

COMMITTEE MEMBERS CONTACT DETAILS

Chairman Dave Sutton		
Secretary Christine Wilson		
Treasurer Frances Barbour		
Membership Secretary Margaret Routledge		
Events Organiser & Vice-Chair Diane Smith		
Groups Coordinator Linda Bose		
Speaker Organiser Jeanette Parminter		

**FOR ALL PHONE ENQUIRIES PLEASE RING THE ABOVE BETWEEN
9AM-6PM MONDAY TO FRIDAY ONLY. THANK YOU.**

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Your newsletters contain the private contact details of many of your fellow members and we must ask you to ensure that when you have finished with your newsletter you dispose of it thoughtfully. Where possible please shred pages containing private contact details. While these members are happy to share their details with you, they might not be so happy to receive contact from anyone who has obtained their details from a thoughtlessly discarded newsletter. Many thanks.

canvey-thameside.u3asite.uk



CANVEY THAMESIDE U3A



LOTTERY FUNDED

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CANVEY THAMESIDE U3A



NOVEMBER 2024



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Climate Change in Essex

Paul reports on a talk by Jill Bruce

We welcomed Jill, the WI ambassador for climate in this area. She explained her scientific background and how listening to members of the Royal Society made her realise how serious this all is. One obvious sign of climate change, we have all noticed, is how bad winters and heavy snow are something most children have never seen today, and how summer plants survive the winter. Effectively, the 1 degree rise in temperatures already means a climate more like the Med with torrential rain now the norm. She showed us her scarf with the colours getting redder and darker to represent hotter, more recent years, a good visual aid to illustrate the problem.

She then looked specifically at Essex and Canvey, at the causes, the consequences and what we can do about it. The obvious issue in Essex with low lying ground is the likelihood of more flooding, due to rising sea levels, bigger storms, more sea surges and so on, with the question being how feasible is it to stay living in certain areas with this risk. It is impossible to pay for everywhere to be protected because of the cost. (We have the sea wall works costing many millions just for us. How many areas don't have this?) 20% of Essex coastline is under continual threat of flooding with this expected to get worse. The main cause is the carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, now 4 times what it was in earlier times, which effectively acts as a blanket to keep the heat in. The steady rise in temperatures with record highs and often life-threatening humidity has been the features of the last few years. The use of cars is regarded as the biggest culprit, as burning fossil fuels is generally the main cause.

We have all heard phrases about climate change and perhaps wondered what they mean in practice. Net zero, meaning not adding to the CO₂ already here, means a steady march to reduce CO₂. Offsetting effectively means planting trees to offset costs, but the commitment is higher than the number of trees. The tipping point is when we go over the point of no real return. For instance, if the ice on Greenland melted, the 7m rise in sea level would take out huge swathes of cities and farmland in the UK and worldwide. One sign of getting near the tipping point in the UK apart from rising sea levels, is the possible stopping of the potency of the gulf stream leading to harsher winters, and the weakening of the jet stream, so low pressures get stuck over Britain leading to more frequent, continuous and heavier rain.

Jill emphasised that there was and still should be consensus on the need to act and suggested that denying climate change has become a weapon of some right-wing politicians. She said that the current government have appointed people in the know to key positions to influence change.

Essex County Council has put on line thoughts, issues and ways forward to alleviate the

NEW MEMBERS

Canvey Thameside u3a gives a warm welcome to the following new members:

MRS PATRICIA BUCK

MS AMANDA HASTE

MRS ANNE BARNETT

CHANGE OF PERSONAL DETAILS

I would be grateful if you could please let me know of any changes you have made to your:

HOME ADDRESS

EMAIL ADDRESS

TELEPHONE NUMBER(S)

I.C.E. CONTACT(S)

as soon as possible, so that I can update our records.

Thanks, Margaret (Membership Secretary)

CERTIFICATES AND LICENCES

Details of our u3a Insurance, our PPL Licence and our MPLC Umbrella Certificate can be found on our website at:

canvey-thameside.u3asite.uk/documents

A PPL licence is required when recorded music, including radio and TV, is played in public.

