

Charity No 1155593

Newsletter No 159

April 2026

In this Issue

| | |
|--|--------|
| Monthly Meeting | 2 |
| Summary of Activities and Outings in coming months | 2 - 5 |
| Membership Information | 5 |
| News from the Groups | 6 - 13 |
| Committee and Contacts | 14 |
| Groups Timetable | 13 |

Welcome to the April edition of our monthly newsletter as we approach Easter and the start of the cricket season. I hope the weather will oblige this year as the first 2 weeks of last season were badly affected by rain. I certainly hope for a dry day on Saturday May 16th when I am inviting anyone interested in cricket to join me for a day's play at Lord's.

Inside this newsletter you will find reports and articles from our study/interest groups, news about future events and general information about Swanley and District u3a.

I need to remind you that as the first Friday in April is Good Friday, we have moved our next monthly meeting to Friday April 10th

Also, the following month's meeting on Friday May 1st will be our AGM. In addition to the formal business, I will hopefully entertain you with one of my quizzes.

Now is the time to pay your annual u3a subscription if you have not already done so (I know many of you have already paid). The cost is £20 for the year 2026-27 and there are various ways to pay. Bank transfer is preferred if you are able, but we are happy to take payment by cheque or cash. Speak to Gill Baker, our Membership Secretary, if you have any questions.

I hope you all enjoyed our last meeting and Andy Thomas' talk 'A Conspiracy History of the World'. He is one of our regular speakers and says that this is his favourite talk. This month we are pleased to welcome back Bob Ogley, a leading local historian and another of our regular speakers. This time his topic will be '19th Century Kent' and Bob will be telling stories about Dickens, Darwin, the coming of the railway to Kent, the industrial revolution and the notable men and women who lived in Kent during that amazing century. We can anticipate an interesting and entertaining talk.

I look forward to seeing you at our meeting, reminding you again it is on Friday April 10th at our usual start time of 10.30.

Dave Collins Chairman

Reminder!

Please switch your mobile phone to silent mode during the meeting

**Swanley and District U3A Monthly Meeting Friday 10th April at 10.30am
At the Alexandra Suite, St Mary's Road, Swanley BR8 7BU**

Friday 10th April: Bob Ogley 19th Century Kent

Bob will be telling stories about Dickens, Darwin, the coming of the railway, the industrial revolution and the notable men and women who lived in that amazing century.

Friday 1st May: No Speaker AGM

Friday 5th June: Guy Bartlett A History of Aviation in Kent

Kent has been at the forefront of aviation since the 1802. This talk explores the history of balloons, airships and aircraft in the country. It includes information about some of the numerous Kentish airfields, past and present, and gives suggestions for places which you may like to visit. Join me on a journey through a century of amazing aviation years in the Garden of England.

Nicola Teoh

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES – During the Coming Month(s)

**Notice is hereby given that the
2026 Annual General Meeting of the Swanley & District U3a
will take place at The Alexandra Suite, St Marys Road, Swanley, Kent, BR8 7BU
On Friday 1st May 2025.**

Our nomination form for a position on the Swanley & District U3a committee is included as an attachment to this newsletter.

You can also download the form from our website <https://swanley.u3asite.uk/documents/>

Completed forms must be returned to carolw8920@gmail.com by no later than

Friday 10th April 2026

Carol Willingham Business Secretary

Bridge Club

The next monthly meeting is on Wednesday 1st April at 10.00am.

If you are interested in playing Bridge, please registered your interest via the group page on our website as at the present time the group is full. https://swanley.u3asite.uk/u3a_groups/bridge/.

Carolyn & Colin Chapman

Bird Watching

The next meeting will be at Bough Beach Nature Reserve on the 5th of April at 10am.

See website page for more information https://swanley.u3asite.uk/u3a_groups/bird-watching/

Bob Parker

London Off the Beaten Track Walks

Due to demand we will be doing a 3rd repeat of our walk 'The Woolwich Arsenal West Site and parts of Old Woolwich' on Thurs 16th April. Details will be e-mailed to those on the mailing distribution list that could not do the initial dates. the distribution list. If you would like to be added please sign up at our monthly meeting or via the website at:

https://swanley.u3asite.uk/u3a_groups/london-history-walks/

Alan Hayward

Board & Card Games

Our next get together is Monday 27th April at 2pm at the Howard Centre in Hextable BR8 7LG.

