



BENFLEET BULLETIN



Issue 15: FEBRUARY, MARCH, APRIL 2018

FROM THE CHAIR:

Hello Members

With the festive season over most of us have probably eaten too much, I know I have (maybe a class at slimming world or weight watcher) but hope you all enjoyed yourselves.

With the New Year, there is new beginning to look forward to. We have a seminar in April, which we hope will be of value and informative. Through the year, we have some new speakers and some we had before.

We are recommending two changes to the Benfleet U3A constitution. One to do with length of committee appointments, the other promoted by recommended changes at a national level to avoid Charity Commissioner issues. Full details in this bulletin and on website. Members will vote on these at the meeting on 27 February 2018.

Best wishes. **Sheila (chair)**

Editor's comment

All of the U3A websites were down over Christmas due to a cyber-attack [really, on the U3A!]. A more secure regime has now been installed. Apologies for the time taken to get fully running with our updates.

This edition has entries from a number of groups. I encourage Group Contacts to provide group material, such as photos, short write ups, activity dates.

Please contact **Alan Aldridge** [*Newsletter Editor*](#) using email contact.

Thank You. **Alan.**

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:

u3asites.org.uk/benfleet/page/19756 - or contact **Maria Kelly** via the 'Outings' page or [Outings Organiser](#) using 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.

Tuesday 20 February 2018

Outing: **Bletchley Park**

Status: **FULL**. Please collect tickets from Maria.

Pick up: 8:30 at Tarpots coach stop.

Cost: **£28 per person** includes coach, entrance, gratuities.

Thursday 1 March 2018

Outing: **The Postal Museum** near Mount Pleasant, London.

Status: **FULL**. Please collect tickets from Maria.

Cost: **£27 per person** incl. coach, Postal Museum entrance and tour, gratuities.

Because of difficulties in arranging lunch for such a large number of people, the trip has been revised to exclude lunch [at a reduced price] leaving you free time to get lunch and to visit St. Pauls/area at your leisure.

Maria is attempting to run a second trip but it will NOT be on 1 March.

If interested in the second trip on another day, please contact

Maria Kelly [Outings Organiser](#) using email contact

Times:

08:30 Pick up at Tarpots coach stop

2:00pm Arrive vicinity of St. Pauls.

11:00-1:30pm Postal Museum

Free time for lunch and visits.

2.5 hours to tour museum.

5:00pm Leave St. Pauls.

1:30pm Leave Postal Museum.

7:00pm Arrive back in Benfleet.

Ticket includes access to the Museum and the underground Post Office railway.

The underground level lift to get to the railway, is not suitable for wheelchairs and walkers/frames.

There is a tea room in the museum where refreshments can be purchased either before or after our tour.

Further details at: postalmuseum.org

Tuesday 17 April 2018

Outing: **Royal Albert Hall and Kensington**

Status: **Open for booking.**

Cost: **£27 per person.**

Includes coach, drinks/pastries on arrival,
1 hour Grand Tour, gratuities.

Last Payment date: 17 March 2018



Each tour offers a unique experience and may include opportunities to see artists rehearsing for their evening performance. The Royal Albert Hall is a working building so the content of the tours may vary and due to events some areas may occasionally be closed.

Please note: There are a lot of stairs on the tour, so customers are advised to wear flat shoes. Lifts are also available when required.

Times:

8:30 Pick up Tarpots coach stop; Arrive Royal Albert Hall about 11:00

1:00pm taken to Kensington area Free time for lunch/shopping.

4:30pm leave Knightsbridge, arriving Benfleet about 7:00pm.

Tuesday 1 May 2018

Outing: **Hampton Court**

Status: **Open for booking**

Pick up: 8:30 Tarpots coach stop. Leave Hampton 4:30pm; Benfleet about 7:00pm

Cost: **£30 per person** including coach, entrance, gratuities.

Last Payment Date: 1 April 2018

Ticket allows access to the Palace, gardens and the maize, so a full day of exploring at your leisure. There are various food options to suit you all.

We will have about 5 hours at Hampton Court to explore.

Following Outings for advice only NOT AVAILABLE FOR BOOKING YET

Monday 18 June 2018

Outing: **Wroxham Barns**

Cost: **To be advised.** includes coach, canal cruise, 2 course lunch, gratuities.

Monday 16 July 2018

Outing: **Norwich**

Cost: **To be advised.** includes coach and gratuities ONLY.