An MPLC Umbrella Certificate allows us to show films and TV shows.

SYLLACROSTIC SOLUTION

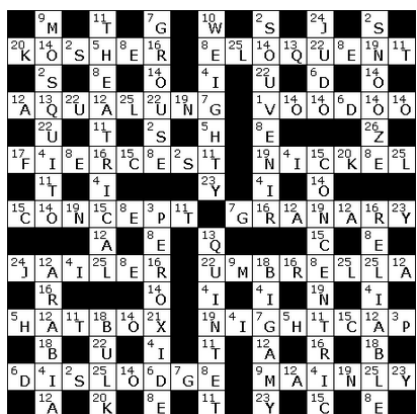
E A ENCHILADA
 A C ALLERGENIC
 S O SUPERHERO
 T M TRIBALISM
 I P INTERGROUP
 N A NIRVANA
 D N DANDELION
 I Y INHERENTLY

= EAST INDIA COMPANY

CRYPTIC CROSSWORD SOLUTION



CODEWORD SOLUTION



SUDOKU SOLUTION - MEDIUM

1	2	9	5	3	4	7	8	6
3	7	4	9	6	8	1	2	5
8	5	6	2	1	7	3	9	4
2	3	5	6	7	9	4	1	8
9	4	1	8	2	3	5	6	7
7	6	8	4	5	1	2	3	9
6	8	2	3	4	5	9	7	1
4	9	7	1	8	2	6	5	3
5	1	3	7	9	6	8	4	2

SUDOKU SOLUTION - HARD

7	5	2	8	9	1	3	4	6
3	6	9	2	4	5	1	7	8
8	4	1	7	3	6	5	2	9
2	7	5	9	6	4	8	3	1
6	9	8	1	2	3	4	5	7
4	1	3	5	8	7	6	9	2
1	2	7	3	5	8	9	6	4
5	8	6	4	7	9	2	1	3
9	3	4	6	1	2	7	8	5

threats of climate change. They predict more regular drought and flood periods, crop losses, 250,000 people here and in the East of England at regular risk of flooding, wetter winters leading to widespread flooding increasing with each rise in global warming and more record temperatures virtually every year. Going onto wider aspects, the population of the world has increased dramatically, leading to huge issues, but not really climate change as such, as the top 1% of the world's population create as much carbon and other pollutants as the bottom two thirds, so it is more about lifestyle and choices of the rich. China has been one of the biggest producers of carbon, 30% of the whole, but much of this is in producing cheap goods for us.

What can we do? Obviously, the key question is what we, as households, can personally do in what seems a problem beyond us. When asked, most people thought more recycling, good for many reasons, but not affecting climate change much. Jill gave us some suggestions with the point that just doing some of these will help everyone:

- Make your voice heard to your MP and anyone who will listen. She quoted an example of some Swiss pensioners affecting a ruling at the ECHR.
- Eat less meat and dairy, as cows etc produce most carbon and methane. 5-10 portions of fruit and veg a day were better for personal and planetary health.
- Cut down on flying; leave the car at home; switch to non-fossil fuel vehicles; reduce energy use.
- Consider solar panels and heat pumps. Obviously there is a payback period, paying for the cost of new products. Essex County Council are helping with households on these two items.
- Use companies that promote 100% renewable energy production, like Octopus.
- Respect and protect green spaces which remove carbon naturally. One example of this happening widely now is protecting the peat bogs, with no peat in compost.
- Responsible investment in companies with green credentials.
- Reduce consumption and waste. Buy from charity shops, don't buy presents which nobody really wants and produce lots of carbon in production.
- Talk to your friends about what you are doing, as your ideas might work for them.

Jill took two questions from the floor, about some processes needing coal which we are having to import from great distances, with no home production, and the appalling conditions of often child workers in cobalt and lithium mining for car batteries.

An extensive outline of issues and things that will help was given by Jill, which we could all appreciate.

Paul.

