



Broomfield & District

Newsletter April 2024

GROUPS:

- Badminton
- Beer Appreciation
- Book Group
- Bus Pass
- Canasta
- Cookery
- Gardening (with Chelmsford U3A)

- Geology
- Health Matters
- History
- Lacemaking
- Natural History
- Needlework
- Photography
- Scrabble
- Table Tennis
- Ten-pin Bowling
- Ukulele
- Walking

WEBSITE

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

EMAIL - *broomfieldanddistrictu3a@gmail.com*

From the Chair

Welcome to our April newsletter

It's so nice to see that spring has arrived and the buds on the plants are all starting to form and break open. It's a good feeling knowing summer is on its way.

I hope you all enjoyed last month's talk on local history.

Our speaker for April will be Roger Mannion speaking about "Magic of the theatre"

If anyone has a subject that they are passionate about and would like to give us a talk on it, do let one of the committee know.

Please remember to let Peter Radford know if you are coming to the meeting, this helps us when we are setting up the tables and, if you could sign in on the forms on the tables, this allows us to keep a track on numbers.

Don't forget your mugs!

If you haven't had your new (blue) badge, ask Peter at the meeting.

Remember it is your u3a branch and we want you to have your say on what goes on.

Best wishes Jim Jenkins

MONTHLY MEETINGS

Please note: the Meeting is open and refreshments are available from 1.45pm. The speaker is scheduled to start at 2.15pm.

Please ensure you have confirmed to Peter Radford ([peterradford799@btinternet.com](mailto:peteradford799@btinternet.com)) that you wish to attend, no later than midday on the Tuesday before the meeting.

Raffle proceeds continue to be a great help towards covering (increased) hall hire charges.

Meeting Schedule - 2024

10 th April	The Magic of the Theatre	Roger Mannion
8 th May	Body Language	Ken Lodge
12 th June	Pets as therapy	Helen Beard
10 th July	A Beginning, a Muddle and an End	Bobbie Derbyshire- (Novelist)

Calendar for April and May 2024

(Times, locations and contact details can be found in the individual Group reports.
 Entries in *italics* need to be confirmed.)

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	
April	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	April
	Easter Monday		Ten-pin	Ukulele	Lacemaking	Gardening History		
	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
	Badminton Beer Appreciation	Walking	u3a Meeting		Lacemaking			
	15	16	17	18	19	20	25	
	Badminton Canasta		Health Matters Ten-pin	Photography Ukulele	Bus Pass Lacemaking			
	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	
	Badminton	Geology Natural History		Table Tennis	Lacemaking	History		
	29	30	1	2	3	4	5	
	Badminton Book Group		Gardening Ten-pin	Ukulele	Lacemaking			
May	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	May
	Bank Holiday		u3a Meeting		Lacemaking			
	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	
	Badminton Beer Appreciation	Walking	<i>Health Matters</i> Ten-pin	Photography Ukulele	"Bus Pass" Lacemaking			
	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	
	Badminton <i>Book Group</i> Canasta	Natural History			Bus Pass Lacemaking			
	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	
	Bank Holiday	<i>Geology</i>			Lacemaking			
							June	

Notes and Notices, April 2024

To Start With

Now Spring is (nearly) with us, you may be looking for some outdoor furniture. Which? says this doesn't have to cost a fortune and has money-saving tips to get the best deal on new patio furniture this spring.

<https://www.which.co.uk/news/article/how-to-save-money-on-garden-furniture-aDNpmln3qIrg>

Talks and Events

The Chelmsford Science and Engineering Society have an interesting looking talk scheduled for 10th April at Anglia Ruskin University: "RDF to RADAR – My Parents' Contribution To Hitler's Downfall And How I Came To Bel!" by Chris Neale. More details are at:

<https://cses.org.uk/events?task=civicrm/event/info&reset=1&id=508>

The Workers' Educational Association (WEA) has introduced a number of courses primarily intended for carers (although they don't seem to be that specific and you may have to join the WEA). More details are at:

<https://www.wea.org.uk/courses/life-skills/courses-for-carers>

Gresham College's lectures in the next few weeks include "Is it Aliens? The Most Unusual Star In The Galaxy" by Professor Chris Lintott (Monday, 29th April 2024); "Water Problems in the UK" by Professor Carolyn Roberts (Wednesday, 1st May 2024) and "Twentieth-Century Divas: Julie Andrews" by Professor Dominic Broomfield-McHugh (Thursday, 2nd May 2024). As ever, full details of these and of their other talks can be found at:

<https://www.gresham.ac.uk/whats-on?see-all/>.

