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WEBSITE

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

EMAIL - broomfieldanddistrictu3a@gmail.com

From the Chair

Hello again and welcome to May's Newsletter.

I'm pleased to report that fifty-six members attended our last monthly meeting to hear Malcolm's entertaining and informative presentation 'Following in the Footsteps of..' This was just about our highest attendance since we resumed face to face meetings.

I would like to mention though, that several members who we were expecting didn't attend, whilst others turned up without prior notice, which fortunately didn't cause any problems with seating on the day. With our current seating arrangements it is important for us to know if you are coming, at least a few days ahead, and similarly, if your arrangements then change and you're unable to attend please inform Peter Radford.

A little reminder..Saturday June 4th is Jubilee celebration day and for u3a, its' much belated '40th' anniversary. Thank you to those who've offered to help out on the stall, but we could use a little more help to staff it, or to promote your group or activity, for an hour or two on the day. Please contact me asap if you can help in any way. (The event takes place between 10.00am -5.00pm)

Last but definitely not least, we welcome your contributions, such as original artwork, cartoons, poems, short articles or maybe your recommendations (or otherwise) of books, films or plays we can share with fellow members. Don't be shy! Send any material to the editor, (for June & July 2022 to Peter Radford,) or for any tech queries, contact me,

Glynn Wadson
Chair

Notes and Notices, May 2022

Lost and Found

After last month's meeting I found a small purple pen on one of the tables. It has an organisation's name on it but is very nice. If you think it is yours, please contact me - I might require you to tell the name of the organisation.

Talks etc

On Tuesday 17th May, Tim Wander will give his talk on the "The Centenary of British Radio Broadcasting". It will be given in the Northumberland Lecture Theatre at Writtle College starting at 7.30pm (doors open from 6.45pm). Tickets are £5.00 (including refreshments) and to avoid queueing at the venue **MUST BE PURCHASED IN ADVANCE** from www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/2mt-writtle-1922-2022-the-centenary-of-british-broadcasting-tickets-259542276937. There is also a limited-edition Centenary book for sale at £11. The book can be pre-ordered by going to www.2mtwrittle100.co.uk.

Gresham College's highlights this month include the next part of Professor Joanna Bourke's Modern History of Sex, on "Abstinence"; an online-only lecture by Professor Chris Whitty on "The Future of Health Globally"; a practical lecture on "How to Value a Stock" by Business Professor Alex Edmans, and a lecture on Bernini by Dr Loyd Grossman. Also, details are now confirmed for Emeritus Gresham Professor and Nobel Laureate Sir Roger Penrose's lecture, "The Journey from Black-Hole Singularities to a Cyclic Cosmology", on 9 June. ((See <https://www.gresham.ac.uk/lectures-and-events>, for more details.

The remaining talk in the Essex Branch of the Historical Association's 2021-2022 season will be on Zoom. (They hope to resume face-to-face meetings in the Autumn.) 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? Money" has analysed 14 months of data collated by Action Fraud, the fraud and cybercrime reporting centre. From November 2020 to December 2021, individual victims lodged a total of 448,838 fraud reports. Between them, they lost £1.9bn. These figures are shocking enough, but they represent just a fraction of the ONS' estimated number of offences as so much fraud goes unreported. To read more go to <https://www.which.co.uk/news/article/the-12-emerging-fraud-threats-to-watch-out-for-ad2T82w8ri9Y>

Finally, financial services company, Hargreaves Lansdown, looks at investment scams and how to spot the signs to help protect you and your money. Details are at

<https://www.hl.co.uk/news/articles/investment-scams-how-to-spot-the-signs-to-help-protect-you-and-your-money>.

Money Matters

“Which?” has an interesting and quite comprehensive article on “How to find cheap car insurance”. More details are at <https://www.which.co.uk/money/insurance/car-insurance/car-insurance-reviews/how-to-find-cheap-car-insurance-a2w188j8m68j>

“Which?” has also compared supermarket prices. Obviously, the comparisons depend on what went into the baskets but you can find more details are at <https://www.which.co.uk/news/article/which-was-the-cheapest-supermarket-in-march-2022-aLzsv6d7NJzw>

Finally, “Which?” has found a number of errors in state pensions; see <https://www.which.co.uk/news/article/six-state-pension-errors-uncovered-could-you-be-owed-money-aOpt99P04jL2>

Cybercrime Scams Seminar’

As previously mentioned, a cybercrime scams seminar is being planned on one of two dates, Wednesday October 26th or Thursday October 27th at Christ Church, New London Road, Chelmsford.

This is a joint meeting with Baddow and Chelmsford) and we need to confirm how many would like to attend and date preferred.

Please email Peter Radford ASAP to confirm a) whether you’d like to book a place b) which date would be preferable so we can inform Chelmsford , the organisers.

U3a Conference - OPEN TO ALL MEMBERS

We are edging closer to our big conference on 19th May in Chelmsford, and the team are looking forward to seeing as many of you there as possible. The time has come to meet together again, renew friendships and meet new colleagues. We have been isolated for too long!

