

Baddow & Galleywood u3a NEWSLETTER



Winter 2023

U3A COMMITTEE

Chair	Sue Nelson
Vice Chairman & Webmaster	Alan Cullen
Membership Secretary	Tony Nelson
Treasurer	Ted Dyer
Treasurer No 2 a/c	Wendy Burns
Speaker Secretary	Jean Jacyna
Interest Groups Co-ordinator	Loretta Riddel
Business & Minutes Secretary	David Massey
Social & Welfare Secretary	Daniel Curley
Committee members	Roy Brackley
Refreshments	Liz Curley
Newsletter Editor (n/c)	Maggie Nutt
Logistics (n/c)	Roger North



If you would like to know more about your Committee, turn to pages 13 & 14 where you will find each member has written a short biography about themselves.

Life is trying things to see if they work
Ray Bradbury

**'u3a Learn, Live and Laugh'. A Letter from the Baddow and Galleywood u3a Chair
Sue Nelson.**

Dear Members,

Well, who would have thought a year ago that our Committee Members would now be totally immersed in a new, all-consuming project? In February this year 'Save Baddow and Galleywood u3a from extinction' came into our lives after we all received a letter telling us that it was very likely that our u3a would close its doors this December 2023.

I have always responded to a challenge, loved to problem solve, like people and socialising, be busy and to make to a difference. Well, I got what I wished for. Yes, along with our enthusiastic Committee we are preparing for 2024, we are still in business!

Since April's AGM our team have made several changes we consider for the better. Together we analysed the situation and prepared a plan of what we considered would be helpful improvements for B and G u3a. We call that project 'The Way Forward'; it continues evolving and is ongoing. The Third Age Trust website was very helpful and along with their mentors reminded us all that our first task was to re-establish the Guiding Principles of the u3a movement: 'Lifelong learning and personal development'. The ethos is of self-directed help and mutual aid, friendship, enjoyment and having fun is firmly on the agenda along with every member having a shared responsibility to contribute.

After listening to many members we decided to search for a General Meeting venue to enable us to return to Baddow. We were successful, next year on every third Wednesday of the month from the 17th January 2024 (2pm to 4pm) the General Meeting is moving to Great Baddow Community Millennium Centre's Millennium Suite. The hall is bright and cheerful, cool in the summer and warm in the winter, with plenty of parking and disabled access. Park View Room will also be used to provide a café with tables and chairs and refreshments for you to meet up with or make new friends afterwards and talk together. Committee Member Liz Curley and volunteers will be organising our cup of tea and a biscuit. Perhaps you can volunteer to help Liz, if so add your name to the rota for 2024.

Much of our Committee's administrative work was/is very time consuming and the ancient systems are not fit for purpose. The Committee decided to buy into and update to the Third Age Trust's 'Beacon Administrative System'. We are in the process of setting it up and hope to be up and running by the end of the year. Tony Nelson, the Membership Secretary will keep you posted. It will initially deal with Membership and communications. In preparation we have attended Third Age Trust Zoom courses and workshops for 'Running our u3a and Committee' and for Beacon.

As Chair and an Interest Group Leader I feel very strongly about the central role of Interest Groups in the u3a movement. They are at the heart of the u3a and must be valued, listened to, helped and supported. Their part in our u3a is vital for a successful club. Via their Leaders they must encourage and commit to being involved and communicate with the Committee and members.

When I first joined I was recruited to the Strollers by their dedicated and persuasive leader Isobel.

Maggie encouraged me to go to the Gardening Group and after meeting Denis I decided to join the Weekenders. All groups made me new friends and brought joy to my life. Notice how all recruitments relied on the personal touch. In addition, it is important that groups are open to new members and always represented at the General Meeting to encourage and enable recruitment.

There are to be two new groups in the New Year.

'Pickleball' (Google it, I did, it looks great fun), Liz Curley and Janette Cumlin are at present working hard to set it up. Their first meeting will be at Hamptons on Thursday 2nd November, 10am to 12noon and to continue weekly. Phone Liz on 07729119420 or Janette on 07505 125506. Courts and venue will be paid by members — all groups are self-financing.

Alan Cullen is recruiting members to join a new 'Transport Group'. Such a vast and exciting subject to study and explore. An inaugural meeting is booked for Monday 27th November, 14.30 to 16.30 at Great Baddow Community Millennium Centre, room hire paid by members. (see above paragraph) Go along or phone Alan on 01245 268156.

