



## **South Woodham Ferrers Monthly Newsletter**



**Gardening Group at their September Meeting**

**October 2021  
N° 182**

## **From the Chair**

Hello all

Next week is to be a remarkable milestone for our U3A group. We return to live monthly meetings at Champions Manor Hall!

I would like to think that members will support these meetings and I know some will have trepidation about turning up.

We will have appropriate Covid 19 measures in place but again it is up to members to ensure they follow those guidelines – Use of hand sanitisers, social distancing and use of facemasks when moving around the meeting rooms.

It's also great to hear that live group meetings are increasing in attendance.

Sadly our secretary, Janice Tyas has resigned and I will be taking on the role for the foreseeable future. In the meantime, the committee will be seeking a volunteer to take on the role as minute's secretary with the potential of becoming the group's secretary. If there is anyone interested, then please contact one of the committee members.

I look forward to meeting you at last on the 6th of October and in the meantime, support your group leaders, stay safe and enjoy the latest but restricted freedom in whatever group you participate in.

Best regards

Ian Mathews

## **This Months Speaker**

The speaker this month is Ian K Davidson and his talk will be "Consumer Competitions - entering and how to win them".

## **News from the Social Committee**

Hi all, a committee meeting was held on Friday 17th September and certain decisions were made regarding the future of social gatherings for now, and the way forward.

I am able to announce good news and sad news.

### **GOOD NEWS...QUIZ NITE EVENT IS GOING AHEAD.**

The Quiz Night at Champions Manor Hall on Saturday 6th November 2021 will go ahead as planned. The doors will be open for 7.00 pm for a start at 7.30. Finishing around 10.00.

Tickets will be on sale at our next u3a open meeting on Wednesday 6th October 2021.

Tickets will be £3.00 per person. Cheques must be made payable to South Woodham Ferrers u3a.

Bring your own drinks and nibbles (and sanitizer).

Please advise your group preferences on purchase of tickets as table groups of 8 would be great. You will be guided to the ticket desk upon entrance at Champions Manor Hall.

I hope you will be able to join in the fun and get the grey matter working.

### **SAD NEWS... CHRISTMAS PARTY SATURDAY 18th DECEMBER .....CANCELLED.....**

It was felt that with the uncertainty of the COVID situation going in all sorts of directions and the party being held so close to the Christmas festivities. It would be unfair to the members to hold this group gathering at this time. So I will try and get things going in some fun direction in the new year.

I hope to see you all at our next meeting Champions Manor Hall on the 6th October 2021.

Brian Hurrell  
Social Committee

## **Walking Group**

The planned walks for the next two months are as follows:

### **October Walks**

Friday 1st - Goldhanger/Blackwater Walk - 6.5 miles - meet in the Chequers Inn car park in Goldhanger (CM9 8AS) just before 10.00.

Friday 15th - Maldon/Beeleigh/Langford Walk - 7 miles - please meet in Maldon Tesco car park for the 10.00 start.

### **November Walks**

Friday 5th - Burnham on Crouch Walk - 6 miles - meet in the Marina car park in Burnham just before 10.00.

Friday 19th - Danbury Circular Walk - 7.5 miles - please meet in Mayes Lane car park in Danbury just before 10.00. (This is a change from the previously published list to replace the walk missed in September.)

We are happy to welcome new members to the group so please feel free to just turn up at any of the walks. Walking boots and suitable clothing are recommended.

Bob  
Mobile: 07889949685



**Septembers Bicknacre Walk**

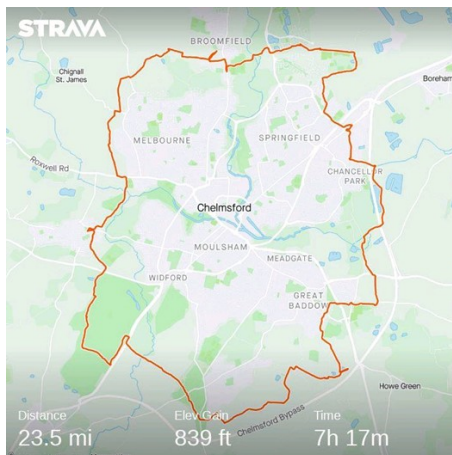
## Mission5000

My Girlguiding Trefoil Guild decided to support the Motor Neurone Disease Association (MNDA) as their charity of the year. We had raised over £600 through a lunch, afternoon tea, bring & buy sale and raffles. I decided I would do my bit and registered for MNDA's Mission5000 challenge. The aim was for all participants to cumulatively cover 5000 miles during the month of August. Why 5000? There are only ever about 5000 people in the UK living with MND.

