

We are pleased to announce that Alan Ashby of the RNLI (our speaker last month) collected £207.62 in donations. The u3a donated £50, the remainder came from the collection box of member's donations. Thank you.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Membership renewal is due at the **March** meeting, for Membership from 1st April 2026 to 31st March 2027. Everyone should have received a message with all the data Welling u3a holds on you. If anything need changing please contact Jill Thomas/Pauline Griffin who will make the alterations, especially if you do not you wish to receive the quarterly magazine, u3a Matters.

Membership Secretary: Jill Thomas

Beacon Manager: Pauline Griffin

At the meeting in March you can make your payment by cash or cheque. We would like to encourage as many of you as possible to pay by bank transfer prior to the meeting, if possible.

Bank details are: **Welling u3a, Barclays, Sort code: 20-62-69, Account number: 80278319.**

Please give your name or membership number as the reference.

At the meeting you can pick up your new membership card. We would like to encourage you to also take the card of any friend who has not been able to attend. This saves us the cost of posting them out.

Please sign up for Gift Aid if eligible. Forms for Gift Aid will be available at the meeting.

COMMITTEE NEWS

A number of committee roles are up for election at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) in June. These include Vice-Chair, Membership Secretary (two people could share this role) and Assist to Treasurer. You are welcome to come along to any committee meeting to experience what goes on, just speak to any member of the committee (they wear red lanyards). We meet approximately 10 times a year (3rd Wednesday of the month) and lots of support is available to help you fit in. For more details about these, or any other role, please speak to Phil Hinton

GROUP NEWS

The Games & Craft Group:

This new group is proving to be successful. Future sessions will be held at Welling Library meeting room on the last Thursday of each month. Next meeting is **March 26th - 10am - 12 noon**. Refreshments will be available, free of charge. Names, to secure one of the limited 20 places, and £2.00 (to cover the Library hire charge) will be collected at the u3a meeting on Wednesday.

Group Vacancies

- **Thursday lunch group – 4/5 vacancies.** This group meets at various restaurants once a month, variable Thursday each month.

- **Cribbage group 2 - currently only 7 members, new members welcome.**
No knowledge of the game is required. This group meets on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month in the afternoon.
- **Darts – 1 vacancy.** This group meets at 2.00 on the second Thursday of each month, beginner level.
- **Required - New Pot Luck and Current Affairs Groups.** Unfortunately both of these groups have closed due to the loss of their group leaders. If anybody would like to start the groups up again, please contact Marisa on the details below.

We are always looking for people to come forward and show an interest in starting up a new group of any kind. Marisa Miller is the Group Co-ordinator and is always willing to help with this and give support where needed. These groups can be run at your home; in pubs or library meeting rooms. Please contact Marisa on the details below if you would like more information on any of the above.

PLANNED VISITS/EVENTS

June 11th 2026 Brick Lane Summertime Music Hall

Irene Thorley has organised a trip to this “traditional end-of-the pier” matinee show on 11th June with three course lunch at £55.

Outstanding payments to be collected at the **March** meeting

Tuesday 19th May – An afternoon visit to Dog Racing at Romford Stadium – Cost £23.00, including travel and entry to the races. (10.50am – 7.00pm).

Money to be collected at the **March** meeting

Thursday 4th June – A day trip to Rye Market – Cost £27.50 (9.20am – 5.00 from Rye)

Money to be collected at the **March** meeting

NEXT MEETINGS and SPEAKERS

25 th March 2026	Membership Renewal followed by Lighting the Fuse - Lucy Lewis
22 nd April 2026	Hitchcock - The Man, the Myth, the Legend – Gary Lewis
27 th May 2026	Frida Kahlo - Anthony Grant
24 th June 2026	Watching the Detectives, a history of TV crime fighters - Peter Allen.
22 nd July 2026	SOCIAL
26 th August 2026	Murder, Madness and Mayhem – Melanie Gibson Barton
23 rd September 2026	Life as a Royal Protection Officer – Richard Griffin
28 th October 2026	Traditions, Customs and History of the Greek Orthodox Church – Father Charalambus
25 th November 2026	Churchill – Tony Harris
16 th December 2026	SOCIAL

Please contact Janis Rudland if you know of anyone that is poorly, is in hospital, has sadly passed away or has a special birthday. She will send a card from the u3a.