

# South Woodham Ferrers



Quarterly Newsletter Winter & Spring Edition



Statue of Thomas Bata from Local History Groups  
visit to Bata Heritage Centre

**Newsletter N° 187**

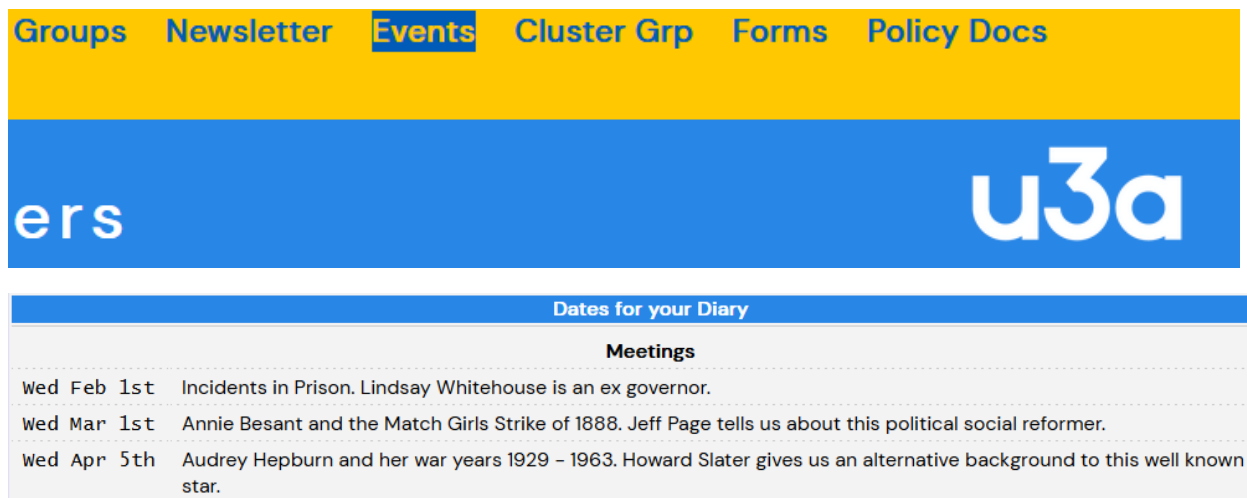
## From the Chair

Hello Everybody

I realise that its sometime ago now, but I trust that you all had a very enjoyable Christmas and that your New Year has started well. How nice it was to get together with family and friends this year without the major threat of cancellations due to covid. However, we have had the problem of strikes and I hope none of your planes were disrupted.

I would like to point out that we now have an EVENTS page on the website where you will be able to see events that have been book by group leaders. Hopefully this will enable you to plan well in advance for those you do not want to miss. Just click on the EVENTS button at the top of the page and this will take you to all the events information that has been added so far. If you want to have a look, click the link below.

<https://u3asites.org.uk/sth-woodham-ferrers/welcome>



The screenshot shows a website navigation bar with a yellow background and blue text. The navigation items are: Groups, Newsletter, Events (highlighted with a blue box), Cluster Grp, Forms, and Policy Docs. Below the navigation bar is a blue banner with the text 'ers' on the left and 'u3a' on the right. Below the banner is a section titled 'Dates for your Diary' with a sub-heading 'Meetings'. The meetings listed are:

Dates for your Diary	
Meetings	
Wed Feb 1st	Incidents in Prison. Lindsay Whitehouse is an ex governor.
Wed Mar 1st	Annie Besant and the Match Girls Strike of 1888. Jeff Page tells us about this political social reformer.
Wed Apr 5th	Audrey Hepburn and her war years 1929 - 1963. Howard Slater gives us an alternative background to this well known star.

An extract of the sort of information available

You will have recently received an email concerning a special general meeting that will be held on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> March. Please make every attempt to attend as a resolution will be considered regarding the 2023-2024 membership subscription. The remainder of the monthly meeting will continue afterwards as usual.

We have a full programme of speaker again this year and you will find details of these further down in the newsletter. I hope very much you will be able to join us at our monthly meetings and that you enjoy what they have to say.

I look forward to seeing you at our next monthly meeting.

Best regards

Bob Tyas - Chair SWF u3a

## Webmaster Report

In November we had major problems with many u3a websites, including ours, when access to them was removed by the service provider. The problem was resolved fairly quickly by the IT volunteers working at national and we are now back up and running as before.

