

Newsletter November 2022

GROUPS:

- Art
- Badminton
- Beer Appreciation
- Book Group
- Bus Pass
- Canasta
- Cookery
- Gardening (with Chelmsford U3A)
- Geology
- Health Matters
- History
- Lacemaking
- Natural History
- Photography
- Scrabble
- Table Tennis
- Ten-pin Bowling
- Ukulele
- Walking

WEBSITE

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

EMAIL - *broomfieldanddistrictu3a@gmail.com*

**From the Chair**

Hello and welcome to your November Newsletter.

I'm happy to announce that your new chairperson will be Jim Jenkins, who will effectively take over from me from the next Monthly meeting.

The 2022-23 Committee hasn't yet managed to meet with everyone present, so we still have a couple of officer roles to fill, which we will do as soon as possible.

We had a magnificent turn-out for the AGM for which I'd like to thank all those who gave their support, and thanks to the Ukelele group who entertained us despite being several members under strength.

Pat tells me that lots of you are bringing your own mugs to the meetings which is a great help, and saves both time and money, so again, thank you and please keep up the good work.

This will be my last intro piece as outgoing chairperson, so it's goodbye from me and all the best to Jim!

Glynn Wadeson

MONTHLY MEETINGS

Please note: the Meeting is open and refreshments are available from 1.45. The speaker is scheduled to start at 2.15. Please ensure you have confirmed to Peter Radford that you wish to attend no later than Tuesday 8th midday.

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.

We will be resuming the charge for refreshments at the meeting but to minimise queuing please put the money in the cup left on the tables.

Raffle proceeds have been a great help towards covering (increased) hall hire charges.

9 th November	For Better or Far Worse - a Quirky Look at Victorian Marriage	Toni Neobard & Kate Broad
14 th December	Project Rutherford at St Mary's, Broomfield	Trudy Stevens
2023		
11 th January	Dark Tourism	David Williams
8 th February	Special Interest Group SHOWCASE	Group Leaders

Notes and Notices, November 2022

Talks & Events

In November, Gresham College's lectures include the BBC's Kavita Puri be telling us about the *Partition of British India: 75 Years on*, in a joint lecture with the Royal Historical Society; Professor Katherine Blundell will describe the eventual *End of Our Sun*; and Professor Thomas Grant KC will describe *Opposition in Russia; The Trials of Alexei Navalny*, in a lecture that will cast some light on how political opposition is managed (and destroyed) in Putin's Russia. Poliovirus has been detected in sewers in London, and fresh rounds of vaccinations for children are happening now, making Professor Joanna Bourke's lecture, *Polio: A Cultural History*, especially timely. Finally, Professor Sarah Hart's *The Maths of Game Theory* explores what Game Theory can help us understand. As usual, all the details can be found at: <https://www.gresham.ac.uk/whats-on?see-all>.

The Essex Branch of the Historical Association have one last talk scheduled this year at Trinity Methodist Church, Rainsford Road, Chelmsford, CM1 2XB. On Saturday, December 3rd at 2.30 p.m., Dr Cheryl Hudson, Lecturer in US Political History at the University of Liverpool will talk on *The Racial Reckoning with Slavery and Racism in the USA 1619-2020*. The talks will also be available live on Zoom at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89012164046> : meeting ID 890 1216 4046. All this information and the full year's programme can be viewed on their website at <https://www.essexbranchha.com>. The website also gives details of past programmes and YouTube references for those talks that have been recorded and are still available online.

Essex Society for Archaeology & History's *Annual Archaeology & Local History Symposium* will be held at Christ Church URC, New London Road, Chelmsford, CM2 0AW, on Saturday 5th November 2022, 10am –4.30pm. There will be three talks on local history, and two on local archaeology, with lunch and refreshment breaks. It costs £10, which includes a sandwich lunch and tea/coffee. To book e-mail Howard Brooks on howard000brooks@gmail.com.

Fraud

I've had yet another e-mail purporting to be from Santander. I've not confirmed whether it was genuine or not but, since I don't have any account with Santander, my suspicions lie with "not". As ever, be careful with unsolicited e-mails.

"Which?" reports that HMRC is warning people filing, or preparing to file, self-assessment tax returns for 2021-22 to watch out for tax scams; see <https://www.which.co.uk/news/article/hmrc-warns-self-assessment-taxpayers-to-watch-out-for-scams-how-can-you-protect-yourself-aXlBk0e3jlqq>.

One of our members reports that she had a text supposedly from her daughter saying that her phone was broken, her daughter was using a friend's phone so could she WhatsApp her on 07542 379766. She did actually respond but heard no more. When she spoke to her daughter, she was told that her daughter's phone was definitely not broken. Her daughter then did an investigation and found that it was a scam. She really thought she was wise to these tricks but that really did catch her out.

