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- Ten-pin Bowling
- Ukulele
- Walking

WEBSITE -

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

EMAIL -

broomfieldanddistrictu3a@gmail.com

From the Chair

Welcome to the first edition of our Newsletter in 2021. I do hope you had as good a Christmas as possible under the circumstances, and would like to wish you a truly Happy New Year!

The good news is that we are all likely to have received our vaccinations by March or April, the bad news follows that we are unlikely to see 'normal' meetings and activities resuming until after Spring, if we are lucky. I sincerely hope that I'm proven wrong on that prediction.

Meantime, we have at least managed to confirm speakers for our monthly meetings through the year, and feedback I've received has been that members attending the two Zoom meetings so far have greatly enjoyed them, which is good to hear.

I'm also pleased to note that there are five groups which have now met up successfully using the Zoom platform. Anyone wishing to start up another just let me know. Advice and practical support are available.

Members may also have noticed that the U3A logo has been changed, and subscribers to Third Age Matters will be aware of the ways in which our parent body is attempting to modernise and improve the image and reach of the organisation in these challenging times. We have updated our website and masthead of the newsletter accordingly.

Thank you all for continuing to support our branch in spite of the restrictions on our activities.

I look forward to seeing you at our next meeting on 13th January.

Glynn Wadson

Notes and Notices

Talks

Essex Branch of the Historical Association

Talks have been arranged for January and February. The details are:

Saturday 9th January: "After Boudicca: Being Roman in the land of the Iceni" by Dr Will Bowden, Nottingham University.

Saturday 6th February: "Teaching Interventions in History: Why it matters and what history teachers have learned about how to do it well" by Dr. Christine Counsell, Director of Education. Cambridge University

Both talks are at 2:30 pm - join on Zoom from 2.15 p.m. For both talks the Zoom url is <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89012164046> and the Meeting ID is: 890 1216 4046

Inland Waterways Association

The Inland Waterways Association have a number of talks scheduled for January and some of their previous talks (including an excellent one on "Enhancing Chelmsford Waterways") are also available on-line. Go to <https://www.waterways.org.uk/iwa-tv> for details.

Lockdown Learning

Gresham College

Gresham College offers a whole range of talks, some of which form parts of series. They cover a huge range of subjects. Past lectures are also available. For details go to <https://www.gresham.ac.uk/>.

While the Gresham College talks are free, I believe, there are charges for enrolment on the courses offered by the organisations listed below.

Oxford University Department for Continuing Education

Oxford University offers a number of courses including one on Archaeology, Creative writing, Economics, Environment, History, History of art, Languages, Literature, Natural sciences, Philosophy, Politics, and Technology. Go to www.conted.ox.ac.uk.

Bishopsgate Institute

Our Chair Glynn has recommended the Bishopsgate Institute as a source of interesting courses.

The url for the institute is: <https://www.bishopsgate.org.uk/whats-on>.

Ronnie Hanna

Ronnie Hanna, a lecturer in history in the Open Learning Programme at Queen's University Belfast, is offering a number of courses, mainly on recent history of the United Kingdom and the USA (Dawn of the British Century, Cowboys, Morning in America, 1944, and The Tories).

For details, e-mail Ronnie at ronnie.hanna@btinternet.com.

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Futurelearn.com

Both Jan White and Faith Marchal have recommended Futurelearn.com. Have a look at <https://www.futurelearn.com/>.

Fraud Update

Fraud doesn't stop over Christmas and the New Year. Here are a few useful sources of information.

"Which?": Five banking scams to watch out for in 2021

Find out how to protect your bank account from the latest threats

<https://www.which.co.uk/news/2020/12/5-banking-scams-to-watch-out-for-in-2021/>

"Which?": The strangest scams of 2020

There are details of some interesting scams that can be found be found at:

<https://www.which.co.uk/news/2020/12/the-strangest-scams-of-2020/>

Cyber scams and how to avoid them

When it comes to online scams, a little knowledge can save you a world of trouble.

