

MONTHLY MEETING

The next meeting will be on **Thursday 22nd October** which will be a talk by **Peggy Griffen**
– **Polydactyle Cats and Interesting Facts.**

As usual 2:00pm start. We will have time for refreshments and a chat before the talk begins promptly at 2.30pm
at the **Warley Scout Headquarters, Eagle Hall, The Drive, Warley, CM13 3BH.**

Message from John

You are all amazing and have many tales to tell, even if you do not recognise the fact.

In September we were entertained with Mary's memories of opening and running a restaurant with her husband. From returning eels to the sea, to the unexpected visit of Ian Paisley and the mundane of serving baked avocado, we thoroughly enjoyed her tales.

If you watch any of the cooking reality shows or competitions on television, you will know how hard catering staff work, with long hours, complicated, yet precise, recipes to follow and the uncertainty of whether any guests will be in the dining room this service.

Yet we learnt that Mary had time to continue to be involved in teaching and prepare buffets for colleagues and students. One trait I recognised was accepting challenges and opportunities – not being able to say no – but how many adventures and successes can follow from that attitude.

And now I throw the challenge out to you – what could you share with us all, as Mary did? It might not be a full talk but perhaps you could pair up with someone else to share memories and give us all an insight into something new.

At our September meeting, we tried having the refreshments at the beginning and we will be continuing with this approach for the rest of the autumn. Tea and coffee will be available from 2:00pm and the talk will start at 2:30pm. You are welcome to continue finishing your drinks during the talk.

We were also pleased to welcome Barbara, Julie and Heather to their first meeting – please make them welcome and continue to talk to people you don't know – you never know what you may learn!

chairman@warleyu3a.org.uk

Warley u3a Christmas Lunch**Bentley Golf Club – 3 course carvery menu**

Monday 7th December
12 noon for 12:30pm

3 courses, plus coffee/mince pies with tip included (drinks purchased separately)
£33.00

This year, like previous years we will only have to choose a starter and dessert in advance as the main course will be a choice from the carvery.

Please see attached flyer for details.

Deadline for payment, seating requests and menu choices (starter/dessert) and details of any dietary requirements: by **Midnight, Friday 13th November.** Please email Maria Buckley.

Dates and Speakers for the Monthly Meetings 2026

November	Jean Fullerton – 'Put That Light Out'.
December	Christmas Meal

	Coffee/Tea Rota
October	Galleries and Museum Group
November	Industrial Heritage Group
January	Walking Group

Ten Pin Bowling

The Crazy Golf season has finished until next summer so there is a spare slot in the busy u3a calendar for the afternoon of the 3rd Monday of the month. It has been suggested that we try restarting the Ten Pin Bowling group with a trip to the **Brewery in Romford on Monday 19th October starting at 1:30pm**. It is possible to get there by bus, train or in a car depending on what suits you.

We are suggesting we go for the "NiftyFifty" option which gives us up to two hours bowling and a hot drink for £9.95. You may also wear your own (flat, non-slip) shoes. No experience is necessary - the whole idea is to have some fun!

If you would like to join us then let John know and if that date (day or time) does not suit you but you would still like to have a go then contact John so we can see what would work.

Book Group

Annette Jones.

The next meeting is **Monday 5th October 10:30am at Susan Straw's** house. Our book title is 'Don't Let Him In' by Lisa Jewel.

There is space for more if you fancy joining a lively group with a cuppa. Come and join us if you love reading.

Bridge

Pam Bulmer.

There are two bridge sessions in **October - 12th and 26th - in the upstairs room, Warley Scout Hut (10:30am to noon)**. Newcomers welcome although some experience required. Please contact Pam Bulmer.

Contemporary Haiku

Heather Brialey.

Our latest themes included moods (morning and evening people!); my favourite things. Here are a few of our favourites:

Clouds gather within
But they have silver linings
Impassioned weather.

Daffodils swaying
A sight to gladden my heart
Puts spring in my step.

Dusk encroaching fast
Shadows deepen, fade to dark
Now I come alive.