Savings

“Which?” has identified 11 ways you can keep your energy bills in check through the winter months, from small jobs such as reviewing your boiler settings to longer-term solutions such as investing in smart thermostats to automate your heating; see <https://www.which.co.uk/news/article/how-to-save-on-your-heating-bill-this-winter-azmsq5x9hzuc-aZmsQ5X9hzUc>.

“Which?” also says that devices promising to optimise your energy use might seem appealing at a time when bills are on the rise, but according to their lab tests, there’s no evidence that they live up to these claims. They may even pose a danger to consumers as a result of not complying with British electrical safety standards. They explain why you should avoid these products if you see them for sale online; see <https://www.which.co.uk/news/article/potentially-dangerous-energy-saving-boxes-on-amazon-and-ebay-as-energy-price-crisis-bites-a7tdz8P0qiKF>.

On a similar theme the BBC has six tips on how to cut your energy bills this winter; see <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-62738249>.

The Energy Bills Support Scheme (EBSS) was introduced by the Government to help households with their energy bills this winter. Every household will get a £400 discount, paid over six months. For most customers this will be from October 2022 to March 2023. (I’ve received my first payment, it was deducted from my electricity bill).

and finally

The winners of the u3a Creative Writing Competition 2022 have been announced. Details can be found at <https://www.u3a.org.uk/learning/creative-writing-competition-2022-winners>, which also contains links to the stories, apart from that of the overall winner Harriet Hall; her story *Cinderella - What Happened Next*, which will be published in November's edition of “Third Age Matters”. Enjoy!

REMINDER

U3A/Essex Police Cyber Crime Seminar

Date: Wednesday 2nd November 2022

Venue: The Sanctuary, Christ Church, New London Road.

Time: 13.30 – 15.30

Presented by Essex Police Cyber Protection Team

Online fraud, also known as Cyber Crime, covers all crimes that:

- take place online
- are committed using computers, or
- are assisted by online technology

Several million cases of fraud and computer misuse are reported to the police every year. It's staggering, but even more staggering is that so many of those crimes could have been prevented by making a few small changes in online behaviour.

To avoid becoming a victim of online crime you don't need to be a computer expert. Developing a few good online habits drastically reduces your chances of becoming a victim of cyber crime, makes you less vulnerable and lets you use the web safely.

The session is led by Barry Linton of Thorpe Bay u3a and now an official Essex Police Volunteer with the Cyber Protection Team. There will be a good deal of interaction with the audience and a number of alarming demonstrations using some electronic gizmos used by cyber-criminals.

Tickets are now on sale (u3a Members only) at £5. To book your place contact Diane Read on dianeread44@gmail.com. Our preferred payment method is by bank transfer, account name u3a Chelmsford, Sort Code 40-10-27 Account No 41153684 Reference: Cybercrime. If you need to pay by cheque please make it payable to u3a Chelmsford and post it to the Treasurer Eddie Wood 34 St Johns Avenue, Chelmsford, CM2 0UB or bring it to our monthly meeting. Please write 'Cybercrime' on the back of the cheque along with the names of the people attending. **Please note:** No refreshments will be provided, and no food or drink (other than water) can be taken into the Sanctuary. The hall is on the first floor but stair lifts are available

BROOMFIELD & DISTRICT U3A – GROUP REPORTS

ART GROUP

We had an enjoyable session in October with four members attending. We will be meeting up again on Thursday, 24th November between 10 - 12 noon. If anyone is interested in joining us please contact me.

Barbara Bartlett

BADMINTON

The next session will be on Monday, 7th November between 12 - 1 pm at Chelmsford Sports Centre.

Barbara Bartlett

BEER APPRECIATION



We had an excellent visit to The Orange Tree in October and enjoyed it's excellent selection of draught beers. One member suggested there might be a story there – but I suggested that as the *Founders* had only gone to *the Orange Tree* for their *salvation* but were horrified to see a *stag* drinking with *Oscar Wilde*; any further comment would make the *planet pale* into insignificance!

More importantly than tall tales it's that time of year when we have our 'Christmas Lunch'. This year we will be attending the Rose & Crown on Writtle Green on Monday 21st November. I have booked our table for 12.30pm.

We will meet at the Bus Station with the aim of catching the 11.50am C4 bus. **NB:** this is earlier than necessary but I'm told they can be erratic so I'm erring on the side of caution. If it does arrive on time we can always pop into The Wheatsheaf for a quick one beforehand!!

