

Benfleet Bulletin



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

Issue
No.10: November, December 2016,
January 2017

Where has the year gone, time seems to go so quickly. A year of many good speakers, excellent, and new trips to enjoy, as well as all the activities created by our many and very varied groups. It is good that many of the groups are thriving, and although some are full, there is always the opportunity to start another similar one. We have a new photo quiz for you to enjoy on page 5, with you have to guess who the childhood photos depict. This was the idea of Jackie and has caused some amusement at the photos of many years ago! There is also the list of next years speakers on page 2.

With very best wishes from your editorial team, and enjoy all that Benfleet U3A has to offer.

Hello my name is Sheila Sears, and I am your newly elected chairlady, Helene is now vice chair. I have very large shoes to fill following the great work she has put in over the last 5 years. Also to say thank you to the outgoing committee, that being Neil and Jackie Liberty again they have done great work over the last 5 years. Welcome to our new secretary Mavis Regan and our new treasure Jill Parr who I'm sure, and hope you will all agree will continue doing great work for our club. I am going to keep this short now we are entering the autumn and winter season and yes the festive season is nearly upon us. Winter woollies will have to be aired. We have one more meeting before Christmas, lots to look forward to in 2017 with a wide range of speakers, and new groups, perhaps you would like to start a group in the New Year please let us know. Last but not least, let me and the committee wish everybody a very **Merry Christmas** and Happy New Year. Hope to see everybody in 2017 *Sheila*

CLUB WEBSITE: www.u3asites.org.uk/benfleet

Information on the website is regularly updated so all the Clubs events, trips speakers and group information is always at your fingertips.

Webmaster:- Neil Liberty

Important:- Please let the webmaster know if you do **NOT** want your photograph to appear on the Club's Website.

Benfleet U3A monthly meetings are at 2pm on the last Tuesday of the month at Richmond Hall, Benfleet. **NO** meeting in December

Please Note:-
In accordance with U3A policy, membership subscription is non-refundable

SOCIAL OUTINGS

30th Nov. 2016

St. Albans Christmas Market. Coach only. Stalls, entertainers, twinkly lights & plenty of Christmas cheer add to the festive atmosphere. Depart Tarpots 10am. £10 per person.

13th Dec 2016
& 14th Dec. 2016

Boat Cruise, Dinner, & Christmas Lights. Coach to Greenwich O2, Board Thames Clipper at 16.00 to the Embankment, 2 course carvery meal at the Strand Palace (drinks extra), then guided coach tour of London Christmas Lights, depart London approx. 21.15. Depart Tarpots 12.00.noon. £40 per person.

- If interested in any trip marked '**FULL**', contact **Maria Kelly** in case any cancellations occur.
- **Fuller details of all these trips can be found on the Club Website**
- Contact Maria Kelly about any of the above trips
- Coach excursions are generally limited to 48 places: therefore seats will be allocated strictly on a first come – first served basis. For further information contact:- Maria Kelly

SPEAKERS & EVENTS AT FUTURE CLUB MEETINGS

Oct 25th 2016:- **WRNS, Zena Skinner.** Nov. 29th:- 'Entertainer'. Karen Lee Burnett.
Jan. 31st 2017:- 'The Good Life'. Peter Webb. Feb 28th:- 'To Coin a Phrase'. Meryl Catty.
Mar. 28th:- 'Wildlife', on the River Colne from the Source to the Sea. Alex Bass.
Apr. 25th:- 'Mistress Angharad, Tudor Cook'. Joan Williams. May 30th:- 'Jersey Zoo', the work of Gerald Durrell. Barry Kauffman White. Jun. 27th:- 'Handwriting Analysis'. Penny Graves.
Jul. 25th:- 'Life of a Stunt Woman'. Lucy Allen. Aug. 29th:- 'History through Essex foods'. Keith Lovell.
Sep. 26th:- 'When Doctors and Policemen start to look young'. Keith Baldwin.
Oct. 31st:- 'Whitechapel Mission'. Tony Miller. Nov 28th:- 'Singing'. Ray Spiller

'He has no enemies, but is intensely disliked by his friends' *Oscar Wilde*



BENFLEET U3A 5TH ANNIVERSARY

To celebrate the 5th Anniversary of the formation of Benfleet U3A we celebrated with a special cake to mark this milestone. It is amazing just how quickly time passes and all the things that have happened in those five years, from the speakers, trips, groups, friendships and so much more that have we have

been able to enjoy. The above picture is of most of the then current committee members, and the other is one of the delicious cakes that were there.

