



BENFLEET BULLETIN



Issue 14: NOVEMBER, DECEMBER 2017; JANUARY 2018

FROM THE CHAIR:

Just reflecting on the AGM and the last year, we again had a very good year, with an increase in membership, which continues to grow.

We had a few change due to unforeseen circumstances, we have had a new membership secretary, group co-ordinator bulletin editor and webmaster.

Now summer is over, we look forward to 2018 with new trips, and speakers, and yes Christmas. Please make sure if you are going to the New Year meal you pay by the November meeting, as this will be the last opportunity.

Let's have articles for the bulletin i.e. photos, you may wish to share, recipes, stories, perhaps stories of your childhood or maybe your working life, it's your bulletin let us know what you would like? U3A is for sharing, friendship and learning.

I know this is early but from the committee and I thank you for supporting Benfleet U3A and Wishing you all A Very Merry Christmas and A Happy New Year.

Sheila

Halloween 31 October

We associate Halloween with Trick or Treat but can you identify the Pumpkin People in this photo.

Answer on page 9.



MONTHLY MEETINGS

**2pm, last Tuesday in month at Richmond Hall.
No December meeting.**

PLEASE NOTE!

In accordance with U3A policy, membership subscription is non-refundable

MOBILE PHONES

**Please switch OFF or on silent during meetings.
Thank you.**

SOCIAL OUTINGS

To **book** or for further information on Outings please visit:

[Outings Group](#) or contact **Maria Kelly** at [Outings Organiser](#) email contact

- ❖ If interested in any trip marked '**FULL**', contact **Maria** for any cancellations.
- ❖ Coach excursions are generally limited to **48 places**: therefore seats will be allocated strictly on a first come, first served basis.

Friday 10 November 2017 – Trip currently FULL

Outing **THURSFORD CHRISTMAS SHOW**
Cost £75 pp [£10 non-refundable deposit]
Pick up 9:15 Tarpots Coach Stop
 other pick up points on request

Last Payment Date: WAS 15 October 2017

Includes:

- Coach & Drivers Gratuities
- 2-Course Pub Lunch (The George at Swaffham)
- Top Quality Afternoon Show at Thursford



Friday 24 November 2017

Outing **BURY ST EDMUNDS XMAS MARKET**
Cost £12 per person
Pick up 10:00 Tarpots Coach Stop; other pick up points on request

Last Payment Date: WAS 24 October 2017

Includes: Coach & Drivers Gratuities

The Christmas Market of Bury St Edmunds. It's been running for at least 15 years with several stalls scattered all around the town. Activities going on in the Cathedral, the park, Town Hall, etc. Numerous eateries either street food off the many stall or restaurants, cafes, hotel the choice is endless.

We allow 5 hours of leisurely browsing for you to visit as much as you can.



Friday 15 December 2017

Outing **GREENWICH, LIGHTS & CRUISE**
Cost £40.00 per person
Pick up 12:00 noon; Tarpots Coach Stop

Last Payment Date: WAS 24 October 2017



Includes:

- Coach & Drivers Gratuities
- Thames Clipper Cruise
- 2-Course Meal at the Strand Palace Hotel
- Tour Guide

First to Greenwich for free time, where you can purchase lunch or maybe visit the Maritime Museum or The Royal Observatory.

Board the Thames Clipper at Greenwich at 16:00 cruise down to Embankment Pier.

Re-join the coach at Embankment Pier and transfer to the Strand Palace Hotel and to enjoy a 2-course carvery meal including tea/coffee. Any alcoholic or soft drinks to be paid at the point of order.

The guide will meet you at the Strand Palace Hotel ready for you to re-join the coach and enjoy a tour of the London Christmas Lights ending at Somerset House to observe the Christmas Tree and ice rink.

We depart London about 21:15 and head for home.

Friday 5 January 2018 - U3A NEW YEAR LUNCH

Cost **£25 per person** including gratuities, excluding drinks.
Venue 12:30 for 1 pm at La Quinta, Hadleigh.

Download the [Menu/Booking form](#)

Please print form, complete name and meal selections and return to Jill Parr.

Otherwise please contact JILL PARR at [Treasurer](#) email contact.

