



# BENFLEET BULLETIN

**u3a** learn,  
laugh,  
live

**Issue 45A: March 2023**

**W:** [u3asites.org.uk/benfleet](http://u3asites.org.uk/benfleet)

**f** [facebook.com/groups/benfleetu3a](https://facebook.com/groups/benfleetu3a)

**Chair: Marion Coleman**

**Bulletin Editor: Alan Aldridge**

## **FROM THE CHAIR: Hello again everyone**

With Christmas a distant memory and hopefully coughs and colds, etc. also over, I see definite signs of Spring on the way. There are green shoots and early flowers blooming. The temperature is warming and things are looking up. Time now to look forward to some of the exciting things that may be happening this year.



Our programme of days out starts in March and we have a 60s dance evening coming up on May 13th. We have decided against a Picnic in the Park to celebrate the Coronation, as this would be the same week as a day trip and the Dance. This will leave you free to celebrate with friends and family. We may plan a Picnic for July when the weather will be warmer.

Our very full programme of group activities continues so maybe this is the time for you to step up to be Group Contact for a new group. Some of our groups are very large and could easily be divided into two with support available to all. Or indeed you could explore a different activity altogether. Do think about it!

Finally, please remember we need a new Chair for September, help and support all there!

Above all, whatever you do, please do your best to enjoy this coming year.

**Marion, Chair**



## **So you think you know London?**

So, where did the name London come from? Yes, I know the Romans called it Londinium but where did it come from?

One possible route is that the settlement by the Thames was very boggy, very soggy and the Celtic word for lake is 'Lynn' and for Fort is 'Dun'.

So it could have started out as 'Lynndun'. Or not!

## 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.

### **Thursday 23 March 2023 – Mystery Tour**

Basis: **Coach; 2 course Lunch.**

Cost: **£40 per person.**

Latest Payment Date: **Tuesday 28 February 2023.**

Payment Methods: **Cash, or cheques made payable to Benfleet u3a.**

Maximum number of passengers: **40 (restricted by catering).**

This Outing is now fully booked also with a full standby list.

For full details visit [\*\*202303 – Mystery Tour\*\*](#)

### **Advance Notice of planned Outings NOT AVAILABLE FOR BOOKING YET:**

- Thursday 11 May 2023                      Greenwich Old Royal Naval College
- Thursday 15 June 2023                    Camden Market
- Thursday 14 September 2023          Leeds Castle
- Thursday 30 November 2023          Brick Lane Music Hall
- Thursday 14 December 2023          Winchester Christmas Market

### **Community News - non-U3A activities**

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

#### **Brandenburg Choral Festival of London**

If you are a fan of this genre of music, there are free tickets for u3a members for concerts in London on 16,17,18 March. Members to make their own travel arrangements. Thanks to Maria Kelly for forwarding.

If interested please contact Alan at [\*\*Bulletin Editor\*\*](#) and I will forward full details.

## MEMBERS MEETINGS UPDATE

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

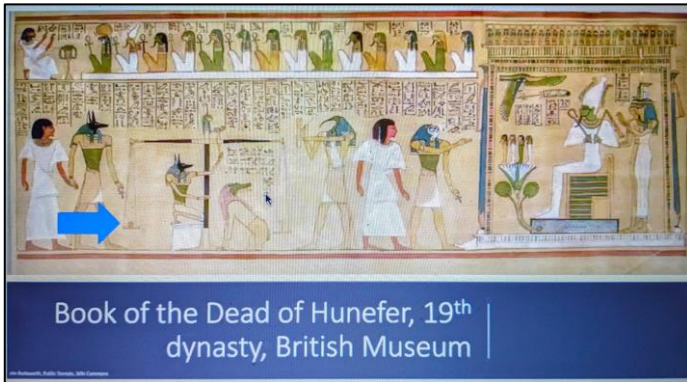
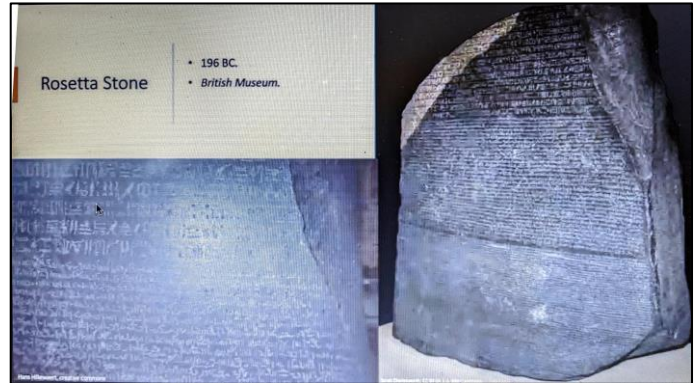
HALL November 2022: Judith Hood; Living with the Paranormal

