



### WHAT'S ON

#### 19<sup>th</sup> January 2022

General Meeting:  
Speaker: John Hutchinson -  
'Concorde'.

#### 16<sup>th</sup> February 2022

General Meeting:  
Speaker: Michael Grillo –  
'The Day the Music Died'.

#### 16<sup>th</sup> March 2022

General Meeting:  
Speaker: Graham Brice -  
'Illustrated wildlife'.

#### 20<sup>th</sup> April 2022

Annual General Meeting:  
Speaker: Chris Burleigh –  
'My experience of preparing and  
publishing a book'.

#### 18<sup>th</sup> May 2022

General Meeting:  
Speaker: Liz Cooper –  
'Gainsborough'.

#### 15<sup>th</sup> June 2022

General Meeting:  
Speaker: Ian Mercer –  
'Geology of Essex'.



December is here and, surprisingly, the weather has been better with the milder temperatures. Christmas is around the corner, decorations are up and Christmas cards being posted.

The Christmas meeting was held on the 8<sup>th</sup> December and was well received. It followed a different plan from last year with the aim of maintaining hands, face and space. Members were seated at tables, with a Christmas quiz and a magician performing his tricks at each table. Doors were open, facemasks worn when moving about the hall and members were served tea and coffee by the committee and volunteers to avoid queues. My thanks go to everyone who helped to make the meeting a success!

### Spotlight on groups: Family History

Ann Bright kindly sent me information about a project the Family History group was involved in. She sent this report:

“A small team from Braintree u3a Family History group decided to join the u3a National High Street Project in 2020. We have now completed the Braintree section and are proud to share it with everyone. The Braintree link is as follows:  
<https://u3ahsp.ibase.media/folder?WINID=1638269420401&g=94>.

The study involved taking photographs of each shop in the town centre, which have now been put onto a huge database. This can be explored by tapping on the picture to find notes on the shop, including brief histories. We hope people will add their own memories in the comments section.

In 2021 we have revisited the town and noted changes. In another section we have written up what we remember about the town and changes since the 1950s. Do have a look and join us in making the site an interesting visual record of the town in our life times”.

The group received this glowing comment from the U3A National High Street Project website co-ordinator:

“Ann, it looks wonderful - what a tribute to your group and to your u3a!”

Well done to the Family History Group.



There are several groups that are not running currently due to lack of a group contact. See group list below. We would welcome any member to come forward to offer to be a group contact. Please remember that as a Group Contact you are only part of your group and not expected to lead it. All members of a group should be involved in how it is organised, so don't feel overwhelmed - we are all here to help! If there is not a group with your particular interest you can form your own group. The Committee is here to provide help and advice. Please contact them for further information.

Group List			
Art Appreciation	4th Tuesday @ 2.30	Astronomy	Suspended – no group contact
Bird Watching	1st Wed @ 10.30am	Book Club 1	Suspended – no group contact
Bus Pass Safari GPI	Venue Varies	Card Making	Suspended – no group contact
Cards & Board Games	Meet fortnightly on a Monday	Crafty Yarners	Suspended – no group contact
Creative Writers'	3rd Friday @ 10.00am	Digital Photography	3rd Thurs @ 10.00am
Family History	2nd Mon @ 2.30pm	Flower Arranging	2nd Wed @ 10.00am
French Conversation	2nd Wed @ 10.15 am	Gardening	3rd Tues – Venues vary
Geography	3rd Fri @ 10.00am	Grumpy Old Men	3rd Mon @ 7.15pm
Le Dejeuner Lunch Group	4th Tue – Venues vary	Line Dance	1st & 3rd Mon @ 10.30am
Local History	Suspended – no group contact	Painting	2nd Thur @ 10.00am
Petanque–Tuesday	Tuesday–Weekly @ 9.30–11.00am	Petanque–Wednesday	Wednesday–Weekly @ 10.00am
Scrabble	10.00am 2nd & 4th Thurs	Singing for Pleasure	Suspended – no group contact
Snooker	2nd Tue @ 2.00pm	Sunday Luncheon	Check Venue
Tuesday Luncheon	Check Venue	Ukulele Group	Every other week @ 2.30pm
Walkie–Talkies	4th Wed @ 10.30am	Walking Group 1	3rd Thur @ 9.45am
Walking Group 2	3rd Tue @ 10.30am		

### Outings team update:

Two trips to see musicals at The Cliffs Pavilion, Southend have been provisionally booked for next year:

- Thursday 7th April 2022 - 'Singin' in the Rain', 2.30pm - matinee performance (29 seats only).
- Tuesday 27th September 2022 - 'Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat', 7.30pm evening performance (57 seats).
- A visit to Dover Castle in July is also being planned.

Further details to follow, with more trips being arranged. If you have any ideas, thoughts about what events/places you would like to be included, please let the Committee know.

### Membership applications:

Membership applications for next year are open, both for prospective new members and renewals of membership. The fees remain the same as this year, £15 for single and £25 for two memberships at the same address. Membership forms are available on our Braintree Area u3a website or can be requested by post by ringing one of the committee members.

Keep well and take care. *Elaine*

Elaine Orpe, Chair, Braintree Area u3a

**Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year**  
**from all of the Committee**

### Contact numbers:

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