offer. Featuring classics from *Les Mis*, *Phantom*, *Wicked*, *Jersey Boys*, *Hamilton*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *The Greatest Showman*, *Rent*, *Miss Saigon*, *Book of Mormon*, *The Lion King*, *Aspects of Love*, *We Will Rock You*, *The Sound of Music*, *My Fair Lady*, *The Rocky Horror Show* and many more.



Operation Mincement – Wednesday 2th September 2026 14:30pm
Cliffs Pavilion Tickets £62 – Payment June 2026 Meeting



The Olivier Award-winning Best New Musical and the best-reviewed show in West End history. The year is 1943 and we are losing the war. Luckily, we're about to gamble all our futures on a stolen corpse! Operation Mincement is the fast-paced, hilarious and unbelievable true story of the twisted secret mission that won us World War II.

Bursting at the seams with the kind of chaos you couldn't invent, the question is: how did a dead body, a fake love letter, and - of all people - Ian Fleming come together to wrong-foot Hitler?

Please note: I understand this show is expensive, however having seen it in London I can personally recommend it.

IN OTHER THEATRE NEWS

Please note these are not u3a events and are provided for your information only.

Bat out of Hell The Musical is coming to the big screen, including Odeon Southend

If you couldn't make this show or just want to see it again, it will be shown in cinemas across the UK from 30th October. For tickets – batoutofhellincinemas.com

National Theatre Live

National Theatre Live captures the magic of every moment on stage. It lets you get up close, delve deeper and take in the spectacle.

Showing at Odeon Southend

The Fifth Step – 27th November 2025 – 4pm & 7pm

Hamlet – 22nd January 2026 – 3pm & 7pm

Reminders

On theatre days, I will be in the foyer early, so please come and see me so I know you have arrived. Also, if you have forgotten your tickets or have a last-minute issue, we have time to resolve it.

We have several other shows in the pipeline, so keep your eyes peeled.

Suggestions/Recommendations Welcome

Claire Ham

Noreen Bishop

Group News Roundup

Serendipity Trip: Thursday 16th October 202- Museum of Brands.

On 16th October, some of the members from the Serendipity group visited the Museum of Brands, which is in Notting Hill. The Museum displays advertisements and everyday artefacts and toys from the Victorian times, to the present day. It was a day filled with nostalgia! We went from display to display remembering things from our past, muttering "oohs" and "aahs" when we spotted things like Park Lane cigarettes or Omo washing powder. And who knew that the Schweppes company was around in Victorian times? Alongside the displays there was a potted history of what was happening in the country at the time the objects were fashionable and popular, which helped to put things in context.



There was also the added bonus of an extra exhibition, which displayed films and artefacts from Thunderbirds, and other Jerry Anderson productions. Another great nostalgic trip! We ended the day by dining at the historic Knight of Notting Hill pub. All in all, an enjoyable day out.

Carol Clifford

Card and Papercraft Group – October Meeting

There Is No Such Thing as a Mistake!

We had a very relaxed October meeting, where we created some beautiful master boards. This provided a great opportunity to get ahead in preparation for making our Christmas/Birthday cards, gift labels etc. Master boards are in essence, patterned backgrounds that crafters/artists prepare to use in other projects. There are endless techniques which can be used to create beautiful backgrounds; however, we focussed on stencilling and stamping. So, many projects can be started with master boards, and they provide a great head start, especially if you want to be creative, but don't know what to make - and the best thing is there is no such thing as a mistake.



Next month we will use our backgrounds to create some beautiful cards and tags, so watch this space 🧐 🧐 🧐

Wendy Paternoster & Claire Ham

Walking group in Wapping, away from the usual haunts, and learning some history. Do you know what the monument behind the group is about? The history learning, of necessity, involved several riverside pub visits.



Phil Kelly

Pétanque competition - DAVID BARROWS MEMORIAL TROPHY

Saturday 4th October will be remembered by some as the day storm AMY battered our coast line but for us it was the day of our pétanque competition.

This is the fourth time we have all competed for the DAVID BARROWS MEMORIAL TROPHY. There were 21 entrance and over the course of the morning each game whittled down the players till finally we had our finalists Lynn Smith and Ann King. We had a well-earned break for the customary Bacon rolls and lots of delicious cakes.



What was so nice is that both finalists are relatively new to our group. As you can imagine it was a close hard fought match Ann King being the worthy winner and we weren't rained once!!

Rosemarie Barrows

Feeringbury Manor Gardens

Friday, 26th September started cloudy but as our group of ten arrived at the Manor, which is just one mile from the village of



Feering the sun shone. The group had visited this garden some time back, probably pre-Covid. The garden is approached by a tree lined drive and there were plenty more different varieties to be seen over this 10-acre garden. To the side of the Manor there was an orchard with many varieties of fruit tree dripping mostly with pears and apples. Another tree just at the entrance to this garden had fruit that looked like a cross between a lemon and lime, certainly citrus, but not edible. This garden has had some loose connection with Kew Gardens resulting in very many unusual and unidentified trees and plants. It would have been good to have had labels to read but the two gardeners looking after this large area would have found this task just far too onerous.



There is a walled garden displaying many colourful flowers that Autumn brings, including michaelmas daisies. The garden has two ponds as well as the River Blackwater meandering through it. The overwhelming sense of space meant that the flowered garden was rather overlooked when taking photographs. In one photo Jeff King can be seen ably assisted by his wife Ann and friend Jill appearing to have just cut down rather a large tree, even though they had paid £6 entrance fee. 😂😂



We left the garden around 12 and made our way to Perrywood Nursery for lunch. This is a large garden centre worthy of visiting again. Christmas decorations were already on display.

Janet Arrowsmith

Committee Members Contact Details

Chair	Marion Cain
Vice Chair	Rae Hill
Secretary	Katherine Lake
Treasurer	Ian Foster
Membership Sec.	Val Stenson
Joint Group Coordinator	Carole Edwards
Joint Group Coordinator	Rae Hill
Committee member	Anne Hill
Committee member	Barbara Hine
Committee member	David Hine
Committee member	Noreen Bishop
Committee Member	Carol Collins
Committee Member/ Beacon Admin	Pam Foster
ExOfficio/Minutes Sec	Janet Berry