Due to other commitments I have decided to take a break so:

THIS WILL BE OUR FINAL MEETING

If you would be interested in taking over running this event, please let me know as there are still members that would like to continue playing board and card games or speaker to Sandra Evans (our Group Co-Ordinator) at our next monthly meeting.

We have a good selection of games and cards. Please bring along any games that you would like to play. At the moment Scrabble is very popular so if you are interested in playing do come and join our players. As we hire the room there is a £3 charge, drinks can also be purchased at the centre.

Just come along on the day or email for further details via the Board & Card group page on our website for further information. https://swanley.u3asite.uk/u3a_groups/board-card-games/

Joyce Wood

QUIZ DATES

There are **2 Quiz afternoons** this month.
(£3 per person with all profits going to the RNLI):

Tuesday April 7th – 2pm

Thursday April 16th – 2pm.

Please join us at the **Howard Venue** if you would like to join a U3A team on either of these dates.

David Collins



MARCH NEWSLETTER

For the May newsletter can you please send articles and photos by **Thursday 23rd April**

Alan Hayward

Events and Outings

April

Tuesday April 14th Milestones Living History Museum, Basingstoke

[\(https://www.milestonesmuseum.org.uk/\)](https://www.milestonesmuseum.org.uk/)

From cobbled streets to a seaside pier, vintage cars, an operating pub, sweet shop and more, this covered museum details life from Victorian times to the 1940s.

In the life-sized streets you'll find buildings, shops and vehicles recreated and restored, telling the stories of how people lived, the things they used and the work they did. The milliner, saddler and ironmonger all offer a glimpse into shopping habits of the past.

In some shops you will find interpreters, dressed in authentic period costume, serving beer in the Baverstock Arms, playing a record in the gramophone shop or telling stories about the past.

For enthusiasts there is an impressive collection of restored vintage vehicles including steam lorries, cars, motorbikes, a Romany caravan and a 19th century steam-powered fire engine

The Rooftops Café serves lighter bites & main meals at reasonable prices and there is, of course, a gift shop.

If you wish to purchase sweets from the 1940s shop you will need to buy a £2 voucher at the entrance.

Cost: £34

Leaving Hextable at **8.30am** & Swanley at **8.45am** for the 2 hour coach journey to Basingstoke.

Returning to Swanley at approximately **5.45pm.**

https://swanley.u3asite.uk/u3a_events/milestones-living-history-museum-basingstoke/

Veronica Brazier

Tuesday 14th May The Holland Park Set – Politics & Painters

In 1939, one of the last great pre-war London balls saw the King and Queen's car join a queue of grand cars that stretched from Hyde Park Corner to Kensington High Street and the gates of Holland House.

Within a year Holland House had been all but destroyed in the Blitz. Here had thrived one of London's most influential political salons and a circle of wealthy Victorian artists built studio houses as parcels of garden were sold off to fund the owner's lavish lifestyle.

We shall arrive at 10.30am and will have time to buy morning refreshments in the park cafe after which our guide will take us to explore Holland Park and the Kyoto Japanese Garden.

There will then be free time for lunch in Kensington High Street or in the park if you want to bring a packed lunch, after which we take a walking tour to see the beautiful studio houses of the Holland Park Set.

Our final visit will be to Leighton House, owned by a founding member of the Holland Park Circle, Sir Frederick Leighton. In it you will find an astonishing room – an Islamic courtyard reimaged into a London drawing room - which has been used as a set in various TV programmes and films including Nicholas Nickleby and an episode of Spooks. On display in the house are works of art by members of the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood including Burne-Jones, Watts and Millais as well as 81 oil paintings by Leighton himself. More details on website:

https://swanley.u3asite.uk/u3a_events/the-holland-park-set-politics-painters/

Cost £58.

A full day trip: Leaving Hextable at **8.30am** & Swanley at **8.45am**. Returning approx. **6.15pm**.