If you have not yet booked, please do so on the following link: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSebr7__u9uzFZNWBilLasKmm7SCGz9qBCmR-nS4A4XPOTrHG3g/viewform?usp=sf_link

How about sending this newsletter to all your members so that everyone is aware of this opportunity. A free lunch, excellent speakers and a chance to be part of the larger U3A community. Car sharing would be a good idea.

See you there!!!

Barbara Cordina – Trustee, East of England

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.

+++STOP PRESS+++



As you know we are joining the Parish Council in celebrating HM Queen's Platinum Jubilee on Saturday 4th June on the playing fields at the Village Hall. We will have a stand/stall and need people to staff it from 10.00am – 5.00pm. No need to do the lot (we know you would like to) an hour is all we need. Please contact Glyn



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

The revised arrangements we have made over the last few 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.

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 calendar has been omitted from this edition of the Newsletter

Broomfield Cottage Gardeners' Society will be holding a **CHARITY PLANT SALE** on Sunday 15th May 2022 from 10.00am to 12.00 noon at The Barn on the Broomfield Allotments Site – entrance between 149 & 151 Main Road. Selection of vegetable & flower seedlings. Prices range from 25p to £1. Proceeds from the sale will go towards the Society's chosen charity – *Dementia Adventure*

BROOMFIELD & DISTRICT U3A – GROUP REPORTS

ART GROUP

We will be meeting on Thursday, 26th May at 10.00 am, if anyone is interested in joining our small Group please get in touch.

Barbara Bartlett

BADMINTON

The next session will be on Monday, 9th May at the Chelmsford Sports Stadium between 12 - 1 pm.

Barbara Bartlett

BEER APPRECIATION

Lent had an impact on our usual meeting, despite the variety of ales available at Wetherspoon's Spring Festival, with a depletion of numbers, but the attendees enjoyed themselves.



Despite it's appearance another Chelmsford venue seems to be maintaining it's CAMRA rating so we will visit the Golden Fleece in Duke Street for our May outing. We will meet at 2.00pm on Monday 16th May to sample their wares.

Please let me know if you will be there.

Malcolm Taylor

BOOK GROUP

We met on Saturday 30th April in Broomfield Library to discuss our book choice, Milkman by Anna Burns which won the Man Booker Prize. This is a historical psychological fiction novel set during the troubles in Northern Ireland, the story follows an 18 year old girl who is harassed by an older married man known as 'Milkman'. The overall view of this novel was that it was too long and failed to capture the interest of most of our members, although one did give it a score of 10/10 and another of 8/10, the others were unable to give any score! Our next meeting will be on Saturday, 28th May at 2 pm in Broomfield Library where we will be reviewing A Tapestry of Treason by Anne O'Brien.

Barbara Bartlett

BUS PASS

It was another sunny day for the visit to Southend. Although I didn't make this trip I understand the buses were not very punctual for the return journeys. We hope for better luck this month when we go to Rayleigh on **WEDNESDAY 25th MAY**. Please note the change of day because both the windmill

and the museum will be open on that day. I have chosen a route which takes us to the the High Street, so no walk up the hill for those who might find this difficult. We meet at Stand 1 at the bus station at 10.15am. As always, please let me know by email or phone if you are coming.

Thank you,

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

GARDENING

I have no news of visits for Chelmsford U3A Garden Group for this month.

Little Waltham Gardening Club are meeting for their May talk on Wednesday May 4th. The subject is "Vegetable Self Sufficiency in a Changing Climate" by Maine Windhorst, a very knowledgeable lady.

The June meeting will have a talk on "Culinary Herbs and Their Uses". This will take place on Wednesday June 1st.

Both meetings begin at 7:30pm in the Little Waltham Memorial Hall.

Pat Radford

GEOLOGY



At our last session, we looked at the interesting items brought by members of the group, together with many of Ian's favourite things - all rocks of course! We had a flint pebble which looked quite ordinary on the outside, but which was a fire of colour inside; some interesting limestones full of bits of fossils and crystals and an intriguing mineral specimen which on very close inspection with a hand lens, contained rusty silver liquid globules of mercury. A rare find, but one best kept in a sealed container. We think it originated from deposits in southern Spain.

Our next session will be on Tuesday 24th May with a presentation on 'Volcanoes, Old & New'. So do come and watch a few exciting pictures of modern volcanoes and be prepared to use your imagination to envisage such happenings in Edinburgh, Leicestershire and Snowdonia in the distant geological past. If you have been to a volcano, then do bring any specimens or photos. We love to have your contributions.



Before then, on Saturday 7th May, you are invited to join our group of u3a and Essex Rock & Mineral Society members to look at some church walls - Stistead, Bocking and Bardfield Saling. Details have been circulated, but if you have not received them or they are lost in your inbox, do contact us.

You are also invited to join our trip to Walton-on-the-Naze on Thursday 26th May, when we are leading a group from Crouch End u3a to see the best exposures of geology in Essex. They are few in number and so are we, so there is plenty of room for anyone who would like to come. Meet at 1pm at EWT The Naze Centre. For more details see our Group mailing or contact us.

