



# BENFLEET BULLETIN



**Issue 29: October 2020**

**Website: [U3Asites.org.uk/benfleet](http://U3Asites.org.uk/benfleet)**

**FROM THE CHAIR:** Hello Everyone

Having just had our first online AGM I would like to start by thanking the committee for all their hard work and especially our Vice Chair Sheila, our Secretary Mavis and our Treasurer Jill for agreeing to stay on for an extra year during these trying times. I would like also to thank those of you who voted to ensure we stay legal.



Another month has passed and now the news is less positive. So, it is time to explore new ways of keeping you all involved and active. The rule of 6 restricts but doesn't stop our group activities; we just have to explore different ways of carrying them out while following the guidelines.

As the Autumn weather becomes cooler and damper, we must look at other options too! Many speakers have contacted us offering online/Zoom talks. Let your committee know if you would like to take part and if there is a sizeable audience, we will explore how we can do this.

The national U3A website offers many different links, ideas and activities. Go to [u3a.org.uk](http://u3a.org.uk). Also, on youtube there is the new [U3A Radio](#) – please listen in.

There is also a national U3A Facebook page with contributions from all over the country. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/U3AKeepinginTouch>

Finally, we are looking to set up our own Facebook Page and hoping members who are confident IT and Social media users might offer their services to help.

Meanwhile keep safe and well. Marion (Chair)

## **2020 Annual General Meeting**

As we couldn't meet as usual for the AGM, details of the resolutions were forwarded to all members for voting. We had 107 replies – thank you all for that.

All the resolutions were approved with sufficient numbers to keep us legal.

We are likely to use technology more in the future. So, we are asking for feedback regarding the voting process and any problems members had with the voting forms.

Please send any feedback to Alan at [Bulletin Editor](#). From this we hope to be able to help resolve some of the common problems with using PCs and tablets.

## CURRENT STATUS AND NEWS UPDATES

**Membership:** we are pleased to confirm that we now have 297 members. Many thanks to all for renewing.

### **Restarting Specialist Group and Member Meetings:**

The recent tightening of Covid-19 restrictions means that restarting limited general Member meetings at Richmond Hall are on hold for the foreseeable future.

There will not be any general Member meeting until at least January 2021.

The **RULE OF 6** applies to all our activities but **DOES** allow Specialist Groups to reinstate activities limited to 6 members in Covid safe environments.

New National U3A guidance has been issued dated 21 September 2020 and is available on our website.

As an excellent example of how groups can manage activities please see the approach taken by our *Walking Over 5 Miles group* in this bulletin. Perhaps a model for others to follow?

### **U3A Development and Rebranding**

The National U3A is going through a process of 'reinvention' to attract a younger and more diverse membership and to adjust the image and presentation in a more dynamic, modern style reflecting the high activity generated in the U3A movement.

Marion has already emailed members asking for volunteers to join her progressing the National U3A strategy regarding Recruitment. If you are willing to do this please contact Marion at [Chairperson](#)

The updates to image and branding, see sample logo, have been announced, so you will begin to see changes in document, websites, etc. The strapline of 'Learn, Laugh, Live' will become more dominant and the explanation of U3A as University; 3<sup>rd</sup> age will be dropped [seen as off-putting to some potential recruits].



Our committee have yet to absorb these changes and have some decisions to make regarding how we use the new approach but we should be seeing some new material this year.

**IT HEROES:** We are looking for those members who have IT skills and can help support both our broader activities e.g. presence on Facebook, as well as individual members who often have difficulty with setting up PCs and tablets. If you can help please contact Alan at [Bulletin Editor](#).

**Outing Refunds:** for ABBA and Hever Castle.

Jill Parr has completed all refunds but if you think you've been missed then please contact Jill at [Treasurer](#).

## THAT'S THE WAY TO DO IT!

No, not Punch and Judy but running a group activity in a Covid safe way.

### Thursday 24 September 2020 – Canvey Wall and Canvey Heights

This is the 3rd walk organised by Peter and Doreen Wiggans since February. Each walk has rigidly met the Covid-19 rules applicable at the time of the walk.

Prior to Covid-19, they had always researched walks [and the lunch venue!] for any hazards and things members should be aware of, like steep inclines or extra busy roads, so they were already well prepared.

### How has this latest walk been achieved within the current Covid-19 rules?

Each member of the Group was e-mailed with details of where to meet in pre-determined groups of six or less with a nominated leader for each group. Social distancing is practiced at all times.

All participants signing up to attend, were asked to assess their personal risk given the itinerary and approach being adopted before confirming attendance.



They are all told of the destination and what time we are due for lunch at the Oysterfleet. If they wish to make their own way within their "bubble" they can do so, or they can follow my group with suitable distancing between groups.

In the event we all followed the same route from Benfleet station along the Canvey sea wall to Canvey Heights and from there onto the Oysterfleet.

It had previously been discussed with the restaurant that we needed tables of six or less and they were prepared to open the restaurant for the first time since lockdown in March. Each person had to sign in for Track and Trace and we were all individually attended with table service and separate bills.



We were all impressed with the level of service and food. It was the first day of the new rules on face coverings so all the staff were suitably masked and we had to wear them to enter and walk to the tables. Once seated you could remove the mask.

