

BENFLEET BULLETIN



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

**Issue No.11:
FEBRUARY; MARCH; APRIL 2017:**

FROM THE CHAIR

Happy New Year

With the Festive Season now over and the New Year upon us time for fresh beginnings and lots to look forward to. Different trips, hopefully speakers that you will find interesting and informative, snow drops and daffodils popping their heads up and hopefully warm sunny weather just around the corner.

Welcome to any new members that are just joining us and best wishes and an interesting year to all our present members.

Sheila

CLUB WEBSITE: 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.

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.

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

WATCH THIS SPACE - At the moment there are no trips on offer. I am going to a trade fair shortly and hope to come back with plenty of ideas for some exciting trips starting in Spring - MARIA

- 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

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**:- Steve Scruton, BBC Essex Radio. **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 never been known to use a word that might send a reader to the dictionary – William Faulkner (about Ernest Hemingway)

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
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.
Social History	Lorraine Longridge & Alan Barnes		3 rd Thurs Starting 16-Feb
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 above 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: 8th February, 8th March and 12th April

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.

A member of Parliament to Disraeli: "Sir, you will either die on the gallows or of some unspeakable disease. "That depends, Sir" said Disraeli, "whether I embrace your policies or your mistress"

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

Profile for Mavis Regan - Secretary

I was born in Silvertown, East London in 1949. We moved to East Ham in 1958 as they were beginning 'slum/war damage' clearance and our house was being demolished. I attended Hartley Primary School and then East Ham Grammar for Girls (and I know there are several of you out there who did the same!).

I left school after 'O' levels and took a Secretarial Course at East Ham Tech and spent several years working as a Secretary in the City. In 1972 I left the City to work with the CID at Benfleet Police Station which was completely different, fascinating and a real eye-opener.

Jim and I married in 1970 and moved to Benfleet, where my brother already lived. By 1971, my Mum, Dad and Aunt had moved here too and our three houses were all in Clifton Avenue.

We had two children, Keith and Alison, and in 1980 I started work at Kents Hill Infant School as School Secretary where I stayed for 33 years (and no, I didn't get a long service medal). We saw so many children through the school and they were very happy years.

Jim and I have been retired nearly 3 years now and I don't know where the time has gone. We like to travel and also enjoy walking. My other interests are badminton and dancing.

We have four grandchildren . Two live in Rayleigh (with our daughter and son-in-law) - we are very close and see a lot of them. The other two are in Hong Kong but are coming home - next year (yippee!).

We joined the U3A two years ago and belong to the 5 mile Walking Group and I also go to the Photography Group. We have met so many lovely people and we are very lucky to have such a friendly U3A in Benfleet.

I have recently taken over as Secretary and just hope I can make as good a job of it as Jackie Liberty did.

Money can't buy you happiness – but it does bring you a more pleasant form of misery –
Spike Milligan

Bereavement and Unwell

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

We are going to stop collecting items for 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.

ASTRONOMY



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.

13th February: 13th March: 10th April: 8th May: 12th June :

French 1



For our last meeting of 2016 we went to Café Rouge, Lakeside. We were served by a wonderful waiter who spoke to us in French and the ambiance of the Café made us feel that we were in France. The food and company was excellent, which put us very much in the Christmas Spirit.

Meeting dates: 8th February, 8th March and 12th April

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.



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



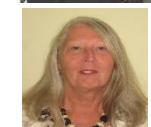
Committee Member & Editor

Richard Seely



Committee Member

Ann Sayer



Co-opted Committee Member

Sue Riley

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

I have never hated a man enough to give him his diamonds back – Zsa Zsa Gabor

PROJECTOR & SCREEN

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

QUIZ – Cryptic Pub Names

1. Dan Dares Pub
2. Cooks Limbs
3. The Wide Road
4. Canine and Pistol
5. A Sphere
6. Not a whippet
7. Pretty Butterfly
8. Not a leg of lamb
9. Two of them don't make a summer
10. One horned horse
11. "The Animals" house
12. 9 days Queen
13. Happy Miners
14. The A.T.M.
15. Filthy Richards
16. Feline & Violin

Answers to last quarters Multi Choice Quiz

- 1) Sodium, 2) Cake 3) 18thC 4) Krait 5) Turkeys 6) Rocks 7) Canada 8) Madrid
9) Chinese 10) Jupiter