



Broomfield & District

Newsletter June 2025

GROUPS:

- Art Appreciation
- Badminton
- Beer Appreciation
- Board Games
- 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://broomfield.u3asite.uk/>

EMAIL

broomfieldanddistrictu3a@gmail.com

From the chair

Welcome to our June newsletter

I hope you all enjoyed last month's tour around some of the Great British Gardens and have been inspired to get outside in the good weather and create your own.

This month we will be learning about 'The forgotten History of Chelmsford' - some of us may feature in 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.

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.

If haven't already done so, please complete your annual membership form and submit your subscription fee.

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.

Meeting Schedule – Most of 2025

11th June	The Forgotten History of Chelmsford	Alan Pamphillon
9th 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 June and July 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
June	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	Badminton Book Group Canasta	Board Games	Ten-pin	Table tennis Ukulele	Lacemaking Tai Chi		
	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
	Beer Appreciation	Walking			Lacemaking Tai Chi		
	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
	Badminton Canasta	Natural History	Ten-pin	Table tennis Ukulele	Lacemaking Tai Chi	Bus Pass	
	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
	Badminton	Geology Scrabble			Lacemaking Tai Chi		
	30	1	2	3	4	5	6
	Badminton	Board Games	Gardening Ten-pin	Ukulele	Lacemaking Tai Chi		
July	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
	Badminton Canasta				Art Appreciation Lacemaking Tai Chi		
	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	Badminton <i>Beer Appreciation</i>	Natural History <i>Walking</i>	Ten-pin	Photography Ukulele	<i>Bus Pass</i> Lacemaking		
	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
	Badminton Canasta	Geology <i>Scrabble</i>			Health Matters Lacemaking		
	28	29	30	31	1	2	3
	Badminton				Lacemaking		

Notes and Notices, June 2025

To Start With

Did you spend part of your childhood in residential or foster care? That may seem a strange question to ask but a researcher at Oxford University is looking for people who did, trying to see if it had any impact on their health later in life. If your answer to the question is “Yes” and you are willing to take part in the research project, please contact Jonathan Taylor of the Nuffield Department of Population Health . His email address is: Jonathan.Taylor@NDPH.ox.ac.uk

Talks and Events

The next “People & Stone” talk is on Saturday 19th July – more details next time. Before then, on 21st June, there is a talk about Rosemary Rutherford at the Museum of Chelmsford. Details are at:

<https://www.chelmsford.gov.uk/museums/whats-on/talks-and-tours/rosemary-rutherford-war-artist-and-designer/>

Talks to the Essex Branch of the Historical Association have finished for the Summer; they will resume on September 20th. More details are at <https://essexbranchha.com>

This month 's Gresham College talks include “Democracy & International Criminal Justice in the Fragile World of the Rule of Law” by Sir Howard Morrison KC (Monday, 9th); “Carbon Takeback: How We Will Stop Fossil Fuels from Causing Global Warming” by Myles Allen (Tuesday, 10th); “The Future of Immunity” by Robin May (Wednesday, 11th) and “Illuminating the Dark Side of the Moon” by Milton Mermikides (Thursday, 12th). That last one is NOT astronomy, it's looking at the seminal album by Pink Floyd! As ever, full details of these and of other talks can be found at: <https://www.gresham.ac.uk/whats-on?see-all/>

Learning

Essex Libraries are very excited to announce that LinkedIn Learning is available to all of their users!

With over 24,000 expert-led courses to choose from, you can learn anything, from new software, to working with AI, coding to marketing, and a whole host of creative pursuits like photography, game theory, or even singing lessons! Whether you're looking to upskill at work, change careers, get creative, improve your wellbeing, or just learn for fun, LinkedIn Learning is the service for you! What's more, it's completely free to use with your Essex library card, and you don't need a LinkedIn social media account to use it!

Find out more about LinkedIn Learning and how to sign up, and start a new course today!

<https://libraries.essex.gov.uk/news/linkedin-learning-comes-to-essex-libraries>

Protect yourself from fraud

The Co-op Bank has created a handy guide about common scams and how to protect yourself from them. Read it, and share it with anybody you think it'll help. Full details can be found at:

<https://www.co-operativebank.co.uk/pdfs/bank/help-and-support/fraud-and-security/fraud-interactive-guide.pdf>

and finally...

