

Baddow & Galleywood U3A

NEWSLETTER



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE



Spring 2020

THE DRIVER EXCUSES HIMSELF (Insurance claims)

- A pedestrian hit me and then went under my vehicle.
- I unfortunately ran over a pedestrian and the old gentleman was taken to hospital much regretting the circumstances.
- I collided with a stationary tree.

Yet More Thoughts of Chairman Mo

“Change will not come if we wait for some other person, or if we wait for some other time.”
— Barack Obama

Some people tell me that they only read the first few lines of my article before moving on, so I'd better grab your attention straight away - **our U3A is about to CHANGE**. We will not have the URC hall for our main meetings after July, our Committee needs new blood and some Interest Group Co-ordinators have indicated a desire to stand down. Since you're reading this, then at least Maggie did manage to get enough articles to make it worthwhile publishing a Spring issue. I'll elaborate on some of these below, so keep reading.



In my last Newsletter article (where I put all 'my begs in one ask it!'), I appealed to members to consider stepping forward for posts on the Committee. Perhaps it's too soon to judge whether or not the appeal fell on deaf ears – suffice it to say that I haven't been inundated with phone-calls from enthusiastic volunteers. At the next AGM in April, a number of our Officers will begin their final term on Committee having served the maximum of three. If no-one steps forward to join either at the AGM or during the year then we will struggle to continue. We are also still desperate to find an assistant Membership Secretary, willing to learn from Loretta and then step into the role in future.

The “Ready and Willing” group (see Winter 2019 Newsletter, if you don't remember – it's on our website) continues to meet when needed – we just call ourselves the Committee! Some more of you (sounds like a scene from Alice in Wonderland!) may choose to join “RaW” when we dangle the carrot of **U3A Day** before you. This is the first year that the U3A has decided to try to raise the profile of the organisation by holding an Awareness Day on 3rd June. On this day, U3A's across the UK will be holding events of their own choosing to let more people know what we do and encourage new members to join us. According to the Facebook page for the event - “Members can showcase what happens in their U3A, challenge negative perceptions of older adults and invite other Third Agers in the community to learn about the contribution U3A makes to the quality of life of retired people”.

The Committee is discussing appropriate ways of marking the day and have been in contact with both Broomfield and Chelmsford U3A's about joint initiatives. If you've got any ideas please let any of the Committee know well in advance. If you wish to offer your time on the day, then please let me know. Among events being organised elsewhere are tea parties, music/dance events, organised walks round towns, a U3A Walking Cricket competition in Yorkshire and displays/leafletting in shops, precincts, libraries and surgeries.

I'm sure that by now most of you know that our main meeting venue – the **United Reform Church - will be closing** as a Church at the end of July. The Eastern Synod of the URC will not be making a decision about the future of the building before then, leaving us potentially without a venue from our August meeting onwards. We have attended a Parish Council meeting to find out what they may be able to do to help and, although very sympathetic, they are unable to get the Eastern Synod to meet with them before the end of July. At that time a commercial valuation of the property will be undertaken, which will undoubtedly result in an increase in hire charges if the property were to remain in community use (as happened with Melbourne URC in North Chelmsford, which became a Community Hub two years ago). Instead it may be that the site is sold for development.

At our February Committee Meeting we decided that we couldn't wait for the Eastern Synod to act and have decided that, after considering the feasible options, the Keene Hall in Galleywood is the best available match to our requirements. This decision has now been formalised following a visit by 6 of the committee on 6th February, but it does mean that our **general meetings after July would have to be held on the 1st Monday of each month**. The start time would still be 2.15, which fits well with the 57 bus timetable. However, there will be more time after the speaker has finished to have tea and chat with others since we have booked until 4.30 to allow time for clearing up in the kitchen. This arrangement will be reviewed once the situation with the URC is resolved. We would encourage members who might have difficulty in getting to the Keene Hall to talk with others or the committee to see whether having lifts and/or sharing cars might help. Of course if you are willing to offer lifts or car sharing, please let us know.

The hall has a huge screen, a six speaker sound system, good blackout curtains and new padded chairs. It also has a car park at the rear, holding about 30 cars, and additional parking is available in the road alongside or across the traffic lights in front of St Michaels Church. It is also right beside the bus stop for the number 57 bus, which serves the Vineyards with a bus every 20 minutes and a journey time of 10 minutes from the Vineyards to the Keene Hall. While some of this may act as a deterrent to those living close to the URC, it may encourage more Galleywood members to come along to the main meetings and also allow Associate members from Chelmsford U3A to join us (since our dates would no longer clash). It also might encourage more attendees to stay after the speaker and join us for tea and biscuits, without having to worry whether they've parked for more than 2 hours, as at the Vineyards. So, as you can see, we're trying to look on this as a positive opportunity.

