



BENFLEET BULLETIN

u3a learn,
laugh,
live

Issue 46: June 2023

W: u3asites.org.uk/benfleet

f facebook.com/groups/benfleetu3a

Chair: Marion Coleman

Bulletin Editor: Alan Aldridge

FROM THE CHAIR: Hello again everyone

Well, what a glorious weekend of celebration it was for the Coronation of King Charles III. Shame about the weather but that is fairly standard for us here in the UK. In my garden, everything that survived the Winter has grown much taller and stronger this year. Hopefully the weather will settle down now and we will all be able to enjoy a long hot Summer.



I am delighted to say that our u3a groups are flourishing too and several new groups are starting up. A new German group would love one or two new members to complete it while different group offers you the chance to put Wrongs to Right and decide on how best to do that.

Our groups are at the core of what we do best and the committee were able recently to thank all our group contacts with an afternoon tea. A lovely afternoon and a great chance to chat. Our groups could not function without those contacts so please give some thought to whether you could host a group yourself. Suzanne, group contact organiser, is always ready with help, support and advice as are all the committee.

Enjoy the summer months together with group activities and days out.

Marion, Chair

CORONATION OF KING CHARLES III

Congratulations to our newly crowned King.



We trust that Members thoroughly enjoyed the day whether at home watching telly, with friends and family or attending the rather wet day in London. If any member did go into London we would welcome any photos or write-up.

Also, enjoyed the excellent concert on the Sunday night. Both days were run exceptionally well and an excellent advert for the UK Worldwide.

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 15 June 2023 Camden Market

Basis: **Coach only**

Status: **OPEN for booking – places still available**

Cost: **£18 per person**

Latest Payment Date: **Tuesday 30 May 2023**

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

Maximum number of passengers: **48**

For full details visit [**202305 – Camden Market**](#)

To book contact Ian Phipps via webmail at [Outings Coordinator**](#)**

Advance Notice of planned Outings NOT AVAILABLE FOR BOOKING YET:

Thursday 14 September 2023

Leeds Castle

Thursday 30 November 2023

Brick Lane Music Hall

Thursday 14 December 2023

Winchester Christmas Market

Completed outings:

Thursday 23 March 2023

Mystery Tour



Thursday 11 May 2023

Greenwich Old Royal Naval College



MEMBERS MEETINGS UPDATE

Since the last meeting we have enjoyed three Richmond Hall meetings:

28 February 2023: Martin Hoskins: Estate Planning Part 2.

28 March 2023: Lindsay Whitehouse: Prison Line of Duty.

25 April 2023: Peter Hillman: Fostering children and young people.

Coming Soon (full list of all booked Members' Meetings):

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 Larnar - 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: The Ladybirds, singing to raise money for charity.

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

December: NO hall meeting.

For full details of each talk please visit [**Events**](#)

Saturday 13 May 2023 60s Dance Richmond Hall Our antidote to the Eurovision Song Contest

Held on the same evening as Eurovision, our event was much better with dancing and singing to the excellent **Simply 60s** band and a very tasty Fish and Chip Supper. Everyone had a great time. Same next year? Forget Glastonbury.

Our thanks to the Committee Members for organising and running the event and to Steve Dimon for the photos.



GROUP CONTACTS MEETING 4 MAY 2023 BENFLEET YACHT CLUB

This is an annual meeting and most Group Contacts and Committee were able to attend. The primary purpose is to say a big thank you for their continued time and energy put into running groups, without which we would not have a viable u3a, so we trust ALL members appreciate the support of Group Contacts.



We discussed issues on how groups operate with a summary below, so that ALL members can appreciate why things are done the way they are AND what every member needs to be aware of in attending group activities.

KEY MEETING REQUIREMENTS

Keep a register of attendees for each meeting: apart from having a factual record to help manage the group, e.g. lapsed members, this is a requirement of u3a insurance to be able to identify attendees IF there is an incident/claim.

Confirm that attendees ARE Benfleet u3a Members: Group Contacts to record members' membership numbers. For new group members ask to see their Membership Card. Members of other u3as DO NOT have rights to attend.

