

December 2020

- Art
- Badminton
- Beer Appreciation
- Book Group
- Bridge
- Bus Pass
- Canasta
- Cookery
- Gardening (with Chelmsford U3A)
- Geology
- Handbells
- History
- Lacemaking
- Luncheon Club
- Meditation
- Natural History
- Needlework
- Photography
- Scrabble
- Sunday + Club
- Table Tennis
- Ten-pin Bowling
- Ukulele
- Walking

WEBSITE –

<https://u3asites.org.uk/broomfield>

EMAIL -

broomfieldanddistrictu3a@gmail.com

From the Chair

We all have something to celebrate at last! Light at the end of the tunnel has appeared with the successful trials of the Coronavirus vaccines, and if all goes according to the stated rollout plan (fingers firmly crossed here) we could all be immunised somewhere between January and February!

The prospect of life returning to something like the 'normality' we used to enjoy before March 2019 is encouraging, and one government source I saw said we could expect Easter 2021 to be the end of restrictions. Perhaps we can also try crossing our toes as well that his prediction comes true.

Meantime, as a branch, we have been gradually adapting to the loss of face to face meetings by the use of Zoom, and I'm pleased that our first 'virtual' monthly meeting was well attended (I think there were around 55 of us) and went largely without any technical hitches. Our next is set for December 9th, so I hope those unable to make the last one can make it this time.

In addition to Geology and Beer Appreciation, the Book Club and Photography Group have also successfully held their first meetings on the platform in the last two weeks, and the Bus Pass group will be having a session in December. Group Leaders have also met online to share ideas about how we can make best use of Zoom to restart or maintain our groups.

Do try and check out the U3A monthly podcast and U3A Eye gallery if you haven't already done so... and perhaps you could let us have some feedback?

If I don't see you on the 9th, let me take the opportunity to wish you a happy and safe Christmas and a much-improved New Year, on behalf of all of us on the committee!

Glynn Wadeson

Notes and Notices

Printed Copies

We will be issuing printed copies of the gist of the newsletter during the social isolation period to those members we know are off-line but we cannot guarantee exactly when these can be posted.

Sponsored Skydive

Carol Rolfe's Tandem Skydive for Farleigh Hospice was successfully completed on 5th September.

As of 1st December, Carol's 'Just Giving' page was still open and she has yet to reach her target. **Help her now!**

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/carol-rolfe3>.



Essex Branch of the Historical Association

The Branch's next talk will be on Saturday, 5th December, at 2:30 pm when Dr Alison Rowlands (Professor of European History at the University of Essex) will give a talk on "*Early Modern European Witch-Trials, Essex in a Comparative Perspective*". Dr Rowlands has particular research and teaching interests in the history of witch-trials in Germany and England. She has always been intrigued by the lives and actions of everyday people in the past, especially in response to persecution and trauma. She has researched witch-trials, magic and gender, notably in the 17th Century.



Her talk will set the witchcraft beliefs and witch-trials of 16th and 17th century Essex and England into the wider comparative European context. What, if anything, was different about Essex witchcraft beliefs and methods for dealing with so-called 'witches'? How severe were the Essex trials when compared across the continent? The talk will range across other European regions and explore the broader question of how useful a comparative approach is to the history of witch-persecution

To join us on 5th December, all you need to do is to enter the following web address sometime after 2:10 pm: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89012164046> and then click on Open Link.

Good news! Entry is free. You can enjoy the talk and, if moved to do so, ask questions from the comfort of your fireside.

Lockdown Learning

Bishopsgate Institute

Our Chair Glynn has recommended the Bishopsgate Institute as a source of interesting courses.

The url for the institute is: <https://www.bishopsgate.org.uk/whats-on>.

Futurelearn.com

Both Jan White and Faith Marchal have recommended Futurelearn.com; Jan writes:

With winter approaching, I decided to do some online study through Futurelearn.com, a website offering many diverse courses which are free and last just a few weeks.

