



Broomfield & District

Newsletter December 2023

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 December newsletter.

I hope you all enjoyed the November meeting

This month we will be hearing about '50 years in Rock & Roll' so put on those dancing shoes and look forward to some nostalgia.

It is definitely winter now, so put on the extra layers and keep warm.

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.

Please remember to complete your annual membership forms and submit your subscription fee.

Don't forget your mugs and a new badge will be issued when fees are paid.

Remember it is your u3a branch & 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 that you wish to attend, no later than midday on the Tuesday before the meeting.

The revised arrangements we have made over the last 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.

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

Meeting Schedule - 2023

13 th December	50 Years in Rock and Roll	Alan Goldsmith
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Meeting Schedule - early 2024

10 th January	Marie Curie	Angela Taylor (tbc)
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14 th February	NHS History and Future	Andrew Baker
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13 th March	Waterways	Jim Jenkins
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10 th April	The Magic of Theatre	Roger Mannion
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Calendar for December 2023 and January 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	
December	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	December
	Badminton Canasta			Table Tennis Ukulele	Lacemaking			
	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	
	Badminton Beer Appreciation		u3a Meeting	Scrabble	Lacemaking			
	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	
	Badminton Canasta	Natural History			<i>Lacemaking</i>		Christmas Eve	
	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	
	Christmas Day	Boxing Day			<i>Lacemaking</i>		New Year's Eve	
January	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	January
	New Year's Day			Ukulele	Lacemaking			
	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
	Badminton	<i>Walking</i>	u3a Meeting	Table Tennis	Lacemaking			
	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	
	Badminton Canasta	Natural History Health Matters		Photography Ukulele	Lacemaking			
	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	
	Badminton	Geology		Scrabble Table Tennis	Lacemaking			
	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	
	Badminton Book Group				Lacemaking			
							February	

Notes and Notices, December 2023

Introduction

A very short N&N this month, having been asked to fit in the photograph below.

Talks and Events

There is just time to note the last two Gresham College talks of the year: "The Massive Internet of Things" by Professor Victoria Baines (Tuesday, 5th and "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas: Anatomy of a Christmas Classic" by Professor Dominic Broomfield-McHugh (Wednesday, 6th December). As ever, full details can be found at <https://www.gresham.ac.uk/>.

The poster below is from one of our members:



The Stondon Singers

Hilary Punnett ~ Conductor
with
Laurence Lyndon-Jones ~ Organ

Christmas at Blackmore

Music by Whitacre, Rütli, Tavener, Willaert,
Imogen Holst and more

With audience carols and interval refreshments



Tuesday 19 December, 8pm
(Doors open at 7.30 pm)
Priory Church of St Laurence
Blackmore, Essex CM4 0RN

Tickets £12 (£6 under 16s)
Advance booking highly recommended.
To book, please telephone and
leave a message at 01277 886769, or
email stondonsingers@gmail.com



Limited tickets also available at the door.

www.stondonsingers.org.uk CIO 1154435 www.facebook.com/StondonSingers

and finally

This picture should really be with the Walking Group report but I couldn't get it to fit there!



In case you can't read it, the notice says:

Merry Christmas!



BROOMFIELD & DISTRICT U3A – GROUP REPORTS

BADMINTON

The final dates for badminton this year are 4th, 11th and 18th December.

And for the start of 2024, the dates are 8th, 15th, 22nd and 29th January.

If you would like to give badminton a try, even if you've not played before, contact me.

Wishing you all a merry Christmas and a happy new year.

Maxine Martin

BEER APPRECIATION

We had an excellent 'un-festive' lunch, as has been our practice, at The Rose & Crown in Great Waltham in November. We renewed acquaintances with Bishop Nick's 1555 and met Greene King's Level Head – both excellent beverages for our celebration.

In a change to our usual practice we went via DigiGo – they thought we were on a pub crawl – it wasn't our fault they went to the wrong pub, then went to the right one and took us to our destination. Upon return we went to the pub we started from – it was only a bus stop, not another pint – honest officer!!

For our December meeting we will return to the Ale House, by the bus station, on Monday 11th December at 2.00pm when hopefully they will have some of their Christmas beers on tap.

Please let me know if you intend to join us.

Malcolm Taylor

BOOK GROUP

We met on Monday 27th November in Broomfield Library where we reviewed *The House on the Edge of the Cliff* by Carol Drinkwater. The novel revolves around Grace who is living an idyllic life with her husband, sheltered from the world in a magnificent Provençal villa, perched atop a windswept cliff. Every day she looks out over the sea, the only witness to that fateful night years ago. Until a stranger arrives at the house. This book received mixed reviews producing an average score of 5/10.

We do not meet in December so our next meeting will be on Monday, 29th January at 2.30 pm in Broomfield Library where we will be reviewing *The Mountains Sing* by Nguyen Phan Que Mai and *Small Great Things* by Jodi Picoult.

On behalf of the Book Group, may I wish all members a very happy Christmas and best wishes for 2024.

Barbara Bartlett

BUS PASS

We are now on our winter break and will resume in the spring. Best wishes to all for a very happy Christmas.

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

Gardening activities appear to have ceased until February. More details in January's Newsletter.

Pat Radford

GEOLOGY

We had a good discussion on the last chapter of "Essex Rock", chewing over what the Earth will be like in the future. What will be the effects of climate change, erosion, plate movements etc? All are on different timescales.

We also chewed over mince pies as an early reference to the festive season! Our usual slot of the fourth Tuesday of the month is otherwise occupied by Christmas, so we have no December meeting.



