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WEBSITE

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

EMAIL -

broomfieldanddistrictu3a@gmail.com

From the Chair

I'm I write this a couple of days after storm Eunice took down a 30' Eucalyptus in my garden and a 70' Leylandii in next door-but-one's. The latter fell into one of my Ash trees and took out a few lengthy branches in the process! I heard from one of our members that his greenhouse exploded, but I already knew that as several pieces of polycarbonate from it flew into our garden, 200 yards away. He did ask if he could have them back, but sadly they'd already flown away again by then..

UFO OVER BROOMFIELD



© Win Ayling

Are we going to see more regular storms of this magnitude as part of climate change I wonder?

For those who were fortunate enough to attend Professor Pretty's excellent presentation on what we can do as individuals to mitigate against climate change , we learned that whilst time is fast running out for us to make an impact, there's still some hope, and there are simple things we can all do to help keep the planet habitable in the decades ahead.

There's still time to save our U3A branch too, but only if some more members are prepared to offer to join committee. The time commitment is pretty small, the rewards of playing a key role in maintaining and developing the branch are great. So, please, don't leave it till it's too late, get in touch and we'll deal with any questions you may have.

Glynn Wadeson
Chair

Celebration of 40 years of u3a

Chelmsford branch are organising a Summer party on June 1 to celebrate 40 years of u3a. They have asked if we'd like to join in.. If you would like to attend, or help with organising this, we need to know so we can advise Chelmsford as soon as possible.

If you would like to attend an outdoor event, please send your name to Judy Kiely (secretary) by March 9th.

Notes and Notices, March 2022

This month's "Notes and Notices" draws rather heavily on "Which?" but if the advice is good, it's worth repeating.

Talks etc

Gresham College's March highlights include Professor Alec Ryrie on "How Protestant Missionaries Encountered Slavery"; Professor Chris Whitty on "Infections That Use Touch to Transmit" and Professor Joanna Bourke on "Monogamy". Also, booking is now open for the Lord Mayor's lecture on 4 April, "People and Purpose; Putting Positive Social Impact at the heart of Economic Growth". See <https://www.gresham.ac.uk/lectures-and-events>, for more details.

The remaining three talks in the Essex Branch of the Historical Association's 2021-2022 season will still be on Zoom. They hope to resume face-to-face meetings in the Autumn.

On Saturday, March 5 Katherine Cockin, Professor of English Literature at Essex University, will talk on Edith Craig and the Art of Theatre. Katherine has researched extensively in the lives and work of Ellen Terry, the 19th Century actor and her daughter Edith Craig (1869-1947), the influential theatre director and activist in the women's suffrage movement. Edith was the leading director of women's suffrage drama and in the 1920s she promoted amateur theatre and sparked several new art theatres. This talk will explore her achievements, how she came to influence others and some of the processes at work that have overshadowed her theatres of art.

On Saturday, April 2nd Professor Adam Smith, Edward Orsborn Professor of US Politics and US Political History at Oxford University, will talk about The Trump Legacy. He is an expert on the American Civil War and its consequences. His website <https://www.univ.ox.ac.uk/academics/adam-smith/> gives fascinating detail about his research and publications. His expertise has frequently been called on by Radio 3 and Radio 4 programme makers.

On Saturday, May 7th Dr Michael Rowe, Reader in European History at King's College, London, will talk about The Napoleonic Empire. Michael is an expert on the history of France and Germany and on the theme of the growth of the state and nationalism in Europe. You can read all about his research and publications on his website <https://www.kcl.ac.uk/people/michael-rowe>.

All talks start at 2.30 p.m. with Zoom access from 2.15 p.m. at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89012164046>, meeting ID: 890 1216 4046.

Fraud

"Which?" has noticed that following the spate of Omicron related phishing emails we saw at the beginning of December, they've been made aware of fake text messages being sent, employing similar tactics. The NHS does contact people via text in some cases, but would only ever ask you to order a test via the GOV.UK site (<https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>). Contact tracing only takes place in England via <https://contact-tracing.phe.gov.uk/>. Texts like this linking to sites that have nothing to do with the NHS can be forwarded to 7726 (spells SPAM on a phone keyboard).

Also “Which?” has seen examples of fake Amazon emails many times, but a new example claiming your account has been ‘locked’ could look genuine enough to deceive you if you don’t take a moment to assess it. Its layout is slick – the branding looks genuine and the message is clear: act now or all your ‘pending orders’ will be cancelled. It even adds a sense of panic by claiming that ‘the billing information you provided did not match the information on file’ with the card issuer. But when you take a step back from the initial surprise at getting an email prompt from ‘Amazon’, you’ll soon start to spot the signs of a fake. The text contains a number of obvious errors including missing words, typos, and claims that just don’t add up. Investigating the sender’s email address further will also reveal that they have absolutely nothing to do with Amazon (not shown here). Its ultimate goal is to encourage you to click through to a site where you’ll be asked to input sensitive personal information, likely including your bank details.

