

April 2020

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- **Climate Change**
- Cookery
- Gardening (with Chelmsford U3A)
- Geology
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- Meditation
- Natural History
- Needlework
- Photography
- Scrabble
- Sunday + Club
- Table Tennis
- Ten-pin Bowling
- Ukulele
- Walking

**WEBSITE –**

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

**EMAIL -**

[broomfieldanddistrictu3a@gmail.com](mailto:broomfieldanddistrictu3a@gmail.com)

## **From The Chair**

### **Introduction**

These are extraordinary and unprecedented times indeed! Living in lockdown, with restrictions on our movement and the freedoms we have always taken for granted, is extremely challenging and the uncertainty around how long this state of suspended animation is going to persist is doubly stressful.

The sudden and indefinite suspension of our U3A groups and the social contact they provide was, if not unexpected, still something of a shock to the system when it happened, but these will be resuming in due course and meantime we intend to do our best to keep in contact with everyone, and would hope that all our members follow all the relevant advice and stay well.

### **AGM**

In the current circumstances due to social isolation requirements, our scheduled AGM will not take place in May, so your Committee is proposing to postpone it until July at the earliest.

When we are confident that we can proceed, we will notify all members by email, on the website or by post.

### **U3A National Office Newsletter**

National Office routinely puts out information and advice to members, group leaders and committees in its online newsletter, and if you are not already a subscriber, we would advise you to follow the link below and join.

<https://www.u3a.org.uk/newsletter>

*Continued on page 2*

## **Enrolment for 2020-21 and membership fees**

For those members who have not yet enrolled but wish to do so before the next meeting, please download the forms from our website and then once completed send them to Gill Sturman with your cheque. If you want to receive your membership badge before our next monthly meeting (whenever that is), then please also enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope. As all our activities are likely to be suspended for some months, the Committee recognise that no one should be expected to pay for the period of suspension. Thus, we will make proposals at the next AGM to address this.

## **Plea for Volunteer Responders**

The NHS is urgently seeking volunteers to help those identified as vulnerable / high risk in a number of ways. In particular, they are seeking Volunteers Responders, for the 'Check-in and Chat' scheme.

If you are interested in offering your help, go to the site: <https://www.goodsamapp.org/nhs> for full details.

## **Website**

We will update our website with any relevant news on a regular basis, so please do check it, and if you know anyone not on the internet, please pass on the information from there or from our Newsletter and any periodic updates we circulate by email.

## **Printed Copies**

We will also be issuing printed copies of the newsletter during the social isolation period to those members we know are off-line but we cannot guarantee exactly when these can be posted.

Glynn Wadson      Chairman

**MONTHLY MEETINGS - FUTURE SPEAKERS 2020**  
**(all meetings subject to confirmation)**

8 <sup>th</sup> April	<i>meeting cancelled *</i>	
13 <sup>th</sup> May	<i>meeting cancelled *</i>	
10 <sup>th</sup> June	<i>meeting cancelled *</i>	
8 <sup>th</sup> July	Wildlife Photography	Tom Way
12 <sup>th</sup> August	to be decided	
9 <sup>th</sup> September	How to do Everything and be Happy	Peter Jones
14 <sup>th</sup> October	GOSH (Gt Ormond St. Hospital Charity)	Mark Stephenson
11 <sup>th</sup> November	British Humour in the forgotten Art of Picture Postcards 1840's-1960's	James Taylor

\* The talks originally scheduled for the 8<sup>th</sup> April, 13<sup>th</sup> May and 10<sup>th</sup> June 2020 should now place on the 14<sup>th</sup> April, 12<sup>th</sup> May and 9<sup>th</sup> June 2021, respectively.