It is imperative that you let me know if you are coming as soon as possible to ensure that we have sufficient seating.

Malcolm Taylor

BOOK GROUP

We met on Monday, 24th October in Broomfield Library where we discussed Oliver, The Cat who Saved Christmas by Sheila Norton, a local author. This was the tale of a little cat whose kindness and concern for humans amazingly changed the lives of everyone he encountered. Although this was obviously meant for a much younger audience most members read the book and to varying

degrees enjoyed it, the average score being 5/10, one member giving a healthy 9/10. Our next meeting will be on Monday, 28th November at 2.30 pm in Broomfield Library where we will be reviewing Rivers of London by Ben Aaronovitch.

Barbara Bartlett

BUS PASS



It was an eventful visit to Saffron Walden when the bus we were expecting broke down and we were left waiting at the bus station wondering if we would ever get anywhere. Despite that, those who reached Saffron Walden enjoyed their day and we were still smiling when we arrived back. We shall now have a break and look forward to resuming our trips in the spring.

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 will, hopefully, be back in action soon once holidays are behind us.

Pat Radford

GARDENING

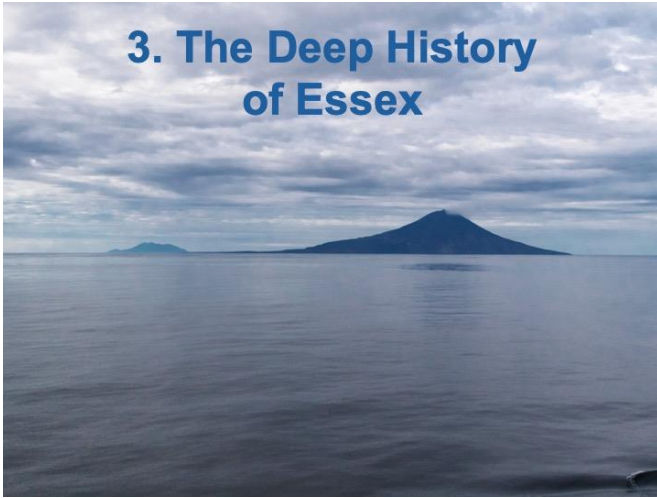
Chelmsford U3A Garden Group have arranged a talk on Hatfield Forest for November. It will be on Thursday 17th November at the Village Hall, Boreham. The talk starts at 2:15. There will be refreshments before hand and a charge of £3 towards the speaker's fee.

Little Waltham Gardening Club meets again on November 2nd. The meeting is held in Little Waltham Memorial Hall and begins at 7:30. The subject of this month's talk is "Orchids in the Home."

Pat Radford

GEOLOGY

3. The Deep History of Essex

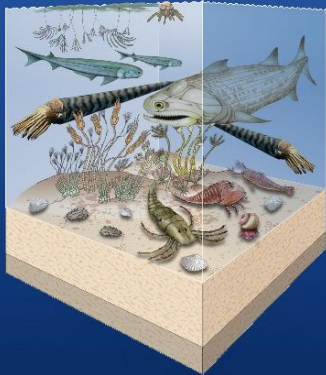


So now we know a little more about the naming of rocks - well the soft Essex versions - clay and sand - that geologists call 'rock'! We have also started to think about the relationship of geology to the landscape - why is that hill there? Why does my garden develop huge cracks in dry weather and yours doesn't. The map of Essex geology holds the key.

Next session, on Tuesday 22nd November will build on our geological thoughts and delve down into the deep history of Essex. When was Essex born? And how do we know? Join us to find out at 2pm

Ros & Ian

440 million years ago



HEALTH MATTERS



At this month's meeting (Tuesday, 8th November at 2pm), we will be talking about 'Allergy'.

I am sure that either you have an allergy or at least know someone who has one! We will learn more about this condition and its closely related ones, why it is on the increase and various methods for controlling it.

This talk is instead of the previously advertised one on Hearing which unfortunately has had to be postponed. Again, we will be meeting at the Pavilion in the Recreation Ground, Great Waltham (CM3 1DF). New members are always welcome but please email me first.

Gill Sturman

HISTORY

Next meeting will be on 12 December at 10.00-12.00 at the pavilion in Great Waltham sports field. (Drive South along South St, pass Hatchfields on your left, and immediately left is the parking area/entrance to the field..The pavilion is immediately to the right inside the entrance to the sports fields.)

