



Broomfield & District

Newsletter November 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 November newsletter.

I hope you all enjoyed the October meeting which was also our AGM.

Many thanks to the committee that served last year and a big thank you to those who have put themselves forward to serve this year. We have five existing members continuing Dick Chapman, Glynn Wadeson, Gill Sturman, Peter Radford and myself. Roger Warner who was co-opted last year has been voted on this year and we have one new member Mike Farn.

As we move into colder damper weather, please keep warm: put on those extra layers and eat plenty of peppermints.

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 new badge will be issued when fees are paid.

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) 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

8 th November	Don't Eat the Cabin Boy	Toni Neobard
13 th December	50 Years in Rock and Roll	Alan Goldsmith

Meeting Schedule - early 2024

10 th January	Marie Curie	Angela Taylor (tbc)
14 th February	NHS History and Future	Andrew Baker
13 th March	Waterways	Jim Jenkins
10 th April	The Magic of Theatre	Roger Mannion

Calendar for November and December

(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	
October	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	November
	Badminton Book Group		Gardening	Table Tennis Ukulele	Lacemaking			
November	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
	Badminton Canasta							
	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	
	Badminton Beer Appreciation	Walking	u3a Meeting	Photography Ukulele	Lacemaking			
	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	
	Badminton Canasta	Natural History Health Matters		<i>Gardening</i> Scrabble Table Tennis				
27	28	29	30	1	2	3	December	
Badminton Book Group	Geology			Lacemaking				
4	5	6	7	8	9	10		
Badminton Canasta		Gardening	Ukulele					
11	12	13	14	15	16	17		
Badminton		u3a Meeting	Scrabble	Lacemaking				
18	19	20	21	22	23	24		
Badminton Canasta	Natural History <i>Health Matters</i>		Photography			Christmas Eve		
25	26	27	28	29	30	31		
Christmas Day	Boxing Day					New Year's Eve		

Notes and Notices, November 2023

Introduction

As noted in the Walking Group report, the walkers, and the attendees at the last u3a meeting, raised nearly £50 for Children In Need. The certificate should have been appended to the e-mail sending this Newsletter.

Talks and Events

Gresham College talks in November include: "Connect To Prosper – The Power Of Networks" by Professor Michael Mainelli on Monday, 20 November; "The Maths of Sudoku and Latin Squares" by Sarah Hart on Tuesday, 21 November; "Why 1.5°C Matters" by Myles Allen on Tuesday, 21 November and "Antisemitic Conspiracy Theories: Past, Present and Future?" by Richard Evans on Wednesday, 22 November. As ever, full details can be found at <https://www.gresham.ac.uk/>.

The next event of the Essex Branch of the Historical Association will be on Saturday, December 2 when there will be a debate on the topic of "Who most exploited the July Crisis of 1914?". This starts at 2.30 p.m. and takes place in Trinity Methodist Church, Rainsford Road, Chelmsford CM1 2XB. As the pandemic has now receded, live Zoom transmissions or You Tube recordings of these events will no longer be offered. Full details of this and subsequent talks can be found at:

<https://www.history.org.uk/branches/resource/1203/essex-branch-programme>.

Fraud

Which? warns that scammers posing as police officers are spooking victims into handing over money and personal details. Police forces reported a spate of these scams earlier this year. Victims were told that a fraud case was being investigated, that a relative of theirs was in custody or that someone had their bank card and ID. Alarming, this scam is back, so find out how to stay safe from -

<https://www.which.co.uk/news/article/cold-call-police-impersonation-scams-warning-aTqV91j5yeOJ>

Money Matters

As the autumn months draw in, drying our clothes outside is no longer an easy option and we're forced to use other more costly methods indoors. But what is the most efficient – and cheapest – way to dry your laundry? Which? has compared tumble dryers, dehumidifiers, heated clothes airers and more to find the pros and cons of each method and to see which gets the job done with the lowest running costs -

<https://www.which.co.uk/news/article/whats-the-best-and-cheapest-way-to-dry-clothes-indoors-aVcs74u56Gk8>.

and finally ...

If you intend to travel to or from Chelmsford by train, in the near future, there are two happenings to note.

Over the rest of the year, there are engineering works in preparation for Beaulieu Park station. On most Saturdays and Sundays, the line will be closed from Witham to either Chelmsford or Shenfield. There will be a bus replacement service in lieu.

From about now until next Summer(!), the lifts at Chelmsford station will be being replaced. Initially, the lift serving platform 2 (usually used by trains from London) will be dealt with. There will be step free access via the road leading to Townfield Street car park. When that's done (scheduled for April), work will start on replacing the lift serving platform 1 (usually used by trains to London). I await details of any mitigation measures for this.