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## **SHORT NOTICES**

### **Sponsored Skydive**

One of our members, Carol Rolfe is doing a Tandem Skydive for Farleigh Hospice, on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> July at Beccles. She has set up a Just Giving page, and has collection sheets if anyone would prefer to give that way: <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/carol-rolfe2>

### **Learning to be Retired Course (retiring with attitude)**

The course, learning to be retired, will be held in abeyance until life returns to normal. We will run the course at some point in the future, at a time and place to be decided. We will announce details in this newsletter. However in the meantime please see immediately below -

## **Online Resource for everyone - Learning to be retired course – Retiring with attitude**

An online, abbreviated, version of the above course, to start on Wednesday 8th April has been set up. The link below will take you straight to a video on You Tube, which gives you more information. You don't need to be an IT expert, just copy and paste the link below into your internet browser and look at the video, it lasts for just under 8 minutes:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kρνvLjP6LSE>

If you would like to enrol on this course, please email Lindsay Whitehouse at [ljwhitehouse@mail.com](mailto:ljwhitehouse@mail.com) and he will add you to a standard email distribution list. He will then send everyone on that list all you need to complete the course.

Lindsay Whitehouse Group Leader, [ljwhitehouse@mail.com](mailto:ljwhitehouse@mail.com)

## **Essex Libraries**

Essex Libraries are among the many services that, at the time of writing, are currently closed. However, don't worry if you have books or other items due shortly. A message on their website assures us all that if we have books or other items on loan, we should NOT try and return them until the government says that the libraries can re-open. In other words, don't use book return boxes or leave them at the door, because there will be no one there to process them. Instead, you can return them during the three weeks after the libraries re-open.

Also, Essex Libraries have a generous on-line collection of books, magazines, and other publications that can be explored from one's sofa. You can still use your library ticket to read a wide range of magazines online. There is a huge selection, from "BBC Gardeners' World" to "Who Do You Think You Are", from "Amateur Photographer" to "Ukelele for Beginners" and everything in between. For further information, do check out their website if you can, where you'll also find a link to the e-library:

<https://libraries.essex.gov.uk/news/essex-libraries-to-close-in-response-to-coronavirus/>

(Thanks to Faith Marchal and Carol Greatrex for this information.)

## **Essex Association of U3As - Study Days**

<https://u3asites.org.uk/essexassociationu3as/welcome>

### **Advanced Genealogy**

The Advanced Genealogy Study Day has been postponed until further notice. The event will take place as soon as it is safe to do so.

### **The Study of Trees at the Arboretum**

It is not clear whether this event will take place on its scheduled date but it is currently fully booked.

## **Historical Association, Essex Branch**

All branch meetings have been postponed until further notice.

For further information, see:

<https://www.history.org.uk/branches/resource/1203/essex-branch-programme>

## **BROOMFIELD & DISTRICT U3A – GROUP REPORTS**

### **ART GROUP**

This Group has only met on two occasions but it is promising to be a very successful Group. Now our members have a great opportunity to try out their skills during our 12-week isolation period! We will meet again as and when we can, in the meantime, happy painting!

Barbara Bartlett

### **BADMINTON**

This Group is suspended until further notice. Until we can meet up again may I wish you all a relaxing and stress-free self-isolation.

Barbara Bartlett

### **BEER APPRECIATION**

I was unable to attend what is likely to be our last meeting for some time (please raise restrictions before the Summer Beer Festival!), my thanks to David Marcus who ensured that a convivial afternoon was spent in the Ale House. Everyone sat round a large table a metre or thereabouts apart and sampled eight differing ales ranging from Fox Paw Bitter (so that's what they used to flavour it!) to the aptly named "Neck Oil".



We shall return once Groups are permitted (and entering pubs encouraged again) for further sessions tasting and correcting the world's ills.

STOP PRESS – The Group is hoping to go virtual!

Malcolm Taylor

### **BOOK GROUP**

Thanks for the reviews for our March Book entitled ' Heads you Win' by Jeffrey Archer, once again very much a 'Marmite' book! If I just say that one member read this book in record time and thought the story was brilliant whilst another wouldn't bother to read another by this author, I think that says it all! Our book for April is 'All the Light we Cannot See' by Anthony Doerr and to those if you who managed to get a copy before the lockdown - enjoy.