'Taster' sessions: non-members can attend a 'taster' session to see if it is for them (covered by insurance). Potential new members may wish to experience a specific activity. The Group Contact should take full contact details and pass to Bob Munson/Suzanne Worland to follow up membership.

Risk Assessments: needed for each meeting BUT *Don't Panic Mr Mainwaring*. For home based meetings this can be done once and updated every year and is a simple checklist of possible hazards, which for most people will answer no to almost all questions. For external visits ask members to make their own way to the venue (they can organise into groups if suitable) and then use the venue's own risk assessment for the visit. Advise members before the visit of any risks they need to know about.

ICE In case of Emergency: we issued ICE cards so that if a member has a serious problem, the card can be used to contact a named family member. ALL members should carry this card with them on u3a events. New cards from Bob Munson. Note that iPhones have this facility without needing passcodes. Not sure about Android phones.

GROUP NEWS AND ACTIVITIES

For contact details please see Groups List pages 10 and 11

NEW GROUPS:

Art4Beginners: run jointly by **Sandra Bedwell** and **Sue Quattrucci** is for those who wish to start from scratch. Group webpage includes how to draw Snowdrops and Cosmos. Access using the groups list.

German Beginners: will be run jointly by **Sue Day** and **Margit Barnard**. First meeting planned to be in September 2023. Not on Group list yet. Contact **Sue** via webmail at [German Beginners](#) for details/to join.

W-2-Rs Wrong to Rights: run by **Paula Jaques** this discussion group look at things in daily life that could be done differently and better but steering clear of politics and religion! Not on group list yet but first meeting scheduled for 10:30am Wednesday 14 June 2023 at Poppies café at Tarpots.

Contact **Paula** via webmail at [Wrongs 2 Rights](#) for more details/to join.

Walking up to 5 miles: despite previous reports of its demise, this group is alive and kicking. Being run jointly by **Janet Parish** and **Rita Champion**, meeting on the 1st Thursday of the month in the morning. Access using the groups list.

Quiz Group: several people have shown interest so we will organise an initial get together soon. **Alan Aldridge** will forward details shortly.

2nd Play Reading: close to being able to form a 2nd group. Need just a few more members. Please contact **Shirley Wolfe** for details (see Groups List).

MORE GROUP MEMBERS NEEDED:

Ten Pin Bowling: we meet on the 3rd Friday of each month at 10.30 at the Hollywood Bowl, Basildon. There is always room for one or two more members and we are a group of very mixed ability! Our next session is booked for Friday 16 June 2023. Please contact **Jim Regan** (see Groups list)

Scrabble: group has space for new members on the 1st and 3rd Mondays of the month at 2pm until 4pm. Please contact **Doreen Curran** for more details.

Lunch Club: still in need of a Group Contact. Suzanne is keeping it going but that can't last forever – **Volunteer please.**

Other groups also have space for new members. Please approach group contact:

Current Affairs Wildlife Badminton 1 Canasta Darts

Proposed new groups:

Women in History 2 I.T. Group Cardmaking
Poetry Reading Creative Writing

Potential Members and Group Contacts please contact

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

WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN DOING?

Culinary Experience



Art Blue



Drawing and Painting

National Costumes



Draw Snowdrops and Cosmos



Mandala Pin Painting



Photography

Ingatstone Hall



Canvey Lake



Hyde Hall



Walking over 5 miles

Royal London

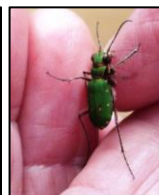


Thames Walks



Wildlife

Danbury Common



Belhus Woods



Out and About

Aldeburgh



Adder



Coalhouse Fort



Afternoon Tea



Art Deco Jazz



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

SPOTLIGHT



BOOK CLUB

Restarting a series of articles looking at the activities of an individual group – this month the Book Club Group.

The group is run quietly, efficiently and very well by **Pat Cluness** – almost under the radar. It has run since 2016 with monthly meetings and all reviews since then are on our website at the **Book Club** webpage – 8 years worth.

Running the group does have its challenges. Getting enough books from the library so that all members can read and review the same book is a regular hurdle, which Pat regularly overcomes.

