



# Broomfield & District

Newsletter March 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](mailto:broomfieldanddistrictu3a@gmail.com)

## **From the Chair**

Welcome to our March newsletter.

I should begin with some sad news: Heather Steed, our Scrabble Group Leader for many years, has died. All our condolences go to her husband Les.

I hope you all enjoyed the February meeting although "enjoyed" is probably not the right word for the thought-provoking (and question-provoking) talk.

Our speaker for March will be Andy Hawes. Although his talk is entitled "Battle of Assandun 1016", he will be speaking mainly about the relations between Saxons and Vikings at the time and the role of the great but little-known, Queen Emma.

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. A new membership card will be issued when fees are paid. (Peter has several unclaimed cards!)

Don't forget your mugs!

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.

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### **Meeting Schedule - 2024**

13 <sup>th</sup> March	Battle of Assandun 1016 Relations between Saxons and Vikings and the role of the great but little known, Queen Emma <i>Note: This a change of speaker and topic</i>	Andy Hawes
10 <sup>th</sup> April	The Magic of the Theatre	Roger Mannion
8 <sup>th</sup> May	Body Language	Ken Lodge
12 <sup>th</sup> June	Pets as therapy	Helen Beard
10 <sup>th</sup> July	A Beginning, a Muddle and an End	Bobbie Derbyshire- (Novelist)

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

# Notes and Notices, March 2024

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## To Start With

“Which?” looks back at the must-haves that defined each year of the past decade:

<https://www.which.co.uk/news/article/most-popular-products-of-the-decade-aGQuQ5u1fCdy>

## “Third Age Matters”

Following on from last month’s note, my copy of the February issue of “Third Age Matters” arrived OK. If anyone received a copy that they didn’t want, please let me know and, if you still have it, bring it to the March meeting. If anyone did not get a copy which they were expecting, again, please let me know.

## Talks and Events

Gresham College’s lectures in March include “Data Protection for Thrillseekers” by Professor Victoria Baines (Tuesday, 19th) and “Twentieth-Century Divas: Shirley Bassey” by Professor Dominic Broomfield-McHugh (Thursday, 21st). Also, following on from last month’s talk, there’s “Democracy: Ancient Models, Modern Challenges” by Professor Melissa Lane (Thursday, 14th). 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

Like any new technology, QR codes are being hijacked by criminals intent on stealing your money, see:

<https://www.radiotimesmoney.com/news/beware-qr-codes-says-paul-lewis/>

## Car Matters

Radio Times warns that many motorists are unaware that they risk hefty penalties for failing to update the DVLA on specific matters or withholding details. More information is at:

<https://www.radiotimesmoney.com/news/seven-driving-fines-you-can-get-slapped-with-if-you-forget-to-declare/>

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.

Whether your car is electric or not, if you are thinking about going on a longer journey than to the shops or to the u3a meeting, Direct Line have some useful tips on how to prepare for it, see:

<https://www.directline.com/car-cover/magazine/how-to-prepare-your-car-for-a-road-trip>

## and finally ...

A reminder that the relaunch meeting for *Brumfelda* is taking place on **Wednesday evening, 20th March, at 7.30 at Broomfield Village Hall** (the small hall). If you are not able to attend but would like to be actively engaged in exploring Broomfield's history, and you are happy to join an email distribution list, then please email [brumfeldahistory@gmail.com](mailto:brumfeldahistory@gmail.com) to register your interest. In that way we can keep you updated as plans progress.

## **BROOMFIELD & DISTRICT U3A – GROUP REPORTS**

### **BADMINTON**

Our badminton dates for March are the 4th, 11th, 18th and 25th. For April they are the 8th, 15th 22nd and 29th. All sessions are 12 noon – 1pm at the Sports Centre, Melbourne.

Beginners are welcome, give me a call.

Maxine Martin

### **BEER APPRECIATION**

We had a good meeting in February at The Wheatsheaf in Writtle. As usual, some excellent beers on tap. Our journey was somewhat different as a gas leak had closed access to Writtle Green – and the bus crews were initially unsure as to where they would pick-up!!

Our March meeting will be on Monday 11th March at 2.00pm at The Railway Tavern, opposite Chelmsford railway station.

As usual I look forward to seeing you there – please let me know if you are coming.

Malcolm Taylor

### **BOOK GROUP**

We met on Monday, 26th February in Broomfield Library where we reviewed Blood and Sugar by Laura Shepherd-Robinson. This is her debut novel set in the late eighteenth century and is a crime thriller set against the horrors of the slave trade. Once more we had quite a variation of views in respect of this book and our average score was 6/10.

Our next meeting will be on Monday, 25th March at 2.30 pm in Broomfield Library where we will be reviewing The Darkness Knows by Arnaldur Indridason. Our April meeting will be on Monday, 29th April.

Barbara Bartlett

### **BUS PASS**

I'm looking forward to seeing those who can make it for the start of the new season of bus trips on Friday 15th March when we shall visit Warley Place for the wonderful display of spring bulbs which will hopefully still be at their best. It will be a ten o'clock start. There is the option to follow up a walk with lunch at the adjacent Thatchers Arms or return to Brentwood before making the journey back to Chelmsford.

New members welcome. Please let me know if you are coming then I can get in touch in the unlikely event we need to cancel. Let's hope it's a fine day for this one.