As we are suspended for the foreseeable future this is a great opportunity to catch up on those books you've got stashed away! If you have access to the internet you can always get your books online from the library, if you need help with this please contact me. Until we can meet up again may I wish all Bookworms a relaxing and stress-free self-isolation.

Barbara Bartlett

## **BRIDGE**

I hope you're weathering this self-isolation tolerably well, and have found enough to occupy you so far.

I have received a message from 'No Fear Bridge' (which is an online programme set up by the English Bridge Union), with whom I am registered as a teacher. They are offering 3 months student free trial period, after which you can get membership for 25% discount for a year. Normal membership is £54 per annum but you would get it for £40.50. I also have access to Teacher Courses with which I can assign you practice lessons and homework. I haven't fully investigated this yet (I haven't had time!) but will do so in the next few days. 'No Fear Bridge' has exercises, quizzes and play for ALL levels of ability - beginners to experts. If you are interested in becoming a member, please let me know and I will give you a link for joining.

Take care of yourselves - keep safe and happy.

Melanie Pimm

## **BUS PASS**

Future plans for our group include a visit to Halstead on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> June to go to the museum, antiques centre or just to enjoy "Halstead in Bloom", followed by a trip to Mersea on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July. We shall have to wait and see when it is safe to socialise again.

Carol Greatrex

## **CANASTA**

The Canasta Group normally meets on the first and third Mondays of each month at 2:00 pm.

Marie Mackie

## **CLIMATE CHANGE**

If anybody is interested in talking about Climate Change, trying to field those questions from the grandchildren etc - please get in touch

Roy Perry

## **COOKERY**

We shall miss our monthly gatherings as they have become sociable events. We look forward to meeting again, hopefully in the strawberry season!

Jacqui Barnaby

## **GARDENING**

The next gatherings of both the Chelmsford U3A Garden Group and the Little Waltham Gardening Club are likely to be visits but, as with everything else, they all depend on when we are released from lock-down. More definitive information will be given nearer the time.

Pat Radford

## GEOLOGY

Although we did not meet for our March session, we shared a powerpoint presentation on Volcanoes as scheduled using "WeTransfer". It was sent to all members of the group to download and view themselves. I suggested that folks read it aloud to themselves or each other to get a better feel for the information. I also sent links to Youtube videos of the "diet coke and mentos" simulation of a volcanic eruption that we actually did in a previous volcanoes session - November 2012. Was it really that long ago - see photos. We have learnt a much since then and the presentation this time included lots more detail about volcanic rocks and volcanoes in history.



Challenge to all - How many volcanoes are erupting now? Find out about the latest eruption in Alaska - what kind of material is being ejected? You may use Google to help. Our next virtual presentation that will be sent to members of the group is a rerun of The Granite Controversy. Maybe when we first did this several years ago, members of the group did not really know what granite is let alone what was controversial about it! So it's worth another look especially if you have a granite worktop in your kitchen.

## GEOLOGY (continued)



There is so much resource on the internet, it does become a bit baffling. Later, when you have done all those jobs that have been waiting years, we will send pointers to websites worth looking at. Members have been asked to give permission for their email addresses to be sent as 'open copy' so that a "reply to all" will reach the whole group or we could set up a Whatsapp group using mobile phone numbers or email addresses.

Keep in touch and share your geological ideas.

Ros & Ian

## HANDBELLS

The Handbells Group had been continuing to experiment with more musical numbers and produce a pleasing sound. We are amazed at how far we have progressed since starting with no experience for any of us. We would still love to have new members join us. If you're interested in finding out any more details please contact me.

Judy Molyneux

## HISTORY

Our planned meetings for the three months from March to May have all been cancelled! Once things get back to something near normal, we will start planning further meetings.

Sylvia Hempstead

Jan White

## LACEMAKING

Normally, the Lacemaking Group would meet every first, third (and fifth if there is one) Friday of the month, at 2:00 pm.

Wendy Talley

## LUNCHEON CLUB

The March meeting of the Luncheon Group was to have been at The Bell, Woodham Walter but that fell foul of the coronavirus lock-down.

Muriel Whiting

## MEDITATION

In these unprecedented times, there will be no mediation until further notice. I can be contacted by e-mail if you wish.