GROUPS

GROUP MEMBERSHIP STATUS

Cinema	Page 4	Open
Knit & Natter	Page 5	Open - needs members
Theatre	Page 5	Open
Craft	Page 6	Full
Canasta	Page 7	Open
Indoor Games	Page 8	Full
Keep Fit	Page 8	Open
Sunday Group	Page 9	Full
Cribbage	Page 7	Full
Social, Family & Local History	Page 10	Open
Dining Club	Page 13	Open
Book Club	Page 9	Full



CINEMA



The Cinema group aims to meet once a month.

New members are very welcome.

Our next film is *Wicked* on the 25th November. This much-anticipated release is based on the musical fantasy stage show which some of you may have seen in the past in London and stars Ariana Grande and Cynthia Erivo.

For further details please contact Georgia or contact Linda, our Groups Co-ordinator.

This Month in Our History – November

- 1 Nov. 1858 Following the bloody events of the Indian Mutiny Queen Victoria is proclaimed ruler of India.
- 2 Nov. 1936 The world's first regular hi-definition TV service was started by the British Broadcasting Corporation, from specially constructed studios at Alexandra Palace.
- 3 Nov. 1942 British Field Marshall Bernard Montgomery's troops break through the front Line of Erwin Rommel's Afrika Corps capturing 9000 prisoners.
- 5 Nov. 1605 Guy Fawkes is arrested beneath the House of Parliament as a plot to blow up England's King James I is uncovered.
- 9 Nov. 1953 Death of the flamboyant Welsh bard Dylan Thomas at the age of 39. His heavy drinking and wild living contributing to his early demise.
- 11 Nov. 1918 After four years and 97 days the guns finally fell silent as the Great War ended. Around 9 million lives lost with a further 27 million injured.
- 12 Nov. 1035 Death of Canute, Danish King of England.
- 13 Nov. 1850 Birth of Scottish author Robert Louis Stevenson whose classic tales include *Treasure Island*, *Kidnapped* and *Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde*.
- 14 Nov. 1940 In one raid 449 German Luftwaffe bombers dropped 503 tons of bombs and 881 incendiaries onto the English City of Coventry.
- 15 Nov. 1968 The largest passenger liner in the world, Cunard's flagship Queen Elizabeth, docked in Southampton at the end of her last transatlantic voyage.
- 17 Nov. 1558 Death of England's first ruling Queen, Mary Tudor. Unpopular daughter of Henry VIII and Catherine of Aragon.
- 18 Nov. 1852 A massive state funeral for the Duke of Wellington is held in London.
- 19 Nov. 1620 The 180-ton wine ship Mayflower arrives at Cape Cod, America, its passengers, 87 members of a Protestant sect – The Pilgrim Fathers.
- 20 Nov. 1947 Princess Elizabeth (Queen Elizabeth II) married her cousin Lieutenant Philip Mountbatten (Duke of Edinburgh) at Westminster Abbey.
- 22 Nov. 1963 The world mourns the news that President John F. Kennedy had been shot and killed in Dallas, Texas.
- 24 Nov. 1859 Charles Darwin publishes his book *Origin of the Species*
- 26 Nov. 1922 Archaeologist Howard Carter and his sponsor the Earl of Caernarvon make a hole in the door and gaze into the tomb of Tutankhamun.
- 27 Nov. 1875 Britain buys shares worth £4 million (\$7 million) in the Suez Canal Company.
- 28 Nov. 1919 Nancy Astor is elected Member of Parliament for Plymouth, Devon, becoming Britain's first woman MP.
- 29 Nov. 1641 England's first newspaper is published.
- 30 Nov. 1936 One of London's best-loved landmarks, the Crystal Palace burned down. The huge glass building originally housed the Great Exhibition of 1851.



