

**GROUPS:**

- Art Appreciation
- Badminton
- Beer Appreciation
- Book Group
- Bus Pass
- Canasta
- Gardening  
(with Chelmsford u3a)
- Geology
- Health Matters
- Lacemaking
- Natural History
- Photography
- Scrabble
- Table Tennis
- Tai Chi
- Ten-pin Bowling
- Ukulele
- Walking

**WEBSITE**

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

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[broomfieldanddistrictu3a@gmail.com](mailto:broomfieldanddistrictu3a@gmail.com)

**From the Chair**

Welcome to our February newsletter

The days are lengthening and its good to know that Spring is coming.

After last month's talk on photography I wonder how many of you have been out snapping away.

This month we will hear about 'Continuity capers' from Sally Lawrence, that sounds intriguing. Is it about the film industry or one pepper after the other?

I know I keep on but we do need a new treasurer for next year as well as new committee members. Please give it careful thought, as we would like to keep the branch going but this will not happen without your support. The committee will have to consider, in the new year, do we have to close down the branch and what to do with any remaining funds. Obviously this is something we do not want to do.

Remember our branch will not function without a strong committee and it is not fair to leave it to a few willing volunteers so step forward and join the team!!

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.

If anyone has an idea for a new group and would like to start it up please let one of the committee know.

Please remember to let Peter 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 and we want you to have your say on what goes on.

Best wishes

Jim

## **MONTHLY MEETINGS**

Please note: the Meeting is open and refreshments are available from 1.45pm – please bring your own cup if you can. The speaker is scheduled to start at 2.15pm.

Please ensure you have confirmed to Peter 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 – Early 2025**

12th February	Continuity Capers My life as continuity announcer	Sally Lawrence
12th March	Lighthouses and the Paranormal	Mark Lewis
9th April	Insights of a Provincial Auctioneer	Steve Lester
14th May	Great British Gardens	Andrew Babicz
11th June	The Forgotten History of Chelmsford	Alan Pamphillon
8th July	Burlesque, Me and the WI	Lindsay Barrell
13th August	My life in Magic	John Richard
10th September	Around the World in 50 Fabric Collages	Aruna Mene
8th October	The Secret History of the Essex County Gaol	Lindsay Whitehouse

## Calendar for February and March 2025

(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
	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
February	Canasta		Gardening Ten-pin	Table Tennis Ukulele	Art Appreciation Lacemaking Tai Chi		
	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
	Beer Appreciation	Walking	<b>u3a Meeting</b>	<i>Table Tennis</i>	Art Appreciation Lacemaking		
	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
	Badminton Canasta	Natural History	Ten-pin	Photography Ukulele	Lacemaking Tai Chi		
	24	25	26	27	28	1	2
March	Badminton Book Group	Geology Scrabble	Gardening	Gardening	Lacemaking Tai Chi		
	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	Badminton		Gardening Ten-pin	Ukulele	Lacemaking Tai Chi		
	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
	Badminton <i>Beer Appreciation</i>	<i>Walking</i>	<b>u3a Meeting</b>	Lacemaking Tai Chi			
	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
March	Badminton	Natural History	Ten-pin	<i>Photography</i> Ukulele	Art Appreciation Lacemaking		
	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
	Badminton Book Group	<i>Geology</i> Scrabble	Lacemaking Tai Chi				
	31	1	2	3	4	5	6
	Badminton	Lacemaking <i>Tai Chi</i>					
							April

# Notes and Notices, February 2025

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## To Start With

Chelmsford u3a has spaces on a holiday to Normandy, France, due to depart on 26th May this year.

