

MONTHLY MEETING

The next meeting will be on **Thursday 23rd June** which will be a talk – **Saving Jewish Ladies in WW11 – The story about Ricarda Hambrough and her heroic work saving Jewish lives in WW11.**

As usual 2:00pm for a 2:15pm start at the Warley Scout Headquarters, Eagle Hall, The Drive, Warley, CM13 3BH.

Thank you to all of you who attended our AGM in May (I know you really came for the fascinating talk about Mary's meals).

AGMs are an important part of a charity's year, a chance for you to hear what has been happening, ask questions and also appoint the people you want to run it for the coming year. We are very pleased that you agreed to Julie and Geoff joining the committee – we are still looking for someone to take over as Treasurer in a year's time and we would like them to have a chance to join us before then.

Imagine being so hungry that you cannot afford the time to go to school, you need to find food instead. Even if you did go to class, would you be able to concentrate? That is the challenge all over the world that Mary's meals seek to address.

By providing a nutritious meal at school, more children can attend their lessons in the knowledge that they will not go home hungry.

Speaking of charity, at our AGM we choose a charity that our social activities, refreshments and book stall will support for the coming year. Your decision was to support the Essex air ambulance for another year. As we find that our credit cards wilt when we fill the car with petrol or diesel, imagine the bill when you need to top up a helicopter!

We hope you will continue to be generous when visiting the book stall, getting your drink at the end of the meeting or buying those raffle tickets so we can send a sizeable sum to the charity in a year's time.

chairman@warleyu3a.org.uk

List of committee members for the next twelve months

John Alexander	Chair
Pam Bulmer	Treasurer
Jenny Widders	Secretary/Newsletter
Maria Buckley	Speakers
Paula Lennon	Meeting Minutes Secretary
Barry Coombes	Membership
Jean Mitchell	
Margaret Hamilton	
Martin Hamilton	
Julie Stevenson	
Geoff Evans	

A list of the committee members emails are listed on page 11 if you have a need to contact anyone.

Dates and Speakers for the Monthly Meetings 2026

July	Purfleet Heritage - The History of Gunpowder and the Purfleet Magazines.
August	Garden Party

Coffee/Tea Rota

June	Walking Group
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Making u3a known

How many times have you needed to explain to a friend, neighbour or relative what u3a is and what it does?

There are lots of people in Brentwood who have no knowledge of what we get up to and who can join. We have two opportunities in June to spread the message – the last time we went out to talk to people, we got a lot of interest with younger people going home to tell their parents and grandparents about u3a.

Strawberry Fair

We have a stand booked on **Sunday 14th June at King George's playing fields** and we would love your help to hand out leaflets and talk to people. The fair is open from 12:00-5:00pm and has stands for a variety of charitable and sports organisations, youth groups and companies.

Martin and Margaret would appreciate help during the afternoon – perhaps you can spare an hour before going for a walk around the other stalls – and also in the morning to set up the stand. Please get in touch with them if you can help, and even if you cannot commit just now, turn up on the day and join the team.

Arts Showcase

The Brentwood Art Trail has just started, lasting the whole of June – perhaps you have already seen some of the pictures, sculptures or performances. On **Saturday 27th June** there will be a creative community showcase to enable local creative, cultural and arts groups to display the talents of the people of Brentwood.

We have a stall booked to promote how Warley u3a helps people to develop new skills and expand our cultural knowledge through artistic and heritage visits. We would appreciate help to talk to people about what our u3a does from 11:00am-3:00pm in the Baytree centre. Please let Martin or Margaret know if you can assist.

Ad Hoc Events - Flintstone Feast

Kate Alexander.

On a beautifully warm (if windy) day at the end of April, eleven of us gathered to create a multi-course tasting menu cooked with the minimum of utensils over an open wood fire.

Whilst waiting for the cooking fire to be ready, collecting very small kindling was the order of the day – learning that the best dry wood is found not on the ground but still on the tree. Having got a suitably hot

fire ready, we started with breakfast kebabs (sausages, bacon, tomatoes and mushrooms) and coffee before getting down to the serious business of fire-lighting without matches.



Using a flint and steel and clarcloth everyone succeeded in getting an ember which, with the addition of some hay and a bit of firm but gentle blowing caught into a flame which some managed to grow into a small but sustainable fire.



Sea bass and cod were wrapped in newspaper, soaked in cold water and cooked in the embers followed by

pitta pizzas and lamb stuffed onions – both wrapped in foil and placed in the hot embers.



Our cheese course was a baked camembert with damper bread and then chocolate orange cake (oranges stuffed with chocolate cake mix) again cooked in foil in the embers and s'mores (slightly melted marshmallows sandwiched between two chocolate digestives) rounded off our meal.

