

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 sofa (!)

Welcome to our June newsletter. Jim was abroad when I asked for contributions, so he asked me to fill in. Given this month's lavishly illustrated contributions, this has allowed me to omit this issue's Notes and Notices and put the significant information here. (Otherwise this Newsletter would have been too long.)

Please note that while books and jigsaws will (DV) be at our June meeting, they will NOT be at our July meeting. If you want to stock up for Summer, do it this month!

You may remember we had an invitation to visit GRIDSERVE near Braintree. We now have two possible dates, if we can get enough people to go. The dates are Friday 28th June and Monday 1st July (in the afternoon in both cases). If you would like to come along, please let me know.

We've been asked to put in a "plug" for East Essex Players (EEP), a local drama group who perform at the Palace Theatre, Westcliff-On-Sea. "Waiting For God" is based on the popular BBC sitcom and has been revised by the original scriptwriter for the stage – he waited 30 years to do this and EEP are the first amateur group to perform the show. This is a very funny show, if sometimes a little too relevant to those of us who are part of the older generation. It will be performed from 10th to 13th July 2024. EEP are also excited to be performing "Allo 'Allo 2", 'The Camembert Caper' from 13th to 16th November 2024. This is a completely new adventure and very 80's humour (before the 'PC' police appeared – you have been warned!).

The talk at our monthly meeting on the 12th June looks interesting, please remember to let me know if you are coming, this helps us when we are setting up the tables and chairs. When you get there, please sign in on the forms on the tables - this allows us to keep a track on numbers.

Don't forget your mugs!

Best wishes Peter Radford

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.

Meeting Schedule - 2024

12th June	Pets as Therapy <i>(expected to bring a dog or dogs)</i>	Helen Beard
10th July	A Beginning, a Muddle and an End	Bobbie Derbyshire (Novelist)
<i>7th August</i>	<i>NO TALK ARRANGED BUT MAY BE A "SOCIAL AFTERNOON"</i>	
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 June and July 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	
June	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	June
	Badminton Canasta		Gardening Ten-pin	Ukulele	Lacemaking			
	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	
	Beer Appreciation	Walking	u3a Meeting	Table Tennis	Lacemaking			
	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	
	Badminton Canasta	Natural History	Ten-pin	Photography Ukulele	Bus Pass Lacemaking			
	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	
	Badminton Book Group	Geology		Gardening Table Tennis	Lacemaking			
July	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	July
	Badminton Canasta		Gardening Ten-pin	Ukulele	Lacemaking			
	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
	Badminton <i>Beer Appreciation</i>	<i>Walking</i>	u3a Meeting		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 <i>Book Group</i>	<i>Geology</i>		<i>Gardening</i>	Bus Pass Lacemaking			
	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	
Badminton				Lacemaking			August	

BROOMFIELD & DISTRICT U3A – GROUP REPORTS

BADMINTON

The June dates for the badminton group are 3rd, 17th and 24th. July dates are 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd and 29th. (There is no badminton on the 10th June.)

All sessions are 12 noon – 1pm at the Athletics and Sports Centre, Melbourne and cost £3.00 a session.

We are a friendly group and if you would like to join us, contact me.

Maxine Martin

BEER APPRECIATION

Holidays and clashes of appointments meant that there was a very low turnout to our May meeting. Despite that we were able to taste some excellent ales at the Wetherspoon's Monday price of £1.99 a pint – worth a visit for that alone!!

Our June meeting is probably more of an expedition! We will be leaving Angel Green (opposite the Angel pub, Broomfield) at 12.30pm on Monday 10th June for The Compasses at Littley Green. Our intention is to enjoy a 'huffer' and accompanying refreshment. We shall be travelling by Digigo so please do not forget your bus passes.

Please let me know if you are coming as we will need to ensure we have sufficient seats!!

Malcolm Taylor

BOOK GROUP

The members met on 20th May in Broomfield Library, where we discussed "Bourneville" by Jonathan Coe. Set in Bourneville, a suburb of Birmingham and home to the famous chocolate factory, this book travels through 75 years of social change from VE Day in 1945 through to Covid in 2020, seen through the eyes of Mary and her family. The majority of members found the book disappointing and felt it did not live up to their expectations, the average score was 4/10.

