

July 2020

- Art
- Badminton
- Beer Appreciation
- Book Group
- Bridge
- Bus Pass
- Canasta
- Cookery
- Gardening (with Chelmsford U3A)
- Geology
- Handbells
- History
- Lacemaking
- Luncheon Club
- 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

From The Chair

Hello again everyone, and welcome to the July newsletter.

As I write, the Covid 19 restrictions are gradually being eased, and the village hall has informed us they are shortly reopening, though of course, any meetings must be subject to two metre social distancing. As there is still no clear guidance when large groups such as ours can resume, we have informed the Parish Council that the very earliest we would expect to resume in some form, is in September, although at this point, this is still subject to guidance, and feedback from members with regard to safety arrangements.

Your Committee will be exploring options over the course of this month.

A key issue is the when, and how we hold our deferred AGM, as we are obliged to keep within set time constraints.

One option is for us to physically hold a meeting for restricted numbers in September, bearing in mind we must have a quorum, and if we are to do this, Committee felt it would be necessary to hold an AGM without our previous practice of then continuing with our normal monthly meeting with guest speakers.

If we are to do this, we would need to know how many members would be wishing to attend such a meeting. We would be grateful if you could inform the Chairman by email within two weeks, if you wish to attend an AGM in September.

We appreciate that many members may be unwilling to attend 'large' gatherings even by September, and we are considering alternatives, such as using Zoom, or by other 'virtual' options, and we would welcome feedback and suggestions from members ASAP.

We will be sending out the notice of AGM along with Treasurers report and Chairman's statement, and other relevant information within the next two weeks.

There will be an opportunity to propose motions, via email, and there is still time for new nominations to committee. A key motion which will be put to members is to change the subscription year to September-August, in recognition of the suspension of activities.

We undertook for this reason not to cash subscription cheques until that point, but unfortunately, as some cheques are now reaching their 6-month expiry date, it will be necessary to bank those shortly, for which we apologise.

I am pleased to say that some groups have managed to keep going 'virtually', such as Geology, and Beer Appreciation, and that some have resumed whilst maintaining social distancing, such as Lacemaking and Walking. Group Leaders will need to consider whatever guidelines are current regarding social distancing, hygiene etc and ensure they are compliant before resuming any direct group activity.

We will keep members posted with any developments, and please don't forget to let us know whether you wish to attend a 'physical' AGM so we can properly plan.

Stay well!

Glynn Wadeson

Chairman

Notes and Notices

Re-enrolment and membership fees

Over half of our membership have already renewed for 2020/21 and we would encourage everyone else to do so. The committee envisage that some of the groups will resume activities before our monthly meetings and by re-enrolling you will be covered by the U3A insurance. If you haven't had the forms by e-mail, please download them from our website and then, once completed, send them to Gill Sturman at Chatham Hall Lodge, Chatham Green, Chelmsford, CM3 3LB 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.

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.

Sponsored Skydive

One of our members, Carol Rolfe is doing a Tandem Skydive for Farleigh Hospice. 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>

July update: the jump has been rescheduled for the 5th September and Carol has confirmed that she will be able to do it on that day.

Learning to be Retired Course (retiring with attitude)

The full "Learning to be Retired" course will be held in abeyance until life returns to normal. We will announce details in this Newsletter, when we are able to set up a full face-to-face course.

However, in the meantime, the course presenters are looking to deliver the course online using Zoom. Anyone who would like to be considered for this should contact Lindsay Whitehouse, email ljwhitehouse@mail.com or by mobile, 0785 319 4093, to register an interest.

Essex Libraries

An initial 16 libraries will re-open from 6th July; these include: Braintree, Brentwood, Chelmsford, Maldon and Witham. An additional 44 libraries will re-open from 13th July; these include: Broomfield, Danbury, Galleywood, Great Baddow, Hatfield Peverel, Ingatestone, South Woodham Ferrers, Springfield and Writtle

Inland Waterways Association

After two interesting talks about the Chelmer & Blackwater Navigation, the next talk, on 27th July, will be on "Canal Planning and Conservation in West London". If you are interested go to the IWA home page, www.waterways.org.uk, which has links to the webinars as they are coming up. More information can be found by clicking first on the "EVENTS" button and then on that for "Online Waterway Talks".

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

<i>8th July</i>	<i>Meeting cancelled *</i>	
<i>12th August</i>	<i>No meeting</i>	
<i>9th September</i>	<i>Normal meeting cancelled but probably the AGM * †</i>	
14th October	GOSH (Gt Ormond St. Hospital Charity)	Mark Stephenson
11th November	British Humour in the forgotten Art of Picture Postcards 1840's-1960's	James Taylor

* The talks originally scheduled for 8th April, 13th May, 10th June, 8th July and 9th September 2020 should now be given on 14th April, 12th May, 9th June, 14th July and 8th September 2021 respectively.