Covid and lockdown presented a difficult issue as the libraries did not loan books. So a revised system was used where each member chose their own book to review.

The topics are very varied but let's say are not for the feint hearted, squeamish or those with a delicate disposition! Opinions of course very greatly, some have a broad consensus, good or bad, and some generate opposing views.

Over the 8 years a total of **120 books** have been reviewed, so if you want to see which are rated best and which are 'rubbish', pop onto the Book Club page.

Most Enjoyed:

- **The Loss Adjuster** by Aifric Campbell. really enjoyed.
- **The Gospel According to Luke** by Emily Maguire Priest / sex / love!
- **The Great Gatsby** by F Scott Fitzgerald
- **The Historian** by Elizabeth Kostova
- **The Secret Life of Bletchley Park** by Sinclair McKay. Absorbing, entertaining.
- **Me Before You** by Jojo Moyes
- **Rifleman** by Victor Gregg with Rick Stroud. Absorbing from beginning to end.

NOT Liked:

- **The Prison Ship** by Peter Tonkin. Juvenile content.
- **Crime and Punishment** by Fyoder Dostoyevsky
- **Pearl of China** by Anchee Min. re: China around 1900s. Disappointing.
- **The Stranger In The Mirror** by Jane Schilting
- **Life Below Stairs** by Pamela Horn. Not really enjoyed. Abrupt end.
- **An English Woman in New York** by Anne Marie Casey. Pointless. A no no no
- **The Vacationers** by Emma Straub. Almost pointless
- **Casebook** by Mona Simpson. Very STRANGE.
- **One for the Many** by Janet Evanovich. Violence plus plus plus. Boring!



PROTECTING YOURSELF FROM FRAUD

Unfortunately, the world is getting a nastier place and in particular fraud and scams designed to rob you of your hard earned cash. This apparently accounts for 40% of all crime. There are too many instances of detailed scams to document them all, so this article attempts to summarise key points in each major area where fraud occurs.

ON THE DOORSTEP: **NEVER** give any details of anything to any cold caller. Be polite, take a card if necessary, say goodbye and close the door – even if the caller appears genuine with an identity card.

NEVER let a cold caller into your home for any reason and **NEVER** leave the front door open/unattended with that person outside. If they say your tiles are loose or similar say 'thank you I will deal with that later' and close the door.

TELEPHONE: if any automated call tells you there is bank, computer or other problem end the call immediately. If you think the call could be genuine, end the call, phone someone else you know or use another phone (to ensure line is not being held up by the scammers) and then phone the number on your relevant card to check if the call is genuine.

NEVER give personal information to anyone you don't know. If you think it is genuine ask for a name/extension number, and phone the number on your card.

TELEPHONE - BANKING/FINANCE: do **NOT** use your mobile phone or tablet outside your home for everyday banking or account management.

Use Face or Fingerprint recognition if available on your device – more secure.

Do **NOT** store passwords on your mobile phone or tablet.

Do **NOT** use free WiFi service for any transactional activity – they are NOT secure.

COMPUTER AT HOME: use a PC physically connected to your router rather than WiFi. Always ensure your PC has virus and banking protection and that it is working and updating regularly (threats change daily).

On received emails, **NEVER** click on a link without thinking *how do I know this is genuine*. Many organisations now send an email alert to let you know there is a message on your account. Enter the FULL address directly into your browser (don't use automatic fill) and log in as normal to view your message.

Passwords, **NEVER** use same or similar passwords for financial, investments or savings accounts. Best to store account and password information on a dedicated password safe (many available) which do NOT have any WiFi or Bluetooth connection. We do NOT recommend using online safes.

NEVER send money to individuals you have not met personally e.g. romance fraud.

The Met Police has published '**The Little Book of Big SCAMS**' now on its 4th edition. We will attach that when we circulate this bulletin by email. It is also available for download on our 'Common Scams' page on our website.

QUIZZICAL LOOKS

QUIZ COLOURS - again our thanks to Jan Lane for the Quiz.

