



Trevor Ford <trevorford435@gmail.com>

Sidcup u3a July Newsletter

1 message

Trevor Ford via Sidcup u3a <noreply@u3abeacon.org.uk>
 Reply-To: Trevor Ford <trevorford435@gmail.com>
 To: Trevor Ford <trevorford435@gmail.com>

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St. Lawrence Church Hall for Monthly meetings

16/7/2026. Janie Ramsay - Lifestyle of the Duke and Duchess of Windsor.

"Wisdom of the Ages" Invitation The project celebrates the experiences and perspectives of people aged 70+, exploring life, love, loss and everything in between through relaxed conversations about their lives. Participants are invited. Click onto Attachment to see further details of the project.



Anyone for Mahjong ? (see New Groups below)

New on the [website](#) this month:-

- Events : report & photos : York National Festival July
- Events : photo & report : Shakespeare impersonator
- Book Group : "Fahrenheit 451" by Ray Bradbury
- Cards : photos : pinprick technique, June
- Churches/Cathedrals : report & photos : Temple Church, June
- Family History : report "Brushmakers", June

- Freedom Pass : report & photos : Wallington+BeddingtonPark, June
- Local History : report & photos :Highgate Cemetery, June
- Pot Pourri : photo & report : Gunnersbury Park, June
- Ramblers 3 : report & photos : Oare Creek, June

Groups round-up

NEWS:-

LRU3A Table Tennis Turnout 2026, 9th July

By popular request this annual event for all London u3a table tennis members has been organised for Thursday 9th July at 'Bounce' at their Battersea Power Station location. If you want to join us please register here: [TTT 2026](#). More information will be issued to those who register. Any queries drop Derek an email at: webmaster.londonregionu3a@gmail.com

Walk with u3a, Friday 18th September 2026, Sedbergh, North York Moors

Islington u3a is again opening its Walking Weekend to other London u3as. Only a few rooms are available.

For more information look here: [Sedbergh](#). To register drop Derek an email at: webmaster.londonregionu3a@gmail.com

NEW GROUPS :-

The Country Houses, Castles and Cathedrals group has almost reached the end of the course. Members are interested in continuing meeting up, using DVDs I have had for some time, and would be interested in watching again. I think I hosted this course about 20 years ago (!) and maybe there are others (newer members perhaps) who would like to join us. Therefore, I propose a new course: -

1) The World's Greatest Churches

The group will meet in my home to watch a series of lectures given by an American Professor. The course covers churches in many countries, along with early histories. We will be meeting on the 4th Wednesday of each month, 2-3.30 pm, and the first meeting will be on 26th August.

If you are interested in joining us please contact me, Val Gosden, email address ray.gosden@zen.co.uk or phone 0208 300 0664.

2) Mahjong : Part of Games Group Leader Trevor Ford Meeting 2nd Thursday 2.30

Following a couple of refresher workshops at the National Festival, I am raring to offer this opportunity to enjoy an exciting game from China (introduced in this country in the 1920's). Attractive tiles based on suits of Circles, Characters & Bamboos build up into sets (*a bit like Rummy*). Don't forget the Dragons, Winds, Seasons & Flowers. First meeting on August 13th.

The Groups round up is rather short this month as many outings were cancelled due to the hot weather.

Book Reading: Leader Kate Berry

The book for June was Fahrenheit 451 by Ray Bradbury, chosen by Jan.. This is a dystopian novel actually written 50 years ago but strangely prophetic and relevant to society today.

Written about a society where books and reading were banned by the authorities as a means of censorship and conformity. (A highly relevant topic for a book group I think.) Firemen were employed to burn books and also those dissidents found owning or reading them. It also explores the themes of human endeavour versus human connection.

Reactions from the group were strong, both for and against. A real Marmite of a book giving rise to great discussion.

Jan Bennett

Family History: Leader Kate Berry

June's topic was "Brush Makers". Besoms, made of twigs, were followed by animal hair mounted onto wooden sticks. The Brush Makers Society, effectively England's first trade union, had strict rules for how they were made. They also provided welfare, and a Tramp - a circular route through cities, for members seeking work. Thank you Carolyn for this very informative talk.

Hand Crafted cards: Leader Val Gosden

The cards we made in June have a texture made by using templates to prick holes in cards. A design is added in the centre, and some colouring adds the finishing touch.

Local History: leader Lynn Plumer

Local History visited Highgate Cemetery, one of the 'magnificent seven' Victorian cemeteries built during the 1800s on the outskirts of London. Today it is a private cemetery still open for burials at a cost.

Our tour was of the West side of the cemetery and included the catacombs, Egyptian Avenue and family mausoleums in the Circle of Lebanon. We also visited the East side to see the grave of Karl Marx. We learnt about the symbolism used on graves as well as attempts to secure the dead from the clutches of grave robbers in the past. During our tour we visited a selection of graves and were told about those laid to rest there. It was a very interesting visit.



Pot Pourri: leader Pat Laughton

Shirley Eaton was our leader for the June visit to Gunnersbury Park which is situated a short walk away from Acton Town tube station and well worth a visit. The house and grounds were given to Ealing Council in 1929 by the Rothschild family. The house is now a museum but retains many of the features of the grand houses of the time. Both the house and grounds are free to enter.



Ramblers3: Leader Trevor Ford

Oare Creek, June 2026 led by June Bailey

Eleven Ramblers walked a six mile circular route from Oare, Faversham, through rape fields and open countryside of grazing sheep to join the path along the edge of the Swale opposite the Isle of Sheppey. Yachts were sailing and a Thames barge was moored. Back to lunch at The Three Mariners pub.



Group vacancies: See handbook or [website](#) for contact details

Bridge

Classical Music

Creative Writing

Family History

Mahjong (Games @ Q/Gate)

Play Reading

Quilling

National & Regional

National Friends Newsletter [link](#)

London Region Events, including walks & talks

- *Events* bookings.lru3a@gmail.com

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