

MONTHLY MEETING

The next event will be on **Thursday 27th August** which will be our **Annual Summer Garden Party**
2:15pm to 3:30pm
at the Warley Scout Headquarters, Eagle Hall, The Drive, Warley, CM13 3BH.

Message from John

Thank you all those who have generously donated prizes for our raffle at our garden party. The proceeds from the raffle will go to our charity of the year, the Essex and Herts Air Ambulance.

We hope that you will join us this month and we will have activities outside as well as chairs in the hall. If you have not already transferred your £5, then please do so to enable the catering team to get quantities right.

At our July meeting we learnt about how Saltpetre was made to be used in gunpowder. I will not go into details since we have just been talking about food, but let's just say you needed a strong stomach!

Having made your gunpowder, where do you store it and for the English government their main location was the Tower of London until somebody realised that perhaps having 1000s of barrels of a high explosive in the middle of your capital was not a good idea.

The Magazines at Purfleet were built to receive all the gunpowder ordered by the government, to check its quality and then store it before either issuing it to the army or navy, or sending it to other magazines around the country.

Based on a French design, the magazines were able to store around 10,000 barrels each and Purfleet had 5 although only one remains.

Our speaker took us through the history of the magazines and touched on the interesting history of Purfleet itself. A visit to the heritage centre to the remaining magazine is recommended – the Industrial Heritage group visited a couple of years ago and had a great visit.

chairman@warleyu3a.org.uk

August Garden Party

On Thursday 27th August we will be holding our annual garden party instead of our monthly meeting. This is a great opportunity to catch up with friends and to make new acquaintances.

As in previous years, we will be making a small charge of £5 to cover the provision of sandwiches, cakes and other refreshments. If you intend to come to the event then please pay the money into the u3a bank account marking it for the garden party. ***(Please see next page for bank details and deadline for payment)***.

We will have a selection of gluten free and vegetarian food, but if you have a particular food intolerance, please let one of the committee members know.

We hope that, as last year, the weather will be kind so that we can enjoy sitting outside in the sun as well as being able to sit in the hall. The grass has been re-laid outside so it is a pleasant area to relax in.

We will be also holding a raffle in aid of our charity of the year, the Essex and Herts Air Ambulance, so please come prepared.

Don't forget to put the date in your diary and we look forward to seeing you there.

Dates and Speakers for the Monthly Meetings 2026

September Behind the scenes of a restaurant –
Mary Colloby

	Coffee/Tea Rota
August	Committee
September	Committee
October	Galleries and Museums Group

Time To Chat

Many people enjoy the opportunity to talk to friends and to make new acquaintances. After the talk at our monthly meeting, we serve refreshments and that is a good chance to have a natter.

You are all so helpful that when you are ready to leave you put your chairs onto the trolleys – which we really appreciate, but for those enjoying a chat it can be a bit off putting (but please do not stop helping!).

As an experiment, in the autumn (September to November) we are going to start serving refreshments from 2:00pm and we will start the talk a little later, probably about 2:45pm. We are hoping this will give you all a chance to talk to friends, etc. without feeling rushed.

We look forward to your feedback in the autumn.

Annual Summer Garden Party

**Warley Scout Headquarters, Eagle Hall, The Drive,
Warley, CM13 3BH.**

on Thursday 28th August - 2:15pm – 3:30pm.

£5 per head

RSVP by midnight on Sunday 9th August to

ptb1912@gmail.com

Payments by bank transfer (preferred) to:

u3a Warley

20-12-21

2373 3386

or

Cheque payable to u3a Warley

Posted to 15 Vine Way, Brentwood, CM14 4UT

(sorry, but we cannot accept cash)

When Things Go Wrong

We all want to enjoy our time on u3a events, trips and at the meetings. Unfortunately, there are times when we feel ill or take a tumble and help is required.

Those organising trips and meetings do not know who you would like to be contacted in an emergency unless you tell them or have the details easily accessible.

There are a number of ways that you can help us know who you would like to be contacted. The first is to fill in one of our "In case of emergency" cards and keep it in a Warley u3a wallet somewhere that we could easily find.



Another way is to let us know the contact details so they can be stored securely on our membership system – Beacon. We do ask for people to give us these details when they renew their membership, but it is surprising how many of you don't!

If you attend an interest group then the organiser may ask you to let them have details – don't worry, they will keep them secure and only for as long as you are involved in the group. Thank you.

Book Group

Annette Jones.

Our next group is **Monday 3rd August 10:30am**. The next book title is **'The Infinity Gate' by Sara Douglas**. If anybody is interested in joining a very friendly book group, we would be very welcoming.

Bridge

Pam Bulmer.

There are two bridge sessions in **August – 3rd and 17th 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.

We concentrated on themes including, a line from a song or musical, current news, the weather and also tried to write a haiku according to five so called essential rules for what constitutes a haiku in English, which we all find difficult!

Credit card bill in,
Hey Big Spender. No, it's less!
Thank goodness for that.

Social media ban
What will all the children do?
'Let's go fly a kite'!

Gosh it's really hot,
Cooling shade, we're on the beach,
Under the Boardwalk!

Depressive jet stream
Adiabatic * lapse rate
It's June, it's hot, OK?

Earth convulses deep
Streets of rubble and lost hope
Night brings no respite.

New Number 10 North
Will Larry the cat visit
His holiday home?

Contributions from June, Jean, Glynis, Jean, Eric and Heather.

* Live, learn, laugh, 3A mantra. This was one of the learning points today!

Craft Group

Heather Brialey and Susan Straw.

Our July short project was embellishing gift bags by printing on plain paper bags with a variety of stamps using printing pads. Some of the group got ahead for Christmas with tree designs and others included flowers, horses and whales. The process didn't suit all of the group as it was a bit messy! The next project will be jewellery making.

