



Broomfield & District

Newsletter July 2026

GROUPS:

- Art Appreciation
- Badminton
- Beer Appreciation
- Board Games
- Book Group
- Bus Pass
- Gardening
(with Chelmsford u3a)
- Canasta
- Film and Theatre
- Geology
- Health Matters
- Lacemaking
- Photography
- Scrabble
- Strolling in Nature
- Table Tennis
- Tai Chi
- Ten-pin Bowling
- Ukulele
- Walking

WEBSITE

<https://broomfield.u3asite.uk/>

EMAIL

broomfieldanddistrictu3a@gmail.com

From the Chair

Dear All

I hope you are managing to keep cool. Hopefully by the time you read this the heatwave will have broken and it's a bit cooler.

Last month our speaker was Siobhan Pearce – 'from Clown to Corporate' She has had a varied career and I was surprised it was our generation that was the most difficult. I was sure it was going to be the people she worked with.

This month our speaker is Richard Bale, "Claudius' Conquest of Britain AD43". Richard is a well-known Roman Historian who gives illustrated talks about the Romans particularly about the conquest in AD43, hence the title of the talk! I'm looking forward to that.

Sue and Lynne are putting together the final preparations for the Broomfield Village Hall Summer Fayre and Garden Show on Sunday 12th July. Thank you to those that wrote a little something on the cards last month. They still need volunteers on the day so if you do have a spare hour or more to come and help them on the stall, they would be very grateful. Please speak to me or one of the Committee and there will be a sheet on the notice board with time slots.

As I mentioned last month, Pat and Carol are hanging up their teapots and although we have a few volunteers, we really need some more to add to the rota we are setting up. Pat has said she will explain everything at the next meeting. You will only be asked to serve the refreshments as everything else has been sorted.

Next month, August is going to be fun – better get your thinking caps on – that's all I'm saying!!!.

Looking forward to our next meeting.

Heather

Heather Bourdon

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 – 2026 and early 2027

Date	Title	Speaker
8th July	Claudius' Conquest of Britain AD43 (Romans)	Richard Bale
12th August	Social + Quiz	none
9th September	When the Kite builds... WHY and HOW we restored Red Kites across Britain	Mike Pienkowski
14th October	An Epidemic of Uncertainty: Rumours, conspiracy theories & Vaccine hesitancy	Dr Kevin Bryant
11th November	From Simon Cowell to Dragon's Den	Danielle Barnette
9th December	A Beginning, a Muddle and an End. Where do novelists get their ideas from?	Bobbie Derbyshire
13th January	Medical Detection Dogs (charity)	Paul Williams
10th February	Sentinels of the Sea - the Amazing History of Lighthouses	Mark Lewis
10th March	Hatfield Forest	David Simmonds
14th April	1066 & All that - the Life of Harold II	Joanne Larner
12th May	My Life in Radio	Steve Scrutton

Calendar for July and August 2026

(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	29	30	1	2	3	4	5
	Badminton Book Group		Ten-pin	Ukulele	Lacemaking Tai chi		
July	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	Badminton	Board Games	Main Meeting	Table tennis	Art Appreciation Lacemaking Tai chi		
	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
	Badminton Beer Appreciation	Film & Theatre Walking	Ten-pin	Photography	Bus Pass Lacemaking Tai chi		
July	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
	Badminton	Strolling in Nature		Gardening Table tennis	Health Matters		
	27	28	29	30	31	1	2
August	Badminton Book Group	Geology Scrabble					
	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	Badminton		Ten-pin Gardening	Ukulele	Lacemaking		
	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
	Badminton <i>Beer Appreciation</i>	Board Games		Table tennis	Lacemaking		
	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
	Badminton		Ten-pin Film & Theatre	<i>Photography</i> Ukulele	Lacemaking	<i>Bus Pass</i>	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	
Badminton	<i>Geology</i> Scrabble		Table tennis	Lacemaking			
31	1	2	3	4	5	6	
Sept.	Badminton	Board Games			Tai chi Lacemaking		

Notes and Notices, July 2026

To Start With...

I should like to express my thanks to all those who wished me well, after I sent out the "Not the Newsletter" mailing a few days ago. If I'd replied individually this Newsletter would have been even later than it is!

Talks

I can't find any reference to future "People and Stone" talks. As and when I do, I will try to include them. The next meeting of the Essex Branch of the Historical Association will not be until Saturday 19th September. More details of this nearer the time but, if you are impatient, go to:

<https://www.essexbranchha.com/>

Gresham College is also into its Summer break, ending, I suspect, in September.