ZOOM December 2022: Philip Bowen: The History of Christmas

ZOOM: January 2023:

Annamarie Dell'Anase:

Jewels of London Museums



HALL: January 2023:  
Tony Harris was "Sherlock Holmes"  
Aided and abetted by Watson (Ian)



ZOOM February 2023: Brad Ashton: The Job of a Laughtime – comedy script writer



## Coming Soon

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: Prison Line of Duty –insights from an ex-Prison Governor

NOTE: from March ALL meetings will be at Richmond Hall. NO Zoom meetings

Shirley Wolfe has taken over speaker booking and organisation.

Many thanks to Marion for conjuring up a wonderful array of hall and zoom speakers and managing the zoom sessions so professionally.

2pm Tuesday 25 April 2023: Peter Hillman: Fostering children and young people

2pm Tuesday 30 May 2023: Barry Seeley our own u3a member: Personal Security

2pm Tuesday 27 June 2023: Peter Guide: Changing rooms - Interiors through the ages

2pm Tuesday 25 July 2023: Joanna Lerner - Handwriting Analysis - For Fun

2pm Tuesday 29 August 2023: Karen Lawrie - If you don't use it, you lose it

2pm Tuesday 26 September 2023: Sue Spiers - The Big House Mystery

2pm Tuesday 31 October 2023: Details to be advised.

2pm Tuesday 28 November 2023: Tony Harris - The Pantomime Dame

December: NO hall meeting.

## Also Coming Soon

### **7pm Saturday 13 May 2023: u3a 60s Dance and Supper; Richmond Hall**

We are anticipating the ticket price to be £20 to include a fish and chip supper (Alternative Chicken and chips for those unable to eat fish). All costs have increased since the last such event. Bring your own drinks (and glasses).

Our members (and their partners) will be given priority though you may register an interest for tickets for friends. Following National u3a guidance regarding insurance, all non u3a members will need to be registered as day members with an additional charge of £1 on the ticket price. If you are interested please reply by webmail to Marion Coleman at ***Chair***, or Sandra Bedwell at ***Business Secretary***.

You will also be able to book tickets at our monthly meetings on February 28<sup>th</sup> and March 28<sup>th</sup>. As we have to pay the band, we request a deposit of £10 per ticket. Tickets for friends will be allocated following the March meeting should there be some available.

## IMAGE OF THE YEAR 2022

Thanks to all visiting the IOTY webpage and voted. Over 600 visits to the page in December and January, exceeded the total of all the other groups combined.

Could other groups devise activity that can engage with the wider membership?



1st: Alan Aldridge



Joint 2<sup>nd</sup>: Steve Dimon



Joint 2<sup>nd</sup>: Ken Slaney



3<sup>rd</sup> Mavis Regan

See Group Winners and all entries at [\*\*202212 - Image of the Year Competition\*\*](#)

## QUIZZICAL LOOKS

Our thanks to Rina Munro for getting our little grey cells working.  
Multiple choice – even better than the Chase!

