



BENFLEET BULLETIN

u3a learn,
laugh,
live

Issue 43: September 2022

W: u3asites.org.uk/benfleet

f facebook.com/groups/benfleetu3a

Chair: Marion Coleman

Bulletin Editor: Alan Aldridge

FROM THE CHAIR: Hello Everyone

I hope you have all managed to cope with our long hot Summer along with your gardens and houseplants! I was away during the August hot spell and despite volunteer waterers my garden has struggled, though the dry area survived remarkably well.



I cannot believe we have come to the end of another u3a year, it seems to have flown. The AGM is in September and will be the first "live" one since I took over as Chair. As you will have seen from the AGM notices my 3 year term comes to an end at the AGM. If someone else comes forward to take on the role, that would be wonderful. However, our constitution contains a clause enabling the committee to ask me to stay on for a year if no-one else comes forward. As I feel I was not able to fulfil my role effectively during Covid lockdowns etc. I am willing to stay on but for one year only.

As no-one has come forward yet it seems likely you will have me again next year, so I am not writing you all a farewell address but instead I am looking forward to a wonderful year in which we develop and improve Benfleet u3a to meet the needs of all our members.

We will be showcasing the activities of some of our 39 groups at the AGM so please come along and join us. There will be tea and Cake!!

Marion, Chair

A Glow-Worm Adventure – Wildlife Group

To see Glow-worms visit France, Italy or Spain. Right?

WRONG. They exist in abundance on our own Benfleet Downs from end May to end September. On a night-time visit, we also found Glow-Worms mating! A very rare event to view in the wild.

And, as a special treat you can view a **video** of this event on our **NEW YouTube channel**. Visit [202207 – Glow-Worms](#) to access.

We can now include video links on our website, so contact Alan Aldridge if you have good videos of u3a activities.



OUTINGS

Outing details will be advised with a date when bookings will be taken. This will be by email, letter to those without email and on our website.

NO bookings BEFORE the advised booking date.

Full payment date: Full payment must be received by that date. If not places will be offered to other members. We will not be taking deposits for outings.

Cheques: payable to Benfleet U3A. Please write the outing name on the back.

Pick-up and drop-off points are Victoria House Corner, Kenneth/Kiln Road Junction, Kents Hill Road, Tarpots, (Romsey Road), and Pitsea.

Where food is included, advise any dietary/allergy requirements at booking.

Mobile phone: give a mobile phone number in case of need to contact while out.

Photographs: advise at booking if you do NOT wish photos of you to be in the bulletin or website.

Completed Outings since the last bulletin:

July 2022: Thames Barge Cruise from Ipswich:



August 2022: Eastbourne and the Air Show:



See full write up and photos on our website at [***Outings***](#) (link also on home page).

Future Outings open for booking:

Destination: **Camden and canal cruise to Little Venice**

Date: **Thursday 15 September 2022**

Basis: **Coach and boat to Little Venice ONLY**

Cost: **£33 per person**

Pickup times: **To be advised**



NOTE: This Outing is now FULL.

To go on reserve list please contact **Ian** via webmail at [**Outings Coordinator**](mailto:ian@u3a.org.uk).

Advanced Notice for advice only:

Following Outings are being planned but NOT YET open for booking.

- **Thursday 17 November 2022: Ely Christmas Fair.**

AGM and Updates

As stated elsewhere the Annual General Meeting is at 2pm Tuesday 27 September.

Nomination forms have been sent out covering the Chair and for 2 committee members and by the time this bulletin is issued we trust there will be some nominations.

It cannot be stressed too much that it is important to have fresh input and involvement on committee and our group contacts for our u3a to remain successful.

If at any time, any member feels able to become involved at any level, there are many roles and activities that can usefully be tackled to support our u3a. Just contact Marion or any Committee member.

