



Broomfield & District

Newsletter September 2025

GROUPS:

- Art Appreciation
- Badminton
- Beer Appreciation
- Board Games
- Book Group
- Bus Pass
- Gardening
(with Chelmsford u3a)
- Canasta
- 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 Sofa(!)

Welcome to our September newsletter.

After last month's problems, I hope that this month's meeting and talk can go ahead as scheduled! (I have been told that the repair of the boiler did not go ahead as planned but that hot water is being provided by means of an immersion heater. That solves the regulatory difficulties that caused last month's cancellation but might mean that there might be problems with heating. Fortunately, the forecast is that Wednesday will be quite warm, if a little wet.)

September sees the start of our new membership year. We sincerely hope you have enjoyed being a member of Broomfield & District u3a and will renew your membership for 2025/2026. Printed copies of the new membership forms should be available at the September meeting and copies are also available on our website.

Changing topics, 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.

Remember it is your u3a branch and we want you to have your say on what goes on.

Please remember to let me know if you are coming to the meeting, this helps us when we are setting up the chairs and tables. Also, 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!

Best wishes

Peter Radford

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 Radford 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 – Rest of 2025

10th September	Around the World in 50 Fabric Collages	Aruna Mene
8th October	The Secret History of the Essex County Gaol	Lindsay Whitehouse
12th November	History of Place Names (in Essex)	Andrew Mowbray
10th December	Historical fiction: Opening the Book in all of us	Andy Stuart

Angel Green – Glynn Wadeson
"heavily edited and given a cinematic colour scheme"



Calendar for September and October 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	
September	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	September
	Badminton Canasta	Board Games	Gardening Ten-pin	Ukulele	Lacemaking Tai chi			
	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
	Badminton Beer Appreciation	Walking	Monthly Meeting	Table tennis	Art Appreciation Lacemaking Tai chi			
	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	
	Badminton Canasta	Natural History	Ten-pin	Photography Ukulele	Bus Pass Lacemaking Tai chi			
	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	
	Badminton			Table tennis	Health Matters Lacemaking Tai chi			
	29	30	1	2	3	4	5	
	Badminton Book Group	Geology	Gardening Ten-pin	Ukulele	Lacemaking Tai chi			
October	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	October
	Badminton	<i>Board Games</i>			<i>Art Appreciation</i> Lacemaking Tai chi			
	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	
	Badminton <i>Beer Appreciation</i>	<i>Walking</i>	Ten-pin	Ukulele	Bus Pass Lacemaking Tai chi			
	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	
	Badminton	Natural History		Photography	Lacemaking Tai chi			
27	28	29	30	31	1	2	Nov.	
Badminton	Geology Scrabble			Lacemaking Tai chi				

Notes and Notices, August 2025

To Start With

Once upon a time, we had a Bridge Group but that faded away when the Group Leader left the area to go into a retirement home.

Recently we had contact from Wendy Reading of Maldon u3a who had just completed the u3a national online Beginners Bridge Course. (I didn't know about it either!) She asked us to share the following information with our members

A new online u3a Beginners Bridge Course is starting soon and is ideal for anyone interested in taking up Bridge. Not only is it taught by experienced Teachers, it uses the excellent NoFearBridge teaching resources and the Real Bridge platform for supervised coaching and playing sessions. She adds *"As well as learning Bridge to a level that enabled me to join my own u3a group and another Bridge Club, I also had an enjoyable time on the course and friendships formed enable me to continue to play Bridge online with fellow course members. I'd certainly recommend the u3a course to anyone wanting to learn Bridge."*

For further details go to: www.bridgewebs.com/u3abridgegroup

You can contact Wendy via u3abeginnersbridge@hotmail.com

Maybe we can restart a Bridge Group if enough people go on the course!

