



# Broomfield & District

Newsletter July 2024

## **GROUPS:**

- Badminton
- Beer Appreciation
- Book Group
- Bus Pass
- Canasta
- 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 July newsletter

I trust you are all keeping fit & well & enjoying the summer sunshine.

I hope you all enjoyed last month's talk and our special canine visitors, I am sorry I missed it.

If anyone has a subject that they are passionate about and would like to give us a talk on it do let one of the committee know.

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!

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](mailto:peterradford799@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**

10th July	The Chelmer and Blackwater Navigation <i>amended, 5<sup>th</sup> July</i>	Jim Jenkins (our chair)
14th August <i>please note corrected date</i>	"SOCIAL AFTERNOON" - NO TALK ARRANGED	
11th September	The First Essex Witch Trials	Peggy Griffin
9th October	The Tiptree Story	Nick Wickenden (Wilkins and Co. archivist)
13th November	Scam Prevention	Gavin Saunders (Essex Police)
11th December	Origins of English	Charley Haylock

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

# Notes and Notices, July 2024

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## To Start With

Back to normal this month!

## Talks and Events

Most series of talks have finished for the Summer but still to come is “Bats in the Belfry”, the last talk in the “People and Stone” series at Broomfield Church. It’s at 2pm on Saturday 13th July. (More details from Ros Mercer – see the Geology Group entry for contact information.)

## Holiday Time

With the holiday season upon us, Which? has some tips to help keep your property safe and secure, whether you’re away for an hour or a fortnight.

<https://www.which.co.uk/news/article/10-tips-to-keep-your-home-safe-while-you-are-away-aF8t63i4fRA9>

If you haven’t yet booked your holiday, here are some tips on avoiding being scammed:

<https://www.coventrybuildingsociety.co.uk/member/knowledge-centre/holiday-fraud.html>

And if you are flying off on holiday, here’s what to do if your flight is cancelled or delayed

<https://www.radiotimesmoney.com/news/heres-what-to-do-if-your-flight-is-cancelled-or-delayed-in-2024/>

## Fraud Matters

I’ve just had an e-mail purporting to be from an old friend who needed me to contact him by e-mail because he had laryngitis. He sounded OK to me when I telephoned him! Beware such e-mails.

Also beware any e-mails from addresses which start “[info@in.](mailto:info@in.)” or “[info@rdl.](mailto:info@rdl.)”, I’ve had several in the last few weeks, all with dodgy-looking content.

## Car Matters

Amid the farce of “Patch The Holes Lane” (if you haven’t heard about it, see

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c51npg4r3epo>), drivers must face the problems of what to do if they encounter potholes in their way and sometimes that’s not clear. See <https://www.radiotimesmoney.com/savings-and-investments/whos-at-fault-calls-for-rules-on-pothole-swerving>

## and finally, for those of you who have a dog

Owners are being warned to avoid common poisonous plants their dogs may encounter on nature walks.

<https://www.radiotimesmoney.com/news/protect-your-dog-beware-of-common-poisonous-plants>

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

### **BADMINTON**

The badminton dates for July and August are as follows:-

- 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd and 29th July
- 5th, 12th and 19th August (26th is the August bank holiday, so no badminton that day).

12 - 1 at the Sports and Athletics Centre, Melbourne.

We are still looking for one more person to join the group, if you are interested, please contact me.

Maxine Martin

### **BEER APPRECIATION**

We had an excellent meeting at The Compasses, Littley Green in June. Travel via Digigo was seamless (although we did, once again, get the reputation of going on a pub crawl – untrue – we meet at one, go to another & return to the first.....). Not only were we able to sample some excellent ales, we also enjoyed a variety of “huffers”; thank goodness we did not decide to follow them with the bread pudden – they would have needed to carry us to the bus!!.

This month we will be revisiting The Woolpack, on the Odeon roundabout in Chelmsford. We will meet as usual at 2.00pm on Monday 8th July 2024. Please let me know if you are coming.

They do serve food should you wish to avail yourself of that facility.....

