

Newsletter November 2021

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- Table Tennis
- Ten-pin Bowling
- Ukulele
- Walking

WEBSITE -

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

EMAIL -

broomfieldanddistrictu3a@gmail.com

From the Chair

Well, we managed to make the quorum for our AGM by the skin of our teeth, and thanks are due to those doughty members who 'phoned a friend' to persuade others to come aboard so that we could avoid having to reconvene. We will circulate the minutes to everyone in next month's newsletter.

Autumn is now very much in evidence with a marked drop in temperatures, and worryingly, an increase in the number of hospitalisations from Covid! A number of our members have I understand now received their booster jabs, with the remainder in line for November/December which is at least some good news in these difficult times.

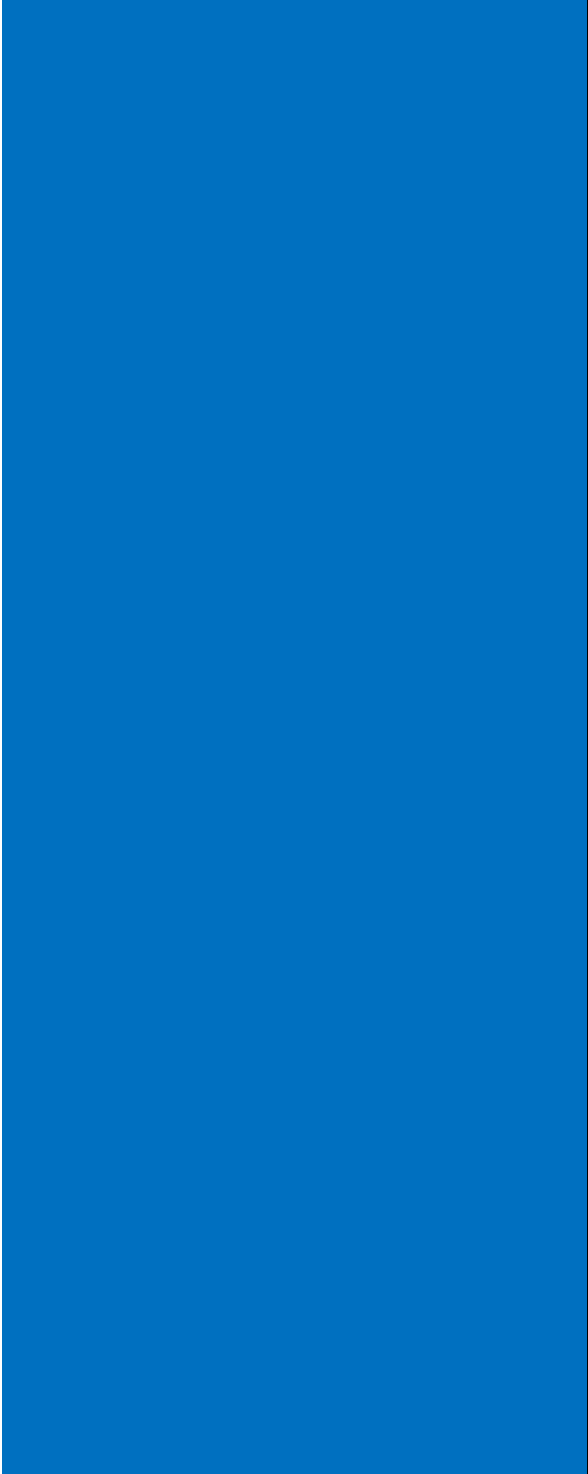
Bearing in mind the continued low attendance at our monthly Zoom meetings, the wishes of those attending the 'social' meeting, and the willingness of our speaker to deliver his presentation in person, the Committee have decided to hold the 8th December meeting in the village hall rather than by Zoom.

There is currently a capacity limit of 75, so as before, we would ask anyone wanting to attend to contact Peter Radford, membership secretary within seven days, indicating if you propose to bring a guest.

Refreshments will be available, and we will also hold another raffle to help cover our booking costs and overheads.