If you have any comments regarding the website, if you notice any errors, or if you think anything need changing to improve its format, please email your comment to myself at [robert.tyas82@gmail.com](mailto:robert.tyas82@gmail.com)

Bob Tyas - Webmaster

## Information From Members

### Tylers Ride Over 60's Flats Open Day

I have been a resident of the above flats for the past six years and wanted to let you all know that there will be an Open Day at the development on the morning of Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> February. This will enable people to see what goes on, how the development works, and to see at least one of the flats. There are some flats available at the present time, but this Open Day is to give people a chance to find out more. You may not be ready for a move just at the moment, but come and have a look to get an idea for now or the future. I will be at the February meeting to take names of those interested and give out timings. I look forward to seeing some of you there.

Jan Rook



This is a picture of the beautiful orchid given to Lyn Kear as a leaving present, for all her hard work editing the newsletter. She has looked after it well.

## Speakers for 2023

February 1st	Incidents in Prison. Lindsay Whitehouse is an ex-governor.
March 1st	Annie Besant and the Match Girls Strike of 1888. Jeff Page tells us about this political social reformer.
April 5 <sup>th</sup>	Audrey Hepburn and her war years 1929 - 1963. Howard Slater gives us an alternative background to this well-known star.
May 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Plants and Food that changed history. Peter Guide gives us some surprising facts.
June 7th	My Creative Journey. Amanda Sutherland tells of her involvement in West End productions as a theatrical designer.
July 5 <sup>th</sup>	A cleaner, greener life. Alison Charles gives us tips on how we can protect the environment.
August 2 <sup>nd</sup>	The Agincourt Archer. Simon Waterfield recounts this period of history, dressed for the part.
September 5th	Nature through the Seasons Part 2. Roger Hance visited us in March 2022 with Part 1. Now we see photos of Autumn and Winter.
October 4 <sup>th</sup>	Continuity Capers. Sally Lawrence amuses us with broadcasting anecdotes.
November 1 <sup>st</sup>	Lost on the Somme. Julian Whybra prepares us for Remembrance Day and reminds us about the well-known people lost in World War 1.
December 6th	Christmas Traditions and Customs. Mark Lewis puts us in the mood for the Festive Season.

## Reports from the Groups

### Bowling Group

Hi everyone,

I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas and New Year celebrations? The Bowling Group has continued to be a great success and all members have really improved over the last year. Many of our members have now purchased their own bowling balls and shoes, and this has really made a big difference. Especially to one of our members, Sandra, who won most improved bowler trophy, which I presented to her at our Christmas bash. Well done Sandra thoroughly well deserved!



However, to my total surprise, I also received a small trophy for my work for the group over the year. It was so sweet of them all to do something so lovely and much appreciated. I also received a beautiful glass vase, a Christmas candle, and a small poinsettia plant. However, my little trophy was my favourite and stands proudly on a shelf in my living room now.



We decided to have our Christmas bash at the restaurant in the bowling alley and it was a wonderful success. They provided beautiful felt Christmas hats and crackers and the food was lovely. We also had our usual three games of bowling and a coffee beforehand and I made some baby mince pies to go with that. All in all, a wonderful celebration of a brilliant group!



Anyway, I hope you found this informative. I would love to be able to say 'come and join us, but unfortunately, I have a full complement of players at the moment but if you are at all interested in joining us feel free to contact me (Diane Hurrell 07969012451) and if I have any spaces, I will let you know. It only leaves me the opportunity to wish you all a happy, healthy, and peaceful New Year and my Bowling Buddies, lots of future strikes!

Diane Hurrell

## Cards and Games

Our friendly group has been going for almost a year now and have now got 22 members.

Maybe we can do something special to celebrate our year in March!!!

There is a lot of laughter amid the competitiveness and concentration of whatever game is being played. There do seem to be a couple of firm favourite games though.

Some of our members have learnt new games and admit it does get those little grey cells working.

So, from numbers, words, strategy, and brain teasers and not forgetting refreshments an afternoon of fun is had by all.

If anyone wishes to join us on the 4th Wednesday of each month then please give me a call on 01245 401015

Kay Miles

## Eco Group

We have agreed that we will be known as the Eco Group and will meet on the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month in the afternoon. We have had two meetings and lots of discussion on a variety of topics relating to the environment and climate change. We have also been taking some action!

Three members of the u3a helped with the Chelmsford Parks work morning in December in the area by Creekview Road. There was some planting of whips (baby trees) and bigger trees and also after-care of trees already planted. When you go past that area it looks a bit of a mess but when you actually go into it you can see where the trees are and how the grass, thistles and other plants are currently dwarfing the trees. Cutting an area back round the trees helps them to get established but the scrub also needs to grow to provide a valuable habitat for insects and butterflies. The intention is that in a few years' time it will be a new woodland with paths through the trees - and of course the trees will be helping to remove CO<sub>2</sub> from the atmosphere.

