

Reg. Charity No. 1160603

Issue:RGE50

HULLBRIDGE U3A GROUP NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2026 EDITION

Welcome to the latest newsletter.

50th edition as your editor



WINTER APPROACHING!

Date of next Hullbridge U3A Meeting

Tuesday 20th October 2026

Hullbridge Community Centre

Meeting start times **1:00 p.m. sharp** Please note only guide or assistance dogs may be brought to any of our meetings and currently no non-members may attend.

Please also note, it is essential that all members attending have their membership cards with them. Your individual card holds a bar code for use with the new check-in system. For new members, 'Buddies' will be at the door to help you.

OUR Website:

Visit our very own Hullbridge U3A Website, full of information, click on this address:

https://hullbridge.u3asite.uk/

A range of daily puzzles have been added to the website on the last page. There is a jigsaw, Sudoku, Logic, Einstein's puzzle, Guardian Crossword and an Easy crossword for those who enjoy such challenges. Hope you all enjoy.

New, Games:- Freecell, Jigsolitaire and a Trivia quiz has been added.

Go for it and log-in, you will be surprised, lots of great information! ☺

000o000

Our **Facebook** page

(1) Hullbridge u3a | Groups | Facebook We now have 120+ members on this group. Have a look and try this out for yourselves.

ooo0ooo

Newsletter

Contents

OUR Website: 2

News from the Chair! 3

Committee Members 2026/2027 4

This Months Speaker:- 5
For information, future speakers planned will be: 5
Group Articles & Activities: 5
Bird Watching Group 6
Digital Photography Group 7
Natural History Group 9
Singing for Fun Group 9
Ten Pin Bowling 10
Butterflies Lunch Group 11
Calligraphy 11
Historic London Group 12
Keith Wooderson Image of the Year 2026 15
Operation Mincemeat Outing 15
Quick Quiz 17
Website info: 17
'In our Thoughts…..' 18
Articles for the newsletter ** 18
Last Laugh ! 19
World Wide Web: 20

News from the Chair!

October 2026

Last month, our open house for tea and a chat welcomed any new members to join us and find out what we get up to.

Phil was also on hand for anyone who wanted help with submitting a photo for the Keith Wooderson trophy. This competition will close at the end of the month. If you have not done so already, please look through your phone or camera and forward a photo to Phil or contact him for help if needed. The competition will be judged by yourselves in November with the winner being announced at the annual U3A Christmas dinner.

I would like to say a big thank you to John Lock, who entertained us by singing a few songs from his collection.

Please remember to bring any loose change for the monthly raffle and any donations for our speaker in August from Medecins Sans Frontieres. We will be sending any money collected and a donation from ourselves after the meeting.

Clodagh would be grateful for any books you would like to donate is still selling second hand books on behalf of Prostate Cancer UK at each meeting. Paperbacks 50p and hard back £1.

We are still looking for someone to shadow David, in his role as treasurer. We also wonder if anyone would be able to audit our accounts. We would be most grateful.

I look forward to seeing you next week.

Lynda.

Committee Members 2026/2027

Chairperson:	**Lynda Plant**
Vice Chairperson:	**Carol Askew**
Treasurer:	**David Selkirk**
General Secretary:	**Joan Williams**
Membership Secretary:	**Patricia Pomfrett**
Assistant Membership Secretary:	**Chris Wooderson**
Social Secretary:	**Pam Watson-Jones**
Social A/c Treasurer	**Amy Wright**
Groups Coordinator:	**Pat Orme**
Speaker Secretary:	**Sylvia Bentley-**
Beacon:	**John Pomfrett**
Raffles	**Jenny Shultz**
Buddies and Welfare:	**Carol Askew**
Web-Manager:	**Phil Perry**
Newsletter Editor	**Robin Evans**

Note:

The new U3A Beacon emailing system is up & running, emails are being sent to the members via Beacon which will appear as
noreply@u3abeacon.org.uk
If they are not recognised by their mailbox they could end up in Spam/Trash folders. If you want or need to reply to an email, you cannot reply to the 'Beacon' address as you will see it is a 'noreply' box, but you will see the sender named address in **Blue** underneath the message that you can use.

