

Newsletter February 2021

- 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

I'm pleased to hear that a number of our members have now received their Covid jabs! Let's hope that the supply of vaccine to the various vaccination centres goes smoothly so the rest of us can be done by March. (Fingers and toes very tightly crossed!)

Of course, it's too early to confidently predict when 'Lockdown' will end, but barring a miracle it is looking as if Spring will be the earliest, and Summer the more likely.

Looking ahead, our monthly meetings will continue to be held on Zoom until further notice, and there may be a delay in returning to physical meetings even after Lockdown, as we will have to re-book a meeting room, and consider what numbers can be safely accommodated in the post lockdown era.

Your committee will be considering whether to continue to hold Zoom meetings alongside physical gatherings in the future, along with other options. Once we have a clearer idea of timescales, we will of course consult all members on the options.

I'm pleased to say that after having held three meetings on Zoom so far, feedback has been predominantly positive on the presentations. Please do let us know your views, positive, negative or mixed!

Glynn Wadeson

Notes and Notices

Talks

Essex Branch of the Historical Association

After an excellent talk in January, further talks have been arranged for February and March. The details are:

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.

Saturday 6th March: "Essex's Great Petition, 1642: The Historian's Puzzle and the Family Historian's Dream" by Professor John Walter, Emeritus Professor of History at the University of Essex.

Housed in the Parliamentary Archives is a little-known 1642 Petition from the county of Essex to Parliament. This unique, detailed source provides a window on the county on the eve of the civil war. The thousands of signatures (and marks) suggest popular attitudes to Puritans and Parliament in the context of contemporary conflict and protest before the civil war. The collection of names village by village provides a family roll call. However in pasting names onto parchment rolls, many towns and village names were lost. This talk reports on the progress of a project to reassemble this giant puzzle in order to reconstitute a "census" of Essex's mid-seventeenth century population.

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 February 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.

Other u3a Newsletters

There are two Newsletters in which you might be interested.

U3A Headquarters produces a monthly National Newsletter, which contains a whole range of information. You can subscribe to it by going to <https://www.u3a.org.uk/newsletter>. All you then need do is enter your name, e-mail address and select the region ("East of England").

There's also "News from the East", a much shorter Newsletter covering the East of England specifically. We have not (yet) found a way of subscribing to it. The January edition can be found at:

https://mcusercontent.com/656ad5962b370cc9e2731d1ed/files/b45840e0-d3ac-4c52-ae29-48851f2d76a2/News_From_The_East_January_2021.pdf

(continued on next page)

Lockdown Learning

U3A

The U3A has multiple learning activities for you to explore: go to <https://u3a.org.uk/learning/national-programmes>

Mirthy

We have been contacted by an organisation called Mirthy, who “broadcast educational and entertaining online talks by the best public speakers for U3A Clubs and members across the country”.

Mirthy broadcasts a free talk every Thursday which is open to anyone to join (recently they had over 1,500 people joining from across the country!) and a talk on Tuesdays for which they charge £2.99.

For details go to <https://mirthy.co.uk/talks/>

If anyone tries any of their talks, please let me know what you think of them.

King Lear Prizes

King Lear Prizes is a national creative arts competition, during the COVID-19 pandemic. The competition is specifically for amateurs and beginners who are over the age of 65 and the current round of the competition runs until Friday 19th March 2021.

The competition accepts entries in poetry, real stories (short stories from people’s lives), art and musical performance, and there are over £2,000 of prizes on offer. The winners will be picked by our panel of expert judges including Gyles Brandreth and Julian Lloyd Webber.

Their website gives more information about the competition and the organisation which runs it! <https://www.kinglearprizes.org.uk/>.

