

**March
2026**



Newsletter

Breaking News

Renewals: **Many thanks** to those who have renewed so far this year. 2026 membership cards are ready for you to collect (if you haven't got yours already) at monthly meetings. It has been quite a steep learning curve for Phyllis D and Karen W who have taken over Memb Sec role for now but we do hope we have got it right for YOU. Any problems please contact membership@FWDu3a.org.uk or 01255 672160

However there are quite a lot of members we have not heard from yet – far too many. The renewal “window” ends on February 28th – if you have not renewed by then (except in exceptional circumstances) you will no longer be entitled to attend meetings, groups or events.

If you have been concerned that FWDu3a may not be able to continue due to Committee recruitment issues, please be reassured that plans are in place – we will continue to exist and hopefully, with members' support, to grow and thrive.

Please consider renewing – every member is important to us. If, for any reason, you are unable to continue as part of FWDu3a, would you kindly let us know and if possible give us a reason – it really does help us to do things better!

AGM Our AGM is on April 10th (not the first Friday as that is Good Friday). It starts promptly at 10.00.

We would be delighted to see as many members as possible there to hear our review of 2025 and our emerging plans for 2026 and beyond. Further details are included with this Newsletter including details of how to vote. All paid up members are entitled to vote and it is important to know that we have your endorsement.

Great News Our Murder Mystery Evening is a SELL OUT and there is a waiting list for seats. Good luck to the cast who have been working incredibly hard to give us a fantastic evening's entertainment.

Monthly Meetings

March 6th The History of the Essex Asylum Hospital

April 10th AGM and “Stars of the Golden Age” Quiz

May 1st *to be confirmed*

June 5th *to be confirmed*

July 3rd Games and Chat – another opportunity to make new friends and / or play some of our tabletop games.

Please note this meeting will be at Soken House (the Triangle) – upstairs but there is a lift.

Social Events

The Social Team met earlier this year to discuss social event plans for 2026. Given the upcoming AGM and potential change of personnel, we are keeping things simple this year.

It has been very difficult over the past few years to manage to fill a coach for a day trip and so they have been running at a loss. This cannot be sustained by our finances and so there will be no coach trip this year.

Our main event for this season will be the Murder Mystery Evening on March 10th which promises to be a great success.

Potential future events we are considering are lunch or an afternoon tea at Frinton Golf Club, a Quiz evening, beetle drive.

If you have any thoughts or ideas for social events or any requests please talk to Karen Riley our Social Events Co-ordinator.

Group News

Did you make a New Year Resolution to try out a new interest or skill by joining one of FWDu3a's groups – have you kept it?

We have a wide range of groups and are always keen to support new ones in getting started. Lots of ideas and interest, but we need members to host / lead – you don't have to be an expert or able to teach – just be prepared to arrange the gatherings and take an active part in the learning. Support from the Groups Co-ordinator readily available.

Some groups are on hold or struggling to get enough regulars to keep them viable. Please consider supporting them.

If you are already a member of any group and you cannot attend a meeting, please do let the group leader know – it is only politeness. He or she may be able to let a potential member join that session as a guest.

Day	Morning	Afternoon
Monday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sewcial Stitchers 1 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • History Group 2 – Frinton
Tuesday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Table Tennis – Walton • Coffee and Chat – Walton • Creative Writing – Walton (on hold) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current Affairs 2 – Kirby • Photography – Walton (on hold) • 'Books Wot I Have Read' – Frinton
Wednesday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Art Group 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ten Pin Bowling – Clacton • How Does it Work? – Walton (on hold)
Thursday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Table Tennis – Walton 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Country Dance – Holland • Music Performing Group – Frinton • Sewcial Stitchers 2 • Pétanque – Kirby Le Soken
Friday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poetry Appreciation – Walton 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bridge 2 – Frinton • World History – Walton • Knowledge – Various • Wine Appreciation – Frinton

Groups meet weekly / monthly or sometimes twice monthly. Full details, including how to contact Group Leaders are on the website. FWDu3a.org.uk/groups

Committee News

There will be informal meeting at St Cedds Hall on Monday 23rd March 2.00 – 3.30. Mainly aimed at new members but all members are welcome as are those people interested in joining. The meeting is intended to provide opportunity for members to meet each other and some of the committee and to let us know what they hope to get from their membership and how we can help them. Invitations will be sent out shortly.

The doors to McGrigor Hall open at 9.30 for our Monthly Meetings so that members and visitors have time to talk to each other, to buy event tickets or to discuss any issues with Committee members. The meeting starts promptly at 10.00. In order not to disturb the speaker, the doors will be shut at 10.00 and there will be no further admittance until the talk is finished.

As Lorry mentions in her AGM letter, we are trying to build teams of members to support the Committee role holders. We have so far created a strong Meet and Greet Team, and are developing the Refreshments Team. Karen Riley is recruiting a Groups Support Team. We would like to further this enterprise by finding members who could support the Treasurer, Webmaster and Membership roles. These would not be Committee positions (unless you wanted them to be), would be in your own time and often done at home. If you are interested please speak to any of the current Committee.

Our finances are currently held at Lloyds Bank. There are several issues with this: there is now a monthly charge on the account, cheques must now be paid in at an actual branch (cash can be paid in at a post office), the nearest branch is Clacton. For these reasons, our Treasurer is considering both moving our account and whether cheque payments will be accepted in future. He will explain more at the AGM.

*Your obligation is that of active participation.
You should not act as knowledge-absorbing
sponges, but as whetstones upon which we can
all sharpen our wits. Edsgar J Dijkstra*

And finally



Ever notice, the older we get, the more we're like computers?



We start out with lots of MEMORY and DRIVE then we become outdated, and eventually have to get our parts replaced...;)





Got home from work today to find my kids had been on eBay all day.

If they are still there tomorrow, I will lower the price.



Yesterday after shopping in our local supermarket, I was in the queue at the Check Out, and heard when the young cashier suggested to the much older lady that she should bring her own grocery bags, because plastic bags are not good for the environment. The woman apologised to the young girl & then sighed, "We didn't have this 'green thing' back in my earlier days." The young clerk responded, "That's our problem today. You folk didn't do enough to save our environment for future generations." The older lady said "Ahh yes you're right -- our generation didn't have the "green thing" in its day." She sighed then continued: Back then, we returned milk bottles, lemonade bottles & beer bottles to the shops. The shops then sent them back to the plant to be washed, sterilized & refilled, so those same bottles were used over & over, thus REALLY were recycled. But we didn't have the "green thing" back in our day.

To be continued next month