*Birthdays
of the Month*

DECEMBER



- 2nd Dennis Thorne
 4th Norma Thorne
 4th Jean Gould
 5th Sheila Hurdle
 7th Michael Arnold
 8th Cath Stringer
 9th Christine Beck
 9th Pat Kiely
 9th Jim McDermott
 10th Marian Patten
 11th Brenda Findlay
 11th Gordon Clubb
 13th Carole Edwards
 13th Carol Blake
 13th Christine Wilson
 15th David Sutton
 17th Barbara Stables
 19th Christy Nixon
 20th Pam Joyce
 20th Carol Lambert
 25th Irene Smith
 25th Margaret Harmes
 28th Paul Bancroft
 29th Ken Hawkins
 29th Charles Summers
 30th Elena Bellamy
 31st Jean Cann



HAPPY BIRTHDAY HAPPY BIRTHDAY HAPPY BIRTHDAY HAPPY BIRTHDAY HAPPY BIRTHDAY

HAPPY BIRTHDAY HAPPY BIRTHDAY HAPPY BIRTHDAY HAPPY BIRTHDAY HAPPY BIRTHDAY

If your name is not shown here as expected, please let Margaret know your birthday to add to our records - 01268 698490; margaret_routledge@hotmail.com



THEATRE



For more information about our group and proposed theatre trips, please contact Sylvie.

Our next scheduled theatre trip is *The Devil Wears Prada* on Wednesday 15th January. It will be the matinee performance.

U3A Theatre Convenors - Sylvie, Jan and Barbara

Please contact Sylvie for more information.

KNIT & NATTER

Members needed!

Scheduled for the 1st
and 3rd Wednesdays of
every month



(Formerly the Crochet & Knitting group)

Please contact Margaret or contact Linda, our Groups Co-ordinator.



CRAFT

GROUP NOW FULL



We meet every 4 weeks. We provide everything.

The cost is £5 per session.

You take home your masterpieces!

Refreshments can be bought instore or bring
your own

**WE MEET IN THE COMMUNITY ROOM,
MORRISONS STORE, NORTHWICK ROAD**

FROM 13.30 TO 15.30



Poppy stones and wooden poppy windmills made by the Craft Group and subsequently displayed as part of a remembrance for the fallen.

NEWS & INFORMATION

MONTHLY MEETINGS

To be held at St. Nicholas' Church Hall, Long Road, Canvey
Once a month on Fridays between 9.45am – 12pm

20th DECEMBER

Choir – The Benfleet Operatic Society

Upcoming meetings in 2025

17th JANUARY * 21st FEBRUARY * 21st MARCH

DOORS OPEN at 9.45am

We aim to be seated by 10am ready for notices to be read, etc.
We ask that our members do not arrive at the car park until
after 9.30am please.

U3A EVENTS - LATEST

THURSFORD CHRISTMAS TRIP on 27th NOVEMBER
Please note that the coach leaves at 7.45am

A place may be available - please contact Diane if interested

U3A Events Organiser: Diane

U3A Events - A Trip to the V&A



On Wednesday 23rd October, 23 of us boarded a coach at The Paddocks, heading for the Victoria & Albert Museum in South Kensington. The sun was shining. A couple of hours later we were let loose in this gorgeous old building full of beautiful treasures to gaze at. So we headed straight to the cafe for a drink! The main part of the cafe is in a beautifully decorated room with a piano in the middle and is a joy to look at.

Once replete, we headed off to the various galleries. As always, I made straight for the silver and jewellery section to gawp at the beautiful pieces on display, and turn my nose up at the more modern, to my mind ugly, plastic pieces of the 1960s and 70s. Each to their own. There were handsome inlaid boxes with shell, mother of pearl and gemstones, as well as a display of rings containing every gemstone and semi-precious stone known to man. Stunning. Some beautiful diamond tiaras were on display which had been given to the Taxman in lieu of death duties by various members of the Aristocracy. And a tiny weeny coronet worn by Queen Victoria.

The silver included a lot of huge presentation pieces as well as more everyday items and you could imagine the poor servants back in the day trying to keep all these pieces clean! The detail on them was a real tribute to the craftsmanship of the time.

We had a lovely lunch in the cafe. A bit pricey of course but they use the best ingredients and my turkey, chestnut and artichoke pie, with a side of pumpkin salad and beetroot salad was superb.

We then visited the stained-glass section, the glass and ceramics section and various areas containing cultural objects from Japan, China, the Middle East and beyond. Clothes, artwork, everyday objects, there was just so much to see!

The day ended all too soon and we jumped back on the coach for the somewhat tedious journey home through the traffic. It was a wonderful day, truly enjoyable - sad that the organiser herself was unwell and missed it.