As I've said in previous newsletters, new members join regularly during the year, so I do hope that my occasional repetition in these articles may be excused:

- Last year we were able to purchase group tickets for the National Garden Show at Hylands House and the organisers have extended the same offer for this year's show on 15th - 17th May. If you wish to order tickets, then Sue Nelson, Gardening Group Co-ordinator, has kindly agreed to act as our contact. Sue's contact details are in the Year Book if you don't sign up at our monthly meeting. Tickets will be £8 instead of the normal £14 and must be paid before Sue places the order. It is only the purchase of tickets that is done as a group – you are free to go on whichever day suits you best.
- New ideas for Interest Groups are always welcome and should be discussed initially with Wendy, our Facilitator of Groups. Compared to many U3A's our number of Groups is proportionately low and all are now well established. Most people are wary of making suggestions in case they end up having to run the Group, but if you don't speak up you'll never know whether others share your interest and would be happy to help out.
- We have a closed group Facebook page for Baddow & Galleywood U3A which we'd love you to join. You can find it by using the **Links** page on our website - or typing the following address into your browser [u3asites.org.uk/baddow/links](https://www.u3asites.org.uk/baddow/links)

And finally – the Third Age Trust (our National Organisation) has decided to raise the annual cost of the Third Age Matters magazine. Since we have to pay this out of the annual subscription that we collect from you, it benefits B&G U3A if you let Loretta know if you don't wish to continue getting a copy delivered to you. There is a box on the membership form to be ticked to indicate your choice. Many of you may not be aware that an on-line version is available at <https://www.u3a.org.uk/resources/publications/tam-text>

A note from the editor:

Thank you to all our contributors, old and new! After a panicky moment in February, this issue is now full of interesting articles, some of which have been 'squeezed 'in'! I am pleased that we have several accounts under '**Why I joined the U3A**', as they make such interesting reading. More please for the Summer edition!

Maurice's report (above) contains vital information about general meetings to be held after July, and below there is a note on membership. In addition there is a request for 3 new committee members - please support our U3A and consider joining - new ideas are always needed!

The deadline for entries for the Summer Newsletter is 20th April; please contribute a piece so we can have another bumper issue!

(Thanks to Allen for his photos.)

Maggie

Membership

First, a big Thank You to those of you who have renewed their U3A membership for 2020. However, I am still waiting for a great many more renewals.

This year I have pre-printed your data onto the renewal forms so all you have to do is to check the details (stored on the database) are correct, tick (or not) the Third Age Matters box, sign the form and pay either by Standing Order, BACS or cheque. Fees this year are again £9 for full membership and £6 for Associate members.

If you have paid by standing order, you still need to check and sign the form to make sure your stored details are correct. Only then will you receive your membership card.

Forms can be collected from your group co-ordinators, the Wednesday meetings or by contacting me.

Group co-ordinators will shortly be checking your 2020 membership cards when you attend your groups, so it is important for you to have renewed this year.

If you have submitted your form and paid but not yet received your card and Yearbook, they are probably with me, waiting for you to collect them. If you send an A5 stamp addressed envelope I send them to you fairly swiftly – or you can always collect them at the Wednesday meeting or from my house. Friends can also collect them for you. We are avoiding posting them out to you this year as the membership fee is so low and postage is so costly.

If you do not intend to renew, for whatever reason, please let me know so that I stop contacting you.

Loretta Membership Secretary

Interest Group Chat

Hi Everyone - hope all your Christmas celebrations went well and I wish you all a very happy new year. Earlier this month I attended a Co-ordinators workshop, it was interesting meeting other U3A co-ordinators. I was a bit confused as their group co-ordinators are referred to as Group Leaders. How we deal with the good and bad challenges in our groups created a lively discussion; it seems that all groups face similar problems and are happy to pass on good advice.

There was a lengthy discussion on the use of Beacon, a few Group Leaders found it an absolute boon, others were still indecisive.

Our challenge this year is going to be the outcome of the sale of our meeting place in URC. I understand that the Parish Council is working hard on our behalf to come to a happy solution. As soon as a decision has been made, I will let you know.

I have enjoyed meeting the groups I have visited. I hope to visit more this year, it gives me a good understanding on how you all function and it has become an absolute pleasure getting to know you. (Didn't someone write a song?). Where else can we meet interesting people at a similar stage in life sharing all the wonderful pastimes and experiences? In the Newsletter, the new "Why I joined the U3A section", 2 members Denis and Linda have given us a real insight into their amazing lives. I am astonished at the diversity of our members and feel myself privileged to be a member among you. Let's have more of these exciting anecdotes.

Just a reminder of the Co-ordinators/Committee meeting on Monday 30th March, Great Baddow Parish Hall, 9.30 for 10am start. (NOT as recorded in year book as 30 April) Please remember to bring your membership list with you and anything you feel needs discussion or improvement. See you there. *Wendy*

The only time I ever enjoyed ironing was the day I accidentally got gin in the steam iron.

Phyllis Diller

Why I joined the U3A

Eileen

As I was approaching retirement I could see how easy it would be to become completely isolated, just depending on family and grandchildren who were fast growing up and having their own interests and lives. I started looking around and thinking about what would interest me, then I found out about the U3A, can't remember exactly how but I made a phone call and received all the information.