Home-made casserole
Warming after chilly days
Dunked with homemade bread.

My mum's walking stick
I use it now and again
Feel her hand in mine.

If you would like to suggest any themes that you would like us to write about, please do suggest them via email to Heather.

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

Explore London

Kate Alexander.

Unfortunately, a "person struck by train" meant that we had already walked for a mile and were nearly 30 minutes late as we started our first Exploration of Bermondsey. However, that didn't stop us from Exploring the area around Bermondsey Street and seeing many reminders of the area's industrial past – the Abbey Mills, the wool trade, leatherworking and more latterly major food factories. Bermondsey's marketing slogans 'There is nothing like Leather' and 'Everything in Leather' were widely recognised. We discovered the differences between "Missions" and "Settlements" and saw the charitable housing that the Guinness Trust created for those unable to afford a home on a Peabody Estate. In October, we will conclude our Exploration of the area by following its border with the river Thames.

Galleries, Exhibitions and Museums

Eric and Jean Mitchell.

Following the popularity of last year's visit, we chose again to visit the Mall Galleries and view the work exhibited by the Royal Society of Marine Artists. The common theme is the sea and tidal waters although the work and techniques exhibited can be wide and varied.





*All images are by kind permission of The Mall Galleries
Carlton House Terrace London*

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.

It took quite a while getting to Frogmore Paper Mill because we had a trip planned for a few years ago which had to be cancelled due to a fire.

The factory is slowly coming back to life and we were able to see some of the old paper making machines and also see "artisan" paper being made for sale in museums and for specialist uses. "Notepads where the paper contained elephant poo proved popular for grandchildren!"

Why would you situate a paper mill near Hemel Hempstead? Well, the answer is the purity of the water in the surrounding chalk streams – you don't want discoloured paper!



Whilst initially the paper was made by hand, the mill was the site of the first motorised paper mill which took the soup of fibres, scooped it out onto draining racks, pressed and dried it to create rolls of paper.

We had a very informative trip and it will be interesting to return in a few years to see how the museum and works have developed.





Our trips for the rest of the year are all full – it is a challenge finding places which can accommodate more than 20 at a time and a couple of our visits have had to be split over two days or a morning and afternoon. Plans are afoot for the next year and more ideas of venues are gratefully received.

Lunch Group

Judy Brookes. Christine Pandula.
October date and venue tbc.

Occasional Historic Churches Visiting Group

Peter Brisbane.

On the 11th September, a party of 14 visited the church of St Bartholomew-the-Great in Smithfield and were given a guided tour by the Head Verger, Gordon Furry. Whilst on a visit to Rome, Raherne, a senior cleric from St Paul's, had a vision telling him to build a church on his return, even being provided with the exact location. Once back, he found this spot was already a cemetery on Royal land, but Henry I, on hearing of these divine instructions, granted Raherne title. Construction started with the use of servants and children who collected stones from all over London and the priory was completed in 1123.

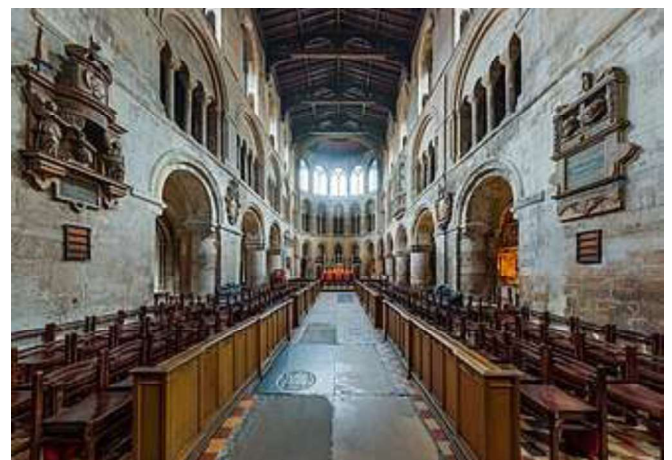
The priory gained a reputation for healing, some miraculous, many of which took place in the Priory hospital. Many of the buildings survived the Dissolution of the Monasteries, but many disappeared, their fabric being sold and repurposed into the expanding City of London. The lofty Norman crossing arches and choir largely survived and formed part of a new parish church which justifies St Bart's claim to be the oldest buildings in London. Other surviving buildings were granted in 1546 to the newly-founded and royally-endowed St Bartholomew's Hospital which continues to this day.