With an interest in History, I started with "Working lives in the coalmines" giving an insight into mining history and heritage.

Next, I found "Forensic Facial Reconstruction" based on an actual murder case, using forensic clues to determine gender, age, ethnicity etc of the victim in order to reconstruct a likeness and profile.

The latest course was "WW1 Heroism through Art and Film". This included analysing propaganda posters, exploring art, heroism represented in films, and doing a book or film review.

Your chosen subject is accessible 24/7 for the period of the course, so very flexible. I thoroughly enjoyed giving my brain a little workout and would recommend the website. Have a look and see what you think! www.futurelearn.com

Fraud Update

There's a lot flying around about various types of fraud. In most cases, I've just put a link here otherwise the Newsletter would double in size!

Action Fraud

There's a new Action Fraud information sheet. I would have liked to have incorporated it in this Newsletter (but I tried and failed) or send it out with this Newsletter (but last time I sent one out I had my e-mail account blocked). The information sheet should be on our web site: go to the "Welcome" page and follow the link.

Covid Marshals scam alert

Scammers are pretending to be Covid Marshals and medical professionals to gain access to people's homes. Genuine marshals will never come to your door unannounced and do not have the right of entry, or the right to issue fines.

"Which?" Guide to BREXIT Scams

Fraudsters will use any opportunity to try and part us from our money, and the UK's departure from the EU is no different. The "Which?" Guide can be found at:

<https://www.which.co.uk/consumer-rights/advice/brexit-scams>

Cyber scams and how to avoid them

When it comes to online scams, a little knowledge can save you a world of trouble.

A useful guide comes from McAfee:

https://www.mcafee.com/content/dam/amer/scammer_education/en-us.html

NatWest: Keeping your data safe

NatWest says that online fraud is increasing. It's now more important to protect your own data than ever before. Hints on how you can keep it safe in a number of different ways are at:

<https://personal.natwest.com/personal/fraud-and-security/fraud-guide/protecting-your-data.html>

MONTHLY MEETINGS

Currently, we have two more presentations arranged via Zoom; more are being organised. The link for the December presentation should be in the e-mail that distributed this Newsletter. If, for any reason, you didn't get the link, please contact Glynn or Peter (details on the Committee page).

Both presentations should begin at 1:30 pm and the Zoom meeting should be opened up at about 1:00 pm. Don't leave it too close to the start time to connect in.

After three years of arranging excellent speakers, it was time for Ursula to pass on the task of Speaker Coordinator to someone else. Would you like to do it for us? Please contact the committee if you would.

9 th December	Skeletons in their cupboard, Two Victorian Novelists	Margaret Mill
13 th January	A Conspiracy History of the World	Andy Thomas

The usual calendar has been omitted from this edition of the Newsletter

BROOMFIELD & DISTRICT U3A – GROUP REPORTS

ART GROUP

The Art Group have not been able to meet yet due to restrictions on numbers and availability of premises.

Barbara Bartlett

BADMINTON

Badminton has been suspended by the Council, now we're in tier 2. We'll be able to start again once the situation changes.

Barbara Bartlett

BEER APPRECIATION

We did manage, once again, to meet virtually and as usual put the world to rights. The main topic of conversation being that "gentleman" (?) on the other side of the Atlantic with the comb over!!

In addition, we practised our skills at finding suitable backgrounds for our Zoom call and seeing how we could share photographs. No, it was not an extension of the Photographic Group but rather illustrating points raised in our conversations with each other!



I would like to think that we may be able to have a limited (suitably distanced) meet to close the year but this will depend on the information (or lack) following any announcement from Whitehall no doubt suitably amended (for whatever purpose) by County Hall!!

If we fail to meet beforehand - continue to appreciate barley, hops and other festive food throughout the forthcoming Christmas season.