1. Which Planet has the longest day?  
a) Pluto b) Saturn c) Neptune d) Uranus e) Venus
2. Which is the least dense planet in the solar system?  
a) Venus b) Mars c) Saturn d) Uranus e) Pluto
3. Which of these White House pets was NOT a dog?  
a) Major b) Lucky c) Sunny d) India e) Millie
4. Which event marked the beginning of the French Revolution?  
a) Beheading of Louis XVI b) Defeat at Waterloo c) Marie Antoinette's hoax  
d) Storming of the Bastille e) Reign of Terror
5. What was the name of Wellington's horse at the Battle of Waterloo?  
a) London b) Brussels c) Rome d) Copenhagen e) Lisbon
6. In 1848 which country did NOT have a revolution?  
a) Ireland b) France c) Germany d) Austria e) Italy
7. Which Latin American nation was a colony of Portugal until 1822?  
a) Columbia b) Venezuela c) Brazil d) Panama e) Mexico
8. What missing person was last seen at the Machus Red Fox restaurant?  
a) Charles Lindbergh b) Jimmy Hoffa c) Fatty Arbuckle d) Bruce Lee e) Jim Morrison
9. Which US President headed the "Bull Moose" or Progressive Party?  
a) McKinley b) Lincoln c) Wilson d) Roosevelt e) Grant
10. Who invented the folding bed and swivel chair?  
a) da Vinci b) Sinclair c) Jefferson d) Edison e) Franklin
11. Who thinks we should have a QUIZ GROUP?  
a) All members b) No members c) The Committee d) National u3a e) Some members

**Answers on page 11 – NO PEEKING**

## GROUP NEWS AND ACTIVITIES

**For contact details please see pages 10 and 11.**

Due to lack of members and/or a Group Contact, several groups that have been inactive for several months have been removed from our Groups list. They are:

Afternoon Films; Badminton2; Family History; Grumpy old men and women;  
Under 5 miles walking group; Walking over 5 miles – Group 2

The proposed Bus and Ale Group will no longer be progressed.

Any of these groups can be re-instated should members wish to support them AND have a Group Contact. To continue being a vibrant and active u3a, we DO need members to step up and help organise groups and activities.

This does not need to be onerous. It involves communication and co-ordination but you do not have to be 'the expert' for the group and running individual activities and hosting can be shared between members in rotation. Over to you!

### **MORE GROUP MEMBERS NEEDED:**

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

**Scrabble   Current Affairs   Wildlife   Badminton 1   Canasta   Darts**

### **GROUP UPDATES**

**Beginners French:** following interest in the French language from members wishing to start from scratch, **Lyn Aldridge** has set up a French Beginners Group.

This will meet in the afternoon of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday each month. First meeting is on **Wednesday 12 April 2023**. Due to space, it is limited to 7 members, so if interested sign up soon. Contact **Lyn** by webmail at [\*\*French Beginners\*\*](#).

**Lunch Club 2:** strange how food seems to inspire most members to action! **Sue Day's** lunch club has been so successful that there are now over 40 members signed up. However, for practical reasons most venues limit groups to between 12 and 20 attendees.

So a second group is proposed and a second Group Contact is required. The easy option is to use the same restaurants as Sue but on a different day, giving opportunities to join for those that are committed elsewhere on Fridays.

Sue will advise and support set up: **1 or more volunteers please.**

Also proposed, **Women in History 2   I.T. Group   Cardmaking**  
**Poetry Reading   Creative Writing**