A useful guide comes from McAfee:

https://www.mcafee.com/content/dam/amer/scammer_education/en-us.html

NatWest: Stay safe and secure

There's some useful guidance to be found at:

<https://personal.natwest.com/personal/fraud-and-security.html>

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.

MONTHLY MEETINGS

Currently, we have two more presentations arranged via Zoom; more are being organised. The link for the January presentation should be in the e-mail that distributed this Newsletter. If, for any reason, you didn't get the link, please contact Glynn or Peter (details on the Committee page).

Both presentations should start at 1:30 pm and the Zoom meeting should be opened up by 1:00 pm. Don't leave it too close to the start time to connect in.

After three years of arranging excellent speakers, it was 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.

13 th January	A Conspiracy History of the World	Andy Thomas
10 th February	The Century of Deception... <i>The Birth of the Hoax in the Eighteenth Century'</i>	Ian Keable

The usual calendar has been omitted from this edition of the Newsletter

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

Badminton has been suspended by the Council, now we're in tier 4. We'll be able to start again once the situation changes.

Barbara Bartlett

BEER APPRECIATION



We did meet on 21st December 2020 but regretfully our numbers were limited. Whilst it gave us an opportunity to meet friends and acquaintances, a facility severely limited by Tier 4, we had been unable to meet the challenge of finding a "Christmas" beer. However, we were able to discuss the varying merits of different shop-bought mince pies! (I think Waitrose won!!).

The ongoing Tier 4 situation, not improving in the surrounding areas, will



ensure that opportunities for a Group meeting by any other than electronic means is limited. I shall continue to circulate the Group members regarding a 'Zoom' meeting in January (anticipated as 18th January 2021) but will be guided by the majority view.

Hoppy New Year

Malcolm Taylor

BOOK GROUP

The Book Group are currently reading a novel by Liz Nugent entitled "Lying in Wait" and will review this sometime in January via Zoom.

Barbara Bartlett

BRIDGE

If anyone is interested in playing bridge online, whether they are members of the Bridge club or not, please contact me for details.

Melanie Pimm

BUS PASS

I hope you were able to enjoy a good although different Christmas and wish everyone a healthy new year.

This month we'll meet by Zoom on Friday 15th January at 2:00 pm for a virtual trip around Thaxted, Saffron Walden and Audley End. I'll send out the link a couple of days beforehand to those who joined us last time. If you would like to be added to the list, please drop me an email.

Carol Greatrex

cafra2great@greenbee.net

CANASTA

The Canasta Group would normally meet 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

I am happy to be able to tell you that the Chelmsford U3A Garden Group will continue its meetings, via Zoom, in 2021. I don't have details yet, although I expect the meetings to be in the afternoons of the fourth Thursdays of the month. If you would like to join these meetings, please let me know and I will forward details as and when I have them. (Their Garden Group has said "We are very happy to have Broomfield U3A members attend any Garden group meeting.")

Pat Radford

GEOLOGY

As I said in last month's newsletter, we shall go to the North West Highlands of Scotland, by Zoom of course, and look at the most ancient rocks in the British Isles as well as some spectacular scenery.



This is a repeat of an earlier session, but there is so much to see and such a huge

expanse of geological time to consider that I'm sure there are things you missed before. It will be on Tuesday 26th January at 2:00 pm. Book your place now!!



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GEOLOGY (continued)

I shall send out details to those on my list nearer the time. This includes several new faces who we were pleased to welcome to our last talk. The invitation is open to all, so do get in touch to be added in. I'm sure that going somewhere by Zoom will help to satisfy our forbidden urge to travel just a little.



Ros & Ian

HANDBELLS

There is nothing new to report for the Handbells. We are still unable to meet with the current restrictions and nobody has offered to run the group.

Judy Molyneux

HISTORY

I am afraid as regards the History Group I have nothing to report.

I can only hope along with everyone else that 2021 will see us get back to some kind of normality.

Sylvia Hempstead

Jan White

LACEMAKING

The lacemaking group is no longer meeting due to Tier 4 regulations and the weather.