NOTE: I have now booked a larger coach so there are still places available for this outing. Please sign up and pay at the March meeting or sign up via website (link above).

Veronica Brazier

Saturday 16th May Dave Collins will be watching Day 2 of the 4-day county cricket game-Middlesex v Derbyshire at Lord's. Travel to Lord's by public transport and tickets for the game will cost £10 for seniors (over 65). [https://swanley.u3asite.uk/u3a_events/cricket-at-lords-](https://swanley.u3asite.uk/u3a_events/cricket-at-lords-cricket-ground/)

[cricket-ground/](https://swanley.u3asite.uk/u3a_events/cricket-at-lords-cricket-ground/)

Pay as you go and please see Dave if you would like to join him on that day.

Dave Collins

June

Wednesday June 3rd

'Hidden London and Regents Canal'

In 1666 the Great Fire swept away much of London, but as the flames died to ashes, one corner was untouched. The morning tour includes the precincts of St Paul's Cathedral, a rose garden in the haunted ruins of Christ Church Greyfriars, where four queens were buried, Post man's Park, home to very touching Art Nouveau ceramic plaques of the Watts Memorial to Heroic Self Sacrifice, historic Smithfield and London's oldest parish church, St Bartholomew the Great. We have coffee in Paternoster Square, and at the end of the gentle walking tour you are free to have lunch in the many pubs and cafes in the area.

After lunch we travel to Little Venice to board our boat for a 50 minute journey along the Regents Canal to Camden Lock, the guide pointing out places of interest along the way. There should be time there for refreshments in Camden before we take our coach back at 5pm.

This trip includes: A Blue Badge guide throughout Morning coffee 50 minute Canal trip

Cost: £62

Full Day Trip

Leaving Hextable at **8.30am** & Swanley at **8.45am**. Returning approx. **6.15pm**.

I am very sorry but this trip won't be suitable for those with rollators as the narrow boat can't take them. It is a gentle, flat walking tour of about 1 kilometre (approx. half a mile) with opportunity for stops and chances to sit down.

IF YOU HAVEN'T ALREADY PAID, PLEASE BRING CHEQUE TO THE APRIL MEETING or contact me via website at: https://swanley.u3asite.uk/u3a_events/hidden-london-and-regents-canal/

Sandra Treloar

Wednesday 5th Aug

Day at the Oval to watch a 1-day game Surrey v Kent

Dave Collins

The Social Committee are planning lots of events/outings for the rest of the year:

Other proposed outings for later in the year:

Tiptree Farm and Museum (*Possibly July*)

William Morris Museum (*Possibly August*)

Which some of you were disappointed to miss when it had to be cancelled last year
(*August 5th*)

Day trip to Lewes which some of you have requested (*Possibly September*)

Theatre trip More details to follow. (*Possibly Oct – November*)

Penny Collins

MEMBERSHIP for 2026 – 2027 IS NOW DUE

Our membership year begins at the beginning of April 2026 and runs until March 2027. The cost remains at **£20**.

Please note that you need to renew to continue to attend u3a meetings and activities.

Please can you renew now if you have not done so yet.

You can do this as follows:

- a) Our preferred option is that you pay your £20 renewal subscription by bank transfer.

The bank details are:

Bank: Natwest

Account number: 51170027

Sort code: 60 21 10

Account name: Swanley & District U3A

IMPORTANT When the bank asks for a **reference**, please put the **surname and your membership number** so we know who made the payment! (For example – **BAKER117**).

PLUS They need to confirm that they have made this payment by contacting Gill Baker via the Membership page on the U3A website: <https://swanley.u3asite.uk/membership/> or by letting her know at a meeting.

If they are paying for a spouse or partner in addition to themselves, they should provide both names in the email.

- b) If you prefer, pay by cash or cheque at one of the monthly meetings. Cheques made payable to **Swanley and District U3A** please.

Your new membership card will be available at the following monthly meeting.

Please let me know if any of your contact details have changed - address, email, phone numbers etc.

We hope that you will want to stay with us for another year, but if you have decided not to renew, it would be very helpful if you could let me know. You are welcome to rejoin at any time if that is the case.

