NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2026

Registered Charity No 1061549

Check out the Redbridge & District U3A website www.redbridge.u3asite.uk
Up dated information and pictures featuring both LOCAL activities and events organised by London and National U3A. Follow us on Instagram as well as Facebook .

My name is Linda Segal, and I have recently become a Committee Member assisting Andrea Yeshin with publicity, and also to making follow up calls to prospective new members. I have been a member of Redbridge u3a for a long time and currently lead a Discussion Group from my home.

I worked at Barclays in Barkingside for many years, but my final job before retiring was as a Learning Support Assistant at a local primary school. I have joined various Charity Commitees in the past, fund-raised for Macmillan Cancer Care and more recently volunteered at a Jewish Care Home.

U3a provides me with many interesting activities, new ways to socialise and I think it important to contribute to its continued success.

GUESTS APPEARING AT OUR NEXT TWO MONDAY MONTHLY MEETINGS

MONDAY 30TH NOVEMBER - IAN LEIGH – SINGER
For our last Monthly Meeting of 2026 we are pleased to welcome Ian Leigh. Ian is an established singer, DJ, radio presenter, and event entertainer**,** with nearly 30 years' experience in the music industry. Ian will be singing a wide array of musical genres from the 50's to the present. Come and join our fun afternoon with him and get in the festive spirit.

NO MONTHLY MEETING IN DECEMBER AND NO JANUARY NEWSLETTER.

MONDAY 25 JANUARY 2027 - CAN MACHINES THINK? CLAUDIO ELGUETA BSc,
Claude is a member of Abingdon u3a and is a retired university lecturer specialising in linguistics, psycho-linguistics and phonetics. His talk will focus on the definition of intelligence, and help us to understand the distinction between how we think and how machines process information.

We have a big audience for these interesting meetings in Wanstead Library, so do join us. There's time to socialise before and after tea. Meetings begin at 2.00. Please do not arrive before 1.30.

Wanstead Library, Spratt Hall Road E11 2RQ.
Wanstead Buses. Wanstead Station and Grove Park Car Park 6 mins walk. Library Car Park card only. £2.00 for members. £3.00 Visitors incl. refreshments.

GROUP NEWS

All our extremely popular **RUMMIKUB GROUPS** are held in the morning. If you are willing to start one in the afternoon please contact Marilyn. We supply the games.

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NEW GROUPS

FOREVER FITNESS GROUP

Our keep fit group have at long last got an instructor for their **Wednesday** fitness group commencing Wednesday 11th November, **11.00—12.00** WEEKLY taking place at Oaks Lane. This is a general fitness group which will be tailored towards members requirements. It will be a fun and social group focusing on gentle strength training, mobility and balance. All abilities welcome. please contact Elaine if you would like to join.

READING BOOK CLUB

Ready to dive into great conversations in the New Year and discover new books to read? Why not Join the new monthly book club! We will meet on the **3rd Tuesday of every month at 1:45pm -3.45 in Barkingside** to read, explore, and discuss the latest book selection together. Whether you are a voracious reader or just looking to pick up a book more often, our friendly group is the perfect place to share thoughts, hear fresh perspectives, and connect with fellow book lovers and have lively conversations. Please contact Elaine if you would like to join.

Interested in the law, crime, justice…? These 3 brand new sessions are for you!

JUSTICE, THE LAW & SOCIETY meetings are a discussion group for those interested in current aspects of justice and the law. There are just 3 sessions, running from January to March 2027. They are OPEN TO ANYONE in Redbridge U3A. No prior knowledge of the law required - each session is introduced with easily accessible context information about the topic.
The Topics will be:- Defence Barrister's role /Humanity vs the Tech Bro's AI Law /
Equal Justice for Women.
Meetings will take place on ZOOM; second Tuesdays of the month: 5pm – 6.30pm Meeting dates: January 12th, February 9th and March 9th 2027
Please sign up early - a minimum of 12 attending members needed to get these sessions started!
To join please contact Hazel Earwaker.