Barbara has produced some Handy Tips which are listed below - we would be happy to receive any other eco tips you might have. As I am also an Essex Wildlife Trust Urban Wildlife Champion, I am interested in doing a survey about hedgehog activity in SWF - I know several people have seen hedgehogs in the garden or even have them in a hedgehog house. An email has gone out with a survey link, but I will also have paper copies available at the next u3a meeting. If anyone has any suggestions of environmental projects around SWF that the group could investigate do let me know.

Ann Woolley - [ann.woolley.u3a@gmail.com](mailto:ann.woolley.u3a@gmail.com)

## Handy Tips to Help Save the Environment

### Recycling

- Recycle everything possible.
- Buy fewer clothes and wear what you have in your wardrobe.
- Visit local charity shops and donate unwanted items and keep an eye out for things you yourself can use.

### Save water

- Don't have the tap running when you clean your teeth. Turn on and off when required.
- Don't wash dishes and pots and pans under a running tap. Use water in a basin.

- If you have a dishwasher fill it right up before switching it on.
- Have as short a shower as you can (4-5 minutes).
- If you are boiling water for vegetables or eggs etc heat cold water in the kettle first and then pour it into the saucepan.
- if you only want one or two cups of tea only put a small amount of water in the kettle.
- If the tap runs cold water for a while before becoming hot, collect the water in a jug and use it for watering plants or pour it into the kettle for tea or boiling vegetables and other jobs.

### **Save power**

- Fit LED energy saving bulbs in all your lights.
- Don't have a light on if there is no one in the room- think about your hall and landing - do they need a light on all the time?
- Avoid using the tumble dryer if possible. Dry clothes outside or on a rack indoors.
- Don't use the oven unless necessary, then fill it up with several dishes and leave the door open when finished to heat the room.
- For free hot water fill a baking dish with water and put it in the oven whenever you have it on.
- Set your washing machine to wash at 30 degrees and have a short spin.
- If using a hair dryer have it on for as short a time as possible. Dry hair with a towel first.
- Turn your heating down a degree or so and see how low you can have it before it becomes uncomfortably cold.

Barbara

### **Gardening**

On 12th December, we enjoyed a pre-Christmas buffet and quiz at Champions Manor Hall.

Kate Smith gave a brilliant demonstration on how to make a wreath and table settings.

These creations were raffled off and the money will go to 2 children's charities.

This month's event was enjoyed by everyone when Victoria Robertson from Copped Hall, Epping showed us how to make our own living sculptures.

We made a lot of mess and had a good laugh creating animals using tights, compost, grass seeds and ribbons. The results were hilarious!



After we had cleared up, we enjoyed tea and cakes.

It had been a great afternoon.



Kate's Demonstration



Victoria Robertson with her Demo

Shirley Masterson

### **Holiday Group**

This is a new group which will give priority to people living on their own, so that they can mix with like-minded members on a holiday run initially by Kirbys Coaches.

A meeting will be held on 17th January to discuss interested people's ideas and preferences.

Shirley Masterson will then talk to Kirbys and see how it goes from there.

More details will be announced at the main meeting in February.

Shirley Masterson

## Local History

We are looking forward to our programme for 2023 and hope you will find the planned visits of interest.

We had some good feedback on last year's visits, the last one being to the Bata Heritage Centre in East Tilbury. The Bata Shoe Company has a fascinating history; founded by Thomas Bata in Czechoslovakia in the early 1900's it quickly expanded, setting up factories across the world, including East Tilbury in Essex in 1933, providing much needed jobs for the local area. Alongside the factories a small town was built providing houses and facilities for the workforce; these included sports facilities, a cinema, swimming pool, a dance hall, a farm, hotel and primary school as well as shops and of course a Bata Shoe shop. The factory closed in 2005, but many of the buildings remain and have been repurposed. After a talk on the history of Bata we had a guided tour of the key landmarks in the Bata town.

Open days are held during the year, the next one is on 22 April 2023, so if you weren't able to join us it is well worth a visit.

### **2023 Programme**

Our programme this year starts with talks in February and March, details of the talks and other visits are set out on the next page. We will be taking names and collecting money for the talks at the main meetings in February and March, signing up details for our visits will be sent out nearer the time.