Personal guests at monthly meetings:

Can you please note that due to seating restrictions in the main hall, we are not able to accommodate your personal guests at our Monthly Meetings.

This Months Speaker:-

Martin Lloyd

'How to be famous Author'

OOO

ANDY MOORE – COLCHESTER ZOO – ANIMAL PRESERVATION (CHANGED TO NEXT YEAR)

For information, future speakers planned will be:

2026

*November 17th – Ray Clark – Stay Tuned!
* December 15th – no speaker, but fun and entertainment at –The Xmas lunch 2026

Group Articles & Activities:

Groups Up-Date

The following groups have vacancies.

BOOK GROUP 2
CHURCHES
CONTRACT WHIST
GUITAR
KNIT & NATTER
UKULELE
WHAT THE PAPERS SAY

If you are interest in joining any of the above groups there will be the usual wish list sheet to put your name onto at the members meeting which will be on the groups table, or if you are unable to attend the meeting contact me and I will pass your details onto the relevant group leader.

Pat Orme Groups Co-Ordinator

Bird Watching Group

The Hullbridge U3A Bird Watching Group

Monthly Report by Roy Simmons



The September meeting was held on the 23rd September at Two Tree Island. The weather was brilliant for late September. Due to the drought the water was very low in the lagoon but better than expected. Bird numbers were down but we were able see; Curlew, Carrion Crow, Magpie, Little Egret, Herring and Black Headed Gulls. On the walk back we heard a Cetti's Warbler.

Having had a great morning we retired to the Golf Practice Centre half a mile up the road for refreshments and a chat.

The October meeting will be on the 28th October at Blue House Farm. Meeting in the Car Park at 10:00 Hrs. Last time we were there the lagoon was virtually dried up with no birds anywhere near the hide, so I propose walking along the river this time.

Location: EWT Blue House Farm Reserve, Blue House Farm Chase, Chelmsford CM3 6GU

Please note that Phil Perry has created a superb new "U3A Hullbridge" Web Site and the Group Monthly Report can be found on their using this link:- https://hullbridge.u3asite.uk/

Digital Photography Group



The Hullbridge U3A

Digital Photography Group

Monthly Report

By Roy Simmons



The October meeting was held on the 6th October, and was a Photo Shoot at Gunners Park Southend on sea. Four members attended who had a good walk round taking plenty of photos for the November Review.

The November meeting will be on the 3rd November at 2 pm. The venue will be 59 Keswick Avenue, Hullbridge, unless otherwise notified. It is important that you let me know whether you will or will not be attending, so that I have an idea of numbers, as 10 is the maximum I can fit into my dining room.

Roy has sequenced and printed the images for the November Exhibition which is in the Hullbridge Library and will be on display for the month of November.

The results have been circulated to the members attending the selection meeting in September.

Please note:- The Group Reports are now on the DPG Web Page that Phil Perry has created on the "U3A Hullbridge" Web Site. This Web Site can be reached using this link:- https://hullbridge.u3asite.uk/

Digital Photography Group Exhibition 2016

"The River Crouch"

(Battlesbridge to the Estuary)



2022 Exhibition (Hullbridge)

The Digital Photograph Group is currently preparing an Exhibition to be on display in the Hullbridge Library from the 1st November for the entire month. Please see the opening times from the Hullbridge Library web site. Please add your comments about the display in the book provided.

Natural History Group



Natural History Group

Monthly Report by Roy Simmons



The October meeting was held on the 14th October, when we watched a video entitled "Ecology", followed by a discussion.

The November meeting will be held on the 11th November commencing at 10:00 Hrs. at 59 Keswick Avenue, Hullbridge, SS5 6JP. It is important that I know who is expected, well in advance, so that I can plan ahead, so please let me know whether you will or will not be attending.

