

October 2020

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- Geology
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- Natural History
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- Photography
- Scrabble
- Sunday + Club
- Table Tennis
- Ten-pin Bowling
- Ukulele
- Walking

WEBSITE –

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

EMAIL -

broomfieldanddistrictu3a@gmail.com

From The Chair

First let me say thank-you to the forty-plus members who attended our first virtual AGM. It was certainly a relief after the lengthy postponement that the technology worked, and that we were quorate!

The meeting agreed that the new subscription year would henceforth run from September to August, and confirmed the appointment of the committee for 20-21 en bloc. The 'new' committee, has unfortunately shrunk, as two members stood down this time. Our thanks go to Barbara Thomas, Treasurer, and Ursula Randall, Speaker Co-Ordinator, for their invaluable service to our branch.

One or two more members on the committee would be really helpful and would help spread the workload. There are two ways to join, one by being proposed and seconded, the other by agreeing to be co-opted. If you are interested and would like to find out what would be involved, please contact Glynn or Faith by email or phone.

Roles are as you may know, allocated within the committee itself, and the key changes to date are that Gill Sturman is our new treasurer, and Peter Radford our new Membership Secretary. We have not yet re-assigned the speaker co-ordinator role, but hope to do so as soon as possible.

We are beginning to receive offers of YouTube and Zoom presentations from speakers, as an alternative to the 'physical' talks, and this form at least allows some interaction with the speaker. We are hoping to be able to offer some of these very shortly, and will keep you posted.

Those of you who read TAM will be aware also that the Third Age Trust is about to start a regular podcast, which is being streamed on YouTube. All you have to do is go to YouTube (<https://youtu.be/9zGNxpUSUAc>) and click 'subscribe' to be able to follow the channel.

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Our group leaders are continuing to try to find ways of keeping things going whether virtually or physically within the ever-changing framework of Covid 19 regulations, but please don't forget to let us have any suggestions about possible new groups or activities we can add to our 'repertoire'.

Also, if any of you would like to get together, via Zoom, simply for a chat, let us know and we'll see what we can arrange.

Last but not least, I note that the new community café in the old football club premises next to the parish hall is to open in October. I understand that there may be some opportunity to use their facilities for small groups, so we'll keep our eyes and ears open in case this may be of use to our branch in future.

Glynn Wadeson
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



I am delighted to report that Carol Rolfe's Tandem Skydive for Farleigh Hospice went ahead on the 5th September.

Her Just Giving page should remain active for another couple of months. Help her reach her target:



<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/carol-rolfe3>

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, e-mail ljwhitehouse@mail.com or by mobile, 07853 194093, to register an interest.

Essex Branch of the Historical Association

The Association, like many others, has been exploring the benefits of Zoom and our next run of speakers have agreed to deliver their talks via this medium. The first one is on Saturday, 31st October at 2:30 pm when Dr Robert Lee of the University of Cambridge History Faculty will give a talk on "*How the West Was Lost: Native American Relations.*" Dr Lee is an American historian specialising in the dispossession of Native Americans in the Western United States, as well as the formation of the US states throughout the 19th century. His talk will consider the main trends and events in the expansion of the Western United States, the acquisition of indigenous land and the policy and effects of creating Reservations. He has written widely on these topics. For more details see his website: <https://www.hist.cam.ac.uk/people/dr-robert-lee>

To join us on October 31st all you need to do is to enter the following web address: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89012164046> and then click on Open Link.

It is suggested that you do not leave joining until 2:30 pm but, rather as one would normally do, turn up some time before the start time, say from 2:10 pm. There will be an electronic queue for admittance that enables you all to be admitted one by one.

Good news! Entry is free. You can enjoy the talk and, if moved to do so, ask questions from the comfort of your fireside.

Playlists..

Intro

We've notice that some U3As post up playlists for their members to download. We'd like to encourage our members to put together their own from YouTube, Spotify, or from their own collections for other members to dip into....

We can get very set in our musical ways and then maybe we don't know what we're missin! (Of course, we may not like what we find we've been missing, but then you never know till you tried it.. It doesn't matter whether you're into Western Swing, Classical, Choral, Vera Lynn or Grime, why not share your favourite playlists!)