“Which?” has also reported that more fake text messages are trying to trick people into following potentially malicious links. This time they’re targeting Santander customers with ‘new payee’ notifications in different ways. The first message tells the recipient that a ‘new direct debit’ has been established to a ‘Ruby Davies’ based in Glasgow. This name has presumably been made up entirely – the recipient had never heard of them, and the link is nothing to do with Santander. The text appears convincing, but it’s attempting to panic you into following its own URL. If you receive a message like this and aren’t sure if it’s real, make contact with your bank via its genuine channels instead.

Money Matters

“Which?” says that Winter can be financially draining. Vehicle problems, inefficient heating, seasonal ailments, and unexpected injuries to pets are just a handful of reasons you might be left out of pocket. But with the cost of living also rising exponentially, causing concern for households across the country, finding ways to save money has never been more important. “Which?” has produced seven quick ways to cut costs and avoid unnecessary pay-outs this winter. Read more at <https://www.which.co.uk/news/2022/02/seven-easy-ways-to-save-money-this-winter/>.

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

See also the ad on the next page regarding the new u3a podcast

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.



The u3a radio podcast has now launched on podcast platforms, including Apple, [Spotify](#) and [Google Podcasts](#). The episode can also still be listened to on our [u3a YouTube channel](#), with captions.

In the January episode, the team discuss the Kindertransport learning initiative, talk to a member of u3a in Australia and hear about the milestone of 5,000 trees being planted in the u3a 40th anniversary wood.

Please do share this with your members and, if you or a member of your u3a has a story to share with u3a radio, please [get in touch](#).

Check Your Spam Folder

Are you or any members of your u3a missing out on u3a emails? It may be that they are going into junk or spam; you can avoid this happening by reporting them as not spam or by adding our email address into your contacts. Please also regularly check your spam folder.

MONTHLY MEETINGS

Our **March** meeting will be held at the Parish Hall when Margaret Mills will enlighten us regarding Charles Darwin. **Please advise Peter Radford (peterradford799@btinternet.com) if you are coming, by Monday 7th March 2022 AT THE LATEST PLEASE.**

The revised arrangements we have made over the last two meetings seem to have worked well. Seating at well separated tables with lots of circulation space, rather than in close rows, besides reducing risk, has contributed to a more convivial atmosphere.

We will, as a courtesy to others be requesting. that face masks be worn whilst entering and moving around the meeting'

We will be resuming the charge for refreshments at the meeting but to minimise queuing please put the money in the cup left on the tables.

Raffle proceeds have been a great help towards covering (increased) hall hire charges.

9 th March	Charles Darwin, Triumph and Torment	Margaret Mills
13 th April	In the Footsteps of.....others	Malcolm Taylor
11 th May	Women's Lives and Work in 18 th -19 th century Essex	Dr Jane Pearson
8 th June	The Great American Songbook	Jim Stebbing
13 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

A meeting is to be arranged for this month. If you are interested in joining us please contact me.

Barbara Bartlett

BADMINTON

Our next session will be on Monday, 7th March between 12 - 1 pm in the Chelmsford Sports Centre, Melbourne.

Barbara Bartlett

BEER APPRECIATION

We had an interesting meeting at the Hop Beer Shop in February – spoilt for choice with a number of excellent cask & keg beers on offer in a “compact” environment.

It is becoming increasingly difficult to find an establishment serving real ale that is (a) open before 4.00pm and (b) open on a Monday!



We will hold our March meeting on Monday 21st March 2022 at 2.00pm in The Ivory Peg (Wetherspoons), New London Road (next to M&S). With a choice of 22 real ales available all year and a further 34 available this quarter (*not all of 'em at the same time!*) we might just be able to find something.....

Please let me know if you are coming.

Malcolm Taylor

BOOK GROUP

We met up on Saturday, 26th February in Broomfield Library where we discussed Skin Deep by Liz Nugent. This is a story about Delia O’Flaherty who is as wild, remote and as dangerous as her island home off the west coast of Ireland. Her adoring father tells her that one day she will be Queen of Inishcrann. However, tragedy leaves Delia alone in the world, to make her way relying on her wits and rare beauty. Once again reviews were mixed with comments such as, weird, page turner, dark, hated it, loved it! The average score was 6/10. Our next meeting will be on Saturday, 26th March at 2pm in Broomfield Library where we will be reviewing One Enchanted Evening by Anton du Beke.

Barbara Bartlett

BUS PASS



Our first visit of 2022 will be on Friday March 18th to Warley Place to see the spectacular spring flowers. The daffodils in particular should be at their best. There are limited buses past the site (buses stop at the entrance) and we shall need to change bus in Brentwood but I think you will agree it will be worth the effort. The reserve is maintained by Essex Wildlife Trust who request a small donation (there is a donation box for the purpose). There are no facilities on the reserve but there is a pub next door, the Thatcher's Arms, which could be useful! We should arrive at 11.20 and there are just two options for the return journey. Please let me know as soon as possible if you are coming when I will

give you full details.

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

The cookery club is taking a break as one member is ill.

Jacqui Barnaby

GARDENING

For those who enjoy cacti and succulents we have had an invitation from the Chelmsford branch of the British Cactus and Succulent Society. They are having their show, with displays and sales, on Saturday 23rd April at Rawreth New Village Hall.

