



Broomfield & District

Newsletter February 2023

GROUPS:

- Art
- 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 February newsletter.

I hope you are all keeping well & warm

I was caught out by the second cold spell, I can't wait for a bit of sun.

I hope you all enjoyed the January talk, I am sorry I missed it. The February talk is on 'Essex hearing help' I am looking forward to this as I am one of those who rely on hearing aids & would really struggle without them, although my wife says I'm not much better with them!!

We are hoping to have a couple of the group leaders to tell us about their respective groups, if anyone has any thoughts on new group topics talk to one of the committee, even if you do not want to run the group we can see what the level of interest is.

I attended a zone meeting with other Essex U3A groups to look at the possibility of setting up an Essex network as the regional one has ceased to function. No decisions were made but there appeared to be a level of interest in some form of communication between groups. I will keep you posted on developments.

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 Tuesday 7th February.

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 February	Essex Hearing Help	Sophie Ede
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

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

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

Notes and Notices, February 2023

Talks

Many of you will remember the talk in December about Project Rutherford. There are two related talks being given at Broomfield Church. On Saturday 25th February, Chris Parkinson (an expert in stained glass) will give a talk entitled "Stained Glass and Rosemary Rutherford"; on Saturday 25th March, Naomi Courtney-Luck (a relative of Rosemary) will give a talk entitled "Life and Art of Rosemary Rutherford". Both talks are at 2pm and tickets for each (£5) can be bought from the church or by e-mailing our own Ros Mercer (see the Group Leaders list).

In February, Gresham College's lecturers include Professor Ronald Hutton continuing his popular series with "Anglo-Saxon Pagan Gods"; Professor Leslie Thomas KC will ask, "Do We Need Barristers?" and Professor Joanna Bourke will discuss "The cultural history of AIDS". also Professor Martin Daunton will explore "Slavery and the British Economy" and Mike Pitts will explore "The History of Stonehenge. The Lord Mayor will lead an event on "The Role for Financial Services in Boosting Financial Literacy", which features a distinguished panel including Andrew Haldane, CEO of the RSA and former Chief Economist at the Bank of England; Patrick Jenkins, Deputy Editor of the Financial Times; and Sacha Romanovitch OBE, Chief Executive of Fair4AllFinance. Full details can be found at:

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

The Essex Branch of the Historical Association has four more talks scheduled for the next four months. On Saturday February 4 at 2.30 pm. Dave McCall's talk is entitled "We'll always have Paris! Stranger than fiction". Dave is otherwise known as David Ebsworth, author of "A Betrayal of Heroes", an historical novel about the Spaniards who fought for Free France in the Second World War. You will hear tales of Casablanca and Brazzaville, of the actual Spaniards who fought for Free France and the 1940s celebrities and spies who fill the novel's pages. On Saturday March 4 at 3.00 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". These 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. Details of the April and May talks will be in subsequent Newsletters.

Fraud

If you get an e-mail from an address that includes ".post.co.uk", ignore it, it's fraudulent!

Money Matters

It's a bit late for new year's resolutions but Which? has some potential useful hints for 2023; see <https://www.which.co.uk/news/article/9-new-years-resolutions-to-boost-your-finances-in-2023-a41vY418rh74>

Which? also has an investigation of the benefits and drawback of using an air fryer; see <https://www.which.co.uk/news/article/video-air-fryer-vs-oven-which-is-really-cheaper-aLDZr5N9xaXL>

and finally

The other day, I received an e-mail from UK Power Networks, who distribute electricity in this part of the world. It was slightly worrying because it was about what to do before and during a scheduled power cut! These are unlikely but, just in case one does happen you should:

- Keep a mobile phone fully charged (if you have one) so you can use it to go online for updates or call if you have a power cut. (Call 105 in an emergency.)
- Keep a torch handy in case you are without power during the night.
- Have warm clothes, blankets and food which doesn't need heating accessible.

The contact details for UK Power Networks are 0800 31 63 105 and www.ukpowernetworks.co.uk

BROOMFIELD & DISTRICT U3A – GROUP REPORTS

ART GROUP

We met on Thursday, 26th January and after some discussion we decided that we would disband our u3a Group. So it's farewell from us, maybe another Group can be started sometime in the future.