Some people used the coach trip as a means of visiting the West End and embarked on a shopping trip, visiting Harrods and other such places. They enjoyed their day in a different way, and why not.

Thanks to Diane for organising the outing.

With many thanks to Mrs Pat Petty for sharing her experience of the day.

U3A Events Organiser: Diane



CANASTA



Why not join our friendly group and enjoy a relaxing game of cards in great company while keeping your mind active and giving your brain a gentle work-out?

The Canasta group welcomes new members and will help members to learn the game.

The group meets on alternate Tuesdays and Wednesdays between 2pm and 5pm in the Morrison's Community room.

Take the first step by contacting Lyn or Jan.

CRIBBAGE

The crib group is full as we meet at people's houses and 8 is our maximum. Perhaps if anyone else wants to play a new group could be formed?

We aim to meet about every two weeks but this will depend on people's other commitments.

Jan



For further details please contact Jan or contact Linda, our Groups Co-ordinator.

INDOOR GAMES

The Indoor Games group meets every other Wednesday at the Jubilee Hall from 1.45 to 3.45pm.

We play a variety of games – mostly board and card games.

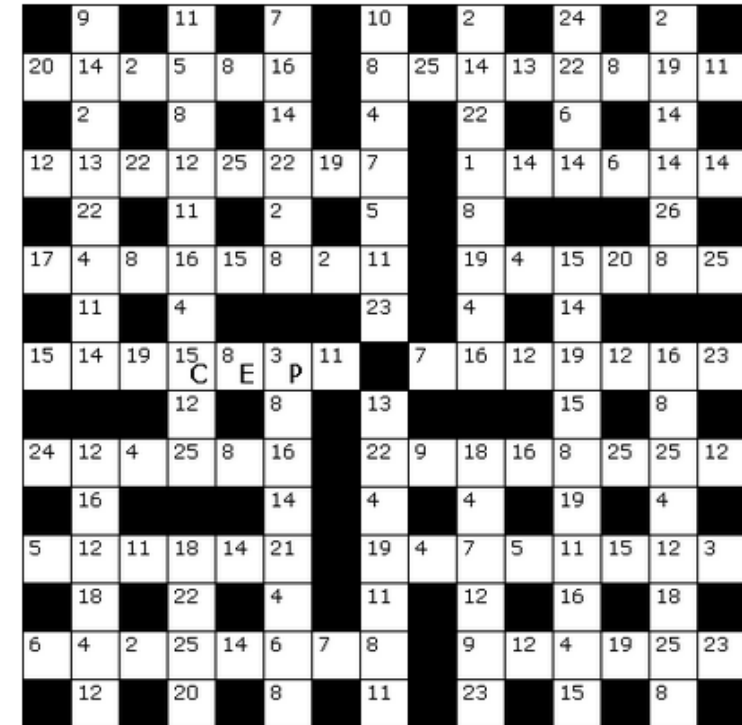
Our group is now full but if you would like to start a second indoor games group, please contact Linda, our Groups Co-ordinator.



Regards, Jan & Den

For further details please contact Jan & Dennis. Or contact Linda, our Groups Co-ordinator.

CODEWORD



A B C D E F G H I J K L M
N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

Codewords are like crossword puzzles - but have no clues! Instead, every letter of the alphabet has been replaced by a number, the same number representing the same letter throughout the puzzle.

To start you off three letters are revealed. With these letters filled in throughout the puzzle, you'll have enough clues to start guessing words and discovering other letters.



KEEP FIT

Our Keep Fit Group meetings are held:

EVERY TUESDAY
(session starts at 10 am)

At: **THE JUBILEE HALL**
at the rear of Waterside Farm Sports Centre

The sessions are run by **Karen Lawrie**



Please contact **Linda, our Groups Co-ordinator** **TO PUT YOUR NAME DOWN TO ATTEND THE SESSION.**

SUDOKU

Each row, column and square (9 spaces each) needs to be filled with the numbers 1-9, without repeating any numbers within the row, column or square.