The next meeting will be on Monday, 24th June at 2.30 pm in Broomfield Library where we will be reviewing "The Wind Knows My Name" by Isabel Allende.

Barbara Bartlett

BUS PASS

It was a warm sunny day for our visit to Wivenhoe. After coffee together, and armed with maps of the Art Trail, we made our way in twos and threes around the venues, enjoying pretty properties and river views along the way. We admired the talents of the potters, painters, photographers etc. who were exhibiting. They were all residents of Wivenhoe - so much talent in such a small town. We were glad we had made the journey quickly by train but even so we only managed about half the venues. Several members of the group were on holiday but don't worry, it's definitely in the diary for a repeat visit.



The following week we resumed our usual bus travel. Fifteen of us went to Finchingfield. I hadn't realised Ride London would be passing through the area that day. There was much excitement in the village and almost as many police and support vehicles as cyclists. A surprise extra which fortunately didn't affect our buses.

On 21st June we go to Hadleigh Castle Country Park with the option to stay in Rayleigh if you wish. On 26th July we shall travel to Ongar with the chance to go on the Epping and Ongar Railway and on 16th August we shall visit Maldon with the opportunity to visit a private garden opening 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

COOKERY is still on hold

Pat Radford

GARDENING

Chelmsford u3a Gardening Group's next outing is a visit to 59 East Street, Coggeshall, on 27th June. For more details contact them via

https://chelmsford.u3asite.uk/u3a-contact-form/?contact_id=38189

Little Waltham Gardening Club has an outing to Blunts Hall, Blunts Hall Drive, Witham CM8 1LX on Wednesday June 5th. Arrive there at 2:00pm. Cost including refreshments £10. Limited parking.

On Wednesday July 3rd LWGC's visit will be to Isabella's Garden, 42 Theobalds Road, Leigh-on-Sea SS9 2NE. Arrive at 3:00pm when more parking spaces are available. Cost £11 including refreshments.

For information on these outings contact Caroline Boyd on 07732 405048

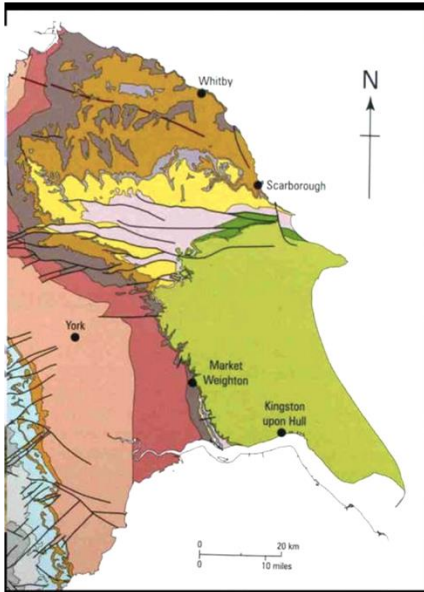
Pat Radford

GEOLOGY

Last month we were treated to a fascinating account of life in Dominica amidst its volcanoes, sulphur springs and a boiling lake! These are volcanoes of the nastier type where continental plates collide and produce explosive eruptions with glowing clouds of fragmented rock and hot gases.



(right - Sulphur pool, Dominica)



We are staying nearer to home for our next session when Sarah will give a talk about the Yorkshire coast which abounds in geological interest both from local sources and from across the North Sea.

(left - Yorkshire geology;
right - Yorkshire pebbles
and fossils)



This will be on Tuesday 25th June, 2pm. We look forward to it with great interest.

Following this we plan to go out and about

locally in July, looking at Puddingstones and Sarsens at Channels plus the Till Cliff and if time, explore once more the walls of Broomfield church which present a rich geological tapestry.

We look forward to seeing you.

Ros & Ian

HEALTH MATTERS

We held our May meeting talking about Diabetes (both Type 1 and 2) and are very grateful for the leaflets etc donated to us by the Chelmsford and District branch of Diabetes UK.

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.