Barbara Bartlett

BADMINTON

The next meeting will be on Monday, 20th February at the Sports Centre in Melbourne between 12:00 and 1:00 pm.

Barbara Bartlett

BEER APPRECIATION

We had an excellent meeting in the Railway Tavern in January, with a very full attendance. As usual many topics were discussed (including the fact that we had tried all the cask ales on offer!!). There was a suggestion that yours truly write another story but I declined as it would have been about **Oscar Wilde & Jack Spitty** taking a very **old** boat out on **Dartmoor**, along with the **old man (and the sea)** to chase a **wily old fox** – so there didn't seem to be much purpose!!



Our February visit will be to the Woolpack, by the Odeon roundabout in Chelmsford, at 2.00pm on Monday 20th February 2023.

As usual please let me know if you are coming.

Malcolm Taylor

BOOK GROUP

We met in Broomfield Library on Monday, 23rd January where we discussed Miss Benson's Beetle by Rachel Joyce. This novel is set in 1950 in London. Margery Benson has reached breaking point and decides to abandon her job and go on an expedition to the other side of the world to find a golden beetle. After advertising for an assistant, she ends up with the last person she had in mind, but together they find themselves drawn into a cross ocean adventure that exceeds all expectations and delivers something neither of them expected to find, the transformative power of friendship. Once again, a mixture of reviews from the members, almost a love/hate situation, the average score was 6/10. The only thing everyone agreed on was that it was well written and very descriptive.

Our next meeting will be on Monday, 27th February at 2.30 pm in Broomfield Library where we will be reviewing A Gentleman in Moscow by Amor Towles.

Barbara Bartlett

BUS PASS

I hope we shall have our first outing of 2023 on Friday 31st March when we'll go to Harlow to look at some of the many sculptures. This will be followed by a visit to Hanningfield to enjoy the bluebells and a walk in the nature reserve on Friday 28th April. More details to follow in next month's newsletter.

I hope you're all well and look forward to seeing you soon.

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 February or March.

Pat Radford

GARDENING

Because of the indisposition of several key people, Chelmsford u3a Garden Group will not start its new year programme of talks on Thursday February 23rd at Boreham Village Hall. They hope to restart on Thursday 23rd March. More details will be in the March Newsletter

Little Waltham Gardening Club will hold its first meeting of the year on Wednesday 1st February. The meeting starts at 7.30pm in the Memorial Hall. "The Down to Earth Community Allotment Project" by Carolin Rogers of the Wilderness Foundation is the talk for the evening. On Wednesday 1st March, the club will hold its AGM and celebrate its 40th birthday.

Pat Radford

GEOLOGY

We had a great turnout for our session on the Deep Structure of Essex. Now we all know what lurks 100 feet below us and why there is chalk at the surface in the North West up the M11, and South East - the white cliffs of Purfleet - of the county.

Next time we shall concentrate on the Chalk itself - why is it so unique, what is it made of etc. Come and get your hands dirty - well white anyway! We meet at 2pm on the fourth Tuesday of the month, which, in February is the very last day, 28th February at 2pm. New members are always welcome. All you need is a little curiosity.



Ros & Ian



HEALTH MATTERS

At the January meeting, we talked about chemicals which it is possible to become dependent on – some relatively mildly while others with terrible effects.

For our next Health Matters group meeting (21st February at 2pm at the Pavilion, Great Waltham CM3 1DF), the topic covered will be ‘Antibiotics’. We all have taken these drugs at sometime during our lives and we will talk about the use and misuse of them, the development of bacterial resistance, such as MRSA and other possible ways of combating bacterial infections.



Please note that our meetings from now onwards will be taking place on the third Tuesday of the month. New members are always welcome but please email me first.

