



# Broomfield & District

Newsletter October 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](mailto:broomfieldanddistrictu3a@gmail.com)*

## **From the Chair**

Welcome to our October newsletter.

I hope you all enjoyed the September meeting

Our October meeting is the AGM, I hope you will all make every effort to attend.

We will be losing a couple of committee members this year. I would like to say a special thank you to Pat Radford for all the hard work and support she has put into our u3a branch.

We do need additional committee members to help keep the branch alive so please put yourselves forward, remember the branch cannot function without a committee and it should not be left to the same few people.

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 & 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.

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### **Meeting Schedule - 2023**

11 <sup>th</sup> October	Thomas Becket and Henry II	Dennis Eraut
8 <sup>th</sup> November	Don't Eat the Cabin Boy	Toni Neobard
13 <sup>th</sup> December	50 Years in Rock and Roll	Alan Goldsmith

## Calendar for October and November

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

# Notes and Notices, October 2023

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## Introduction

I've been contacted by Mark Anderson from The Bach Choir, which is now offering group booking discounts on their concerts (which appear to be only in central London). If anyone is interested, either contact me or go to <https://thebachchoir.org.uk/>

We have also been asked whether anyone would like to attend a free, online Mindfulness for Later Life Course run by a clinical psychologist. If anyone is interested, please contact me.

## Talks and Events

This is Black History Month and Gresham College has several related lectures, including "Writing after Windrush" by Dr Malachi McIntosh. Other October talks include "A Small History of Big Evolutionary Ideas" and "The Maths of Board Games". As ever, full details can be found at <https://www.gresham.ac.uk/>

The next talk at the Essex Branch of the Historical Association will be on Saturday, October 14 when Clive Ashman will give a talk on "Roman Britain: Mysteries of the Missing Mosaic, a Misplaced Milestone". The talk 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>

Finally in this section, on 10th October 2023 at 10am, Dave Bazley of Halstead & District U3a will talk about "Electricity Generation and Distribution - Past, Present and Future", which should be of interest given the current debate about National Grid's plans for the link from Norwich to Tilbury (formerly known as East Anglia GREEN). To book a place go to: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdeR9Ry0-Acx5Jji5am1HD9FExb-hz9AkLfLdnsLddYREgdDg/viewform>

## Money Matters

Do you use PayPal? You might not be protected if your purchase goes wrong. See <https://www.radiotimesmoney.com/news/its-safest-not-to-use-third-party-payment-schemes/>

Energy costs remain high despite the impending price cap drop. Which? has calculated the annual running costs for your appliances, plus simple tips to keep them down. See

<https://www.which.co.uk/reviews/cutting-your-energy-bills/article/save-electricity/how-much-your-appliances-cost-to-run-a7N937v2SWom>

## and finally ...

Pothole-related damage to vehicles is on the rise (especially with Essex's roads!), but who has to pick up the bill for the repairs? Which? looks at whether it's worth claiming on your insurance. See:

<https://www.which.co.uk/news/article/pothole-damage-on-the-rise-can-you-claim-on-your-car-insurance-an4Ub3h8ihYV>

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

### **BADMINTON**

I have taken over the badminton group from Barbara Bartlett. I would like to thank Barbara for starting the group and all her hard work making it a very enjoyable group, thanks also for all the help with the handover.

The next badminton session will be on Monday 2nd October between 12 - 1 pm.

Further dates are Monday 9th, 16th, 23rd and 30th October. 6th, 13th, 20th, and 27th November.

Maxine Martin

### **BEER APPRECIATION**

As a consequence of holidays we did not meet in September. Our October meet will be on Monday 9th October 2023 at 2.00pm when we will meet in the Railway Tavern, opposite Chelmsford Railway Station.

This will give us the opportunity to discuss vacations past, any “heady” topic of the day and more importantly confirm the place for our Christmas soiree!! (Apologies for mentioning that word – less than 100 days to go!!)

If you are joining us please let me know if you are coming, so that we can ensure sufficient seating.

Malcolm Taylor

### **BOOK GROUP**

We met up on 25th September at Broomfield Library where we reviewed The Paris Library by Janet Skeslien Charles. The book received mixed reviews with an average score of 5/10.

Our next meeting will be on Monday, 30th October at 2.30 pm in Broomfield Library when we will be reviewing Olive Kitteridge by Elizabeth Strout and Things Fall Apart by Chinua Achebe.

Barbara Bartlett

## BUS PASS

Last month we did our bit to keep this little used bus service running - and surprised the driver - when 16 of us boarded the bus to Battlesbridge on a



beautiful sunny September day. We all found something to interest us browsing round the many antique dealers. It was unfortunate that some of the group had a very long



wait for a delayed bus (you never find out the reason) whereas those of us who went for a later bus had a very good run home.

For our last trip of this year, we'll head back to Maldon on Friday 20th October. The Moot Hall, Museum in the Park and Maeldune Centre are all interesting and, if you have already seen all these, the Combined Military Services Museum has been recommended as well worth a visit. If it's a fine day you might just want a walk by the water where there's always something to see, birds or boats! I'll send further details to those on my mailing list. If you would like to be added to the 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*

## GARDENING

Chelmsford U3A Gardening Group will be meeting on Thursday 26 October at Boreham Village Hall at 2 pm for a talk by Gary Matthews on the gardens of Easton Lodge. There will be a charge of £3 on the door to cover hall hire, refreshments and speaker's expenses. Refreshments will be served before the talk, which will start at 2.15 pm. All welcome.

