



BENFLEET BULLETIN

u3a learn,
laugh,
live

Issue 30: November 2020

W: u3asites.org.uk/benfleet  facebook.com/groups/benfleetu3a

FROM THE CHAIR: Hello Everyone

Yes, another month has passed, the clocks have gone back an hour and the weather is wet and windy. So now we must all work together to keep ourselves cheerful and in touch.

Our Facebook group is up and running really well with over 70 members regularly in touch with funny anecdotes and lovely photos etc. So, come and join us, members, and see what you are missing. You must be registered on Facebook and then click facebook.com/groups/benfleetu3a to join.



I have also contacted you all to try and encourage more interaction within our existing groups and with setting up new groups. So, if I have set you thinking please get in touch, we can offer help and support in managing new techniques and developing new skills. It is very easy to let someone else do it but really it is our groups that make our u3a so vital and we all need to do a little more.

If you haven't looked at our website recently please have a look at some of the beautiful photos our members have sent in. Particular thanks to Sue Lewsey for getting her photography group out in the woods and for her excellent risk assessment. Lots of other useful information on the website too, as well as the latest Government guidance. Whatever you do stay positive and if you are feeling low and fed up with staying in please give one of our committee a call.

Take care and stay well! Marion (Chair)

CURRENT STATUS AND NEWS UPDATES

Remembrance Day Sunday 8 November 2020

As the usual parades and services are not possible this year, we have been asked to observe the 2 minute silence either indoors or on your doorstep at 11:00am.

Radio u3a: episode 2 u3a podcast will be available on You Tube on 17 November. Go to: u3a Radio to listen. Episode 1/other u3a videos available now.

Scam, fake Parcel Delivery: a card from 'PDS' through the letter box about a parcel asking you to phone a premium rate number, starting 09, to arrange delivery.

DON'T phone as you will be charged £315 immediately, its a scam.

In fact NEVER phone a premium 09 number.

New Groups/Restarting Group Activities:

As you will know we are moving into a National [England] lockdown on:

Thursday 5 November until at least Wednesday 2 December.

This means that our u3a can **NO LONGER** hold **ANY** face-to-face meetings either inside or outside.

What can we do?

We have many opportunities to interact and work with groups and members via the internet, email and telephone e.g. our new Facebook page.

Unlike many other u3as, we have been slow at utilising things like zoom and skype to provide 'remote face-to-face' meetings but this does require full member support

Groups can still function by providing quizzes, investigating specific topics relevant to your group, reviews, etc.

To confirm for those members living alone, that committee members and we are sure Group Contacts and friends in the u3a would be pleased to receive phone calls for a chat or discuss any difficulties. Do take advantage of this personal contact.

To help we have included both the Committee and Group contacts in this edition.

Member input and New Groups:

Also, Marion has circulated a request regarding active member input and establishing new groups that can operate successfully in the current environment.

That may include more use of virtual meetings using Zoom, Skype or any other communication method.



PLEASE contact Marion or any committee member, with ideas and a willingness to actively engage in making it happen.



Peter Lewsey
modelling the latest
mask technology

NEXT BULLETIN will be a Christmas/New Year special issued around 6 December.

There will be no January edition.

Do you have any stories, jokes, photos, games, recipes, drinks for the festive period.

All intended to brighten up whatever we do at Christmas and the New Year. I hope so.

Please contact Alan at [Bulletin Editor](#) for forwarding address details.

Thank you. Alan

THAT'S THE WAY TO DO IT! – FACEBOOK

When in the last bulletin we asked for some IT Heroes, we didn't expect the first Hero would be our own Chair, Marion.



Despite no previous knowledge of Facebook and by her own admission few IT skills, she has successfully set up the Benfleet u3a Facebook page. Now boasting over 70 members it is a testament as to what can be achieved when you try. Well done Marion.

Also thanks to our second IT Hero, Carol Noble, who has joined Marion in administering the site.

Our Facebook page is a place where members can share any experience, as long as its clean! post photos, stories, jokes – so it has no formal agenda other than bringing members together.

Getting onto Facebook:

Most members who are familiar and confident with Facebook will already have joined. For those who are unsure and don't have a Facebook account here's a few tips on how to join.

Go to: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/benfleetu3a> Facebook will prompt you sign in OR create an account.

Create an account with your name and email address and sign in.

No need to put in any further personal details. Security settings limit what others can see of your account including your email address.

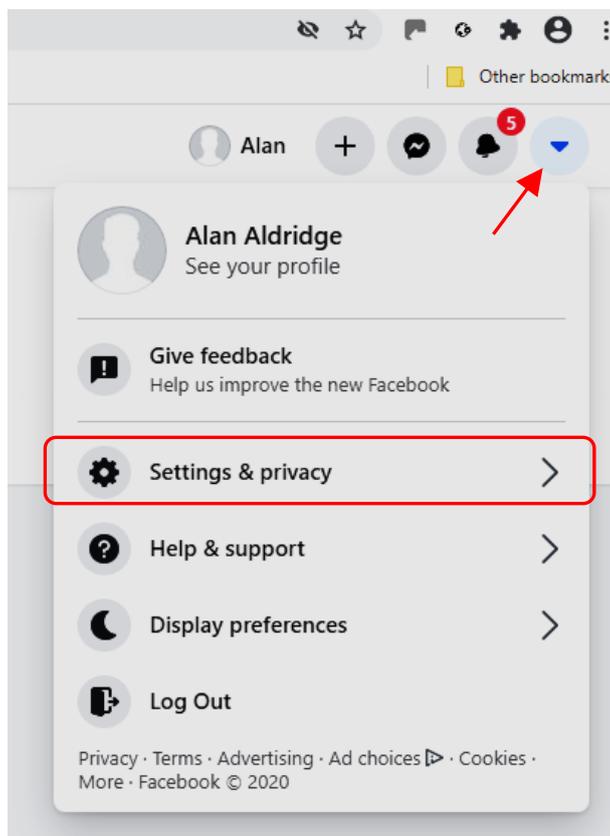
For security settings, click the down arrow [account] on the top right of the page and then select 'Settings and Privacy'