Update on SIM Membership

Just to confirm that the reason for a Full and SIM membership (Special Interest Member) is that for our Richmond Hall meetings we have a safety limit of 120 attendees. With a total membership of around 300 it could present problems.

Having a SIM Membership with limited access to the Richmond Hall meetings allows us to manage attendance and to avoid any notion of a waiting list to join our u3a.

Looking at meeting attendance since the Covid lockdowns, the Committee has decided that it is possible to increase the number of meetings that SIMs can attend annually from 2 to 3 plus the AGM. This is effective now.

Also, to confirm that SIMs can take part in ALL other activities, can be Group Contacts, can be Committee Members or anything else that our u3a does.

Cometh the hour, cometh the man! (or woman)

Bob Munson's Tuesday coffee mornings at Peggy's café are very successful, primarily for newly joined SIMs to get acquainted and involved in our activities. As this venue is on the north side of the A13, Committee felt it would be a good idea to open a similar event on the south side of Benfleet and Marion asked for volunteers at the last Members' meeting.

We are delighted to confirm that new SIM Member, **Barry Seeley**, has answered that call and is organising new regular coffee mornings. Details are:

Event: **Thursday Morning Coffee Group**

Venue: **Tasty Bites:** 277, High Road, Benfleet, SS7 5HA (opposite Shell Garage).

Who: **Open to all Benfleet u3a Members.**

When: **from 9:30am onwards on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month.**

First meeting Thursday 13 October 2022.

Then 27 October/10 November/24 November/8 December. No meeting 22 Dec.

If you wish to come along or just want more details please contact

Barry Seeley via webmail at [Thursday Morning Coffee](mailto:ThursdayMorningCoffee@benfleetu3a.org)

Barry will also have a table at the 29 September AGM.

The mornings will be informal, social events with no agenda, just an opportunity to meet and get to know other members. You don't need to attend every meeting and can come along at any time or date as convenient to you (please let Barry know if you are planning to come so that enough seating can be reserved).

Many thanks to Barry and we hope to see you all there.



Isn't Technology Wonderful!

Did you hear about the monkeys who shared an Amazon account? They were Prime mates.

Don't use "beef stew" as a computer password. It's not stroganoff.

Q. How does a computer get drunk?

A. It takes screenshots.

I just got fired from my job at the keyboard factory.

They told me I wasn't putting in enough shifts.

Q: Why did the computer show up at work late? A: It had a hard drive.

Q: Why was the cell phone wearing glasses? A: It lost its contacts.



MEMBERS MEETINGS UPDATE

Since the last bulletin we have enjoyed a number of personal presentations at Richmond Hall plus Zoom sessions including:

Kevin Little: My Life with Animals on a Smallholding

Freya Levy:

From Walking to
Wheelchair
- My Story



John Hope:

Time through
the Ages

Sun Dial Tower Bridge



Peter Batty: Band of sisters - amazing women of World War 2

Martin Hoskins: Financial Issues and Estate planning

We think attending members have found topics interesting, so we trust that members will continue to support and attend both Hall and Zoom meetings giving the opportunity for interaction and social contact.

Coming Up:



RICHMOND HALL: 2pm Tuesday 30 August 2022

Lindsay Whitehouse: Life in a Prison - from a Governors viewpoint

ZOOM: Tuesday 13 September 2022: Dr Ian Bedford
British Butterflies and a Changing Environment



RICHMOND HALL: 2pm Tuesday 27 September 2022

Benfleet u3a Annual General Meeting followed by group displays, tea and cake..

ZOOM: 2pm Tuesday 11 October 2022

Martin Heard: Seeing Capabilities (Capability Brown's Gardens)

RICHMOND HALL: 2pm Tuesday 25 October 2022

Ken Slaney our own Benfleet u3a member;
The Development of Firearms and Explosives.

ZOOM: 2pm Tuesday 15 November 2022; Steve Herra
The History of Cunard and its Glamorous Stars

RICHMOND HALL: 2pm Tuesday 29 November 2022

Judith Hood; Living with the Paranormal

QUIZZICAL LOOKS

Streetwise from Rina Munro

What cities have these streets?