We have managed to book the room earlier than before to give us more time to set up, so we can minimise delays in getting everyone in! Seating like last time will be around tables rather than in close rows.

In order to maximise your safety and wellbeing and that of other members and their guests, we would request that



everyone is prepared to wear a facemask unless exempt due to health reasons, and has had at least two vaccinations.

At the risk of stating the obvious, please do not attend if you are showing symptoms of Covid-19, or if you have been asked to self isolate by the NHS Track and Trace system.

Glynn Wadeson
Chair

Notes and Notices, October 2021

Membership Matters

We have started to distribute Membership Cards, together with card-holders and lanyards. Thanks go to some of our Group Leaders for acting as intermediaries in this process. We will try to distribute the remainder over the next few weeks.

Talks etc

Essex Branch of the Historical Association

On Saturday, December 4th, Ben Cowell will talk on Historic Houses Now: Keeping Them Meaningful for Future Generations. The talk will be illustrated with examples from different Historic Houses properties, including those in Essex. Ben is the Director General of Historic Houses, which represents 1,500 independently owned country houses across the UK and has 57,000 general members. This talk can be accessed on Zoom from 2.15 p.m. on the stated date ready for a 2.30 p.m. start. Just log in via <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89012164046>

The full programme can be seen on the branch's new website <https://essexbranchha.com>.

Gresham College

Highlights this month include Professor Chris Whitty on Food and Drink-Borne diseases; Professor Edith Hall on Ancient Greek & Roman Libraries and Professor Thomas Grant QC on Free Thinking and the Rule of Law. Plus Professor Joanna Bourke speaks about Perversion and Professor Sarah Hart looks at the Maths of Beauty and Symmetry. For details go to <https://www.gresham.ac.uk/>.

Inland Waterways Association

The IWA now has many of its presentations online at <https://waterways.org.uk/iwa-tv>. This site also contains links to some future presentations.

Fraud

Which? – Pension Scams

Because people now have the option to release their retirement savings, scammers no longer need to access the money directly from a pension scheme. Increasingly, scammers are persuading people to transfer their savings from the safety of established pension schemes into inappropriate or even non-existent investments. Here are three common warning signs that you might have been approached by a pension scammer:

- Free pension reviews that appear out of the blue
- Offers to help you release cash from your pension pot early
- Unregulated financial advisers and investment companies

Read more at: <https://www.which.co.uk/news/2021/10/i-feel-humiliated-depressed-and-angry-the-devastating-impact-of-pension-scams/>

Which? – Fake Ads

Which? is also reporting that Bing and Google are still showing fake adverts aiming to dupe consumers into bank transfer scams.

Read more at: <https://www.which.co.uk/news/2021/10/fake-ads-rife-on-bing-as-investment-scams-jump-84/>

Radio Times/BBC

Paul Lewis, of BBC's "Money Box" programme, writes: I expected the latest figures for the money stolen from bank accounts to be bad. But even I didn't expect them to show a rise of 80 per cent in the first six months of 2021. In that time, £300 million was stolen from the bank accounts of more than 100,000 individuals by thieves who deceived them about who they were.

The most serious of these crimes, where often more than £10,000 is stolen, is bank transfer fraud (banks call it "authorised push payment fraud"). A caller rings out of the blue claiming they are from your bank and your money is at risk. If you are suspicious, they tell you to check the number on your caller display; the thief will have "spoofed" it so that it shows as a genuine bank number. You are then told they have set up a safe account for you and you must move your money to it. All they need you to do is to read them a code when it is sent to your phone. Whoosh! The money vanishes.

These frauds more than doubled in the first six months of 2021. Barely half the money stolen from any fraud has been reimbursed by the banks – despite a Code, which they signed up to in May 2019, to refund stolen money when the victim was innocent.

The latest attempt to stem these losses is a single number to ring if you suspect you are being defrauded. If you are a customer of Barclays, Bank of Scotland, Santander, Halifax, Lloyds, NatWest, Royal Bank of Scotland, Starling or Ulster Bank, hang up after your suspect call, then ring 159 (it costs the same as a national rate call); a single digit press of 1 to 9 will then put you through and you can check whether your bank has been trying to contact you.