The show is open from 10:30- 5:00 pm and entry costs £3.

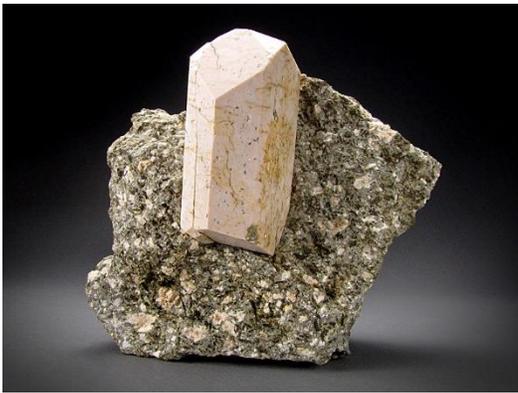
If there is anyone who would like to go, please contact me for detailed directions.

The Chelmsford U3A Gardening Group have a visit to Warley Place (on Thursday 24th March. The Warden, Mick Hedges, will give a tour of the Nature Reserve & Dark Lane. Cost £4.

As parking is restricted it is recommended that we share cars. There is a lunch option at the adjacent Thatcher's Arms – where those lunching can park.
Once again if you wish to attend please let me know by Friday 18th March 2022.

Pat Radford

GEOLOGY



At our session last month we discussed the structure of the Earth (and the Moon), the division of the crust into plates and had a look at rocks and how they are recycled by Earth processes. All this was backed up by considering the evidence used by geologists to create these models. We had fun discussing where rocks should be placed on a giant Rock Cycle chart, including where we ourselves fit in.

At our next time on Tuesday 29th March, , we shall look more closely at Rocks and the Minerals of which they are made. Do please bring any rock or mineral samples you would like to discuss and maybe identify and of course a hand lens is essential to see minerals in rocks. We would like to welcome back those who have been in the group in the past and, of course, we would love to see new members.



Ros & Ian

HEALTH MATTERS

For our second HM session, we had to resort to it being via zoom. We talked about 'Pain and its control' and learnt why we need the sensation of pain but the problems of chronic pain were discussed. The next meeting will be led by Ros Gunning, who will talk about 'Exercise'. This session will be held on Tuesday, 8th March. New members are always welcome but please let us know if you wish to attend.

Gill Sturman

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

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

I'm sorry to report that due to the inclement weather, the planned visit in February to Newland Grove Nature Reserve was cancelled.

However, a new date has been set: TUESDAY 22nd MARCH. Meet at the Chelmer Bridge, Mill Lane Broomfield where we will be met by the warden from the Reserve and walk to and through Newland Grove. Suggested donation of £3.00 per person.

Maggie Williams for Sue Browning

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. Hope some of you will join us.

Sonia Hudson
Eileen Chapman

PHOTOGRAPHY



Glynn Wadeson

SCRABBLE

We will be having our monthly Scrabble afternoon on Thursday 24th March 2pm

Cost £2.50 -£ 3.00. New members always welcome. Please come to join us.

Heather Steed

SUNDAY + CLUB

The Sunday + Group meetings are cancelled until further notice.

Muriel Whiting

TABLE TENNIS

Two dates for table tennis in March. At Melbourne, at 11.30, cost £2 for the hour.

Thursday, 10th March
Thursday, 24th March.

Do hope this suits everyone. Please come along and have a friendly game (not too serious!)

Jean Lock

TEN-PIN BOWLING

Hello bowlers, not good news I'm sorry to say. The owners are doing more extensive building than first anticipate and they don't expect to open until the end of the year.

I am going to try the bowling at Maldon and Braintree to get my tenpin fix and will look into group booking while I am there and will report back.

Lorna Stuart

BROOMFIELD UKULELE GROUP (BUGS)

The Ukulele Group has now resumed its regular meetings at the United Reform Church in Little Waltham. We meet every first and third Thursday of the month. We start at 2pm and the session lasts for two hours. There is plenty of free parking.

We are looking for new members to join our group. These can be players of other instruments and/or people who just enjoy a good singsong.

Pat Platt

WALKING

It was not the best of days for a February walk, but it was "interesting" to see the contrasting building styles as we undertook a circular walk around the various Beaulieu construction sites/developments. What once had been arable land has been replaced with housing – of which least said.

Our aim was to find the remnants of the Chelmsford Centenary Circle and then follow it around to

come back past the frontage of New Hall School. Using the latest satellite imagery (that must be a first for us) we were able walk through the housing and out into areas (currently) untouched towards Generals Lane & then passing Bulls Lodge quarries return in front of the remnants of Henry VIII's Hunting Lodge.



We ended our walk with a warming cup of coffee or chocolate!

We will be going a little further afield in March. A pleasant walk along the sea wall at East Mersea, spotting some of the wartime coastal defences before a pub lunch and then home. Our walk is just over 4 miles.

We shall be car sharing (approx. cost £5 a head) and will meet in the Royal British Legion car park, Saxon Way, Broomfield

Please let me know if you are coming (so that I can ensure the pub has the right number) and if you are willing to drive. 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.

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	-
		-