New Feature!
Why I joined the U3A

I first joined the Essex Churches group with a woman called Marion who was about to retire to the South coast and a very kind lady, Frances, picked me up and became a very good friend - that was my first experience in the U3A. We enjoyed many interesting visits over the years with Maria and Terry, then Linda and Shirley and were sorry when that group ended. It is an interest group that requires a lot of time and commitment from the co-ordinator.

At the same time I joined the family history group, when we were welcomed to Pauline's home as a smaller number.

I tried one of the walking groups but found it difficult to keep up and a bit too much for me so I was delighted when the Strollers started - just right for me! Lovely memories of beautiful country strolls. The weather always seemed good (rose coloured spectacles come to mind), blue skies, sunshine and wonderful views, followed by a pub lunch with good company.

The couple of Study Days I attended were also most enjoyable.

So, quite a few years on I am still appreciating my membership, now with the Weekenders, and am looking forward to our trip to Exmouth in the Spring, as well as all the other activities arranged by the Co-ordinators: Sara and Denis.

I can say that was a good day's work when I found out about the U3A.

Why I joined the U3A

Barbara

I was unaware of the existence of U3A until I saw Baddow and Galleywood U3A being proposed. Having just retired I went along to the meeting and joined the computer and family history groups. I didn't have a computer at the time and the only family history was what I had been told. Many hours followed at the Essex and Gloucestershire record offices looking at fiches and enhancing my muscle power in London, using the large books of births, marriages and deaths. It's much easier today using the sites on the computer!

At various times I was with the creative writing group, played table tennis and then joined craft and game groups. U3A groups use various venues from houses to halls and even a pub! It enhances our knowledge, widens our circle of friends and even tickles the taste buds.

There is something for everyone in the U3A and it's up to each individual, as to their level of participation and if you feel something is missing, just start a group! Within the groups we've had meals out, trips and overnight stays. I've even tried marquetry and also various other techniques, which I hadn't previously known existed, with the craft groups.

A couple of extra bonuses - I've met a colleague I worked with 50 years ago and we've enjoyed reminiscing. Who would have thought hubby and I would be growing our own food on an allotment! So I'm benefitting from lots more exercise, (hubby does the digging) and as winter ends, we're having leeks parsnips and sprouts, plus I picked some daffodils today.

So it's all down to meeting new friends (and I might even get into print, another first.) I didn't realise quite how much I have benefited, until attempting to write this piece. Quite a journey, long may it continue. Thank you U3A.

Why I joined the U3A

Di

About 25 years ago, I was working for Chelmsford Adult Community College and as my husband took early retirement from Ford Motor Company, I became involved with the Pre-retirement Course the college ran.

This was about the time the Universite des Troisieme Age came over to England from France and became The University of the Third Age. (The 3rd age being for retired or semi-retired people.)

Jean, the Vice Principal of the college decided it would be a good idea to see if we could set up a group in Chelmsford. It was about that time that BBC Essex started broadcasting, so as well as notices in local newspapers, radio announcements meant that we had probably 100 to 120 people attending instead of the 30 to 40 we expected. So at the last minute we had to move from the small hall at the bottom of New London Road to the much bigger Christchurch Hall. Members of Basildon U3A came to tell us about their organisation, and thus Chelmsford U3A was formed. Initially we met in Chelmsford but as more people attended we realised we needed more U3As and new ones were established including Baddow & Galleywood in 1997/98

When we decided to start, we had booked the small hall at the end of Bells Chase and so many people turned up that we opened the windows and people stood outside listening to the meeting. Luckily, it was a warm, dry afternoon!

So our organisation began, and I have been on and off the committee since then and have found it to be very good. The idea of University in France means the members should all help with the programme and offer to provide items for the group meetings. Originally the person who volunteers to be the **contact /co-ordinator** of the group was called '**The Convenor**' but people felt this was not appropriate

A few years later, as there were then so many U3As in the county, **The Essex U3A Organisation** was formed and over the years they have organised Study Days around the county. Their main meetings are still held in Chelmsford at The Cathedral Chapter House twice a year.

That is how I became involved and I still thoroughly enjoy the meetings and social interaction.

No one saves us but ourselves. No one can and no one may.

We ourselves must walk the path. Buddha

Why I joined theU3A

John

Coming up to retirement I was lucky enough to have my own company, so decided to go on a fully paid 3 day week! I proposed to do this for the year leading up to my retirement as it would give me the opportunity to find out about things I would like to be involved in. Somebody mentioned the local U3A. I didn't know anything about them but looked them up to find they had a photography group. That really got me going as Photography has been a hobby of mine since the early 80's when I first got a "proper camera."

I was introduced to the then leader of the group: Allan and we hit it off straight away. I've been a member now for about eight years and enjoy every minute. I have also joined other groups which I enjoy but my passion is still with the photography. As the group has grown, I've made many friends and introduced a couple of new members. The activities we get up to are documented elsewhere in our newsletter.