Gill Sturman

HISTORY

Visit to Sudbury - Silk Walk, Wednesday 19th April. Sudbury has long been associated with silk manufacture and there are still 5 thriving factories today. (Due to health and safety rules, we will be unable to visit a factory.) The tour will be led by 2 Blue Badge Guides and takes about an hour and a half. We will explore the silk background of Sudbury in architecture and stories and explain why Sudbury is considered the silk weaving capital of the country. There has been a good response to this proposal. We will travel by car - a number of car drivers have generously agreed to give lifts to those that need them. There is a long stay car park near the Kingfisher Leisure Centre; free for the first 3 hours. We aim to meet with our guides at 11.00 am by Gainsborough's statue on Market Hill, opposite St Peter's Church. Cost £6.00 per person. At the February and March meetings, Maggie and John Williams will be available to take payment and issue a receipt giving all necessary details.

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

Below is the programme for 2023. We meet on the third Tuesday of each month except August. Most meetings are gentle walks whilst we study the environment.

On February 21st, we will meet at Dragons at Boyton Cross at 10.30am. to look at the snowdrops and other winter flowers and those that are about to bloom. We will also watch the birds and count the different species using the bird feeders.

There is a charge of £5. I need to know how many are coming and if they want coffee and cake, as this has to be ordered and costs £3.

(Please note that this is a privately planned meeting and is not part of the Open day to be held on 8th February.)

- March 21st Heybridge, bird watching.
- April 18th Newlands Grove.
- May 16th Hitchcock Meadow, Danbury.
- June 20th Mini beast hunt at 13 Hearsall Avenue.
- 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.

All meetings are in the monthly newsletter and include meeting times and any costs incurred. If you would like to car share please let me know.

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

I wish everyone a very happy and healthy New Year.

Sue Browning

PHOTOGRAPHY

The Photography Group meets next on 16th February at Little Waltham United Reformed Church, 10.00-12.00.

Whether you're a 'beginner' or an 'improver', you are welcome to come along and join in our relaxed and convivial discussions. If you want to find out more about the group just email or phone me.

New members are always welcome. Free off-street parking available in the Church car park.

Glynn Wadeson

SCRABBLE

Please do come and join us for our friendly scrabble games on Thursday 23rd February 2pm at Broomfield Methodist Church Hall. There should be time for two games and a cup of tea. Cost about £2.50 for room hire

Heather Steed

TABLE TENNIS

The dates for table tennis in February at Chelmsford Sports and Athletics Centre, Melbourne, are

- Thursday, 9th February at 11.00 a.m. cost £1.50 for the hour
- Thursday, 23rd February at 11.00 a.m. cost £1.50 for the hour.

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 the 2nd of February at Jan's house and on the 16th of February at Keith's house. If you want the addresses/directions please contact Patricia Platt. We will be meeting on the 2nd and 16th of March but the venues have yet to be decided. The meetings are at 2 pm and last for 2 hours.

Pat Platt

WALKING



The start of the New Walking Year was very much like our last walk – WET!! My thanks to the stalwarts who turned out to walk along the river and through the Chelmer Valley Local Nature Reserve. The positive aspect of the walk was that we were all able to confirm that our waterproofs still worked! The effects of the recent deluges were quite obvious to see as the river expanded to encompass the area between the Bishop's Mill pond, mill race and river. Even the weirs were rushing and carving out sections of bank & embankment to find a channel. Why, oh why don't you open the sluices and let the water out onto the floodplain by the Army & Navy? (Sorry you want to safeguard the developments on it!!)

Our next walk, hopefully drier, will be at Gosfield. We will be walking past the French Royal Family's hideaway (after the Revolution), through a couple of nature reserves and "taxi" in the tyre tracks of the US 40th Bombardment Group as they head for Germany. Finally ending at a Tudor pub (unfortunately 21st century prices). We will meet in the car park of the Broomfield Royal British Legion, Saxon Way, Broomfield at 9.15am on Tuesday 14th February 2023. (No cards please!) 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

possible new group:

JAZZ APPRECIATION

There is a proposal to form a Jazz Appreciation group for members to meet to share their interest in Jazz in all its manifestations from New Orleans to Contemporary jazz. If this would be of interest to any members, perhaps they could contact me and those members who expressed an interest to me at the January meeting, perhaps they could also confirm their interest by emailing me, Mick Fryer.

GROUP LEADERS

Art	Barbara Bartlett
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
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	TBC	-
		-
		-
Membership Secretary	Peter Radford	-
		-
Group Coordinator	Pat Radford	-
		-

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