PRACTICAL ART GROUP

Joita has taken over the art group, now being held on the 3rd Monday of the month from 10:30 to 12:30 at Woodford Green. A 5-minute walk slightly uphill from Woodford station. This group is mixed abilities. So if you enjoy watercolours, drawing, acrylic or pencil drawing, bring along your project to enjoy with the support, encouragement and companionship of other art enthusiasts. If you are interested in joining, please contact Joita Dias.

Come along to the **MARQUETRY GROUP,** which meets weekly at Oaks Lane on a Tuesday morning at 10.00 am. This will give you the opportunity to create a 'picture' of something that means something to you. It could be memorable scene from a past holiday or an animal for a grandchild's bedroom wall. You do not have to be an 'artist' or have artistic skills, just come along - and join in the conversations of the day. Contact Ron Brown for more info.

BOOKS & BANTER GROUP ON ZOOM

New members very welcome. This friendly, open Group meets second Thursday of the month, 5.00-6.00pm via **ZOOM,** and also gets together socially in a local pub periodically to continue discussion in person. Reasons to join:

- All Group members choose the books they want to read each month.
- Sharing views on the books read is super enjoyable.
- A great mix of genres opens up new worlds, lives and ideas in a way only good stories can.

To find out more about the books we read and/or to join contact Hazel Earwaker.

THE DISCOVER TOGETHER GROUP is going strong with their last outing being to the Foundling Museum. They are planning to go to the Agatha Christie Exhibition at the British Library early December and the Charles Dickens House in January and many other ideas for the future. PLEASE NOTE THIS IS A WHATSAPP GROUP. If you think you may be interested, please contact Freda Fineberg.

Possible new group **CRIBBAGE LEAGUE** to run at Oaks Lane on a day and time yet to be decided. Anyone wishing to learn or those who are experienced players can join in. Cribbage is played by 2 players and involves an ability to add up and make decisions on how to make the most points from the 6 cards they are dealt (2 are discarded). The idea would be to have a league table and get points for winning. Several pairs could easily play in one room at separate tables with only a pack of cards needed and a piece of paper or cribbage board to show the scores. It is great game requiring luck and skill. If you are interested in finding out more, please contact Stuart.

BRING YOUR OWN LUNCH

Don't sit alone at home looking out at the miserable weather, come and join us at my home chatting about anything under the sun. I'll make you a hot drink and you bring whatever you want to eat. 2nd Wednesday in each month. Our next 2 dates for your diary are 9th December & 13th January.

Everyone welcome & regular attendance not required but you **MUST** book in with me beforehand as spaces are limited.

Liz Kite

SUNDAY PUB LUNCH

I love this group. I sit back and enjoy watching everyone smiling and chatting to each other. No one, even newbies are never left out. Come and join us on the last Sunday of each month.

29th November: The Crown & Crooked Billet, Woodford Green.

27th December: The Harvester, Beehive Lane.

31st January: The Prince of Wales, Ilford.

Everyone welcome & regular attendance is not required but you **MUST** book in with me beforehand to sit with our group.

Liz Kite

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MAINSTREAM FILM GROUP

10th December we shall be showing "***The Snake Pit***" that is a 1948 American psychological drama film directed by Anatole Litvak and starring Olivia de Havilland, Based on Mary Jane Ward's 1946 semi-autobiographical novel of the same name, the film recounts the tale of a woman who finds herself in a psychiatric hospital and cannot remember how she got there.

14th January is the ever popular **"Kind Hearts and Coronets"**a1949 British black crime comedy film directed by Robert Hamer. It stars Alec Guinness who plays eight characters and features Dennis Price, Joan Greenwood, Valerie Hobson. The plot concerns the son of a woman disowned by her aristocratic family for marrying out of her social class. After her death, the vengeful son decides to take the family's dukedom by murdering the eight people ahead of him in the line of succession.

