

## FROM THE CHAIRMAN – Rowan Cain

### A Christmas and New Year message from the Chairman

It's that time of year again when, depending on your point of view, we “eat drink and be merry” or overindulge in a commercially inspired binge. Are you a “Ho, ho, ho” or a “bah humbug”? I like to think that Christmas and the New Year can be a time for friends and family and that we can take this attitude into our u3a events and meetings. We are not family but we can be friends. As I have said on more than one occasion, “we should be a friendly group rather than groups of friends”. For example, it was interesting to meet new people during our Christmas lunch at the beautiful Hintlesham Hall. We might not become bosom pals, but there is now a friendly face we can acknowledge and share a few words and experiences with. We should never just turn inwards, seeking only the security of those we know. In this way, we grow not only as an organisation but as individuals.

It came as quite a surprise to learn that the speaker for our December meeting was ill and to be informed that he was going to pull out of the engagement. Unfortunately, the late notice meant that finding a replacement was initially difficult and ultimately impossible. It fell to those members of the committee who were available to let members know that, regrettably, we had to cancel the event. Our priority was to get the message out and it is indeed fortunate that most members use email. I was able to phone those who do not, either leaving a message or talking directly. While I am pleased that we dealt with a situation we had not experienced before, we shall see if there are any ways in which we can improve our “emergency” communication with you all.

As ever, at this time of the year, we should acknowledge the work of the committee, those volunteers without whom the u3a would not function. The same goes for those who run the u3a groups. Thank you for all your work.

We have an interesting programme of talks and events ahead of us and I look forward to an exciting 2026.

I hope everyone has had a good Christmas and wish all our members a Happy New Year.

## EVENTS FOR 2026

**The Kelvedon Hatch Secret Nuclear Bunker on March 18th** - A coach trip to this interesting site south of Chelmsford, Essex. Please look at the website. <https://secretnuclearbunker.com/> We will be stopping at a garden centre on the way home for a visit and lunch. The inclusive cost covering both the coach and entry to the Bunker is £29.00. Please note - This trip is not suitable for those with mobility issues. Please **contact Rowan Cain**

**Guided Walk of Ipswich and Tea on Tuesday, April 14th** An afternoon walk in Ipswich, with optional tea The walk will start at 1.30pm. £6.00 pp for the walk, £12.00 to include tea,

Transport by car share or maybe the bus. Please **contact Rowan** as above.

**Wimpole Hall on Wednesday 20th May** A coach trip to this lovely National Trust Estate - House, Garden and Farm in Cambridgeshire. Cost £18.00 for coach and entry for National Trust members, £37.00 for non -National Trust members. Please look at the website <https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/cambridgeshire/wimpole-estate> Please **contact Jill**

Also, we will probably be booking the Theatre in the Forest at Sutton Hoo and the Southwold Summer Theatre next summer as well as Kentwell Hall in September.

## UPCOMING MONTHLY SPEAKER MEETINGS –

Co-ordinator **Tim Goodman** – **Contacts on Committee Page.**

2026

Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> January	Roger Hance – Nature Through the Seasons (Part 2)
Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> February	Paul Hatfield – Scuba Diving and Undersea Photography
Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> March	Mark Butterworth - Make a Bold Move – Write That Book
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> April	Derek Adams – Lee Miller 20 <sup>th</sup> Century Women
Monday May 11 <sup>th</sup>	Lisa Jones- Knickers-the History of Women’s Underwear
Monday June 8 <sup>th</sup>	Jim Stebbings – History of D’Oyly Carte Family
Monday July 13 <sup>th</sup>	Summer Party - Jane Hogger

**NEWS FROM THE GROUPS** - **Contacts for all groups on following Groups List**

**CALLIGRAPHY**- **Polly Shearley-Saunders**

The picture below is the Calligraphy group's contribution to the URC's Christmas exhibition of "Stars" on behalf of the u3a. We called it "A Scroll of Stars" !



## CANASTA – Keith Earle

The meetings are well attended and enjoyed by all members.

## GARDEN VISIT GROUP – Angie Wild

Many of the group attended the annual Christmas Meal and were able to catch up with members during our closed period over winter. If you would be interested in joining the group or being kept informed by e-mail please contact Angie below. Garden visits to NGS and other gardens will commence again from April until September.

## FRENCH CONVERSATION – Daniel Spires

The Group is going well.

## MAHJONG – Pat Simonet

The meetings are going well.

**SCRABBLE – Pat Simonet** Some interesting games have taken place and meetings going well.

## SOCIAL HISTORY I – Louise Daniels

Are you interested in History? We are currently looking for a few more members for our group. We meet once a month at Hadleigh Library where we have a coffee, chat and listen to an informal talk given by one of our members. Each member presents one talk a year to about 10 people on any subject of your choice. Previous talks have been about, the Parker Pen Company, the Stowmarket Gun Cotton Disaster, the County of Yorkshire, Festival of Britain 1951 and the Witchfinder General. Why not come along and see what we are about for yourself and join us for a coffee.