Photos are thanks to Alan Aldridge



SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

SUBJECT	CONTACT	TELEPHONE	MEETING DATE
Antiques Appreciation	Jill Parr		2 nd Mon pm
Art	Bob Howard		Tues. pm weekly
Art 2	Bob Howard		Wed. am weekly
Astronomy	Alan Aldridge		2 nd Mon. 2pm
Badminton 1	Brian Boyce		Mon. pm weekly
Badminton 2	Fred Simpkins		Thurs 7.30pm weekly
Book Club	Pat Cluness		Monthly: variable
Cancer	Helene Claxton		As required
Card & Board Games	Ann Sayer		2 nd Wed. pm
Cinema	Sue Gomer		As advised
Culinary Experience	Barbara Webb		4 th Mon.
Discussion 1	Jenny Brown		2 nd Mon. pm
Discussion 2	Jenny Brown		1 st Tues. am
Family History			
Flower Arranging	Brenda Liberty		2 nd Fri. am
French 1	Linda Aldridge		Wed am. monthly; variable
Gardening	Jenny Brown		Monthly: variable
Garden Visits	Theresa Sergeant		Various
Genealogy	Keith Goggin		As required
Keep Fit	Suzanne Worland		Mon pm. evening term time
Knit & Stitch	Pauline Everett		2 nd Tues. pm
Local History	Iris Mead		1 st Tues pm
Local Interest	Sue Lewsey		1 st Wed
Lunch	Jackie Liberty		2 nd Fri. pm
Meditation	Richard Newall		Tues. am; weekly
Naval & Military History	Richard Seely		2 nd Wed. 2pm
Paper Craft 1	Ann Sayer		1 st Fri.am
Paper Craft 2	Ann Sayer		3 rd Fri. am
Paper Craft 3	Ann Sayer		1 st Fri.pm
Patchwork	Joan Daly		
Photography	Sue Lewsey		3 rd Mon. pm
Play Reading	Joan Bond		4 th Fri am
Poetry	Joan Bond		2 nd Fri am
Singing	Linda Burdett		2 nd & 3 rd Thurs.
Spanish	Julie Jones		Fri.
Ten Pin Bowling	Jackie Liberty		3 rd Fri. am
Theatre	Josie Wallace		As advised
Walking Group	Eve Burgess		1 st Thurs. am
Walking 5 miles & over	Doreen Wiggans		4 th Thurs. am
Weekenders	Yvonne Castle		

Please Note:-Should you wish to join any of the groups listed on page 3 please call the contact number given. If the group is full, or you have any query regarding a group, please contact Joan Bond, who will look into advertising for more members to set up a further group.

GROUP NOTES

Cinema:- Watch this space for future developments for the Cinema Group.

French 1:- Meeting dates: Wednesdays **2016:-** Aug 17th: Sep 8th: Oct 19th:
Nov 16th: Dec 7th:

Members wanted for new groups:-

Wild Life Study; **Social History;** **Walking 5 miles & over (2nd group)**

For Information:-

- Please check with special interest contact, to ensure that space is available for attendance at future meetings. It is suggested that when an event is hosted by a group member in their home, a donation of 25p per person should be made towards the cost of refreshments provided.
- SIMS should contact the organiser of the particular trip or event they are interested in for more information and payment procedures.

Since light travels faster than sound, some people appear quite bright until you hear them speak.

Liked by Winston Churchill

Please help us to reduce our costs by letting us have your e-mail address, as this is how, where possible, we would like to distribute the Bulletin to those not at the monthly meetings

Bereavement and Unwell

Contact Helene Claxton 01268 816378 to confirm details of any bereavement or illness, and an appropriate card will be despatched.



