



# BENFLEET BULLETIN

**u3a** learn,  
laugh,  
live

Issue 48: December 2023

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

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

**Chairman:** Fred Simpkins

**Bulletin Editor:** Alan Aldridge

## FROM THE CHAIRMAN: Hello Friends

It's all change at the top of our branch. Marion stood down after four memorable years. Thank you Marion.

I now fill the role as the first male Chairman in over 11 years. Taking my first monthly meeting was a challenge but thanks to all of you for your trust and support.

Twenty men appeared at our October meeting and I would like to encourage more. Ladies, please ask your husbands to join!

We can find them interesting groups to get involved in and we will be looking at various new interest groups to encourage them.

Constant rain and miserably short dark days do little to improve our spirits. Attending our monthly meetings and involving yourselves in as many groups as possible is the best way to get through winter.

With Christmas round the corner and mince pies at the November meeting, and a pantomime dame, lets enjoy ourselves.

How about putting on our Christmas jumpers for the festive season.

**Best wishes, Fred, Chairman**



## Your committee as you've never seen them before:



## 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.

**Collection to your tickets!** Due to difficulties in getting tickets to members we have altered the method. The physical tickets can be picked up at the Members' Meeting immediately prior to the Outing – in person or collected for you. Everyone who has not collected them will receive details by email. Any not collected will be available at the coach when boarding.

### Thursday 30 November 2023: Brick Lane Music Hall

This outing is fully booked.

For full details visit [202311 – Brick Lane Music Hall](#)



### Thursday 14 December 2023: Winchester Christmas Market

Basis: **Coach only**, leaving free time in Winchester

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

Cost: **£20 per person**

Latest Payment Date: **Tuesday 28 November 2023**

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

Maximum number of passengers: **48**

For full details visit: [202312 – Winchester Christmas Markets](#)



### Future Outings:

The 2024 programme of outings is yet to be announced but is expected to start in March 2024.

## Completed Outings:

**Leeds Castle:** an excellent day out at an interesting and well organised venue and with excellent sunny weather – a well organised Outing, thanks to Denise and Ian.



## GROUP TABLES AT THE OCTOBER MEMBERS' MEETING

Much effort was put into preparing group displays for this meeting. Thank you to all concerned. It was rewarding given the high attendance for this meeting.



## QUIZZICAL LOOKS (answers on page 12)

### QUIZ: curtesy of Jan Lane and our Vintage Film group

1. In the film 'Bringing up Baby' what was 'Baby'?
2. Which Oscar Wilde character has the famous exclamation "A Handbag??!!"
3. Which actor played all the lead characters in "Kind Hearts and Coronets"?
4. Which film starring Eric Sykes and Tommy Cooper has no dialogue?
5. Which 3 characters joined Dorothy on the Yellow Brick Road?
6. What film has the line: "You're only supposed to blow the b\*\*\*\*y doors off!"
7. Never credited, what did Marni Nixon do on musicals like "My Fair Lady" and "The King and I"?
8. What links Tippi Hedren, Janet Leigh and Grace Kelly?
9. What statuette was Sam Spade searching for in the film of the same name?
10. Which character had stopped all her clocks as twenty minutes to nine and why?
11. Which American star was born Frederick Austerlitz?
12. Which actors portrayed Richard Hannay in "The 39 Steps" in 1935, 1959, 1978 and 2008?
13. In which musical is Ado Annie paired with Ali Hakim?
14. What does Mortimer Brewster discover his elderly aunts have done in "Arsenic and Old Lace"?
15. What is the name of the car that John Gregson races against Kenneth More?
16. Which film do Tony Curtis and Jack Lemmon play members of an all-girl jazz band?
17. In which film series did Alastair Sim play Miss Millicent Fritton?



### QUIZZICAL LOOKS 2 – Courtesy of Rina Munro

In which city would you find these famous streets?

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

## MEMBERS MEETINGS UPDATE

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

2pm Tuesday 29 August 2023: Karen Lawrie - If you don't use it, you lose it  
Please see separate information on similar activities.

2pm Tuesday 26 September 2023: Annual General Meeting and then  
Sue Spiers - The Big House Mystery

The Burnham u3a Archaeological Group gave an excellent talk with lots of artefacts from their dig at Southminster Hall. Several members were interested in how to set up and run a dig. Burnham have provided a new training manual, which you can download from our website by clicking [\*\*\*We Dig!\*\*\*](#)

2pm Tuesday 31 October 2023:  
This included group displays and information, which attracted a large audience and prompted much discussion and interest.  
And The Ladybirds.



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

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

December: **NO hall meeting.**

2pm Tuesday 30 January 2024: Bobbie Derbyshire - A Beginning, A Muddle and an End.  
Where do Novelists get their Ideas From?