This is a 5-day tour which takes in a visit to the D-Day Beaches and memorials. It includes a chance to see the Bayeux Tapestry and a visit to Monet's Garden. The price is £630 per person (£172 single room supplement) and includes 4 nights dinner, bed and breakfast in a hotel, entrance to the various attractions, return ferry crossing and full coach travel throughout. If you are interested please get in touch, **soon**, with Anne Bereton by email on [cu3atravelgroup@gmail.com](mailto:cu3atravelgroup@gmail.com)

## Talks and Events

The next in the People & Stone Series of Project Rutherford talks is on Saturday 8th February at 2pm, when Rev Jonathan Evens, Area Dean of Basildon and an artist, will be speaking on Broomfield Artists Thomas Huxley Jones and Gwynneth Holt. They lived in Broomfield and are both buried in the churchyard. This should be a fascinating insight into contemporaries of Rosemary Rutherford. As usual, tickets are £5 and may be bought on the door. The talk will be accompanied by a raffle and followed by refreshments with the usual array of delicious cakes.

Also on Saturday February 8th Dave McCall (aka writer Dave Ebsworth) will talk to the Essex Branch of the Historical Association on "The Zulu War - ten things you (maybe) didn't know". Dave is an historical novelist and this talk will spring out of his research for his book The Kraals of Ulundi. More details are at <https://essexbranchha.com>

Gresham College's programme for February includes "Why Does Britain Have a Water and Sewage Crisis?" to be given by Professor Martin Daunton on Tuesday, 11<sup>th</sup>. As ever, full details of this and of their other talks can be found at: <https://www.gresham.ac.uk/whats-on?see-all/>

## Fraud

I've been hacked!

Just before Christmas, BT told me that they were upgrading my internet and telephone connection to fibre. A date was set, the new router arrived and we just had to be available from 8am for the engineer to arrive and do the physical work.

Not long after 8am we got a 'phone call from someone claiming to be from Openreach, wanting to do some tests on the existing connection. This required a download, the conversation got more intrusive and I terminated the call. When the engineer arrived, we confirmed that the call had been a scam. I spent the rest of the morning talking to a genuine BT man, since the scammers clearly knew about the fibre installation.

Clearly, my laptop had been compromised but fortunately the data was OK. I have had the system re-installed and the data reloaded. One consequence is that I'm now using open source application rather than Microsoft's. Functionally, they seem to be much the same but there are differences in their user interfaces and I haven't found how to do some things - as is evident from this newsletter! Does anyone else use LibreOffice?

## and finally...

Are you Essex born and bred?

If the answer is "yes", Headers and Volleys Entertainment (H&VE), a TV production company based in Brighton would like to hear from you. They are currently developing a new family history series, to uncover the hidden history of different British counties and their residents, and explore how the past has shaped the people living there today. They plan on using Essex as a part of a non-broadcast mini pilot for this and would like to talk to those with an interesting family history story based in Essex. They are particularly looking for those with a long family history dating at least three generations based in the county. Contact them on 07806 978866 or

[info@have.team](mailto:info@have.team)

## BROOMFIELD & DISTRICT U3A – GROUP REPORTS

### ART APPRECIATION



The group has now had two meetings and is in the process of planning gallery visits for the months ahead. We will be meeting on the second Friday of each month from 1-3.00 at the Pavilion, Great Waltham, which has easily accessible off-road car parking.

Gallery visits will be slotted in between the regular Friday meetings.

Our first, will be on 7th February, to the Firstsite gallery in Colchester, which has an exhibition of works by the famous Anglo-Mexican Surrealist artist Leonora Carrington and some 'urban' pieces by local mixed media artist, Nicola Burrell.

If you are interested in joining us, please contact me.

Glynn

### BADMINTON

The Badminton Group dates are as follows:

- February 17th and 24th.
- March 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th and 31st.

12.00 noon - 1.00pm at the Sports and Athletics Centre, Melbourne.  
(There is no badminton on February 3rd and 10th.)

Maxine

## BEER APPRECIATION

Just for a change, I thought we might try something, not everyone's cup of tea I'll admit, but different. We will convene at 2.00pm on Monday 10th February 2025 at The Ivory Peg – behind Marks & Spencer in Chelmsford.

