Broomfield & District



Newsletter November 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 keeping well and warm.

Last month we had a great talk from Dr Kevin Bryant – 'An epidemic of uncertainty: Rumours, conspiracy theories and vaccine hesitancy'. A long title but a fascinating talk. Especially as GPs are encouraging us to get flu and covid jabs at the moment.

As you know it was our AGM this month; I tried not to take too long to delay Dr Bryant. Thank you to those who attended and business was concluded promptly. All the Committee were re-elected. For those that were unable to attend we are a thriving group with over 150 members and 20 special interest groups doing well.

It was also membership renewal day! I was late getting there as I had been attending the national AGM that morning on zoom. When I walked in it seemed utter chaos. However, in the mayhem Peter and Sue were doing an incredible job taking your renewals and answering your questions. I understand, at time of writing, a large number of the membership, either in person or online, have renewed which is fantastic.

This month's speaker is Danielle Barnette – 'From Simon Cowell to Dragon's Den'. Danielle will tell us about her wealth of knowledge of the music industry, having seen both sides. She was lead singer for a group in the early 90's and has managed top ten chart acts. She later had a successful appearance on Dragon's Den with a new patented technology which she invented. She still sings and tours the world today.

Please don't forget to look at the notice board at the back of the hall for notices and useful information. The books and jigsaw library is also a popular look at the other end of the hall.

As always, please sign in, in capital letters and tea/coffee is **50p**.

I look forward to seeing you.

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
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
9th June	Reflexology	Helen Beard



With thanks to Glynn Wadeson!

Calendar for November and December 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	
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	November
Badminton	Board Games	Gardening Ten-pin	Ukulele	Lacemaking Tai chi			
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	
Badminton Beer Appreciation		**Monthly Meeting**	Table tennis	Art Appreciation Lacemaking Tai chi			
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	
Badminton	Strolling in Nature	Film & Theatre Ten-pin	Photography Ukulele	Lacemaking Tai chi			
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	
Badminton	Geology Scrabble		*Gardening* Table tennis	Tai chi			
30	1	2	3	4	5	6	December
Badminton Book Group		Ten-pin	Ukulele	Tai chi			
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
Badminton		**Monthly Meeting**	Table tennis	Lacemaking Tai chi			
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	
Badminton Beer Appreciation		Ten-pin	*Photography* Ukulele	Lacemaking			
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	
			Christmas Eve	**Christmas Day**	**Boxing Day**		
28	29	30	31	1	2	3	Jan.
Bank Holiday			**New Year's Eve**	**New Year's Day**			

Notes and Notices, November 2026

To Start With…

A WARNING - Be aware of Winter Fuel Payment scams. Several local U3a's are reporting that fake Winter Fuel Payment messages are circulating. These messages may ask you to click a link, confirm your details, or act urgently. Remember - Most Winter Fuel Payments are made automatically, and the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) will not ask for your bank details by text message. To stay safe (or at least safer)

- Don't click links in unexpected message
- Never share personal or financial information
- Forward suspicious text messages to 7726 to help stop scams spreading

Talks, etc

The next People & Stone talk is at 2:00 pm on Saturday 7th November when Alun Powell will be talking about "Broomfield's World War 2 Roll of Honour". Tickets are £5; for them, contact Ros Mercer (see Group Leaders, page 11, for contact details).

The next meeting of the Essex Branch of the Historical Association will be at 2:30pm on Saturday 21st November, at Trinity Methodist Church, Chelmsford, CM1 2XB, when Professor Corinne Fowler, Professor of Colonialism & Heritage, University of Leicester, will talk about "Country walks through Colonial Britain" Visitors and prospective members warmly welcomed – tickets £5, booking not required.
For more details, go to: **https://www.essexbranchha.com/**

My personal selection from the Gresham College programme for the next month or so includes "Our Sun, Our Star" by Professor Chris Lintott (Wednesday, 11th); "How Did Our Garden Grow? The History of Hatton Garden" by Vivian Watson (Thursday 12th); "Life, Death and Bubbles: The Story of Earth's Nitrogen" by Professor Helen Czerski (Thursday 19th); "Sixteenth-Century London Dialect: How Londoners Spoke in Sir Thomas Gresham's Time" by Professor Laura Wright (Tuesday, 24th) and "Musical Myths and Miracles" by Professor Milton Mermikides (Wednesday, 25th).. Full details of these and other talks can be found at: **https://www.gresham.ac.uk/whats-on?see-all/**

Do you use dishwasher tablets?

Which? Has found half a dozen surprising uses for them. To see what they are, go to **https://www.which.co.uk/news/article/6-surprising-uses-for-dishwasher-tablets-azNMM0N7nGJF**

Get your home ready for Winter

I don't think I've referenced a video before! This one comes courtesy of Admiral UK.