Chelmsford u3a have recently established a new group "Wonder of Words". They meet in Chelmsford library from 2.00 to 4.00 pm on the third Wednesday of every month. The group is primarily a writing group but it is not a dry academic approach. “We have fun with words. We are also looking to develop some of our work into short performances. We already have some ideas for a radio play and a few potential scripts in outline format”.

There are some vacancies in the group which they are happy to open up to members of Broomfield u3a. Please look at the Chelmsford u3a website for more information and click on the email contact for the group leader to register your interest. Come along to your first meeting as a guest, with no obligation, to see if it is something you might enjoy. You will be made most welcome.

Alternatively, contact Lindsay Whitehouse (telephone 07853 194093, email ljwhitehouse@mail.com).

BROOMFIELD & DISTRICT U3A – GROUP REPORTS

ART APPRECIATION

The group meets at Great Waltham Pavilion (off South Street) on the second Friday of the month, from 1:00pm – 3:00pm.

Gallery visits are made usually between the meeting dates on an ad hoc basis.

Please note, there will be no meeting in June.

The next meeting will be on Friday 11th July.

Please contact me, if you'd like to join or would like further information.

Glynn

BADMINTON

The June dates are: 2nd, 16th, 23rd and 30th. There is no badminton on 9th June.

The July dates are: 7th, 14th, 21st and 28th.

12:00 noon – 1:00pm at the Sports and Athletics Centre, Melbourne.

Maxine

BEER APPRECIATION

Our visit to "The Ale House" was very much appreciated, with their usual excellent selection of beverages; although I must confess that a great deal of *Blue Sky Drinking* went on, whilst the *Billericay Sirens* did occasionally *illuminate* us!!

En route to be refreshed, we all commented on the excellent redecorations that were going on at "The Railway Tavern" – so we decided that would be our next trip. We will reconvene at 2:00pm on Monday 9th June 2025.

Please let me know if you are coming so we can keep an eye out for you.

Malcolm

BOARD GAMES GROUP

We had a good response to the idea of starting up this Group and have now secured a venue for the first Tuesday of each month. Our first session will be on Tuesday, 3rd June at 2pm in The Globe, Rainsford Road. There is no charge for using this facility but their drinks are reasonably priced.

A selection of games will be taken for our first session, so just come along and enjoy the afternoon.

If you would like to join this Group please let one of us know so The Globe can cater for our needs.

We look forward to seeing you on 3rd June.

Barbara, Carol & Lorna

BOOK GROUP

We will meet in the library on Monday 2nd of June at 2.30pm to discuss *The Six Wives of Henry VIII* by Antonia Fraser. Quite a tome!

No more to say as meeting delayed by Bank Holiday..

Lyndall

BUS PASS

We had lovely weather for our visits to Wivenhoe and Heybridge Basin and spent enjoyable days at both.

On Saturday June 21st we'll be hoping for more fine weather because we'll be visiting the RHS gardens at Hyde Hall. This particular bus is usually pretty empty so if anyone else would like to join us for this trip please get in touch. It's important to keep the route running. There is a reduced entry fee for non-members arriving by bus - you need to show your bus ticket.

Provisional date for July - Friday 18th. Destination Thaxted? To be confirmed.

Details of meeting time and place will be sent to people on my mailing list nearer the time.

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 Gardening Group appears not to have a June visit but check their website.

Little Waltham Garden Group has an afternoon outing to "Dragons", Boyton Cross, CM1 4LS on Wednesday July 2nd, meeting there at 2:00pm. If you would like to go please contact me first.

Pat

GEOLOGY

We had another, much longer, look at geological time and even touched a specimen that was older than the Earth itself - from the Allende meteorite, composed of space dust! The vastness of geological time is really too long for the human mind to comprehend, but geologists have divided it up into convenient chunks and are still, themselves, getting to grips with the earliest sections - the Hadean and the Archaean.

For our next session on Tuesday 24th June we have decided to go and see some 'rocks' in situ, Well some London Clay and the overlying sandier layers at Thorndon Park, near Brentwood. We shall meet at the Thorndon North Visitor Centre at 2pm. Walking is easy, mainly on made paths, and not muddy, unless it has just rained a lot on the London Clay. We have a leaflet called "The Pebble Walk" and we will indeed see a lot of pebbles too, and discuss the stories they tell. Please let us know if you wish to join us, all welcome.