My aim was 150 miles and, I thought, a rather ambitious £500 target. Half way through the month I heard that one of our U3A members had been diagnosed with the disease which made the challenge much more meaningful for me. I decided to do a long walk dedicated to her. On 27 August, with my husband and a friend walking a Million Steps for Diabetes UK, we embarked on the 21 miles Centenary Circle around Chelmsford. It was an ideal day for walking. The route was in 5 sections so we had a break after each one; by the church in Sandon, a coffee shop in Springfield, lunch in Broomfield, tea and cake by the pond in Writtle and then more cake back at Galleywood. It was nice easy walking and we completed it in 9 hours. My Strava actually clocked up 23 miles so even better!

My total mileage for the month was 169.74 and the total raised was £920. The overall total raised by all participants currently stands at over £62,000 which is fantastic. My Just Giving Page is still open and if anyone would still like to donate please go to <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/ann-woolley2>

Thank you to everyone who supported me.  
Ann Woolley



**21 miles Centenary  
Circle walk around  
Chelmsford.**

## **London Theatre**

**Pretty Woman** - Wed. Mat. - **13<sup>th</sup> October '21** - 10+ £39.50. Tickets are available and I will have copies for those who have requested a paper copy at the meeting.

**Cinderella** - Wed Mat - **19<sup>th</sup> or 26<sup>th</sup> January '22** - 10+ £49.50, 20+ £39.50 New musical from Andrew Lloyd-Webber. I now have 9 names, however, the show has now been extended until 22<sup>nd</sup> September so unless more people come forward, we'll have to book a later date. Please let me know if you are interested.

**& Juliet** - Thurs Mat - 8+ £45.00 - 10+ £35.00, 20+ £30.00. Only booking until the end of March. I still only have 5 names so I won't be able to book for this show.

**Prince of Egypt** - Thurs Mat **17<sup>th</sup> or 24<sup>th</sup> March or 12<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> May** - 6+ £29.50, a new special seniors rate. Since we won't book '& Juliet' we could bring forward this show to the 17<sup>th</sup> or 24<sup>th</sup> March. Please let me know your preference and I'll make a booking next month.

At last we are able to meet at Champions Manor. I'll have the normal table out and am looking forward to seeing everyone there.

Pauline

## **Gardening Group**

The gardening group resumed garden visits in August with a trip to Hyde hall. 16 members enjoyed a stroll around the gardens before tucking into cream teas, thankfully before the downpour. The retiring committee, Jill, Joyce and Rhona were presented with vouchers as a mark of gratitude for all their work over the last few years.

On September 13 the group visited Ultingwick. 24 members eventually found their way past unscheduled road closures to enjoy the beautiful displays of dahlias and other exotic late summer blooms. In warm sunshine we wandered around the neatly tended grounds before tucking into delicious cakes.

Our next outing is to Feeringbury Manor on October 11<sup>th</sup> and Perrywood garden centre on November 8<sup>th</sup>. Please sign up at the main meeting or email Sue. [Suecrann139@gmail.com](mailto:Suecrann139@gmail.com)

Sue Crann, Shirley Masterson and Janet Tipping

Janet



**Cream Tea at Hyde Hall**

## **Play Reading Group**

After three very enjoyable Play Reading Group meetings in my garden during June, July and August we are now meeting once again in the small hall at the village hall. Over the summer we have made sure we kept the programme light and amusing. Having spent much of the previous eighteen months in lockdown we just wanted to be cheerful with nothing too heavy to tax us! Short comedies were the order of the day, probably the funniest being the suffrage play in which working women go on strike and arrive on the doorsteps of their 'nearest male relative' following an announcement by the government that women do not need the vote because they are supported by their 'nearest male relative'. Poor Horace Cole ends up with his living room cram packed with women claiming he is their 'nearest male relative' along with an array of luggage, parrots, dogs, golf clubs - you name it and it lands on him! Another very funny short play we read was about a Russian farmer who visits a neighbouring farm to propose marriage to the farmer's daughter, only it takes him a while to get round to telling her what he has actually come for and in the meantime they get at what you might call '*cross* purposes'! All good fun and more to come!