Malcolm Taylor

### **BOOK GROUP**

Members met at 2.30 pm on Monday, 24th June in Broomfield Library where we reviewed The Wind Knows My Name by Isabel Allende. Vienna 1938. Five year old Samuel Adler boards the last Kindertransport train out of Nazi occupied Austria, escaping to England with just a change of clothes and his beloved violin. Eight decades later Anita Diaz and her mother flee El Salvador for refuge in the United States, where the new family separation policy lands seven year old Anita alone in a camp in Nogales. Intertwining past and present, this is an unforgettable story of the search for family and home, the extraordinary sacrifices made by parents and the courage of children to never stop dreaming. This book received an overall score of 6/10.

Our next meeting will be on Monday, 22nd July at 2.30 pm in Broomfield Library where we will be reviewing Traitors Gate by Jeffrey Archer. No meeting in August, the next date will be on Monday, 23rd September.

Barbara Bartlett

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## BUS PASS

On a sunny June day we made an early start for Hadleigh Country Park. Four of the group stopped in Rayleigh whilst the rest of us changed buses for Hadleigh. After coffee in the Hub cafe run by the Salvation Army we went our separate ways. Three stopped off at the



rare breeds farm, others made straight for the ruins of Hadleigh Castle and on to Leigh-on-Sea. It was by chance that ten of us found ourselves in Southend at the end of the afternoon waiting for the same bus back to Chelmsford. The bus was late, so time for much discussion on how we had spent the day. It was nearly seven o'clock when we arrived back in Chelmsford, tired but happy.



On 26th July we had planned to go to Ongar. The timetable for the day for the Epping and Ongar Railway has just been released and isn't very helpful for us bus travellers so I have decided to make changes. We'll keep to the same date but go instead to Perrywood Garden Centre at Tiptree.

August 16th will still be Maldon, as planned, with the opportunity to visit a garden open under the National Garden Scheme.

If you would like to know more or go on my mailing 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

## GARDENING

Chelmsford u3a Gardening Group has no outings advertised.

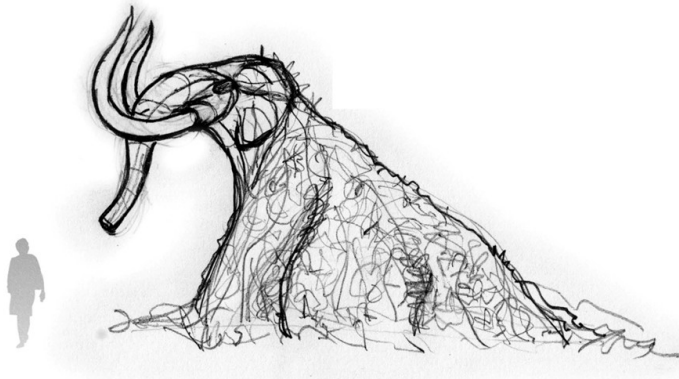
Little Waltham Gardening Club's August outing is for club members only. Their evening talks resume on Wednesday, 4th September when the subject will be "Growing For The Flower Arranger All The Year Round". (Little Waltham Memorial Hall, 7:30pm.)

Pat Radford

## GEOLOGY

For our June session we had a fascinating talk about the East Yorkshire coast and an enjoyable time identifying all the rocks and pebbles found on the beach there, which had weathered out of the Till (Boulder Clay) cliffs. They had been brought from various parts of the British Isles as well as from Norway by the ice sheet from the last glaciation. There was granite, coral limestone, shelly limestone and ironstone as well as flint and hard chalk. The rhomb porphyry could be matched with pictures from a book on the geology of Norway showing that it came from the Oslo region. We all became good 'rock detectives'!

We are going on a field visit for our next session on Tuesday 30th July. We shall meet at 2pm at Channels and look at the many boulders recovered from the gravel workings and then examine the Till Cliff with its signboard. We hope to see the 'Channels Mammoth' too, if it has been installed by then.



*Above: The Channels Mammoth*



*Right: Channels Board in front of cliff & puddingstone*

Ros & Ian

## HEALTH MATTERS

We will not now be meeting until September 18th at 2pm. More information about this proposed meeting will be found in later Newsletters. New members are always welcome.

Gill Sturman

## HISTORY

Nothing to report this month on Group activity.