Fraud Matters

Which? has sifted through the hundreds of scams people have shared with them, and found recurring 'subscription' payments to be one of the most common. Find out how to avoid them at

<https://www.which.co.uk/news/article/5-subscription-scams-and-traps-to-watch-out-for-aYwJA0u8EFZ9>

Car Matters

Drivers have been warned not to splash pedestrians or else face fines of up to £5000 plus penalty points on their licence. Splashing pedestrians is actually illegal under section three of the Road Traffic Act, 1988 – and is considered to be driving 'without reasonable consideration for other persons using the road'.

<https://www.radiotimesmoney.com/news/splashing-pedestrians-then-be-prepared-to-splash-the-cash-with-fines-of-up-to-5000/>

Clear out the clutter, tackle one vent at a time, and don't just use any old polish. Here's how to give your car's interior a proper deep (Spring) clean. Details are at

<https://www.directline.com/car-cover/magazine/how-to-properly-clean-inside-a-car>

We have enough interest to be able to organise a group visit to GRIDSERVE at Braintree. (We just have to settle on a date acceptable to everybody!) If anybody else is interested, please contact me.

and finally

Picture this: you've just got your shopping delivered. You're packing away the groceries and realise your fruit has been swapped out with, erm...fruity-smelling shower gel. That's just one of the strange substitution stories shoppers have reported. Find out which supermarkets are most likely to replace items in your shopping.

<https://www.which.co.uk/news/article/pizza-for-peaches-strangest-supermarket-substitutions-revealed-aMwAF7J8XgCl>

BROOMFIELD & DISTRICT U3A – GROUP REPORTS

BADMINTON

April dates are: the 8th, 15th, 22nd and 29th.

There's no badminton on the 6th May (May Bank Holiday); the dates for May are: the 13th and the 20th. Again, there's no badminton on the 27th (Spring Bank Holiday)

All sessions are 12 noon – 1pm at the Sports Centre, Melbourne.

Beginners are welcome, give me a call.

Maxine Martin

BEER APPRECIATION

We had an excellent meeting at Chelmsford's Railway Tavern in March. I could tell you that **Oscar Wilde** and **Jefferey Hudson (JHB)** were standing on a **mosaic** floor discussing whether or not they could see the **Leading Lights** from **Adnams Old Ale Wharf** but it would be untrue; whilst the beverages themselves were suitably enjoyed!

Although too late for their Easter Ale Festival, we will move just around the corner to The Ale House for our April meeting at 2.0pm on Monday 8th April.

As usual please let me know if you are coming. New members always welcome.

Malcolm Taylor

BOOK GROUP

The members met on Monday, 25th March in Broomfield Library where we reviewed "The Darkness Knows" by Arnaldur Indridason. A frozen body is discovered in the icy depths of Langjokull glacier, the victim is a businessman missing for 30 years. The case impossible to solve until now. Kondrad, a retired policeman who originally investigated the disappearance, is called back to reopen the case that has weighed on his mind for decades. Then a woman approaches him with new information that she obtained from her deceased brother. Most members gave a positive review and the average score was 6/10.

Our next meeting will be on Monday, 29th April at 2:30 pm in Broomfield library.

Barbara Bartlett

BUS PASS



We enjoyed a pleasant walk at Warley Place with only one very brief shower before returning to Brentwood for a spot of lunch.

On the 19th April we'll go to Southend for a walk on the pier or along the seafront, a visit to the pier museum or a look around the shops - whatever takes your fancy.



On the 24th May I thought we might go to Romford. It's not somewhere from that area, there is the Havering Museum which opened in 2010 in the centre of Romford and has lots of local history. Not a bus trip, because we'll travel by train, but several of the group hope to go to Wivenhoe on the 17th May for their twice yearly art trail.

I'll send further details to those on my mailing list. If you would like to join us on any visit but are not on my list please get in touch.

