

Newsletter January 2022

- Art
- Badminton
- Beer Appreciation
- Book Group
- Bus Pass
- Canasta
- Cookery
- Gardening (with Chelmsford U3A)
- Geology
- Health Matters
- 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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broomfieldanddistrictu3a@gmail.com

From the Chair

Hello Everyone, and welcome to your first newsletter of the New Year. I hope you all had a good Christmas and wish you all the best for a healthy and happy New Year.

As I write this, it's still not clear whether or not we'll have any new restrictions imposed due to Omicron (I still can't rid myself of the image of a Doctor Who arch-villain whenever I hear the word) but unless social gatherings of 50+ are to be banned, we have resumed regular bookings of the village hall for our monthly gatherings from and including January. It was great to see and chat to so many of you at the last meeting



You will still need to let Peter Radford know as quickly as possible if you wish to attend and as before, we will require masks to be worn unless eating/drinking and ask that if you have not been vaccinated or have cold-like symptoms you do not attend for the well-being of your fellow members.

Now, you might have noticed my bit of artwork next to this intro. It might seem a little melodramatic for the start of a new calendar year, but there is still a large, very stubborn elephant in the room which needs to be addressed and that is the need for replacement committee members.



We can't afford to leave this unresolved until the next AGM, as winding up preparations will need to happen in the Summer if we don't have volunteers to take over the running of the branch. As has been said before, we can offer opportunities for any would-be committee members to learn what's involved, and to sit in on committee meetings, so please, don't leave it too late, contact myself or Faith, our Vice-Chairperson if you're willing to be involved or would like more information.

Looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible on the 12th January,

Best regards

Glynn W.

Notes and Notices, January 2022

Introduction

I'd like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a Happy and Healthy New Year.

A Research Project - volunteers needed

I've been contacted by a 3rd Year Medical Student at the University of Nottingham, Khaleah Lewis-Vaike. As part of a research project, Khaleah is looking for volunteers to interview in order to learn more about their experiences of retiring during the pandemic. The volunteers should

- Be aged over 65 and
- Have retired during the pandemic or no more than 6 months before it began.

Interviews can take place remotely (via phone call or video call) or in person.

If anyone is interested in being a part of this project, then please contact Khaleah via mzykl8@nottingham.ac.uk

(As a minor warning note, I have not been able to verify Khaleah's bona fides but the e-mail address looks OK; just be careful about what information you supply.)

Talks etc

I've not had updates from the likes of Gresham College <https://www.gresham.ac.uk/lectures-and-events>, the Inland Waterways Association <https://waterways.org.uk/support/ways-to-get-involved/events> or the Essex Branch of the Historical Association <https://www.history.org.uk/branches/resource/1203/essex-branch-programme> but details of their forthcoming talks can be found on their web sites.

I was going to highlight a talk scheduled to take place in mid-February about the world's first public radio broadcasts, from Writtle a hundred years ago, but COVID has cast its shadow on this. I'll give full details in the February Newsletter if it's on. Keep the evening of Tuesday, 15th February free! Finally for now, Historic England have, at last, put online the talk about Mills that I mentioned in December. The url is:

[https://historicengland.org.uk/services-skills/training-skills/online-training/webinars/recordings/webinar-on-industrial-heritage-part-4-textile-mills-of-the-north-the-impact-of-reuse-and-regeneration/\(!\)](https://historicengland.org.uk/services-skills/training-skills/online-training/webinars/recordings/webinar-on-industrial-heritage-part-4-textile-mills-of-the-north-the-impact-of-reuse-and-regeneration/)

Fraud

Co-operative Bank

I received a useful guide from the Co-operative Bank. I've summarised the non-bank-specific points below.

Too smart to get scammed? That's exactly what fraudsters want you to think. In 2020 alone, unauthorised fraud in the UK totalled £783.8 million. No matter your age, wealth, or wellbeing, fraudsters see you as a target.

Unfortunately, fraudsters are getting smarter, more sophisticated and more believable all the time. They will impersonate organisations you know and trust - like the Police, our Fraud Department, or even companies such as Amazon. For example, criminals are currently sending text messages claiming to be from Royal Mail, asking for payment to deliver a parcel and including a link to a fake webpage.