I hope this covers everything – please contact me if you need any clarification.

Many thanks

Gill Baker Membership Secretary

GROUP / EVENTS NEWS

Bridge Group

This month's question:

What is the score for the following contracts?

2 clubs ♣: 10 tricks won not vulnerable

3 hearts ♥: 9 tricks won vulnerable

1 no trump: 8 tricks won not vulnerable

4 spades ♠: 9 tricks won vulnerable

5 clubs ♣: 11 tricks won not vulnerable

2 spades ♠: 6 tricks won not vulnerable

Answer next month

** Reminder and answer to last month's question:

North; ♣ AJ7 ♦ AK5 ♥ KQ73 ♠ KJ8

South; ♣ Q8542 ♦ J3 ♥ A8 ♠ T974

What will north open? What does south know about his hand. What will south do next?

North opens 2NT. This tells south that north has 20-22 high card points and an even, flat hand.

South has 7 points so he already knows that between the two hands there are enough points for a game contract (7 + 20 = 27 high card points minimum between them. 25 needed for a game contract – 3NT, 4H, or 4S). South now needs to find out which is the best game contract. So with a 4-card major suit he uses Stayman (after this opening bid of 2NT, Stayman has to be a 3C bid asking partner about his major suit length).

North has 4 heart cards so will bid 3H.

South was hoping for a spade bid. With no fit south now bids 3NT. North will pass.

You may think about bidding the club suit but with at least 2 cards in each suit NT is the best option (only needing to win 9 tricks rather than 11 tricks for a 5 club contract).

Carolyn & Colin Chapman

Geography Group

This month the Geography group looked at Uruguay. We found several interesting facts.

- 1 Uruguay is the smallest Spanish speaking country in South America
Suriname is the smallest country in South America but the official language is Dutch. Since Uruguay is the second smallest country in South America, it's the smallest one where Spanish is the main language. After Spanish, the majority of residents speak Portuguese.
- 2 Even though Uruguay is such a small country it still manages to send more troops to United Nations peacekeeping missions than any other country in the world.
- 3 The name Uruguay means either "river where the bird lives," "river of the painted birds," "river of the snails," or "winding river." The official name of the country is "The Oriental Republic of Uruguay" due to its location to the East of the Uruguay River.
- 4 Uruguay is the biggest consumer of beef in the world (per person).
- 5 Like Argentina, Brazil, Australia and New Zealand, there are more cows than people in Uruguay. In fact, 59.6% of Uruguay's land is used for sheep and cattle farming. Beef is the main export of the country.

6 It has the longest national anthem in the world
 The anthem originally had 11 verses but since many of them were rather rude about their previous colonisers Spain, Portugal and Brazil, only the chorus and first verse are now sung. Even so, it is almost 5 minutes long, making it the longest national anthem music in the world.

7 The national drink of Uruguay, Paraguay and Argentina is Mate an infusion (tea) made from the leaves of the yerba mate plant and boiling water. While Argentina, Brazil and Paraguay produce the most mate, it is Uruguay that consumes the most.
 A transportable thermos to allow mate to be enjoyed anywhere is specific to Uruguay.



8 98-100% of Uruguay's electricity comes from renewable sources
 Uruguay is also one of the most electrified countries in the southern hemisphere, with 99.9% of homes having access to electricity. Wind and hydropower are the most used sources for producing energy, with solar and biomass to a lesser extent. It took less than 10 years for Uruguay to get to this point!

9 In Uruguay, the 29th day of each month is officially called Gnocchi Day (Dia de Ñoquis), the day when most families will cook this potato-based pasta. It used to be the day before payday so gnocchi was the perfect filling meal made from inexpensive ingredients.

10 In Uruguay, salt is banned from schools and from being served on tables in restaurants. The government introduced laws to make salt less accessible. If you want salt, you have to ask the waiter to bring some to you. The same applies to ketchup and mayonnaise. The law also requires restaurants to provide warnings on menus about salt consumption and must offer low-sodium alternatives to their clients.