As a new resident to Baddow, Jean Jacyna has thrown herself whole heartedly into helping our u3a, she is a valued Committee member and is also taking over the u3a Local History Group from Martine Compton. As Speaker Secretary Jean has prepared an exciting and very varied programme of Speakers for 2024. It will educate, interest, challenge and even possibly take you out of your comfort zone. The

General meetings are an ideal opportunity for you to meet members in other groups and socialise. All are so important for our good health, both body and mind.

At present there are eleven Committees Members. When long serving members Alan Cullen Vice Chair, Loretta Riddel Interest Groups Coordinator and Wendy Burns No 2 Account retire from the Committee in December we will be down to eight. Ten Green bottles comes to mind!

The Committee will consist of the following eight members in January 2024, Ted Dyer Treasurer, Tony Nelson Membership Secretary, Jean Jacyna Speaker Secretary, David Massey Business Secretary, Liz Curley Refreshments Organiser, Daniel Curley Minutes Secretary and Welfare, Roy Brackley (retiring at the next AGM) and Sue Nelson, Chair.

In the new year we will need some more talented, committed and hardworking new committee members. We especially need someone up to date in the field of information technology/ publishing.

Come and discuss with me what you are able to contribute to our Committee, we do not just want 'bums on seats'!! We need members who are seriously committed to the u3a Movement, who want to help and who realise there is a huge feel-good bonus in becoming involved.

Please seriously consider volunteering and make a valuable contribution to our u3a. Do please contact me either at the General Meetings or on 01277 651567 to discuss the possibilities further.

Sue Nelson

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All we are saying is give peace a chance.

John Lennon

A note from the Editor:

Welcome to the Winter edition of the u3a Newsletter. I hope you enjoy reading it.

Interest group reports begin on p 5. It would be really good if more groups sent me an article on their activities or outings; if anyone wants to contribute but is anxious about putting pen to paper, please use our Roving Reporters - they are there to help. (Allen and Maurice - see below). Without your contributions, I can't produce a bumper issue, unless I fill it with jokes, and the aim is to encourage others to join your group or for new people to find out about what we do and come along!

Could your group become our Featured Group? In this issue its the Music Performing group on p 9, which Roving reporter Allen and I visited this spring, and were wowed by their performances. We've written about it, as has Ken, a group member, and Debbie who is the Coordinator. (thanks to Pam, who is their talented musical leader).

Information on future Main meetings and the new venue is on p15, and details of the new Committee members are on pps 13 &14 - find out more about them!

Please consider sending an article for the Spring issue next year; ideas such as: 'Why I joined the u3a' / 'what I like best about my group(s)' / 'cheap & easy recipes' or trips you've been on, could interest readers. Send to: margaret.nutt@btinternet.com - anytime.

Thank you to all contributors and to those who sent photographs.

Christmas Greetings

Maggie

RRs = Allen Buckroyd - allenbuckroydpop@gmail.com

& Maurice Crockard - mauricecrockard@yahoo.co.uk



INTEREST GROUP REPORTS

Early Popular Music

I joined the U3A Early Popular Music Group, with Jeff as an excellent co-ordinator, as, in the words of John Miles: 'Music is my first love'.

Each month we are given a theme and find 2 songs or pieces of music that fit the criteria.

One track chosen by each member is then emailed by our leader to each of us. This is in the hope we all have time to listen to each piece.

At the Zoom meeting we each take it in turns to say why we made our choice. These can be both personal reasons and researched information.

The second track is not disclosed until later in the session, and there have been many interesting choices. If anyone loves music from pre- mid-70s, this is a great friendly group to join.

Rosemary



Local History



On 28th June the Local History group visited the Anglo-Saxon church of St Andrew's in Greensted, near Ongar. We met up at the Millennium Centre for carsharing and made the short drive out along the A414. On arrival we were warmly greeted and treated to an informative tour of both the outside and inside of the church, said to be 'the oldest wooden church in the world' and possibly the oldest timber building in Europe. You can see the 11th-century upright nave timbers and a 12th-century grave of a Crusading archer. The white weather-boarded tower was added in the 17th-century.

We were shown many interesting photos and artefacts, and the history and relevance of some of the church furniture and decoration inside was expertly revealed. We learned that several of the Tolpuddle Martyrs were given farm tenancies in the area and worshipped at St Andrew's after returning from their transportation to Australia. Thankfully, ours was a shorter journey back home.



Jean Jacyna

Man is still the most extraordinary computer of all.



John F. Kennedy

IT and Computing

We are a friendly group who meet monthly, still mostly on Zoom. Once or twice a year we come together for a Christmas quiz or for a meeting in a house/garden.

