



BENFLEET BULLETIN

u3a learn,
laugh,
live

Issue 44: December 2022

W: u3asites.org.uk/benfleet

f facebook.com/groups/benfleetu3a

Chair: Marion Coleman

Bulletin Editor: Alan Aldridge

FROM THE CHAIR: Hello Everyone

Welcome again to you all! So here I am again writing to you as Chair for another year!

However, I must say again that

I will stand down in September 2023.

We have an excellent Committee and anyone who is thinking about taking on the role will be well supported. Ideally, they would work with me during next year to familiarise themselves with what we all do!

So, please start thinking about it now!

Similarly, all our Committee members would benefit from having someone helping them and familiarising themselves with things especially anyone with IT skills who could work with Alan to help keep the website up to date particularly as a major change in national website is expected in 2023. A task shared is a task halved and becomes more enjoyable!

Meanwhile, we are heading rapidly towards Christmas. I've heard my first carols, the garden centres are full of Santa's grottoes and the supermarkets full of delectable goodies!

I hope all of you will enjoy the festivities and send you all Very Happy Christmas Greetings from myself and your Committee.

Marion, Chair



Benfleet Airshow!

On 22 October, Benfleet residents were treated to an impromptu air display over the creek/marshes.

The plane did loop the loop, barrel rolls, corkscrew, vertical drops and more. After 10 minutes it departed with a wave of its wings.

Our thanks to Ken Slaney for capturing the moment.



OUTINGS

Completed Outings since the last bulletin:

September 2022: Camden Lock and Little Venice

Despite the obstruction of burst water main in Benfleet the day went really well and thoroughly enjoyed by all.



November 2022: Ely Christmas Markets

Wish the welcome outside the Cathedral was as warm as that inside!

An exceedingly wet and windy day but inside the Cathedral was dry and with an extensive market selling good quality product mainly made in the UK.



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



Future Outings

The Ely outing completed the 2022 programme and future events will recommence in late March 2023.

Our thanks to Denise and Ian for organising the 2022 outings and to Members for their extensive support, showing that outings are still a very popular u3a activity.

England's Wheelchair Rugby League World Cup win

Did anyone catch the final between England and France? It may be in wheelchairs but it was one of the most exciting sports contests I have ever seen. Both sides deserved to win but with 4 minutes to go England scored a deciding try. **Winners.**

Why is this featured here? Because in amongst mayhem of delighted England fans I spotted Freya Levy, the disabled girl who came to talk to our members in May this year – from walking to wheelchair and yet represented England in several sports.

She was on the broadcast as commentator and pundit and it was great to see someone who is so inspirational to others achieving so much in her life. Well done Freya.



MEMBERS MEETINGS UPDATE

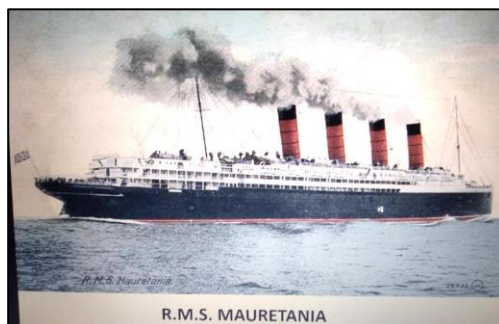
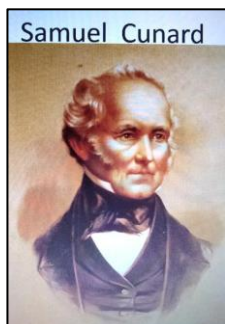
Since the last bulletin we have enjoyed hall and zoom meetings:

- Lindsay Whitehouse: Life in a Prison - from a Governors viewpoint
- Dr Ian Bedford: British Butterflies and a Changing Environment
- Martin Heard: Seeing Capabilities (Capability Brown's Gardens)



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

- Steve Herra:
The History of Cunard and its Glamorous Stars



Coming Soon

In response to SIM Member requests, we have included ALL currently booked Richmond Hall and Zoom Member Meetings, not just until the next bulletin.

This is to allow SIM members to make an informed choice on which meetings to attend as they can attend 3 meetings at Richmond Hall plus the AGM annually.

If any additional meeting are booked before the next bulletin in March 2023, details will be available on our website.