Walton on the Naze - How much longer before the cliffs are eroded back to the Tower?

In the New Year members have offered to give short presentations or pose questions under the general heading 'Making it your own' - telling the group about the rocks used for a favourite building, or landscape feature, holiday destination etc. We'll see how we go. We already have two offers, but we need one for January!

Ros & Ian

HEALTH MATTERS

At our November meeting we continued talking about 'Strokes or Cerebrovascular Accidents (CVA)' but concentrating on the rehabilitation/recovery aspect where we learnt about the Rehabilitation Unit and its work.

We will not be meeting in December. Various topics have been suggested for next year's programme and we will recommence on January 16th when refreshments will be available and new members are always welcome.

Gill Sturman

HISTORY

The weather fortunately held out for the History Group outing to the Royal Gunpowder Mills on 20th October.

Organised in conjunction with Spillers tours, around 15 u3a members from our, and neighbouring branches enjoyed a guided tour by tractor trailer and train of the RGM, the site which claims to be the longest continuously operating producer of gunpowder in the world. The immense estate has largely turned into forest, from the trees originally planted for their charcoal, dotted with widely spread ruinous buildings and strange structures which were once crucial parts of the explosive manufacturing process. Wildlife abounds nowadays and we were treated to the sight of deer flitting through the trees, and the sight and sound of stags clashing their impressive antlers! Our visit included a short film of the history of the site, and a chance to handle weaponry from across the ages from pistols to heavy machine guns!

The trip finished with a visit to Waltham Abbey where we had time to have a late lunch and visit the historic abbey church.



Glynn Wadeson

LACEMAKING

A slight change this time, we have decided to meet every Friday.

Dates are December 8th, 15th, possibly 22nd and 29th (we will decide later depending on Christmas commitments), January 5th, 12th, 19th, 26th. New members are always welcome and we have equipment available to get you going. Contact me first as parking can be a problem.

Wendy Talley

NATURAL HISTORY

Seven members met on a rather cloudy damp morning at Admirals Park to walk the path to Writtle and back. The trees are shedding their leaves and the path was littered with these yellow offerings of autumn. The reason the trees lose their leaves is because they need to save energy as the day's get shorter. Trees take up less water at this time of year, also it's important that there is less resistance when we experience the winter storms.

It was surprising that there were very few birds, we only observed Magpies.

The River Chelmer was flowing very fast due to all the rain we have had.

We enjoyed a very welcome cup of coffee at the tea shop opposite the college before our return walk. A very enjoyable morning.

Future meetings:

- December 19th Christmas meeting, Oaklands Park.

Sue Browning

PHOTOGRAPHY

We're taking a break in December, so our next session will be January 18th 2024, 10-12 at Little Waltham United Reformed Church.

If you'd like to join or simply want information about the group, please email or call me.

Glynn Wadson

SCRABBLE

We will be meeting earlier this month, on Thursday 14th December at 2pm at the Methodist Church.

We will meet as usual on Thursday 25th January 2024 at 2pm.

Please can all who wish to come let me know if they will be coming.

Thank you.

Heather Steed

TABLE TENNIS

I have booked table tennis for this Thursday, 7th, December.

Please also come along, in January, to table tennis at Melbourne Leisure Centre on Thursday, 11th and Thursday, 25th both at 11.00 a.m. Two tables only so the cost will be £1 for a sociable game.

Jean Lock

TEN-PIN BOWLING

Hi, still no news regarding tenpin bowling starting date. The refurbished bowling alley is still due to open this month, so fingers crossed we will be playing in January. As soon as it opens, I will be down there to get us a good deal and book us in. As soon as we have a date, I will be in touch with all the players on my list and put information in the Newsletter.

Have a great Christmas and New Year.

Lorna Stuart

BROOMFIELD UKULELE GROUP (BUGS)

We are only meeting once in December. That will be on the 7th, at the home of Tish. If anyone needs the address, they should contact me.

In January we are meeting at Janette's home on the 4th and at mine on the 18th.

Pat Platt

WALKING

Despite the recent weather, our walk along the Danbury Ridge was relatively dry. The weather kept the rain until the end; not unlike the stiles! We had a stile free walk until the last quarter mile when we had six in quick succession.....

Enroute we passed an excellent notice to walkers – it's in Notes & Notices.

Our route took us from Little Baddow up and down through woodland (and interesting fungi) and pasture – who says Essex is flat? With wonderful views across the Chelmer Valley – it was getting a bit murky by then. We also walked a section of the Admiral McHardy Way – named after the first Chief Constable of Essex & celebrating 150 years of policing in Essex.



Finally (down steps from the stiles) to an excellent lunch at The Rodney.

As we were unable to secure a venue for our planning meeting, we had a brief discussion over lunch. The consensus was for a mix of walks, and variety of landscapes, including some longer ones – but always a pub lunch!! Perhaps the occasional walk with a historical guide.

We will not be meeting in December but will start the new year with an invigorating walk to shake the turkey down!!

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	Heather Steed
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 Mike Farn, our Group Co-Ordinator.

THE COMMITTEE

Chair	Jim Jenkins	-
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Vice Chair & Speaker Coordinator	Glynn Wadson	-
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Treasurer	Gill Sturman	-
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Secretary	Roger Warner	-
		-
Membership Secretary	Peter Radford	-
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	Dick Chapman	-
		-
	Mike Farn	-
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Many thanks to Malcolm Taylor for continuing to act as Website Editor