Potential Members and Group Contacts please contact

**Suzanne** by webmail at [\*\*Interest Groups Coordinator\*\*](#).

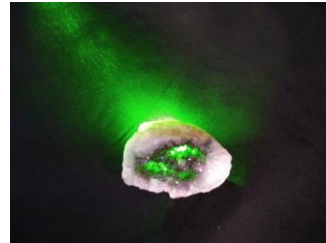


# WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN DOING?

## Wildlife – Coalhouse Fort



## Photography – Still Life



## Walking over 5 miles - Shoeburyness



## Wildlife – Gunners Park



## Photography - Christmas

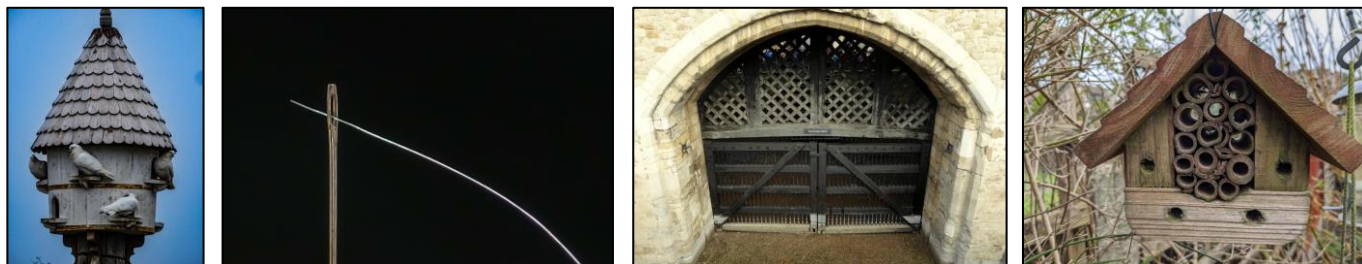




## Walking over 5 Miles – Thames Path



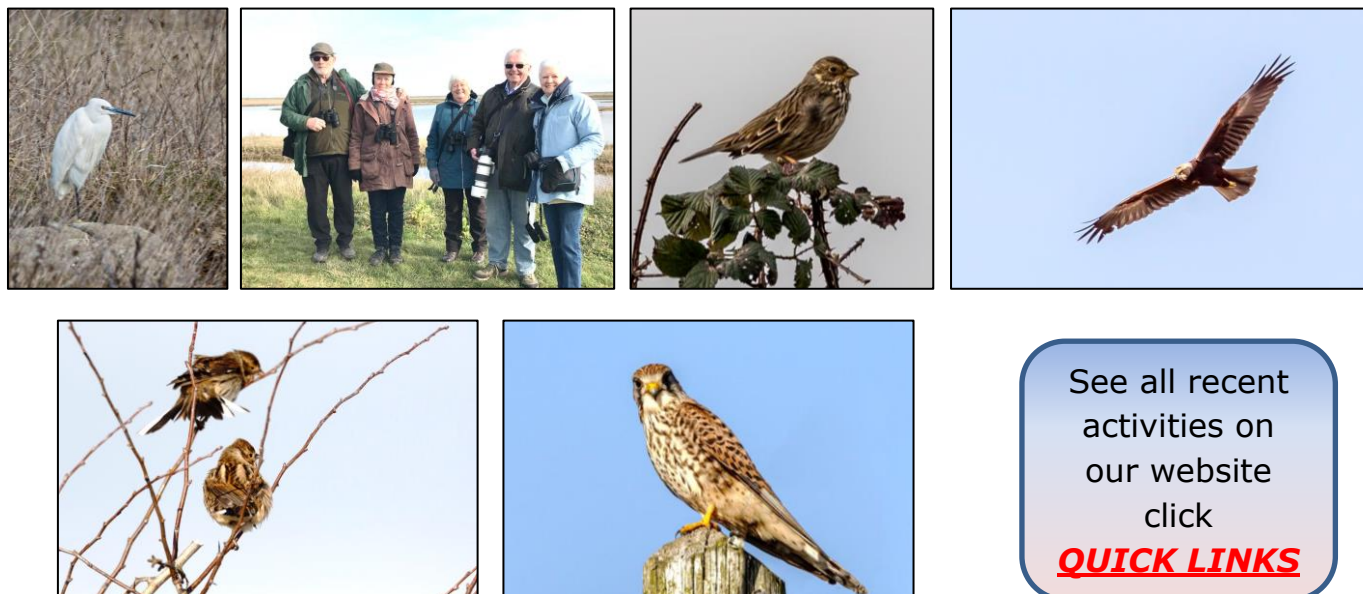
## Photography - Entrances



## Drawing and Painting – Fresh Start



## Wildlife - Wallasea Island



See all recent activities on our website click [\*\*QUICK LINKS\*\*](#)



## WHEN IS A GROUP, NOT A GROUP?

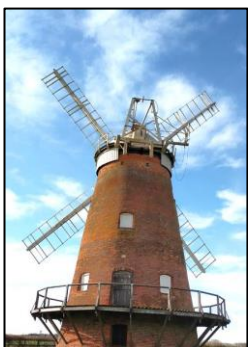
**When it is Out and About:** this is an activity setup during lockdown, which does not meet and does not have members!