In conclusion, all I would say is we laugh, have fun and help, where we can, all members at whatever level they may be.

My other interests include being a Trustee of the Galleywood Heritage Centre where I am continuing to create a photo archive of village life adding to the 3000+ images which are stored there, I'm also a trustee of the Keene Hall; I'm kept busy.

Why I joined the U3A

Alan

I was brought up in Harrow and went to school there, not the public one on the hill but a local authority school that had a few minor celebrities and one really famous pupil, Reg Dwight who became Elton John. He had left the school a couple of years before I started, and returned to give us a performance when I was in the fifth form. If I remember correctly he performed Rocket Man for us before it had been released.

My interests have always been in STEM subjects, and after university I had a career mostly carrying out research in communications and information systems. I started working in Wembley and after changing jobs within the area was relocated to Chelmsford in 2003. Early retirement came a couple of years ago which has allowed time for hobbies and lots of volunteering. There are no grandchildren although the situation remains under review.

So why did I join Baddow and Galleywood U3A? I was already aware of the U3A because my mother had enjoyed French classes at her local U3A. I wanted to understand quantum physics, which could have an

enormous impact upon computing in the future, but there wasn't a group like this, nor one where I could share my maritime passions.

Faced with these problems, I bought a book on quantum physics and became a volunteer on HMS Belfast where I meet visitors and discuss almost anything maritime. Despite the limitations I joined our U3A and I have since enjoyed many excellent main meetings. I joined the IT and Discussion groups, and have enjoyed interacting with many of our members. In addition, I volunteered to join the committee. I was immediately appointed Vice Chairman, not because of experience or competence but because I could do least damage there! The committee has been quite a learning curve, but it has been enjoyable and I have been well supported by my colleagues.

I hope this short piece will tempt both new and not-so-new members to join the committee or take up other posts such as leading groups. It is a demographic inevitability that vacancies will arise and our U3A cannot exist without the volunteers.

Reflecting on why I joined the U3A

Susan

About this time a year ago I penned an article for the Newsletter making extravagant claims about how the U3A may improve our bodies and minds. I am now certain this is the case.

Twenty years ago we holidayed with a friend who had retired to the Lake District and we joined her U3A walkers' group whenever we visited her. We were hooked but extended holidays in France, and grandchildren all ensured deferred gratification for Essex U3A local membership.

Five years ago we joined the Baddow and Galleywood U3A. It was the most friendly and welcoming group from all those I made enquiries to. Also it ran a wide range of interest groups.

For us the main monthly meeting is an opportunity we look forward to, for meeting members from all walks of life and from different interest groups. The speakers have covered a wide range of subjects. We both agree we always learn something new, frequently we are surprised by what we do learn.

Our first group was The Strollers, a walk and talk group. Ted is the coordinator. We walk an easy three miles on a flat surface and then always end with a pub lunch. At present we are recruiting new members, so if you are interested contact Ted. My husband, Tony belongs to the photographic group. I am invited to join them for the days out called 'photo shoots'.

Mike, the coordinator always organises wonderful excursions. Once again we always eat together in a local inn. All very jolly! This year we were introduced to the Weekenders, the coordinator Denis organises wonderful coffee shop experiences and Sunday pub lunches. It is another way to meet new and interesting people.

Last February we decided to join the Gardening Group. Here we obtained accelerated promotion, by April we were the coordinators! Our only qualification was our love of plants, gardens, people and the fact that no one else offered! It has been a steep learning curve, but so worthwhile, we have both really enjoyed the challenge, it certainly blew the cobwebs away and given us a new lease of life. I am keen for members to enjoy the group and take ownership of it.

Thank you Baddow & Galleywood U3A for ensuring, 'I keep on using it and not losing it!'

There is scientific evidence that learning something new and socialising is really good for human beings. Not only that, I am having fun.

Today was good. Today was fun. Tomorrow is another one.

Dr. Seuss

Never Volunteer.

That was about the only advice I went to National Service with. And I didn't. Not that it stopped the Navy doing it for me.

1956 was a bad year. We had yet to hear of Christine Keeler or to be able to read Lady Chatterly's Lover, as least not legally. It was the year Russia invaded Hungary and put down their attempt at more freedom.

It was also the year we and the French colluded with Israel. Israel would invade Egypt and we would go in to separate the combatants. Not that we 'hoi polloi' knew of the plan at the time. All went to schedule until the Americans threatened to wreck our economy and the allies withdrew. But not all of them.

It was Christmas Eve and I was informed that I, and others, had volunteered to stay behind with the relieving UN forces. Christmas was spent in Port Said harbour watching the Egyptians blowing up the statue of de

Lesseps, the architect of the Suez Canal, which had stood at the entrance. No UN forces in sight except us, dressed in Marine boiler suits without insignia and without weapons. *Hugh*

Never be Volunteered!