Whilst the food was cooking, we also found time to admire Eric's Kelly Kettle and to discover how to make a water filter. The theory that smoke will follow you if you try to avoid it was definitely proved!

We went home feeling rather smug, well fed and in need of a hot shower and complete change of clothes. There are currently no further ad-hoc events being planned – if there is somewhere you would like to go, or something you'd like to try then why not offer to organise it? It's not that difficult and there is plenty of support available if you need it. Just drop Kate an email with your idea.

Book Group

Annette Jones.

Our next book group will be at Susan Straw's house on **Monday 1st June at 10:30 am. The next book title is 'Cairo Gambit' by S.W. Perry.**

Bridge

Pam Bulmer.

There are two bridge sessions in **June Monday 8th and 22nd in the upstairs room, Warley Scout Hut (10:30am to noon).** New comers welcome although some experience required. Please contact Pam Bulmer.

Contemporary Haiku

Heather Brialey.

Members of the group are interested to learn whether anyone reads the Haiku poems we choose for the

newsletter. We are also interested in writing Haiku to themes chosen by other u3a members. You can email me direct with any views you might wish to express for us to consider.

This month challenged ourselves to include a line from a well-known song. See if you can spot them.

If I ruled the world
Trump and Putin would be gone
And we would have peace.

Starry, Starry Night
Painted using black and grey
Now I understand!

Phone line ringing out,
Can't get no satisfaction
My complaint ignored.

Winter is coming
I heard it through the grapevine
Heatwaves disagree!

Contributions from Jean, Eric, June and Heather

Crazy Golf

Cheryl Osborne.

We had a new player join us in May for our game in Chelmsford which proved to be a very popular venue that day. As usual everyone enjoyed themselves and we are very pleased to welcome an additional member to our group.

If you would like to give crazy golf a try, we will be at **Rascals Bay, King George's Park, Brentwood, CM14 5AE on Monday 15th June for a 2:00pm start.** Give me a call to let me know you are coming and we can wait for you if you happen to be running late.

Drawing Group

Carole Windham.

The drawing group will be taking part in the Brentwood Art Trail again this year. Photos will be included in the next newsletter.

Explore London

Kate Alexander.

A report on our May Exploration, jointly with the Garden Visits Group, appears on page 4. Our June visit which, because of holidays will be the **3rd Wednesday in June, the 17th,** will see us **Exploring the Thames Path from Hammersmith to Chiswick.**

Galleries, Exhibitions and Museums

Eric and Jean Mitchell.

Our May visit was to The Charles Dickens Museum in London. A self-guided tour of his former home included a temporary exhibition entitled Extraordinary Women. It complemented our understanding of the writer's complexities and the important role women played enhancing financial management, lifestyle and research for the written works of that era.

Photos by kind permission of the Charles Dickens House Museum.



Gardens Visits & Explore London Chelsea in Bloom

Audrey McCarthy – Garden Visits.

Kate Alexander – Explore London.

They say the sun shines on the righteous – which is why, in defiance of the forecast, the weather stayed dry and the tube strike was called off for the day that the Garden Visits and Explore London Groups joined together to visit Chelsea in Bloom.

Produced by Cadogan, in association with the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS), the world class alternative floral art show sees the streets of Chelsea transformed into breathtaking displays made of fresh flowers, this year's theme being "Out of this World".

Whilst time prevented us from seeing all the exhibits, by concentrating on the Sloane Square and Kings Road areas, we did manage to see the vast majority.



Some were spectacular, other less so – the Lloyds Bank “Black Horse” oozed personality, whilst it seems M&S didn’t get the message with a rather lack lustre garland around the main door in which some of the flowers were already (on day 3 of the event) rather the worse for wear.



We saw five of the six “central displays”, our favourites being The Mythical Dragon and the Floral Globe – the latter being a tribute to David Attenborough as he celebrates his 100th birthday.



Many of the exhibits referenced the nature of the business – the space rocket made out of cooking pots at David Mellor, the vegetable “planets” at Whole Foods and the aforementioned black horse being examples.

The standard was high and we found ourselves becoming a little “picky” when we felt that corners had been cut, but equally there were displays with amazing attention to detail such as at the Mermaid at Les Nereides.



Although most of the designs were by professional designers, it was a joy to see the contributions from the pupils of Holy Trinity Primary School – a unicorn, dragon, Pegasus and Medusa were among the creations that they helped to create with the aid of a local florist and which were proudly displayed in the hedge of the school grounds.





More photos can be found on the web site.

German Group

Regine Dyer.

Sprechen Sie Deutsch? - Flüssig oder nur ein Bischen?

The German Conversation Group is looking for one or two new members who want to improve or refresh their existing knowledge of the language. This friendly group meets on the 2nd & 4th Tuesday afternoons and sessions comprise of general chit-chat, a look at basic grammar and formal reading and translation from text books and other media.

