



BENFLEET BULLETIN

u3a learn,
laugh,
live

Issue 49: March 2024 (Next issue June 2024)

W: u3asites.org.uk/benfleet

f facebook.com/groups/benfleetu3a

Chairman: Fred Simpkins

Bulletin Editor: Alan Aldridge

FROM THE CHAIRMAN: Hello Friends

Would you believe it? Over four months have passed since I took the role of Chairman. I feel honoured and I am well supported by the Committee.

Flowers are blooming and the days are lengthening. Our groups are flourishing, some with waiting lists. I am hoping to see more men joining our branch and attending our monthly meetings.

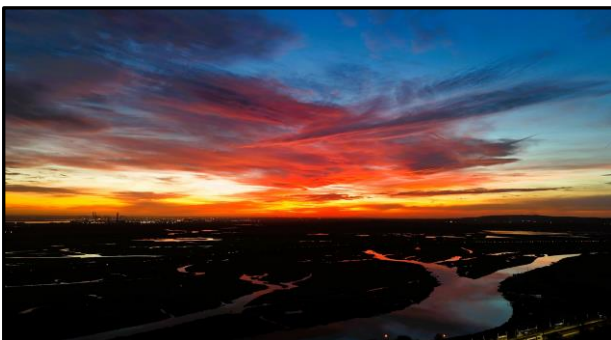
Please make sure to look at our trips as we love to have a full coach every time. We are going to have a raffle at Easter (every member entered free), cash prizes, so come along and also get your free egg.

If anyone is aware of a member who is in poor health please let any committee member know as we may be able to offer support, advice and assistance. A visit from a friendly face is often welcome and can mean a lot.

Stay fit, well and happy. **Best wishes, Fred Simpkins, Chairman**



Aerial Benfleet: Courtesy of Ken Slaney's drone, camera and skill.



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.

Future Outings

Thursday 28 March 2024: Mystery Tour

Basis: **Coach and 2 course lunch**

Status: **OPEN but fully booked. Waiting list only**

Cost: **£42-50p per person**

Latest Payment Date: **Tuesday 27 February 2024**

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

Maximum number of passengers: **48**

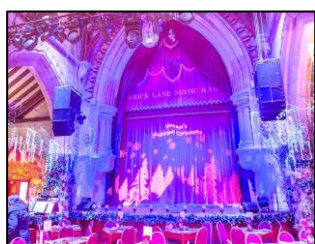
For full details visit: **[202403 – Mystery Tour](#)**

Advanced notice of planned Outings - NOT OPEN FOR BOOKING YET

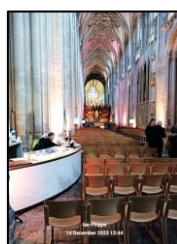
- Thursday 30 May 2024: Arundel, West Sussex
- Thursday 27 June 2024: Lunch and Cruise, Hertford/River Lea

Completed Outings:

Brick Lane Music Hall



Winchester Christmas Market



MEMBERS MEETINGS UPDATE

Since the last bulletin we have enjoyed two Richmond Hall meetings:

Tuesday 28 November 2023:

Tony Harris - The Pantomime Dame



Tuesday 30 January 2024 Bobbie Derbyshire

A Beginning, A Muddle and an End.

Where do Novelists get their Ideas From?



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

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: Stephanie Disch

All about the Dogs Trust and the good work that they do

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

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

QUIZZICAL LOOKS 1 (answers on page 11)

Quiz: You Wear it Well – many thanks to Jan Lane

What are the following or where would they be worn?

- | | |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1. Epaulettes | 10. Espadrilles |
| 2. Salopettes | 11. Plus fours |
| 3. A dickey | 12. A gilet |
| 4. An Ascot | 13. A farthingale |
| 5. A mantilla | 14. A cummerbund |
| 6. An Inverness | 15. Spats |
| 7. A pashmina | 16. A Crombie |
| 8. Culottes | 17. A dirndl |
| 9. A fascinator | 18. A codpiece |

QUIZZICAL LOOKS 2 – Courtesy of Rina Munro

Necessity is the Mother of Invention!