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

NATURAL HISTORY



The group visited Hatfield Forest for a guided tour by David Simmons and his wife Winifred. It was rather overcast but still quite warm. David met us in the car park and introduced us to the Forest by giving us a skip through the history. In 1729 the Hallingbury estate was purchased from the Turner family. This also included Hatfield Forest. The lake was constructed on a boggy part of the forest in 1746/7, it covers an area of some 8 acres.

There were a variety of birds on the lake, some were escorting their young as they explored their new home. Mallards proudly guarding their chicks, then



along came a pair of Canada Geese with their young, and a Great Crested Grebe, we were surprised at how long they could dive for and the distance they travelled under water. Overhead we saw a magnificent Red Kite, a Kestrel and a single Common Tern. It was lovely to hear a variety of birds singing in the trees, we identified a Blackbird, a Blackcap and a Long-Tailed Tit.



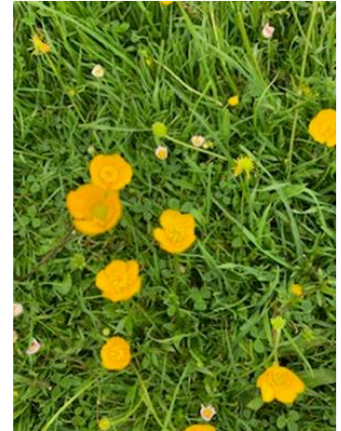
NATURAL HISTORY (continued)



After all this excitement we visited the Shell House, built around the same time as the lake. It is so called as it is constructed of flints and shells. The shells are thought to be from the West Indies brought here as part of the ship's ballast. In the early 1800's it was the home of the forester and his family, latterly it was used as a picnic spot for the owners of the estate. Outside is a large Pudding Stone thought to have been deposited by the glacier during the ice age.



We then walked on and were met by a Swan family with 3 cygnets, a lovely sight. As we walked, we found some wild flowers, Stitchwort, Sheep's Sorrel, Silver Weed and a Spotted Orchid, this was growing in a damp area known as a Fen, because the marshy ground is fresh water. In 1923/4 the estate was purchased by Edward North Buxton and given to the National Trust, who, on 10th. May 2024, celebrated 100 years of ownership. There is so much to see and experience here that one visit is not enough, we hope to return to experience Hatfield Forest at a different time of year.



Future meetings:

- 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



Photo group took a recess in May and will resume in June, as usual, on the third Thursday of the month which will be June 20th, from 10-12.00 at the United Reformed Methodist Church hall , Little Waltham. (Car parking available)

Each meeting, we agree a 'challenge' for the next month, and for June, it's to create a postcard (or postcards).

(Hence the rather large picture to the left!)

The 'challenges' give members plenty of scope to be as creative as they like with the theme, but are not a competition.

New members are always welcome, and if you'd like to try the group out, please contact the group co-ordinator.

Glynn Wadson

SCRABBLE

For the moment, the Scrabble Group is on hold

TABLE TENNIS

Hope to see all for a fun game of table tennis at Melbourne Leisure Centre on Thursday 13th June and 27th June, both at 11.00 a.m. Cost £1.50.

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 two months are:

- Wednesday June 5th 10.30
- Wednesday June 19th 10.30
- Wednesday July 3rd 10.30
- Wednesday July 17th 10.30
-

Lorna Stuart

BROOMFIELD UKULELE GROUP (BUGS)

On June 6th the Ukulele Group is meeting up at Jan's home and on the 20th at Janette's. In July we are meeting at Jennie's house on the 4th and at Pat's on the 18th. Anyone new who wishes to join us should contact Pat for the addresses. We meet from 2pm to 4pm each time.

Pat Platt

WALKING

At long last we were able to undertake our 'longer' walk from Heybridge along the towpath to Beeleigh Falls and back. Not to be outdone we had the rain and, as it was sometime since my recce, a route diversion (necessitating a run across a dual carriageway – we achieved 7.6 mph at that point according to the 'technology' ...).

Our next walk will be much shorter, following a stretch of the Stour Valley Path, alongside that river. Whilst we will not need passports we will be crossing (and re-crossing) the border between Essex and Suffolk with our starting point in the hamlet of Bures.

We will meet in the car park of Broomfield Royal British Legion, Saxon Way at 9.30am on Tuesday 11th June. 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
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