Malcolm Taylor

BOOK GROUP

The Book Group met via Zoom on Thursday, 19th November and spent an enjoyable afternoon discussing two books; a précis of each is below. Our next book is entitled *Lying in Wait* by Liz Nugent and is available for collection from Broomfield Library. I will be arranging a Zoom Group Meeting after Christmas to discuss this one. For those of you who are unaware, there is a very good facility available from the Library which is called BorrowBox, this enables you to download either audible or ebooks onto your device. If you are interested please have a look on the Essex County Library website for full details.

February/March book - *All the Light We Cannot See* by Anthony Doerr

A story of a blind French girl and a German boy whose paths collide in occupied France as they both try to survive the devastation of World War II. This was enjoyed by all those at the meeting saying they liked the writing style and the characters. The average score was 9/10.

(continued on the next page)

BOOK GROUP (continued)

Summer Book - *In Love and War* by Liz Trenow

July 1919, the First World War is over. The war-torn area of Flanders near Ypres is no longer home to trenches or troops but groups of tourists. Controversial battlefield tourism now drives bus-loads of people to witness first hand where loved ones fell and died. This is the story of three women who each have their own reason for making this journey. The overall view was that it was an easy read with interesting characters, well written and illustrated the terrible waste caused by war. The average score was 8/10.

I would like to wish everyone a happy Christmas, stay safe and take care.

Barbara Bartlett

BRIDGE

It does not seem that we will be likely to meet up for Bridge for quite some time. Online bridge is the only way we are going to be able to play and enjoy this wonderful game at the moment.

The suggestions made previously still apply, and can be taken up by anyone interested, not just members of the Bridge Club. Join No Fear Bridge which provides excellent tuition practice and play - you can get 3 months free trial and 25% discount on membership by contacting me.

More experienced players, which means average plus, can play on Bridge Base Online (BBO) - a free website - you can play singly, with a partner or set up a table with particular friends. Again if you need any guidance or help please contact me.

Melanie Pimm

BUS PASS

As we are unable to go on our regular trips at the moment, it has been suggested we trial virtual trips using Zoom, enabling us to see some familiar faces and reminisce over things we have done or go somewhere new. So, this month on Friday December 11th our destination will be Warley Place which was on our 'to do' list. If you have never been it's a lovely place for a walk with an interesting history. When things get better, we can enjoy Warley in person.

If you would like to take part and we haven't already been in touch, please drop me an email so that I can send out the Zoom link a couple of days beforehand. If you haven't used Zoom before it's very easy. Click on the link in the email and Zoom will set up automatically on your computer / tablet.

I'm afraid you'll have to make your own coffee on this occasion!

Carol Greatrex

CANASTA

The Canasta Group would normally meet on the first and third Mondays of each month at 2:00 pm.

Marie Mackie

COOKERY

We miss our monthly gatherings as they have become sociable events. We look forward to meeting again but at the moment we can't predict when that will be.

Jacqui Barnaby

GARDENING

I am happy to be able to tell you that the Chelmsford U3A Garden Group will continue its meetings, via Zoom, in 2021. I don't have details yet, although I expect the meetings to be in the afternoons of the fourth Thursdays of the month. If you would like to join these meetings, please let me know and I will forward details as and when I have them. (Their Garden Group has said "We are very happy to have Broomfield U3A members attend any Garden group meeting.")

The November talk by Brian Carline about 'Organic Vegetable Gardening' was both entertaining and informative and the group is hoping to visit Brian's garden sometime in 2021.

Pat Radford

GEOLOGY

Well, we had a very interesting "holiday" to the Mediterranean today, but after all the volcanic activity, I think we are all glad that we live far from a plate boundary where volcanoes (and earthquakes) are a thing of the past.

Santorini, Vesuvius, Etna and Stromboli are all on the plate boundary between the African plate and the European plate that wends its way around the Mediterranean with pieces of oceanic crust rubbing up against continental crust. We found out that the Adriatic Sea is on a finger of the African Plate which goes down under Italy causing all that volcanic activity down its west coast.



