



Broomfield & District

Newsletter March 2023

GROUPS:

- Badminton
- Beer Appreciation
- Book Group
- Bus Pass
- Canasta
- Cookery
- Gardening (with Chelmsford U3A)
- Geology
- Health Matters
- History
- Jazz Appreciation
- 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 March newsletter.

I hope you are all keeping well & warm

I can't believe that we have just had the first anniversary of the war in Ukraine, what courage and determination they are displaying.

I hope you all enjoyed the February talk on Essex Hearing Help, judging by the number of questions and comments at the end it was very well received. The March talk is on Charles Darwin.

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 and badges.

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 (peterradford799@btinternet.com) that you wish to attend no later than midday on Tuesday 7th March.

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

8 th March	Charles Darwin, Triumph and Torment	Margaret Mills
12 th April	Walking the Camino de Santiago	Malcolm Taylor
10 th May	Abolition! When freeing the slaves was illegal	Faith Marchal
14 th June	Bazalgette and the Great Stink	Jef Page
12 th July	Dr. Livingston, I presume	Fran Sandham
	<i>There is no meeting in August</i>	
13 th September	Fun with English	Tim Moorey
11 th October	Thomas Becket and Henry II	Dennis Eraut
8 th November	Don't Eat the Cabin Boy	Toni Neobard
13 th December	50 Years in Rock and Roll	Alan Goldsmith

Calendar for February and March

(Times, locations and contact details can be found in the individual Group reports.)

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	
February	27	28	1	2	3	4	5	March
	Badminton Book Group	Geology	Gardening	Table Tennis Ukulele	Lacemaking			
March	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
	Badminton Canasta		u3a Meeting					
	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	
	Badminton	Walking		Photography Ukulele	Lacemaking			
	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	
	Badminton Beer Appreciation Canasta	Health Matters Natural History		Table Tennis Gardening Scrabble		Project Rutherford		
	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	
Badminton Book Group	Geology			Bus Pass Jazz Appreciation Lacemaking				
April	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	April
	Badminton Canasta			Ukulele	Lacemaking		Gardening	
	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	
		Walking	u3a Meeting					
	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	
	Badminton Canasta	Health Matters Natural History		Table Tennis Ukulele	Lacemaking			
	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	
	Badminton Beer Appreciation			Table Tennis	Jazz Appreciation			

Notes and Notices, March 2023

Talks and Events

Just to remind you, on Saturday 25th March, Naomi Courtney-Luck (a relative of Rosemary) will give a talk entitled "Life and Art of Rosemary Rutherford". The talk is at 2pm at Broomfield Church and tickets (£5) can be bought from the church or by e-mailing our own Ros Mercer (see the Group Leaders list).

I had an e-mail from the Essex Society for Archaeology and History about two of March's talks at Gresham College! Those talks are: "Landscapes of Roman Britain" by Professor Martin Millett and "The Medieval Agricultural Revolution: New evidence" by Professor Helena Hamerow. Full details of these and the rest of the comprehensive March programme (which also includes a talk by Philip Mould) can be found at:

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

The Essex Branch of the Historical Association has a talk on Saturday March 4 at 2.30 p.m. John Pullen-Appleby, author of "English Sea Power 871-1100 AD" will talk about "Warfare in the 10th and 11th centuries with particular reference to the Battle of Maldon". The next month's talk will be on 22nd April when Professor David Stevenson will talk about "The Cuban Missile Crisis revisited". These talks will be held in Trinity Methodist Church, Rainsford Road, Chelmsford CM1 2XB and will also be available live on Zoom <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89012164046> meeting ID: 890 1216 4046. More details of their talks can be found at

<https://essexbranchha.com/our-speaker-programme/2022-23-programme/>

If you enjoy vocal music performed by small chamber choirs, there are two concerts coming up this month that you might like to attend. The first, 'Heavenly Sounds' is performed by Felicitas on Saturday afternoon, 11th March, in Epping. The second, 'Songs of Farewell', is performed by the Stondon Singers on Saturday evening, 18th March, in Galleywood. Full details, including how to reserve tickets, are on the choirs' respective websites:

Felicitas: <https://www.felicitas.org.uk/concerts/>

Stondon Singers: <https://www.stondonsingers.org.uk/>

Fraud

Have you ever received a text message that seemed a little bit off or unexpected? It might be a fake text message aimed at getting your personal information – things like your password, account number, or your National Insurance number. See <https://www.mcafee.com/consumer/en-gb/landing-page/retention/scammer-education.html>

Make sure it's an official website when you're online. End up on the wrong website and you'll be handing over money for documents and services that are free! See <https://www.radiotimesmoney.com/news/paul-lewis/make-sure-its-an-official-website-when-youre-online/>

Money Matters

We're facing a number of tax rises and cuts to our allowances from 6 April. From making the most of tax shelters to being clever with your capital gains tax allowance, find out how you could reduce your tax bill ahead of the changes.

<https://www.hl.co.uk/features/8-tips-to-help-you-save-tax>

From inexpensive fixes to next-level upgrades, British Gas's definitive guide is packed with simple ideas to save energy and lower your bills.