Maldon & Dengie Stroke & Carers Support Group

Our Group provides social and peer support to people affected by stroke, both survivors and carers. Our aim is to reduce social isolation and build confidence. The Group began in 2009 when a small number of people, working in Maldon with stroke survivors, saw a need for ongoing support after discharge from hospital. Some of the founder members are still active today.

As the Group grows, in numbers and activities, we are looking for additional volunteers to help at the social and lively fortnightly meetings. You would have or gain an empathy with stroke survivors and their carers. Our Group is a voluntary group within the Stroke Association (charity 211015) and training is organised by them.

We meet on alternate Thursday mornings at Fullbridge Free Church (opposite Lidl). You can find out more by phoning Brian on 01245 476404.

INTEREST GROUP REPORTS

Music Performing

Christmas was, of course, on our minds at our meeting on 13th December. At this meeting I overheard a member congratulating a performer for her confident performance. This made me think about Christmas, wise men, shepherds and journeys. If learning is seen as a journey, (after all, we are the University of the Third age) and it is better to travel than arrive, the wise men have some competition from members in our group! The biblical characters found their destination but for musicians a personal goal is often a moving target. We may stumble on our journey but always strive to give the best performance we can. I have been with our group for some years and the standard of the performances appears, to my ears, to have improved. Do I hear applause? (If you are reading this and thinking of joining us, please don't be put off by this observation.....we all started somewhere even if it was in the dim and distant past. Some of us travel very slowly indeed!)

Our journeys often involve experimenting – even the more experienced like a challenge. The classically trained players try jazz, singers learn to blend with other singers, instrumentalists experiment with different ensembles or genres...or just DO it, whilst coping with nerves! We all enjoy and appreciate the contributions from our friends. We are a sympathetic audience for each other and can understand the fun, frustration and fulfillment involved. Fun – yes – but *serious* fun perhaps?

Although the music was not all seasonal we did start with a Christmas medley to get us in the festive mood. Another Christmas medley on harmonica and piano was accompanied by appropriate antlers! We enjoyed a tango on the violin which finished with an appropriate flourish. This was followed by a Bach duet (how often Bach crops up!) with so many notes in the accompaniment. (Yes, we all know the Eric Morecambe joke!) The guitar duet, originally composed for violin and guitar, had us imagining warmer climates. There was an unusual flute and violin duet of very short pieces interspersed with narrative portraying the Christmas story. The chamber choir sang in three part harmony and included a Benjamin Britten song from Ceremony of Carols with guitar accompaniment. A Spanish Dance piano duet delighted us - how come those twenty fingers don't get muddled up? A trio of violin, cello and piano give pleasure to performers and audience alike. M.G. Pujol was the composer for a flute and guitar duet and proved that there are always more composers to discover. The alto sax's rich sound was portrayed by Tin Roof blues and Get me to the Church on Time. A Christmas Jazz medley (violin and cello) gave us a variation on the traditional tunes.

We ended with a traditional carol and: 'We wish you a Merry Christmas'.

At this meeting we acknowledged Pam's work as coordinator with a small gift. Thank you Pam.

Here's to more musical journeys and thanks to all members for a delightful afternoon. *Liz*

Arts and Crafts



We are the arts and crafts group who meet up monthly, usually with a project that we can complete in our 2 hour slot. Occasionally our projects take 2 sessions. We chat away for the entire meeting (as only a group of like – minded women can), putting the world to rights whilst trying to follow the instructions being given to us by the project leader. That sometimes is an impossible task, as we have a hard time listening - ha ha ha!



February's meeting will be for us to enjoy the late, late Christmas lunch in The Crown at Sandon, where no doubt the food will be tasty and the chatter continuous.

Some of last year's projects include: Christmas decorations, greetings cards using paper doilies and "doodling" or 'zentangleing!'
Yvonne

**If we could give every individual the right amount of exercise,
not too little and not too much, we would have found the
safest way to health.**

Hippocrates

Walking

We had a lovely, sunny walk in December, with our Christmas nibbles on the way round.

As you can see, there was plenty of water around to keep us on our toes, with all of us helping one another.

Then, as normal we completed our 6.5 mile walk with lunch in the local pub.

Glad



Collage by Marjorie

Painting and Sketching



"Spring is the time of plans and projects," so wrote Leo Tolstoy in Anna Karenina. Yes indeed, and as it is still quite wintry at the time of writing, it is a rather pleasant diversion to plan some painting projects for the spring, and the time ahead.

There can't be many better sights at the end of winter than the glorious light greens of new leaves on the trees. David Hockney described them as seeming to float in space in a wonderful way in spring, and indeed they do. Not easy to catch that magic in paint if you are not a Hockney, but it is fun to try.

Looking back over the last few months we have done some interesting projects in the Painting Group, such as mono-colour painting in sepia tones, working with a Zorn, or limited palette, views looking out through windows (more interesting than it sounds), a look at linear perspective in drawing, and the quite tricky challenge of working in the Art Nouveau style particular to Charles Rennie Mackintosh and his artistic associates, who included notably, his wife Margaret MacDonald, a significant and much underrated artist.