The whole day was a success and for the last two months we have had 90% attendance, the other 10% having genuine reasons for not being there. That in itself says that they look forward to the fresh air and exercise and it is performed within our interpretation of the guidelines and common sense.

## Quiz Pro's and Con's with thanks to Jan and Bill Lane

### PRO'S

1. This frames a theatre stage
2. Sitting on the fence
3. Needed for the administration of an estate
4. This band would walk 500 miles
5. In Greek mythology, he stole fire from the Gods and gave it to mankind.
6. Pub at Wapping, oldest riverside tavern.
7. A 'dry' time in America.
8. Blasphemous or obscene language.
9. He composed Lieutenant Kije, with the famous 'Troika'
10. In Ancient Rome, the lowest class of citizens who had no property.

### CON'S

1. A knight, soldier or explorer of the Spanish Empire.
2. Lowest female singing voice.
3. British entry for the 1968 Eurovision Song Contest.
4. Previous name for Istanbul.
5. Where 2 or more waterways meet.
6. Who wrote 'Courtship is to marriage, as a very witty prologue to a very dull play'?
7. He may have a baton or a ticket machine.
8. Easily seen.
9. Take away, as a punishment.
10. Which musical composition can have 3 parts – Presto – Lento – Presto?

**Answers on last page – no peeking.**

## Seeking expert help with Sudoku

Its encouraging to see that many members read and enjoy TAM [Third Age Matters]. Jan and Bill Lane have asked for some help in solving a particular Sudoku challenge in the Autumn edition, Issue 43.

7				6	2	3	1
	8						
		9					
			2				
3				8	6		
			5	7		2	9
1							
			4	2	7		5
6					8		

"Can you help please? We love Sudoku but admit defeat on the one in the latest TAM.

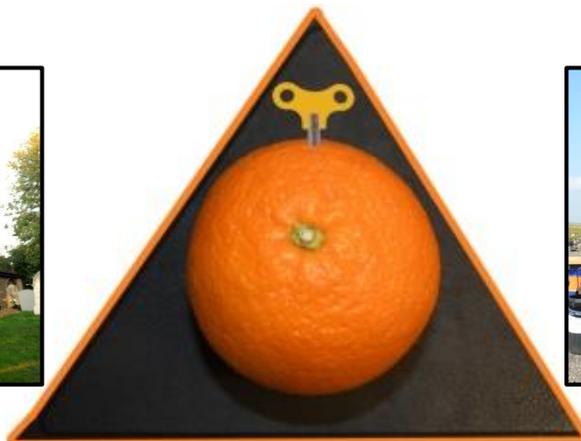
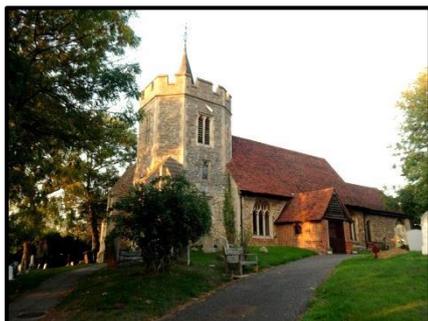
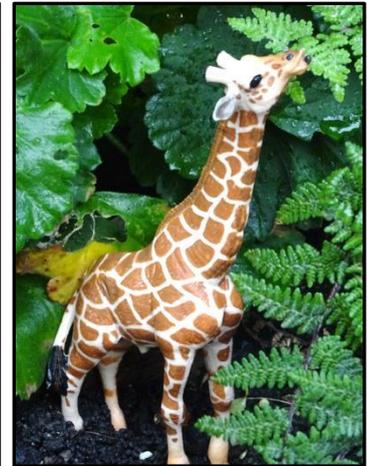
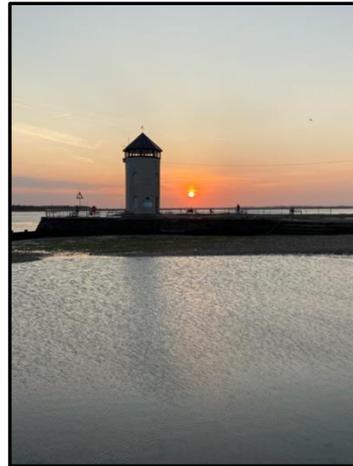
We have got several numbers in but have so many options with no apparent breakthrough.

We peeked at the answers (partially) for help, which it hasn't, and would be interested to hear if anyone else has actually cracked it without cheating, and the logic they used.

Any comments and ideas greatly appreciated.  
Please forward to [Jan Lane](#)"

## WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN DOING?

A few of the superb member photos you will find on our website. Try it! Go to:  
Home page <https://u3asites.org.uk/benfleet> > QUICK LINKS > select activity/topic





## QUIZ ANSWERS

### PRO'S

1. Proscenium arch
2. Procrastination.
3. Probate.
4. Proclaimers.
5. Prometheus.
6. Prospect of Whitby.
7. Prohibition.
8. Profanity.
9. Prokofiev.
10. Proletariat.

### CON'S

1. Conquistador
2. Contrato.
3. Congratulations.
4. Constantinople
5. Confluence.
6. William Congreve.
7. Conductor.
8. Conspicuous.
9. Confiscate.
10. Concerto.