1. Les Champs Elysee
2. Bond Street
3. Wall Street
4. Sunset Boulevard
5. Via Veneto
6. Madison Avenue
7. Beacon Street
8. Boulevard St. Michael
9. Wilshire Boulevard
10. Peachtree Street
11. Hans Christian Anderson Blvd
12. Nevsky Prospekt
13. Kurfürstndam
14. Promenade Des Anglais
15. Dizengoff
16. Mott Street
17. Piccadilly
18. Unter Den Linden
19. Michigan Avenue
20. Bourbon Street
21. Market Street
22. Basin Street
23. Fleet Street
24. Pall Mall
25. Las Ramblas

On the Wing from Jan Lane

Identify bird or bird related answer

1. 'The Plumage League' and 'Fur, Fin and Feather Folk' merged in 1891 and gained a Royal Charter in 1904 as.....?
2. Doctor to Queen Victoria, suspected of being Jack the Ripper
3. A well-known brand of cooking margarine
4. This is actually a fish!
5. Used to move really heavy items
6. Sounds like you're out of breath
7. Batman's sidekick
8. Captain Jack, in Pirates of the Caribbean
9. Sounds like it goes through a kebab
10. Name of a gentle soap/beauty range
11. A children's TV programme from 1968-1980
12. A ballet by Tchaikovsky
13. What you have in your spare time
14. Liverpool born snooker player, MBE, world champion 1991
15. A fungal infection

Answers on page 10

No Peeking!

Community News - non-U3A activities

Items listed are for your information only and are not U3A organised.

Open Garden for Fairhaven's Hospice in memory of Yvonne Castle

Organised by Marion and Yvonne's daughter Karen.

This open garden event in June was supported by many of our u3a members and overall raised a splendid £800. Congratulations to Marion and Karen for organising and running such a worthwhile event.

Croquet: Would you like to learn to play Croquet? **Beginners Welcome!**

From now until October 2022 the local club has sessions every Monday, Wednesday and Saturday. 1:30pm on the field behind the Benfleet Bowling Green.

Just turn up and introduce yourself. You must wear shoes with covered in toes.

GROUP NEWS AND ACTIVITIES

For contact details please see pages 9 and 10.

GROUPS at the AGM on 27 September 2022

This will be a different style meeting when after formal AGM business is complete, groups will have the opportunity to have a group table to show members what their group is doing or just to be available to explain what the group does and answer queries. If you want your group to have a presence on these tables PLEASE contact **Suzanne Worland** via webmail at [**Interest Groups Coordinator**](#) to arrange.

Apart from being of interest to members, we are looking for more take up of group activities and more members coming forward to be group contacts. If you are unsure about what being a group contact entails then please contact any committee member. If you want to discuss forming new groups please contact **Suzanne**.

MORE GROUP MEMBERS NEEDED:

Existing groups have space for new members please contact group contact directly:

Scrabble Current Affairs Wildlife Badminton 1 Canasta Darts
Grumpy Old Men and Women (and group contact) Play Reading

We also need group contacts and members for groups being formed now:

