



Broomfield & District

Newsletter January 2023

GROUPS:

- Art
- Badminton
- Beer Appreciation
- Book Group
- Bus Pass
- Canasta
- Cookery
- Gardening (with Chelmsford U3A)
- Geology
- Health Matters
- History
- Lacemaking
- Natural History
- Needlework
- Photography
- Scrabble
- Table Tennis
- Ten-pin Bowling
- Ukulele
- Walking

WEBSITE

<https://u3asites.org.uk/broomfield>

EMAIL - broomfieldanddistrictu3a@gmail.com

From the Chair

Welcome to our January newsletter.

I hope you are all keeping well & have enjoyed the festive season, now back to normality.

As I write the snow has disappeared & the temperature has reached a staggering 12°C, phew.

I hope you all enjoyed the December talk, I am sorry I missed it. The January talk is on 'Dark Tourism' I am intrigued: is this going to be about visiting places while we have power cuts or macabre trips to Transylvania – come along & find out!!

The committee have been meeting to keep things moving forward, we have decided to make charges for advertising in the newsletter & to charge a 10% commission on all sales made at our meetings this will help support our funds & keep our subscriptions down.

We still have spaces on the committee for 2 more members: please give this some careful consideration, it is not too arduous & the group cannot function without a committee. If you feel you would like to help, please speak to one of the committee.

We have decided to get each of the group leaders to give us an update on their groups' activities, 2/3 at the start of each meeting; this will start at the February meeting. If you have any comments on any of the groups or have any ideas for new groups do let us have your feedback.

Remember it is your U3A branch & we want you to have your say on what goes on.

Best wishes

Jim Jenkins

Chair

MONTHLY MEETINGS

Please note: the Meeting is open and refreshments are available from 1.45pm. The speaker is scheduled to start at 2.15pm.

Please ensure you have confirmed to Peter Radford that you wish to attend no later than midday on Tuesday 10th.

The revised arrangements we have made over the last meetings seem to have worked well. Seating at well separated tables with lots of circulation space, rather than in close rows, besides reducing risk, has contributed to a more convivial atmosphere.

Raffle proceeds have been a great help towards covering (increased) hall hire charges.

Meeting Schedule

2023

11th January	Dark Tourism	David Williams
8 th February	Essex Hearing Help	Sophie Ede
8 th March	Charles Darwin, Triumph and Torment	Margaret Mills
12 th April	Walking the Camino de Santiago	Malcolm Taylor
10 th May	Abolition! When freeing the slaves was illegal	Faith Marchal
14 th June	TBD – possible Groups Showcase	
12 th July	Dr. Livingston, I presume	Fran Sandham

The calendar has been omitted from this edition of the Newsletter

Notes and Notices, January 2023

Talks

In January, Gresham College's lecturers include Professor Chris Whitty who will discuss the causes of Coronary Heart Disease and advances in reducing its effects; Professor Joanna Bourke will discuss the cultural history of Breast Cancer, 'one of the most dreaded diseases for women'; Medical Law professor, Professor Imogen Goold will look at whether it would be right to make Vaccination mandatory; and Professor Sarah Hart will explore Lottery-Winning Maths. Professor Philip Mansel will explore the cultural legacy of the longest reigning European monarch in history in his talk Louis XIV: Versailles, Europe and the Arts. The UK Government has just approved a coal mine for the first time in decades, after 190 countries agreed to phase down coal power in COP26, making Professor Myles Allan's lecture on the Ocean Physics Behind Net Zero, particularly well-timed. Full details can be found at: <https://www.gresham.ac.uk/whats-on?see-all>

Because the scheduled speaker is ill, on January 7th, the Essex Branch of the Historical Association is going to have a debate about the Putney Debates, which originally took place in 1647 in the middle of the Civil War. On February 4th there is a talk by Dave McCall. The information given is: 'We'll always have Paris! Stranger than fiction stories behind "A betrayal of heroes" David Ellsworth. Prepare to be amazed!' As ever the talks are at Trinity Methodist Church, Rainsford Road, Chelmsford, CM1 2XB starting at 2.30 p.m. The talks will also be available live on Zoom at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89012164046>: meeting ID 890 1216 4046. All this information and the full year's programme can be viewed on their website at <https://www.essexbranchha.com/>. The website also gives details of past programmes and You Tube references for those talks that have been recorded and are still available online.

Fraud

Hargreaves Lansdown reports that fraud now makes up over 40% of all crimes recorded in England and Wales. One particularly prevalent type of scam is Authorised Push Payment (APP) fraud. This type of scam isn't new, but is becoming more popular with fraudsters. See <https://www.hl.co.uk/news/articles/how-to-spot-the-signs-to-help-protect-you-and-your-money>

Since Christmas, I've had three e-mails asking me to take part in an Argos Survey. As the link to the survey was, in all cases, to an address registered in Montenegro, I declined to take part!