Mediterranean volcanoes include one of the world's biggest eruptions, of legendary size - Santorini, perhaps giving rise to the legend of Atlantis.



There is the most active volcano on Earth - Etna, upon the slope of which lives 25% of Sicily's population. The largest volcano in Europe is Stromboli that rises from the 1000m depths of the Tyrrhenian Sea to over 900m above sea level. It is continuously active and called the "lighthouse of the Mediterranean". It is also one of the world's most visited volcanoes. The one that wiped out cities (and threatens to do so again) is of course, Vesuvius. Volcanoes are all hazardous, but people will live on their slopes as the soils are so fertile, especially on the lavas that are richer in iron.



So, where to next? Perhaps we will stay closer to home for our next virtual trip after Christmas. We shall go to The North West Highlands of Scotland and look at the most ancient rocks in the British Isles as well as some spectacular scenery. This will be on Tuesday 26th January at 2pm. Book your place now!!



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GEOLOGY (continued)

I shall send out details to those on my list nearer the time. This includes several new faces who we were pleased to welcome to our last talk. The invitation is open to all, so do get in touch to be added in.



http://www.discoverassynt.co.uk/images/upload/images/categorypic_151.jpg

Ros & Ian

HANDBELLS

Unfortunately, it is still not possible for the Handbells Group to meet at present as it would not be possible to social distance during the session.

I am reluctantly having to give up Handbells due to ongoing health problems making it impossible for me to continue playing. We are therefore looking for somebody to take over running the group and also to recruit new members to make the group viable. If anyone is interested, can they please contact me.

Judy Molyneux

HISTORY

Another month has passed, time seems to pass very quickly in spite of everything but I am afraid I still don't have anything of interest to impart. but Jan White's note about FutureLearn sounds interesting. (See "Notes and Notices" above.)

Sylvia Hempstead

Jan White

LACEMAKING

The lacemaking group is no longer meeting due to tier 2 regulations and the weather.

Wendy Talley

LUNCHEON CLUB

The Luncheon Club meetings are cancelled until further notice.

Muriel Whiting

MEDITATION

If anyone is interested in taking over running the Group, please contact one of the committee.

NATURAL HISTORY

I am planning to produce a programme for next year starting in January 2021 as hopefully we will be able to meet outdoors then. When it is complete, I will let people have a copy.

Sue Browning

NEEDLEWORK



Shall we try a Zoom after Christmas? We could chat and knit remotely, couldn't we? I hope all members of the group are continuing to be productive. My new grandchild is another little girl, but my son is not keen on pink, so the little cardigan I am making is green and white. Have just finished it! Let me know if you would like to Zoom.

Ros Mercer

PHOTOGRAPHY

The group had our first meeting using Zoom on November 19th, and used the session to practice sharing photographs using the 'share screen' function, which, by and large, we all managed to do: a bit of trial and error and a lot of laughter! Now armed with our new expertise, we'll be meeting again on the third Thursday of December with a theme of creative blur (or ICM, 'Intentional Camera Movement').

If you'd like to join the group, or simply try a session, just contact me.

Glynn Wadson

SCRABBLE

I would like to say to all that I hope you will have a good Christmas and maybe manage a game of scrabble. I hope it will not be too long into the new year before we are able to meet and play a game.

Please keep safe and well and greetings to you for 2021.

Heather Steed

SUNDAY + CLUB

The Sunday + Group meetings are cancelled until further notice.

Muriel Whiting

TABLE TENNIS

Sadly, there is nothing to report for Table Tennis, as we can't meet and play at present.

Jean Lock

TEN-PIN BOWLING

I will review the situation each month. When we are due to restart, I will contact everyone on the bowling list and put a notice in the Newsletter.

Lorna Stuart

BROOMFIELD UKULELE GROUP (BUGS)

The Ukulele group will not be able to meet until there is a change in circumstances.