We are going to stop giving items to the '**Whitechapel Mission**' for the present time, but Tony Miller will be returning to give a talk in October 2017, so we will have to see what to do after that date. Many many thanks to all of you who made such generous donations in the past months, which were very gratefully received by the mission.

Something to think about:-

Can an atheist get insurance against acts of God?

Oliver Hardy: 'Didn't you once tell me that you had an uncle?'

Stan Laurel: 'Sure, I've got an uncle. Why?'

Oliver: 'Now we're getting somewhere. Is he living?'

Stanley: 'No. He fell through a trap door and broke his neck.'

Oliver: 'Was he building a house?'

Stanley: 'No, they were hanging him





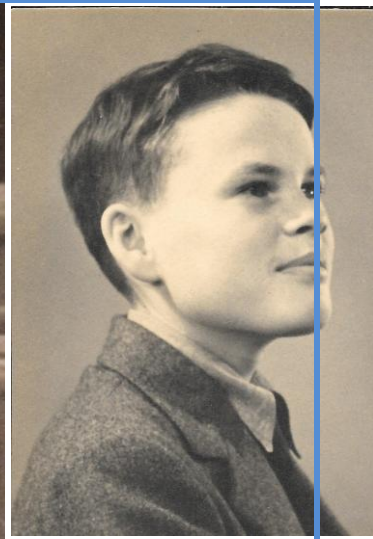
A



B



C



D



E



F

Who am I ? Six photos of members of Benfleet U3A taken a 'few' years ago, but who are all very committed to making sure Benfleet U3A works well.

EVENTS OVER THE YEARS for 25th SEPTEMBER

- 1066 Harold defeats Harold Hardrada at the battle of Stamford Bridge
- 1493 Christopher Columbus sails from Cadiz with 17 ships on his second voyage to the Western Hemisphere .
- 1639 First printing press in America
- 1644 Dane Olaus Rimer, first person to accurately measure the speed of light.
- 1832 William Le Baron Jenney, US architect an 'father of the skyscraper' was born.
- 1857 Relief of Lucknow begins.
- 1878 British physician Dr. Charles Drysdale warns against tobacco.
- 1888 Start of Sherlock Holmes 'The Hound of the Baskervilles'.
- 1897 First British bus service started.
- 1906 Dimitri Shostakovitch (died 1975) Soviet composer of 15 symphonies born.
- 1915 battle of Loos begins
- 1921 Kenneth Towner Williams (Sheila Sears' father) born.
- 1924 Malcolm Campbell sets world land speed record of 146.16mph.
- 1926 Henry Ford announces 8hour 5day week
- 1940 German quisling government set up in Norway.
- 1957 Britain performs nuclear test at Maralinga, Australia.
- 1971 Sheila Williams marries Brian Sears,

GROUP NEWS

ASTRONOMY



The Astronomy group is up and running. We have had a trip to the Southend Planetarium and further group meetings. We have 6 members so could still do with some more.

We meet once a month on the 2nd Monday each month; 14:00 to around 16:00. We expect to make some of these evening meetings, hopefully for clear night viewing, and some field trips and visits.

Our members are generally beginners with an interest in knowing 'what's up there' and being able to identify the key planets, stars and constellations. We aim to view with the naked eye or binoculars. There is no requirement to have or buy a telescope.

During the winter we are considering visits to:

- Castle Point Astronomy Club, open night(s).
- Hullbridge community centre group.
- Private observatory at Rawalpindi Garden Centre, Hawkwell.
- Royal Observatory, Greenwich.

Meeting Dates: timing subject to change if visits/night viewing arranged.

Mondays at 14.00:- 14th November 2016: 12th December 2016: 9th January 2017:
13th February 2017: 13th March 2017: 10th April 2017: 8th May 2017: 12th June 2017:

Alan Aldridge

KNITTING WOOL



I would just like to say a big thank you to all those people who have very kindly given me wool to use for my knitting for the local hospitals neonatal units. All wool, preferably Double Knitting and in white or pastel colours is best, and is used in the making of tiny jackets, blankets, hats, etc. for these tiny babies. The hospitals receive no

funding for these items, and are always very grateful for the boxes of items that I take periodically throughout each year. If anyone is interested in joining me in knitting for these tiny babies, I can supply knitting patterns and would be pleased of the help. Val Green sometimes joins me in this venture. No amount of wool is too small, as even small amounts can be used towards a little hat or on a border to a jacket, so please do keep your kind donations coming, they are all very much appreciated. **Eileen Acreman**



MOBILE PHONES

We ask that all mobile phones are switched off during our meetings please. It is embarrassing when we have a speaker to hear mobile phones ringing or texts being received. Thank you for your co-operation

PLEASE CONTRIBUTE
WE'D LOVE YOU TO GET INVOLVED!