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 is still on hold

Pat Radford

GARDENING

Chelmsford u3a Gardening Group's next outing appears to be in June; more details nearer the time.

Little Waltham Gardening Club has its Spring Show on Saturday 6th April. The show is held in the Memorial Hall in Little Waltham. Doors open at 2:00pm. This is a lovely show, a real taste of Spring. Refreshments, including homemade cakes and a plant stall will be available. Do go along for a friendly afternoon with friends or family.

Their final talk before Summer outings is on 1st May (at 7.30pm) and is about Cacti and Succulents

Pat Radford

GEOLOGY



A gneiss rock!"

Ros & Ian

We discussed Salt in the Sea at our last session in March including the problem of the water supply to Essex in the future. Desalination is not the answer, maybe we have to bring more water from other parts of the country that have higher rainfall and store it in more reservoirs. It's good that the powers that be are thinking about

Next time we shall be talking about geology encountered in other parts of the world, adding to our holiday experiences. Do bring some of your holiday rocks! This session will be on Tuesday 23rd April at 2.00pm



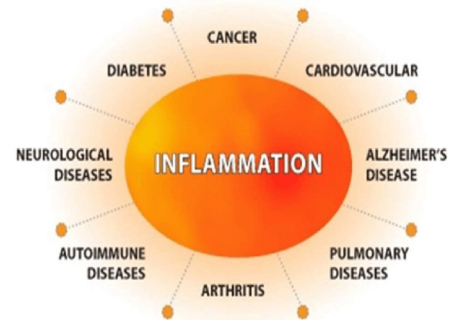
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it.

HEALTH MATTERS

Our next meeting will take place on Wednesday 17th April at 2.00pm in the Pavilion, Great Waltham, (CM3 1DF) and we will be looking at Inflammation. This is the basis of many of our disorders/diseases including arthritis, cancer, heart disease and dementia.

Refreshments will be available and new members are always welcome.



Gill Sturman

HISTORY

Nothing to report this month on Group activity but as previously noted there are two events in April that might be of interest..

There is a talk on the Monumental Brasses of Essex taking place at Willingale Church on Saturday, 6th April at 17.00. Tickets £10 (including wine and cheese afterwards) from Ian Kerwin (mobile 07837170816, e-mail iankerwin@btinternet.com).

The Essex Record Office have arranged a mini-conference on Saturday, 27th April 2024 entitled 'Welcome To Essex': remembering the USAAF. Please see the link below:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/welcome-to-essex-remembering-the-usaaf-tickets-820073601217?aff=ebdssbdestsearch>

Glynn Wadeson

LACEMAKING

Lacemaking has now moved, so the warning about parking no longer applies. As we have decided to meet every Friday, our April dates are 5th, 12th, 19th and 26th.

New members are always welcome and we have equipment available to get you going.

Wendy Talley

NATURAL HISTORY

The Natural History Group met at the Village Hall car park for a spring walk to Newlands Grove. The walk took us to Mill Lane where we saw the Chelmer in full spate but very little sign of any wildlife. Once we were in Newlands Grove we started to see signs of spring. The Blackthorn is looking at its best and attracting bumble bees. The first flower we spotted was Ground Ivy, this has small purple flowers and it grows near to the ground. A bit further on there were clumps of primroses with many more to come out. We also spotted some wild strawberry



blossoms, again you needed to look closely as they were in the undergrowth, celandines were also present. To our surprise we saw a lichen that is an indicator of clean air, on trees near the A130, along with another which is more common. We were just wondering where all the birds were when a Chiffchaff started to sing, this is a summer visitor so it is nice to have spring confirmed. We also heard and saw

Blue Tits and a Woodpecker having a go at a dead tree. Some geese flew over on their way to the lake at Channels. On our return walk we think we saw a Sparrow Hawk as it flew straight through the bushes and was very silent. I mustn't forget the Magpies and Wood Pigeons of which we saw many. It was a pleasant walk even if the sun didn't shine!

Our next meeting is on **23rd April** (please note the revised date) at Norsey Woods Billericay. We will have a guided walk and will hear about its history and plants. If anyone would like to join us, please let me know as numbers are limited.

