

BENFLEET BULLETIN



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

**Issue No.12:
MAY; JUNE; JULY 2017:**

FROM THE CHAIR

As you know we asked for members to come forward as we needed new Committee members. We have had a good response and have now filled the vacant positions. Thank you to all that came forward.

Benfleet U3A is strong Club with a good steady membership and we are all looking forward to another fun year with new groups being formed and lots of different outings to look forward to.

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

Wednesday May 24th

Outing: **Chatham Dockyard & Call the Midwife Tour**

Cost: **£45 per person**

Last Payment Date: **24th April**

Includes:

- *Coach & Drivers Gratuities*
- *2 Tours with Guides (One in Coach & One of Foot)*
- *Afternoon Tea*

Departure Time(s):

9.00am From Tarpots Coach Stop (Top of Romsey Road) -Other pickup points available on request

We will arrive at **Chatham Dockyard** approx 10.30am. We will stay on the coach but will be joined by one of the tour guides for a coach tour of the dockyard with commentary.

After the tour there will be FREE time for you to wander around the docks and maybe visit the **Ropery** or book a visit to the submarine. There are several eateries if you fancy lunch.

At 2.00pm we will reassemble, but be split into 2 groups with 2 guides and our **Call the Midwife tour** will start. After the tour we will all be escorted into the Commissioners house for an Afternoon Tea.

We plan to leave the Dockyard at 4.30pm for our journey home.

Monday 5th June 2017.

Outing **Brighton**

Cost **£15 (coach Only) Pick up Tarpots:(other pick up points available on request)**

Time: **9.00am**

This is another one of our popular coach only trips.

Brighton is more than a seaside resort there are numerous shops to explore, plenty of restaurants, the famous Royal Pavilion is certainly worth a visit and not forgetting their new attraction the British Airways i360, a 138 metre observation tower on the seafront, the views up there are apparently breath taking.

Last Payment date: 5th May.

Thursday 6th July 2017

Outing **HAMPTON COURT FLOWER SHOW**
Cost **£36 - (this is a special price being offered to U3A Member)**
Pick up: *Tarpots (other pick ups available on request)*
Time: *9.00am*

The Magnificent setting of Hampton Court Palace is a fabulous backdrop to the world's largest Flower Show. Packed with ideas for your own gardens or just if you like to see lovely flowers and plants and the numerous garden setting.

There are several eating options at the Show.

Just be aware there is a lot of walking, especially the long walk from the coach car park to the entrance, on this occasion it cannot be helped .

Payment was due by 6th April

Monday 24th July 2017

Outing **WIMBLEDON MUSEUM & TOUR OF THE GROUNDS.**
Cost **£40**
Pick up *:Tarpots (other pick ups available on request)*
Time: *9.00am*

The Championships are over so you are aware who the winners and losers are, but here is your opportunity to visit this famous tennis club and visit the Museum and have a guided tour of the grounds.

There will be FREE time in between the museum & the tour for you to purchase lunch in the numerous eateries in Wimbledon village.

Last payment date: 24th May

Wednesday 2nd August 2017

Outing **CANARY WHARF**
Cost *£12 (coach only)*
Pick up: *Tarpots other pick up points on request)*
Time: *10.00am*

Canary Wharf has a variety of things to offer for the day. The Docklands Museum (there will an exhibition displaying all the archaeology finds found when digging the cross rail train line)

There are several shops and numerous restaurants plus the Crossrail roof top gardens. There is also an opportunity to pick up the Clipper Boat for a cruise along the River Thames, between Greenwich and Westminster Bridge.

There will be approximately 5 hrs to browse at your leisure.

Last Payment Date: 2nd July

- 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**
- 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

May 30th:- **Steve Scruton, BBC Essex Radio**. **Jun. 27th**:- 'Gemstones or Gemology'. **Michael Allen**. **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**

'I feel so miserable without you; it's almost like having you here. Stephen Bishop

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/Pat Williams		2 nd Fri. pm
Meditation	Richard Newall		Tues. am; weekly

Naval & Military History	Phil Lloyd-Worth		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	On hold		4 th Fri am
Poetry	On hold		2 nd Fri am
Singing	Linda Burdett		2 nd & 3 rd Thurs.
Social History	Lorraine Longridge & Alan Varnes		3rd Thursday
Spanish	Julie Jones		Fri.
Ten Pin Bowling	Jackie Liberty		3 rd Fri. am
Theatre - Local	Josie Wallace		As advised
Walking Group	Eve Burgess		1 st Thurs. am
Walking 5 miles & over	Doreen Wiggans		4 th Thurs. Am
Women in History	Jill Parr		3rd Fri

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 Sheila Sears, who will look into advertising for more members to set up a further group.

Funny but true – I was married by a Judge but I should have asked the Jury. – **Groucho Marx**

GROUP NOTES

For Information:-

- 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.