2pm Tuesday 27 February 2024: Barry Seeley - Personal Security

2pm Tuesday 26 March 2024: Siobhan Pierce - From Clown to Corporate

2pm Tuesday 30 April 2024: Paul Spracklin - Adventures in Mexico and plant collecting

2pm Tuesday 28 May 2024: Bernard Lockett  
The Heritage of Gilbert and Sullivan

2pm Tuesday 25 June 2024:  
Tony Harris is King Henry VIII



2pm Tuesday 30 July 2024: To be advised.

2pm Tuesday 27 August 2024: Creekside Coast Band-Music, Music, Music

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

## GROUP NEWS AND ACTIVITIES

**For contact details please see Groups List pages 9 and 10**

**FULL Groups:** Several of our groups are full – often due to limited space in the Group Contacts home. These are:

Art Blue; Book Club; French; French Beginners; Lunch Club; Naval and Military History; Play Reading 1 and 2; Spanish; Walking over 5 miles; Women in History.

For these topics please contact **Suzanne Worland** at [Interest Groups Coordinator](#) webmail to see if an additional group can be started.

**Note that the Lunch Club still needs a Group Contact (can be shared).**



### **Groups with available spaces:**

The remaining groups can welcome more members. If you wish to join or have a taster session then please contact the Group Contact – details on pages 9 and 10.

Some groups are specifically looking for more members including

Badminton 1; Canasta; Current Affairs; Darts; Scrabble; Ten Pin Bowling; Wildlife

### **NEW Groups:**

**Quiz Group:** the embryonic Quiz Group has completed a couple of Quiz nights – one at Pitsea Mount and one on Canvey. We are looking to make a regular attendance for recurring events.

We still need to confirm a Group Contact (or shared). Any more members wishing to take part please contact **Alan Aldridge** at [Bulletin Editor](#) webmail.

### **Proposed new groups:**

We still have requests to establish new groups for:

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

Sign up boards are available at all of our Members' Meetings or potential Members and Group Contacts can contact

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



**Barry Seeley's Thursday Mornings Coffee Club** has now moved venue to:

Tarpots Tea Rooms, Shafer's Arcade, Tarpots, Opposite Pub.

9:30-11 on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday each month (NOT 28 December)

Please contact **Barry** at [Thursday Morning Coffee](#) webmail.

**Wrongs 2 Rights:** regretfully this discussion group is closing due to lack of regular members. We would like to thank **Paula Jaques** for her initiative and effort to create a new group – we need more members prepared to work at new groups, so thank you again Paula.

# WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN DOING?

## Beeleigh Abbey Gardens – Macs and Wellies Gardening



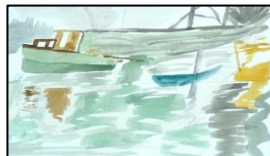
## Walking over 5 miles- English Coastal Path/Leigh-on-Sea



## Wildlife – Two Tree Island / Rainham Marshes



## Art 4 Beginners - Watercolours



## Drawing and Painting – Portraits



## Singing



## Culinary Experience



## Photography

### Ingrebourne Valley / Hornchurch Country Park



### Priory Park, Southend



### Coalhouse Fort, East Tilbury



## Out and About – Members Adventures



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.

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

Monthly unless stated otherwise

| <b>SUBJECT</b>                                 | <b>CONTACT</b>   | <b>MEETING DATE</b>             |
|--|--|---------------------------------|
| <a href="#"><u>Art 4 Beginners</u></a>         | <a href="#"><u>Sandra Bedwell</u></a><br><a href="#"><u>Sue Quattrucci</u></a> | 4 <sup>th</sup> Monday. 2pm     |
| <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>German Beginners</u></a>        | <a href="#"><u>Margit Barnard</u></a>  | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Monday. 10am    |
| <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>Suzanne Worland</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                         |