Future meetings:

- May 21st Oxley Meadows - Green Winged Orchids.
- June 18th Hatfield Forest - Wildflower Meadow.
- July 16th Phyllis Curry Reserve - Dragonflies and butterflies.
- August No meeting.
- September.17th River Chelmer walk from Broomfield to Chelmsford.
- October 15th Hyde Hall - Autumn Colours.
- November 19th Hanningfield Reservoir - Bird Watching.
- December 17th Admirals Park to Writtle Tea Rooms for Christmas Lunch.

Sue Browning



PHOTOGRAPHY

We meet at Little Waltham United Reformed Church the third Thursday of each month from 10-12.00, share photographs we took of the latest 'challenge' and any others we'd like our fellow members to see, and consume coffee and biscuits. Meetings start with the photo sharing, and after coffee break, are usually relaxed topic-based 'discussions'.

When the weather permits, there are opportunities to get out and about for shoots or gallery visits. (Examples include Soho area and the Taylor Wessing Portrait exhibition; Tate Modern/South Bank; Brick Lane/Spitalfields; Beeleigh Lock/Museum of Power)

The group offers opportunities to both learn about the practicalities and aesthetics of photography in an informal way, and to share knowledge and experience. It doesn't matter whether you have a compact, DSLR or use a mobile device for your photography, all are welcome.

If you are interested and would like more info, or to attend, please give me a call or email.

Glynn Wadeson

SCRABBLE

For the moment, the Scrabble Group is on hold

TABLE TENNIS

Just one date for table tennis in April due to the school holidays. Two tables have been booked for Thursday, 25th April at 11.00, cost will be £1.50. Hope players will come along and enjoy a sociable game at Chelmsford Sports and Athletics centre in Melbourne.

Jean Lock

TEN-PIN BOWLING

Hi bowlers, its great to be back at city bowls again. New members always very welcome.

We play the 1st & 3rd Wednesday of each month (usually at 10.30). You will find the bowling alley near Ruskin University. The cost is £8 for 2 games, shoe hire & tea/coffee. If you haven't played before don't worry, we always have lanes with barriers up to ensure that you knock down some skittles each time. Please note that on the **3rd April**, we have been asked to play at **9.30** instead of our usual time so they can accommodate 60 people playing later. we would ask that you arrive 15mins before the start time to arrange lanes, balls etc. Hope to see you there

Lorna Stuart

BROOMFIELD UKULELE GROUP (BUGS)

The Ukulele group will be meeting at Jan's on April 4th, at Jennie's on April 18th, at Pat's on May 2nd and at Jennie's on May 16th.

Anyone wishing to join us should contact me for the addresses. New members are welcome and you do not have to host to take part.

Pat Platt

WALKING

The walking season has yet to commence as we have yet to get "on the march". Indeed, it would be fair to say the weather has been more akin to that of Galicia (see picture) than of England.

Undismayed, we will once again attempt to undertake our walk in the Waltham's in April, using sections of The Saffron Trail & The Essex Way. Our route will take us from Great Waltham via the Langleys Estate to the edges of Chatham Green and back again covering 4/5 miles.

We shall meet, as usual, in the Royal British Legion car park at 9.30am on Tuesday 9th April 2024.

There will be a contribution of 50 pence towards transport costs.



Please let me know if you are coming. As usual 07375 604506 will be operative on the day.

Malcolm Taylor

GROUP LEADERS

Badminton	Maxine Martin
Beer Appreciation	Malcolm Taylor
Book Group	Barbara Bartlett
Bus Pass	Carol Greatrex
Canasta	Marie Mackie
Cookery	Pat Radford
Gardening	Pat Radford
Geology	Ros Mercer
Health Matters	Gill Sturman
Lacemaking	Wendy Talley
Natural History	Sue Browning
Photography	Glynn Wadeson
Scrabble	<i>new leader needed</i>
Table Tennis	Jean Lock
Ten-pin Bowling	Lorna Stuart
Ukulele	Pat Platt
Walking	Malcolm Taylor

New Group Leaders needed!

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 one of the committee.

THE COMMITTEE

Chair	Jim Jenkins	-
		-
Vice Chair & Speaker Coordinator	Glynn Wadeson	-
		-
Treasurer	Gill Sturman	-
		-
Secretary	Roger Warner	-
		-
Membership Secretary	Peter Radford	-
		-
	Dick Chapman	-
		-
	Mike Farn	-
		-

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