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

Members wanted for new groups:-

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

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

The Green Thing

Checking out at the supermarket recently, the young cashier suggested I should bring my own bags because plastic bags weren't good for the environment, I apologized and explained, "We didn't have this green thing back in my earlier days".

The clerk responded, "That's our problem today. Your generation did not care enough to save our environment for future generations".

She was right about one thing – our generation did not have the green thing in "our" day. So what did we have back then? After some reflection and soul-searching on "our" day, here's what I remembered we did have....

Back then, we returned milk bottles, pop bottles and beer bottles to the store. The store sent them back to the plant to be washed and sterilised and refilled, so it could use the same bottles repeatedly. So they were really recycled. But we did not have the green thing back in our day.

We walked up the stairs, because we did not have an escalator in every store and office building. We walked to the grocery store and did not climb into a 300 hp machine every time we had to go two blocks. But she was right. We did not have the green thing in our day.

Back then we washed babies nappies because we did not have the throw away kind. We dried our clothes on the line not in an energy gobbling machine burning up 240 volts – wind and solar power really did dry our clothes back in our early days. Kids got hand me down clothes from their brothers or sisters, not always brand new clothing. But that young lady is right, we did not have the green thing back in our day.

Back then, we had one TV or radio in the house – not a TV in every room. And the TV had a small screen the size of a handkerchief, remember them! Not a screen the size of Wales. In the kitchen, you blended and stirred by hand because we did not have electric machines to do everything for us. When we packaged a fragile item to send in the mail, we used wadded up old newspapers to cushion it, not styrofoam or plastic bubble wrap.

Back then, we did not fire up an engine to cut the lawn. We used a push mower that ran on human power. We exercised by working so that we did not need to go to a health club to run on a treadmill that operated on electricity but she's right. We didn't have the green thing back then.

We drank water from the fountain when we were thirsty instead of using a cup or a plastic bottle every time we had a drink of water. We refilled writing pens with ink instead of buying new pens, we replaced razor blades in the razor instead of throwing away the whole razor just because the blade got dull. But we didn't have the green thing back then.

Back then, people took the bus, the kids rode their bikes to school or walked, they did not turn their mums into a 24 hour taxi service. We had one electrical outlet in a room, not an entire bank of sockets to power a dozen appliances, and we did not need a computerised gadget to receive a signal beamed from satellites 2000 miles out in space in order to find the nearest pizza joint.

But isn't it sad that the current generation laments how wasteful we old folk were just because we did not have the green thing back then.

He is a self-made man and worships his creator – John Bright

Bereavement and Unwell

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

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.

Answers to Cryptic Pub Names:

1–The Eagle, 2-Bakers Arms, 3–The Broadway, 4–The Dog and Gun, 5–The Globe, 6-The Greyhound, 7-Red Admiral, 8-Shoulder of Mutton, 9-Swallow Inn, 10-The Unicorn, 11-House of the Rising Sun. 12-Lady Jane, 13-Jolly Colliers, 14-Hole in the Wall, 15-Dirty Dicks, 16-The Cat and the Fiddle

QUIZ – Anagrams of British Towns

1. Roved
2. Coast
3. Poems
4. Ankled
5. Brogan
6. Carder
7. Cupids
8. Florid
9. Ghouls
10. Grained
11. Postern
12. Denude

PROJECTOR & SCREEN – are available for group use. If interested please contact Sheila Sears.

Important

If you move, change your telephone number or email address could you please let the Membership Secretary know in order that they can amend their records and also they can inform The Third Age Trust as needed.

Getting Involved in Research

The U3A National Office has produced a very comprehensive and interesting Research Guide.

The aim of the guide is to encourage members to get involved in researching interesting projects and provides basic guidelines on how this could be developed.

Some of the projects undertaken by other U3As have included research into:-

- Historical figures who have a connection with the local area
- Holidays in the 1950s
- Celebrating the South Downs
- Shetland Whaling Stations
- Environmental survey of the Burnham-on-Crouch sea wall

Groups within a U3A have got together to research a shared interest (e.g. Art/Photography/Local History);

Others have worked with U3As within their area to develop wider knowledge.

The Guide is well-worth a look and can be accessed through the U3A National website.

If you are interested in starting such a project and need further information, please speak with a member of your Committee.



COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chair

Sheila Sears



Vice Chair

Helene Claxton



Treasurer

Jill Parr



Secretary

Mavis Regan



Membership Secretary

Linda Burdett



Group Co-ordinator

Iris Mead



Trip Organiser

Maria Kelly



Committee Member & Bulletin Editor

Committee Members

Sue Riley

Alan Aldridge

Robert Munson

Editorial Team

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

Girls are always complaining that they can never meet a nice guy. Nice guys are everywhere. The problem isn't that there aren't any nice guys, the problem is that all of the nice guys are ugly."

— Carroll Bryant