Tuesday 20 February 2018

Outing **Bletchley Park**
Cost **£28. Full details shortly – OPEN for booking.**

See details of [Bletchley Park](#)

Thursday 1 March 2018

Outing **The Postal Museum** near Mount Pleasant, London.
Cost: £40 including 2 course lunch. Full details available shortly
OPEN for booking. See details of [The Postal Museum](#)

SPEAKERS & EVENTS AT FUTURE CLUB MEETINGS

31 October: **'Whitechapel Mission'**. Tony Miller.

28 November: **'Singing'**. Ray Spiller.

December: **No meeting.**

2018

30 January: **'Antiques'**. Mark Stacy

27 February: **'How to do everything and be happy'**. Peter Jones.

27 March: **'Thirty years a BBC reporter, In and Out of Parliament.'**
Brian Curtios.

BENFLEET U3A ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING and COMMITTEE UPDATES

Sheila ran her first AGM with praiseworthy speed and has presided over an active, growing and financially secure U3A.

The Committee now has 9 members including recent recruits Bob, Iris and Alan all confirmed at the AGM. [see details below and full list on last page].



We would all like to offer our sincere thanks to **Linda Burdett** for her sterling 6 years as membership secretary during which time our U3A has grown substantially.

Linda stood down at the AGM but remains an active member of our U3A. Thanks again.

Please direct any membership queries to our new Membership Secretary – Bob Munson.

The floral presentation was prepared by Dot Hopkins of our Flower Arranging Group. Thank you.

Get to know your new committee members:

Bob Munson – Membership Secretary.

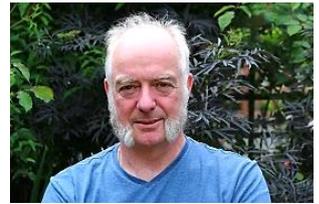
Born in London. Lived in Tottenham until I was about five hence my interest in Tottenham Hotspur. Moved to Basildon. In 1973 married Tricia. Lived in West London before moving to Basildon, then Benfleet in 1977.

I have two sons, Tony and Colin and two grandchildren, Ben and Emily. It's good to spend time with the grandkids as it gives me an excuse to play with toys again.

Involved in Scouting for many years, in Basildon and Castle Point, including Assistant Leader of a Scout Troop in Castle Point, Assistant Commissioner and committee posts of treasurer, secretary and chairman in adult support in Basildon.

Interests include Music, DIY, Reading, Travel and Gardening. An RHS member since the early 1970s and regularly visit Hyde Hall. Also interested in Antiques, Collectables and Auctions. I visit a couple of auctions each month and occasionally on camera for Celebrity Antiques Road Trip.

Gardening and DIY occupy a lot of time, taking longer these days or maybe I'm slowing down. However, baby-sitting our grandchildren could be the antidote to ageing as their energy and enthusiasm is conspiring to keep me young (at heart-at least).



Iris Mead – Interest Group Coordinator

I grew up Tilbury before moving to Hampshire then coming to Benfleet in 1977. Being unemployed, I went to the local Job Centre in Tilbury and ended up being offered a job - at the Job Centre, eventually, retiring as the Job Centre Manager.

I'm married to Derek, a steam train enthusiast, and together we have 7 grandchildren, presenting quite a challenge as Christmas draws close.

Whilst retired, I spent some time at Kent's Hill Junior school as a School Governor. Although the preparation for Ofsted visits and the actual inspections were always a little tense, it was most enjoyable being able to interact with the young children, finding out what they liked, what they were enthusiastic about.

My hobbies include reading a wide variety of types of books, gardening and I enjoy cooking.

I am the coordinator for the Special Interest Groups at Benfleet U3A and appreciate any suggestions for new groups. Please see me at the U3A Monthly Meetings.



Alan Aldridge – Newsletter editor and webmaster

Born in Hackney. Sports and activities on Hackney Marshes, supported Hackney Speedway. All now destroyed by the Olympic Stadium built on the 'Industrial Wasteland' – NO, my adventure playground. My home team is Leyton Orient!

Lived in Harold Hill; married Linda in 1973; lived in Maldon then Benfleet from 1977.

A Chartered Mechanical Engineer, with Ilford Films, then other organisations.

Setup our own business in 1999 running a leading UK trade body for energy management and energy conservation – YES, I believe in Global Warming.

Highlights: introducing the great Sir Bobby Charlton at one of our conferences; visiting No.10; visiting Moscow. I miss the visits to the Houses of Parliament, fantastic history, great wine.

We have two lovely daughters, Vicky and Louise, and two young grandchildren, Oliver and Joshua, who we absolutely adore. Watching them grow, learn and take interest in the world is the most rewarding thing we do.