They have a wide range of beers (and lagers) available and should you wish to eat there are food & drink deals....

Please let me know if you are coming.

Malcolm

## BOOK GROUP

The meeting for January was cancelled.

Our next session will be on Monday, 24th February at 2.30 pm in Broomfield Library where we will be reviewing *Dombey and Son* by Charles Dickens, *Platform Seven* by Louise Doughty and *The Couple at No.9* by Claire Douglas.

Barbara

## BUS PASS

The group is taking its usual winter break. We'll resume when the days lengthen.

Carol

## CANASTA

The Canasta Group, meets on the 1st and 3rd Mondays. This is for information only as we are full and I cannot accept anyone else into the group.

Marie

## GARDENING

Chelmsford u3a Garden Group has an outing on Thursday February 27th to Horkesley Hall, Vinesse Road, Little Horkesley CO6 4DB. Meet there 2:00pm, cost £10 including refreshments. For more detail on the garden see p18 NGS booklet Essex 2024.

Broomfield Cottage Garden Society February meeting takes place on Wednesday 26th. This meeting will be the AGM followed by a presentation from "The Men's Shed." Meet at 7:15pm.

Little Waltham Gardening Club meets on Wednesday February 5th at 7:30. This month's talk is on "Soil and How to Look After It." The speaker will be Ian Mercer. (The meeting on 5th March is the AGM.)

Pat

## GEOLOGY

Our last session led us from the abundance of chemical elements in the Earth's crust to the partitioning of them into minerals and thence into rocks.

Our next session on Tuesday 25th February will feature a talk on Pegmatites - an interesting type of rock, the formation of which carries on the ideas of the partitioning of elements that we discussed last time.

This will provide more background to the geology of Galicia in Spain where two of the group once lived. The geology there is as complex as anywhere in the world and needs a great deal of unravelling! So this will be a start with some spectacular minerals and gems into the bargain!



*Pegmatite cluster*

Ros & Ian

## HEALTH MATTERS

We have changed the date of the monthly meetings to the fourth Friday of the month and our next meeting is being planned for 28th March at 2pm in the Pavilion, Great Waltham CM3 1DF.

Gill

## 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

## NATURAL HISTORY

Thank you to all who came to the planning meeting.  
Here is the programme for 2025

- February - Tuesday 18th. Walk along the River Chelmer, observing signs of spring
- March - Tuesday 18th. Border Wood, this is an ancient wood, looking for indicators eg.primroses
- April - Tuesday 15th. Hanningfield Reservoir, Blue Bell walk.
- May - Tuesday 20th. Phyllis Curry Reserve. Green Winged and Bee Orchids.
- June - Tuesday 17th. Chelmer nature reserve and wildflower meadow.
- July. - Tuesday 15th. Hylands Park
- No meeting in August
- September - Tuesday 16th. Danbury Ridge Reserve, looking for evidence of wildlife

- October - Tuesday 21st. Danbury Common, Fungi Foray
- November - Tuesday 18th. Newlands Grove. Autumn fruits
- December - Tuesday 16th. Christmas lunch.

All meetings start at 10am. Anyone interested please contact me, as details are sent to members a week before. As all meetings take place outside, suitable clothing and footwear should be worn and a risk assessment will be given verbally before all walks.

Sue

## PHOTOGRAPHY

Everybody owns a camera these days, often in the form of a mobile phone, so there's great scope for us all to record and enrich our daily round with photographs. But you might think what is worth shooting? Apart from the grandkids, or the dog, maybe some holiday snaps? I'd like to suggest there's a massive range of even mundane everyday things. And even if you are snapping the grandkids, perhaps you can take their pictures in different ways, changing your perspective maybe, getting them to move,, catching them in different light, or shadow.....

If you're interested in pepping up your photos, or simply having fun, there's some simple things you can do that can transform your images.....