Each month, one of us researches and presents a topic which is Technology related. It may be a subject dear to the heart of the presenter or it may be a subject they knew nothing about and had to research. There is then time after the presentation for a discussion and a social catch up.

Recent topics have included Rare Earth Elements and their uses, renewable energy and a dabble with Chat GPT. Future topics will include a discussion about a cashless society, house security systems and "The men who gave us radio".

As we still use Zoom there is no limit to numbers so if you are interested and feel you could contribute to the group, please feel free to contact me via the Bluebird on our web page.

Loretta Riddel

Photography

Q. What's the difference between an enthusiastic photographer and a crocodile?

A. The crocodile knows when to stop snapping!

The joy of photography in modern times is that each snap is effectively free – no film or processing costs to worry about. Is every snapshot a great shot? No, of course not; but if you don't know what makes a great shot different to a snapshot then how about coming along and trying out our Photo Group. It really doesn't matter whether you're using the latest mirrorless camera, your mobile phone or something in between to take the shots. If you're into competitive photography, then there are much better places for you – although we do have an annual competition, our main emphasis is on socialising with mutual education and encouragement as our background.



Over the past few months members have ventured out to Long Melford and Melford Hall, Maldon (for a photographic scavenger hunt), Wivenhoe, Harlow Walled Garden & Old Harlow. Each new venue provides an opportunity to take various types of photo in different weather conditions and then sample the culinary delights of a local tavern or cafe. Each participant then has a couple of weeks to choose and pro-

cess their best images and send to group co-ordinator, Mike Bacon, for a digital presentation of all submitted images at our monthly meeting. Here, at Galleywood Heritage Centre Common Room on the 2nd Monday each month at 2pm, everyone is offered the chance to say why they took a particular image and what they like/dislike about it, before others are invited to comment as they feel appropriate. As well as viewing and commenting on images, members can volunteer to chat about a collection of their own photos or a topic that they think will interest the rest of us. September's meeting had Allen Buckroyd demonstrating some of the basic editing features of Photoshop Elements to manipulate the colour and brightness of some of his images. An upcoming talk from David will be on his trip from Southend Pier to the Maunsell Forts out in the Thames estuary. David writes *"It was a beautiful day and the forts looked – well, shall we say, ideal for photography – rusty and decaying. On the way back we were amazed to see a pod of dolphins heading in towards the Thames. The moral – always have your camera (or your phone!) ready."*



Occasionally the monthly meeting will feature a professional photographer invited along to give an illustrated talk on a chosen topic and offer us a chance to pose questions either on that topic or more generally. October's meeting had Steve Hedges along to give a talk on "Impact & Mood". Steve's excellent talk provoked many questions and include some great tips for improving our images by planning ahead, understanding composition guidelines (and breaking them when appropriate), using a range of shutter speed and focal lengths for achieving differing results and considering different types of lighting and colour. [The major snag for many of us was the strange concept that there is another 5 o'clock in the day apparently!]

If you'd like to view the monthly images without attending the meetings, they are posted by Mike on the Photo Group webpage of our main u3a website. The Group also has its own independent Facebook page where members of the group can interact with each other, showing images and posing questions and answers. Huge thanks to Mike for all he does for the rest of us and Linda for providing the half-time refreshments.

Maurice Crockard

What I am looking for is a blessing not in disguise.

Jerome K. Jerome

Creating Cards



The card group is progressing nicely. We meet in our own homes once a month to create some master pieces. Each of our members introduces us to a new design each time we meet and I have to say we have made some fabulous cards.

Yvonne Bullock



Art Appreciation

Nine of us met for the October meeting, and as always, we looked at a great variety of paintings, some of which we delighted in and others we could hardly bear to look at.

The Gleaners by JF Millet on first sight is a bucolic country scene of three women collecting wheat stalks from a field that has already been harvested. However, through his art, Millet was commenting on the fate of the poor, class structure and the dignity of the peasants as they performed this backbreaking task.

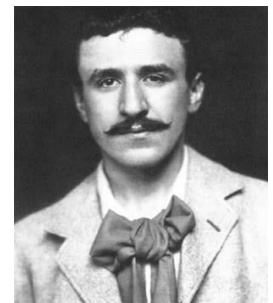


Pictures that tell a story had been a suggested theme, and a painting of Coventry cathedral after it had been bombed, with smouldering remains amongst the luminous glass certainly told a story. A story sadly that is in the forefront of our minds now with the current state of the world. Could we be optimistic when saw the beautiful stained-glass window of the new Coventry Cathedral? I hope so.