Money Matters

Which? reports that thousands of mothers may have been underpaid their state pension by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP). The new error relates to a system previously known as 'Home Responsibilities Protection' (HRP), which was introduced in 1978 to protect the state pensions of parents or carers before the introduction of National Insurance credits in 2010. See <https://www.which.co.uk/news/article/new-state-pension-error-impacting-mothers-have-you-been-underpaid-a1Q1u9e5ofii>

and finally

If you have any problems with your heating, here's a useful list of potential fixes from British Gas: <https://www.britishgas.co.uk/the-source/fix-it-yourself/no-central-heating.html>

BROOMFIELD & DISTRICT U3A – GROUP REPORTS

ART GROUP

This Group really needs a leader who can provide both artistic knowledge and guidance to our existing members. Is there anyone out there who would like to take on this challenge? I do believe with a little expertise we could become a productive Group. Please get in touch with me if you are interested in taking this Group forward. Our next meeting will be in January, date to be arranged.

Barbara Bartlett

BADMINTON

Our next session will be on Monday, 9th January between 12 - 1 pm at the Chelmsford Sports Stadium.

Barbara Bartlett

BEER APPRECIATION

It seems to have inadvertently become a tradition that when the Group visits an establishment with a wide choice of ales (for tasting and discussion) that a story is told utilising the names of the beverages sampled. I suppose if you have spent much of your working life writing strategic reports bad fiction comes easily!! So with apologies to all brewers and their products.....

It all started because **Gorgeous George** wanted to sample **Polly's Brew**. He could never really hold his beer so no surprise he ended up with a massive headache. To give Polly's **Cannonball Credit** that was not the sole reason that George started to see things in a **Hammerton Tint**!

As he slept George dreamt that he was travelling from his postcode, **Colchester No.1**, to **Buxton**. He was walking through a forest of **Mighty Oak's** when he saw a **Leveret**. George was slowly creeping after it when a **Wild Boar** came hurtling towards him. Scaling a **Twisted Oak** George looked down on the beast. A distant noise aroused both beast and hunted, as there stood **Scaramanga** with his **Gun** – What would be the outcome? I don't know, it was all a **Broken Dream....**

Our December meeting was an obvious success; unfortunately the Ale Shop's Christmas festival started some days after our visit, otherwise the story might have been very different!

Our first meeting of the New Year will be on Monday 16th January 2023 at 2.00pm in the Railway Tavern, opposite Chelmsford rail Station – hopefully it won't be full of RMT/ASLEF/TSSA members!

As usual please let me know if you are coming.

Malcolm Taylor

BOOK GROUP

We met on Monday, 19th December in Broomfield Library where we discussed “Small Pleasures” by Clare Chambers. Set in 1957 in the suburbs of South East London, Jean Swinney is a journalist on a local paper, trapped in a life of duty and disappointment from which there is no likelihood of escape. When a young woman contacts the paper to claim that her daughter is the result of a virgin birth, it is down to Jean to discover whether she is a miracle or a fraud. As the investigation turns her quiet life inside out Jean is suddenly given an unexpected chance of friendship, love and possibly, happiness. This book was well received by most members and scored an average of 7/10.

Our next meeting will be on Monday, 23rd January in Broomfield Library at 2.30 pm where we will be reviewing “Miss Benton’s Beetle” by Rachel Joyce.

Barbara Bartlett

BUS PASS

We are now taking our usual winter break and will be back in March. I would like to thank everyone for their support this year and wish you all a very happy Christmas.

Carol Greatrex

CANASTA

The Canasta Group has restarted, meeting on the 1st and 3rd Mondays as before shut down. This is for information only as we are full and I cannot accept anyone else into the group.

Marie Mackie

COOKERY

We hope to resume the group in February.

Pat Radford

GARDENING

Chelmsford U3A Garden Group starts its new year programme of talks on Thursday February 23rd at Boreham Village Hall. The talks start at 2.15pm. As yet the subject of the talk has not been announced.

Little Waltham Gardening Club has its first meeting of the new year on Wednesday February 1st. The meeting starts at 7.30pm in the Memorial Hall. “The Down to Earth Community Allotment Project” by Carolin Rogers of the Wilderness Foundation is the talk for the evening.

Pat Radford

GEOLOGY

In our last session, we looked at the birthplace of Essex - near the South Pole - 500 million years ago - so long ago that it made our brains hurt to think about it! You will have to wait until January to venture further and look more closely at the evidence for this and the significance of the thick, old piece of crust under Essex.

What is the underlying structure of Essex? Why was Essex above the waves for so long?

Join us to find out; Tuesday 24th January at 2pm.

Ros & Ian



HEALTH MATTERS

Unfortunately, last month's meeting had to be cancelled due to the surprising downfall of snow, however that topic will be covered in the main u3a monthly meeting in February.