1. Difficulty: **MEDIUM**

		9			4			
3		4		6			2	5
	5						9	4
		5	6		9			
9								7
			4		1	2		
6	8						7	
4	9			8		6		3
			7			8		



2. Difficulty: **HARD**

		2	8				4	
					5			8
	4	1	7			5		
2						8		1
	9						5	
4		3						2
		7			8	9	6	
5			4					
	3				2	7		



SOLUTIONS PAGE 22

SUNDAY GROUP

Our Group is now full! Perhaps another U3A member(s) might be interested in forming another group for members with a similar interest? If so, please contact Linda.

The Sunday Group aims to meet once a month, mostly on Sunday, to have lunch, visit local places of interest etc. We meet at the Paddocks and then arrange car shares.

16 members of the group went to Jimmy Mac's (on Canvey Seafront) on 27th October. It was a most enjoyable experience and no doubt one that will be repeated.

Please contact the Group Convenor Sylvie for more information. Or contact Linda, our Groups Co-ordinator.

BOOK CLUB



Our newest interest group, the Book Club has made an excellent start and is currently full.

The Book Club meets in Canvey Island Library on the first Friday of the month.



The group is reading *The King's Witch* by Tracy Borman.

For further details about the group, please contact Linda, our Groups Co-ordinator.



SOCIAL, FAMILY & LOCAL HISTORY

HISTORY



WE MEET AT THE CAFE/BAR IN SANDY BAY, THORNEY BAY ROAD
Every 4 weeks on Tuesdays from 10.00am

Here is the updated schedule of meetings from Paul:

10th Dec: A trip down memory lane , part 2. I will start this off, looking at Christmas and New Year traditions, family, local and national. I am particularly interested in traditions from other parts of the UK, as they may be very different to Yorkshire.

7th Jan: Me on forts and defences in the estuary, some of which you can visit today, including the one in Havens Kent coast holiday camp.

4th Feb: Little Italy in Sheffield. You might remember one of my paternal ancestors, Antonio Zanelli, particularly his involvement in the great Sheffield flood and his compensation claim. I have managed to find out more about Little Italy with some photos and so on.

4th Mar: Georgia on helping trace your Irish ancestors, which most of us will have and will know tracing them isn't easy.

I am looking for new ideas for talks that members want me to research or, better still, talks you want to do, on 1st April, 29th April, 27th May etc every 4 weeks thereafter. If you have ideas, please drop me an email with a date and title.

Thanks to Sue for the very interesting and detailed story of schools on Canvey that she gave in October. Sue has kindly done a write-up for the newsletter. Why not come along to the next meeting and enjoy our discussions at first hand!

A History of Canvey Schools – by Sue Sutton

The first school on Canvey Island was the village school which was opened 19th October 1873 by the Reverend Henry Hayes. He had also been responsible for organising a more substantial church building which became known as St Katherines (now the Heritage Centre) and the school stood opposite the church. Both the church and the school were wooden structures and when the school was closed the building became the village hall for social events and church meetings until it was almost gutted by fire. This is probably why this area is now Village Hall Close.

The school had been moved to a new building on land near what is now known as Jones's Corner which was opened 7th October 1924 apparently to the singing of the official school song 'Play the Game'. It was officially called **Long Road Public Elementary School** and was brick built, rendered and painted white.

SYLLACROSTIC

Fill in the answers to the 8 clues, using the syllables from the list below. The number of syllables to be used for each word is shown in brackets.

When the correct words are filled in, the first and last letters reading down will spell out the corporation whose governing role in India was transferred to the British Crown from November 1858.

