



Broomfield & District

Newsletter September 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

Well, we've finally had some rain!!! My veg patch is looking a lot healthier now!

Thank you for your cooperation last month. Our fire drill went very well; we managed to get everyone out within 1 minute 12 seconds. I understand this is very good. I must own up; we had arranged the drill with the village hall but next year they are doing one and no-one will know when it is!!!

I thoroughly enjoyed the quiz which was brilliantly organised by Malcolm, ably assisted by Roger collating the scores. I learnt something that day about stalactites and stalagmites. I thought it was just 'tights fall down' and that's how you distinguish between them. Who knew C for ceiling and G for ground?!

Anyway, this month we have, I suspect, a very interesting talk from Dr Mike Pienkowski who will be accompanied by his wife. I will leave him to explain himself as he has many hats. The talk is about the reintroduction of the Red Kite in the UK. There will be a video and a presentation with time for questions after.

As always, please don't forget to sign in, in capital letters and tea/coffee will be back to £1 this month.

I look forward to seeing you.

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

Notes and Notices, August 2026

To Start With...

A reminder that the AGM will take place on October 14th, 2026. Could any member who would like to join the committee, please let this be known to the Chair, Secretary, or any member of the committee. All would be very welcome.

Talks, etc

The next People & Stone talk is on Saturday 19th September when Karen Paxton will be relating "More Churchyard Stories".

Before that, the Church will be hosting Heritage Open Days on Saturday 12th and Sunday 13th, when the theme will be Broomfield at War. There will be displays about the Evacuees from Tottenham and about The Rutherford pictures of both the evacuees and the army camp in Broomfield, etc. Neil Wiffen and Cathy Pearson, authors of the booklet "Broomfield in World War Two", will be on hand.

The next meeting of the Essex Branch of the Historical Association will on Saturday 19th September at 2.30pm, when Alexandra Walsham CBE, President of the Historical Association, Fellow of Emmanuel College, Cambridge and Professor of Modern History at the University of Cambridge will talk about "Persecution and Toleration in England 1400-1700". For more details, go to: <https://www.essexbranchha.com/>

Gresham College is also back in business after its Summer break, with its programme for September including, on Monday 14th, 'The Sky at Night, Tonight: A New View of the Changing Sky' by Chris Lintott (one of three lectures by him in September); together with 'Is the HIV Pandemic Over?' by Matt Higgins (Wednesday 16th); 'The Future of Creativity' by Daniel Susskind (Tuesday 22th) and 'Carbon: Our Flexible Friend that Built the Natural World' by Helen Czerski (Thursday 24th). In the meantime, many of last year's talks can be watched on-line (use the **WATCH NOW** button) and details of future talks can be found at: <https://www.gresham.ac.uk/whats-on?see-all/>

7 popular home products our experts would never buy

Cordless vacs with poor battery life, condenser dryers that cost a bomb to run and gas hobs that contribute to indoor air pollution – Which?'s appliance experts highlight the products to be wary of when it's time to upgrade.

See: <https://www.which.co.uk/news/article/popular-products-you-should-never-buy-aRF1M5G9mZnv>

Watch out for the 'hybrid' payment scam that banks refuse to refund

Fighting fraud is like whack-a-mole. Close one loophole and another pops up. New controls are pushing scammers to find fresh ways to trick you into transferring money – this time, by card. Which? show you how to protect yourself and reveal which banks have the most card fraud complaints.

See: <https://www.which.co.uk/news/article/watch-out-for-the-hybrid-payment-scam-that-banks-refuse-to-refund-aCKSM0r6cCYW>

and finally...

The Royal British Legion are looking for assistance in manning their Poppy Appeal stalls at Sainsbury's (the big one in Springfield) and at Morrison's. The Poppy Appeal runs from Thursday 22nd October until Saturday 7th November. I do not know how long the stalls are to be "staffed" but I suspect at least from 8.00am to 6.00pm. Volunteers would not be expected to stay there the whole time - 2 hour 'shifts' would seem appropriate - even an hour is helpful. Please contact Malcolm Taylor if you would like to help.

BROOMFIELD & DISTRICT U3A – GROUP REPORTS

ART APPRECIATION

Our next session will be at The Pavilion, South Street, Great Waltham on Friday 11th September at 1:00pm

The topic will be works of Essex artist John Aldridge and Eric Ravilious.

Contact Glynn Wadeson if you'd like to attend

Glynn Wadeson

BADMINTON

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

- Monday 7th, 14th, 21st and 28th September.
- Monday 5th, 12th, 19th and 26th October.

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

Maxine Martin

BEER APPRECIATION

August, as had become our custom, saw us attend the Lockdown Inn for a “World Beer” tasting (effectively lager!). As anticipated, we enjoyed beers from the Czech Republic, Greece, India, Spain (x3!) and Thailand, in addition to celebrating one of our members entering their 9th decade!!

Our next meeting will be in The Ale House, by the Bus Station, on Monday 14th September 2026 at 2.00pm where, amongst other things, we will discuss the venue & timing of our (early) Christmas celebration.

Please let me know if you are coming.