**Judith**



## **Coffee with Coleridge Poetry Group**

It's a terrible shame that so many people are put off poetry at school when it needn't be like that. At Coffee with Coleridge Poetry Group we like to enjoy our poetry, and everyone has a free hand to choose the poems we read, unlike school where you are presented with a heavy diet of poems that can seem impossible to understand. Some of us like to write poems which we take along to the group to give them an airing and test other people's reactions, but that's an optional extra, it's certainly not an essential part of what we do. Thanks to grants from SWF u3a committee and our own efforts at producing and selling an anthology of our own work, we have a plentiful supply of poetry books which we lend to our members so nobody need feel left out. As with Play Reading Group, after a summer of garden meetings we are now back in the small hall at the Village Hall. At our next meeting our theme will be *Halloween and creatures of the night* - pointy hats optional!

## **Judith**

### **Pics and Bricks**

Pics and Bricks is an Art and Architecture appreciation group. We arrange guided walks and visits to places with an artistic or architectural interest.

We will have a table in the 2nd hall for the meeting on Wednesday 6th October and are starting to think about ideas for 2022. Please come and see us for a chat about that or to join our group if you not already a member. It will be great to see you. If you have any ideas for places to visit next year please come along and share them with us.

If you will not be at the meeting but would like to learn more about our group Chris's contact details are included in the Interests and Activity Groups Section of this Newsletter

Chris and Roy

## **Paints and Pastels Art Group**

I'm not going to tell you what we will be doing at our next Paints and Pastels meeting. It's a secret. And as I haven't told our members I can hardly print it in the newsletter! But don't get too excited or you might be disappointed. Suffice to say all you need is drawing paper and pencil or charcoal - and a huge pencil eraser if your art is as bad as mine! Yes, I am the person who had to write on the bottom of her picture of a calf 'This is not a dog!' You see, some of us are better at art than others, but that really doesn't matter as long as you enjoy yourself. We are what you might call a mixed media group. Sometimes we work in acrylics, sometimes in watercolour, sometimes in pencil, or maybe ink. We are even well equipped to do lino cutting. Thanks to the generosity of SWF u3a committee we have managed to build a supply of materials we can lend to members who are new to art or perhaps have never worked in a particular medium, so they can have a dabble before buying. Our meetings are now up and running again, in the small hall at the village hall.

## **Discussion Group**

When lockdown started we decided that, one way or another, we would continue to come together to enjoy our discussions. It was then that I came across Zoom and within a month or so we had tried it and found it very successful. From then on we met on Zoom once a fortnight. Of course we discussed covid, the awful daily statistics, and how the virus was affecting countries around the whole world, but in the main we tried to avoid the subject altogether and keep the discussions varied and even light hearted. In the last few months, once regulations permitted, we met in the garden, but last month we returned for the first time in eighteen months to meeting in person in the village hall. I am pleased to say that group membership is almost the same as pre-covid and the group is thriving!

**Alan W**

## **Thank You**

I would like to say a big thank you to Judith Walker on behalf of myself and all the members of the groups that she has been sending a monthly "magazine" to during lockdown and beyond. She has kept us all entertained and connected during very difficult times, and has got lots of us motivated to write bits for the magazine which has shown us that there is a "writer" in us all.

Thank you Judith for all your efforts and hard work.