A fascinating picture by Kerry James Marshall, a contemporary black American Artist, of an artist in her studio also hid a message behind an easy on the eye picture. He had referenced many previous artworks in his picture to demonstrate that artists are influenced by those that come before. He also subverted the idea of a female nude being painted by a man by including a black male nude in the background of his picture.



We may have all heard of Charles Rennie Mackintosh but after our meeting, I will never forget that his wife, Margaret Macdonald, was his equal and they collaborated on a lot of work. We looked at the Willows Tea room in Glasgow for which they had overall design responsibilities. Mackintosh painted one frieze and Macdonald the other and they were both instantly recognisable.



In contrast we looked at a picture by Willem de Kooning, entitled 'Woman and Bicycle', the fact that we could not find the bicycle was not the most bizarre feature of this artwork. On reflection I thought he was not a man I would trust, and found out that De Kooning's wife, also a painter, was 14 years his junior. Their lifelong partnership was affected by alcoholism, lack of money, love affairs, quarrels and separations.

We finished by returning to the theme of pictures that tell a story with 6 well known artists who had illustrated books. Presented as a quiz, group members were asked to identify the artist and also the story. Some were straightforward and others more surprising. It was easy to identify Little Red Hen, but the Andy Warhol illustrations were very uncharacteristic. Whereas Dali was instantly recognisable, although we had to work to see that the book was Alice in Wonderland.

As always, a meeting where everyone came away with plenty to think about, new knowledge and looking forward to the next one. *Debbie Collins*

Discussion

Trish, our coordinator, ensures she scans the papers to choose monthly topics relating to current affairs. If the Politicians listened to our group, the Country could be sorted out for a fraction of the cost it costs the public now.

I joined because it helps to talk about matters the media have focused on. And I like hearing different viewpoints from enthusiastic, knowledgeable members. We may not solve the problems, but it feels so much better to be able to air our views.

Not forgetting the cake at the end of each meeting along with a cuppa, this puts a delicious ending to our debates. *Rosemary*

Life is really simple, but we insist on making it complicated.

Confucious

Gardening

Thanks to all the members who came with us to visit three very special gardens this summer. In June it was Hyde Hall, the hardy perennial flower beds and borders were glorious.

July took us to Ed and Jen's garden at Mayfield Farm. It was one of the most challenging gardens I have ever visited, mainly because the owners had gone for the almost instant model, rather than the slow, evolving garden. I liked many aspects of their garden. I consider it a WOW garden and one I intend to return to.

We also visited Blunts Hall at Witham. Lesley and Alan made us very welcome and shared the fascinating history of the house and the garden with us. The property and grounds were part of an ancient estate. Lesley is a professional garden archivist and has worked with Alan for the last few years to restore their lost Victorian Garden. We loved the afternoon tea, they were so kind to us and I do hope they continue to share their garden through the NGS.

Happy Gardening -

Sue and Tony



Early Popular Music - Live Performances

Some memorable live performances we've seen— below. The venues that people heard these in were particularly interesting with a very broad range of places that you heard some of these songs performed. They included dark and dingy but intimate venues to the opulent surroundings of The Royal Albert Hall and Belfast Opera House to large arena venues like Wembley. *Jeff*

Here are the track listings:

Ziggy Stardust - David Bowie: David

So Long Marianne - Leonard Cohen: Maggie

Beggin' - Timebox: Brenda

Having a Party - Rod the Mod: Rosemary

Moondance - Van the Man: Maurice

She's not there - Zombies: Helena

But I do - Clarence 'Frogman' Henry: Maurice

Papa's Got a brand new bag - Godfather of Soul: Rosemary

Reach out and Touch somebody's hand - Diana Ross: Dave

Born to Run - The Boss - David

Volare - Gipsy Kings - Jeff

Thanks to Jeff for co-ordinating this group, choosing the topics and sorting out the technology and our musical choices each month. (Even when we're late!) We've had a great year!

Maggie

Featured Group in this issue

Music Performing



Editor Maggie and I were invited to attend the July meeting of the Music Performing group. They are a multi-talented crowd and we were treated to work by classical composers and by lesser known creators of traditional folk music, which we thoroughly enjoyed.

The last tune was composed for Piano, Flute, Cor Anglais and Violin by the one and only Eric of Gt. Baddow! The different duets, trios, quartets and septets blended well together and produced sweet music. (I privately scored 8 or 9/10 for every piece). Coordinator Pam Greenwood

has a theory that the satisfaction derived from playing alone is doubled when musicians combine and she is proud of the improvements made by new members under the encouragement of this friendly ensemble. She also believes that the format of this group is unique in the u3a movement.