On Friday 19th April we'll go to Southend. Further details in the next newsletter.

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 has an outing to Blunts Hall, Witham, on Thursday 28th March, to see their display of daffodils. Meet there at 2:00. I can provide extra detail if needed.

Little Waltham Gardening Club has its Spring Show on Saturday 6th April (their March meeting is their AGM). 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.

Pat Radford

## GEOLOGY

We had a good look at the planets of our Solar System together with their moons in a presentation from Martin - thank you for being the first to share and grow our knowledge. We wondered at the Oort Cloud that extends halfway to our nearest star and speculated about life elsewhere. We wouldn't know about it even if there was!



Our next session will Wonder Why is the Sea Salty? Jean Cooper will bring us a presentation to help answer this, a very geological question. Do join us at 2pm on Tuesday 26th March,

Natural salt crystals



Feldspar crystals in rock - a hint!

Ros & Ian

## HEALTH MATTERS

Please note that this group from now onwards will be meeting on the third Wednesday of the month and at 2pm but still at the Pavilion, Great Waltham, CM3 1DF. Thus, our next meeting will take place on March 20th when we will continue talking about respiratory conditions but this time we will focus on Asthma, Cystic Fibrosis and various respiratory infections such as TB.

Refreshments will be available and new members are always welcome.

Gill Sturman

## HISTORY

Nothing to report this month on Group activity but 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. St Christopher's church contains three interesting brasses that were conserved in 1994. The talk will set the brasses at Willingale in context. Tickets £10 (including wine and cheese afterwards) from Ian Kerwin (mobile 07837170816, e-mail [iankerwin@btinternet.com](mailto:iankerwin@btinternet.com)).

The Essex Record Office have arranged a mini-conference to remember the impact the Americans had on the county 80 years ago. The conference will be held on Saturday, 27th April 2024 and is entitled 'Welcome To Essex': remembering the USAAF. An 'early-bird' offer on tickets is currently available.

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 is now changed venues, so the warning about parking is no longer needed. As we have decided to meet every Friday, our March dates are 8th, 15th, 22nd and 29th.

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

Wendy Talley



## NATURAL HISTORY



The Natural History Group had a very enjoyable walk on Galleywood Common. Thankfully the morning was dry. We met at the Galleywood Heritage Centre and walked along the old racecourse to an area called The Mire, to look for lichens. There were a few on the western side of the trees which is where the prevailing weather comes from. Useful as a compass guide. There were lots of



snowdrops which must have been introduced, not natural. We also found some Hazel catkins and noted the very small red flowers just behind the catkins. They wait for the wind to blow the pollen from the male catkins onto them to fertilise them so they can produce nuts.

We rounded off our walk at the Heritage Centre where we were made very welcome with coffee and wonderful cake. The team made us so welcome even laying out a small exhibition of the Heritage Centre. I would like to recommend a visit to the Heritage Centre, with free parking, and thank the team for their hospitality.

Please note that the group will not be going to Heybridge on 19th March due to a steep rise in car parking charges. We will meet at the Village Hall at 10am and walk to the Mill and around Newlands Grove, looking for signs of spring and bird watching.

Future meetings:

- April 23rd                      Norsey Woods - guided walk.  
NOTE CHANGE OF DATE.
- 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 every third Thursday from 10-12.00. The group offers opportunities to improve your photography in a supportive, non-competitive and fun environment. Besides the monthly meetings, there are periodic photo outings and members receive online links to useful photography tutorials and info from the internet.

Our most recent trip was to the Taylor Wessing portrait exhibition and the Soho area. The last planned trip, to Docklands, was unfortunately postponed due to bad weather.

New members always welcome. Contact me for info.

Docklands architecture on a good day!

Glynn Wadson

## SCRABBLE

For the moment the Scrabble Group is on hold

## TABLE TENNIS

Dates for table tennis for March, at 11.00 at Melbourne Leisure Centre, are -

- Thursday, 14th
- Thursday, 28th

As usual the price will be £1 for the hour's enjoyable, sociable get together with friends playing some table tennis.

Jean Lock

## TEN-PIN BOWLING

Great news we are starting our ten-pin bowling at City Bowl (near Ruskin University) on March 6th at 10.30. Price £8 - this includes 2 games, shoe hire & tea/coffee. I would request players arrive at 10.15 this gives us time to arrange balls etc. Going forward we will be doing the 1st & 3rd Wednesday of each month. If you haven't bowled before but wish to try you will be more than welcome and rest assured that we always have lanes with side guards up - this guarantees your ball will knock some skittles down!

Lorna Stuart

## **BROOMFIELD UKULELE GROUP (BUGS)**

The Ukulele Group will be meeting at Janette's on March 7th and at Pat's on the 21st March. In April we will be at Jan's on the 4th and at Jennie's on the 18th. All these dates are on a Thursday and we meet at 2pm for 2 hours. Anyone wishing to join us should contact Pat for the addresses. New members are welcome and you do not have to host to take part.  
Pat Platt

## **WALKING**

The recent deluges had once again put paid to our riverside walk. I sincerely hope that we can get out in March!

Our March walk does pass a weir and cross the Chelmer, but I am hoping that this will not stop us proceeding. We will be staying local but crossing the main North-South & East-West long-distance routes in the county (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 12th March 2024. There will be a contribution of 50 pence towards transport costs.

Please let me know if you are coming. As usual 07375 604506 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