## Local History Group Programme 2023

<b>Tuesday February 14<sup>th</sup></b>	A talk by Mike Fogg on South Woodham Ferrers, Dodgy Scales and Delivering the Mails.  Champions Manor Hall 1.50 for a 2pm start
<b>Tuesday March 14<sup>th</sup></b>	A talk by Tony Tuckwell, New Hall - Essex's unknown palace.  Champions Manor Hall 1.50 for a 2pm start
<b>Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> May</b>	A guided walk with Alan Pamphilon on the Industrial Heritage of Chelmsford, Time to be confirmed
<b>Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> June</b>	A visit to St Peter's Church, Bradwell. Afternoon visit
<b>Wednesday 12 July</b>	A visit to Prittlewell Priory. Afternoon visit.
<b>Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> September</b>	A walk with Stephen Nunn in Maldon.

We hope to see you at one or both of our talks. If you have any questions or want to join our group, then please come and speak to us at our table at the main meeting.

Allen, Mary, and Kate

### London Walks

Well, we survived our first full year of walks since 2019 and it was so good to be back out and about in London. The year finished with a fun filled Christmas lunch attended by Santa, Mrs Claus and two Elves. One smart and one very naughty!! Great fun. At the event Over £200's worth of food was bought for the local food bank from the proceeds of the raffle.



Our next meeting is at Champions Manor on February 23rd at 1.45 for a talk entitled 'The Rise, Fall and Rise again of London's Docklands.' This is open to everyone and is £5pp to include refreshments.

I have now sorted the list for the coming year, and you will find these on the Events page of the website. As I have mentioned before, the prices are going up and the cost will now be £10pp. Please, please, please, if you wish to pay me anywhere other than at the desk at the u3a meeting please put the money in an envelope clearly marked with your name and the event. Thank you.

Mary Brindley  
[rbmb4546@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:rbmb4546@yahoo.co.uk)

## Paint and Pastels Art Group

Our Paint and Pastels art group meets on the 2nd Monday of the month at 10.00am. We aim to have a theme for each of our sessions although group members are always free to 'do their own thing' at the meetings - there may be a painting or drawing that you have started that you would like to spend time on or perhaps discuss with the group.

Our theme for January was *The Colour Wheel* and in February we will be having a go at *Painting in the Style of Picasso*.

If you would like more information about the group or, indeed, would be interested in joining please feel free to call Chris on **07946 024302**. If you are interested in joining, there is the option of joining us one month for a free 'taster session'.

## Pics and Bricks (Art and Architecture Appreciation)

Our Programme of events and visits for 2023 is almost complete. In general, our events are open to all members of SWF u3a. If the number of places are limited by the venue priority may be given to Pics and Bricks Group Members but we would aim to accommodate all u3a members who may be interested. If you would like to become a Pics and Bricks member and be added to our email circulation list either contact Chris Miles ([chrismilesu3a@gmail.com](mailto:chrismilesu3a@gmail.com)) or come to see us at our table at one of the monthly meetings at Champions Manor Hall.

Our first event for 2023 is a talk on **Street Art - the things we pass in the street** at Champions Manor Hall at 2.00pm on **Tuesday 28th March**. Our speaker, Maggie, is a retired London Blue Badge Guide and the talk is built around photos taken by her whilst guiding in London of features with an artistic or architectural interest that caught her eye.

The cost is £5.00 per person and includes light refreshments of tea / coffee and biscuits.

Other dates for the diary are:

**Fry Gallery - Saffron Walden** - Tuesday 25th April (hosted by Francis Haine)

**Alexandra Palace** - Tuesday 23rd May (guided by Adam Scott-Goulding)

**Islamic Art at the V&A - Tuesday 27th June (guided by Barry Walsh)**

**Gainsborough's House, Sudbury - Tuesday 25th July**

**Turner Collection at Tate Britain - Tuesday 26th September (guided by Simon Whitehouse)**

We are also looking into the idea of walking, as a group, part or all of **The Line**, a sculpture trail in East London and tagging on some time at **Trinity Buoy Wharf to see/ listen to the Longplayer**. We are looking at August for this one.

Chris

## **Walking Group**

During 2022 the group was well supported by its members, and I think there was only one occasion when the weather forced us to cancel a walk. There were a few times during the year when I had to rely on others to lead walks and my thanks go out to those who stood in for me.

We are always glad to welcome new members to the group, however, for anyone wishing to join, you should be aware that our walks are of between 5 and 7 miles in length, over field, along bridleways and quiet lanes. We walk at a fairly stiff pace with few stops, and you will require walking boots and appropriate clothing.

Please feel free to just turn up at any of our walks, however, should you want more information please use my mobile number shown below or email me at [robert.tyas82@gmail.com](mailto:robert.tyas82@gmail.com).

Details of our walks may be found on the South Woodham Ferrers website at <https://u3asites.org.uk/sth-woodham-ferrers/events>

Walks for the next three months are as follows:

Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> February - Goldhanger and Blackwater circular walk - 6 miles - meet in Chequers Inn car park in Goldhanger just before 10am.