† We are looking at ways the U3A's AGM might be held in September.

BROOMFIELD & DISTRICT U3A – GROUP REPORTS

ART GROUP

I am wondering about the possibility of using the common room at the Methodist Hall, once it re-opens. At the moment, we have only seven in the Group, so we could socially distance but we would need to use the kitchen for water and cleaning of brushes etc, so that may not be acceptable to some. Please let me know your views on this.

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

We held our second virtual meeting on Monday 15th June 2020. As expected, discussion, and beer selections, flowed freely.

In anticipation of some easing of the current social restrictions our next meeting will be held at 2:00pm on Monday 20th July 2020 and will be one of the following (it is therefore imperative that you let me know if you are interested in coming) - (A) The Ale House in Chelmsford or (B) in the 'Beer Garden' of the "Lockdown Inn" (bring your own beer, glasses will be provided).



Please let me know if you are coming so that I can let you know the final arrangements - I'm hoping for Plan A but we may have to revert to Plan B!

Malcolm Taylor

BOOK GROUP

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.

(See also the note about library re-openings.)

Barbara Bartlett

BRIDGE

I hope you're all keeping well and active, even managing to play some Bridge! This could be online or solo practice - or even coercive tuition of the family, so you can all sit round a table! This is still going to be a problem for us once restrictions are lifted somewhat but a social distance needs to be maintained - there is definitely not 2 metres between each player at a bridge table!

Take care of yourselves - how well can you breathe with those masks?!

Melanie Pimm

BUS PASS

I hope you are all keeping safe and well and enjoying the beautiful weather. Things seem to be moving in the right direction now, for the time being at least.

The plans for our group were to go to Mersea and Hanningfield in the next couple of months but there will be no organised bus trips before September. However, should you wish to visit Mersea with a friend, we were going to travel by train to Colchester and then on to Mersea on the 67 bus. You would need to check train and bus times for the day of your travel (both have been running to a reduced timetable during lockdown). Also check the tides for crossing the Strood.

For Hanningfield you would need to catch the 13 Wickford bus as far as the Old Windmill in South Hanningfield from where it is a short walk to the Cafe on the Water and access to the Essex Wildlife Trust nature reserve. Buses are approximately every two hours.

At the time of writing the visitor centre and nature reserve at Hanningfield are still closed but this could change, so check before you go.

I hope it won't be too long before we can all meet up again.

Carol Greatrex

CANASTA

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

Marie Mackie

COOKERY

We shall miss our monthly gatherings as they have become sociable events. We look forward to meeting again, hopefully it will still be 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.

The Summer Flower Show at RHS Hyde Hall, which is normally at the beginning of August and had been provisionally rescheduled to September has now been cancelled.

The National Gardens Scheme has just announced that some gardens will be open but only with advanced booking and without refreshments and, in some cases, without toilets. More details can be found at www.ngs.org.uk.

Pat Radford

GEOLOGY

Cooking & Squashing Mantle Rock



Spinel may be made

We held our latest Zoom session - Hot and Squashed Rocks part 1 - and, with adding on a second session, we were able to show some actual specimens and answer questions. Still a few glitches on Zoom especially setting up a second session when we were in danger of being timed out after 40 minutes, but most managed to re-join. It looks as if we will have more opportunity to hone our Zooming skills in the coming weeks.

We shall give Hot and Squashed Rocks part 2 on Tuesday 14th July at 2:00 pm by Zoom. An invitation link will be sent to group members, but if you are not on the group list, but wish to join, email me and I will add you in.

So, the story so far is from Mud to Migmatite and then to Granite. This is part of the planet's recycling process and takes about 10 million years in a crunch zone as plates collide and then the granite has to be uplifted and eroded for us to see - another 290 million years perhaps!

The granites in Cornwall were formed when Avalonia crunched into Laurentia for the second time around 300 million years ago. Hot and Squashed Rocks part 2 involves more squashing and cooking of other types of rock - sandstone and limestone, together with local cooking effects. Ornamental stones and gems are formed as well as geologically fascinating rocks.

On our usual 4th Tuesday of the month, 28th July, we shall set up another Zoom session. This will be a virtual field trip that might whet our appetites for venturing out as a group next year.

Ros & Ian



HANDBELLS

The Handbells Group is waiting to be able to resume its activities. 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 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 but now, as long as the weather allows, in Jill's garden.