My interests are travel, photography and I'm a big jazz fan. We enjoy cocktails in exotic places, but the world's best cocktails are at Dukes Hotel in St. James, London. Try it sometime – see you there.



RECENT OUTINGS AND GROUP ACTIVITIES

Do you want to be involved? See contacts page

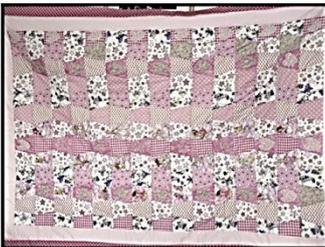
OUTINGS: CRUISE THE WORLD



JOINT WINNERS
Marie Howard and Doreen Balsara



QUILTING: some of the intricate and beautiful work of our members.



PHOTOGRAPHIC GROUP: Street Scenes – Rochford



GROUP NEWS

New Groups

3 new groups will have had their initial meeting by the time you read this.

Writing for Fun.

Wildlife Study.

Comparative Religion.

At the members meetings 'sign up' lists are available on the desks at the left hand side for you to express your interest.

Also lists for **Social History, Poetry, Play Reading and a Film/Book group** [separate to the Book Club Group]. Please sign up so that the Group Contact can include you as the group activity starts.

Also, available will be a sheet for suggestions for new groups and activities.

Group Organisation and Courtesy:

We always refer to '*Group Leaders*' as running the special interest groups. This implies the 'leader' is responsible for ALL aspects of the group activities. Some people find this daunting and it may prevent members coming forward.

In future, we propose to refer to this person as the **GROUP CONTACT** i.e. this person will know who is involved in the group, introduce new members and be the focal point for communication. Group members should regularly offer to help, host meetings or organise activities. We hope that at least 2 or 3 people will actively help to run each group. All group members should come forward with activities, study topics and trips, etc. that they wish to do – ***it's your group***.

Attending: As a courtesy to GROUP CONTACTS or MEETING HOSTS we suggest that group members should advise in good time whether you will be attending the next meeting or trip – both IF attending or NOT attending.

Where possible please make sure your GROUP CONTACT or MEETING HOST has your email address as this is by far the easiest way to make contact.

Hosting: When a meeting is hosted by a group member in their home, we suggest a donation of 25p per person towards the cost of refreshments.

Transport suggestion: some groups organise meetings and trips away from home and it's sensible for members to travel together. Offering money to pay for the trip can be a little awkward. Our suggestion is that passengers could arrange to cover the cost of parking at the venue and/or provide refreshments for the driver. Groups may already have their own arrangements in place, which is fine.

Thank you.

PROJECTOR and SCREEN – are available for group use.

Please contact **Sheila Sears** at Chairperson email contact.