Glynn Wadson

## LACEMAKING

Lacemaking is now happening locally, so the warning about parking is no longer needed. We meet nearly every Friday but please contact me beforehand to confirm that we are meeting.

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

Wendy Talley                      k

## NATURAL HISTORY

On a sunny day in June, 9 of us visited Phyllis Currie Nature Reserve, north west of Great Leighs. We were welcomed by warden Sylvia Jiggins who has been instrumental in changing an unpromising site into the present little jewel of a reserve with its diverse range of habitats. Together with hard working volunteers, Sylvia has changed the original site by de-silting the existing lake and slowly establishing native aquatic plants and replacing most of the pine trees with locally sourced native trees.

The meadow at the entrance to the reserve is a transformation from the original ryegrass that was grown for hay. It is now a delightful mix of wildflowers that have arisen from dormant



seeds and which are flourishing now that yellow rattle is helping to reduce the vigour of the grasses. Among the meadow flowers were green-veined orchids (aka green-winged orchids) and bee orchids growing in a sea of meadow buttercup and vetches.



We were able to access the reserve by means of hard paths and sturdy board walks. During our walk to different areas of the reserve, Sylvia pointed out colourful dragon and damselflies together with interesting plants and also described the management of the site.

This nature reserve is a true testament to continued hard work by the warden and enthusiastic volunteers under the auspices of the Essex Wildlife Trust. I recommend visiting in any season, before the threat to build 700 houses just across the lane to the reserve becomes a fact.

Future meetings:

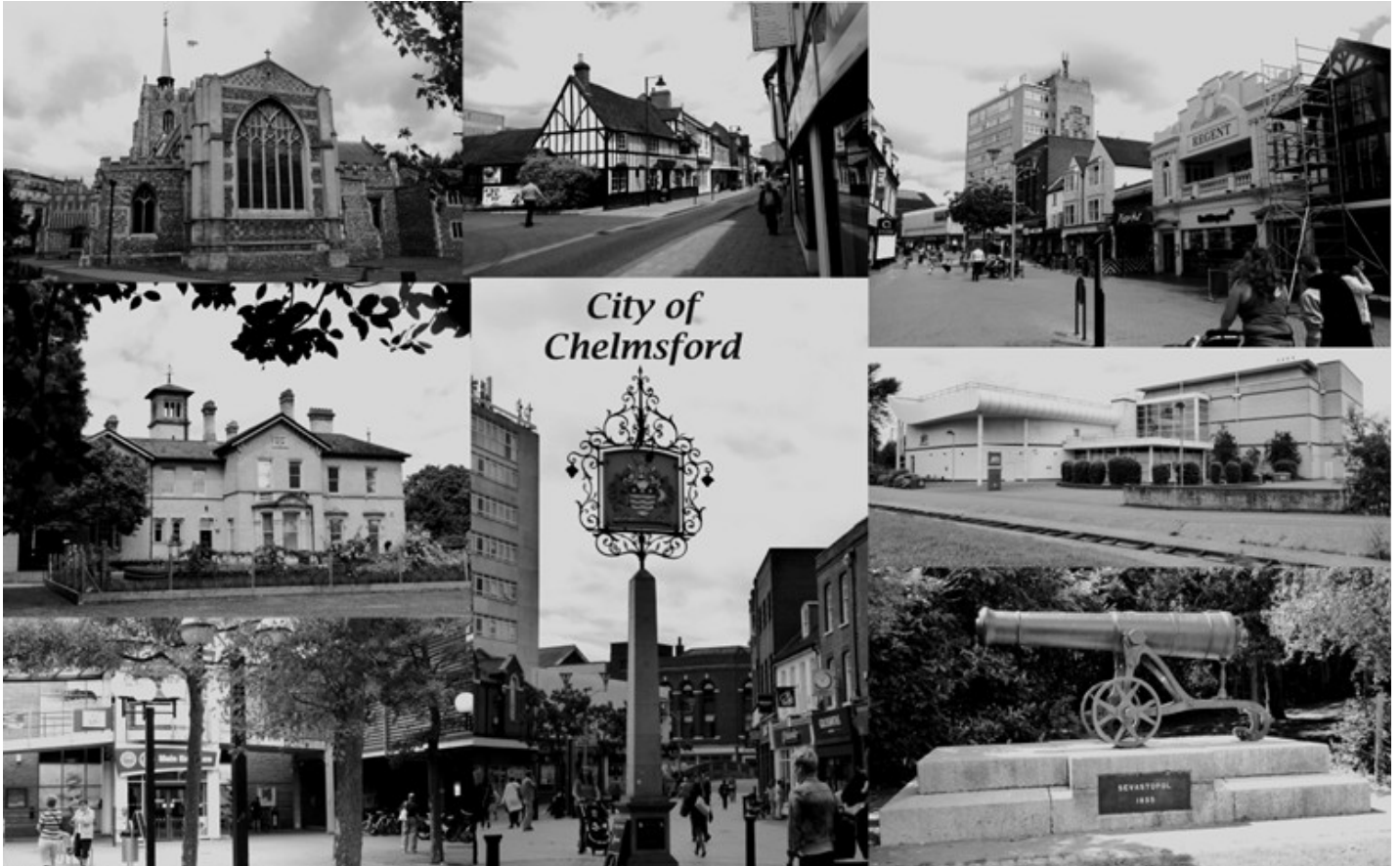
- July 16th                      Sparrow Hawk Wood, looking for signs of ancient woodland.
- August                        No meeting.
- September.17th            River Chelmer walk from Broomfield to Chelmsford.
- October 15th                Hyde Hall - Autumn Colours.
- November 19th            Hanningfield Reservoir - Bird Watching.
- December 17th            Admirals Park to Writtle Tea Rooms for Christmas Lunch.