So do you know who invented these items, ideas or theories:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| 1. Telephone | 12. Polio vaccine |
| 2. Safety Razor | 13. Revolver |
| 3. Phonograph | 14. The solar system as a sun-centered universe |
| 4. Assembly line for cars | 15. Dynamite |
| 5. Code of dots and dashes | 16. Vaccine for rabies |
| 6. Theory of Universal Gravitation | 17. Polaroid film |
| 7. Laws of Heredity | 18. First atomic bomb |
| 8. Father of Medicine | 19. Improved railway sleeping cars |
| 9. Invention of moveable printing | 20. 4-stroke internal combustion engine |
| 10. Hand held cameras | |
| 11. Antiseptic surgery | |

ABOUT MEN! advice for your daughters/granddaughters/nieces/etc.

- Don't imagine you can change a man – unless he's wearing nappies.
- If they can put a man on the moon, they can put them all there.
- Best way to get a man to do something is to suggest he is too old to do it.
- Love is blind but marriage is a real eye-opener.
- If he asks what sort of book you like say cheque books.
- The children of Israel wandered about in the desert for 40 years.
Even in biblical times, men wouldn't ask for directions.
- Sadly, all men are created equal!

GROUP NEWS AND ACTIVITIES

For contact details please see Groups List pages 8 and 9

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

Art Blue	French	Singing
Art Turquoise	French Beginners	Spanish
Book Club	Gardening	Vintage Films
Culinary Experience	Local Interest (on hold)	Walking over 5 miles
Discussion Group	Lunch Club	Women in History.
Exploring World Faiths	Naval and Military History	
Flower Arranging (on hold)	Play Reading Group 1	

For these groups, the Group Contact will be asked to keep a waiting list. If there are enough members waiting, then the Group Contact to liaise with

Suzanne Worland to see if an additional group can be started. For this to happen, one or two waiting members will need to become the new/joint group contact.

Groups with VACANCIES:

All 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 8 and 9.

Some groups are specifically looking for more members including:

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

Play Reading Group 2: 1 place now available. Contact as page 8/9.

NEW Groups:

Quiz Group: Whilst we are putting occasional teams into local Quiz nights we still need to confirm a/shared Group Contact before being properly designated a new group – where are our volunteers?

Any more members wishing to take part please contact

Alan Aldridge using [Bulletin Editor](#) webmail.

Proposed new groups:

We still have requests to establish new groups for:

Women in History 2	Poetry Reading
IT Group	Creative Writing
Cardmaking	

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

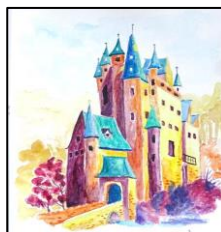
Suzanne Worland: using [Interest Groups Coordinator](#) webmail.

WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN DOING?

Walking over 5 miles - Canvey Island / Christmas lunch / London South Bank



Drawing and Painting – Castles / Sealife



French

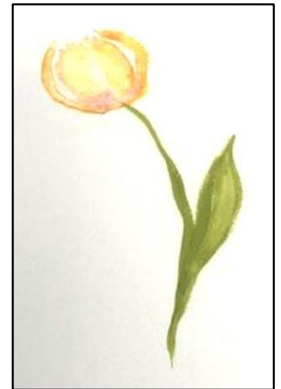
Christmas Soirée
Cote Brasserie



Wildlife - Bedfords Park / Thames Chase Forest / Hanningfield



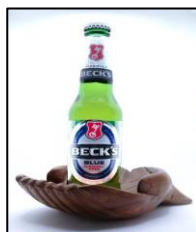
Art 4 Beginners



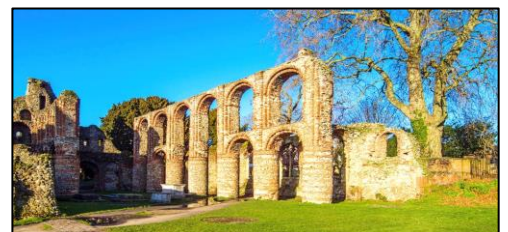
Macs and Wellies



Photography-Blue



Out and About



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>German Beginners</u>	<u>Margit Barnard</u>	2 nd Monday. 10am
<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> (2 groups)	<u>Shirley Wolfe</u>	2 nd Tues. Gp1 10:30am 2 nd Tues. Gp2 2:30pm
<u>Scrabble</u> (2 groups)	<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

Regular Social events; Coffee Mornings

We have two thriving social events, meeting on alternate weeks, one on Tuesdays, one on Thursdays, so there is an event available each week and on different days.