Our following meeting on Tuesday 22nd July will be an open 'Bring and Share' session to which all members of the group are invited to bring something geological. This will be at 2pm at our usual venue.

Ros & Ian

HEALTH MATTERS

At our last meeting we had an interesting discussion about viruses – are they living or not?, how they replicate and are able to cause us such health problems – all these issues plus more were all considered.

We are not meeting in June but at our next meeting (25th July) will be about the Kidney.

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

It was a lovely warm sunny morning just perfect for our walk through the Phyllis Curry reserve in Great Leighs. On entering the reserve, we saw a beautiful Buttercup meadow; on closer inspection we noticed masses of Greenwinged Orchids and Heath Spotted Orchids. We visited this reserve about two years ago and there were only a few, now they have spread right across the meadow, a wonderful sight. Orchids were not the only wildflowers, Speedwell, Knapweed and Yellow Rattle, still only in bud. This species is an excellent plant for a wildflower meadow as it prevents grass from growing thus leaving more space for other plants to thrive. Walking around the meadow, we also heard a Great Tit, Robin and Blackbird singing and saw a Kestrel being chased by a Crow.

We then went into the bird hide overlooking the lake when a mother Mallard brought her three ducklings up for us to see. There was also another pair of ducks which we tried to identify and we think they may have been Scaup. We left the hide and went to the other side of the lake, the fish were jumping, Dragonflies and Damsel Flies were in abundance. There was also a Spindle tree where all the leaves had been eaten by the Spindle Moth. There were a few butterflies, Common Blue and Speckled Wood. As we walked through the woodland area we heard a Chiffchaff, these are summer visitors. It was a glorious morning and the visit was enjoyed by us all.

Our next meeting is a wildflower walk along the River Chelmer on Tuesday 17th June. Details will be sent the week before..

Future meetings:

- 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

The group meets on the 3rd Thursday of the month, from 10:00am – 12:00noon at Little Waltham United Reformed Church.

Please note, there will be NO meeting in June, so the next group will be on Thursday 17th July.

New members are always welcome.

Please contact me for more information.

Glynn

SCRABBLE

The next session of Scrabble will be on Tuesday, 24th June at 2pm in The Globe, Rainsford Road, Chelmsford.

Barbara

TABLE TENNIS

Table Tennis is normally on Thursdays, at Melbourne Sports and Leisure Centre.

Table Tennis has been booked for 5th and 19th of June at 11:00am, cost will be £2.00 per session and new members would be very welcome to this friendly group..

Pauline

TAI CHI

Tai chi is now on most Fridays instead of fortnightly. We are setting up a WhatsApp group so it is easier and cheaper to message everyone and send pictures.

- June dates are 6th, 13th, 20th and 27th;
- July dates are 4th and 11th.

Then none till 5th September

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:

- May, Wednesday 7th and Wednesday 21st.
- June, Wednesday 4th and Wednesday 18th.

Lorna

BROOMFIELD UKULELE GROUP (BUGS)

The ukulele group are meeting on June 5th at Jan's house and on June 19th at Jannette's house. We are meeting at Jennie's house on the 3rd July and at Pat's house on the 17th July. We meet at 2pm and play for 2 hours.

If you wish to join us and need to know the locations please contact me by text message or email.

Pat

WALKING

Whilst we had limited numbers for our May walk, we had an excellent time walking the countryside around Thaxted. What I was unaware of at the time was that for a period Gustav Holst lived in Monk Street and penned part of The Planets Suite whilst there – Jupiter the Bringer of Jollity perhaps?

We passed Monk Street on the final part of our walk along the River Chelmer. The hamlet has an excellent pub, but regrettably like so many it is not open Tuesday lunchtimes.

The weather was in our favour but once again the countryside, and its views, proved that Essex was certainly not flat – a theme we will be continuing this month!

Our next walk, on Tuesday 10th June, will be in the opposite direction. We will be undertaking a walk of 5½ miles from Stow Maries, taking in some golf (well, views of a course at any rate)g4, climbing to Purleigh, passing the end of the WW1 aerodrome before descending to the pub for lunch.

As usual please let me know if you are coming. Mobile 07399 330232 operative on the day.

Malcolm



GROUP LEADERS

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

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	-
		-