Cinema visits Bus and Ale

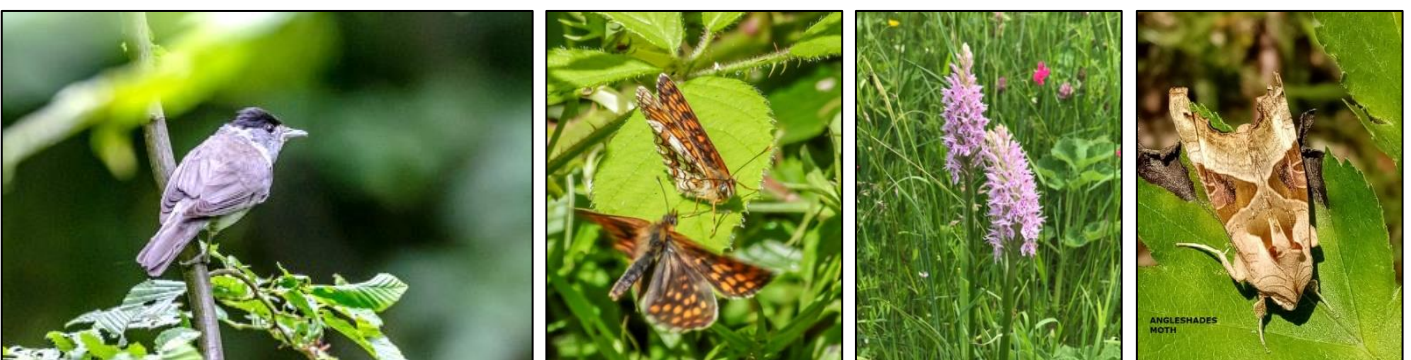
Contact **Suzanne Worland** via webmail at [**Interest Groups Coordinator**](#).

WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN DOING?

Garden Trail – Macs and Wellies Gardening Group



Wildlife – Hockley Woods



Combined Photography/Military History/Local Interest visit to the Purfleet Heritage and Military Centre

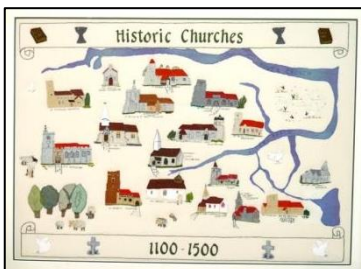


Drawing: What we like to draw

Hanningfield



Local Interest: Rochford Tapestry



Darts

**Photography
Marks Hall**

**Comparative Religion
Westminster Cathedral**



Walking 5 miles+



See all recent activities on our website click QUICK LINKS tab.

GROUP CONTACTS

If on-line then click a Subject for the Group webpage.
Click Contact Name to send a web message.

To join a group please call the contact number given below.

If full, ON HOLD or for any queries, please contact the **[Interest Groups Coordinator](#)**

SUBJECT	CONTACT	MEETING DATE
<u>Afternoon Films</u>	<u>Suzanne Worland</u>	3 rd Thursday. 1pm
<u>Art Blue</u>	<u>Marion Coleman</u>	10am every Tuesday
<u>Art Turquoise</u>	<u>Dot Hopkins</u>	10am every Thursday
<u>Badminton 1</u>	<u>Brian Boyce</u>	Monday 1:30pm weekly
<u>Badminton 2</u>	<u>Robert Gray</u>	ON HOLD
<u>Book Club</u>	<u>Pat Cluness</u>	Monthly: variable
<u>Canasta</u>	<u>Doreen Curran</u>	4 th Wednesday. 2pm
<u>Card & Board Games</u>	<u>Ann Sayer</u>	2 nd Wednesday. 2pm
<u>Comparative Religion</u>	<u>Cheryl Kirby</u>	2 nd Tuesday. 2pm
<u>Culinary Experience</u>	<u>Barbara Webb</u>	4 th Monday.
<u>Current Affairs</u>	<u>June Foster</u>	2 nd Monday. 2pm
<u>Darts</u>	<u>Chris Hicks</u>	Last Wednesday. 2pm
<u>Discussion</u>	<u>Jean Askew</u>	2 nd Tuesday. 2pm
<u>Drawing</u>	<u>Sue Quattrucci</u>	Monthly challenge
<u>Family History</u>	<u>Grahame Harris</u>	ON HOLD
<u>Flower Arranging</u>	<u>Dot Hopkins</u>	10am every Friday
<u>French</u>	<u>Lyn Aldridge</u>	2 nd Wednesday. 10am
<u>Gardening</u>	<u>Janet Heather</u>	Monthly: variable
<u>Grumpy Old Men and Women</u>	Vacant <u>Contact Suzanne</u>	Awaiting Group Contact and Members
<u>Knit & Stitch</u>	<u>Pauline Everett</u>	Ad hoc activity
<u>Local and Essex History</u>	<u>Marion Coleman</u>	Various
<u>Local Interest</u>	<u>Sue Lewsey</u>	1 st Wednesday.
<u>Lunch Club</u>	<u>Sue Day</u>	2 nd Friday. 12:30pm