Wendy Talley

LUNCHEON CLUB

The Luncheon Club meetings are cancelled until further notice.

Muriel Whiting

MEDITATION

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

NATURAL HISTORY

We met up for our Christmas Walk at Maldon. There were lots of Lapwing, which was a nice surprise as there have not been many over recent years.

The programme for 2021 will be published once I know what we are permitted to do.

Sue Browning

NEEDLEWORK

Several members of the group have indicated that they would like to get together via Zoom, so perhaps we can try this on the fourth Friday - one of our usual meeting days - Friday 22nd January at 2:00 pm. I shall send the Zoom link to group members and all you have to do is click on the link and then click to open the Zoom app with video and sit in front of the screen while you knit, stitch or crochet - and chat, of course.



I have knitted a few more little cardigans for my new granddaughter and I have just found a pattern for a wonderful crocheted blanket, but since I am very much a novice at crochet, I shall need a few lessons before I tackle it. I think I shall wait until we can meet face-to-face! I hope that at least members of this group have something to show for the lockdown.



Ros Mercer

PHOTOGRAPHY

Membership of the group is currently 10-11 strong, and we are using Zoom for our monthly meetings, held on the third Thursday.

The 'Share Screen' option allows us to share our photographs within the group and after the inevitable teething troubles, we seem to have 'mastered' the technology.

Members shared the fruits of their endeavours in the previous 'challenge' of taking photographs using ICM, or 'Intentional Controlled Movement' (deliberate and creative blurring to you and me) and we had some excellent and inspired results.

We also explored using PowerPoint and iMovie as ways of displaying collections of photographs, and are looking into putting together a short collection for sharing at a future monthly U3A meeting.

New members are always welcome, and if you'd like to learn how to get the best out of your camera and your photography, or share your skills, and have a laugh whilst doing so, just contact me, Glynn, by phone or email.

Glynn Wadeson

SCRABBLE

A happy new year to you all. We hope this year finds you well and safe and we will soon be able to eventually manage to play some games of scrabble, even if outside. I don't know if any of you managed a game over Christmas but I've still to play. Please just keep looking here to see when we can begin.

Heather Steed

SUNDAY + CLUB

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

TABLE TENNIS

I am sorry to say that table tennis is still off for the foreseeable future – what a shame. Roll on the vaccine.
Jean Lock

TEN-PIN BOWLING

Hi fellow bowlers, I hope you all had a pleasant Christmas and New Year. Unfortunately, still no news about resuming our bowling but as soon as we all have had the vaccine and lockdown ends, I will be in touch with you all with the new dates.
In the meantime, keep safe.
Lorna Stuart

BROOMFIELD UKULELE GROUP (BUGS)

The Ukulele group will not be able to meet until there is a change in circumstances.
John Williams

WALKING

"Oh, the January man, he walks abroad in woollen coat and boots of leather".

Well, it's certainly the weather for both! Regretfully the current level of restrictions mean that we are unable to meet in a group of more than one; thus, for the foreseeable future I cannot see any walks taking place.

However, I am very much aware that our traditional January walk was very well supported. I will therefore be sending a copy of the walk description and the associated Covid risk assessment to all members of the Walking Group. This will enable you all to get out and about, on your own or with one another, and enjoy the walk. You will have to imagine the Tulip's log fire I'm afraid.

Have a safe walking new year.

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.

Before that there's a new trip:

Heythrop Resort, Chipping Norton in the Cotswolds Monday 12th April 2021 - 5 days, 4 nights
Prices are on a half-board basis (breakfast & dinner) and include coach travel, 2 excursions & entertainment £359.00 per person in a twin/double room £409 per person in a single room (waiting list only). This hotel has recently been purchased by Warner Leisure but is not as yet being sold as a 'Warner holiday'. At the heart of Heythrop Park resort lies the grade-II listed manor house, an opulent imposing hotel that promises traditional charm, historic hospitality and no shortage of wow factor - it comes highly recommended.

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	-
		-

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