RICHMOND HALL: 2pm Tuesday 29 November 2022
Judith Hood; Living with the Paranormal

ZOOM: 2pm Tuesday 13 December 2022
Philip Bowen: The History of Christmas

NO HALL MEETING: December 2022

ZOOM: 2pm Tuesday 10 January 2023
Annamarie Dell'Anase: Jewels of London Museums

RICHMOND HALL: 2pm Tuesday 24 January 2023
Tony Harris is "Sherlock Holmes"

ZOOM: 2pm Tuesday 14 February 2023
Brad Ashton: The job of a Laughtime – comedy script writer

RICHMOND HALL: 2pm Tuesday 28 February 2023
Martin Hoskins: Estate Planning Part 2

ZOOM: 2pm Tuesday 14 March 2023
Richard Rickitt: The Amazing Honey Bee

RICHMOND HALL: 2pm Tuesday 28 March 2023
Lindsay Whitehouse: Line of Duty –insights from an ex-Prison Governor



Early nominations for
the 2023 Committee

QUIZZICAL LOOKS

December Daze: our thanks to **Jan Lane** for yet another Quiz.

Looking at what has happened in December through the years:

01. 1st December 1948. Originally called 'Criss Cross' and later 'Lexico' what board game was copyrighted on this day?
02. 2nd December 1697. Which majestic building was opened in London?
03. 4th December 1872. Which ship was found with the Captains table set for a meal but Captain, crew and passengers all missing?
04. 5th – 9th December 1952. What caused major disruption and death in London?
05. 8th December 1980.
Which musician and songwriter was murdered in New York?
06. 10th December 1901. The first Nobel Peace Prizes were awarded, but how had Nobel made his fortune?
07. 11th December 1936.
What did Edward Albert Christian George Andrew Patrick David do on this day?
08. 14th December 1799. Which President of the USA died on this day?
09. 15th December 1939.
Which classic film was premiered at Loews Grand Theatre in Atlanta?
10. 16th December 1773. What did unruly American Colonists throw into the sea from ships in Boston Harbour?
11. 17th December 1903. What happened near Kitty Hawk, North Carolina?
12. 20th December 2007. What British record was set on this day?
13. 21st December 1668. Samuel Pepys met a Danish lady, Ursula Dyan, what was strange about her that 'pleased him mightily'?
14. 22nd December 1949.
Which twins from a musical family trio were born on this day?
15. 24th December 1818. Written by Father Joseph Mohr, what carol was first performed on this day?
16. 29th December 1170.
Who was murdered on the steps of Canterbury Cathedral?
17. 30th December 1865.
Born today, he wrote the 'Just so stories' and 'Jungle Book'



GROUP NEWS AND ACTIVITIES

For contact details please see pages 10 and 11.

GROUPS at the AGM on 27 September 2022

Group displays attracted much attention from members at the AGM and several groups recruited new members. The intention is to repeat this next year with perhaps some limited display's during the year.



MORE GROUP MEMBERS NEEDED:

Existing groups still have space for new members please approach group contact:

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

ON HOLD: groups currently not meeting pending more input from members

Afternoon Films Badminton2 Family History Walking over 5 miles Group2

If you would like to be involved in regenerating any of these groups please contact **Suzanne Worland** using [Interest Groups Coordinator](#) webmail.

GROUP UPDATES

Play Reading: is now **FULL** for the time being.

Comparative Religion has changed name to **Exploring World Faiths.**

Cinema Visits: first group event to be at:

Cineworld, Festival Leisure, Basildon on Wednesday 14 December 2022.

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

for details or if you would like to attend.

Beginners French:

Suzanne is collecting names for possible members for a new beginners group.

Card & Board Games: meeting date moved to 2pm on the 1st Wednesday in month.

Thursday Morning Coffee Group

Five members attended our first gathering at Tasty Bites in South Benfleet on the 3 November. It was a very enjoyable morning. The banter was good as well as the various non-political subjects discussed; one in particular being a further on firearms with Ken Slaney chatting about further aspects of his very interesting hobby.