Prevent yourself from becoming a target

Prevent yourself from becoming a target

- Neither the Bank nor the Police will ever ask you to move your money to another account to keep it safe.
- Avoid using a search engine to access online banking.
- If someone calls and tells you to download something, or to click on a link in an email, then asks you to log in to your account, stop! It's a scam!
- Fraudsters may know your mobile number and email address, so never click on any links that ask you to complete information or 'log in'. And don't call any numbers sent by text, call the number from the website.
- If you are in any doubt about a person who has called you, hang up! Call back using a number from their trusted website to check it was genuine.

Be aware that emails can be hacked. So, if you're paying an invoice or bill, tradesman or solicitor, it's important to check the account details with the person or company BEFORE making a payment. Call and check using trusted contact details.

HMRC

HMRC has released a fraud warning urging all self-assessment taxpayers to watch out for fake tax communications ahead of the tax return deadline on 31 January 2022. Scammers will commonly text or email people to say they're owed a tax rebate from HMRC, often with a link that asks the person to fill out their personal details in order to claim it. This is usually a way to harvest people's personal details to use in other scams.

Phone scams are on the rise, too. The past year has seen a 21% rise on the previous 12 months, with HMRC receiving more than 327,000 reports of suspicious phone calls. We've heard many reports of automated phone calls telling people they owe tax and that HMRC has issued a warrant for their arrest – unless they pay the tax they owe. Of course, anyone who does make a payment will find their money goes straight into the scammer's pocket!

For more see: <https://www.which.co.uk/news/2021/11/hmrc-issues-tax-scam-warning-to-self-assessment-taxpayers-heres-what-to-watch-out-for/>

DVLA

The Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) is warning motorists to watch out for scam emails and texts. Scammers impersonating the DVLA have been targeting motorists in recent weeks with attempts to gather personal and financial details from them. The DVLA has also issued warnings over rip-off third-party websites charging hefty fees for processing DVLA applications. These dodgy services can be tricky to avoid, often appearing high up in search results on Google and Bing. In the past 12 months, the DVLA has reported that it's also received over 800 reports of unofficial rip-off services offering driving licence renewal services to over-70s, which can in fact be done for free on the DVLA's official Gov.uk website.

How to avoid a DVLA scam: the DVLA says it never asks for a reply to emails or text messages. Even if the text or email appears to be from the DVLA, if you're asked for payment details or to log in to your account, it's a scam. When applying for a DVLA service, check the website address and make sure you only use a 'Gov.uk' website. Suspicious emails can be reported by forwarding them to report@phishing.gov.uk. A text that you suspect could be a scam can be forwarded to 7726 – a free scam text reporting service.

If you've clicked a link within an email or text that you suspect is a scam, don't share any personal or financial details on these websites. If you've already shared bank details or card information, contact your bank immediately.

For more see: <https://www.which.co.uk/news/2021/12/scam-dvla-texts-and-emails-target-motorists/>

Martin Lewis

Finally, I should mention that I've recently received several e-mails purporting to come from the financial guru, Martin Lewis, some of them extolling the virtues of Bit-coin. While I have no proof that these are not genuine, I am very suspicious of them. Be careful!

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.

MONTHLY MEETINGS

We have resumed regular bookings of the village hall for our monthly gatherings from and including January 2022. **Please note** our January Meeting will start at 2.00pm

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

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

BROOMFIELD & DISTRICT U3A – GROUP REPORTS

ART GROUP

We will be having a session in January, the date is to be arranged. If you are interested in joining us please contact me.

Barbara Bartlett

BADMINTON

Our next session will be on Monday, 10th January between 12 - 1 pm at the Chelmsford Sports Centre, Melbourne.

Barbara Bartlett

BEER APPRECIATION

A small group undertook the challenge to see what festive “delicacies” were available for quaffing at the Ale House. A variety of ales were tasted including an 8.4% - which might account for short memory loss of the event.



We shall return to the Ale House, adjacent Chelmsford Bus Station to sample their New Year collection on Monday 17th January 2022 at 2.00pm. Please let me know if you are coming

Malcolm Taylor

BOOK GROUP

Our next meeting will be on Saturday, 29th January at 2pm in Broomfield Library where we will be discussing The Jeweller’s Wife by Judith Lennox.