Sue Browning

## PHOTOGRAPHY

It was good to get back together in June, after the May gap due to my holiday. We had agreed to have some fun with our 'challenge' at the April meeting, the task being to produce postcards, playing around with retro styles, colouring etc and we had some great submissions.

Space in the newsletter doesn't permit the inclusion of more than one image, so for this month, we've included a retro style Chelmsford composite from Francis Greatrex.



Next month's challenge is on 'The State we're in', with our usual wide remit, to encourage reflection and interpretation on the theme.

Our meetings take place on the third Thursday of every month from 10.00-12.00, at Little Waltham United Reformed Church.

New members are always welcome, if you want to come along, or simply find out more, contact me.

Glynn Wadeson

## SCRABBLE

For the moment, the Scrabble Group is on hold

## TABLE TENNIS

All welcome to come along for a fun game on these Thursdays: 11th July and 25th July at Melbourne Leisure Centre at 11.00. The cost is £1.50 for the hour. Hope to see you.  
Jean Lock

## TEN-PIN BOWLING

Ten pin bowling takes place on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month at City Bowls, Rivermead Industrial Estate near Anglia Ruskin University. We play 2 games, the cost is £8; this includes bowling, shoe hire & coffee. If you haven't played before, don't fear we have lanes with guards up the side so a score is guaranteed. We bowl at 10.30 but we request that bowlers arrive at 10.15 so we can arrange lanes shoes etc. Looking forward to seeing you all there.  
The dates and times for the next month are:

- Wednesday July 3rd 10.30
- Wednesday July 17th 10.30

Lorna Stuart

## BROOMFIELD UKULELE GROUP (BUGS)

The Ukulele Group is meeting on the 4th July at Jennie's home and on the 18th July at Pat's. On August 1st we are meeting at the home of Tish and then on the 15th at Jan's. We start at 2pm and play until 4 pm. New members are always welcome and should contact Pat for the addresses.  
Pat Platt

## WALKING

We had an excellent walk along the River Stour at Bures in June, crossing & recrossing the Essex/Suffolk border. The weather was with us and a great time was had by all (although one of our number was shy – or hiding – when the picture was taken).

Our July walk will be a complete contrast – from the sublime to the ridiculous! We will undertake a five mile walk starting at the EWT Thameside Nature Reserve, following a section of the King Charles III England Coast Path, via Mucking and then back alongside the River Thames.

We will meet in the car park of Broomfield Royal British Legion, Saxon Way at 9.30am on Tuesday 9th July. Transport costs £2.50 per head. Please let me know if you are coming and if you are willing to drive. As usual 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
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