ARTHOUSE FILM GROUP

There will be NO film in December

On 26th January we shall watch the absolute masterpiece **"Citizen Kane,"** a 1941 American drama directed, produced by and starring Orson Welles. It was co-written by Welles and Herman J. Mankiewicz and was Welles's first feature film. The quasi-biographical film examines the life and legacy of Charles Foster Kane, played by Welles, a composite character based on American media barons, William Randolph Hearst and Joseph Pulitzer, Chicago tycoons Samuel Insull and Harold McCormick, as well as aspects of the screenwriters' own lives.

BOTH FILM GROUPS

Everyone welcome. Refreshments served from 1.50 p.m. at u3a suggested price of 50p.
Films start at 2.00 p.m. promptly. It is advised to bring a cushion.
You **MUST** be a member of Redbridge & District u3a and you **MUST** book in with me beforehand as spaces are limited.
Liz Kite

LONDON THEATRE

I have booked 15 tickets for the Steven Spielberg musical Into the Woods at The Noel Coward Theatre on Thursday 7th January at 2:30 pm. They are in the stalls and they are £57.50 each (reduced from £102.00). Note that most of our seats have a slight overhang from the level above so you may not be able to see the top of the (quite tall) trees.
Booking by email – First come, first served.
Lennart

FULL GROUPS WAITING LISTS

If you who would like to join a group that is currently full, please phone the group leader and put your name on the waiting list. Our group leaders are very good at contacting waiting members. If any regular member doesn't attend, they will contact you to come along for that meeting. Additionally, people leave a group and you could be next in line.

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DOOR PROCEDURE AT OAKS LANE

If you attend a group that meets at Oaks Lane, please arrive no more than 10 minutes before your meeting is due to begin and leave promptly at the end, so that we are not charged extra for room hire. The Group Leader or member of that group should stay by the door and admit known members of your group. Once the meeting commences, the door be will opened by the office security system.

ENTER THE U3A SHORT STORY COMPETITION

The theme for this year's u3a Short Story Competition is '**Out of the Ordinary**.' Entry is free and open to all u3a members, and the deadline for submission **12 noon on Friday 22 January 2027.**

Sara Grant, *Bloomsbury* author and competition judge, is hosting a free online workshop for members with practical tips on refining your story before submission on Thursday 26 November. Sign up.

Competition rules and how to enter

u3a LONDON REGION WALKS FOR DECEMBER/JANUARY

Each walk costs £10, with a qualified Blue Badge Guide (no refunds). The programme can be found here and on the events page of the website. The booking for these very popular events will launch on Tuesday 1st December from 17.00.

JEWISH FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS – CHANUCAH

This year the festival commences at sundown on 4th December and continues for 8 days until 12th December. The word Chanucah means dedication and refers to the rededication of the temple in Jerusalem in the 2nd century BCE, when one day's supply of oil kept burning for 8 days. Both in public and at home a nine branched menorah is lit, and it is traditional to eat foods fried in oil.

TREASURER'S MESSAGE - WHEN PAYING FOR ANYTHING BY ONLINE BANKING:- Please always use your name and activity as the reference. Eg: Marilyn Hendleman - Keep Fit/Theatre/Subs, etc.

SAE TO HAVE NEWSLETTER SENT TO YOU

If you wish to have our Newsletter printed and posted to you, please provide Lynda Ingram, Membership Secretary, with a medium sized SAE.
For those without email, printed copies are available at Open Meetings.

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Deadline for submission to February Newsletter is Friday 15 January
Send in your news or group publicity to comms@u3aredbridge.org.uk

Explore our website **redbridge.u3asite.uk** and our **Facebook** and new **Instagram** page

Committee Members - Executive

Stuart Wallman	Chair
Lynda Ingram	Sec & Membership
Elaine Mitchell	Treasurer

Committee

Marilyn Hendleman	Group Co-Ordinator
Barry Shamplin	Speakers' Co-Ordinator
Evelyn Russell	Newsletter Editor
Denise Kaye	Outings & Events
Andrea Yeshin	Publicity
Maurice Nieberg	
Malini Makwana	
Patricia Gregory	
Linda Segal	