Further meetings took place on 10 and 24 November. We meet every 2nd and 4th Thursday morning in the month between 09.30 and 11.30. Tables are reserved and all members, **both FULL and SIM are welcome.**

The next meeting is on the 8 December 2022. There is NO MEETING on 22 December and we will restart on 12 January 2023.

The mornings are informal, social events with no agenda, just an opportunity to meet and get to know other members.

Contact **Barry Seeley** using [Thursday Coffee Morning](mailto:ThursdayCoffeeMorning@tastybites.co.uk) webmail.



Christmas Thoughts by Linda Aldridge

Christmas time is here again, the house aglow with lights.
Presents underneath the tree, that appear on Christmas night.

The children so excited when they see the gifts galore,
And imprints of Santa's footsteps leading to the door.

We celebrate the season with family and friends
Toasting Health, Wealth and Happiness
We wish this season would never end.

WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN DOING?

Walking over 5 miles:

Great Waltham

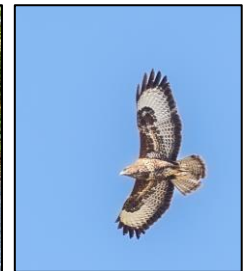
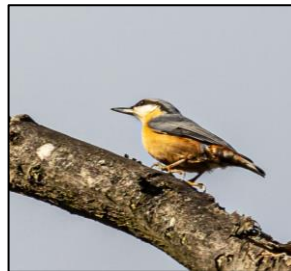
Bradwell



Photography: Langdon Nature Park



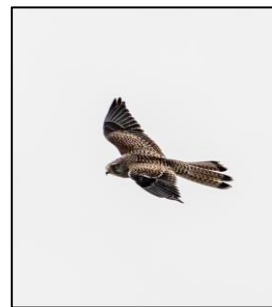
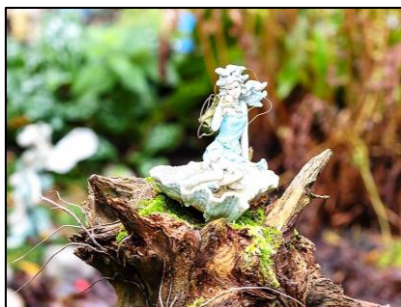
Wildlife: Norsey Wood



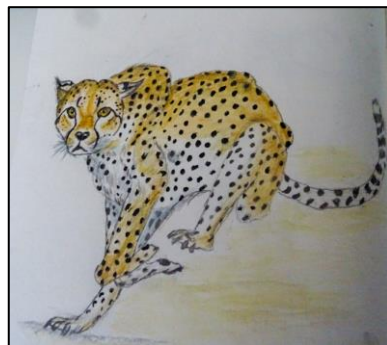
Drawing: Ways of Travel



Wildlife: Fobbing Marsh



Drawing: Animals



Macs/Wellies Gardening Hyde Hall



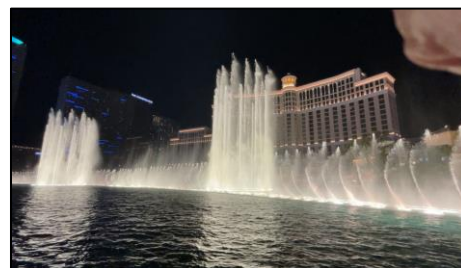
Lunch Club Malaya Restaurant



Essex History Greensted Church



Out and About: selection from Members travels



See all recent activities on our website click **QUICK LINKS**

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

DECEMBER DAZE – QUIZ ANSWERS

01. Scrabble
02. St Pauls Cathedral
03. Mary Celeste
04. The Great Smog
05. John Lennon
06. He invented dynamite.
07. Renounced the British Crown (Edward viii)
08. George Washington
09. Gone with the Wind
10. 342 chests of tea.
11. First successful man-powered air-plane flight by Orville and Wilbur Wright
12. Queen Elizabeth 11 became the longest-living British monarch.
13. She had a black, bushy beard
14. Maurice and Robin Gibb of the BeeGees
15. Silent Night
16. Thomas a Becket
17. Rudyard Kipling





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



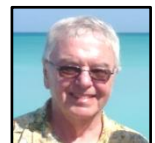
[Outings Coordinator](#)

Ian Phipps



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

Alan Aldridge



[Committee Member](#)

Lee King



[Committee Member](#)

Jim Wolfe



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