To start the ball rolling (ever living in hope!) here's a YouTube playlist (sorry there will be adverts) of cool women players, singers and writers from the world of Rock, pop, indie and Mongolia.

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLZHJkVjkGoV2eFvo5q0WpM19LMki5z20>

Go on, indulge yourselves and beat the Covid Blues!

And on the same theme:

Most of us grew up in the rock and roll age. If you (still) like that sort of music, may I recommend "Rock'n'Roll Heaven" broadcast by BBC Essex on Saturdays from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm and also available on BBC Sounds (search for "Rock and Roll" [sic]).

Fraud

The Latest Scams

Lying about death: - scammers are sinking to a new low with the latest money-making exercise reported by Essex Trading Standards. They have received reports of emails alleging unclaimed inheritance money from distant family members who have died from Covid-19. They state the recipient is the next of kin and can claim large sums of money, usually stated in dollars. But the scammers claim tax, duty and admin fees need to be paid up front. Anyone receiving such an email is asked to do nothing but contact Citizens Advice Consumer Service on 08082 231122.

Other scammers are after personal details by sending emails alleging TV licensing direct debits have failed. Anyone who receives such a phishing email should not click any links but forward the email to report@phishing.gov.uk. See also below.

TV Licences for Over-75's

Following up from last month's Newsletter, I recently received a letter from TV Licensing giving options for renewal (a one-off payment, or a monthly or annual direct debit) and how to apply for a free licence, if you think you qualify.

You should expect the same sometime if you've not had one already.

I would suggest that if you receive a telephone call about your TV Licence, tell them you are waiting for the letter and if you receive an e-mail, ignore it.

MONTHLY MEETINGS

At the moment all other monthly meetings are on hold until we see how things progress. Ursula Randall managed to persuade all the 2020 speakers to re-book for the corresponding dates in 2021, so we have a 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.

BROOMFIELD & DISTRICT U3A – GROUP REPORTS

ART GROUP

The Art Group have not been able to meet yet due to restrictions on numbers and availability of premises.

Barbara Bartlett

BADMINTON

The Badminton Group are managing to meet each Monday at present, although we must now use the NHS test and trace App when attending. Hopefully, we will be able to continue with this activity.

Barbara Bartlett

BEER APPRECIATION

We did not meet in September for a variety of reasons. However, unless health regulations change drastically, we will meet in October!



The Group will convene at The Ale House, near Chelmsford Bus Station at 2:00 pm on Monday 19th October 2020. Please be aware that we are limited to a group of six, table service only, cards only accepted. We will not be permitted to move tables together if we exceed six thus first come first served!

If you are coming and wish to join us, and have not already let me know, please let me know as soon as possible.

Malcolm Taylor

BOOK GROUP

Books have been ordered from the library for the Book Group, however I have been advised that there is a three week wait to obtain them. We are considering using Zoom to have our meeting, this will be decided once we're in a position to do so.

Barbara Bartlett

BRIDGE

Sadly, I still can't see a time when the Beginners' Group will be able to get together for some more tuition and play. The best you can do is sign up with No Fear Bridge and practise with them. Their activities are very good, involving bidding and playing practice, and quizzes at all levels - from Beginners to Experts. No Fear Bridge (NFB) are currently offering 3 months free trial and 25% discount on subsequent membership. That period would give you a chance to see if it suits you and whether it sharpens your skills - it does with me!! Contact me if you would like more details.

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BRIDGE (continued)

For people with some knowledge of bridge who would like to play, there is the option of Online Bridge. (Bridge Base Online or BBO is the one I play on.) If you are interested in playing, contact me and I can set up a table with you, or guide you through the process of setting up one. You obviously don't need to have been a member of the Bridge Group to contact me. It looks as if it is the only way that bridge is going to be played for some time.

I hope some of you will feel encouraged to play, either on NFB or on BBO.

Melanie Pimm

BUS PASS

I hope everyone is keeping well.

We usually take a winter break and we hope we shall be able to start again in the spring.

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

Unfortunately, Little Waltham Gardening Club's attempt to resume its evening meetings fell foul of changes in Covid-19 regulations and I have not heard what the Chelmsford U3A Garden Group is planning to do.