McAfee

E-mail hacking: there are some useful tips to be found at:

<https://www.mcafee.com/blogs/internet-security/what-to-do-if-your-email-is-hacked/>

Other Scams

Scams don't have to involve computers! Have a look at Esther Ranzen's column in "Third Age Matters" (Autumn 2021, number 48)

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

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.

And Finally.....

I've had an e-mail from the University of Lancaster looking for volunteers to help transcribe the notebooks of Sir Humphry Davy, so that they can be made accessible to the world. They say:

"The Davy Notebooks Project (wp.lancs.ac.uk/davynotebooks) is currently doing some exciting research, with the help of the public, that may be of interest to your members. We and an international community of over 1400 volunteer transcribers are currently transcribing, using the people-powered research platform Zooniverse, Sir Humphry Davy's (1778-1829) handwritten notebooks (around 70 in all), many of which have never been transcribed before. Davy was the leading chemist of the early nineteenth century, but also a poet, moving in the same circles as Lord Byron, Samuel Taylor Coleridge, and William Wordsworth. His notebooks contain not only chemical notes and poetry, but also material encompassing philosophy, medicine, geology, mathematics, astronomy, and more. Anyone interested in any of these topics, or science or history more generally, will surely find much of the material we're making freely available - in most cases for the first time - stimulating."

Their Zooniverse project page is <https://www.zooniverse.org/projects/humphrydavy/davy-notebooks-project>

TRANSPORTATION/AVIATION GROUP

There's been a suggestion that there might be some members interested in setting up/participating in such a group. Anyone interested, please let Pat Radford, Group Co-ordinator know and we'll convene an initial meeting to share ideas.

MONTHLY MEETINGS

Currently, we have several more presentations arranged via Zoom and more are being organised. The link for the November presentation should be in the e-mail that distributed this Newsletter. If, for any reason, you didn't get the link, please contact Glynn (details on the Committee & Group Leader's pages).

10 th November	The Topsy Turvy World of Gilbert and Sullivan	Jim Stebbings
8 th December	Growing up in the 60s (with a touch of Christmas)	Ray Clark
2022		
12 th January	The Ancient Egyptian Language	Janet Brewer
9 th February	A visitor's guide to the ancient Olympics	Neil Faulkner
9 th March	Charles Darwin, Triumph and Torment	Margaret Mills
13 th April	In the Footsteps of.....others	Malcolm Taylor



It would be great if the branch simply ran itself, but unfortunately it needs a little help to keep going.

Right now we could do with some extra help with growing our membership and developing after such a prolonged period of difficulty.

We're not looking for any specific skills, just enthusiasm and willingness to set aside a little time each month for committee meetings and associated tasks.

To join the committee, all you have to do is complete a simple nomination form, have it signed by a branch member and submit it to committee prior to the AGM in October.

To get a form, or for a chat about the role, contact Glynn Wadeson - Chair



CARPET BOWLS

**MONDAYS AT THE VILLAGE HALL
BROOMFIELD**

1.30 pm to 4.15pm - £3 pp

EVERYONE WELCOME

For further details: phone 0776 180 3986.
E-mail : broomfieldcbc@gmail.com



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

BROOMFIELD & DISTRICT U3A – GROUP REPORTS

ART GROUP

Our first meeting since lockdown took place on Thursday, 7th October and although we were a very small Group spent a very pleasant couple of hours drawing/painting as well as having a good chat. Our next meeting will be on Thursday, 25th November at 10 am. If you would like to join us please contact me.

Barbara Bartlett

BADMINTON

Our next session will be on Monday, 1st November between 12 - 1pm at the Chelmsford Sports Centre, Melbourne.