Although they are a good size group with more than 20 members (and more than 12 different instruments), they are keen to recruit more players or singers, especially players of the French horn and ukulele. Are you tempted to join? You would be made very welcome.

Before I attended, I had the misconception that most of the musicians concentrated solely on their music with little time for other u3a activities. In fact, although music certainly plays a big part of their life, I met 3 table-tennis players and 2 other members of the Art Appreciation group. Some even find time to join other u3a groups.

Allen Buckroyd, Roving Reporter

Ring in the new!

New members- new pairings-new repertoire!

We had the best-attended meeting for a long time, with performances to match!

We now have a fully-fledged string quartet, who opened the programme with, among other works, the famous opening of Charpentier's Te Deum. Music from the nineteenth century followed, with a Liszt Consolation and two Romantic Pieces by Dvorak, all played beautifully.

Mozart- on two saxophones(!)- ensued, before the first of two "spots" by the singing group, including The Song of Shadows, by local composer C. Armstrong Gibbs.

And who imagined that a duo of Clarinet and Bassoon would work? Well- it did! - with music by Tchaikovsky, Grieg and Beethoven.



After tea and biscuits, the mood quietened with two guitar duets, Mozart on the piano and three accordion pieces. The Vocal Group's second "spot" included "Summertime", before the afternoon was brought to a beautiful (A Victorian Kitchen Garden) then very rousing (Variations, by Eric) conclusion!

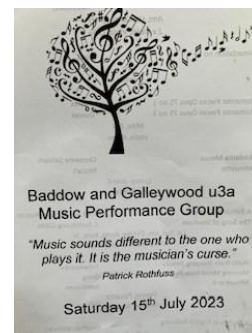
I've mentioned no names - except Eric, who, as composer of the last piece must be recognised! As must Pam Greenwood and Debbie Collins, who organised the event, co-ordinated the performances and produced the written programme- THANKS. Oh! -and the lovely people who provide the most essential refreshments!

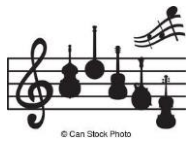
Everybody made an equally valuable contribution to a most successful and enjoyable afternoon.

ps- Wot, no Jazz? We'll have to see about that! *Ken*

**Music doesn't lie. If there is something to be changed in this world
then it can only happen through music.**

Jimi Hendrix





Music Performing (cont)

On a sunny Saturday afternoon in July, Roving Reporter: Allen Buckroyd and I visited the Music Performing group at All Saints Church in Springfield.

We were warmly welcomed and entertained by the members to a wonderful, uplifting afternoon of singing and fabulous playing of a variety of instruments, including guitars, piano, violin, cor anglais, saxophone, flute, bassoon, accordion, clarinet, french horn and ukelele.



Under the watchful eye of Pam, their leader and Debbie, who co-ordinates the group, we listened to lovely music, played singly, as duets and other variously sized groups. It was entrancing and moving to hear them perform in front of their peers and we two visitors – their small, but appreciative 'audience'.

Work included pieces from Mozart, Liszt, Dvorak, Beethoven and more, and concluded with a piece written and performed by Eric Withams with a small group of members playing piano, flute, violin and cor anglais. It's hard to single out anyone from this talented 'bunch', but Davina and Paulette made us smile with their bassoon and clarinet contribution.

Thank you to Pam and Debbie for inviting us, but thanks most of all to the skilled, joyful performers who shared their hard work and talents and certainly made my afternoon!

Maggie

VIVENT LES DIFFERENCES!

The programme this time included quite a lot of "music with a difference!" Our resident string quartet began with three pieces, including some ragtime (Scott Joplin of course!) How wonderful to have a string quartet!

Then- some Jazz- Improvisations on Tenor Sax and piano rhythm- including some latin-american rhythm. That theme continued with a Tango played on violin and piano. More conventional fare followed- but played on two alto saxes!

The vocal group displayed its versatility with three- part songs, sung as a vocal quartet.

Two of our accompanists played a piano duet by Mozart- probably composed as a teaching piece - but who was the teacher and whom the pupil!?

Fiendish music (literally) on three cellos brought the first half to a close.

A beautiful cello solo (nothing fiendish at all!) began the second half. Then Bach! But on two guitars! The tenor sax player from the first half skilfully switched to

clarinet and played some relaxing Schubert. To wake us up(!) some Alto sax and piano, followed by an unaccompanied vocal solo, and unaccompanied violin, both from, at 91 our "oldest resident." Then- a wonderfully energetic performance of Piazzolla's "Libertango" to finish, leaving us all with a feeling of exhilaration!