John Williams

WALKING

The continuing pandemic has created havoc with our group walking, but hopefully we have all managed to get out for a short stroll as part of our permitted exercise. Under such a banner, I and another walker undertook the route we had intended to follow earlier in the year. Alas the blue fields of borage had disappeared under a newly sown cereal crop and the going was definitely "soft" in places.

I am hopeful that we may be able to get out for our traditional January walk to clear the cobwebs but as I write we do not know the restrictions (constrictions) we will be under at the start of the new year.

In the meantime, you may wish to look out for information from 'Slow Ways' a project that seeks to open up the footpaths linking our major/minor population centres. Its start has been delayed until January but, if there is sufficient interest, we could perhaps make ourselves into one of the participating groups.

Walkers will be aware that I am often a mine (mine field?) of use-ful/-less information thus - the Essex dialect title of an "Essex Stile" is the name cheerfully given to a "ditch"!

Stay warm, stay safe and have as good a Christmas as we are permitted.

Malcolm Taylor

BROOMFIELD BUDDIES

Climate Change – Efforts to establish this group appear to have failed. If anyone wants to try again please contact one of the committee.

There has been no further progress on the Genealogy Group proposal. The Essex Association were to hold a study day on 2nd April and, when it is eventually held we hope it will attempt to come up with some ideas on how to move forward on starting up a Group in Broomfield.

There is nothing further to report on the play reading idea.

Please let us know if there are any other Groups that you may be interested in running or helping to run.

Barbara Thomas and Barbara Bartlett

TRAVEL CLUB

The Skipton trip has been rescheduled to 5th August 2021, all prices and details remain the same.

Skipton in the Yorkshire Dales - Thursday 5th August 2021 - 5 days, 4 nights. Prices are on a half-board basis (breakfast & dinner) and include 2 excursions; £349.00 per person in a twin/double room (single rooms sold out). This promises to be an outstanding holiday, so do join us. We will be staying at the lovely market town of Skipton, East Yorkshire. The hotel, The Rendevous, is situated on the outskirts, however there is a bus stop outside the hotel direct into the town centre and a tow path behind the hotel for those who wish to walk there. At Grand Fitness, next to the hotel, there is a swimming pool with sauna, steam room and jacuzzi. They also have 2 spacious gyms and changing rooms with showers, lockers and hair driers. Bookings must be received by 31st January, 2020. Four members have stayed at this hotel previously and have given their recommendations. Deposit just £20.00 per person, made payable to Dunwood Travel, should be sent to Chris Evans – please call me for address details and/or any queries.

Chris Evans

chrisjevans1@live.co.uk

Please note that the Travel Club is completely independent of the U3A.

GROUP LEADERS

Art	Barbara Bartlett
Badminton	Barbara Bartlett
Beer Appreciation	Malcolm Taylor
Book Group	Barbara Bartlett
Bridge	Melanie Pimm
Bus Pass	Carol Greatrex
Canasta	Marie Mackie
Cookery	Jacqui Barnaby
Gardening	Pat Radford
Geology	Ros Mercer
Handbells	New Group Leader needed!
History	Sylvia Hempstead
Lacemaking	Wendy Talley
Luncheon Club	Muriel Whiting
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Scrabble	Heather Steed
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Table Tennis	Jean Lock
Ten-pin Bowling	Lorna Stuart
Ukulele	John Williams
Walking	Malcolm Taylor

THE COMMITTEE

Chair	Glynn Wadeson	-
		-
Vice Chair	Faith Marchal	-
		-
Treasurer	Gill Sturman	-
		-
Co-Secretary	Ann Corbey	-
		-
Co-Secretary	Judy Keily	-
		-
Speaker Coordinator	Vacant	-
		-
Membership Secretary	Peter Radford	-
		-
Group Coordinator	Pat Radford	-
		-

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