Wednesday 15 August 2018

Outing: **Ickworth House, National Trust**

Cost: **£25 per person**

£12.75p per person for National Trust members.

Includes coach, entrance, gratuities.



SPEAKERS & EVENTS AT FUTURE CLUB MEETINGS

Last Tuesday every Month

2018

- 30 January: **'Antiques'**. **Mark Stacy**
- 27 February: **'How to do everything and be happy'**. **Peter Jones**
Meeting will include an Extraordinary General Meeting for voting on constitutional changes.
- 27 March: **'Thirty years a BBC reporter, In and Out of Parliament.'**
Brian Curtios
- 24 April **'The Theatrical Costumier and Retail – the Story retold.'**
Anne Hardy
- 29 May **'The Stow Maries Aerodrome'**. **Roger Smith**
- 26 June **'Wandsman AAT - a role at St. Paul's Cathedral'**
Patrick Wilkins
-

FREE SEMINAR FOR BENFLEET U3A MEMBERS

Wednesday 18 April 2018

9:30am to 12:45pm at Richmond Hall

We have been able to arrange a free seminar for members, which will offer practical advice on important safety and health issues.

- ❖ **Essex Fire Service** will talk about how to be safe in the home, smoke detection, fire alarms, etc.
- ❖ **Canvey First Responders** will talk about common serious illness and accidents that occur in the home and how to look out for vital signs and treatment prior to the medical teams arriving. Hopefully, they will also have some time to demonstrate first aid techniques too.

As Richmond Hall has a limit on the number allowed on the premises, we do need to know whether you would like to attend. Should there be more interest than availability, places will be given to those who respond first.

If you would like to come along to this event, please reply to:

Shelia Sears **Chairperson** using email contact as soon as possible.

**Notification of two proposed amendments to
the Constitution of Benfleet U3A**

Amendment A

Due to the difficulties in recruiting Committee Members (especially for the roles of Chair and Vice Chair), we would like members to consider an amendment to the Constitution (shown below), which would allow the Chair and Vice Chair to serve for three years (instead of two years as at present). We believe this would benefit our U3A by giving serving Committee Members the chance to develop their roles over a longer period.

BENFLEET UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE (U3A)

CONSTITUTION AMENDMENT (proposed)

Amendment: No. 4

Amendment Date:

Clause Amended: 7 Election of Members to the Committee; sub-clause (iii)

New Clause Wording:

In respect of the Chairman and Vice Chairman:

The tenure for these positions shall be 3 years and they may not stand for re-election without an intervening period of 2 years except that the Vice Chairman may immediately stand for the position of Chairman.

The remaining Officers and Committee members shall stand for a period of 4 years.

Old Clause Wording:

In respect of the Chairman and Vice Chairman

The tenure for these positions shall be 2 years and they may not stand for re-election without an intervening period of 2 years except that the Vice Chairman may immediately stand for the position of Chairman.

Except for the Chairman and Vice Chairman

(a) The remaining Officers and Committee members shall stand for a period of between 3 and 5 years subject to clause (b) below.

(b) Up to a maximum of 5 Committee members to stand down in any one year.

Amendment B

Changes to U3A Constitutions

We have received notification from The Third Age Trust that there seems to have been some misunderstanding between the Third Age Trust and the Charity Commission on charitable and non-charitable activities within U3As.

After considerable discussion with the Charity Commission, they have agreed an amendment to the wording of the Object Clause in the Constitutions as follows:

"The advancement of education and, in particular, the education of older people and those who are retired from full time work by all means, including associated activities conducive to learning and personal development."

This amended clause will ensure that U3As meet the charitable status required by the Charity Commission.

Your Committee therefore recommends that you approve the change in the object clause to exactly the above wording in the Constitution of Benfleet U3A.

Members will be asked to vote on this resolution and proposed Amendments at the meeting on 27 February 2018

You may be interested in.....

Benfleet Library, High Road – with thanks to Mavis Hunt

The library offers a book delivery service for local, housebound residents. Books are delivered on the 1st Friday of the month, readers having chosen the book the previous Wednesday. Volunteers make the deliveries

Anyone interested in becoming a volunteer, please go and see ladies in library. CRB check will be organised. Own transport required.

Thank you.

Note: items listed are for your information only and are not U3A organised.