<https://www.britishgas.co.uk/energy/energy-saving/energy-saving-tips.html>

Which?'s research shows shopping at Sainsbury's Local and Tesco Express can cost hundreds more compared to large supermarkets or online.

<https://www.which.co.uk/news/article/is-it-more-expensive-to-shop-at-tesco-express-and-sainsburys-local-convenience-stores-aOQah2Z8P2tw>

and finally

The Open House Festival is a two-week celebration of London's homes, architecture and neighbourhoods. It is a community-led festival that gives everyone the chance to learn about all London's architecture and the people behind it. This year, the festival will take place over two weekends, 9-10 and 16-17 September. For more details see

<https://open-city.org.uk/open-house-festival-2023>

BROOMFIELD & DISTRICT U3A – GROUP REPORTS

BADMINTON

The next session will be on Monday, 6th March between 12 noon - 1 pm at the Chelmsford Sports Centre.

Badminton sessions between 12 noon - 1 pm will be every Monday in April, apart from Monday, 10th which is a Bank Holiday.

Barbara Bartlett

BEER APPRECIATION

We had an excellent meeting at an establishment well known for its beer – The Woolpack. In addition to the usual suspects, and those returned from distant lands we welcomed a new member, still working on the “conversion” to real ale.

We sampled many beverages, many of which we had sampled elsewhere and were introduced to a new stout from Bishop Nick ‘Devout’, interesting chocolaty taste!!

We travel a little farther afield in March, revisiting The Wheatsheaf on Writtle Green on Monday 20th March 2023. I propose that we meet at Chelmsford Bus station at 1.30pm (13.30) with the aim of catching the C4 fifteen minutes later.



As usual please let me know if you are coming.

Malcolm Taylor

BOOK GROUP

We met on Monday, 27th February in Broomfield Library where we discussed A Gentleman in Moscow by Amor Towles, a fictional story about a Russian aristocrat who narrowly escapes execution during the Russian Revolution. He is imprisoned in the Metropole Hotel in Moscow and is confined within the walls for over 30 years while the world outside changes. This book provoked quite a lot of discussion and most agreed that it was beautifully written although a little too wordy, a pleasure to read for some while others were not so enamoured. Average score 6/10. Our next meeting will be on Monday, 27th March at 2.30 pm in the Broomfield Library. We were advised today that from this April a charge of £7.45 will be made for the use of the room in the library, members accepted this decision.

Our April Book Group meeting will be on Monday, 24th April at 2.30 pm.

Barbara Bartlett

BUS PASS

This month on Friday March 31st we start our outings for this year with a visit to Harlow, called the sculpture town because of the more than 100 sculptures spread across the town and which we last visited in 2018. A short self-guided walk in the town centre will take you to 18 or more of these sculptures (Trail available on the day). There will also be the opportunity to see the Sir Frederick Gibberd watercolour collection in the Gibberd Gallery at the Civic Centre. We'll meet at 10am at Stand 9 at the bus station.

On the 28th April we'll go to Hanningfield reservoir, a first visit for the bus group. The bluebells in the Essex Wildlife Trust reserve will hopefully be looking at their best and a longer walk through the woodland will take you to the bird hides and visitor centre if you wish.

I look forward to seeing old friends and welcoming any newcomers who wish to join us. Please let me know in advance if you are coming as there has to be a limit to numbers for obvious reasons. Any queries, 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

We hope to resume the group in March or April.

Pat Radford

GARDENING

I still haven't had details of events from Chelmsford u3a Gardening Group. Their leaders are still recovering from surgery.

Little Waltham Gardening Club has its AGM and 40th anniversary on March 1st. The meeting is at the Memorial Hall, Little Waltham and starts at 7:30.

Their Spring Show will be on Saturday April 8th. This is always enjoyable with displays of Spring flowers, flower arrangements, crafts and plants for sale. Tea, coffee and homemade cakes will be for sale.

Pat Radford

GEOLOGY

Well we all made our fingers white - covered in fish poo - I mean Chalk. We learnt what a unique rock formation it is in the geological record. It is also associated with flint, another special material without which our ancestors might not have been so successful.

Next time we shall visit the Edgelands that followed after the demise of the Chalk Sea. The sea came and went as the Atlantic opened and the climate got very hot from time to time. Want to know more? We meet at 2pm on the fourth Tuesday of the month, which, in March is 28th at 2pm. New members are always welcome. All you need is a little curiosity.



Ros & Ian

HEALTH MATTERS

At last month's meeting, meeting, we talked about antibiotics and especially why bacteria are becoming more and more resistant to the antibiotics currently available.

For our next HM group meeting (21st March [the third Tuesday of the month] at 2pm at the Pavilion, Great Waltham CM3 1DF), hopefully the topic covered will be 'Falling Over' where we will talk about ways in which we can prevent/minimise this from happening. Falls can be 'life changing' at our age!



New members are always welcome but please contact me first.