What it does do is collate members' non-u3a activity. Members often supply excellent photos of scenes, wildlife, activities, art, etc, which have good interest but do not fit into the established u3a group activities. The 'Out and About' pages give members a chance to offer content for the enjoyment of all members.

This has been successful and receives many visits to the Out and About webpages each month. So, we have regularised it moving it into the group structure although it isn't a 'normal' group that meets.

Please have a look at the content, access via QUICK LINKS on our website. There is an individual page for each month. **And do contribute to the content.** Send photos and items to **Alan Aldridge** (if needed request email address using webmail at **Webmaster**.

Examples of input this year stretch from Black Squirrels and Sparrowhawk to Fire Engines, Parks to Essex Villages and Spanish coastline.



## **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.

For any other queries, please contact the [Interest Groups Coordinator](#)

Monthly unless stated otherwise

<b>SUBJECT</b>	<b>CONTACT</b>	<b>MEETING DATE</b>
<a href="#"><u>Art Blue</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Marion Coleman</u></a>	10am every Tuesday
<a href="#"><u>Art Turquoise</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Dot Hopkins</u></a>	10am every Thursday
<a href="#"><u>Badminton 1</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Brian Boyce</u></a>	Monday 1:30pm weekly
<a href="#"><u>Book Club</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Pat Cluness</u></a>	Monthly: variable
<a href="#"><u>Canasta</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Doreen Curran</u></a>	4 <sup>th</sup> Wednesday. 2pm
<a href="#"><u>Card &amp; Board Games</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Ann Sayer</u></a>	1 <sup>st</sup> Wednesday. 2pm.
<a href="#"><u>Culinary Experience</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Barbara Webb</u></a>	4 <sup>th</sup> Monday.
<a href="#"><u>Current Affairs</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>June Foster</u></a>	2 <sup>nd</sup> Monday. 2pm
<a href="#"><u>Darts</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Chris Hicks</u></a>	Last Wednesday. 2pm
<a href="#"><u>Discussion</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Jean Askew</u></a>	2 <sup>nd</sup> Monday. 2pm.
<a href="#"><u>Drawing and Painting</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Sue Quattrucci</u></a>	Monthly challenge
<a href="#"><u>Exploring World Faiths</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Cheryl Kirby</u></a>	2nd Tuesday. 2pm
<a href="#"><u>Flower Arranging</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Dot Hopkins</u></a>	10am every Friday
<a href="#"><u>French</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Lyn Aldridge</u></a>	2 <sup>nd</sup> Wednesday. 10am
<a href="#"><u>French Beginners</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Lyn Aldridge</u></a>	2 <sup>nd</sup> Wednesday. 2pm
<a href="#"><u>Gardening</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Janet Heather</u></a>	Monthly: variable
<a href="#"><u>Knit &amp; Stitch</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Pauline Everett</u></a>	Ad hoc activity
<a href="#"><u>Local and Essex History</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Marion Coleman</u></a>	Various
<a href="#"><u>Local Interest</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Sue Lewsey</u></a>	1 <sup>st</sup> Wednesday.
<a href="#"><u>Lunch Club</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Sue Day</u></a>	2 <sup>nd</sup> Friday. 12:30pm
<a href="#"><u>Macs/Wellies Gardening</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Bob Munson</u></a>	Various
<a href="#"><u>Meditation</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Richard Newall</u></a>	Tuesday. 11am; weekly
<a href="#"><u>Naval &amp; Military History</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Phil Lloyd-Worth</u></a>	3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursday. 2pm