<u>Macs/Wellies Gardening</u>	<u>Bob Munson</u>	Various
<u>Meditation</u>	<u>Richard Newall</u>	Tuesday. 11am; weekly
<u>Naval & Military History</u>	<u>Phil Lloyd-Worth</u>	2 nd Thursday. 2pm
<u>Outings</u>	<u>Denise Phipps</u>	As advised.
<u>Photography</u>	<u>Sue Lewsey</u>	3 rd Monday. 2pm
<u>Play Reading</u>	<u>Shirley Wolfe</u>	To be decided
<u>Scrabble (2 groups)</u>	<u>Doreen Curran</u>	1 st /3 rd Monday. 2pm 2 nd /4 th Thursday. 2pm
<u>Singing</u>	<u>Sue Day</u>	2 nd Thursday. 1:30pm 3 rd Thursday. 9:45am
<u>Spanish</u>	<u>Sheila Radford</u>	Wednesday weekly. 10am
<u>Ten Pin Bowling</u>	<u>Jim Regan</u>	3 rd Friday. am
<u>Vintage Films</u>	<u>Jenny Brown</u>	2 nd and 4 th Thurs. 1pm
<u>Walking up to 5 miles</u>	<u>Eve Burgess</u>	1 st Thursday. am
<u>Walking over 5 miles</u>	<u>Doreen Wiggans</u>	4 th Thursday. am
<u>Walking over 5 miles Group 2</u>	<u>Freda Antoniou</u>	ON HOLD
<u>Wildlife</u>	<u>Janet Humphrey</u>	2 nd Thursday. 10:30am
<u>Women in History</u>	<u>Sheila Sears</u>	3 rd Friday. 2pm

QUIZ ANSWERS

Streetwise

1. Paris
2. London
3. New York
4. Hollywood
5. Rome
6. New York
7. Boston
8. Paris
9. Los Angeles
10. Atlanta
11. Copenhagen
12. St. Petersburg

13. Berlin
14. Nice
15. Tel Aviv
16. New York
17. London
18. Berlin
19. Chicago
20. New Orleans
21. San Francisco
22. New Orleans
23. London
24. London
25. Barcelona

On the Wing

1. The RSPB
2. Gull
3. Stork
4. Bombay Duck
5. Crane
6. Puffin
7. Robin
8. Sparrow
9. Skua
10. Dove
11. Magpie
12. Swan Lake
13. Hobby
14. John Parrott
15. Thrush



Committee Members

Click role to send webmail

[Chair](#)

Marion Coleman



[Vice-Chair](#)

Shirley Wolfe



[Treasurer](#)

Rina Munro



[Business Secretary](#)

Sandra Bedwell



[Membership Secretary](#)

Bob Munson



**[Interest Groups
Coordinator](#)**

Suzanne Worland



[Outings Organiser](#)

Denise Phipps



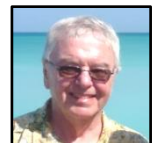
[Outings Coordinator](#)

Ian Phipps



**[Bulletin Editor/
Webmaster](#)**

Alan Aldridge



[Committee Member](#)

Lee King



[Committee Member](#)

Jim Wolfe



Bereavement and Unwell: Please contact Suzanne Worland via webmail to **[Interest Groups Coordinator](#)** to confirm details of any bereavement or illness, and an appropriate card will be forwarded.