Please note the monthly report is now on the new "U3A Hullbridge" Web Site which can be reached using this link:- https://hullbridge.u3asite.uk

Singing for Fun Group

The Hullbridge U3A Singing for Fun Group

Monthly Report by Roy Simmons

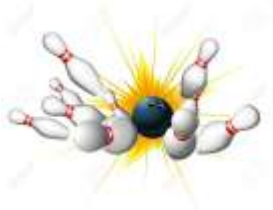


Singing for Fun

Come and join in

Roy Simmons (facilitator)

Ten Pin Bowling



Hullbridge U3A Ten-Pin Bowling Group 1 – October 2026

This month we were a little short on ladies. I assume those that couldn't make it were attending to their household duties. Therefore, one lane of ladies and two lanes of gentlemen was the order of the day.

Game 1

In the ladies lane we saw **Iris** continue her form from last month by finishing on 82 in first place, 10 points ahead of **Clodagh**, with **Sandy** taking third place.

It was a very close affair, in Lane 2. with **Michael** finishing on 91 just ahead of **Bob** on 90. **Alan** and **Roy** tied for third place on 89.

For the Gents in Lane 3 **Ken** broke the100 point barrier, taking first place with 103 whilst **Graeme** bottomed out in second, on 93 with **Steve** on 84 in third place.

Game 2

This time it was **Sandy**, who lead the ladies home with a fine 96, pushing **Iris** in to second on 82 and **Linda,** with her unique style of bowling "bowl but don't watch" into third on 81.

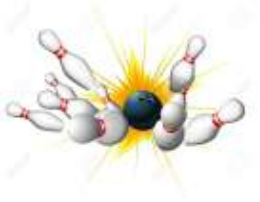
In Lane 2, now fully fortified with coffee it was **Brian** who stormed into first place. In fact he put his 'Heart and SOUL' into it having to retrieve his right shoe, one time, when it somehow tried to join the bowling ball on its way to the pins. Second place was **Bob** on 94. Although the scoring system failed, to register the correct number of points he scored during

one round, he still would not have caught **Brian**. In third place came **Michael** (*Mr Consistent)* with a score of 93.

Moving on to Lane 3 **Steve** finally got his direction right and topped the scoring charts with a fine 123. In second place was **Graeme** on 98 followed by **Ken** on 90. Now I didn't see it for my-self but I was reliably informed that the scoring system, on this lane was also playing up and that a strike by one bowler was credited to another bowler. Apparently this also would not have affected the overall winner. Representation was made to the CJ's Manager asking they 'sort it' before we return for our Novembers session.

So well done **Steve** for Top Scoring.

Keep Bowling..... .



Ten-Pin

Butterflies Lunch Group





The Butterflies Lunch group met on the 14th September and had lunch at the Travellers Joy pub in Rayleigh. Lovely get together again with friends and a good chinwag!

The next meeting was on Friday 9th October, where we had an excellent meal. So much so, it was decided we would book the same place for our Christmas get together on 4th December.

Next Month on the notorius Friday the 13th November, we will be going to the Gambero D'Oro, one of our favourites in Rayleigh.

Calligraphy

Calligraphy Report for 2nd October 2026

This month we experimented with many different pens, nibs , inks and styles.

We even had time to launch a rocket in between.

Lots of very interesting results and no one got too 'inky' either!

Jackie Abrehart







Historic London Group

Hullbridge u3a Historic London Group visit some of the hidden gems of London. 18.09.26



Our group members boarded the train at Hockley and Rayleigh and terminated at Liverpool St, visiting the magnificent Hamilton Hall for refreshments. A couple of stops on the underground and we returned to street level at Moorgate, where we met Susan our guide to secret places in the city. We took the short walk to the Salter's Hall. The Salter's Company originated in 1394 and is one of the Great Twelve Livery Companies, ranked number nine in the order of precedence. In medieval times, the Salter's Company members were salt traders, involved in the preparation

of the chemical mixtures for the use in food as a preservative before we were blessed with refrigeration. The grade II listed building was built in 1976 and was designed by Basil Spence, best known for his work on Coventry Cathedral. There were also beautiful gardens with a water feature and a large portion of the original Roman London Wall built 200AD within the one acre hidden gem. Victorian Gates dating from 1887 from the previous headquarters of the Salter's Company in St Swithin's Lane which were damaged in the blitz and extensively repaired and regilded in 2014, now stand proudly outside the reception entrance.