Barbara Bartlett

BEER APPRECIATION



We resumed our socialising in a “real” pub in October with seven of us in attendance. This was an opportunity for us to sample the latest real ales being served by the Railway Tavern. November will see us hold our annual ‘Festive’ Pie & Pint Lunch – it avoids the Christmas rush and enables us to sample some ‘Christmassy’ offerings in December!! We will meet in The Castle at Great Leighs on Monday 15th November. Please let me know if you are coming so that I can ensure sufficient seating and (most importantly) let you know the transport arrangements.



Malcolm Taylor

BOOK GROUP

We met on Saturday, 23rd October in Broomfield Library where we discussed The Body by Bill Bryson. This was another of those marmite books, you either love it or hate it. The members who attended were split in their opinions with the average score being 6/10. Our next meeting will be on Saturday, 27th November at 2pm in Broomfield Library where we will be discussing Trespass by Rose Tremain.

Barbara Bartlett

BUS PASS

Due to increasing covid cases and the fact most of us were still waiting for our booster jabs, the October trip was cancelled. We now take our usual winter break and will resume in the spring.

Carol Greatrex

CANASTA

I am starting up the Canasta group again starting 2nd October and meeting on the 1st and 3rd Mondays as before shut down. This is for information only as we are full and I cannot accept anyone else into the group.

Marie Mackie

COOKERY

Still not able to meet for our monthly meal ,Hope it won't be too long before we are out of lockdown.

Jacqui Barnaby

GARDENING

On Thursday November 25th the Chelmsford U3A Garden Group is starting its programme of Winter talks. The first one will be at Boreham Village Hall at 2:00pm. The charge is usually £2 towards the cost of hiring the hall.

Little Waltham Garden Club has its next meeting on Wednesday November 3rd at 7:30pm. The Group meets in The Memorial Hall in Little Waltham - Robin Carsberg will give a talk on "The Gardens of South Cornwall."

Pat Radford

GEOLOGY

We all enjoyed playing with patterns to help us to understand the internal arrangements of atoms in crystals. These are reflected in the shapes we see and properties such as cleavage as well as the way crystals interact with light.



A RUBY SOLITAIRE RING

Our next session will extend these ideas into the use of certain minerals as gemstones. On Tuesday 23rd November, we shall have a presentation on Gems, the Inside Story once again together with lots of practical examples to investigate and just wonder at. This will be at the usual time and place 2pm.

Do bring your hand lens and any examples you would like to share.



Ros & Ian

LACEMAKING

The lacemaking group continues to meet on the 1st and 3rd Fridays of each month (and the 5th when there is one) at Jill's at 2pm. New members are always welcome and we can provide all the equipment and materials needed to get you started.

Wendy Talley

HEALTH MATTERS

If you are interested joining a monthly group concerned about health matters then please email me. I am proposing to hold a preliminary meeting on 9th November at Barbara Bartlett's house (18 Glebe Crescent) at 2pm. At this gathering, we will discuss when, where and the format etc of this group as well as to air our views, ideas and suggestions of topics to hear about. Even if you can't make this meeting, please still email me to register your interest. I should like to thank Barbara Bartlett for agreeing to host this meeting.

Gill Sturman

LUNCHEON CLUB

I know that I have not contributed in the monthly Newsletter for over a year now, so felt it only right to let you know that I am still here and prepared to carry the group on once hospitality opens up. Having said that, I do feel at this stage our monthly meeting will be very different, as having the numbers we used to get (20+ sometimes) with social distancing it will not be the same but feel we must try to get back to some sort of normality.

I will keep the group posted once we have specific guidelines. Stay safe everyone

Muriel Whiting

MEDITATION

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

NATURAL HISTORY



On a blustery but unusually mild October morning 7 of us visited Newland Grove Nature Reserve.

The meadow areas had been cut and cleared leaving space for the spring growth next year. We noted many seed heads (Agrimony, Teasel, Selfheal and Knapweed), and a colourful display of berries. The Spindle bush was alight it's pink and orange berries and the red berries of White Bryony were lace amongst the blackthorn bushes which were laden with sloes. Nature's store of food for the winter.