Doulla Day

### **Executive Committee**

Chairman	Ian Mathews	07421776829 <a href="mailto:ian@swf-u3a.org">ian@swf-u3a.org</a>
Vice Chairman	Bob Tyas	01245 321110 <a href="mailto:webmaster@swf-u3a.org">webmaster@swf-u3a.org</a>
Secretary	Ian Mathews	07421776829 <a href="mailto:ian@swf-u3a.org">ian@swf-u3a.org</a>
Treasurer	Kate Smith	<a href="mailto:treasurer@sfw-u3a.org">treasurer@sfw-u3a.org</a>

### **Committee Members**

Membership Secretary	Kay Miles	01245 401015 <a href="mailto:membership@swf-u3a.org">membership@swf-u3a.org</a>
Group Coordinator	Sheila Chilton	01245 321238 <a href="mailto:groups@swf-u3a.org">groups@swf-u3a.org</a>
Speakers Secretary	Shirley Masterson	<a href="mailto:shirley@sfw-u3a.org">shirley@sfw-u3a.org</a>
Web Master	Bob Tyas	01245 321110 <a href="mailto:webmaster@swf-u3a.org">webmaster@swf-u3a.org</a>
Member	Brian Hurrell	07913390302 <a href="mailto:social@swf-u3a.org">social@swf-u3a.org</a>
Member	Brian Chilton	01245 321238

### **Social Committee**

Group Leader	Brian Hurrell	07913390302 <a href="mailto:social@swf-u3a.org">social@swf-u3a.org</a>
Member	Graham Evans	01621 742524
Member	Pat Golding	01245 320846

## Interest and Activity Groups

The information given below is for U3A purposes only and not used for other purposes or passed on without the persons permission.

Where no contact details are given please use the Groups Coordinators e-mail, [groups@swf-u3a.org](mailto:groups@swf-u3a.org) for initial contact details.

Activity Groups	Contact Details
<b>All Kinds of Music</b> 2nd Wednesday 2.00 - 4.00	Jenny Dale
<b>Book Group 1</b> 1st Monday at 10.00 am	Anne Turner 01245 322933 <a href="mailto:anneturner70@hotmail.com">anneturner70@hotmail.com</a>
<b>Book Group 2</b> 1st Monday at 7.30 pm	Pam French 01245 400311 <a href="mailto:derekpamfrench@hotmail.com">derekpamfrench@hotmail.com</a>
<b>Cards &amp; Games for Fun</b> 4th Wednesday 2.00 - 4.00	
<b>Coffee with Coleridge Poetry Group</b> 4th Wednesday 10.30 - 12.30	Contact Judith 01245 321380
<b>Craft Group</b> 1st & 3rd Thursday 10.00 - 12.00	Sandra Rolfe 01245 320374 <a href="mailto:sandra.rolfe@btinternet.com">sandra.rolfe@btinternet.com</a>
<b>Curry Clique</b> 2nd Wednesday odd months	Graham Evans 01621 742524
<b>Discussion Group</b> Meets second Tuesday 2.0 – 4.0 pm	Contact Alan W 01245 321380
<b>Digital Photography</b> Meets 4th Friday at 10.00am	Ali-J Wilson
<b>Drawing</b> 4th Monday 2.00 - 4.00	Ali-J Wilson
<b>Find Your Voice</b> 2nd Wednesday 10.30 - 12.30	Shirley Masterson 01621 740110 <a href="mailto:fambridgehouse@yahoo.co.uk">fambridgehouse@yahoo.co.uk</a>

<b>French</b> 2nd Thursday 1.00 - 3.00	Jean Foddering 01245 320874
<b>Gardening</b> 2nd Monday	Janet Tipping 01245 323424 <a href="mailto:dandjtipping64@gmail.com">dandjtipping64@gmail.com</a>
<b>Gin Appreciation</b> 1st Tuesday 7.00 - 9.00 pm	Mary Brindley 01245 329162 <a href="mailto:rbmb4546@yahoo.co.uk">rbmb4546@yahoo.co.uk</a>
<b>Golf</b> Every Monday morning	Phil West 07751022666 <a href="mailto:philwest33@sky.com">philwest33@sky.com</a>
<b>Local History</b> 2nd Tuesday 2.00 - 4.00	Kate Smith <a href="mailto:u3aswfhistory@outlook.com">u3aswfhistory@outlook.com</a>
<b>London Theatre</b> Meet to suit tickets	Pauline Coster 01245 320437 <a href="mailto:costerpc@outlook.com">costerpc@outlook.com</a>
<b>London Walks</b> 3rd Wednesday (March to November)	Mary Brindley 01245 329162 <a href="mailto:rbmb4546@yahoo.co.uk">rbmb4546@yahoo.co.uk</a>
<b>Luncheon Club</b> 2nd Thursday at elected venue	
<b>Paint &amp; Pastels Art</b> Meets third Wednesday 10.30am – 12 .30 noon	Contact Judith 01245 321380
<b>Pics, Brick &amp; Moore - Art &amp; Architecture</b> 4th Tuesday (may vary due to venue)	Chris Miles 01245 401015 <a href="mailto:Chris.miles48@yahoo.co.uk">Chris.miles48@yahoo.co.uk</a>
<b>Play Reading</b> Meets third Tuesday 2.0 – 4.0 pm	Contact Judith 01245 321380
<b>Science &amp; Technology</b> 1st Thursday 10.00 - 12.00	Ken Pratt
<b>Singles Social &amp; Dinning</b> 3rd Monday 11.30 am	Joan Bridger 01245 328369