I've mentioned no names, as once again everyone's contribution was very important and represented hours of practice and rehearsal. Thank You to Pam, for organising, and to Anna, for helping and producing the programme.

Ken



After silence, that which comes nearest to expressing the inexpressible is music.

Aldous Huxley

Review of u3a Music Performing Group's meeting on 29 April, 2023.



Welcome to the Music Performing Group's review. For those not in the know, we are a group of musicians, experienced and not so much, brought together by the love of making music and experimenting, learning and making friends. We meet about 5 times a year and present our practised ensembles to the rest of the group. Most of us would agree 'large oaks from little acorns grow', but not without some attention along the way. Additionally, getting diaries to talk to each other can be a challenge!

We started the delightful afternoon with five short pieces on flute, violin and piano. Next the alto saxophone with piano invited us to savour warmer climes, with both the Rhine, sun and sea. An unusual flute and piano contribution demanded my attention and my concentration was rewarded. This was called *Deja Vue* and composed by Jeremy Norris, an English composer. A guitar duet composed by Gaspar Sanz (a Spanish composer born in 1640) took us back to warmer climes, as we all look forward to the summer. Some centuries later than Sanz, an unusual duet of 2 Cor Anglais was much enjoyed and showed us there is no end to music's surprises. The first half was rounded off by the more familiar *Bobby Shafto* and *Will ye go Lassie go* sung by our vocal ensemble.

After tea and chat we started the second half with *Danny Boy* (Phil Coulter) and *Moderato* (Chedeville) on flute with piano. Two tenor saxophones made sure we didn't neglect Beethoven (*Rondo*) and Danican-Philidor (*Rigaudon*).

Next we had a contrast with the vocal ensemble singing *Music When soft Voices Die* and *Little Polly Flinders*. (The latter not being as easy an arrangement as you might expect!) Three pieces on A Clarinet/saxophone and guitar followed. The woodwind player played without music. We were in awe.

We concluded the afternoon with a contribution from a newly formed string quartet (2 violins, viola and cello). They played three pieces and we look forward to witnessing them develop their skills as they gain more experience. This is what we are about at the Music Performing Group. Making friends and making music.

Debbie

Art Appreciation

The u3a strapline is Live, Learn, Laugh and we did all three at the July meeting of the Art Appreciation group. We always laugh and we always chat, but we learnt two interesting pieces of trivia. The first was that photographers like to have a focus of a red object in their pictures which draws the eye and attention to that area of the picture, but this was a device also used by painters. The second piece of trivia, which was mentioned by two of our members but despite extensive googling I could not confirm, was that in classical art, a tablecloth draped over the front of a table symbolises infidelity. Well, who knew that?

Although the theme of the meeting was 'Food' we strayed quite a way from that in our pictures and discussions. One set of pictures started off with a photo of *Quiche Lorraine*, moved through to a picture of *Rome* by Claude Lorraine, then onto some other pictures of *Rome*, one of which showed the martyrdom of *St Agnes* and we heard some fascinating background to that. We decided that all the pictures were fairly average until the final one by Turner of the city of *Rome*, which we surmised must have been painted from a hot air balloon. This showed the difference between the art of a true master and the everyday painter.

We continued with a set of pictures from a tour of the Renaissance Hotel in St Pancras. The extravagance and plushness of the decoration was incredible and at £325 a night, how can we resist a visit there?



Back to Food and we looked at paintings from Breughel's *Peasant Wedding* (cheerful, colourful, full of interest and detail), through Caravaggio's *Still life with Jug* (amazing technique and lighting and once you have been told the symbolism, impossible not to see it) to modern art with Cezanne, Matisse and Metzinger showing the development of the more abstract style of painting and Andy Warhol, also modern, but very different.

A vibrant discussion ensued about the meaning of less representational art and why painters felt the need to distort what they saw when they painted it. How does one react emotionally to a painting? Do we always see the same things? Can you convey what you feel through art? Obviously lots of questions but as many answers as there were people in the room.

Debbie

Christmas Bells



I heard the bells on Christmas Day
Their old, familiar carols play,
And wild and sweet
The words repeat
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

H.W Longfellow

Farewell



Linda Knock, the Family History Group Co-ordinator, left our u3a this summer, when she moved up to Yorkshire. She had been an active, supportive member of our organisation, and like some of us was formerly on the Committee; she will be much missed. I especially enjoyed many of the trips she organised, in particular to the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire a while ago, and also the visit to the London Museum in 2018.