The next presentation is : **When Essex was Revolting. The Nearly Revolution of 1381. (Wat Tyler and all that)**

All welcome. Refreshments available .For information, please contact Glynn Wadeson

Glynn Wadeson

LACEMAKING

After a few months pause, lacemaking will resume on Friday 18th November and every 1st and 3rd Friday from then on. New members are always welcome and equipment can be provided for you to have a go

Wendy Talley

NATURAL HISTORY

We were blessed with a beautiful day for our walk along the River Chelmer from Valley Bridge towards the City with the sun highlighting the changing colours of the trees. The Black Poplars with their creamy yellow leaves shone in the sun. There has been a lot of tree planting on the flood plain they are mostly willows. The river is flowing quite well ,we saw mallards and Magpies and also heard a Green Woodpecker and a Robin. We were surprised that we didn't see more birds because the habitat looks just right to encourage them. We also heard that a kingfisher is often seen but we weren't lucky enough to see it today.

The Environment Agency were surveying the health of the river, you will be pleased to hear that they consider it to be very healthy.

Sue Browning

PEAR _ CAROL GREATREX



PHOTOGRAPHY

PHOTOGRAPHY (contd.)

No matter what device you use to take your photographs there's always fun to be had in learning new technical skills, improving your 'eye' and sharing your art. (Yes photography is an art!).

The photo group is a friendly group which offers a warm welcome to new members and encouragement to do more with your photo device and your own talents.

Contact Glynn Wadeson for more info.

Meetings are 10-12 every third Thursday (some outdoor shoots) at Little Waltham United Reform Church Hall. On-site Parking available.

Glynn Wadeson

SCRABBLE

We will meet on Thursday 24th November at 2pm at Broomfield Methodist church hall.

New members always welcome for a friendly game of Scrabble.

Heather Steed

TABLE TENNIS

I have booked four tables at Melbourne for Tuesday, 8th November at 11.00 a.m. and also for Tuesday, 22nd November at 11.00 a.m. The cost will be £2, hope to see you there for a sociable game or two.

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 every one 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)

This month the ukulele group will be meeting at Jan's house on the 3rd and 17th of November at 2pm.

If you do not have the address please contact Patricia Platt and she will give you directions.

Pat Platt

WALKING



We went slightly farther afield in October, on the verges of Colchester taking in a variety of habitats – riverine banks, dense woods, open pasture and quiet(ish) country lanes. We started in the EWT Roman River Reserve making our way towards the Gosbecks Archaeological Park, where we saw the outline of some of the wooden Roman structures that were built here – not far from Ancient British burial mounds (think Cymbeline).

The area around the park is a Skylark 'reserve' and we saw a few just sitting on the mown field.

Thence back along lanes into the woods again, crossing & recrossing streams (leader lost his way!!) – we used to do as kids! Finally returning to the Donkey & Buskins, Layer-de-la-Haye for an excellent lunch. [*Buskins are long leather boots or papal stockings – in this instance the leather boots (?) were on the donkey!!*]

Our November walk will be a return to Pleshey, taking us on another 4.5 mile walk around the village & skirting the castle mount and moat. Returning to the Laether Bottle for lunch.

Please let me know if you are coming so that I may advise the pub of numbers, and if you are willing to drive. As usual we will be car sharing and thus will meet in the Broomfield Royal British Legion car park, Saxon Way, at 9.30 am on Tuesday 15th November. Transport costs will be approximately £2.00 each.



As usual mobile 07375 604506 will be operative on the day.

Malcolm Taylor

TRAVEL

We now have two Travel "Groups", which whilst run by members, are not part of the u3a.

BROOMFIELD & SPRINGFIELD TRAVEL CLUB

BELFAST AND THE GIANTS CAUSEWAY – 2 APRIL 2023

A new destination for us with flights from Stansted, direct to Belfast staying at The Ramada by Wyndham hotel for 3 nights on half board basis. The tour also includes entrance to the Titanic Experience and full day excursion to the Giants Causeway. Price just £389pp for twin/double room and includes 1 piece of hold luggage 15kg and a small cabin bag. Single supplement on request. Deposit of £150.00 pp required when booking. If you are interested in any of the above, please contact Chris Evans by email.

Chris Evans

BROOMFIELD COACH TRIPS

Broomfield Coach Trips offer over 30 coach trips direct from Broomfield Village Hall to their destinations without any further pick-ups or drop-offs in the Chelmsford area

Some of these trips are: Swan Lake with The English National Ballet, Tour of Buckingham Palace, Worthing, Legoland, Thursford, The London Palladium and The Lion King. The full list is available from rayspiller@aol.com and parking is available at Broomfield Village Hall for those wanting to go on coach trips

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
History	Glynn Wadeson
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

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Vice Chair
& Speaker Coordinator

Treasurer

Co-Secretary

Co-Secretary

Membership Secretary

Group Coordinator

TO BE
ADVISED

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

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