So onward and hopefully upward with our painting efforts in the weeks and months ahead. If you feel you may want to join us, do come along. It's a very friendly group.
Ron

"Is the spring coming?" he said. "What is it like?"

"It is the sun shining on the rain, and the rain falling on the sun.

Frances Hodgson Burnett

Enjoyable Photography

It's my privilege to co-ordinate an enthusiastic group of photographers who have made steady progress in the past year, which culminated in some wonderful images for our January's open competition, in memory of John Westwood, who was himself a brilliant and encouraging photographer in our group. He would have been delighted with the standard of work overall & in particular our well deserved winners : 1st Bas, "2nd Veronica, & 3rd Steve. We were grateful that David Heath, an experienced photographer, judged our

competition, which was a fun and light - hearted event with lots of helpful comments for our members to take away.



1st. Bas– Lunch



2nd. Veronica - Boy Portrait



3rd. Steve - Barn Owl

Our monthly meetings at the Heritage Centre include a welcome break, allowing our group to socialise and compare notes, a brilliant way to get some useful tips.

We review members' images from previous months' photo-shoots, which recently covered Thaxted, Colchester & Cambridge. We're delighted that our members are willing to share their personal photography experiences that provide a different perspective, using their visits from some exciting locations but also their take on some process topics: Berlin, Audley End Christmas lights, Historic Wood Kiln in France, & photo image Process & Editing, Layers & Salvaging old black & white pictures.

The success in the group's participation, together with communication to and from our members throughout the year, ensure equal opportunities and maintain a balance between learning and enjoyment, making photography good fun for all.

Mike

Information Technology and Computing

We meet every 3rd Monday afternoon in each other's houses for a presentation and discussion on various technological subjects. The subject is usually chosen by the presenter and can last from half an hour to much longer, depending on the questions and interruptions for discussions. There is usually much to say about the topic – rarely do we have a quiet meeting.



Recent topics have been concerning Alexa and its relevance to our lives, driverless vehicles, smart meters and social media. This month we are discussing Drones and next month will be a general problem solving session. As we visit each other's houses, the numbers are limited but if you feel you would be interested and can contribute to our friendly group, please give me a call to discuss coming along.

Loretta

Martine's Mah Jong Mashup

On Wednesday afternoons, most every fortnight
We meet and form our groups of three or four
Build walls of bamboo tiles, assign ourselves a wind
And circle round that great wall widdershins.
We build up sets of Characters and Dragons
Bamboos and Circles, maybe special hands
Shout 'Pung' and 'Kong' and hopefully 'I'm Fishing'
Until with luck 'Mah Jong' will signal end.
Then hands are shown, points added, stories noted:
We start the game once more, hoping anew
That this time we'll be lucky, tiles will slot in,
The discards will be easy, not frustrating,
And Flowers and Seasons, omens of good fortune
Will crown the beauty of our winning hand.

Andrew Dobson

Book group 2 - The Undertaking by Audrey Magee

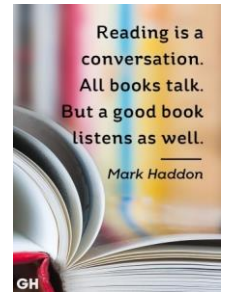
Written from a German point of view, I can't say I enjoyed this book, but I did read it all despite cruel scenes and bad language.

It seemed a strange thing to do – to marry a picture, but in many ways it kept Peter going throughout the ravages of war and the awful life and things he had to do to survive. It also kept Katharina full of hope and longing to move on with her life to a better future. I guess this happened in many places during wartime of waiting for someone who never returned or who was a different person once they came back. In Peter's case, he had been away for more than six years, fighting on the Russian front.

I didn't realise that the baby had died and it wasn't Peter's son who was waiting for him. It certainly changed them both so much that life couldn't continue as they had once dreamed of.

I found it quite a moving book, but would like something more pleasant to read next time. *Audrey*

Our group would welcome another reader; we meet in each others' homes on a Friday afternoon. If you would like to come and see us, please contact Maggie (Editor & Co-ordinator Book group 2)



This year with the Family History group

At the time of writing we have had our January meeting when we had a talk by Andy Begent). So what else have we in store for the rest of the year? We have three talks – about the Resistance in Denmark in World War Two, the story of 'The Amorous Aviator' and a talk by Kate J. Cole [back by popular demand] on 'A house through time'. There may be another one - about WW2 at Hylands, but our Fridays clash with important dates – Good Friday and the May Bank Holiday – at our February meeting we hope to sort something out. We plan to visit Harwich during 'Mayflower 400', with a guided tour, time for a lunch and a boat trip round the harbour. In addition we will have some of our 'successes and problems' sessions with themes, in case we have no successes or problems! Please keep an eye on our page on the website to see what we decide. We always welcome guests when we have a speaker and usually have guests when we go on a visit. *Linda*



Weekenders

Our group continues to meet for our regular Sunday lunches and coffee mornings, all of which are very well supported. For our Christmas lunch at the County Hotel we had 20 members present. We were well looked after, and the meal was very good.