On such a windy day we weren't expecting to see many birds, but we were rewarded by a Kestrel seeking shelter in a tree. Those of us who walked home to Little Waltham were lucky enough to spy a Heron and a Jay.

There's always something to see in the great outdoors, whatever the weather.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 16th November 10.30 am at Phyllis Currie Nature Reserve.

Report - Maggie Williams

Photos of the Fruits of the Forest - Francis Greatrex

Sue Browning

NEEDLEWORK

Sonia and Eileen are the new leaders of the craft group which meets on the 2nd and 4th Friday of the month. The 2nd Friday is at the home of Sonia Hudson and the 4th Friday at the home of Eileen. Hope some of you will join us.

Sonia Hudson
Eileen Chapman

PHOTOGRAPHY

The group meets on the third Thursday of the month at the United Reformed Church, Little Waltham, 10-12. Our meetings offer an opportunity for continued learning and development of skills in a friendly, informal and non-competitive environment.

New members are always welcome. Please contact Glynn Wadeson for more information or if you'd like to join.

Glynn Wadeson

SCRABBLE

We will be meeting on the 4th Thursday this month on Thursday November 25th at 2pm at the Methodist Church Hall.

To cover the hire of the hall please may I ask you for £3 for the afternoon. This will include a cuppa. I will send an email reminder nearer the time but would appreciate if you could let me know whether you will be coming.

All new members are welcome.

Heather Steed

SUNDAY + CLUB

The Sunday + Group meetings are cancelled until further notice.

Muriel Whiting

TABLE TENNIS

I have booked at Melbourne two different days of the week to try and accommodate everybody.

Tuesday, 9th November at 11.30 for an hour
Thursday, 25th November at 11.30 for an hour.

Cost either £1 or £2 depending on how many play. At present I have booked two tables so if you could let me know nearer the dates whether you are able to come, then if necessary I can request two more tables.

Jean Lock

TEN-PIN BOWLING

Hi fellow bowlers, bad news from the bowling alley, we have heard that the owner is having student accommodation built over the alley so its not expected to reopen till next year so sadly we won't be getting our twice monthly tenpin fix until 2022. As soon as i get news i will contact every

bowler personally and put an update in the newsletter.

Lorna Stuart

BROOMFIELD UKULELE GROUP (BUGS)

The Ukulele Group continues to meet usually monthly in the Little Waltham URC. At present dates are variable and dependent on the availability of the URC. New members are always welcome. For more information contact John Williams

John Williams

WALKING

"The poor November man sees fire and wind and mist and rain and Winter air:"

It was a small group that set off to walk that part of the Saffron Trail from Broomfield to Great Waltham. It was a little blustery but the weather was kind to us. It also enabled us to have our first lunch gathering after a walk.

Despite the expected weather conditions the ground was firm and solid underfoot and most fields already ploughed or harrowed. A final diversion through the playing fields & Model Village took us to the Rose & Crown for a warming lunch.

As our December meeting is almost on top of the festive period our planning meeting will be held at the Royal British Legion Social Club, Saxon Way on Tuesday 16th November at 10.30am.

Please let me know if you are coming so that I can make sure we are able to sit together, and make sure of our coffee/tea & cake!!

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.

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

GROUP LEADERS

Art	Barbara Bartlett
Badminton	Barbara Bartlett
Beer Appreciation	Malcolm Taylor
Book Group	Barbara Bartlett
Bus Pass	Carol Greatrex
Canasta	Marie Mackie
Cookery	Jacqui Barnaby
Gardening	Pat Radford
Geology	Ros Mercer
Health Matters	Gill Sturman
Lacemaking	Wendy Talley
Luncheon Club	Muriel Whiting
Meditation	New Group Leader needed!
Natural History	Sue Browning
Needlework	Sonia Hudson Eileen Chapman
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

New Group Leaders needed!

Any volunteers to run a History Group?

Any proposals for new groups?

Contact the editor for inclusion in next month's newsletter *or* if you'd like to talk it over first, please contact Pat Radford, our Group Co-Ordinator.

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