It is up to all members to make this publication both informative and interesting, so please, Do not just read it, **contribute**. Thank you to those of you that have sent in items and photographs.

They are much appreciated, and most have been used in some form or other.

Answer to last issue's 'What am I', from an old children's book:- **A Strawberry**



COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chair & Speaker Admin

Sheila Sears



Vice Chair & Speaker Admin

Helene Claxton



Treasurer

Jill Parr



Secretary

Mavis Regan



Membership Secretary

Linda Burdett



Group Co-ordinator

Joan Bond



Trip Organiser

Maria Kelly



Committee Member & Editor

Richard Seely



Committee Member

Ann Sayer



Editorial Team

Richard Seely, Sheila Sears & Jackie Liberty *for contact details see above*
Send any article, photograph, comment that you wish to be included in the next edition of the *Benfleet Bulletin* to any member of the above mentioned editorial team, and space permitting we will try to include it. **Please ensure that anyone appearing in a photograph is willing to have it produced in the Bulletin.**

Editor's decision is final

'He has all the virtues I dislike and none of the vices I admire.'

Winston Churchill

PROJECTOR & SCREEN

A Projector and Screen are available for group use. If interested please contact Joan Bond

Anthem for Doomed Youth

What passing-bells for these who die as cattle?
Only the monstrous anger of the guns.
Only the stuttering rifles' rapid rattle
Can patter out their hasty orisons.
No mockeries for them from prayers or bells,
Nor any voice of mourning save the choirs,--
The shrill, demented choirs of wailing shells;
And bugles calling for them from sad shires.

What candles may be held to speed them all?
Not in the hands of boys, but in their eyes
Shall shine the holy glimmers of good-byes,
The pallor of girls' brows shall be their pall;
Their flowers the tenderness of silent minds,
And each slow dusk's drawing down of blinds.



Wilfred Owen (He was killed a week before the Armistice in November 1918)

MUTIPLE CHOICE QUIZ

- 1) Is 'S' the chemical symbol for a) Sodium; b) Sulphur; c) Silicon ?
- 2) Is 'Sexton Blake' the Cockney rhyming slang for a) Cake; b) Steak; c) Fake ?
- 3) In which century was the artist, John Constable born a) 17th; b) 18th; c) 19th ?
- 4) Which of the following is **not** a bird a) Red Poll; b) Jack Snipe; c) Godwit; d) Krait?
- 5) A 'Rafter' is the collective noun for a group of a) Owls; b) Turkeys; c) Partridges ?
- 6) 'Petrology' is the study of a) Fossil Fuels; b) Rocks; c) Trees ?
- 7) Mount Logan is the highest peak in which country a) U.S.A.; b) Canada; c) South Africa ?
- 8) Which is Europe's highest capital city a) Vienna; b) Berne; c) Madrid ?
- 9) From which language is the word 'Ketchup' derived a) Chinese; b) Turkish; c) Greek ?
- 10) Which is the largest planet in our Solar system a) Earth; b) Pluto) c) Jupiter; d) Saturn ?

Answers to the General Knowledge Quiz:-

- 1) Spike; 2) Peter Shilton; 3) 1941; 4) Jim Callaghan; 5) California; 6) 1956;
- 7) Ballykissangel ; 8) Dwight Eisenhower; 9) Warren Clarke; 10) None (it is a bell);
- 11) The Returning Officer; 12) 36; 13) Ibiza; 14) Devon; 15) Grace;
- 16) He is depicted with a sword through his head; 17) Betty Stove; 18) 28;
- 19) Pauline Collins; 20) Egypt (gypsies were believed to have come from Egypt)