|   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| <u><a href="#">Meditation</a></u>                   | <u><a href="#">Richard Newall</a></u>                                      | Tuesday. 11am; weekly  |
| <u><a href="#">Naval &amp; Military History</a></u> | <u><a href="#">Phil Lloyd-Worth</a></u>                                    | 3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursday. 2pm  |
| <u><a href="#">Out and About</a></u>                | <u><a href="#">Alan Aldridge</a></u>                                       | No meetings-input only   |
| <u><a href="#">Outings</a></u>                      | <u><a href="#">Denise Phipps</a></u>                                       | As advised.  |
| <u><a href="#">Photography</a></u>                  | <u><a href="#">Sue Lewsey</a></u>  | 3 <sup>rd</sup> Monday. 2pm  |
| <u><a href="#">Play Reading</a></u> (2 groups)      | <u><a href="#">Shirley Wolfe</a></u>                                       | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Tues. Gp1 10:30am<br>2 <sup>nd</sup> Tues. Gp2 2:30pm                          |
| <u><a href="#">Scrabble</a></u> (2 groups)          | <u><a href="#">Doreen Curran</a></u>                                       | 1 <sup>st</sup> /3 <sup>rd</sup> Monday. 2pm<br>2 <sup>nd</sup> /4 <sup>th</sup> Thursday. 2pm |
| <u><a href="#">Singing</a></u>                      | <u><a href="#">Sue Day</a></u>   | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Thursday. 1:30pm<br>3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursday. 9:45am                           |
| <u><a href="#">Spanish</a></u>                      | <u><a href="#">Sheila Radford</a></u>                                      | Wednesday weekly. 10am   |
| <u><a href="#">Ten Pin Bowling</a></u>              | <u><a href="#">Jim Regan</a></u>   | 3 <sup>rd</sup> Friday. am   |
| <u><a href="#">Vintage Films</a></u>                | <u><a href="#">Jenny Brown</a></u>   | 2 <sup>nd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> Thurs. 1pm   |
| <u><a href="#">Walking over 5 miles</a></u>         | <u><a href="#">Doreen Wiggins</a></u>                                      | 4 <sup>th</sup> Thursday. am   |
| <u><a href="#">Walking up to 5 miles</a></u>        | <u><a href="#">Janet Parish</a></u><br><u><a href="#">Rita Campion</a></u> | 1 <sup>st</sup> Thursday. am   |
| <u><a href="#">Wildlife</a></u>                     | <u><a href="#">Janet Humphrey</a></u>                                      | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Thursday. 10:30am  |
| <u><a href="#">Women in History</a></u>             | <u><a href="#">Sheila Sears</a></u>  | 3 <sup>rd</sup> Friday. 2pm  |

**Cracker joke time!**

**What's a parents favourite carol?**  
Silent Night

**Why do pirates like carolling?** They are used to hitting the High Cs

**Can a chicken jump higher than the Empire State Building?**  
Yes of course, buildings can't jump.

**Why is it dangerous for a snowman to get angry?**  
Because he might have a meltdown.

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

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

#### **If you don't use it, you lose it!**

Many members enjoyed the very active members' meeting in August and enquired if our u3a could run a regular exercise session. Committee has contacted Karen Lawrie but she does not wish to add more to her busy programme.

There are many other available exercise groups in the area, including Suzanne's. There are fees to pay but if interested please contact Alan on M: 07768 203077 E: [alan@aldridge.it](mailto:alan@aldridge.it) for a list of current groups.



## Committee Members

**Chairman**

**Fred Simpkins**



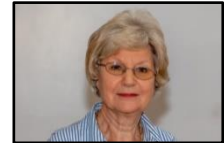
**Vice-Chair**

**Shirley Wolfe**



**Treasurer**

**Rina Munro**



**Business Secretary**

**Sandra Bedwell**



**Membership Secretary**

**Bob Munson**



**Interest Groups  
Coordinator**

**Suzanne Worland**



**Outings Organiser**

**Denise Phipps**



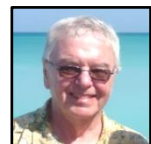
**Outings Coordinator**

**Ian Phipps**



**Bulletin Editor/  
Webmaster**

**Alan Aldridge**



**Committee Member**

**Lee King**



**Committee Member**

**Jim Wolfe**



**Bereavement and Unwell:** Please contact Suzanne Worland T: 01268 759741  
E: [suzanneworland1@gmail.com](mailto:suzanneworland1@gmail.com) to confirm details of any bereavement or illness,  
and an appropriate card will be forwarded.

## Film Quiz Answers

1. A leopard.
2. Aunt Augusta, Lady Bracknell
3. Alec Guinness
4. The Plank
5. A Scarecrow; a Tin Man and a Cowardly Lion
6. The Italian Job
7. Ghost sang/dubbed voice for actresses
8. Lead roles in Hitchcock thrillers
9. The Maltese Falcon
10. Miss Havisham – the time she received the letter jilting her before her wedding
11. Fred Astaire
12. Robert Donat, Kenneth More, Robert Powell and Rupert Penry-Jones
13. Oklahoma
14. Murdered several of their elderly lodgers and buried them in the cellar
15. Genevieve
16. Some Like it Hot
17. St Trinian's

## Famous Street Quiz Answers

- |                           |                   |
|---------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Paris                  | 14. Nice          |
| 2. London                 | 15. Tel Aviv      |
| 3. New York               | 16. New York      |
| 4. Hollywood, Los Angeles | 17. London        |
| 5. Rome                   | 18. Berlin        |
| 6. New York               | 19. Chicago       |
| 7. Boston                 | 20. New Orleans   |
| 8. Paris                  | 21. San Francisco |
| 9. Los Angeles            | 22. New Orleans   |
| 10. Atlanta               | 23. London        |
| 11. Copenhagen            | 24. London        |
| 12. St. Petersburg        | 25. Barcelona     |
| 13. Berlin                |                   |