11 Uruguay has always been seen as a very liberal country. For example, it legalized divorce as far back as 1907 and was the first country in South America to establish a welfare state in 1903. Being gay was legalized in Uruguay in 1934 (long before the US in 2003 and the UK in 1967). Since 1916 there has been a strict separation between state and religion written into the constitution and religious instruction banned in public schools. In addition, all religious holidays have since been secularised. For example, Easter is referred to as La Semana de Turismo (Tourism Week), Christmas Day is called Día de la Familia (Day of the Family), and the Catholic holiday of 8 December (the feast day of the Immaculate Conception of Mary) is Beach Day in Uruguay.

12 Uruguay is regarded as the least corrupt, most democratic country in Latin America and along with Chile, the only place in S America to be rated as a high income country by the UN.

13 Tango - Uruguay cannot lay sole claim to the tango and neither can Argentina. The dance, a fusion of African musical traditions with European and Creole instruments and rhythm, was invented by the urban lower classes in both Buenos Aires and Montevideo.

14 Punta del Este, often called “the Monaco of the South” or “the St. Tropez of South America” has a giant hand sculpture “La Mano” on the beach, and a unique building the Casapueblo whose design resembles the nest of hornero bird.



15 Uruguay is the country with the oldest population in South America. While places like Japan and Italy are famous for having the oldest populations in the world, Uruguay is leading the way for countries in South America, as the only country from the region in the top 50.

16 Chivito is Uruguay's national dish - it's an epic sandwich consisting of a thin slice of steak, mozzarella, tomatoes, mayonnaise, olives, bacon, eggs and ham, served in a bun with French fries on the side.



The word chivito translates to small/*baby* goat.

17 Football is the most popular sport in Uruguay. Approximately 90% of Uruguayans are passionate about football, making it the most football-mad country in the world.

Colin Annetts

A Light-Hearted Look at Time

Phil takes a light hearted look at time, have a read, over a cup of coffee, you might then look at time differently.

Lost Days, Stolen Seconds, and the Lie of February

A brief history of how humans broke time and then argued about it for 2,000 years

If you've ever wondered why **September isn't the seventh month**, why **February looks unfinished**, or why **clocks occasionally invent a second**, the short answer is this:

Time is fine. Humans are the problem.

This is the story of how calendars, clocks, emperors, popes, revolutionaries, physicists, and railway companies all tried to "fix" time and mostly made it stranger

When winter didn't count

The earliest Roman calendar had just **ten months**, starting in March and ending in December. Winter wasn't assigned to any month at all. It simply... happened.

This explains why:

- September (*septem*) means seven but is now month nine
- October (*octo*) means eight but is now month ten
- December (*decem*) means ten but has ended up twelfth

At some point, January and February were added to the front, everyone noticed the numbering no longer worked, and collectively decided **not to fix it**.

That decision has lasted over two millennia.

February: the bin drawer of the calendar

February was always the awkward one. It became:

- The shortest month
- The home of purification rituals and festivals for the dead
- The place where Romans shoved emergency calendar fixes

When the year drifted out of sync with the seasons, priests would insert an extra month — sometimes for astronomical reasons, sometimes for political ones, and sometimes not at all.

The calendar was so unreliable that officials could quietly **extend their time in office** by "forgetting" to add a correction.

Time, it turns out, was already political.



Julius Caesar loses patience

By the 1st century BC, harvest festivals were appearing in the wrong seasons and nobody agreed what date it actually was. Julius Caesar finally intervened, consulting Egyptian astronomers and introducing the **Julian calendar**.

It gave us:

- A 365-day year
- Leap years
- And a reset year of **445 days**, known even at the time as *“the year of confusion”*

After his assassination, the Senate renamed his birth month **Quintilis** to **July** in his honour. Soon after, Emperor Augustus grabbed **Sextilis**, renamed it **August**, and ensured it wasn't shorter than July.

February, once again, took the hit.

Britain deletes eleven days

The Julian calendar slightly overestimated the length of the year by 11 minutes. Over 1,600 years, this added up to **11 days**.

Catholic Europe adopted the improved **Gregorian calendar** in 1582. Protestant Britain refused — largely because the Pope suggested it.