In the meantime, many of last year's talks can be watched on-line

Use the **WATCH NOW** button at: <https://www.gresham.ac.uk/whats-on?see-all/>

What Financial Admin do Families Face after a Bereavement?

Dealing with someone's finances after they die can involve mountains of paperwork, from arranging funerals and sorting out probate to closing accounts and subscriptions. Which? explains the financial admin families may face after a death, where to get help and what support may be available beyond a life insurance payout.

See

<https://www.which.co.uk/news/article/what-financial-admin-do-families-face-after-a-bereavement-ahwm47q2wP6X>

Are You Gifting Money to Loved Ones?

If so, Which? has identified five IHT rules that you need to take into account to avoid a shock tax bill.

See

<https://www.which.co.uk/news/article/5-inheritance-tax-rules-to-know-when-gifting-money-in-2026-aEDjW3C2ICHG>

Electric Toothbrushes

Do you use (or are you planning to use) an electric toothbrush?

Which? has uncovered potentially dodgy pricing tactics that may be breaching advertising rules. For more details, see

<https://www.which.co.uk/news/article/boots-and-oral-b-may-be-misleading-shoppers-on-electric-toothbrush-pricing-aXsfz3q7uLME>

and finally...

Don't forget that the Broomfield Summer Fayre is on Sunday 12th July.

If all goes to plan, we will have a stall there. I'm sure any help would be much appreciated. Contact a member of the committee if you might be there.

BROOMFIELD & DISTRICT U3A – GROUP REPORTS

ART APPRECIATION

The Art Appreciation group visited the *Seurat by the Sea* exhibition at the Courtauld gallery in May, and in June met to share our experiences and to look at the work of the legendary (but seemingly little known in UK) Russian artist Ilya Repin. His realist images reside mainly in the Tretyakov Gallery in St. Petersburg so it's unlikely we'll get a chance to see a collection over here anytime soon. Fortunately, there's a wealth of images on Wikipedia and YouTube which we had the chance to consider in detail. As one member said after looking at his large-scale painting of Ivan the Terrible and his dying son, 'it's an image once seen, never forgotten!'



Our next meeting will be 10 July, when we will be visiting St Mary with St. Leonard's church to enjoy a curated view of the works of famed local artist Rosamund Rutherford

For more info or if you'd like to join the group contact me.

Glynn Wadeson

BADMINTON

The dates for badminton for the next two months are as follows:

- Monday 6th, 13th, 20th and 27th July.
- Monday 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th and 31st August which is a bank holiday.

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

Maxine Martin

BEER APPRECIATION

Our June outing was to a new venue. Unfortunately, it was a little disappointing with minimal choice of draught beers (1!), although there was a reasonable selection of bottled ales available.

Amongst the usual chat and gossip we discussed attendance at the Chelmsford Beer Festival which would coincide with our July meeting. We felt the likelihood of us being able to consume the volume provided by the included beer vouchers was somewhat unlikely, given the entrance price – and who wants another glass anyway?

We therefore decided that we would revisit The Railway Tavern, they have a good choice of ales and are convenient to the bus station.

Thus, I look forward to seeing you at the Railway Tavern at 2.00pm on Monday 13th July 2026. Please let me know if you are coming.

We will also take the opportunity to discuss whether we hold another tasting (or chatting session) at The Lockdown Inn in August.

Malcolm Taylor

BOARD GAMES

Our next sessions of Board Games are set out below (please note that the August date has been brought forward by a week).

- Tuesday, 7th July
- Tuesday, 11th August
- Tuesday, 1st September

We will meet in The Globe Public House, Rainsford Road, Chelmsford at 1.30 pm. If you are interested in joining us please contact one of us.

Barbara Bartlett

Carol Greatrex

Lorna Stuart

BOOK GROUP

At our June meeting we discussed "The Last Runaway" by Tracy Chevalier. The majority really enjoyed this book, about a Quaker girl going to America in the 1850's, and the score out of 10 was 7.25.

The book group will next meet on Monday 27th July, at 2:30 at Broomfield Library, but there will not be a meeting in August.

If you would like to join the Book Group, please contact me on the email address below.

Christine Pearson

BUS PASS

Our trip to Harlow was postponed to the beginning of July to keep us all safe during the excessive high temperatures.

Later this month we're travelling to delightful Woodbridge by train to visit The Longshed, where the Sutton Hoo burial ship is being reconstructed using traditional tools and authentic materials, and Woodbridge Tidal Mill Museum. It should be a great day - trains are a lot more comfortable than buses even if it's hot.