She was presented with flowers and a gift from the FH group; Roy Brackley, (retired Chairman) said goodbye from us all, and presented her with flowers.

We wish her well.

Maggie

The Earth reminded us of a Christmas tree ornament hanging in the blackness of space. As we got farther and farther away it diminished in size. Finally, it shrank to the size of a marble, the most beautiful marble you can imagine.



James Irwin — Astronaut — Apollo 15

**OLD AGE COMES AT A
BAD TIME!
WHEN YOU FINALLY
KNOW EVERYTHING,
YOU START TO FORGET
EVERYTHING YOU KNOW.**

My mind is like an internet browser. At least 18 open tabs, 3 of them are frozen, and I have no clue where the music is coming from.

Anon

Committee Members' Biographies / Vignettes

David Massey - Business Secretary

I think the biggest change we can make is to make the monthly meetings more about mutual sharing/teaching and less about guest speakers

Social activities I would like to see are organised lunch before the monthly meeting, possibly with table topics to spark conversation.

My interest groups are Mahjong, EPMIG, Discussion Group. A new interest group could be : Health & Wellbeing perhaps?

I'd like to see these Organisation improvements: better internal communications e.g, refocus the monthly emails and newsletters, more "advertising" and sharing of interest group activities.

Recruitment is a problem for many traditional social groups that rely on older members and how to attract more 50 & 60 year olds to come along, catch their interest and retain them. I'm not sure what we need to do but "do nothing" isn't an option.

I like to watch Match of the Day, and one of my favourite songs is 'Search for The Hero' by M People.

I spent three years in the 90s working in Tokyo; two of my three children were born there.

Daniel Curley – Minutes Secretary / Welfare Representative

I joined Galleywood and Baddow u3a several months ago. I am part of the Art Appreciation group. Currently, I am the welfare representative and minutes secretary on the committee.

In my working life I was a drama and English teacher in Braintree and Scarborough and then a Deputy Head at two local primary schools.

My interests are history and theatre, particularly amateur dramatics. I also enjoy reading and walking our miniature Schnauzer, Roxie.

Alan Cullen – Vice Chairman

After school I studied maths and computer science at university, and spent most of my career as a researcher in information and communications technologies. As an engineer, continued learning has been important and work has also developed skills in other areas such as project management, finance, and presenting effective meetings.

Shortly after early retirement I joined the B&G committee as vice chair in 2018, and have been in that post since then despite the three- term rule in our Constitution. We maintained activity as far as possible during Covid, changed the venue for main meetings and organised a successful garden party in 2022. It has been great getting to know and work with colleagues on the committee, and they have been welcoming.

Committee recruitment has been a frequent frustration and it would be wonderful if members realised that the u3a would be more sustainable by taking on more roles including coordinating groups, arranging trips, making the tea/coffee, contributing to and editing our newsletter.

I plan to start a new transport group in B&G, and also start volunteering for Citizens Advice. I am already heavily involved with the Imperial War Museum. I need to find additional time for these new tasks, especially since recently becoming a grandfather. I hope that by the time you read this I will be a former vice chair!

Editor's note:

Alan will be retiring as VC from the Committee in December, as will Loretta Riddel and Wendy Burns.

They have all been long-standing, active members of our u3a , and we thank them for their hard work and the contribution they've made.

See also p12 for info on Linda Knock's retirement from our u3a

Committee Members' Biographies / Vignettes

Sue Nelson - Chair

I was born in London in 1943. Wife, Mother, Grandmother, Great Grandmother, Youth Leader and for the last thirty years of my working life, a full-time enthusiastic teacher of English and Literature in local Essex comprehensive schools.

I retired at sixty and have since had the time of my life being a hands-on Grandparent. We lived in France for several months of each year for fifteen years, enjoying Mediterranean gardening, an international language group, the sun and wine.

I am now thoroughly enjoying being a joint u3a Gardening Group Co-ordinator, u3a Committee member and since September, your u3a Chair.

Tony, my husband and I have been members of Baddow and Galleywood u3a for almost nine years. During this time, in addition to attending the General Meetings we belonged to several Interest Groups including 'Strollers', 'Weekenders' and 'Gardening'. I am a welcome visitor to the Photographic Groups photo shoots and lunches. We have made many lovely friends and both feel very much part of our u3a community.

It is a great privilege for me to have the opportunity to belong to this u3a, meet and talk with interesting and delightful people, to learn, live and laugh together.