1. Try finding letters in natural forms..(eg crossing vapour trails making an 'A', or a hole in a wall making an "o".....
2. Look more closely at familiar objects, indoors or outdoors, and maybe from a different viewpoint....Be aware of what's around you ,,,Go closer, look up, or down, pay attention to textures, colours, shadows, which can be subjects in their own right.... One famous photographer took some very famous shots by taking a dogs eye view....
3. Be aware of what's around you, you'd be amazed at what you begin to notice that you'd not seen or thought interesting before....
4. Don't worry about whether your photos are 'good' or 'bad' or boring, at least until you review them later..... If something interests you (it could be something as simple as faded paint on an old door, or a discarded pair of shoes on a pavement)... Your phones, or compact cameras will let you shoot in black and white too, that can be transformational! Go on, have a go for a week or few, everywhere, there's something to photograph.

*There should be some photographs here but it has not been possible to insert them!*

The Photography Group meets every third Thursday of the month at the Little Waltham United Reformed Church, 10am-12.00. New members always welcome. Enquiries to:

Glynn

## SCRABBLE

The next two meetings will be on Tuesday, 25th February and Tuesday, 25th March at The Globe, Rainsford Road, Chelmsford, at 2pm.

Barbara

## TABLE TENNIS

Table Tennis is normally on Thursdays, at 11.00am at Melbourne Sports and Leisure Centre. The cost will be £1.50. Come and join us for a friendly game.

At present only February 6th has been confirmed as booked, confirmation of the 13<sup>th</sup> is awaited.

Jean

## TAI CHI

Tai chi is now on most Fridays instead of fortnightly.



*Stork cools wings*

After class on Friday 31st January we had a social lunch celebrating the Year of the Snake.

Moving on, we are there on February 7th, 21st and 28th and on March 7th, 14th and 28th

Cheryl

## TEN-PIN BOWLING

Ten-pin bowling takes place on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays 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 10.30am but we request that bowlers arrive at 10.15am, so we can arrange lanes, shoes, etc. Looking forward to seeing you all there.

The dates for the next two months are expected to be:

February, Wednesday 5th and Wednesday 19th.

March, Wednesday 5th and Wednesday 19th.

Lorna

## **BROOMFIELD UKULELE GROUP (BUGS)**

We are meeting on February 6th at Jennie's house, on February 20th at Jan's house, on March 6th at Jennie's house and on March 20th at Janette's house.

As usual we are happy to have beginners and anyone who likes to sing songs from the 50s onwards.

New people should contact me for the addresses.

Pat

## **WALKING**

This month we will undertake our cancelled walk from January. A gentle 4 mile stroll from Heybridge Basin towards Maldon, along the River Blackwater and then returning along the Chelmer & Blackwater Navigation to our starting point.

Much of the walk will be along gravel or asphalt paths but there will be some areas that might be a little muddy after the recent weather!!

We will meet in the car park of the Royal British Legion, Saxon way, Broomfield at 9.30am on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2025.

Please let me know if you are coming and if you are willing to drive. There will be a transport fee of £3/head to cover fuel & parking.

Mobile 07399 330232 operative on the day.

Malcolm

## GROUP LEADERS

Art Appreciation	Glynn
Badminton	Maxine
Beer Appreciation	Malcolm
Book Group	Barbara
Bus Pass	Carol
Canasta	Marie
Gardening	Pat
Geology	Ros
Health Matters	Gill
Lacemaking	Wendy
Natural History	Sue
Photography	Glynn
Scrabble	Barbara
Table Tennis	Jean
Tai Chi	Cheryl
Ten-pin Bowling	Lorna
Ukulele	Pat
Walking	Malcolm

**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
Vice Chair & Speaker Coordinator	Glynn
Treasurer	Gill
Secretary	Roger
Membership Secretary	Peter
Group Coordinator	Mike
	Dick
	Julie