Malcolm Taylor

BOARD GAMES

Future dates for Board Games are as follows:

Tuesday, **8th** September (please note the session on 1st September has been moved to the 8th)

Tuesday, 6th October

Tuesday, 3rd November

All sessions to be held at 1.30 pm in The Globe, Rainsford Road, Chelmsford.

If you are interested in joining us please contact one of us.

Barbara Bartlett

Carol Greatrex

Lorna Stuart

BOOK GROUP

The book group will next meet on Monday 28th September at 2:30pm at Broomfield Library.

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

Christine Pearson

BUS PASS

Last month we spent an enjoyable day in perfect weather at either Hyde Hall or Battlesbridge.

On Friday 18th September we'll go to Saffron Walden which we haven't visited for some time. There is plenty to see and do - the Fry Art Gallery, Museum, Bridge End Gardens and maybe time for a browse in the independent shops.

Our last outing for this year will be on Friday 16th October, maybe to Sawbridgeworth.

If you would like to join us, please get in touch.

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

We had a great meeting at the Village Hall last week: we have now doubled in size.

On 26th September we are at Chelmsford Theatre on for a play by CAODS - 2 tickets were available at the time of writing.

On 3rd October we have a back stage tour of the civic theatre but that is fully booked.

We have planned several new outings for the new year and into the first six months of 2027 at the Civic Theatre and The Theatres in Southend. I am also looking at London trips as well.

I have been in touch with Lesley Wood, my equivalent at Chelmsford u3a so there might be joint ventures on the cards.

If you would like to join, please contact me.

Heather Bourdon

GARDENING

Little Waltham Gardening Club resumes its evening talks on 2nd September, when Brian Carline will talk about 'The Science of Plants'. On 7th October, Lynne Moore, of Moore and Moore Plants will give a talk entitled 'My Darlings of the Shade garden'.

On 24th September, Chelmsford u3a's Gardening Group has Group Outing to Feeringbury Manor.

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

Pat Radford

GEOLOGY

At our meeting in August we had a lively discussion about Soil - that vital interface where dead stuff is recycled back to life. We learnt that worms do a lot of the ploughing and, left to it, they clear all the leaves from your lawn.

Our next meeting on Tuesday 22nd September will be member led. Perhaps discussing some holiday photos and observations about the geology and landscape of various parts of the country or indeed the world! We meet at 2pm at 2a Hearsall Avenue. Do come with photos and thoughts.

Ros & Ian

HEALTH MATTERS

At our next meeting (25th September at 2pm) we will talk about eating disorders – both obesity and anorexia. We hear a lot about these conditions in the media and so we will explore the current known facts about them such as why GLP-1 medication works in some people but not others. Also, why some people are prepared to starve themselves for the sake of their looks.

The following month's meeting will be on 30th October.

Currently we meet in the Pavilion, South Street, Great Waltham (CM3 1DF). New members are always welcome.

Gill Sturman

LACEMAKING

Lacemaking usually takes place every Friday (except 9th October).

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

PHOTOGRAPHY

The Photography Group meets on the third Thursday of every month from 10:00am to 12:00 noon at Little Waltham United Reformed Church.

After an August break, our next meeting is on 17th September.

Visit our gallery on the Broomfield u3a website to see our pictures.

Contact me if you'd like to join us.

Glynn Wadeson

SCRABBLE

Future dates are as follows:

- Tuesday, 29th September
- Tuesday, 27th October
- Tuesday, 24th November

All sessions to be held at 1.30 pm in The Globe, Rainsford Road, Chelmsford.

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

Barbara Bartlett

STROLLING IN NATURE

There was no meeting in August - our September meeting will be on Tuesday 15th September meeting at the Heritage Centre on Galleywood Common at 10:00am.

Sue Browning

TABLE TENNIS

Table Tennis will take place on 10th and 24th September and 8th and 22nd October at Melbourne Sports Centre at 11:00 am, cost £2.50 per session.

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

Pauline Vinter

TAI CHI

Dates for September: 4th, 11th, 18th and, 25th.

Dates for October: 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd and, 30th.

The main sessions are at 11:00-12:30; the Beginners sessions are at 1:00pm-2:00pm; all at Old Chelmsfordians, Roxwell Road.

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:

- Wednesdays, September 2nd and 16th.
- Wednesdays, October 7th and 21st.

Lorna Stuart

BROOMFIELD UKULELE GROUP (BUGS)

The Ukulele group will be meeting at Pat's on September 3rd and at Jennie's on the 17th. As usual we start at 2pm and play until 4pm.

In October we meet at Pat's on the 1st and at Jan's on the 15th.

New members are welcome even if you are a beginner or just want a singsong. Just contact Pat for the addresses.

Pat Platt

WALKING

Hopefully you were able to get out and about during August, enjoying the dry weather (a precursor for the opposite to follow, if you take the view of the climate scientists?). After a "holiday" rest we return to our regular outings.

We will meet on Tuesday 8th September 2026 at 9.00am in the car park of the Royal British Legion, Saxon Way, Broomfield.

This time we will be venturing southwards as we take a leisurely 6 mile walk amongst the creeks & countryside of Little Wakering.

Please let me know if you are coming. Anticipated transport cost £2.50.

The usual mobile operative on the day.

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