<u><a href="#">Out and About</a></u>	<u><a href="#">Alan Aldridge</a></u>	07768 203077	No meetings-input only
<u><a href="#">Outings</a></u>	<u><a href="#">Denise Phipps</a></u>	01268 776685	As advised.
<u><a href="#">Photography</a></u>	<u><a href="#">Sue Lewsey</a></u>	01268 755978	3 <sup>rd</sup> Monday. 2pm
<u><a href="#">Play Reading</a></u>	<u><a href="#">Shirley Wolfe</a></u>	01268 755212	To be decided
<u><a href="#">Scrabble (2 groups)</a></u>	<u><a href="#">Doreen Curran</a></u>	01268 793925	1 <sup>st</sup> /3 <sup>rd</sup> Monday. 2pm 2 <sup>nd</sup> /4 <sup>th</sup> Thursday. 2pm
<u><a href="#">Singing</a></u>	<u><a href="#">Sue Day</a></u>	01268 758415	2 <sup>nd</sup> Thursday. 1:30pm 3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursday. 9:45am
<u><a href="#">Spanish</a></u>	<u><a href="#">Sheila Radford</a></u>	01268 755867	Wednesday weekly. 10am
<u><a href="#">Ten Pin Bowling</a></u>	<u><a href="#">Jim Regan</a></u>	01268 753717	3 <sup>rd</sup> Friday. am
<u><a href="#">Vintage Films</a></u>	<u><a href="#">Jenny Brown</a></u>	01268 750041	2 <sup>nd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> Thurs. 1pm
<u><a href="#">Walking over 5 miles</a></u>	<u><a href="#">Doreen Wiggans</a></u>	07800 528263	4 <sup>th</sup> Thursday. am
<u><a href="#">Wildlife</a></u>	<u><a href="#">Janet Humphrey</a></u>	07717 078033	2 <sup>nd</sup> Thursday. 10:30am
<u><a href="#">Women in History</a></u>	<u><a href="#">Sheila Sears</a></u>	07717 078033	3 <sup>rd</sup> Friday. 2pm

## QUIZ ANSWERS

- b) Venus – 1 rotation takes 243 days.
- c) Saturn – mainly gases.
- d) India – a black Shorthair cat owned by President George W Bush.
- d) Storming of the Bastille - 14 July 1789
- d) Copenhagen  
statue in west end of Green Park, London
- a) Ireland
- c) Brazil



- b) Jimmy Hoffa – head of the Teamster Union. Played extremely well by Al Pacino in the otherwise dire film, The Irishman.  
The Machus Red Fox Restaurant – Michigan, USA.

- d) Theodore Roosevelt – Bull Moose party only survived from 1912 to 1920.  
It was one of three political parties established by Roosevelt.
- c) Thomas Jefferson – also invented Revolving book stand, Wheel cipher (encoding), Macaroni machine and much more.

**11. NO ANSWER because it is up to you.**

**If you think it is a good idea please propose a QUIZ Group.**





## Committee Members

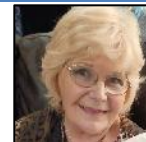
**Chair**

**Marion Coleman**



**Vice-Chair**

**Shirley Wolfe**



**Treasurer**

**Rina Munro**



**Business Secretary**

**Sandra Bedwell**



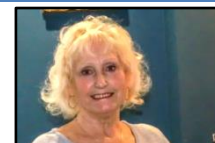
**Membership Secretary**

**Bob Munson**



**Interest Groups  
Coordinator**

**Suzanne Worland**



**Outings Organiser**

**Denise Phipps**



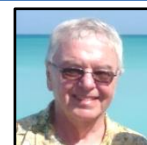
**Outings Coordinator**

**Ian Phipps**



**Bulletin Editor/  
Webmaster**

**Alan Aldridge**



**Committee Member**

**Lee King**



**Committee Member**

**Jim Wolfe**



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