1. Area of London, home to the Museum of Childhood
2. Nickname for police wagons from 1830s
3. Resting place of Anthony Trollope, Charles Blondin, Wilkie Collins
4. UK Prime Minister from 2007 – 2010
5. WW2 story/film By Sebastian Faulks – a Scottish woman joins the French Resistance
6. 1946 American crime film by Raymond Chandler, starring Alan Ladd and Veronica Lake
7. Character created by Rowan Atkinson, Richard Curtis and Ben Elton
8. Which brewery has its HQ at Bury St Edmunds?
9. In which song was Donovan 'mad about saffron'?
10. Private security guard and detective agency established approx. 1850 in USA
11. Area in London where the Jack the Ripper murders took place
12. What is the common name of tradescantia pallida, a species of spiderwort?
13. Something to distract attention from the real problem.
14. What is Au the chemical symbol for?
15. Who is the domestic servant of Frank-n-Furter, sister of Riff Raff?
16. What is the Protestant Irish organisation whose members wear bowler hats and white gloves?
17. What is the name of the Lone Rangers horse?
18. What means the mark of death to a Pirate?
19. Which luxury Rolls Royce car was made between 1906 – 1926
20. What colour ball is worth 2 points in snooker?

THOUGHTS OF THE DAY – WHY?

What is the speed of darkness?

Why doesn't Tarzan have a beard when he lives in the jungle without a razor?

Why do Kamikaze pilots wear helmets?

Why do we press harder on a remote control when we know the batteries are flat?

How is it that we put a man on the moon before we figured out it would be a good idea to put wheels on luggage?

Why is it that people say they 'slept like a baby' when babies wake up every two hours?

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

SUBJECT	CONTACT	MEETING DATE
<u>Art 4 Beginners</u>	<u>Sandra Bedwell</u> <u>Sue Quattrucci</u>	4 th Monday. 2pm
<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>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>	1 st Wednesday. 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 Monday. 2pm.
<u>Drawing and Painting</u>	<u>Sue Quattrucci</u>	Monthly challenge
<u>Exploring World Faiths</u>	<u>Cheryl Kirby</u>	2nd Tuesday. 2pm
<u>Flower Arranging</u>	<u>Dot Hopkins</u>	10am every Friday
<u>French</u>	<u>Lyn Aldridge</u>	2 nd Wednesday. 10am
<u>French Beginners</u>	<u>Lyn Aldridge</u>	2 nd Wednesday. 2pm
<u>Gardening</u>	<u>Janet Heather</u>	Monthly: variable
<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>Suzanne Worland</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>	3 rd Thursday. 2pm
<u>Out and About</u>	<u>Alan Aldridge</u>	No meetings-input only
<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 over 5 miles</u>	<u>Doreen Wiggans</u>	4 th Thursday. am
<u>Walking up to 5 miles</u>	<u>Janet Parish</u> <u>Rita Campion</u>	1 st Thursday. am
<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

- | | | |
|--------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| 1. Bethnal Green | 7. Blackadder | 14. Gold |
| 2. Black Maria | 8. Greene King | 15. Magenta |
| 3. Kensal Green Cemetery | 9. Mellow Yellow | 16. Orangemen |
| 4. Gordon Brown | 10. Pinkertons | 17. Silver |
| 5. Charlotte Gray | 11. Whitechapel | 18. Black Spot |
| 6. The Blue Dahlia | 12. Purple Heart | 19. Silver Ghost |
| | 13. Red Herring | 20. Yellow |

Website – Moving to SITEWORKS

U3A plan to migrate all local websites to a system called SITEWORKS. This is based on software called WORDPRESS currently used very widely. Aim is to complete migration of all sites by the end of 2024 - no timing for us yet.

An excellent time to recruit a new member into the current web team of 1. it would be a gradual involvement given the timetable and the member does not have to be on Committee. Some familiarity and confidence with computers needed.

VOLUNTEERS PLEASE



Committee Members

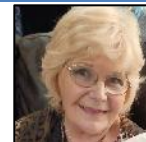
Chair

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



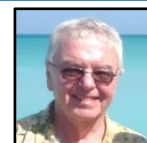
Outings Coordinator

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.