Drawing Group

Carole Windham.

Some of the pictures exhibited by the group at the Brentwood Art Trail.



The Legacy of Bok House



Explore London

Kate Alexander.

High temperatures led to the cancellation of July's Exploration. August will see us starting to Explore Islington.

Galleries, Exhibitions and Museums

Eric and Jean Mitchell.

Our visit for July was to Tate Britain to view the James McNeill Whistler exhibition. It was the first major European exhibition of Whistler's work for 30 years. The American born artist transformed Victorian

art and became one of the most distinctive painters of the 19th century.



Harmony in grey and green. Miss Sicily Alexander.
With kind permission of Tate Britain.



The last of old Westminster. With kind permission of Tate Britain.

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.

Two visits this month and whilst both involving vintage engines, they were quite different.

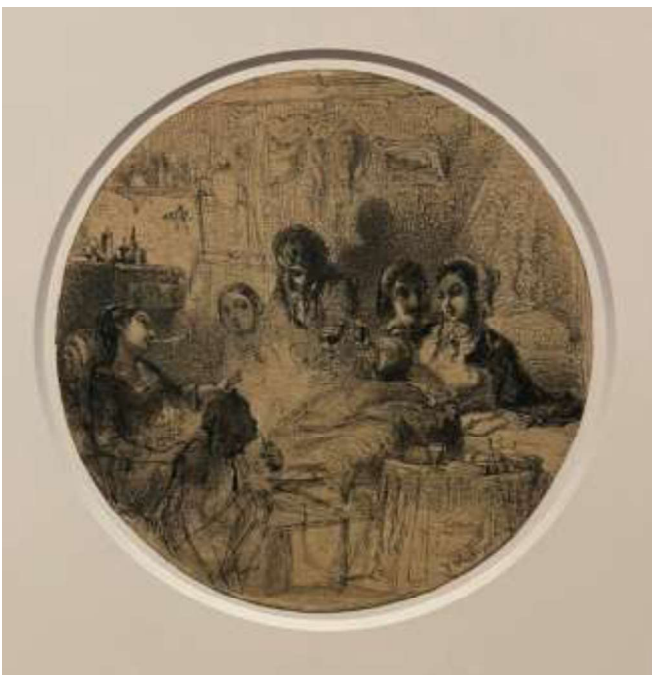
At the beginning of the month, we visited the museum of water and steam at Kew Bridge which was one of the earliest pumping stations to provide fresh water to Londoners.

Many of you will be familiar with the great stink and the development of sewers in London including those under the Embankment, but at the same time people were realising that cholera and other diseases were water born rather than transmitted by foul odours.

Whilst early water supplies were from rivers running down into the Thames as well as the Thames itself, they were heavily polluted and the Kew pumping station was built to collect the “cleaner” water of west London, treat it in filter beds and then pump it into Westminster.

As time went on extra pumping engines were added from the slow, large beam engines to more advanced triple expansion pumping engines. Seeing the smaller, more modern engines with greater capacity emphasised how technology had moved on.

Our journey home was “interesting” with a tree on the line at Barnes and after waiting over 40 minutes (luckily in an air-conditioned train), we were told the train was



Scene from Bohemian Life. With kind permission of Tate Britain.

cancelled. Ever resourceful a group of us made our way by bus to Hammersmith and then via Paddington to get home. An eventful day!



Talking of eventful days, later in the month we visited Barnards Farm, just down the A128 from Brentwood to see Bernard's classic cars. With four large garages full of vehicles dating back to the 19th century, this is an amazing personal collection.

Members of the maintenance team took us around to show us the various cars and provide their histories. All are in working condition and most had been out only a few days before for an outing to Blackmore!

All of the vehicles are rare but some are unique making them all the more interesting. A good proportion are

able to take part in the London-Brighton run having been registered by the end of 1904 and one has driven across Australia twice!



After our garage tour we settled down for a ploughman's lunch in the station café area which was in the shade and had a nice cool breeze.

After lunch we got on the miniature railway for a ride around the grounds – about 50 acres – and the chance to observe the sculptures. Stopping at a couple of locations we could enjoy the gardens, landscapes and the views before our train took us back to the terminus. If you want to visit Barnards Farm to enjoy the gardens, ride on the train or admire the eclectic range of sculptures then check out their website for opening dates - barnardsfarm.eu

Sunday Lunch Club

Maria Buckley.

This is held every third Sunday of the month. This is for members who live on their own. The next lunch is **Sunday 16th August at 12:30pm at The Nags Head, Brook Street, Brentwood.**

Walking Group

Heather Brialey. Jenny Widders - Admin.

Ideal walking temperatures for a stroll around Thorndon Park South on 22nd July - new territory for some of the group. We clocked up around 2 miles and followed this with delightful sandwiches and other snacks in the Green Man at Herongate.



Next month we will be continuing with the transport theme as we visit the Mangapps railway near Burnham on Crouch.

Lunch Group

Judy Brookes. Christine Pandula.

The Lunch Club this month will be at **12:30pm on Monday 17th August at the Thatcher's Arms, Great Warley, Warley Rd, CM13 3HU.** Please contact Judy Brookes if you would like to come.

Occasional Historic Churches Visiting Group

Peter Brisbane.

Next planned visit will be to **St Bartholomew-the-Great in Smithfield on Friday 11th September.**

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.



Warley Wordle Group

Peter Brisbane.

The 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 Brisbane.

Warley u3a Interest Groups by day held and frequency in the month.		
Last updated 20th July 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 Crazy Golf: 3 rd Monday pm
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	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	
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		
Shenfield u3a 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.		