**Every 4th Thursday of the month at 10.00am. Any queries to Louise Daniels the new group leader.**

## **SOCIAL HISTORY 2 – Jessica Bailey**

We are an active group and every one of our 10 members contributes during the year. Recently we have had talks about Crime, Punishment & Law enforcement; What Jane Austen didn't tell us and The Beast of Bergholt. We're looking forward to a meal out in January instead of our regular meeting.

## **WALKING GROUP (LONG) – Gerie Broadhead**

Enjoying great walks with a nice lunch at the end around various parts of Suffolk. We are still at capacity numbers wise.

## **WALKING GROUP (SHORT) – Jenny Astill**

Those able to lead group walks of 2 – 3 miles please contact Jenny as below.

**If anyone would like to set up another group or knows anyone who may be interested in doing so please contact Liz Ferguson or Angie.**

## **UPDATED SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS – WHO, WHEN AND WHERE.**

If any of the groups appeal to you or if you have any other suggestions for new groups please contact Liz or Angela (See following Committee page for contacts) There is plenty of information and details of subject experts available and we can help with contacts and further advice on the practicalities of starting a group.

<b>Books (Reading)</b>	<b>Cathy Snow</b>			<b>2nd Thurs 2.00 Library Seminar Room</b>
<b>Calligraphy</b>	<b>Polly Shearly- Sanders</b>			<b>1st &amp; 3rd Mon 10.00 URC Community Rm</b>
<b>Canasta</b>	<b>Keith Earl</b>			<b>1st Mon 10-12.00 Lib Upstairs Rm</b>
<b>Garden Visits</b>	<b>c/o Angela Wild</b>			<b>Recommencing April 2025</b>
<b>Family History</b>	<b>Kathy Selby</b>			<b>1st Wed 2-4.00 Library Seminar Room</b>

<b>French Conversation</b>	<b>Daniele Spiers</b>			<b>Meet Monday mornings in each other's houses by arrangement.</b>
<b>Local Projects</b>	<b>Roger Young</b>			<b>Details from Roger</b>
<b>Looking at Art</b>	<b>Lindsey Collings</b>			<b>4<sup>th</sup> Mon 2.30 Library Seminar Rm</b>
<b>Lunch Club 1</b>	<b>Julia Wild</b>			<b>1<sup>st</sup> Fri Various times/venues</b>
<b>Lunch Club 2</b>	<b>Jenny Astill</b>			<b>Once a month. Various dates and venues</b>
<b>Mahjong</b>	<b>Pat Simonet</b>			<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Monday 10-12.00 Library Upstairs</b>
<b>Nature Watch</b>	<b>Jean Jeram</b>			<b>4<sup>th</sup> Fri 9.30 Various venues</b>
<b>Quiz</b> <i>(joint with Stour Valley u3a)</i>	<b>Richard Pitt</b>			<b>4<sup>th</sup> Wed 2.00 pm Lambe School, E Bergholt</b>
<b>Scrabble</b>	<b>Pat Simonet</b>			<b>4<sup>th</sup> Mon 10-12.00 Library Upstairs Rm</b>
<b>Social History 1</b>	<b>Louise Daniels</b>			<b>4<sup>TH</sup> Thursday of month at 10.00 Library Seminar Room</b>
<b>Social History 2</b>	<b>Jessica Bailey</b>			<b>4<sup>th</sup> Mon 10.00 Various venues</b>
<b>Ukulele Group</b> <i>((with Stour Valley u3a )</i>	<b>Richard Pitt</b>			<b>1<sup>st</sup> &amp; 3<sup>rd</sup> Wed 2.00pm Lambe School, E Bergholt</b>
<b>Walking (Long)</b>	<b>Gerie Broadhead</b>			<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Friday 9.30 am Swimming Pool Car Park.</b>
<b>Walking (Shorter)</b>	<b>Jenny Astill</b>			<b>4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month.</b>

## HADLEIGH u3a CURRENT COMMITTEE

<b>Chairman</b>	<b>Rowan Cain</b>		
<b>Vice Chair+ Events Coordinator</b>	<b>Jill Owers</b>		
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Peter Gower</b>		
<b>Membership Secretary+Website</b>	<b>Louise Daniels</b>		
<b>Speaker Co-ordinator</b>	<b>Tim Goodman</b>		
<b>Events Treasurer</b>	<b>Gill Skipper</b>		
<b>Groups Coord+Events+Tea Party</b>	<b>Liz Ferguson</b>		
<b>Newsletter</b>	<b>Angie Wild</b>		
<b>Ex Officio Volunteers :</b> <b>Committee Member - Events</b>	<b>Roger Young</b> <b>Pat Simonet</b>		

Lists correct at 31.12.25