Entrance to the Church.

Having survived the Great Fire, the church fell into disrepair with parts being used for a variety of local trades, one of which was a printworks where Benjamin Franklin worked as a typesetter and later as a journeyman printer.

From 1889, extensive restoration took place leading to the building which is seen today. The church escaped damage in WW2 and in 2015, the parishes of St Barts-the-Great and St Barts-the-Less were united with St Barts-the-Less becoming a chapel of ease within the parish, and as it sits within the curtilage of St Barts Hospital, it participates in its ecumenical and inter-faith chaplaincy to the patients and staff.





A rare opportunity to see this - the organ has been removed and is to be replaced soon.

Our next visit will be to **St Olave's, Hart Street, on Tuesday 20th October**. Regular members of the Group will be contacted shortly. Anyone else who would like to join the Group should contact Peter Brisbane

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

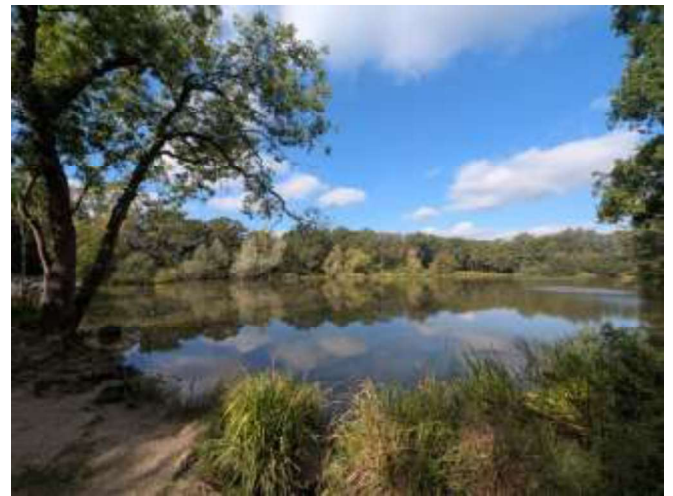
Maria Buckley.

This is held every third Sunday of the month for members who live on their own. The next lunch will be on **Sunday 18th October – 12:30pm - White Hart Inn, Margareting Tye, Ingatestone.**

Walking Group

Heather Brialey. Jenny Widders - Admin.

We had another enjoyable stroll around Thorndon Park South in September followed with food and great conversation in the Green Man at Herongate.



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 31st August 2026		
	AM	PM
Mondays	Book Group: 1 st week 10:30am Bridge: Fortnightly 10:30am	Meditation Group: 1st & 3 rd week 2:00pm Lunch Group: 3rd week 12:30pm Knitters: 2 nd & 4 th week 2:00pm Crazy Golf: 3 rd Monday pm
Tuesdays	Drawing: 1 st & 3 rd week 10:00am Contemporary Haiku: 2nd & 4th week	Creative Writing: 1st & 3 rd week 2:00pm German Conversation: 2 nd & 4 th week 2:00pm
Wednesdays	Explore London: 2 nd week 10:30am Walking Group: 4 th week am	Cinema Group: 3 rd week times vary Quiz Group: 2 nd week 2:00pm
Thursdays	Spanish Conversation: Weekly 10:15am	Monthly Meeting: 4 th week 2:15pm Canasta: 1 st week 2:00pm
Fridays	Galleries, Exhibition & Museums: 3 rd week 10:30am approx Garden Visits: 4 th week 10:30am approx Rummikub: Weekly 9:00 – 10:00am	
Saturdays		
Sundays	Lunch Club: 3 rd week – various venues	
Ad Hoc Events We also have several groups which meet on an ad hoc basis which are: - The Ad Hoc Events, 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.		