We took a high level walk way and saw the remains of the tower to the church of St Alphage. A former priory church was built adjoining the London wall with original foundations possibly before 1000. Most of the church was destroyed by fire, Henry VIII, the first and second World Wars. The remains were designated a grade II listed structure in 1950. The high level walkway we stand on to view this historic site was built in 2018-2019 and parts were repaired for it to remain a central feature in a new plaza named London Wall Place and St Alphage Garden.

On route to our next hidden gem, the tower of St Giles, Cripplegate was pointed out by our guide. Founded around 1099 by Alfune, then bishop of London, St Gile's has been home to every type of person imaginable: Tanners, Brewers, Crooks, Rebels, Voyagers, Thespians and even Royalty. Funded initially by the guilds and the parish, it grew along with them out of the swampy moorlands into prosperity.



Next stop is Barber and Surgeons Hall, The London Wall is home to one of the City's oldest Livery Companies. Barber-Surgeons' Hall is an elegant and multi-functional event venue. The beautifully grand townhouse is the third incarnation of the original Hall on this site, standing alongside the remains of the Roman-built London Wall. Offering rooms flooded with natural light and panelled in Japanese oak, the venue has a stunning terrace overlooking a historic herb garden. The 4 rooms are ideal for conferences, summer receptions, and dinners making it a sought-after location for events.





Arriving at the next green space on our tour, we learned this secret garden in the City of London has a very unlikely link to Shakespeare, Winston Churchill, and Fulton Missouri in the United States of America. One Love Lane was the site of the church of St Mary Aldermanbury which was first mentioned in 1181. Like many of the City churches it was burned down in the Great Fire of London in 1666 and was rebuilt by Sir Christopher Wren. The church was destroyed in the Second World War and its remains exported for a college chapel and memorial to W ll in Missouri USA. These gardens are open 24 hours a day.

London UK

Fulton USA





We then visited the Worshipful Company of Goldsmiths Garden another garden on the site of a destroyed church. This time the church was St John Zachary Church, built in the 12th century and dedicated to St John the Baptist. The church underwent several renovations, including a 16th-century spire, but was destroyed in the Great Fire of London in 1666. Its parish merged with St Anne and St Agnes, though ruins remained until the 19th century. Our guide explained that in the year 1300, King Edward I of England established a standard for gold and silver to ensure quality and prevent fraud. Thereafter precious metals had to be tested and approved by master craftsmen and given the mark of a leopard's head before being sold. Over the ensuing centuries, many London artisans brought their finished metal goods to Goldsmiths' Hall, where the Goldsmiths' Company had a charter to grant their unique mark of approval to wares that met standards of purity. The process is much the same today. At first, people used *hallmark* to name that mark of excellence from Goldsmiths' Hall, but over the years the word came to refer to any mark guaranteeing purity or genuineness, and eventually to any distinguishing characteristic, trait, or feature. The sculpture 'The Three Printers' by William Dudenay, Britain's only public monument to newspapers was prominent in the garden. Unintentionally, over the next half-century this sculpture came to represent the spirit of an industry which had existed in the same spot since William Caxton set up his first printing-press in Fleet Street in the late 1400's. The piece remained in situ after the great national newspapers moved east in the mid-1980s, but fell victim to the redevelopment of New Street Square in the mid- 2000s. Consigned to a demolition yard in Watford by the developers, it was discovered by former Fleet Street journalist Christopher Wilson who brought it to the attention of the Goldsmiths' Company, who as freeholders of the New Street Square had become unknowingly the final owner of the sculpture.





We ended our walk at Postman's Park which is a public garden in central London, a short distance north of St Paul's Cathedral The park opened in 1880 on the site of the former churchyard and burial ground of St Botolph's Aldersgate church. A shortage of space for burials in London meant that corpses were often laid on the ground and covered over with soil, which elevated the park above the streets which surround it. In 1900, the park became the location for George Frederic Watts's Memorial to Heroic Self-Sacrifice, a memorial to ordinary people who died while saving the lives of others and who might otherwise be forgotten.