August is not definite but Saturday 22nd is a possibility with the choice to visit Hyde Hall or stay on the bus to Battlesbridge Antiques Centre. Buses are likely to be busy with free travel for children but this service is little-used so it shouldn't be a problem.

Carol Greatrex

CANASTA

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

Marie Mackie

FILM AND THEATRE

Our last meeting provided lots of great ideas for future events.

Our next event is on 14th July to see The Simon & Garfunkel Story

The next group meeting will be on 19th August at 2pm. Location to be advised.

If you are interested in joining the group, please ring me.

Heather Bourdon



GARDENING

Little Waltham Gardening Club's next visit is to Ulting Wick (CM9 6QX) on Wednesday 5th August. Entry and homemade refreshments are £13 (in cash, as would be any other payments).

Chelmsford u3a's July visit is to Bassetts, Little Baddow (CM3 4BZ). It is on Thursday 23rd July. It looks interesting but if you would like to go, please contact Karen Smallwood (kasmallwood@sky.com) first.

If anyone wants contact or other details, please get in touch with me.

Pat Radford

GEOLOGY

As the weather was going to be so hot, we decided to have an indoor session instead for June. We reviewed our Ice Age Essex presentation planned to be given at the Festival of Archaeology at Cressing Temple Barns on Thursday 23rd July. This Festival will build on the success of the first such event last year and the barns will be filled with displays by archaeology, history and geology groups from around the county plus talks and activities - a great day not to be missed.



Hoping that the weather will be more accommodating in July, we plan to go to Channels to see the Ice Age deposits there on Tuesday 28th July. We shall meet there at 2pm. Full details will be sent again nearer the time, so let us know if you would like to join us.



Ros & Ian

HEALTH MATTERS

Due to the extreme heat our June meeting has been postponed to Friday July 24th where we will be considering affective disorders such as depression, including bipolar and also mania. We will meet at the Pavilion, South Street, Great Waltham (CM3 1DF) and new members are always welcome.

There will be no meeting in August but return on Friday, September 25th when we will be considering eating disorders!

Gill Sturman

LACEMAKING

Lacemaking usually takes place every Friday but not July 24th or 31st.

New members are always welcome and we have equipment available to get you going but please contact me beforehand to confirm that we are meeting.

Wendy Talley

NATURAL HISTORY

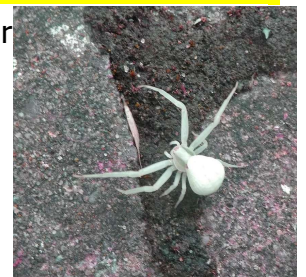
See *Strolling in Nature*.

PHOTOGRAPHY



Coffee Break time

Photo group is a friendly, relaxed place to share your photographs and develop skills in composition and technique. Our monthly challenges, to quote a member, 'mean my photos now have a purpose instead of being random snaps'.



Spider crab -photo Carol Greatrex

Meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month at United Reformed Church, Little Waltham, from 10:00-12:00. Next meeting Thursday 16th July.

If you'd like to join us and get more out of your photography, just contact me

For more info, or if you'd like to join, contact me.

Glynn Wadeson

SCRABBLE

We will be meeting on the following dates in The Globe, Rainsford Road, at 1.30 pm.

Tuesday, 28th July and Tuesday, 25th August.

New members are always welcome, please contact me for details.

Barbara Bartlett

STROLLING IN NATURE

Three members of the Strollers met at Heybridge Basin for a walk towards Maldon along the River Blackwater. It was dry but cloudy so we decided to start our walk by having a coffee at the Tiptree Tea Rooms. Fully fortified we crossed over the lock gates onto the footpath. The tide was out but very few waders. However, we saw quite a few Little Egrets along the water's edge and a few resting in the trees nearby. There were also Great Crested Grebe and Blackheaded Gulls. It was



lovely to hear the Cuckoo, the first we had heard this year. We

were able to identify the call of the Sedge Warbler and Blackbird using the Merlin app. There were quite a few wildflowers but mostly their seed heads. One in particular was the Dyers Greenweed, formerly used to produce a yellow dye which when mixed with Woad or Indigo produced the famous Kendal Green. Also, the huge seed heads of the Goatsbeard - lovely round orbs of seeds waiting to be dispersed by the wind. On our way back we disturbed a group of House Sparrows having a dust bath. It was a wonderful way to spend the morning.

Our next meeting on 21st July will be a stroll along the River Chelmer, details will be sent nearer the time. If anyone would like to join us please

contact me.