Our programme, which is renewed every two or three months, is made from items suggested by members. Collectively they decide the coffee and Sunday lunch venues and also away day visits. During the latter end of 2019 we visited Burnham on Crouch for fish-n-chips which now has become an annual "must" event. We also went to Saffron Waldren; we caught the x30 to Stansted, then a Stevenson bus via many picturesque villages, to this very attractive town.

On our annual early spring break at the end of March 2020, a group of us are going to Exmouth. Last year's trip to Bournemouth was very "lively", so Exmouth watch out.

The Weekenders are open to everyone, mainly, but not exclusively to people who are on their own.

If you would like to join us, please contact me or a U3A committee member. *Denis — Coordinator*

Photography

New Year, time to get going with this season's images.

The group is holding a photo shoot, presented by Paul Hudson, a local photographer, at the Heritage centre today and I am looking forward to being involved.

The subject for this tutorial will be portraiture and macro. The group will be using the new studio set that was passed on by the late John Westwood.

So, the first volunteer steps up to the lights, then we jostle for the best spot. We all seem to be able find positions, a flurry of activity and excitement fills the room, you can hear the clicks of the cameras and the instructions being called out (head up, chin down, move to the right etc). There's a change of model every now and then, which helps for variation.

Just waiting for the next meeting to view everybody's hard work (I guess there will be a few kind remarks about the sitters) We are all looking forward to the next session. *Jose*

O, wind, if winter comes, can spring be far behind?

Percy Bysshe Shelley

Learning to be Retired Course (retiring with attitude)

One of the presenters of the above course, due to take place on 26 February for five weeks, is now unable to facilitate the course on those dates. The course will still be delivered, but is likely to take place over May and June. We intend to market the course to Chelmsford U3A members at a forthcoming New Members Information day in the spring. The aim being to increase the levels of attendance, which will add to the variety and enjoyment of the course. If any Baddow & Galleywood members would like to participate, they would be more than welcome

The venue will be the Millennium Centre at Great Baddow. We will be flexible in terms of deciding which day of the week to deliver the course, and take note of the preferences of those colleagues attending.

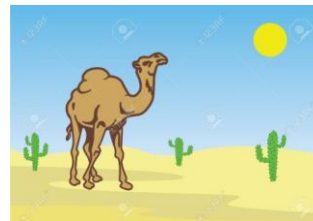
Anyone who would like to register an interest, or seek more information should contact:

Lesley Wood lesleywood54@yahoo.com or Lindsay Whitehouse ljwhitehouse@mail.com

One of our Co-ordinators, (who wishes to remain anonymous) thought readers would be amused by the poem below . Its something to cheer up the winter gloom, I hope. (Editor)

The Camel's Hump - Rudyard Kipling

The Camel's hump is an ugly lump
Which well you may see at the Zoo;
But uglier yet is the hump we get
From having too little to do.



(Several verses later, which I do not recall, it goes on)

Several Kiddies and grown-ups too-oo-oo,
If we haven't enough to do-oo-oo,
We get the hump —
Cameelious hump —
The hump that is black and blue!

And then you will find that the sun and the wind,
And the Djinn of the Garden too,
Have lifted the hump —
The horrible hump —
The hump that is black and blue!

No doubt this is just as relevant today, whether for children or us oldies!



Chelmsford in the Second World War

The family history group's January meeting

In January Andy Begent who runs the website <http://chelmsfordwarmemorial.co.uk/> and who wrote 'Chelmsford at War- a chronicle of the county town of Essex during the Second World War' gave us a detailed account of what happened in Chelmsford. I think that all of us were surprised by the amount of bombing that happened and to see photographs of the devastation caused. Andy had photos of the Chelmsford area taken from German reconnaissance planes. At the beginning of the war Chelmsford was not targeted and any bombing was random. Chelmsford was on the planes' route to London and a year into the war the Hoffman's and Marconi's factories started to be targeted.

Within a week of war being declared 1400 evacuees were brought to Chelmsford. No bombing happened here during the early weeks, but public shelters were built – the smallest for 60 people and the largest for 400. There were also 'trench shelters', which were just trenches, in public parks – the biggest being in the recreation ground for 1200 people. In May 1940 the Home Guard was formed. The main roundabouts in the town had removable barriers – the barriers were to prevent German tanks getting into the town. As Baddow Meads was an ideal place for the Germans to land planes, barriers were erected there, too.

In May 1940 on two consecutive days random bombs were dropped and people were killed. But targeted bombing started a year later. If you want to read about one of the worst incidents at Hoffman's and see some of the photographs have a look at <http://www.chelmsfordwarmemorial.co.uk/second-world-war/chelmsford/ww2-unknown.html>. There is a large memorial to these Hoffman's workers in Writtle Road cemetery.