We then visited the local Wetherspoons for food and drink before our trip back home.

Thank you to Carol and Paul Ogden for setting up this interesting and informative tour of the hidden gems of London.





Keith Wooderson Image of the Year 2026



Keith Wooderson Image of the Year 2026



We are now in the final month to enter the Keith Wooderson Image of the Year 2026 project.

Images can be taken on a camera, phone or any digital device. Entries are limited to one image per member or two images per couple.

Images can be of sea, sky or landscapes, cute creatures, objects, interesting views, wildlife, creative thinking, fun shots or anything you believe, will win the votes of your fellow members.

Please email (p_perry56@hotmail.com), or text (07823 779081), or on memory stick to Phil Perry before the end of the month

Images will be voted for by our membership in November and a trophy will be presented to the winner and certificates to the first three in December.

Let's remember our former Chairman, member and friend.

Operation Mincemeat Outing

Hullbridge u3a take a full coach to see Operation Mincemeat

Operation Mincemeat



The award-winning hit musical comedy about the true story of a 1943 World War II deception plan. Showing at the Fortune Theatre (29 Russell St, London, WC2B 5HH), a short walk from Covent Garden. The most intimate of theatres first opened in 1924 and the first London Theatre built after WW1. Its longest running production being *The Women in Black* 33years.

The story line

Operation Mincemeat was a successful British deception operation during the Second World War to disguise the 1943 Allied invasion of Sicily. Two members of British intelligence obtained the body of Glyndwr Michael, a homeless man who died from eating rat poison, dressed him as an officer of the Royal Marines and placed personal items on him identifying him as the fictitious Captain (Acting Major) William Martin. Correspondence between two British generals that suggested that the Allies planned to invade Greece and Sardinia, with Sicily as merely the target of a lie was also placed on the body.

Part of the wider Operation Barclay, Mincemeat was based on the 1939 Trout memo, written by Rear Admiral John Godfrey, the director of the Naval Intelligence Division, and his personal assistant, Lieutenant Commander Ian Fleming. With the approval of the British prime minister, Winston Churchill, and the American military commander in the Mediterranean, General Dwight D. Eisenhower, the plan began by transporting the body to the southern coast of Spain by submarine and releasing it close to shore, where it was picked up the following morning by a Spanish fisherman. The nominally neutral Spanish government shared copies of the documents with the German military intelligence organisation, before returning the originals to the British. Forensic examination showed they had been read and Ultra decrypts of German messages showed that the Germans fell for the ruse. German reinforcements were shifted to Greece and Sardinia before and during the invasion of Sicily; Sicily received none.

The full effect of Operation Mincemeat is not known, but Sicily was liberated more quickly than anticipated and losses were lower than predicted. The events were depicted in *Operation Heartbreak*, a 1950 novel by the former cabinet minister Duff Cooper, before one of the intelligence officers who planned and carried out Mincemeat, Ewen Montagu, wrote a history in 1953. Montagu's book formed the basis for the 1956 British film *The Man Who Never Was*. A second British film was released in 2021, titled *Operation Mincemeat*.

The James Bond Connection

Fleming came from a wealthy family connected to the merchant bank Robert Fleming & Co. After the war Fleming went on to write the James Bond series of books; he based much of Bond's superior, M, on Godfrey). Fleming wrote his first Bond novel, *Casino Royale*, in 1952, at age 44. Eleven Bond novels and two collections of short stories followed between 1953 and 1966. The novels centre on James Bond, an officer in the Secret Intelligence Service. Fleming also wrote Chitty Chitty Bang Bang.

The Comedy Adaption

The award winning comedy musical on both sides of the Atlantic has been adapted from a true story. The writers and a cast of just five pulled it off, making the audience laugh and chuckle at the witty lines and energetic antics on stage whilst showing respect for the unknowing corpse. The show runs for 1 hr 35 min including a 20 min break and has received 58 5-star reviews.