RECENT OUTINGS

Thursford – 10 November 2017



Bury St. Edmunds Market – 24 November 2017



Greenwich, Lights and Cruise – 15 December 2017



U3A New Year Lunch – 5 January 2018



An excellent response from members to the call for donations to the Whitechapel Mission. It was collected before Christmas and we have received a thank you letter from Tony Miller [Extract below].

"Thank you for your donation of Gifts and £275 in support of our work amongst people who have the misfortune to be homeless. Please convey to the members of Benfleet U3A our sincere thanks and gratitude."

Tony Miller, MBE



GROUP NEWS

Specialist Interest Group contact details are available on page 11.

At the members meetings 'sign up' lists are available on the desks at the left hand side and a sheet for suggestions for new groups and activities.

Naval and Military History This group will have a display table at the 30 January meeting. Members are encouraged to see what activities the group undertakes. If interested in joining please contact the Group Contact **Phil Lloyd-Worth** or Group Coordinator **Iris Mead**.

Other Group Contacts are encouraged to also request display for their activities.

The **Quilting Group** has decided to widen their remit and will become **SEWING**.

Wildlife – more members welcome.

The group is active and as a first activity completed a survey of wildlife in our own gardens [some pictures below]. We visited a wet Langdon Hills Country Park in January and will visit Chafford Gorges in February [both Essex Wildlife Trust].



Greater Spotted Woodpecker



Long Tailed Tits



Grey Squirrel

French The group enjoyed a 'French Christmas Lunch' at Café Rouge, Lakeside. Practicing their French skills and solving French riddles set by the French waiter.



Art Group

The group provided an exhibit at a small art exhibition at Southend in November in aid of a Homeless night shelter in Southend.



IMAGE of 2017 Photography Group

The group held its annual 'non-competitive competition' to identify the best image amongst group members taken in 2017. Members submit anonymous printed pictures and then everyone votes. The subject range is wide and the quality of pictures has again improved enormously through 2017.

Congratulations to the **WINNER, LINDA WASKETT** for her tremendous dramatic picture of Sulphur Springs in New Zealand.



Photographic Group / Judging Panel

2nd places



Peaceful Crete by Dave Balthasar



Male Sparrow hawk by Alan Aldridge

3rd places



Red Crested Turaco
by Sue Lewsey



Gunsmoke
by Terri Waters



Windsurfing at Southend
by Pete Lewsey

View ALL entries: u3asites.org.uk/benfleet/page/80292

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 Interest</u>	<u>Sue Lewsey</u>	1 st Wed
<u>Lunch</u>	<u>Jackie Liberty</u> Pat Williams	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>Sewing/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
<u>Women in History</u>	<u>Jill Parr</u>	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.

QUIZZICAL LOOKS

General Knowledge

1. What is the name for a type of building or construction that stems from both the French and Latin word for butterfly?
2. The largest known spider in the world is named after which biblical character?
3. Which well-known Order have been coined 'The Bankers of the Middle Ages'?
4. Which two bands had a hit with the song 'Dandy' in the 1960s?
5. What Comes Next: 18, 4, 13, 6, ?
6. What Comes Next: Avon, Bedfordshire, Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, ?
7. What Comes Next: Roger, John, Brian, ?

**"A magnum is the correct amount of liquor for two people,
.....as long as one of them doesn't drink"**

Winston Churchill

QUIZ: Answers from issue 14

World's easiest quiz? With thanks to Jim Regan

1. How long did the 100 years' war last? **116 years [1337-1453]**
2. Which country makes genuine Panama hats? **Ecuador**
3. In which month do the Russians celebrate the October revolution? **November**
4. What is a camel hair brush made from?
mainly Squirrel Fur, sometimes mix of Goat, Pony, Ox hair
5. The Canary Islands are named after what animal? **Dog [as is Canary Wharf]**
6. What was King George VI's first name?
Albert (Albert Frederick Arthur George)
7. How long did the 30 year war last? **30 years [1618-48]**
8. What colour is the 'Black Box' in a commercial airplane? **Orange**
9. What colour is a purple finch? **Crimson**
10. Where do Chinese gooseberries come from? **New Zealand**

Bereavement and Unwell

Contact **Helene Claxton** **Vice-Chair** using 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

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Outings Organiser

Maria Kelly

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**Bulletin Editor
and Webmaster**

Alan Aldridge

[click for contact - Bulletin](#)
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Committee Member

Sue Riley

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