Wendy Talley

LUNCHEON CLUB

The Luncheon Club meetings are cancelled until further notice.
Muriel Whiting

MEDITATION

Unfortunately, Barbara Thomas will no longer be able to run the meditation group. She says "It has been a great experience and a pleasure to do and I would like to thank the members for their support".

If anyone is interesting in taking over running the Group, please contact one of the committee.
Barbara Thomas

NATURAL HISTORY

The schedule for forthcoming meetings is:

July	Meeting cancelled.
August	No meeting
September - Tuesday 15 th	10:00 am, Back Warden Reserve, Danbury. Identify plants from their seed heads.
October - Tuesday 20 th	10.00 am. ____Thorndon Park. Autumn colours.

All these gatherings are subject to the usual caveats.

Sue Browning

NEEDLEWORK

I hope you are all still doing lots of stitching, knitting and crochet to fill the hours between sunbathing and whatever else! I have completed my canvas work cushion cover and started on another - well, I had so much wool left over, but I might run out of the background colour! In between I have done a bit more of the Chinese embroidery which takes a little more concentration.



NEEDLEWORK (continued)

Wendy Driscoll has been in touch to say that she moved house in April and she sent some pictures of the knitting she has still found time to do. It would be good to hear from the rest of the group. Maybe with the loosening of the rules, we could meet in the garden sometime soon. It would be good to see you all again and to catch up, but I guess we are all in the "vulnerable" group and still need to be careful.



Ros Mercer

PHOTOGRAPHY

The Group is always open to new members, anyone interested in finding, out more about our activities, please contact me by emailing or phoning me.

Glynn Wadeson

SCRABBLE

It has been good to keep in contact by phone or email. I can't see that we can meet as a group to play but if you would like a game and weather is great so we can play outside, please contact me during the week of 20th of July and maybe we can arrange a game or two on the 23rd or nearby. Hopefully then better for September.

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

Hello fellow bowlers, I trust everyone has kept well and safe. It has been announced that bowling alleys can open on July 4th but I feel that it is too soon to commence our get togethers, I don't think we could social distance and I'm not sure about the ball hygiene. With that in mind I thought I would look at the situation again later in the year with the view of starting again in October provided it is safe to do so.

Before starting again, I will put a note in the Newsletter and I will contact all the bowlers on my list to confirm a start date. I'm looking forward to meeting up again as I'm sure we have all missed our twice monthly get togethers.

Stay safe regards

Lorna Stuart

BROOMFIELD UKULELE GROUP (BUGS)



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.

John Williams

WALKING



We held our first walk on Tuesday 16th June 2020. A suitably social-distanced 4 to 5 mile wander around Broomfield's rural/urban edge bypassing a few of the Village's important and historical sites: Broomfield Place, Broomfield Hospital, Scravels & Priors. The weather was kind to us.

Additionally, we spotted a Cinnabar Moth and its caterpillars, on the ragwort in Broomfield Place.

Our July walk will take place on Tuesday 21st July 2020 at 10:00 am. We will take the circuit around the edge of Hylands Park (the

last time we did this, a few years ago, it rained heavily - but then it was February!). We will meet in the car park off Greenbury Way (the Writtle side NOT off Three Mile Hill) at 10.00 am. As any refreshment facilities are likely to be limited - please bring a picnic.

Please let me know if you are coming. As usual mobile 07375 604506 will be operative on the day.



Malcolm Taylor

BROOMFIELD BUDDIES

Climate Change – Efforts to establish this group appear to have failed. If anyone wants to try again please contact one of the committee.

There has been no further progress on the Genealogy Group proposal. The Essex Association were to hold 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

TRAVEL CLUB

The Skipton trip has been rescheduled to 5th August 2021, all prices and details remain the same.

Skipton in the Yorkshire Dales - Thursday 5th August 2021 - 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 31st 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.

Potters on Tuesday 1st September – 3-night full board break - prices start from £279 in a twin standard room (no singles) and includes coach transfers to and from the resort plus an excursion. Full entertainment program from Potters and sporting facilities plus swimming pool. Potters is situated on the beach at Hopton-on-Sea.

At the moment this is still on.

Chris Evans

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

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
Cookery	Jacqui Barnaby
Gardening	Pat Radford
Geology	Ros Mercer
Handbells	Judy Molyneux
History	Sylvia Hempstead
Lacemaking	Wendy Talley
Luncheon Club	Muriel Whiting
Meditation	New Group Leader needed!
Natural History	Sue Browning
Needlework	Ros Mercer
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