Talks

The next "People & Stone" talk is on Saturday 27th September when our own David Marcus is going to talk about "Our Church Bells", with demonstrations. As is usual for these talks, it's at the church at 2:00 pm. Tickets cost £5 and are available at the door or in advance from Ros Mercer (see Geology Group for details).

Talks to the Essex Branch of the Historical Association resume on 20th September, when the topic will be "Henry VII and Elizabeth of York", a talk by Nathan Amin, who has written widely on the House of Beaufort, the early Tudors and Tudor Wales (2:30pm Trinity Methodist Church, Rainsford Road, Chelmsford CM1 2XB).

More details are at: <https://essexbranchha.com>

Similarly, Gresham College talks also resume in September. Among the early topics are "Automation Anxiety" by Daniel Susskind (on Tuesday 9th), "Earth – Our Planetary Life Support System" by Helen Czerski (on Thursday 11th) and, for something completely different, "Shakespeare's Musical Fairies" by Dominic Broomfield (on Monday 22nd).

More details are at: <https://www.gresham.ac.uk/whats-on?see-all/>

Caring

Action for Family Carers is a local Essex-based charity with over 35 years of experience supporting individuals who care for a family member or friend and do so without pay.

They are proud to have been awarded the Carers Trust Excellence for Carers Award, recognising their commitment to delivering best-practice services, advice, and information to unpaid carers.

They are encouraging carers to get in touch to learn more about how AFFC can assist them in their vital role. For further information and referrals, visit www.affc.org.uk, or email them (info@affc.org.uk).

and finally...

Do you (or does someone close to you) own a mobility scooter? If so, you may be interested in an offer that we received recently. An organisation called Surewise has contacted us about their Safer Mobility Campaign, a nationwide initiative launched to promote mobility scooter safety and support users across the UK. They are offering us some free safety packs, which include a mobility scooter safety guide and reflective stickers. You can read more about their campaign here: <https://www.surewise.com/safer-mobility/>.

If you are interested in receiving a safety pack, please contact me.

BROOMFIELD & DISTRICT U3A – GROUP REPORTS

ART APPRECIATION

Our next session will be on 12th September at The Pavilion, Great Waltham. Any queries call Glynn Glynn

BADMINTON

The dates for badminton are as follows:-

The dates for September are: 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd and 29th.

The dates for October are: 6th, 13th, 20th, and 27th.

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

Maxine

BEER APPRECIATION

We were blessed with good weather for our visit to The Lockdown Inn, with a wide range of choices of pale ales & IPA to try. I'm unsure if there was a particular favourite but the conversation flowed freely.....

We shall pay a return visit to The Orange Tree, Lower Anchor Street, CM2 0AS, at 2.00pm on Monday 8th September 2025. I hope, amongst the other topics we may discuss, we can decide upon a venue for our annual 'pre-Christmas meal' (in November).

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

Malcolm

BOARD GAMES GROUP

The next session will be on Tuesday, 2nd September at 2pm in The Globe, Rainsford Road, Chelmsford.

We hope to meet on Tuesday, 7th October but this date will be verified later.

Barbara, Carol & Lorna

BOOK GROUP

The Book Group will meet on Monday 29th of September at 2:30pm in the Library to discuss "Out of the Dark" by Gregg Hurwitz and "Giver of Stars" by Jojo Moyes.

Lyndall

BUS PASS

I think we all agreed it was a very pleasant day at Hyde Hall.



The weather was ideal and the journeys were good. For the second month in a row, although we were a big group, we had buses virtually to ourselves. We enjoyed browsing the craft fair and textile exhibition and, despite the lack of rain, there was plenty to admire in the gardens.

On 19th September (back to our usual Friday) we shall go to Harlow for an entirely different experience. We'll start off at The Gibberd Gallery with the Henry Moore Family Group and go on to explore more of the many sculptures around Harlow.

We hope to have our final trip of this year on Friday 17th October.

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 not got a meeting in September.