Gill Sturman

HISTORY

The Sudbury Silk guided walk on April 19th is fully booked. Anyone who has committed to coming and who has not yet paid the £6.00 please pay Maggie Williams ASAP. All those who offered lifts, please confirm you've linked up with your passengers.

Glynn Wadeson

JAZZ APPRECIATION

The inaugural meeting of the jazz appreciation group was held recently when we introduced ourselves and discussed how we wanted to proceed at future meetings. Unfortunately due to the space restrictions at my house the group is now full unless we can find an alternative, larger venue. Apologies to those of you who might have been interested in joining but please contact me if you wish to join a waiting list. Meetings are currently scheduled for the last Friday of the month.

Mick Fryer

LACEMAKING

Lacemaking takes place on the 1st and 3rd (and sometimes 5th) Fridays of each month from 2pm to 4pm. New members are always welcome and we have equipment available to get you going. Contact me first on 01245 440740 as parking can be a problem.

Wendy Talley

NATURAL HISTORY



The Natural History Group visited Dragons on Tuesday 21st. February. We were looking at the snowdrops and hellebores. It was a rather dull morning weather wise but there were wonderful snowdrops surrounded by beautiful pink cyclamen. This wonderful show lifted our spirits. We didn't realise there were so many different varieties, some were really tall like the Galanthus Elwes with its broad leaves, unusual in snowdrops. There were also shrubs with their spring flowers, very beautiful.



Margo opened specifically for us so we had ample room to wander and sit to have our coffee and cake. It was nice to see other members of our U3 A, we hope they will join us again. Thank you all for coming, the money raised will go to the charities supported by the National Gardens Scheme, well done everyone.

Our next meeting (March 21st) will be to Heybridge for bird watching, details a week before. If anyone would like to join us please contact me with your email address.

Future meetings:

- April 18th Newlands Grove.
- May 16th Hitchcock Meadow, Danbury.
- June 20th Mini beast hunt.
- July 18th Phyllis Curry Reserve.
- August No meeting.
- September 19th TBA.
- October 17th Hyde Hall , identify trees by leaf shape.
- November 21st Walk to Writtle from Admirals Park.
- December 19th Christmas meeting, Oaklands Park.



If you would like to join our friendly and knowledgeable group please get in touch with your email and contact telephone number.

Sue Browning

PHOTOGRAPHY

Next month the Photography Group are visiting Flatford Mill for a shoot.

Sessions are held every third Thursday of the month at Little Waltham United Reformed Church from 10.00 -to 12.00

Glynn Wadeson

SCRABBLE

We will meet on Thursday 23rd March at 2pm at the Methodist Church.

New members always welcome. Come along to enjoy two games of scrabble.

Heather Steed

TABLE TENNIS

Two table tennis sessions in March, each for an hour at Chelmsford Sports & Athletics Centre, cost £2.

- Thursday, 2nd March at 11.00 a.m.
- Thursday, 23rd March at 11.00 a.m.

Hope to see you there for a fun game.

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 everyone on the playing list and put a message and details in the monthly newsletter. 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 is meeting on 2nd March at 2pm and on 16th March at 2pm. We welcome anyone who would like to play or sing with us.

In April we will be meeting on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month but the venues are yet to be confirmed.

If anyone needs details of the addresses please contact me.

Pat Platt

WALKING

It was a cold, damp misty morning when twelve met to go walking. However, it was not long before the heat of the sun had burnt off the mist/fog enabling a clear blue sky to stay with us. Our walk was around the village of Gosfield – past the village war memorial and that of the USAAF who fought in the area (we walked along one of the remaining runways - now broken & plant riddled) to the little 15th century church of St. Catherine and then across the Tudor frontage of Gosfield Hall (a refuge for the remaining French Royal family after the Revolution). On past drifts of snowdrops and thence around another field, destined for development, before we reached the perimeter track and runways of the airfield. Crossing the airfield we approached Broaks Wood nature reserve; eventually finding a way through the wood (don't ask). Then a brief spell cross country through another nature reserve to an excellent and well-deserved lunch.



Our March walk will be 6 ½ miles around Goldhanger, a country and coastal walk. The latter part along a newly opened stretch of the England coastal path National trail. We will meet in the car park of the Broomfield Royal British Legion, Saxon Way, Broomfield at 9.15am on Tuesday 14th March 2023. We shall be car-sharing, as usual, cost £2.50 each. As usual, please let me know if you are coming and if you are willing to drive. Mobile 07375 604506 operative on the day.

Malcolm Taylor

GROUP LEADERS

Badminton	Barbara Bartlett
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
Jazz Appreciation	Mick Fryer
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 Pat Radford, our Group Co-Ordinator.

THE COMMITTEE

Chair	Jim Jenkins	-
		-
Vice Chair & Speaker Coordinator	Glynn Wadeson	-
		-
Treasurer	Gill Sturman	-
		-
Secretary	Roger Warner	-
		-
Membership Secretary	Peter Radford	-
		-
Group Coordinator	Pat Radford	-
		-
	Dick Chapman	-
		-
	Roy Perry	-
		-

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