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> February - Paper Mill Lock circular walk - 6 miles - meet in The General Arms car park in Little Baddow just before 10am.

Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> March - Blake Wood walk - 5.5 miles - meet in Mayes Lane car park in Danbury for 10am start.

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> March - Woodham Walter walk - 5.5 miles - meet in the lay-by opposite the Bell Pub in Woodham Walter just before 10am.

Friday 7<sup>th</sup> April - Burnham on Crouch walk - 6 miles - meet in the Marina car park just before 10am.

Friday 21<sup>st</sup> April - Bradwell walk - 6.5 miles - meet in the St Peters on the Wall car park for a 10am start.

Bob Tyas 07889949685

## Wine Appreciation Group 1



Wine appreciation group 1 decided to have a get together after Christmas and to that end we meet at the Hawk in Battlesbridge at what would have been our January meeting. All agreed it was a very enjoyable afternoon.

Contact Janet Tipping [dandjtyping64@gmail.com](mailto:dandjtyping64@gmail.com) 07732114205

## Wine Appreciation Group 2

The SWF 2 wine group meets every second Friday afternoon in the month in the small hall at the back of the Village Hall. We had our traditional end of year Xmas dinner at the Hawk this year.



For this quarter the group will be tasting and reviewing in January the red Grape Variety Cabernet Franc from 3 different countries, and 2 wines with the white Viognier grape, an Alberino wine not from the traditional Iberian peninsula but from South Africa and a Chilean Rose.

We aim to try between 6-7 different wines, with a little background history of the origins of these different examples. The cost of each of these wines is not revealed to the group until tasted to avoid any cost influence in the decision, just the taste.

For February we move to a whole new set of grape varieties from a different country namely Bulgaria and Armenia, again split between white and red to cover the group dynamics.

For March we will be tasting an all-French line up of wines but from different with the not so well-known regions of France rather than the traditional ones that we are familiar with.

Our purpose is to provide and taste wines within our budget from anywhere in the world but always with a theme, together with a little background history of the grape varieties used and tasted.

The group is currently subscribed but we could take up to two more individuals and would always be happy to hold a small waiting list.

For further detail please contact Jeff Body



### Wine Appreciation Group 3

Wine group continues to enjoy social afternoons tasting a wide variety of wines, with plenty of interaction and fun. For varying reason we have lost a few members as have other groups.

We tried something a little different for our December meeting, pushing out the boat with some more expensive wines than we normally try, to accompany our "Christmas dinner". Fizz and nibbles to start, Chablis for our fish course, St Emillion for our main and Royal Tokayi accompanied our dessert., finishing with cheese and biscuits and a glass of port with mints. We all donned Christmas jumpers and lots of fun was had by all, even if it was very early December. Next month we are having lunch at The Purleigh Bell.

Today (17th) we have said goodbye to our dear friend Derek French. It was a beautiful service. We will all miss him at wine group for his sense of humour and the contributions he brought to the group. Derek enjoyed his wine, especially a robust red as long as it was a single varietal! We send our love and prayers to Pam.

Sheila & Brian

## Groups Monthly Meeting

Days of the week	Weeks of the Month				
		1st	2nd	3rd	4th
Monday	AM	Golfing Book Group 1	Golfing Paints & Pastels Art Group	Golf	Golf Strollers
	PM	Book Group 2 (NCA)	Gardening		Eco Group
Tuesday	AM				Picks & Brick (Art & Architecture)
	PM	Gin Appreciation	Local History Tai Chi		Picks & Brick (Art & Architecture) Tai Chi
Wednesday	AM		Fine Your Voice	London Walks 1	
	PM	Monthly Meeting	All Kinds of Music (NCA)		Cards and Games for Fun
Thursday	AM	Craft Science & Technology	Craft	Craft	London Walks 2 Craft
	PM		French		
Friday	AM	Bowling Walking	Bowling	Bowling Walking Digital Photography	Bowling
	PM		Wine Groups 1, 2, &3		Whisky Appreciation
Theatre as arranged, Curry Clique 4th Monday of odd months, Singles Social & Dining as arranged					

For more details on any of these groups please contact the Group Coordinator  
Allen Surrey 01245 320743

## **Deadline for Inclusion in Next Newsletter**

Please send your contributions to the next Newsletter by Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> April, to Bob Tyas at [robert.tyas82@gmail.com](mailto:robert.tyas82@gmail.com) or deliver to 55 Clements Green Lane, SWF. Alternatively, you can ring him on 07889949685.