

September 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>

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## From The Chair

As yet another month of this surreal situation rolls on, we are beginning to see signs of what the 'new normal' looks like. Sports centres are open now, albeit with restrictions, so it's now possible to go swimming, play badminton, eat at cafes and pubs and shop all in relative safety provided we get used to wearing a mask and following the basic safety guidance.

The committee will be resuming 'real' meetings from October in the village hall ( subject to re-election of course!) and we have been informed that we need to confirm by the end of September what our hall booking requirements are going to be. The large hall is currently restricted to a maximum of 37 people, so whilst we will not be resuming our large gatherings any time soon, we need to consider imminently how we wish to proceed.

Our recent poll regarding the AGM showed that only around 20 members were willing to physically attend, but it may be that going forward smaller gatherings with a speaker could be held, or maybe we could reserve space for smaller interest groups.

The small hall can safely accommodate eleven people, so we could consider hiring that on behalf of smaller interest groups.

Membership numbers have been adversely affected by the cessation or suspension of activities, and if our branch is to be able to flourish it is important that we continue to look at creative ways of safely resuming the 'paused' groups , and to identifying new types of interest groups that can operate in the 'new' circumstances.

## **2020 AGM:**

Lastly, don't forget the virtual AGM on 9<sup>th</sup> September at 10:00am.

Those members who indicated they would be prepared to attend a Zoom meeting will receive their invites with the necessary link by the 2<sup>nd</sup> September. Please check your emails and let Peter or Glynn know if you have not received one by Friday 4<sup>th</sup> latest.

(Please check Junk mail/spam folders as well, just in case!)

The current committee has significantly over-run its term of office and in order for the branch to continue it needs a fresh mandate or to be replaced. At present, no new nominations have been received and as the committee will be losing two members we will be very thinly stretched. Please do consider putting yourself forward for election, the duties are not too onerous when shared amongst a larger group! We'll email nomination papers to you by return.

Whether you are attending the Zoom meeting or not, don't forget the 2<sup>nd</sup> is the deadline for any suggested amendments or motions (along with names of proposers and seconders) and also for any new nominations for committee posts. It is vital that we have a quorum for the AGM, so if you did express a preference for the virtual AGM in the poll, please make sure to 'attend' on the 9<sup>th</sup>.

Glynn Wadson

Chairman

## Notes and Notices

### Printed Copies

We will be issuing printed copies of the gist 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>

**September update:** weather permitting, the jump is still scheduled for the 5<sup>th</sup> September and Carol is hoping that it will go ahead.

### 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](mailto:ljwhitehouse@mail.com) to register an interest.

### Fraud

#### A Personal Experience

I recently experienced an interesting line of attack. We were rung up by someone ostensibly wanting to renew the insurance on our washing machine. They were, however, offering two options (a one-off payment or monthly direct debit), for both of which they required information from us (credit card details or bank account number, respectively). Getting progressively more suspicious, I finally asked what make of washing machine they thought we had and, getting the wrong answer, I terminated the call.

Never give bank account or credit card details to anyone who rings you up, unless they can prove that they are genuine.

#### The following originated from the Essex Police

##### ***TV Licences for Over-75's***

As many of you are aware, in August 2020 there will be changes to the over-75's TV licence.

You will now only be entitled to a free TV licence if:

- You, as the licence holder are 75 years or older, AND
- You, or your partner living at the same address, receive Pension Credit.

Households that do not fall into this category will need to begin paying for a TV Licence. During August and September, TV licencing will be writing to those who need to set up a licence explaining the next steps. However, we know that criminals have been exploiting TV licencing email scams for a number of years. *(continued on the next page)*

TV licencing have provided an excellent FAQ on how to spot a genuine TV licence email but the five key points to look out for are:

1. Check the sender—all genuine emails are sent from donotreply@tvlicensing.co.uk or donotreply@spp.tvlicensing.co.uk.
2. Check for a postcode—if you have provided a postcode to TV licencing then their emails will include part of that postcode.
3. Check your name—TV licencing will address you by name. Be suspicious of any that address you as 'Dear Customer' or just use your email address.
4. Check the spelling & grammar—look for unusual hyphens and strange or missing full stops. They may also put capital letters on unusual words.
5. Check the links—always check where the links are taking you before you click on them—hover over them on a computer or press and hold on a phone/tablet.

### **And finally...**

This is something strange but not, apparently, fraud. One of our members was in the middle of a call to her sister when suddenly a woman's voice came on the phone telling them there was an emergency on the line, and to put the phone down! Our member's sister heard it as well so they just put the phone down and sat and wondered what was going on. Investigations afterwards appeared to indicate that no fraud was involved but no-one could explain how and why it happened.