If you need help with your gardening before gatherings resume, I can recommend listening to "Gardeners' Question Time" (BBC Radio 4, Fridays at 3:00 pm and Sundays at 2:00 pm) and BBC Essex's Gardening Hour (Saturdays at 11:00 am), as well as, of course, "Gardeners World" (BBC 2 on Fridays).

Pat Radford

GEOLOGY



We hope you enjoyed the cruise around Iceland with added geology. Several people had been to Iceland, on a cruise, even, and were pleased to relate what they had seen to the underlying geological picture.



Our next 'outing' will be a virtual trip to glimpse the wonders of gems in Idar-Oberstein, the gem centre of Europe. Ian will take you through the history of the gem industry there and the interesting museums. See a mouth-watering array of amethyst, topaz, tourmaline and agates. This will be on Tuesday 27th October at 2pm. We will send a Zoom link to all members on our group list.



If anyone who is not a member of the group would like to join, please email me.

Ros & Ian

rosalindmercer0309@gmail.com

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

I am sorry 😞 that I haven't anything to report regarding the History Group.

I have downloaded The City Heritage Scavenger Hunt, www.chelmsfordhistorywalks.uk, for myself. It looks interesting.

Jan White has discovered a learning-on-line website. You can do short courses, many are free. See www.futurelearning.com.

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. We will meet under the rule of 6 but we will keep this under review depending on our personal circumstances and the latest guidance and the venue may vary. If anyone wants to join us, please contact me by telephone or email.

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.

NATURAL HISTORY

It is with great sadness that I have to confirm that the Natural History Group are unable to meet due to the rule of six. I will start the group meetings as soon as things improve, however I will try to keep in touch. Keep safe.

Sue Browning

NEEDLEWORK



Regrettably we are still unable to meet, but I hope you have still made progress with your various stitching, knitting and crocheting projects. I have had my cushions made up and I am very pleased with the results.

I have done a little more to my Chinese embroidery, but got sidetracked into knitting some teenager dolls clothes for my granddaughter. Rather fiddly, but I am rather taken with the miniature Aran sweater!



Ros Mercer

PHOTOGRAPHY

The Photography group has not yet been able to resume meetings in our usual premises, but continues to offer members a space to post their photos for comment within our Flickr site. Five members met on Thursday, 24th September at Hylands Park, enjoying a fine, mild day for our first socially distanced shoot. Amongst the insects, and flora, we encountered other interesting photographic subjects, such as a pair of women's shoes, a discarded pregnancy test, not to mention our members.

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

Glynn Wadson



SCRABBLE

I hope all are keeping well. It has been good to be able to see some of you and even have a couple of games too.

I hope others are managing to play scrabble too. I think it will be 2021 before we are able to all meet together.

Keep safe and well

Heather Steed

SUNDAY + CLUB

The Sunday + Group meetings are cancelled until further notice.

Muriel Whiting

TABLE TENNIS

I have been contacted by the Sports Centre to say that we can only have two tables where we would have used 4. There are no spectators allowed and only two players per table, so I conclude that only four players per session. This would not be suitable for most people but if there are members who are happy to abide by these rules, please let me know. The cost is over £14 for the two tables so the cost per player would be more.

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)

As far as I am aware we will not be able to start up our ukulele group until the 6-person rule is changed.

John Williams

WALKING

Covid Guidelines hit, again, and our September walk was cancelled. But, GOOD NEWS, we are officially recognised as an "organised physical activity" and can thus meet in a maximum group of 30. However, social distancing MUST be adhered to – I know it is difficult to keep apart when walking & talking but we MUST. If you feel unable to abide by this simple requirement please don't come – as much as we would miss you!!

Our October walk will take place on Tuesday 20th October and will be that which we missed last month - 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 10:00 am 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 and I can keep a record of attendance in case we need to share the information with Track & Trace.!. 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

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.

October update: places are still available and the final balance is now due by 30th October (the tour company have extended the date - due to current restrictions!)

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.

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	Gill Sturman	-
		-
Co-Secretary	Ann Corbey	-
		-
Co-Secretary	Judy Keily	-
		-
Speaker Coordinator	Vacant	-
		-
Membership Secretary	Peter Radford	-
		-
Group Coordinator	Pat Radford	-
		-
Committee Member		-
		-

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