By 1752, Britain finally gave in. The fix was simple and alarming:

- Wednesday 2 September 1752
- Was followed by Thursday 14 September 1752

The dates 3rd–13th September **never existed**.

People genuinely feared their lives had been shortened, wages lost, and time stolen. “Give us back our eleven days!” became a popular slogan — proof that nothing causes panic like calendar updates.

Easter: the annual meltdown

Easter is calculated as the **first Sunday after the first full moon after the spring equinox**—except:

- The equinox is fixed to a date even when astronomy disagrees
- The moon is calculated, not observed
- Different churches use different calendars

Western churches use the Gregorian calendar. Orthodox churches still use the Julian. The result is Easter drifting by up to **five weeks**, occasionally aligning, often not, and reliably confusing everyone.

Every attempt to unify Easter has failed. Tradition is stronger than maths.

Revolutionary France tries again (and fails harder)

After the French Revolution, France decided to abolish kings, religion — and weeks.

They introduced:

- Twelve beautifully named months (Fog, Frost, Snow, Flowers...)
- Ten-day weeks with only one rest day
- Ten-hour days with 100-minute hours

The calendar was elegant, logical, and completely incompatible with human biology. Workers were exhausted, farmers hated it, and even revolutionaries quietly went back to normal clocks.

Napoleon officially killed it in 1806.

Railways break time

Before trains, every town kept its own local solar time. Noon was when the sun was overhead.

Railways made this impossible. Timetables collapsed. Trains crashed.

Britain solved this by imposing **Greenwich Mean Time**. The world followed in 1884, dividing the globe into time zones — neat on paper, chaotic in practice.

That's why:

- China uses one time zone across an entire continent
- India runs on a half-hour offset
- Nepal uses 45 minutes, apparently out of spite

Time zones are political borders wearing astronomical disguises.

Leap seconds: the extra second nobody wants

Atomic clocks are perfect. The Earth is not.

Because Earth's rotation slowly wobbles and slows, we occasionally insert a **leap second** to stop clocks drifting away from the sun.

This creates times like:

23:59:60

Computers hate this. Software crashes. Networks break. Google quietly smears the extra second across hours to avoid disaster.

The world has now agreed to stop adding leap seconds after about 2035 and let future generations deal with the consequences — a tradition humanity excels at.

Time doesn't flow. We do.

Modern physics suggests something deeply unsettling:

- The equations don't require time to "flow"
- Past, present, and future may all exist equally
- The universe may be a static block of spacetime

What we experience as time passing may be:

- Entropy increasing
- Memory recording change
- Consciousness stitching moments into a story

Astronauts really do age more slowly. GPS works only because Einstein was right. And the "present moment" may be a feature of the brain, not the universe.

The uncomfortable conclusion

Time is not broken.

Our attempts to organise it are.

Calendars are compromises. Clocks are agreements. February is a warning.

And somewhere in the cosmos, the universe carries on perfectly well — while we argue about daylight saving, lose days, add seconds, and insist that September should really know its place by now.

And if anyone ever complains about deadlines after reading this, you're officially allowed to say:

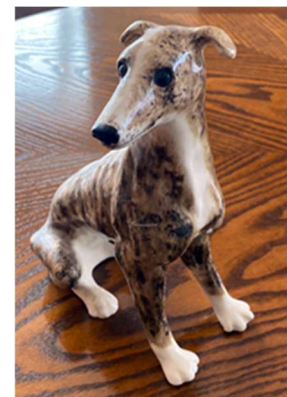
"Time isn't real — take it up with Julius Caesar."

Any questions to Julius Caesar, The Pope or Train Companies please.

A fun article by Phil Saunders

Antiques and Collectables

At our March meeting the theme was "Animals". Once again members brought a remarkable variety of items to share with the group. Dogs and elephants seemed to be very popular! We had the opportunity to admire a collection of pieces made of wood, tin, china and bronze. There were also some cigarette cards from the 1930's. Members had the chance to talk about their objects and the accompanying stories. Next month instead of our usual meeting, there will be an opportunity to visit the popular Antiques Fair at Detling.