Little Waltham Gardening Club hosts the annual Inter Society Quiz this month. The meeting starts slightly earlier this month, at 7:15 on Wednesday October 4th.

November's talk will be a presentation by Sylvia Jiggins the warden of The Phyllis Currie Nature Reserve in Great Leighs. The meeting will begin at 7:30 on Wednesday November 1st in the Memorial Hall, Little Waltham.

For details of contact numbers please contact me.

Pat Radford

## GEOLOGY

At our last session we discussed how the geology of Essex was discovered and who did it. The digging of the railways was particularly useful in exposing the full sequence of strata and this opportunity was used to the full. Many of the individuals, all men, but I'm sure their ladies were behind them, were of financially independent means, but obviously they had a fascination about what lay beneath the soil. Accounts of their findings were read at the Geological Society and later were the subject of Memoirs of the Geological Survey. These accounts are still useful today for their meticulous recording of the rocks even if the interpretation has changed somewhat.

Our next session will look at Chapter 12 of Essex Rock on Tuesday 24th October. This is called "Rock and People" and we shall look at how people have exploited and used the rocks of Essex for buildings, water supply etc. Gravel extraction is the biggest industry in Essex. Look forward to seeing you at 2pm



Ros & Ian

## HEALTH MATTERS



Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, 17th October at 2.30pm in the Pavilion, Great Waltham (CM3 1DF). We will be talking about 'Strokes or Cerebrovascular Accidents (CVA)'. We will be considering this condition: what happens, how can we spot them, how can we try to prevent them as well as recovery from them?

Refreshments will be available and new members are always welcome.

Gill Sturman

## HISTORY

The outing, in conjunction with Spillers Tours, is on 20th October, and all those who've paid should have received their details of the day trip from Ray Spiller by the time of publication. Pick-up will be at the Angel pub bus stop at 8.30 on the day.

At the time of writing, there are still one or two spaces, so if you want to join us, contact me ASAP. Those who are making their own way by car will need to buy your tickets on arrival.

Glynn Wadeson

## 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

The Natural History Group visited West Hanningfield Reservoir Reserve. It was a very windy cloudy morning but dry! We were there for bird watching and we weren't disappointed! We walked along to the first hide rustling through autumn leaves. We were met with a wonderful display of many different waterfowl. Our first sighting was a flock of Coots with a few Grebe. Then along came some Tufted Duck. In the distance on a bank there were lots of Cormorants drying their plumage. We then moved further along to another hide this too proved to be excellent. Swimming past were three Egyptian Geese, they were originally



kept as pets but have escaped into the wild where they have successfully settled. We were surprised to see a female Shoveler Duck. I expect there will be more as autumn progresses. Also, along the bank were, now quite rare, Lapwings accompanied by Pied Wagtails. Flying over the water were Swallows and House Martins stocking up with food before setting off on their migration back to Africa.



On returning to the visitors' centre for coffee we were treated to the sight of lots of Blue Tits feasting on the peanuts outside the window. It was a lovely morning.

Our next visit is to Hyde Hall on Tuesday 17th October to try to identify trees by their autumn colours.

If anyone would like to join us please contact me for details.

Future meetings:

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

Sue Browning



## PHOTOGRAPHY



Glynn Wadeson

Some members of the group were able to join me on a photo trip to the historic Barbican estate where we spent a few hours capturing a range of images amongst the 'brutalist' buildings and maze-like walkways.

Our previous 'challenge' had been that of using colour as a significant element of composition, and we had a great selection of photos to share at the first meeting after the break.

Our next challenge is 'reflections', and we look forward to seeing the creative results at our next meeting, on Thursday 19th October, 10-12, at Little Waltham United Reformed Church.

New members are welcome. Any enquiries please contact me.

## SCRABBLE

We will be playing scrabble on Thursday 26th October at 2pm at the Methodist Church Hall.

New members always welcome.

Heather Steed

## TABLE TENNIS

Unfortunately, just one session for October as the last get together was at the end of September and we then clash with half term in October. I have booked for Thursday, 12th October at 11.00 with four tables at a cost of £2. A light hearted hour's play, do come along.

Jean Lock

## **TEN-PIN BOWLING**

Again, not good news, I have heard that City Bowls do not plan to open again until next year, so watch this space and as soon as we can get bowling again I will contact all previous bowlers and put information in the monthly Newsletter

Lorna Stuart

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

The ukulele group is meeting at Jennie's on 5th October and at Pat's on the 19th October. We meet from 2 - 4 pm. If you would like to come along and don't know the addresses, please contact me.

Pat Platt

## **WALKING**

We did not meet in September so our next walk will be a trifle longer a six mile walk (2 stiles) around Hatfield Heath, utilising sections of the Forest Way & Stort Valley Way). Starting from the small hamlet of Hatfield Heath, we will walk field paths, field edges and some quiet lanes. Through meadows passing ancient oaks returning once again for an excellent pub lunch.

As usual we will meet in the car park of the Broomfield Royal British Legion, Saxon Way, Broomfield at 9.15am on Tuesday 10th October 2023.

We shall be car-sharing, as usual, cost £2.00 each. Please let me know if you are coming and if you are willing to drive. Mobile 07375 604506 operative on the day.

The preceding weekend (7th/8th October) is the date for the Countryfile Children in Need ramble so we thought it would be an excellent opportunity to support this worthwhile cause – the bucket will be out on 11th October at the monthly meeting!

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
<i>Jazz Appreciation</i>	<i>Mick Fryer</i>
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 Wadson	-
		-
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