If you need more details, feel free to contact me.

BROOMFIELD & DISTRICT U3A – GROUP REPORTS

BADMINTON

The next badminton dates are 6th, 13th, 20th & 27th November and 4th, 11th & 18th December 12-1pm.

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

Maxine Martin



It is with great sadness that I have to report the passing of Ian Hunter. Ian was a member of both the Badminton and Bowling Groups, he also had membership of Chelmsford u3a for many years. He was a lovely man who made everyone happy, he will be sadly missed - Barbara Bartlett

BEER APPRECIATION

A small band of us managed to meet at the Railway Tavern in October – we also managed to find (as usual) an excellent selection of ales that we had not tried before, plus a few old favourites.

As has become the practice, our November meeting is our 'festive lunch'. Lunch will be at the Rose & Crown, Great Waltham but transport is being arranged from Broomfield Village Hall at 12.30pm on Monday 13th November 2023.

Please let me know if (a) you are coming, so that I can ensure you have a seat and (b) if you will require transport, so that we can book sufficient seats. Transport will be by means of one of the local transport options (Community Transport/DigiGo or Ugo).

Please let me know by Friday 10th November at the latest.

Malcolm Taylor

BOOK GROUP

We met at Broomfield Library on Monday, 30th October where we reviewed two books.

“Olive Kitteridge” by Elizabeth Strout -This book offers profound insights into the human condition, its conflicts, its tragedies and joys and the endurance it requires. The central character is Olive Kitteridge and the book explores the lives of those around her in the small town of Crosby, Maine and how she impacts on their lives. This book was well received by most members and received an average score of 7/10.

“Things Fall Apart” by Chinua Achebe - This is a debut novel by a Nigerian author, first published in 1958. It depicts pre-colonial life in the lower Niger and the invasion by Europeans during the late 19th century. A very powerful book, compelling but not easy read. Once again most members found it a positive read and gave it an average score of 7/10.

The next meeting will be on Monday, 27th November at 2.30 pm in Broomfield Library where we will be reviewing “The House of the Edge of the Cliff” by Carol Drinkwater.

Barbara Bartlett

BUS PASS

Our visit to Maldon was postponed for a week due to the wet weather, although we were so fortunate to escape the destruction caused by Storm Babet in neighbouring counties.

I should like to thank everyone who has supported the group throughout this year. We'll now take a break and resume activities in the spring.

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

GARDENING

Chelmsford U3A Gardening Group is scheduled to meet on Thursday 23 November at Boreham Village Hall at 2 pm but I have received no details.

Little Waltham Gardening Club meets at the Memorial Hall, Little Waltham, on Wednesday November 1st at 7:30. The presentation this month is by Sylvia Jiggins, Reserve Warden of The Phyllis Currie Nature Reserve in Great Leighs. Visitors are welcome.

For details of contact numbers please contact me.

Pat Radford

GEOLOGY

A small group of us discussed the use that man has made of the rocks of Essex from scrunchy gravel to sticky clay and pure white chalk. As a result, our county is pock-marked with large holes in the ground which are mostly infilled with our waste. We also discussed a possible programme for the spring term and members 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.

Before this we have just one more chapter of Essex Rock to chew over - perhaps the most important - Chapter 13 'The Future of Essex Rock'. What will be the effects of climate change, erosion, plate movements etc? All are on different timescales. We shall meet for these important considerations on Tuesday 28th November at 2pm. We might even find some specimens to illustrate these thoughts or predictions.

There will be no Geology Group meeting in December as the fourth Tuesday will be somewhere in the middle of Christmas! The following meeting will be in January. We look forward to some good discussions.

Ros & Ian

HEALTH MATTERS

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, 21st November at 2.30pm in the Pavilion, Great Waltham, (CM3 1DF). We will continue talking about 'Strokes or Cerebrovascular Accidents (CVA)' but in this month's meeting we concentrate on the rehabilitation/recovery aspect. Refreshments will be available and new members are always welcome.



Gill Sturman

HISTORY

Members from our and Chelmsford/Great Baddow branches visited the historic Royal Gunpowder Millson on October 20 by coach and car-share for a guided tour of the grounds and facilities, finished off by a visit to Waltham Abbey to visit the cathedral and/or grab a late lunch! The party was able to take a ride around the vast estate, which includes 200 buildings of different types, which all played their own specialist part in the making of gunpowder and later, cordite, and in later years, secret explosive propellant research during the later Cold War period.

The Mills, established in the 1600s, hold the record for the longest uninterrupted production of explosives world-wide. The grounds are now extensively wooded, and populated by a variety of wildlife, and we were treated to close-up views of deer roaming and some serious clashing of antlers!