Fraud Update: “Which?” and HMRC Scams

I hope you have submitted your 2019/2020 tax return by now but watch out for scammers posing as HMRC. HMRC received 915,762 [sic] reports of HMRC scams in 2020, with more than half of these offering fake tax rebates. Generally, an HMRC scam will take the form of rebate offers or warnings that you’ve missed a deadline. This year, particularly cruel scams have exploited the economic difficulties of the pandemic, and confusion around the government’s rapidly changing guidelines. Scammers are using increasingly sophisticated techniques, meaning it can be easy to be conned if you’re not paying close attention. Read more:

<https://www.which.co.uk/news/2021/01/look-out-for-these-hmrc-scam-tactics-in-2021/>

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 several more presentations arranged via Zoom and more are being organised. The link for the February 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).

The February presentation 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.

10 th February	The Century of Deception... <i>The Birth of the Hoax in the Eighteenth Century'</i>	Ian Keable
10 th March	Stay Tuned – I could say something brilliant at any moment	Ray Clark
14 th April	The Wandsmen of St Paul's Cathedral	Patrick Wilkins
12 th May	Suffragettes and the Petticoat Rebellion	Lucy Allen
9 th June	<i>Topic and speaker to be confirmed</i>	
14 th July	Wildlife Photography	Tom Way

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, while we are in lockdown. We'll be able to start again once the situation changes for the better.

Barbara Bartlett

BEER APPRECIATION



We again had a limited Zoom meeting in January and once again put the world to rights. What will we do now we have lost "The Donald" as a topic of conversation? However, we must not forget the main reason for the Group's existence and again a variety of ales were sampled – this time we went north to Scotland and south to a strong IPA from Kent. Who knows where our continuing 'aleventures' will take us!

Again, I will circulate the Group members regarding a 'Zoom' meeting in February (anticipated as 15th February 2021) – late for Valentine's Day and too early for Pancakes (possibly).

Malcolm Taylor

BOOK GROUP

We met up via Zoom on Friday, 29th January and discussed our latest book choice, "Lying in Wait" by Liz Nugent. Lydia Fitzsimons lives in the perfect house with her adoring husband and beloved son. There is just one thing Lydia craves to make her life complete and she is determined that her husband will get it for her. The last thing she expects is that her obsession will lead to murder. Once again members were divided in their views and the average score was 6/10.

It was decided to select individual book choices for discussion at our next meeting which will be in approximately 6 weeks' time. If anyone wishes to join us please get in touch with me.

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

It was lovely to see so many of you last time, including people who for one reason or another aren't able to join the group's normal activities.

This month we'll have a look around the Maldon area on Friday 12th February at 2:00 pm. As before I'll send the link a couple of days beforehand to people on my list. If you would like to join us please drop me an email.

Carol Greatrex

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

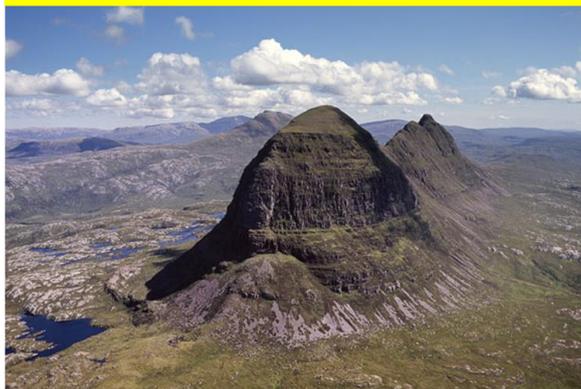
For January, Chelmsford U3A's Gardening Group organised an excellent talk by Roger Hance about 'Wildflowers of the Countryside' and how to photograph them.

Their next meeting, on Thursday 25th February at 2:00 pm will be a Zoom talk by Richard Rickett, the co-editor of Bee-Craft Magazine, who will talk on 'Gardening for Bees'.