If something like this happens to you, please let me (Peter Radford) know.

## MONTHLY MEETINGS

9th September

Annual General Meeting

At 10:00am  
via Zoom

At the moment all other monthly meetings are on hold until we see how things have progressed. Ursula Randall has managed to persuade all the 2020 speakers to re-book for the corresponding dates in 2021, so we have programme, if we can only carry it out. We are also investigating whether any of the speakers would be prepared to give their presentations via Zoom or some similar alternative.

After three years of arranging excellent speakers it is time for Ursula to pass on the task of Speaker Coordinator to someone else. Would you like to do it for us? Please contact the committee if you would.

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

### **ART GROUP**

At the moment, there is nothing to report on the Art Group; it relies on accommodation which we can't easily access at the moment. Members are being kept updated.

Barbara Bartlett

### **BADMINTON**

The Badminton Group's first session since lockdown will be on Monday, 7<sup>th</sup> September between 12:00 noon and 1:00 pm at the Sports Centre.

Barbara Bartlett

### **BEER APPRECIATION**

Following our previous virtual meetings at The Lockdown Inn, in July & August we were able to attend the Beer garden at the Inn itself, suitably socially distanced of course.

At the July meeting, the usual selection of topics were discussed and a variety of bottled beers were sampled. Indeed, the Group members undertook a virtual tour of the Great British Brewing countryside. We commenced our tour in Cornwall (St.Austell), moving on to Dorset (Badger), Buckinghamshire (Rebellion), Kent (Faversham Steam Brewery), Suffolk (Morland & Ruddles), Norfolk (Woodfordes), Oxfordshire (Wychwood) and finally reaching Cumberland (Jennings).



Our August meeting, due to follow a couple of days after the VJ Day commemorations, had to be postponed to the following week, due to the inclement weather. Again, it was a themed meeting, this time with a military theme. As usual various (controversial) subjects were discussed before battle commenced! The conflict was led by a Lancaster Bomber (Marston's), swiftly followed by a flight of Spitfires (Shepherd Neame). Into the attack on the ground were the Light Brigade (Robinson's Trooper – brewed to commemorate the gallant 600) followed by a pair of Harpers, or should that be harpists (Great Oakley/Marstons). Again, an excellent afternoon.

Plans have not been made for a September meeting, as the weather and health guidance may change. Watch this space.

Malcolm Taylor

### **BOOK GROUP**

At the moment, there is nothing to report on the Book Group; it relies on accommodation which we can't easily access at the moment. Members are being kept updated.

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

Unfortunately, it still isn't possible to travel by bus as a group. We'll hold over this year's programme to next year. In the meantime, stay safe and keep well.

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 miss our monthly gatherings as they have become sociable events. We look forward to meeting again but at the moment we can't predict when that will be.

Jacqui Barnaby

## GARDENING

Little Waltham Gardening Club will resume its evening meetings on 7<sup>th</sup> October with a talk by Darren Lerigo entitled "A Very British Garden". There will be only the talk, no sales, raffles or refreshments.

I have not heard what the Chelmsford U3A Garden Group is planning to do.

Pat Radford

## GEOLOGY



The Geology group continues to meet via Zoom. About 20 people joined the second part of our virtual field trip to the Peak District. This time it was to the Dark Peak. We learnt about Mam Tor and its landslide leading to the closure of the road at its foot that nature eventually carried away down the hillside with the last cracking of asphalt. We climbed up Grindsbrook, up the slope of the delta sediments forming the flanks of Kinder Scout (left) and onto the Millstone Grit of the summit. We learnt a lot about "bottom structures", "prod marks" and "graded beds" in the

sediments on the way. We didn't need to belay ourselves nor to use jamb holds to ascend Hen Cloud (right) or Stanage Edge, but we could admire the views from the top!



## **GEOLOGY (continued)**



Our next virtual trip will be a cruise to Iceland on Tuesday 22nd September at 2pm. All are welcome. If you are not a member of the Geology Group, but would like to come, please get in touch so I can send you the Zoom link.



We can promise you lots of lava and a geyser or two.

Ros & Ian

## **HANDBELLS**

Unfortunately, it is still not possible for the Handbells Group to meet at present as it would not be possible to social distance during the session.

I am reluctantly having to give up Handbells due to ongoing health problems making it impossible for me to continue playing. We are therefore looking for somebody to take over running the group and also to recruit new members to make the group viable. If anyone is interested, can they please contact me.