Ted Dyer—Treasurer

Born 1941 Wellington, Shropshire. Had 3 sisters and a brother. Went to school and spent early years of life at Croydon, Surrey. Joined the legal profession, moved to Islington and married Kathleen. I was married for 44 years, had 3 children and 4 grandchildren. Now in Chelmsford, is retired from my conveyancing business. My hobbies include keeping the books for four societies including Baddow & Galleywood u3a, gardening and 'socialising' with friends at weekends.

Tony Nelson - Membership Secretary

I was born in Ipswich in 1941. For thirty years until 2002 I taught Design and Technology in Secondary schools in Essex and London, having studied Physics and Mathematics and later Art and Design. Sue, my wife, and I have spent a number of months each year in the south of France since we retired learning how to garden in a Mediterranean climate and enjoying meeting people from the local area as well as others from many countries at the French language group. The sun, sea and wine also played a large part in our life there.

Over the last eight years we have been making friends at B & G u3a and running the Gardening group. I have also been enjoying the photographic group meetings and photoshoots and since June I have taken on the Membership Secretary's job on the committee.

Jean Jacyna - Speaker Secretary

I'm a latter-day Chelmsfordian, who was born and raised in Hornchurch. My working life was spent with small people in Primary school education, so after retiring I thought I'd try something different. In 2015 I did a London tour guide course and enjoyed years and many miles of leading bigger people around famous streets pointing at things and telling the history. After moving to Chelmsford, and feeling like a tourist myself, I joined B&G u3a and signed up for the Photography, Local History, Family History and Strollers groups. (If there had been a knitting and crochet group, I would have joined that too!) Then, my arm was gently twisted to join the committee, to take over the role of Speaker Secretary, in what can only be described as a 'baptism of fire!' I've got a good feeling about the way forward for our u3a as it's full of good, friendly people sharing interests and expertise. I do like a good biscuit (if any of my group leaders are reading this) although it wouldn't put me off joining any group where these are not on offer....

Liz Curley – Refreshments

Hi, I co-ordinate the refreshments for the general meetings and group co-ordinator meetings too!

I'm currently a member of the Table Tennis group and hope to start, with my friend Janette, (the current TT co-ordinator) a brand new Pickleball group - for the more active amongst our members!

In my previous life I was a Primary School teacher for 28 years and now enjoy u3a activities as well as badminton and amateur dramatics!

I very much look forward serving on the new committee and helping to move our wonderful group onward and upwards!

MAIN MEETINGS: SUBJECTS / SPEAKERS

17th January	The Lasting Power of Attorney	A Local representative
21st February	Kids Inspire (Local Charity)	Katherine Loveday
20th March	Keeping Active In Later Life	Karen Lawrie

All meetings will be held at the Millennium Community Centre, Gt Baddow in The Millennium Suite,
followed by tea and coffee in the Park View Room
(free parking is available)



The next Newsletter will be published (hopefully) in **Spring 2024.**

Articles from all members, Group Co-ordinators or Committee members are welcome. Please send contributions about your group activities to me at anytime , but well **before March 1st 2024.**

Photographs should be sent as separate attachments.

Thanks, Maggie - Editor
margaret.nutt@btinternet.com



Maybe Christmas, the Grinch thought, doesn't come from a store.

Dr. Seuss



**A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year
to all our readers**



www.u3asites.org.uk/baddow

INTEREST GROUP PROGRAMME

DAY		1ST	2ND	3RD	4TH
Monday	a.m.				
	p.m.	General Meeting	Photography German Conversation	I.T. & Computing Puzzles & Quizzes	Poetry Appreciation
Tuesday	p.m.	Table Tennis Scrabble	Canasta Table Tennis	Table Tennis	Table Tennis Canasta
Wednesday	a.m.	Italian Language & Culture Walking 1 Painting & Sketching	Italian Language & Culture Painting & Sketching	Italian Language & Culture Strollers Painting & Sketching	Italian Language & Culture Painting & Sketching
	p.m.	French Conversation Mah-jong	Early Popular Music	Mah-jong	Spanish
Thursday	a.m.		Papercraft		Papercraft
	p.m.	Bridge Gardening	Bridge	Bridge Discussion	Bridge Paper Craft
Friday	a.m.		Arts & Crafts Art Appreciation	Walking 2	Rambling
	p.m.	Music Performing Book Group Creative Writing	Family History Cribbage	Creating Cards	
Saturday				Weekenders	
Sunday		Weekenders			

Music Performing: Feb 17th, April 27th, July 13th, Sept 28th, Dec 7th



Published November 2023