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

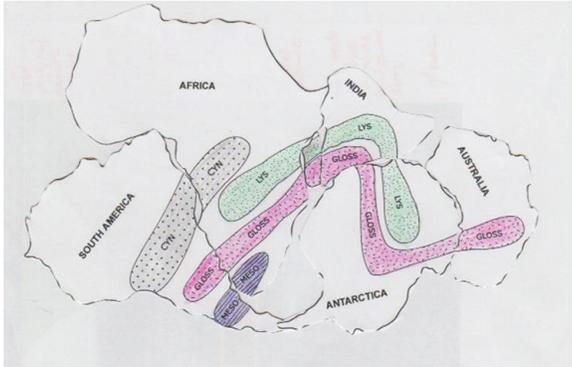
GEOLOGY



Well, we certainly had our minds stretched looking at the story in the rocks of the North West Highlands of Scotland. All those who joined us on Zoom did very well coping with over three quarters of the age of the Earth - 3.500 million years. Continental fragments waltzed round the globe crashing into each other and gradually building up the continental masses we know today. The results were lots of very squashed and squeezed rocks and some spectacular scenery.

(continued on the next page)

GEOLOGY (continued)



Our next session - by popular request - will be more on Moving Continents. The theory of how bits of continent have moved around the globe, called 'Plate Tectonics' was arrived at within our lifetimes. We shall tell the story of how this idea developed, fuelled by the Cold War, and how it now underpins the understanding of the rocks we see. Especially for those who struggled to keep up with the Lewisian gneiss, Torridonian



sand, Cambrian quartzite and Moine schist last time, we shall rehearse the fundamentals of these ideas which are now much more than a theory.

This session will be on Tuesday 23rd February at 2:00 pm. The Zoom link will be sent to members of the group a few days beforehand. If you are not on my list, but would like to see this presentation, please email me.
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 still 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

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

NEEDLEWORK

We had our first Zoom meeting last month which was a great success. I don't think that those who joined got much knitting, crochet or stitching done, but it was really good to catch up and we had a new member too.

We shall try this again and make it a regular happening on the second and fourth Fridays when we have usually met. The dates will be Friday 12th and Friday 26th February at 2:00 pm.

I'll send the Zoom links nearer the time to those on the list, but do email me if you would like to join us.

Wendy sent some photos of the baby cardigan and hat sets that she has completed and I managed to get all the ends sewn in on the Fair Isle cardigan

I made and I have now completed it except for buttons, having used up all my supply and not being able to get out for more! I am now teaching myself to crochet with the aid of my daughter-in-law's Christmas present, which I have yet to give her - The Ultimate Crochet Guide - and videos on Youtube. Maybe I shall start on that throw pictured last time!



Ros Mercer

PHOTOGRAPHY

The Photography group continues to meet via Zoom, which offers us a platform for sharing photos and on-line editing.

We are currently compiling a selection of photos from our Flickr site for a PowerPoint presentation to the monthly meeting.

New members are always welcome, just contact me for information, or if you'd like to join us.

Glynn Wadeson

SCRABBLE

I hope everyone is keeping well. Sorry no Scrabble yet. I think we will have to wait until we can play it outside. I'm enjoying watching the game Lingo. At least I can attempt to make words there and sometimes before the contestants.

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

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

"The February man still wipes the snow from off his hair and blows his hands;"

Snow and heavy frosts – good solid ground for walking, but regrettably we are unable to do so at present. Whether things will change mid-February we will have to see.

As we cannot walk. I thought you might like to join me for a virtual walk. We'll travel back in time to April 2019 and walk the last 120 kilometres of the Camino de Santiago. If you would like to join me, for a very short presentation at 2:00 pm on Tuesday 16th February 2021, please let me know and I will send you the link. (Then you can have your pancakes afterwards!!)

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 & Speaker Coordinator	Faith Marchal	-
		-
Treasurer	Gill Sturman	-
		-
Co-Secretary	Ann Corbey	-
		-
Co-Secretary	Judy Keily	-
		-
Membership Secretary	Peter Radford	-
		-
Group Coordinator	Pat Radford	-
		-

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