Industrial Heritage

John Alexander.

Essex is flat! Well, people often think that until they walk from the station up to the High Street or, in our case, one visits the top of the Moot Hall in Maldon.

Part of the D'Arcy mansion and dating back to the early 1400s, the current building is the tower which would have allowed the family to survey their lands, keep an eye on shipping in the estuary and snub the De Veres whose land was next door.

By the mid-1500s it became a municipal building and over the following centuries has been the police station, the jail, the courthouse and the council chamber. Only having a small footprint, the latter two are accessed by a steep and narrow staircase.

One of the highlights of the visit was to emerge at the top of an even steeper and narrower spiral staircase onto the roof of the tower with 360-degree views across Essex. With the sun out, it was a glorious outlook.





Quiz Group

Sandy Spicer.

We have openings in the quiz group, and we would be delighted to welcome a few newcomers. A very participatory social group who enjoy a midway cup of tea and a natter. We meet at **2:00pm on the 2nd Wednesday of the month** near to Brentwood Station. Email Sandy for more information.

Spanish Conversation

Maureen Deller.

The group meets weekly on a Thursday morning. There are 1 or 2 spaces in this group if you are interested in joining.

Sunday Lunch Club

Maria Buckley.

This is held every third Sunday of the month. This is for members who live on their own.

Our next Sunday lunch tbc.

Walking Group

Heather Brialey. Jenny Widders – Admin.

12 intrepid walkers set out on another hot day to explore another circular walk in Thorndon Park. Several people commented they had no idea where they were as we explored the obelisk field, a small woodland and the walk back to the car park passing the horses grazing in the sunshine. Tilbury docks were just about visible across the Thames flood plain in the heat haze! We finished off a very enjoyable walk with drinks and snacks in the visitor centre.



Our next visits are on 2nd July to Kew Bridge Pumping Engine Museum and on 14th July to visit a collection of classic cars just down the road.

Lunch Group

Judy Brookes. Christine Pandula.

The Lunch Club this month will be **12:30pm on Monday 15th June at The Halfway House, West Horndon, Brentwood, CM13 3LL** reached from A127 or A128. Please contact Judy Brookes if you would like to come.

Meditation Group

Geoffrey Windham.

The meditation group meets on the **1st and 3rd Monday of the month at 2:00pm for an hour**. Please contact Geoffrey if you are interested.

Occasional Historic Churches Visiting Group

Peter Brisbourne.

There are still some places left on the next guided tour at **Southwark Cathedral on the 3rd June**.

Brief details: Cost £11:20. Start time 11:00am (or meet Brentwood Station at 09:30am). Given sufficient interest, a pub lunch will be booked.

Anyone interested please contact Peter Brisbourne.



Warley Wordle Group

Peter Brisbourne.

This scope of the group has now expanded to include Strands, Connections, Waffle and Pips (all via NYT website). Share your results with like-minded u3a colleagues and join the light-hearted banter. To get yourself added to the Group, please contact Peter Brisbourne.

Warley u3a Interest Groups by day held and frequency in the month.		
Last updated 26 th May 2026		
	AM	PM
Mondays	Book Group: 1st week 10:30am Bridge: Fortnightly 10:30am	Meditation Group: 1st & 3rd week 2:00pm Lunch Group: 3rd week 12:30pm Knitters: 2nd & 4th week 2:00pm
Tuesdays	Drawing: 1st & 3rd week 10:00am Contemporary Haiku: 2nd & 4th week	Creative Writing: 1st & 3rd week 2:00pm German Conversation: 2nd & 4th week 2:00pm Craft & Textiles: 1st and 3rd week 2:00pm
Wednesdays	Explore London: 2nd week 10:30am Walking Group: 4th week am	Quiz Group: 2nd week 2:00pm Cinema Group: 3rd week times vary
Thursdays	Spanish Conversation: Weekly 10:15am	Monthly Meeting: 4th week 2:15pm Canasta: 1st week 2:00pm
Fridays	Galleries, Exhibition & Museums: 3rd week 10:30am approx Garden Visits: 4th week 10:30am approx Rummikub: Weekly 9:00 – 10:00am	
Saturdays		
Sundays	Lunch Club: 3rd week – various venues	
<p>We also have several groups which meet on an ad hoc basis which are: - The Ad Hoc Events, The Birdwatching Group, the Industrial Heritage Group, the Military History Group, Occasional Historic Church Visits Group and the Theatre Group</p>		
<p>Shenfield u3a</p> <p>Shenfield have advised us that some of their groups have spaces and they would welcome friends from Warley to join them. Current vacancies include Astronomy, History, a Lunch group and Singing for Pleasure. If you are interested Shenfield u3a have a link on their website for group information.</p>		