Answer a series of questions about who you want to share information with. Until you are familiar with Facebook, keep this as private as possible.

The Benfleet u3a page will come up and you should click 'Join'. This will be authorised as soon as possible and you will have access to the full Benfleet u3a Facebook page.

The page is private to Benfleet u3a Members and you will be able to post comments, jokes, photos, etc. for other members to see.

Facebook is in addition to the other forms of communication such as bulletins.



THAT'S THE WAY TO DO IT! – KNITTED POPPIES

Full marks to the **Knit and Stitch group** who have prepared many, many Knitted Poppies for Remembrance Day. The intention is to display them at Cemetery Corner for a couple of weeks around the 11 November.



At publication road works have appeared in Jotman's Lane. Undeterred our group have completed their display – with the help of the workmen.

If members wish to contribute to support our Armed Forces and Veterans there are many ways to donate including on-line and in local shops.



THAT'S THE WAY TO DO IT! – PHOTOGRAPHY

Many thanks to Sue Lewsey for taking the initiative to arrange the Photography Groups first visit since March, on a gorgeous sunny afternoon to the Belfairs Woods for some fresh air and autumn colour.



Under the Tier 2 restrictions, a full risk assessment was made and members joining the visit made their own personal decisions about whether to attend.

14 members turned out and this was divided into 4 groups. Care was taken not to mingle between the groups as we ventured out.

The Autumn colours were not yet as prominent as we had hoped but the Prittlebrook had more water than usual. It was an excellent visit.

Thank you. Sue.





Committee Members

<u>Chairperson</u>	Marion Coleman	
<u>Vice-Chair</u>	Sheila Sears	
<u>Treasurer</u>	Jill Parr	
<u>Business Secretary</u>	Mavis Regan	
<u>Interest Groups Coordinator</u>	Iris Mead	
<u>Membership Secretary</u>	Bob Munson	
<u>Outings Organiser</u>	Maria Kelly	
<u>Bulletin Editor</u> and <u>Webmaster</u>	Alan Aldridge	
<u>Committee Member 1</u>	Philip Lloyd-Worth	
<u>Committee Member 2</u>	Suzanne Worland	
<u>Committee Member 3</u>	Lee King	

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

Monthly unless specified

SUBJECT	CONTACT	MEETING DATE
<u>Badminton 1</u>	<u>Brian Boyce</u>	Mon. pm weekly
<u>Badminton 2</u>	<u>Robert Gray</u>	Thurs 7.30pm weekly
<u>Book Club</u>	<u>Pat Cluness</u>	Monthly: variable
<u>Card & Board Games</u>	<u>Ann Sayer</u>	2 nd Wed. pm
<u>Comparative Religion</u>	<u>Cheryl Kirby</u>	2 nd Tues. pm
<u>Culinary Experience</u>	<u>Barbara Webb</u>	4 th Mon.
<u>Darts</u>	<u>Chris Hicks</u>	Last Wed. pm
<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>Grahame Harris</u>	1st Tues. 2-4pm
<u>Flower Arranging</u>	<u>Brenda Liberty</u>	2 nd Fri. am
<u>French</u>	<u>Linda Aldridge</u>	2 nd Wed am
<u>Garden Visits</u>	<u>Theresa Sergeant</u>	Various
<u>Gardening</u>	<u>Jenny Brown</u>	Monthly: variable
<u>Grumpy Old Women</u>	<u>Jan Forey</u>	To be decided
<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>Sue Day</u>	Variable each month
<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</u>	<u>Ann Sayer</u> <u>Sheila Sears</u>	1 st Fri.am
<u>Photography</u>	<u>Sue Lewsey</u>	3 rd Mon. pm
<u>Scrabble</u>	<u>Doreen Curran</u>	Alternate Mon/Thurs weekly
<u>Sewing</u>	<u>Joan Daly</u>	On hold - restart soon
<u>Singing</u>	<u>Linda Burdett</u>	2 nd & 3 rd Thurs.
<u>Spanish</u>	<u>Sheila Radford</u>	Wed. pm weekly
<u>Ten Pin Bowling</u>	<u>Jim Regan</u>	3 rd Fri. am
<u>Walking Group upto 5 miles</u>	<u>Eve Burgess</u>	1 st Thurs. am
<u>Walking over 5 miles</u>	<u>Doreen Wiggans</u>	4 th Thurs. am
<u>Walking over 5 miles-Group 2</u>	<u>Freda Antoniou</u>	3 rd Wed. am
<u>Wildlife</u>	<u>Janet Humphrey</u>	2 nd Thurs. am
<u>Women in History</u>	<u>Jean Askew</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** T: 01268 752616 E: irisandderick@sky.com