Lots of rocks in May!

Ros & Ian

HEALTH MATTERS

At our April meeting, Lyn led the discussion on Back Care and gave a very informative talk with lots of practical advice. Many thanks Lyn. Due to holiday commitments etc, we are not meeting in May but our next meeting will be on 13th June at 2pm and the talk will be about Hypertension. New members are always welcome but please email me first.

Gill Sturman

HISTORY

We now have approx 13-15 interested in participating..I am currently trying to identify somewhere big enough for us to hold an initial meeting and will contact members as soon as I locate one.

Glynn Wadeson

LACEMAKING

Lace is temporarily in abeyance while one of the 3 members recovers from a knee replacement and another wrestles with a conservatory installation. If anyone would like a one-to-one taster of

lacemaking, feel free to contact me

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

Our group was blessed with spring sunshine as we enjoyed a peaceful walk around the Langleys Estate at Great Waltham.

We could identify some of the bird song such as Wren, Blackbird, Chiffchaff and Greenfinch, but there were many unidentified singers in the background. One bird that we all knew was the Greater Spotted Woodpecker which punctuated the air with its characteristic drumming.

Many of the common later spring flowers were to be seen, including Garlic Mustard (food plant for caterpillars of the Orange Tip Butterfly), Greater Stitchwort (otherwise known in Essex as 'shirt buttons'), Green Alkanet, Cow parsley and the ubiquitous Buttercups, Daisies and Dandelions - all of which together form a great habitat for our rapidly declining insect population. Despite the current dry spell it was interesting to find the Cuckoo Flower (otherwise known as 'milk maids') in bloom. This plant is struggling in our region as it prefers damp places which are becoming harder to find in our arid county.

After a refreshing coffee at the local cafe, we returned to our starting point via a slightly different route and were greeted by curious stares of the cattle grazing on the lush green grass with their calves. A really relaxing morning for us all.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 17th May, 10.00am at Heybridge Basin. The tide should be out, so hopefully we'll see some wading birds. Bring your binoculars (and, if you're like me, a bird identification book!)

Please note: there is now a charge at the Daisy Meadow car park. 2hours - £1.50, 3hours - £2.00.

Maggie Williams and 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. The 2nd Friday is at the home of Sonia and the 4th Friday at the home of Eileen. Hope some of you will join us.

Sonia Hudson
Eileen Chapman



Meets third Thursday every month at Little Waltham United Reformed Church, 10.00am-12.00 noon. New members always welcome. As Summer approaches, we'll hopefully be mixing indoor sessions with outdoor photo shoots. The group offers a friendly and informal opportunity to get practical advice and learn how to make your photos more distinctive.

Individual advice is also available to all users between sessions if required.

Food Photographer of the Year – some "interesting" pictures on the link below....

<https://www.pinkladyfoodphotographeroftheyear.com/finalists-gallery-2022/>

Glynn Wadson

SCRABBLE

We will meet at the Methodist Church H all on the 4th Thursday of the month Thursday MAY 26th at 2pm. Please do come and join us.

Heather Steed

SUNDAY + CLUB

The Sunday + Group meetings are cancelled until further notice.

Muriel Whiting

TABLE TENNIS

Two tables have been arranged for Tuesday, 10th May and also on Thursday 26th May, at 11.30. Cost will most likely be £1 for the hour. Hope to see players at Melbourne.

Jean Lock

TEN-PIN BOWLING

Hi fellow bowlers, sorry to say no news about when bowling will get going again, I will not be putting items in the news letter from now on but as soon as we can get going again I will get in touch with every one on the playing list and put a message and details in the monthly news letter. Many thanks for your company in the past, fingers crossed we can get going again in 2023.

Lorna Stuart

BROOMFIELD UKULELE GROUP (BUGS)

The ukulele group will be meeting at the URC church in Little Waltham on May 5th and May 19th at 2pm. We welcome anybody who can play, or wishes to learn, the ukulele. We would also welcome those who play other instruments and/or like a good singsong.

Pat Platt

WALKING

We had an excellent walk alongside the Galleywood Brook in April. We started downhill but as so often happens this meant we had to go uphill again later! We did not realise that we could see so far, or that the noise of the A12 spread so far!. We could not manage to see the three churches from the viewpoint (too much leaf on the intervening trees!). The weather was with us - even if pub opening times were not – but we did walk through Baddow vineyard. Unfortunately the spring lambs (and expectant mums) had been taken in so we missed seeing them bounding around the fields.

Our May walk will be in the area of Marks Hall (not in the Arboretum). A four and a half mile walk along quiet lanes and paths. We will be passing through woodland and hopefully there will be some bluebells for us to spot. Then lunch at the Marks Hall café before returning home.

We will meet at 9.30am in the car park of Broomfield Royal British Legion, Saxon Way at 9.30am on Tuesday 17th May 2022. We shall be car sharing, please let me know if you are willing to drive, transport costs will be approximately £5 each.

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
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.