Open to ALL our u3a Members, a social morning with no agenda, no topics.

Meet existing u3a friends and make new u3a friends.

No need to book, just turn up. Stay for part or all of the session.

SIMply Friends: at The Green Barn on the A130 between Sadlers Farm/A127.

9:30 to 11am every other Tuesday - next dates 20 Feb; 5 and 19 March.

Any queries contact **Bob Munson** using [Membership Secretary](#) webmail.

Thursday Morning Coffee: at the Café, Shafers Arcade, Tarpots.

9:30-11am every other Thursday - next dates 29 Feb; 14 and 28 March. Any

queries contact **Barry Seeley** using [Thursday Morning Coffee](#) webmail.

All dates listed in [Events](#) on our website.



Committee Members

Chairman

Fred Simpkins



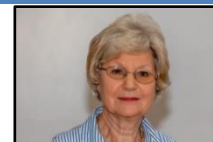
Vice-Chair

Shirley Wolfe



Treasurer

Rina Munro



Business Secretary

Sandra Bedwell



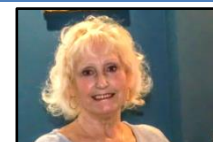
Membership Secretary

Bob Munson



**Interest Groups
Coordinator**

Suzanne Worland



Outings Organiser

Denise Phipps



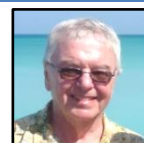
Outings Coordinator

Ian Phipps



**Bulletin Editor/
Webmaster**

Alan Aldridge



Committee Member

Lee King



Committee Member

Jim Wolfe



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

Quiz Answers: You wear it well

- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| 1. Epaulettes | An ornamental shoulder-piece |
| 2. Salopettes | Trousers that fit over the shoulders, for outdoor use and protection |
| 3. A dickey | A false shirt-front |
| 4. An Ascot | A scarf/necktie |
| 5. A mantilla | A lace veil or shawl worn over the head and neck |
| 6. An Inverness | A water-repellent caped, sleeveless coat |
| 7. A pashmina | A cashmere scarf or shawl |
| 8. Culottes | Knee-length trousers, cut wide to resemble a skirt |
| 9. A fascinator | A formal headpiece held in place by a clip, comb or band |
| 10. Espadrilles | Rope-soled shoes with canvas or cotton uppers |
| 11. Plus fours | Trousers that extend 4" below the knee, for sports use |
| 12. A gilet | A sleeveless jacket/waistcoat |
| 13. A farthingale | A hooped petticoat to accentuate the shape of a ladies skirt |
| 14. A cummerbund | A broad, pleated waist sash |
| 15. Spats | Footwear accessory protecting the instep and ankle from mud and rain (spatterdashes) |
| 16. A Crombie | A $\frac{3}{4}$ length overcoat originally with a red silk handkerchief in the upper pocket |
| 17. A dirndl | A full skirt with apron, attached to the bodice |
| 18. A codpiece and | A pouch attached to the front of men's hose, to provide dignity protect from harm |

Quiz Answers: Inventors

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| 1. Telephone-Graham Alexander Bell | 12. Polio vaccine-Jonas Salk |
| 2. Safety razor-King Gillette | 13. Revolver-Colt |
| 3. Phonograph-Thomas Edison | 14. Solar System/sun centered universe-Nicholas Copernicus |
| 4. Assembly line-Henry Ford | 15. Dynamite-Alfred B Nobel |
| 5. Dots and Dashes-Morse | 16. Rabies vaccine-Louise Pasteur |
| 6. Universal gravitation- Newton | 17. Polaroid-Edwin H Land |
| 7. Laws of Heredity- Gregor Mendel | 18. Atomic bomb-J Robert Oppenheimer |
| 8. Father of Medicine- Hippocrates | 19. Sleeping cars-George M Pullman |
| 9. Moveable printing-Guttenberg | 20. 4 stroke internal combustion engine-Nicholas A Otto |
| 10. Hand held camera-George Eastman | |
| 11. Antiseptic surgery-Joseph Lister | |