Little Waltham Gardening Club begins its series of Autumn and Winter talks on Wednesday September 3rd at the Memorial Hall. "The Science of Plants" by Brian Carline will explore how plants work and how gardeners can get the best out of them.

On Wednesday October 1st the talk will be on "Sustainable Living" by Tony Dunn of Braintree Organic Gardening Society.

All meetings take place in Little Waltham Memorial Hall and talks begin at 7:30pm.

Contact me for more details of both of these events.

Pat

GEOLOGY

Please note the change of date, by consensus to **Tuesday 30th September**. This is due to Ros & Ian being invited to attend the official launch of the Essex Local Nature Recovery Strategy to which they contributed a chapter on Geology & Soils.



So at our next session at the end of September. We shall be discussing Flint, that mysterious black (though sometimes grey, brown or red) material upon which our distant ancestors so heavily relied. What is it and how and where did it form? Hopefully all will be revealed during our session. Do please



bring some samples to stimulate our discussion.

Following that we shall plan future sessions to which, hopefully, various members will be able to contribute - interesting places you visited over the summer and/or rocks you have picked up or just things about our rocky planet that you are curious about.

Ros & Ian

HEALTH MATTERS

Our next meeting (26th September) will be in The Pavilion, South Street Great Waltham, CM3 1DF where we will be talking about Blood and the various disorders which can arise from changes in the composition of blood. When you have a blood test done – do you know what all the substances measured mean? We will talk about these as well as anaemia, clotting and strokes, transfusions and blood groups.

The theme for our following meeting of this group has not yet been decided but it is likely not to be until November 28th.

Please let me know if you are considering attending.

Gill

LACEMAKING

Lacemaking will continue as usual every Friday 2:00 – 4:00 pm. Please note the change of venue for 5th and 19th September.

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

The Natural History group will be meeting at Danbury Ridge for an autumn walk on Tuesday 16th September. Details will be sent the week before.

Future meetings:

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

All meetings start at 10:00am. 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 Photography group's next meeting is at 10:00am – 12.00 noon on 18th September, Little Waltham United Reformed Church.

Broomfield Mill Houses



New members are always welcome.

Queries? Call me!

Glynn

SCRABBLE

The September session will not take place due to holidays

We will meet next on Tuesday, 28th October at 2pm in The Globe, Rainsford Road, Chelmsford, CM1 2QJ.

Barbara

TABLE TENNIS

Table Tennis is booked for 11th and 25th of September at 11:00 am, at Melbourne Sports and Leisure Centre, cost will be £2.50.

New members are always welcome to this friendly group.

Pauline

TAI CHI

From September 5th, the normal tai chi class will return at 11:00am but check with me before you come for the first time, as the classes are getting full.

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:

- September, Wednesday 3rd and Wednesday 17th.
- October, Wednesday 1st and Wednesday 15th.

Lorna

BROOMFIELD UKULELE GROUP (BUGS)

The ukulele group is meeting at Pat's house on September 4th and at Jan's on September 18th.

We meet at Jennie's house on October 2nd and at Lynne's on October 16th.

We would welcome new members and are happy to help beginners to play. We meet from 2-4pm with refreshments halfway through.

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

Pat

WALKING

Hopefully you all managed some walking during August.

Our September walk will take in part of the Essex Way (it seems to be a part that is a little overgrown!!) alongside the River Colne. Our starting point will be The Shoulder of Mutton Antique Centre in Ford Street (where we will return for lunch) – regretfully we will be unable to leave any “antiques” there whilst we walk!

Our walk, approximately six miles, will be along field & fenced paths, some quiet lanes, with a brief walk through town but will include a visit to West Bergholt Church (hopefully) – built c 1100 with 14th century additions and walking alongside the Colne.

We will meet at 9.15am in the Broomfield RBL car park, Saxon Way, as usual on Tuesday 9th September 2025.

Please let me know if you are coming – transport costs £2.50.

As usual 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

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	-
		-