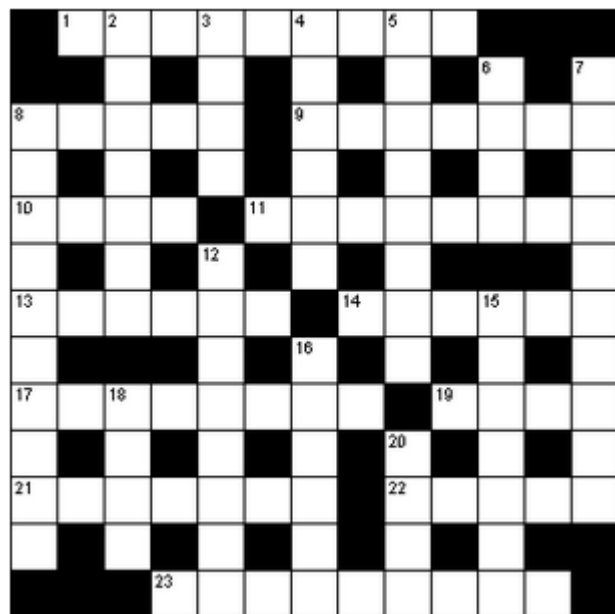
IN, LA, LER, NA, EN, RO, LION, CHI, TER, HER, AL, LY, SU, TRIB, NIR
ENT, HE, AL, VA, IC, HE, DE, ISM, IN, DAN, DA, GEN, PER, GROUP

1. Spicy, rolled tortilla _____ (4)
2. Able to cause immune reaction _____ (4)
3. A character with exceptional powers _____ (4)
4. Strong in-group loyalty _____ (3)
5. Occurring between multiple social sets _____ (3)
6. Place of peace and happiness _____ (3)
7. Weed of the daisy family _____ (4)
8. Innately, intrinsically _____ (4)



FUN STUFF

CRYPTIC CROSSWORD



ACROSS

- 1 Useless ornament to hang on ventilator (9)
- 8 American female – one employed as director? (5)
- 9 Boat almost left with awkward load (7)
- 10 Crooked – right in an odd way (4)
- 11 Puddings brought back under pressure (8)
- 13 Instrument for tinker (6)
- 14 Ribs to order in a restaurant (6)
- 17 Ships used for a short cut? (8)
- 19 Take the plunge in a disreputable place (4)
- 21 Say why former partner's not attractive (7)
- 22 A few historians taking part in a game (5)
- 23 Neat story confused lawyers (9)

DOWN

- 2 Stuck with tot holding present (7)
- 3 Admiral's second vessel is obscure (4)
- 4 Dark times – but things have altered (6)
- 5 Heather goes on lake in intimate garb (8)
- 6 Wood mostly for police (4)
- 7 Buried oil started flowing (4,2,4)
- 8 Modest just the same (10)
- 12 Jumbo – the plane that's seen all over (8)
- 15 Wakefield players in college (7)
- 16 Girl taking care of Spanish leader (6)
- 18 Children's game is extremely pretty (1-3)
- 20 Bird that is small and pale (4)

The first headmaster was called William Read and he was to serve the school for 21 years¹¹ retiring around 1945.

A new school was built along the road called Canvey Island Council School later known as **Long Road School**. This was for mixed infants and junior children at first but later in 1951 a separate infant school was built on the same site. At the other end of the island in Point Road, **Leigh Beck School** started life in 1932 also as a combined infant and junior school, becoming separate schools in 1969 when a new junior school was constructed.

Now the original school was altered to become the official **Canvey Island Secondary School** with William Read still as Headmaster. He had moved from Charles Street School in Birmingham and was also a councillor from 1924 to 1938 as well as a licensed lay reader in the church for 25 years. A former pupil Jean Cook remembered him as a man of small stature but held the school 'in the palm of his hand'. Another said that he was a kind man but maintained strict discipline. He lived in Lionel Road until he died in 1952 and is buried to the right of the path leading up to St Katherines Church.

In 1954 Fred Stanley Watkins became Headteacher having moved down from Wolverhampton with his family. He was an ex-military man with dark hair and a little moustache who used to carry a baton under his arm. The school pupils by then apparently had a reputation for being 'tearaways' but Mrs Watkins recalled that her husband tamed them quite quickly! Others remember his softer side helping with family tragedies, visiting homes and helping children catch up with schoolwork.

By now the island had an increasing population and the school had insufficient space to expand any further, so a new school was built in Furtherwick Road in 1957 on land I'm informed was earmarked for Canvey's Cottage Hospital. It was opened despite yet again building work not being completed so one year group had to remain at the old school. The new school took over the name Canvey Secondary School, later renamed **Furtherwick Park School** in 1966, and Fred Watkins moved there as Headmaster where he remained until 1981.