For our next HM group meeting (17th January at 2pm at the Pavilion, Great Waltham CM3 1DF), the topic covered will be 'Dependence'. I am sure that we all know someone who has over-indulged over the Christmas and the New Year period!

Please note that our meetings from now onwards will be taking place on the third Tuesday of the month. New members are always welcome but please email me first.

Gill Sturman



HISTORY

No History Group this month. Any queries, please contact me via e-mail.

Glynn Wadeson

LACEMAKING

Lacemaking takes place on the 1st and 3rd (and sometimes 5th) Fridays of each month from 2pm to 4pm. New members are always welcome and we have equipment available to get you going. Contact me first as parking can be a problem.

Wendy Talley

NATURAL HISTORY

We spent a lovely morning at Hanningfield Reservoir. We were very fortunate with the weather, all the snow had gone and the sun was shining. The walk was very pleasant. We visited the hides and saw quite a few ducks here for the winter, amongst them were Shelduck, Mallards, Teal. We continued our walk to the visitor centre where we had coffee and cake to celebrate Christmas.



Our January meeting will be our usual planning meeting for the rest of 2023. I will publish the programme in the next newsletter.

I hope that in the new year we can welcome some new

members, we meet monthly and our walks are designed to take account of the seasons and the effects on the environment.

A happy new year to all U3A members.

Sue Browning



PHOTOGRAPHY

The Photography group meets at Little Waltham United Reformed Church from 10-12 on the third Thursday of every month. Next meeting 19th January.

We welcome new members. If you have any questions about the group just give me a call or drop me an e-mail.

Glynn Wadeson

SCRABBLE

We will meet on Thursday 26th January at 2pm at the Methodist Church. All new members are welcome to join us for 2 games of scrabble. We play purely for enjoyment. Cost about £2.50 to cover hall rental.

There is always time for a cuppa too!

Heather Steed

TABLE TENNIS

Happy New Year to all. I have booked an hour each for table tennis at Melbourne on a Thursday and a Tuesday for January to see if that suits most. The cost will be £2.

- Thursday, 5th January at 11.00 a.m.
- Tuesday, 17th January at 11.00 a.m.

Jean Lock

TEN-PIN BOWLING

Hi fellow bowlers, sorry to say no news about when bowling will get going again, I will not be putting items in the news letter from now on but as soon as we can get going again I will get in touch with everyone on the playing list and put a message and details in the monthly newsletter. Many thanks for your company in the past, fingers crossed we can get going again in 2023.

Lorna Stuart

BROOMFIELD UKULELE GROUP (BUGS)

The ukulele group is meeting on the 5th and 19th of January at 2pm at the home of Patricia Platt. Both meetings are on Thursdays and will last for 2 hours. If you are new and wish to know the address, please contact me for directions.

We will meet on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of February at 2pm but the venue is yet to be arranged.

Pat Platt

WALKING

We had a very useful, and festive, planning meeting in December. Whilst we enjoyed our current walks, it was agreed that occasionally we would undertake a longer, full day, walk and perhaps also look at the potential of those areas just over the county border.

Our next walk will be a variation (as the Tulip is no longer open) of our usual January 3/4 mile walk, along the river/Chelmer Nature Reserve. We will meet in the car park of the Broomfield Royal British Legion, Saxon Way, Broomfield at 10.00am on Tuesday 10th January 2023.

PLEASE NOTE THAT IN FUTURE ALL WALKS WILL BE ON THE SECOND TUESDAY OF THE MONTH.

As usual please let me know if you are coming. Mobile 07375 604506 operative on the day.

Malcolm Taylor

GROUP LEADERS

Art	Barbara Bartlett
Badminton	Barbara Bartlett
Beer Appreciation	Malcolm Taylor
Book Group	Barbara Bartlett
Bus Pass	Carol Greatrex
Canasta	Marie Mackie
Cookery	Pat Radford
Gardening	Pat Radford
Geology	Ros Mercer
Health Matters	Gill Sturman
Lacemaking	Wendy Talley
Natural History	Sue Browning
Photography	Glynn Wadeson
Scrabble	Heather Steed
Table Tennis	Jean Lock
Ten-pin Bowling	Lorna Stuart
Ukulele	Pat Platt
Walking	Malcolm Taylor

New Group Leaders needed!

Any proposals for new groups?

Contact the editor for inclusion in next month's newsletter *or* if you'd like to talk it over first, please contact Pat Radford, our Group Co-Ordinator.

THE COMMITTEE

		-
Chair	Jim Jenkins	-
		-
Vice Chair & Speaker Coordinator	Glynn Wadeson	-
		-
Treasurer	Gill Sturman	-
		-
Secretary	TBC	-
		-
		-
Membership Secretary	Peter Radford	-
		-
Group Coordinator	Pat Radford	-
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Many thanks to Malcolm Taylor for continuing to act as Website Editor