As the war continued incendiary bombs were dropped – one caused the Suet factory in New St. to catch fire and the melted fat spread across the road, making it difficult for people to get to work at Marconi's factory next morning. The bus station was bombed thus stopping people getting to work for the war effort. We saw photographs of many houses that were destroyed or damaged.

On D Day there was fake radio traffic around Chelmsford to convince the Germans that there were many troops around here.

When the war ended there was dancing in the streets of Chelmsford.

Andy is revising his book and hopes that the new version will be ready for VE Day. *Linda*

Violence on TV

Notes on Meeting Chelmsford MP Vicky Ford

I met our Chelmsford MP on 31st January (Brexit Day) to discuss the initiative I raised at the January U3A general meeting. I gave Vicky a copy of my notes on the subject to back up the email I had sent her. The gist of my study was that the BBC and ITV should be screening their drama programmes to encourage good behaviour rather than glorifying extreme violence and thereby promoting violence on the streets. I cited various research studies to reinforce my point, eg. Every child will witness 18,000 scenes of violence on the media before they reach adulthood.

Vicky outlined the Government policy on the subject. They are concerned more about the media programmes being downloaded to Iphones and tablets rather than mainstream TV. They are concerned about the effect on the young, especially when teenagers take their own lives after viewing graphic images of selfharm on Snapchat. They have contacted Facebook, who own Snapchat, and Facebook have promised to delete this self-harm material.

The Department of Digital, Culture, Media and Sport are spearheading this initiative. They recognise that (unlike mainstream TV) a number of platforms such as Snapchat are outside UK Law, and this must change. Laws will be passed in 2020 to address this problem.

I also suggested that teaching about 'Goodness' should be taught at school, as it was in my childhood. Vicky said that the government have this on their agenda too, but I think the emphasis is more on teaching young people about the dangers online, which are very real, especially as parents are often unaware of what their children are viewing.

The conclusion is that I need not worry; the Government are on top of it! *Allen*



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

Do you want a say in the running of your Baddow and Galleywood U3A?

Do you have ideas of things we could be doing?

Do you have views on things we should not be doing?

Your U3A committee meets on the first Monday afternoon in February, April, June, August, October and December.

There are three vacant spaces for committee members which we would like to fill at the AGM on 8th April.

If you would like to join the committee or know someone who would be interested in joining, please find and download the nomination form on the website.

If you want to find out more to see what is involved, contact one of the committee members who will be happy to answer your questions.

MAIN MEETINGS: SPEAKERS / SUBJECTS

8 April	Chris Branch	AGM + Forte Physical Health A local osteopath
13 May	Andy Bennett	90 Years of Austin 7 His car adventures
10 June	Deborah Brady	A Female in Fleet Street Life as a photojournalist
8 July	Charlie Haylock	A History of spoken English Suffolk & Essex accents



Copy for the **Summer** edition should be with me on or before **April 20th**, please.

I'd welcome articles from Group Co-ordinators, any new or existing members, and more entries for **Why I Joined the U3A**, would be great!

Send articles / photographs as separate attachments to me.:

Maggie — Editor



**Society has always to demand a little more from human beings
than it will get in practice.**

George Orwell



Are you a singer?

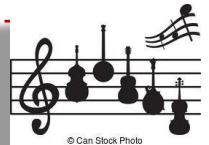
Do you enjoy singing in harmony?

Baddow and Galleywood U3A need you!

We are looking for new members to join our small chamber choir of female singers.

We practise every Monday at 3.30 pm and Friday at 10.30 am in Springfield. The songs we choose are light classical – from Bach to Beatles. We enjoy socializing and making friends as well as making music.

If interested, please contact Pam



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INTEREST GROUP PROGRAMME

DAY		1ST	2ND	3RD	4TH
Monday	a.m.				
	p.m.		Photography German Conversation	I.T. & Computing	Poetry Appreciation
Tuesday	p.m.	Table Tennis Singing for Pleasure Scrabble	Canasta Table Tennis	Table Tennis Singing for Pleasure	Table Tennis Canasta
Wednesday	a.m.	Italian Walking 1 Painting & Sketching	Italian Painting & Sketching	Italian Strollers Painting & Sketching	Italian Painting & Sketching
	p.m.	Reading 1 French Conversation Mah-jong	General Meeting	Mah-jong	Local History 1 Spanish
Thursday	a.m.		Papercraft		Papercraft
	p.m.	Bridge Gardening	Bridge Local History 2	Bridge Discussion	Bridge Paper Craft
Friday	a.m.		Arts & Crafts	Walking 2	Rambling
	p.m.	Music Performing Reading 2 Creative Writing	Family History Cribbage Art Appreciation	Needles & Pins	
Saturday				Weekenders	
Sunday		Weekenders			

Music Performing: 14 Feb, 24 April, 10 July, 25 Sept, 11 Dec



Published 1st March 2020