The former Canvey Island Secondary School was renamed **William Read School** after its original headteacher and became a junior school followed shortly with a separate infant school. A new building was opened for the infants in 1966 and the juniors in 1971 the latter being of semi open plan style. Eventually William Read became a primary school when Mrs Tetchner became the headteacher of both schools.

Saint Joseph's School was the first faith school on Canvey opening in 1955. The nuns came from Saint Joseph's Convent in Wanstead and lived at the at the Sisters of Mercy Convent next to the school. Families who wanted their children to attend the school had to prove their regular attendance at Our Lady of Canvey Church but later children of any faith could be accepted. The school in Vaagen Road was rebuilt in the 1970s as two separate buildings and Sister Veronica is remembered as a popular Headmistress.

Northwick Park School in Third Avenue opened in September 1968 with Mrs Knapton in charge of the Infant School and Mr Unwin the Juniors. The school grew rapidly due to the Laurence Homes development one side of Link Road and the council building the Avenues Estate on the other. I joined the school in 1973 with five other teachers,

DINING CLUB

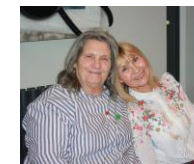


The Bread and Cheese Pub, Benfleet, was our dining venue for October. 30 members enjoyed a carvery meal which was enjoyed by most, as evidenced by the pictures below.

When it came to the bill it was a bit complicated but all worked out well in the end and I didn't have to wash the dishes!

Our next dining adventure is the Christmas lunch at the Oysterfleet on the 4th December.

Jeanette



12 doubling the number of staff in the junior school. Cornelius Vermuyden Secondary School, named after the Dutch land engineer who supervised the construction of the sea walls around Canvey, was also now open in Dinant Avenue and into its third year.

Northwick Park Junior School had been built as a semi-open plan school like the new junior school at William Read. This meant basically that classrooms didn't have doors just openings and some were missing a wall too so were completely open to the corridor. The idea behind this concept was to let the building flow or so I believe but most teachers had the feeling it was to save money!

During the 1970s the pupil population continued to grow on the island and there were three new schools built at Primary level and Castle View at Secondary level. The primary schools were all built as open plan. **Lubbins Park School** in May Avenue opened in 1976 and took over some of the catchment from both William Read and Leigh Beck. It has always been a small school with just a one form entry. **Saint Katherine's School** in Hilton Road was named after the original church and became the second faith school on the island. Families had to prove their attendance at either St Nicholas, St Anne's or indeed the services at St Katherine's School to qualify for a place. Again, it is a single form entry school and was opened in 1975. It has always been very popular and often oversubscribed with some children having their names put down for it at birth. **Winter Gardens School** unlike the other two was opened as an infant and junior school. It was built in 1978 in Hilton Road next to St Katherine's School and officially opened in 1979 gradually taking in a year group at a time. It is a bigger school with a 2-3 year intake and eventually became a primary school combining the infants and juniors.

Castle View School opened in 1980 north of the island so named because of its good view of Hadleigh Castle across the fields. It was in Mepple Avenue and at one time had over a thousand pupils and staff. It had been a state-of-the-art building costing over £2.5 million built over two phases with the main building finished first followed by the sports block. Jack Telling was the first Headmaster who had come from a Colchester school. The next Head, Eileen Simmonds, introduced a maths block which was added in 1994 when the school became grant maintained. Russell Sullivan became the next Headmaster in 1997.

During the next ten years it became apparent due to falling pupil numbers one of the secondary schools would be forced to close. There was much speculation on the island as to which one it would be but there was some surprise to discover that Furtherwick was to close. In 2011 a new Castle View School was opened, and Cornelius Vermuyden School had a new building built between 2011 and 2012.

Most schools are now in an Academy Trust. Falling pupil numbers are affecting all local schools. At one time there were sixteen different schools on Canvey, now there are only twelve.

For further details about the group, please contact Paul. Or contact Linda, our Groups Co-ordinator.

For further details please contact Frances or Jeanette.