<b>Strollers</b> 4th Monday at 10.30 am	Jill Hiskett 01245 320794
<b>Tai Chi</b> Meets every Monday 1.15 - 2.30	Gareth Chandler 077602234536 <a href="mailto:gochandler@btinternet.com">gochandler@btinternet.com</a>
<b>Walking</b> 1st and 3rd Friday at 10.00 am	Bob Tyas 01245 321110 <a href="mailto:robert.tyas82@gmail.com">robert.tyas82@gmail.com</a>
<b>Whiskey Appreciation</b> 4th Friday	Alan Golding 01245 320846 <a href="mailto:alan.golding@btinternet.com">alan.golding@btinternet.com</a>
<b>Wine Appreciation1</b> 2nd Friday 2.00 - 4.00	Janet Tipping 01245 323424 <a href="mailto:dandjtipping64@gmail.com">dandjtipping64@gmail.com</a>
<b>Wine Appreciation2</b> 2nd Friday 2.00 - 4.00	Gerald Malone 01245 325572 <a href="mailto:gjmalone@yahoo.com">gjmalone@yahoo.com</a>
<b>Wine Appreciation3</b> 2nd Friday 2.00 - 4.00	Brian Chilton 01245 321238 <a href="mailto:sheila.chilton@talktalk.net">sheila.chilton@talktalk.net</a>

### Useful Links

South Woodham Ferrers U3A

[www.swf-u3a.org](http://www.swf-u3a.org)

Crouch Valley U3A

[www.u3asites.org.uk/crouch-valley](http://www.u3asites.org.uk/crouch-valley)

Essex Association of U3A's

[www.u3asites.org.uk/essexassociationu3as/welcome](http://www.u3asites.org.uk/essexassociationu3as/welcome)

National U3A

[www.u3a.org.uk](http://www.u3a.org.uk)

### Deadline for Inclusion in Next Months Newsletter

Please send your contributions to the next Newsletter by Wednesday 27th October to Bob Tyas at [webmaster@swf-u3a.org](mailto:webmaster@swf-u3a.org) or deliver to 55 Clements Green Lane, SWF. Alternatively you can ring him on 01245 321110.

Day of the Month	Week of the Month				
	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	
<b>Monday</b>	<b>AM</b>	Golfing Group Book Group 1	Golfing Group	Golfing Group Singles Social & Dinning	Golfing Group Strollers
	<b>PM</b>	Tai Chi Book Group 2	Tai Chi Gardening	Tai Chi Discussion Group	Tai Chi
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>AM</b>				
	<b>PM</b>	Gin Appreciation	Discussion Group	Play Reading	Pics, Bricks & Moore
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>AM</b>		Find Your Voice	London Walks Paint & Pastels	Coffee with Coleridge
	<b>PM</b>	Monthly Meeting	All Kinds of Music		Cards & Games for Fun
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>AM</b>	Craft Science & Technology		Craft	
	<b>PM</b>		French		
<b>Friday</b>	<b>AM</b>	Walking Group		Walking Group	Photography
	<b>PM</b>		Wine Groups 1,2 1,2 &3		Whisky Appreciation
Theatre as Arranged, Curry Clique 2nd Wednesday of odd months					