Barbara Thomas

## NATURAL HISTORY

The first visit of 2020 by the Natural History Group was originally planned to be to Marks Hall but it was transferred to Hylands House and even this was cancelled!

Subject to the obvious caveats, forthcoming meetings will be:

June - Tuesday 30 <sup>th</sup>	TBA, awaiting confirmation re pond dipping at Hanningfield.
July - Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup>	Meet at 8:30 am for Moth identification with Graham Ekins at his home. Details to be given nearer the time.
August	No meeting
September - Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 am, Back Warden Reserve, Danbury. Identify plants from their seed heads.

Sue Browning

## NEEDLEWORK

Well we can now continue with our projects in peace! No longer will we have to unpick the bit where we went wrong as we were distracted by ardent discourse on putting the world to rights. The world is taking its revenge, but I have heard that you are all beavering away, be it knitting squares, crocheting blankets or cross-stitching furiously.

Members have been asked to give permission for their email addresses to be sent as 'open copy' so that a "reply to all" will reach the whole group and we can share photos of our creative efforts by way of mutual encouragement. Here is my "starter for ten" in pictures.



Ros Mercer

## PHOTOGRAPHY

Being locked down' should give us all the opportunity to practice our photography and editing skills, and if we can't meet, we can still share our photographs!

This month's challenges are:

1. Keep a daily log of the day-to day realities of social distancing. Be as creative as possible.
2. If you're managing to use the time to catch up on all those outstanding jobs indoors or in the garden, why not have a go at depicting aspects of that work photographically?

If you're interested in joining the group, would like to find out more about it, (or would like to join in our 'challenge') please email, or phone me

Glynn Wadeson

## SCRABBLE

We last met in February when I was trying to organise other scrabble venues while I was away. No holidays now of course but no scrabble either. Would love to know if scrabble friends are playing games at all and if anyone plays scrabble on the computer. Would U3A members like to write in telling us about their games. I've never played a computer scrabble but perhaps it's time I began.

Heather Steed

## SUNDAY + CLUB

The Sunday + Group meetings are cancelled until further notice.

Muriel Whiting

## TABLE TENNIS

When things restart, please feel free to come and try table tennis with our sociable group at Chelmsford Sports and Athletics Stadium, Melbourne. It costs £1.50 for an hour with bats to borrow to give it a go.

Jean Lock

## TEN-PIN BOWLING

As soon as we are all allowed out again, I will let everyone know date and time for a resumption of ten-pin bowling. Details will also go into the Newsletter. Try to keep in touch by phone or e-mail, as lot of our bowlers are expressing concern regarding being isolated. Stay safe everybody!

Lorna Stuart

## BROOMFIELD UKULELE GROUP (BUGS)



John Williams

The Broomfield U3A ukulele group normally meets on the first and third Thursdays of the month at the URC church in Little Waltham but we too are in lock-down. There is a good car park but lifts can be arranged if you do not have your own transport. We welcome new members and are looking for singers or people who play other instruments. We are also happy to support anyone who is new to the ukulele.

## WALKING

The sun shone on us as we set off (exercise permitted as long as we were apart from each other) – like a school crocodile!! We started from the centre of Domesday Felsted on a circular route around the village. Our path took us around the edges of ancient fields to an old watermill (now someone's home) then along an old railway track bed before we returned through the immense grounds of Felsted School to The Swan pub for lunch. The quiet, a chiff chaff, violets & primroses what more could we want?

A brief 4¾ mile stroll in the sunshine along sections of the Saffron Trail (heading from Saffron Walden to Old Leigh) and the Fitch Way (heading from Bishops Stortford [well Takeley really] to Braintree). If only the fields could talk – would they tell us of Henry VIII's fixer Richard Riche who endowed the School and extended the Norman church as Earl of Warwick or just of a more restful life?

An enjoyable walk but one that unfortunately we may not be repeating for some weeks.

Despite social isolation remember we are allowed out for exercise (a walk) as long as we keep away from everyone else!!