Judy Molyneux

## **HISTORY**

There are now a lot of rules and regulations regarding visits and a lot of work involved in sussing them out. I am going to wait a bit longer to see how things pan out.

My very Best Wishes to everyone and Keep Well.

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 Maskell'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 interested in taking over running the Group, please contact one of the committee.  
Barbara Thomas

## NATURAL HISTORY

The Natural History Group are meeting at the Back Warden Reserve Danbury on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> September at 10:30am. We will be trying to identify plants from their seed heads so bring along any books etc. you may have.

Distancing will be observed and it is probably better to travel independently.

Bring your own coffee as we can gather, at a distance, after our walk. Any new members are welcome to join us. Please let me know if you are coming as we don't want to leave anyone behind. Looking forward to seeing you.

Sue Browning

## NEEDLEWORK



Our group has not met, but I hope that you have still been productive!

I have finished the second cushion cover in Florentine canvas work and have now sent them both away to be made up. I have also knitted this pram blanket for the new "bump" in my family which will be a winter baby so I lined it with furry wool.

I hope we shall be able to meet soon to share the works of our labours and put the world to rights - I think it needs our help!

Ros Mercer

## PHOTOGRAPHY

The group has been in hibernation latterly but this will be reviewed during September to determine how and when it will recommence.

If anyone is interested in joining the group, please contact me.

Glynn Wadeson

## SCRABBLE

I've been in contact with scrabble members but it is not possible for us to play as a group. I did look into using a hall but Covid regulations are so demanding that it is not possible. Hopefully members will get together in their own homes to play with just one friend.

As soon as we can we will be back enjoying our scrabble games.

Heather Steed

## SUNDAY + CLUB

The Sunday + Group meetings are cancelled until further notice.  
Muriel Whiting

## TABLE TENNIS

I've not heard from the Leisure Centre so assume nothing happening at present and I doubt very much if the players will want to start back just yet.  
Jean Lock

## TEN-PIN BOWLING

Hi fellow bowlers, I had hoped to get back to our regular get togethers in October but having spoken to several people we all agree that it is still feels too soon. I will review the situation each month and hope we will feel safe enough to resume bowling by the end of the year. When we are due to restart I will contact everyone on the bowling list and put a notice in the Newsletter.  
Lorna Stuart

## BROOMFIELD UKULELE GROUP (BUGS)

Since March our group has not been able to meet. The church hall where we meet is still closed and when it does open we would not be able to sing, even behind masks. With that in mind, our group is unlikely to be able to meet in the foreseeable future. We hope to return at sometime in the future  
John Williams

## WALKING



We had a highly enjoyable walk around the perimeter of Hylands Park in July. It is amazing how many different types of habitat may be found within that area. We bypassed the children's play area (shame!!) by walking through the woods that form the perimeter on the west side and eventually emerged, after crossing many ditches & streamlets, at the southern boundary. Here we followed a feeder stream for the River Wid amongst more woods along the route of the Chelmsford Centenary Circle.

As we walked those immortal words from the cartoon version of Peter Pan sprang to mind "we're following the leader, the leader, we're following the leader....." – have a look at the picture.....

As we headed eastwards, traffic noise increased as we approached Three Mile Hill, here we left the route of the Centenary Circle and headed northwards along the boundary wall. Nearing Hylands House we stayed along the eastern boundary until we reached the Wid, turning again westwards. Unfortunately, since reconnoitring the route the City Council had decided to fence several enclosures and we found our way blocked (on several turns). We finally reached our starting point where some of the members enjoyed an impromptu picnic.



## **WALKING (continued)**

We did not undertake our, originally planned, longer walk in August as Covid restrictions complicated the process – not least the inability to find suitable refreshment.

In September we return to a degree of normality (?) but with another walk around Broomfield. This time we will follow part of the western parish boundary before returning to our start point.

We will meet at 10:00am on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> September in the church car park on Church Green, Broomfield. Please let me know if you are coming, so that we don't leave without you! 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

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## TRAVEL CLUB

There is a new trip planned:

**Turkey & Tinsel break to Warner Sinah Warren, Hayling Island - 4 December 2020** - 4 days 3 nights at £289 per person and just £10 deposit to book. Twin and double rooms only as singles have all been sold, although we can put names on a reserve list if required. Price includes half board, all entertainment provided by Warner, coach transfers to and from Chelmsford to resort and one excursion.

Covid restrictions are in place at the resort and on the coach.

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 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.

Chris Evans

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

## 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	New Group Leader needed!
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