John Baker

Swanley and District u3a Committee Members 2025/2026

| | | | |
|--|--|---|--|
|  |  |  |  |
| Dave Collins Chair | John Baker Vice-Chair | Carol Willingham Business Secretary | Clive Rayner Treasurer |
|  |  |  |  |
| Gill Baker Membership Secretary | Gill Morrin Minutes Secretary | Penny Collins Social Secretary | Alan Hayward Newsletter/Website |
|  |  |  |  |
| Nicola Teoh Speaker Organizer | Vacant Publicity Secretary | Sandra Evans Group Co-Ordinator | Susan Baugh Assisted Treasurer |

Contact Details

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Chair | David Collins |
| Vice Chair | John Baker |
| Business Secretary | Carol Willingham |
| Membership | Gill Baker |
| Social/Outings Coordinator | Penny Collins |
| Group Co-ordinator | Sandra Evans |
| Newsletter and Website | Alan Hayward |

You can contact any of the above committee members by going to the Swanley & District Website committee page at <https://swanley.u3asite.uk/contact/> and clicking on the appropriate name.

Website: <https://swanley.u3asite.uk/>

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Swanley u3a Groups Timetable

| Group | Leader | Meeting Day |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| Antiques and Collectables | Gill and John Baker | 3 rd Tuesday Morning |
| Art and Craft | Penny Collins | 2 nd Tuesday Afternoon |
| Art Appreciation | Margaret Austin | 1 st Monday Morning |
| Art/Painting & Drawing Art Outdoors | Gill Baker | 2 nd & 4 th Tuesday Evening |
| Art – Looking at Art | Gill & John Baker | As Notified in Newsletter/Website |
| Bird Watching | Bob Parker | 3 rd Tuesday /Wednesday as notified in Newsletter / Website |
| Board & Card Games | Joyce Wood | 2 nd or 4 th Mon pm Howard Cen Hex |
| Book Group | Sue Scott & Wendy Keable | 2 nd Monday pm Swanley Library |
| Bowls (Indoors) | Bob Mellor | 4 th Thurs pm at the Whiteoak's |
| Bridge | Carolyn & Colin Chapman | 1 st Wednesday Morning |
| Chess | Terry Bennet | 4 th Wednesday Morning |
| Creative Writing | Penny Collins | 1 st Thursday Morning |
| Croquet | Bill Hammond | Every Weds at 2pm Swanley Rec Gardens |
| Gardening | Sandy English | 4 th Wednesday Afternoon |
| Geography | Penny and Dave Collins | 3 rd Friday Morning |
| History Modern | Jackie Griffiths | 4 th Tuesday Afternoon |
| History of London 1 | John Baker | 2 nd Thursday Morning |
| History of London 2 | John Baker | 4 th Thursday Morning |
| Kurling | Bill Hammond | Every Mon 10—12. White Oak |
| Let's Speak French | Barbara Ramsey | 1 st & 3 rd Wednesday Morning |
| London History Walks | Alan Hayward/John Baker | As Notified in Newsletter/Website |
| MOTO (Members on their own) | Madeleine Opitz | 3 rd Thursday at 12.15 Elim Church Swanley |
| Music Making | Mark Fittock | Every Tuesday Morning |
| Petanque | Bill Hammond | Weds 2pm Princes Park Dartford |
| Photography (Digital) | Alan Hayward | 2 nd Friday Afternoon |
| Play Reading | Penny Collins | 4 th Friday Morning |
| Quiz Team | Dave Collins | As Notified in Newsletter/Website |
| Rugby-Walking & Appreciation | Alan Hayward/John Baker | As Notified in Newsletter/Website |
| Spanish | Ruth Wilkinson | Every Thursday Morning |
| Strollers | | Not meeting at Present |
| Table Tennis | Bill Hammond | 1 st & 3 rd Friday 2-3.30pm White Oak |
| Outings and Theatre Trips | As Notified by the Social Committee | |
| Word Magic on Zoom | Gill Heath | 2 nd Wednesday Morning |
| Walking Group | Clive Rayner | As Notified in Newsletter/Website |
| Wine and Dine | Santha Blankley | As Notified in Newsletter/Website |
| Wine Tasting | Robert Brickell | 4 th Wednesday Evening |