On our visit to the armouries, we were able to take a close look at a range of rifles, handguns and machine guns from flintlocks up to the modern day, and under close supervision, to handle some. Before leaving for Waltham Abbey, members had the chance to visit the exhibition of missiles including the remnants of a German wartime V2 rocket engine, which fell from a disintegrating missile above Waltham Abbey. In spite of our warnings of rain, we had decent weather throughout.

Thanks to the Spillers for organising the coach and guided tour.

Glynn Wadson

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 as parking can be a problem.

Wendy Talley

NATURAL HISTORY

Six members of the Natural History Group met at Hyde Hall. It was a lovely sunny morning but rather windy. We walked up the hill from the reception to look at the Sakura trees (cherry). This type of tree was originally planted in Japan around 794, for people to celebrate Hanami. When they are in flower the Japanese hold picnics under them.



We found a few uncommon trees... Taxus Baccata, this is a slow growing conifer. It can be confused with the Yew, it also bears bright red berries. The ones we found were also clipped like the Yews, so very confusing!

Another beautiful tree is the Liquidambar or more commonly called Liquid Gold. The foliage turns a variety of reds and oranges and it doesn't seem to grow too big. The Alders in the damp area of the gardens are already showing their catkins, ready for spring.

The Rainbow Borders are still beautiful and attracting bees and butterflies.

The vegetables were still doing well, lots of tomatoes and cucumbers' which I believe are used in the restaurant.

It was a lovely morning; you can visit at any time and find something of interest.

Future meetings:

- November 21st Walk to Writtle from Admirals Park.
- December 19th Christmas meeting, Oaklands Park.

Sue Browning

PHOTOGRAPHY

There's absolutely nothing wrong with taking snaps! But if you'd like to be more creative, develop compositional skills, or learn how to get more from your digital camera or phone in a friendly, supportive environment our group might be just the place for you. Our meetings offer the opportunity to share your photos and get feedback, to participate in photo 'challenges' aimed at stirring the creative juices, and to get practical help and advice within the group and on an individual basis if needed.

If you are a more experienced photographer and would like to share your knowledge and skills, you're very welcome to join too! New members are always welcome.

Meetings are from 10-12, every third Thursday in the month, (Next meeting 16th November.) at the United Reformed Church, Little Waltham. Car parking is available and the building is fully accessible. For further info, or if you wish to join, please contact me.



Glynn Wadeson

SCRABBLE

We met on the 4th Thursday, as usual. and had some enjoyable games.

We meet for November on Thursday November 23rd, 2pm in the Methodist Church Hall.

New members are always welcome. Please just ask if you would like to join us.

(We are having an early meeting in December on Thursday 14th.)

We play purely for pleasure.

Heather Steed

TABLE TENNIS

Table tennis has been booked (just two tables as there were only a few attending in October) for:

- Thursday, 2nd November at 11.00 am.
- Thursday, 23rd November at 11.00 am.

Cost £2. Come along for a non-serious game which is good fun.

Jean Lock

TEN-PIN BOWLING

Hello, good news regarding ten-pin bowling, there is a notice on their web site stating they are opening early December. As soon as they are open, I will visit and negotiate a group price and see when they can accommodate our group. As December is a busy month for most of us I think I will aim to set up the first session in the new year. I will contact everyone on the current playing list and put news in the monthly letter. I can't wait to meet up with everyone at this very sociable group

Lorna Stuart

BROOMFIELD UKULELE GROUP (BUGS)

We are meeting at Pat's house on Thursday 2nd November and at Jennie's on 16th. We are only meeting once in December. This will be on the 7th December at Tish's home.

Anyone who is new and wishes to join us should contact me for the addresses.

Pat Platt

WALKING

A good long walk (6 miles) in sunshine around Hatfield Heath followed by an excellent lunch as usual. Much to talk about including a buzzard, an oak planted for Queen Victoria's Jubilee and old buildings.

Thank you to the walkers and to our u3a members who raised £48.58 for Children In Need.

Our November outing will be much shorter – four miles – around Little Baddow and the Danbury Ridge. A varied walk, through woods, cross field paths and over streams – unfortunately they have saved the stiles until last (five in 100 yards!!!) – finishing at that well known walkers' hostelry The Rodney.



As usual we will meet in the car park of the Broomfield Royal British Legion, Saxon Way, Broomfield at 9.30am on Tuesday 14th November 2023.

We shall be car-sharing, as usual, cost £1.00 each. 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	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 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	-
		-
	Dick Chapman	-
		-
	Mike Farn	-
		-

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