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

Click name for email contact form

SUBJECT	CONTACT	MEETING DATE
<u>Art</u>	<u>Bob Howard</u>	Tues. pm weekly
<u>Art 2</u>	<u>Bob Howard</u>	Wed. am weekly
<u>Badminton 1</u>	<u>Brian Boyce</u>	Mon. pm weekly
<u>Badminton 2</u>	<u>Fred Simpkins</u>	Thurs 7.30pm weekly
<u>Book Club</u>	<u>Pat Cluness</u>	Monthly: variable
<u>Cancer</u>	<u>Helene Claxton</u>	As required
Card & Board Games	On hold	2 nd Wed. pm
<u>Culinary Experience</u>	<u>Barbara Webb</u>	4 th Mon.
<u>Discussion 1</u>	<u>Jenny Brown</u>	2 nd Mon. pm
<u>Discussion 2</u>	<u>Jenny Brown</u>	1 st Tues. am
<u>Family History</u>	<u>Keith Goggin</u>	As required
<u>Flower Arranging</u>	<u>Brenda Liberty</u>	2 nd Fri. am
<u>French 1</u>	<u>Linda Aldridge</u>	Wed am Monthly variable
<u>Garden Visits</u>	<u>Theresa Sergeant</u>	Various
<u>Gardening</u>	<u>Jenny Brown</u>	Monthly: variable
<u>Keep Fit</u>	<u>Suzanne Worland</u>	Mon pm. Evening term time
<u>Knit & Stitch</u>	<u>Pauline Everett</u>	2 nd Tues. pm
<u>Local History</u>	<u>Iris Mead</u>	1 st Tues pm
<u>Local Interest</u>	<u>Sue Lewsey</u>	1 st Wed
<u>Lunch</u>	<u>Jackie Liberty</u> <u>Pat Williams</u>	2 nd Fri. pm
<u>Meditation</u>	<u>Richard Newall</u>	Tues. am; weekly
<u>Naval & Military History</u>	<u>Phil Lloyd-Worth</u>	2 nd Wed. 2pm
<u>Paper Craft 1</u>	<u>Ann Sayer</u>	1 st Fri.am
<u>Paper Craft 2</u>	<u>Ann Sayer</u>	3 rd Fri. am
<u>Paper Craft 3</u>	<u>Ann Sayer</u>	1 st Fri.pm
<u>Photography</u>	<u>Sue Lewsey</u>	3 rd Mon. pm
<u>Play Reading</u>	On hold	4 th Fri am
<u>Poetry</u>	On hold	2 nd Fri am
<u>Quilting</u>	<u>Joan Daly</u>	
<u>Singing</u>	<u>Linda Burdett</u>	2 nd & 3 rd Thurs.
<u>Social History</u>	<u>Lorraine Langridge</u>	3rd Thursday
<u>Spanish</u>	<u>Julie Jones</u>	Wed. pm weekly
<u>Ten Pin Bowling</u>	<u>Jackie Liberty</u>	3 rd Fri. am
<u>Theatre - Local</u>	<u>Josie Wallace</u>	As advised
<u>Theatre - London</u>	<u>Maureen Plummer</u>	As advised
<u>Walking Group</u>	<u>Eve Burgess</u>	1 st Thurs. am
<u>Walking 5 miles & over</u>	<u>Doreen Wiggans</u>	4 th Thurs. Am
Women in History	Jill Parr	3 rd Fri

To join a group please call the contact number given above. If full, or for any queries, please contact **Iris Mead** at [Interest Groups Coordinator](#) email contact.

When insults had class!

"I've had a wonderful evening. Unfortunately, this wasn't it."

Groucho Marks

QUIZZICAL LOOKS

World's easiest quiz? With thanks to Jim Regan

1. How long did the 100 years' war last?
2. Which country makes genuine Panama hats?
3. In which month do the Russians celebrate the October revolution?
4. What is a camel hair brush made from?
5. The Canary Islands are named after what animal?
6. What was King George VI's first name?
7. How long did the 30 year war last?
8. What colour is the 'Black Box' in a commercial airplane?
9. What colour is a purple finch?
10. Where do Chinese gooseberries come from?

Page 1: Pumpkin People: Willy Nelson, Dolly Parton and Johnny Cash.

QUIZ answers from issue 13: Odd plant anagrams

What plants are these? What do they all have in common? What are they used for?

They are all medicinal herbs

- | | | |
|--------------|------------------|---|
| 1. Tailnnap | Plantain | Assist healing of bleeding wounds |
| 2. Noedidlan | Dandelion | Diuretic |
| 3. Leichamom | Chamomile | Calmative – good for digestive issues |
| 4. Nitm | Mint | Good for digestive problems |
| 5. Meyth | Thyme | Expectant, antispasmodic–whooping cough, asthma |
| 6. Yarsemor | Rosemary | Tension headaches, migraines, rub for rheumatism |
| 7. Jarroman | Marjoram | Coughs, colic, flatulence |
| 8. Lowliw | Willow | Anti-inflammatory, analgesic |
| 9. Igamldor | Marigold | Skin healing |
| 10. Ypopp | Poppy | Extreme pain |

Bereavement and Unwell

Contact **Helene Claxton** at [Vice-Chair](#) email contact to confirm details of any bereavement or illness, and an appropriate card will be forwarded.



Committee Members

Chair

Shelia Sears

[click for contact form](#)



Vice Chair

Helene Claxton

[click for contact form](#)



Treasurer

Jill Parr

[click for contact form](#)



Business Secretary

Mavis Regan

[click for contact form](#)



**Interest Group
Coordinator**

Iris Mead

[click for contact form](#)



Membership Secretary

Bob Munson

[click for contact form](#)



Outings Organiser

Maria Kelly

[click for contact form](#)



**Bulletin Editor
and Webmaster**

Alan Aldridge

[click for contact - Bulletin](#)
[click for contact - Website](#)



Committee Member

Sue Riley

[click for contact form](#)