Barbara Bartlett

BUS PASS

Nothing to report this month. I hope we are able to enjoy some trips out later this year.

Carol Greatrex

CANASTA

The Canasta Group has restarted, 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

We had a meal together in December and hope to continue in the New Year. We are continuing our Hearty Soup and Pudding meals on Friday January 14th.

Jacqui Barnaby

GARDENING

Chelmsford U3A group will have its first meeting of 2022 in February. Details should be available for our next newsletter.

Little Waltham Garden Group meets on Wednesday 2nd February when George Lockwood will give a talk on "Plants for Silty, Sandy and Clay soils" George is a professional of many years experience, who will be able to give advice on which plants to grow in which type of soil.

Pat Radford

GEOLOGY



Our next session will be on Tuesday 25th January, by foot or by Zoom, depending on the situation. We shall be exploring one of the origins of gem minerals - pegmatites - pods of large mineral crystals that are associated with igneous rock intrusions. This will be at 2pm with lots of lovely specimens to look at or if not, I will send a Zoom link. Bring your hand lens and any Christmas rocks you may have been fortunate enough to receive. We might even have some mince pies left.

Ros & Ian

01245 441201

rosalindmercer0309@gmail.com

HISTORY

If you're interested in the idea of an occasional or regular history topic/discussion group please let me know and I'll convene an initial meeting to discuss format and ideas.

Glynn Wadeson

LACEMAKING

The lacemaking group continues to meet on the 1st and 3rd Fridays of each month (and the 5th when there is one) in limited numbers 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 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

No report this month.

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

01245 440762/07980197213
01245 266508/07743754060

sonia.hudson1@sky.com
endchapman@live.co.uk

PHOTOGRAPHY

Held every Third Thursday in the month at Little Waltham United Reformed Church from 10-12pm. Beginners and Improvers are always welcome. Next session Thursday 22 Jan 22.

This month's recommended Photography streaming video from You Tube 'The Photographers Eye is on Composition. Just click on the following link. (apologies for the ads.) <https://youtu.be/AIGCix0Z-Tw>

Glynn Wadeson

SCRABBLE

As I write this before Christmas I have in my diary there will to be Scrabble on Thursday 27th of January at 2 pm in our Methodist Church hall. As always I will confirm this on the Monday 24th and kindly ask if you are coming.

Please new members always welcome. We just play scrabble for enjoyment. You don't need to be clever with words

Happy New Year to you all.

Heather Steed

SUNDAY + CLUB

The Sunday + Group meetings are cancelled until further notice.

Muriel Whiting

TABLE TENNIS

I have booked just one date in January in view of the current situation as I write this at the end of December, Thursday, 27th January at 11.30. Cost £2 at Chelmsford Leisure Centre, Melbourne.

Happy New Year to everyone and looking forward to more friendly games of table tennis.

Jean Lock

TEN-PIN BOWLING

Hi fellow bowlers, I hope you all had a good Christmas & New year and your resolution was the same as mine ,for a safe & healthy 2022.

The ten pin bowling is still on hold, the city bowls web site is saying early 2022 so let's keep our fingers crossed that it is soon. I will be in touch with you all as soon as I have a date to start. Stay safe

Lorna Stuart

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BROOMFIELD UKULELE GROUP (BUGS)

The Ukulele Group has started to meet again on an ad hoc basis. We plan to regularise our meetings in the New Year. We are a friendly group and we would welcome any ukulele players/ players of any instruments/ singers who would like to join us.

Pat Platt

WALKING

*"And the January man comes round again in woollen coat and boots of leather
To take another turn and walk along the icy road he knows so well
The January man is here for starting each and every year, Along the way for ever."*

As with the January man we will be following a route we know so well. On Tuesday 18th January 2022 we will meet at 10.30am in the car park of The Tulip at Springfield. At this point in time I have been unable to contact them regarding any potential for refreshments – I will keep you posted!

Please let me know if you are coming, as usual mobile 07375 604506 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.

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	Pat Platt
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