Stay fit, keep healthy

Malcolm Taylor

## BROOMFIELD BUDDIES

Climate Change – Efforts are still continuing to establish this group – see also the entry in the Group Reports.

There has been no further progress on the Genealogy Group proposal. The Essex Association were holding a study day on 2nd April and, when it is eventually held we hope it will attempt to come up with some ideas on how to move forward on starting up a Group in Broomfield.

There is nothing further to report on the play reading idea.

Please let us know if there are any other Groups that you may be interested in running or helping to run.

Barbara Thomas and Barbara Bartlett

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## TRAVEL CLUB

**Skipton in the Yorkshire Dales - Monday 6<sup>th</sup> July 2020** - 5 days, 4 nights. Prices are on a half-board basis (breakfast & dinner) and include 2 excursions £349.00 per person in a twin/double room (single rooms sold out). This promises to be an outstanding holiday, so do join us. We will be staying at the lovely market town of Skipton, East Yorkshire. The hotel, The Rendevous, is situated on the outskirts, however there is a bus stop outside the hotel direct into the town centre and a tow path behind the hotel for those who wish to walk there. At Grand Fitness, next to the hotel, there is a swimming pool with sauna, steam room and jacuzzi. They also have 2 spacious gyms and changing rooms with showers, lockers and hair driers. Bookings must be received by 31<sup>st</sup> January, 2020. Four members have stayed at this hotel previously and have given their recommendations. Deposit just £20.00 per person, made payable to Dunwood Travel, should be sent to Chris Evans – please call me for address details and/or any queries.

This is, of course, subject to the hotels, etc being open.

**Potters on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> September** – 3-night full board break - details to follow.

Chris Evans

*Please note that the Travel Club is completely independent of the U3A.*

**GEOLOGY (poster for future meetings)**

These meetings will now be held remotely – entry above

# Broomfield U3A GEOLOGY GROUP

**Minerals Fossils Rocks  
Volcanoes Gems**

*Trips & Chats led by experts*  
Tuesday afternoons 2pm monthly  
2019/2020

- |            |  |
|------------|--|
| 22nd Oct   | Moving Continents                          |
| 26th Nov   | The Rock Cycle                             |
| 28th Jan   | Sedimentary Rocks                          |
| 25th Feb   | Limestones                                 |
| 24th March | Volcanoes & Volcanic rocks                 |
| 28th April | The Granite Controversy                    |
| 23rd June  | Hot, Squashed Rocks                        |
| 28th July  | Field visit to<br>Cherry Hinton Chalk Pits |



*plus Summer Field Visits*

There is no useful information on this page!

## GROUP LEADERS

Art	Barbara Bartlett
Badminton	Barbara Bartlett
Beer Appreciation	Malcolm Taylor
Book Group	Barbara Bartlett
Bridge	Melanie Pimm
Bus Pass	Carol Greatrex
Canasta	Marie Mackie
Climate Change	Roy Perry
Cookery	Jacqui Barnaby
Gardening	Pat Radford
Geology	Ros Mercer
Handbells	Judy Molyneux
History	Sylvia Hempstead
Lacemaking	Wendy Talley
Luncheon Club	Muriel Whiting
Meditation	Barbara Thomas
Natural History	Sue Browning
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Photography	Glynn Wadeson
Scrabble	Heather Steed
Sunday + Club	Muriel Whiting
Table Tennis	Jean Lock
Ten-pin Bowling	Lorna Stuart
Ukulele	John Williams
Walking	Malcolm Taylor

## THE COMMITTEE

Chair	Glynn Wadeson	-
		-
Vice Chair	Faith Marchal	-
		-
Treasurer	Barbara Thomas	-
		-
Co-Secretary	Ann Corbey	-
		-
Co-Secretary	Judy Keily	-
		-
Speaker Coordinator	Ursula Randall	-
		-
Membership Secretary	Gill Sturman	-
		-
Group Coordinator	Pat Radford	-
		-
Committee Member	Peter Radford	-
		-

Many thanks to Malcolm Taylor for continuing to act as Website Editor