Sue Browning

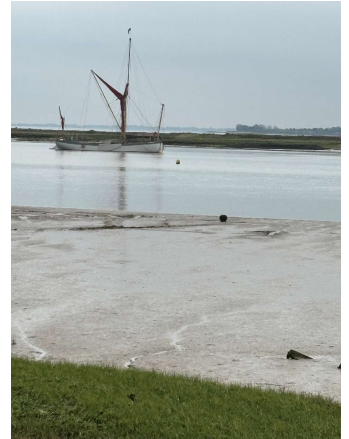
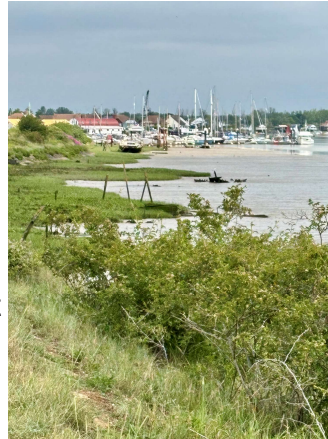


TABLE TENNIS

Table tennis will be on 9th and 23rd July and 13th and 27th August, at 11.00am at Chelmsford Sports Centre, Melbourne. Cost will probably be £2.50 a session.

New members are very welcome to this fun and friendly group.

Pauline Vinter

TAI CHI

In July, our dates are: 3rd, 10th and 17th. Then we take a break, before resuming on 4th September.

On that date also, a new 12-week beginner course will start, at Old Chelmsfordians, Roxwell Road; (from 1:00pm -2:00pm) - contact me for vacancy.

Cheryl Beeney

TEN-PIN BOWLING

Ten Pin bowling takes place on the 1st & 3rd Wednesday 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/tea. We bowl at 10:30am but request bowlers arrive by 10:15am so we can arrange lanes, shoes etc. Looking forward to seeing you all there.

The dates for the next 2 months are:

- July 1st and 15th
- August 5th and 19th

Lorna Stuart

BROOMFIELD UKULELE GROUP (BUGS)

In July the Ukulele group is only meeting on the 2nd at Pat's house between 2 and 4 pm. We are getting together on the 16th to celebrate 10 years of playing but we will be eating and drinking at the Angel! We currently have 9 members but welcome newcomers of all abilities and you do not have to host to join. We are a very sociable group who meet on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month between 2 and 4pm

In August, we will meet at the home of Tish on the 6th and at Jan's on the 20th.

Pat Platt

WALKING



Oh what a difference a couple of weeks make!! Our June walk, shorter than usual, around a nature reserve at North Fambridge was billed as an opportunity to see a variety of bird-life. A large group of walkers armed with various cameras, long-lenses & binoculars were ready for whatever we saw.

How wrong we were! Halfway along the seawall we caught the leading edge of a rain shower, but it soon disappeared – as did the bird-life in the main. The problem with a circular walk is that eventually you walk back under the cloud you have just avoided. Whilst showers were on its leading-edge thunder/lightening and heavy rain were on the back-end – as can be seen by the happy smiles in the attached picture.....

Our July walk, hopefully, will not disappoint. A walk of just under five miles will see us walk a section of the Essex Way alongside the River Colne, before turning under the magnificent Chappel Viaduct to continue our walk through pasture and woodland. Our starting point, and lunch, will once again be at The Shoulder of Mutton.

We will meet in the Broomfield Royal British Legion car park in Saxon Way at 9.30am on Tuesday 14th July 2026, anticipated transport costs £2.50. Please let me know if you are coming. (The usual mobile operative on the day.)

We will not be meeting in August.

Malcolm Taylor

GROUP LEADERS

Art Appreciation	Glynn Wadeson
Badminton	Maxine Martin
Beer Appreciation	Malcolm Taylor
Board Games	Barbara Bartlett Carol Greatrex Lorna Stuart
Book Group	Christine Pearson
Bus Pass	Carol Greatrex
Canasta	Marie Mackie
Film and Theatre	Heather Bourdon
Gardening	Pat Radford
Geology	Ros Mercer
Health Matters	Gill Sturman
Lacemaking	Wendy Talley
Natural History	Sue Browning
Photography	Glynn Wadeson
Scrabble	Barbara Bartlett
Table Tennis	Jean Lock Pauline Vinter
Tai Chi	Cheryl Beeney
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 one of the committee.**

THE COMMITTEE

Chair	Heather Bourdon	-
		-
Vice Chair & Secretary	Roger Warner	-
		-
Treasurer	Sue Blamire	-
		-
Speaker Coordinator	Lynne Blackburn	-
		-
Membership Secretary	Peter Radford	-
		-
Group Coordinator	Mike Farn	-
		-
	Julie Warner	-
		-

Many thanks to David Warner for acting as Website Editor