Glyndwr Michael



The identity of the body employed as Major Martin was kept secret during and after the war, and was the source of some speculation. The body was identified in 1996 as that of Glyndwr Michael, a Welsh homeless man, and recognised as such by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission and a plaque in Aberbargoed in Wales (see left). Today Glyndwr Michael's body has been laid to rest in Huelva Roman Catholic Cemetery in Spain.

Thank you to all those who supported this day out.

Quick Quiz

QUIZ QUESTIONS- October 2026

1. The cathedral in which British city is known as The Ship of the Fens?

2. Which British composer is famous for his Enigma Variations?

3. Which Dutch city is famous for it's blue and white pottery?

4. What name is shared by a military helicopter and a 1960s hit single by The Shadows?

5. The name of which capital city is used in the NATO phonetic alphabet?

6. What name is given to a group of 8 US universities which includes Harvard?

7. Entomophobia is a fear of what?

8. What is the fastest creature on 2 legs?

9. What is the common name for the body part the Hallux?

10. Which is the largest island in the Mediterranean?

ANSWERS AT THE END OF THE NEWSLETTER

Website info:

The new Hullbridge u3a website is up and running and provides you with a lot of information. There are events, dates and details. Plus Interest Groups

showing who to contact if you would like to join a group and even start a new group.

On some Group pages there are historic reports and photo's of past visits.

There are policies, historic newsletters and enrolment details for your friends. Contact details are securely included to enable members to contact any of the committee members to ask for information, discuss matters, or put forward suggestions to be discussed at a committee meeting, which is held on the 2nd Tuesday of each month.

We have had more than 1000 views on the site already, so have a look. If the Facilitator of any Interest Group would like to amend the detail on their Group Page please contact the Web Manager Phil Perry.

'In our Thoughts…..'

This is a special section in our newsletter, dedicated to those that may need our 'thoughts' and, or support in difficult times.

Families can let Carol Askew (Buddies and Welfare group member) know in the first place (tel. 07711 944867) if someone is unwell and advise of the situation.

If you feel this is helpful, Please specify if anything special that may need to be taken into consideration (no telephone calls or visits at this time? or cards appreciated or even if visits are appropriate and appreciated ?).
Also,
If a member of family passes away let us know and possibly a short obituary is fine or just a notification is fine too, it is up to you!

Contact: Buddies and Welfare group member, Carol Askew, Tel: 07711 944867

Articles for the newsletter **

For group leaders / facilitators or anyone that may have written articles that you would like to be included in the next **November** newsletter, Please ensure that you send them to the editor **no later than Tuesday 10th November 2026**

Please get your articles in early! – Thank you!

Please send them to the editor Robin Evans

Also remember if you advertise next meeting dates, or dates for feedback in your article, that the publication of the newsletter is the weekend **before the general meetings. The General meetings are normally the 3rd Tuesday of each month.

Last Laugh !






- What do you get if you cross a chicken with a Python –
- A feather boa !



- I SHOULD REALLY THINK OF A BOXING JOKE, BUT I CANNOT THINK OF A PUNCH LINE.....



- Why did the Banker quit their job??
- They lost interest!



PLEASE be advised, Last laughs and jokes are **not** intended to offend and supplied by u3a members and similar age group persons, life is too short without a laugh Eh!

QUIZ ANSWERS:

1. Ely.

2. Edward Elgar.

3. Delft.

4. Apache.

5. Lima

6. Ivy League

7. Insects

8. Ostrich.

9. Big Toe.

10. Sicily.

(THANKS TO **Pam Simmons** FOR THE QUIZ).

SEE YOU NEXT WEEK ON TUESDAY 20TH OCTOBER 2026 AT THE COMMUNITY CENTRE!

World Wide Web:

We have our own website on the internet, check it out Hullbridge u3a
Website: https://hullbridge.u3asite.uk/

Loads of information: A range of daily puzzles have been added to the website on the last page. There is a jigsaw, Sudoku, Logic, Einstein's puzzle, Guardian Crossword and an Easy crossword for those who enjoy such challenges. Hope you all enjoy.

End