See: **https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8ggY1UDfR04**

and finally…

Just in case you got lost in the multiple announcements about last week's budget, Which? has put together a summary of what it believes to be the most important points. This can be found at: **https://www.which.co.uk/news/article/autumn-budget-2026-when-is-it-and-what-will-it-contain-aQqC47O24jnl**

BROOMFIELD & DISTRICT U3A – GROUP REPORTS

ART APPRECIATION

In October, Members of the group visited the Munnings Art Museum at the former home of the artist in Dedham.

On 13th November the group will be visiting the Wallace Collection in London.

I've greatly enjoyed my time running the group but other commitments have made it difficult to continue. Fortunately, Linda Cook was willing to take on the group administrator role so there has been a smooth transition, for which I am very grateful.

New members welcome, if you'd like to join the group, contact Linda.

Linda Cook

Glynn Wadeson

BADMINTON

The badminton dates for November are as follows: - 2nd, 9th, 16th,23rd and 30th.

In December, it's the 7th and 14th, then we break for Christmas and return in the New Year.

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

Maxine Martin

BEER APPRECIATION

October saw a visit to a new, recommended, venue – the Cricketers. Unfortunately, due to a variety of (appointment) clashes we had very few members attending. However, as usual, the world was put to rights!!

Our November event will be our Christmas Lunch at The Rose & Crown, Great Waltham on Monday 9th November 2026. We are currently finalising transport arrangements, but it won't be Digigo!!
I already have the confirmed names of those attending and will be in touch in due course.

Malcolm Taylor

BOARD GAMES

Our next session will be on Tuesday, 3rd November at 1.30 pm in The Globe, Rainsford Road, Chelmsford.

We are not meeting in December and our next session will be on 4th January 2027.

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

Barbara Bartlett

Carol Greatrex

Lorna Stuart

BOOK GROUP

At our October meeting we discussed *The Housemaid* by Freida McFadden. This was generally not a popular book and only received an average score of 4.5 out of 10.

The book group will next meet on Monday 30th November at 2.30 at Broomfield Library, there will be no meeting in December, so the first of the New Year will be on 25th January.

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

Christine Pearson

BUS PASS



We ended our season for this year with an enjoyable trip to Zero2 Bus Museum at Great Yeldham. Unlike many such museums, here we were able to board and sit in the many buses in their collection and even experience a ride to a microbrewery in Clare, with great views from the top deck. There was also the opportunity to look around the workshop where a pre-war bus had been stripped to its wooden frame ready to be rebuilt. Thousands of model buses too, beautifully displayed. A great day which might be repeated next year for those who couldn't make the date this time.



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 fascinating back stage tour of Blood Brothers in Chelmsford theatre at the beginning of the month. Our guide took us to see every part of the theatre. We were lucky enough to have a Q&A session with the Production Manager and we were told a theatrical production such as Blood Brothers use all their own equipment, scenery and props and when the show is over on the last evening they take about 4 hours to dismantle everything and load the trucks and then they are on their way to the next theatre!! Arriving in the early hours of the morning to build the set and create the show all over again.

Our next group meeting is on November 18th, 3:00-4:30pm at Broomfield Village Hall. Cost £3 for hire of hall and refreshments.

We don't have a meeting in December but I will be sending out a list of shows and ideas for 2027 that month.

If you would like to join, please contact me.

Heather Bourdon

GARDENING

On 4th November, Glyn Evans will give a talk to Little Waltham Gardening Club entitled "Garden Birds and how to encourage them to your garden". On December 2nd there is a Christmas celebration but for members only.

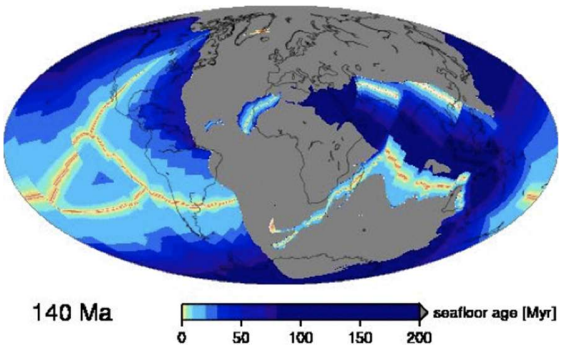
The Chelmsford Gardening Group is scheduled to meet on 26th November but I can't find any details!

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

Pat Radford

GEOLOGY

At our last session we did a whistle stop tour of the British Isles looking at aspects of the geology which helped us to put the rocks onto the geological timescale of Deep Time. It was quite mind stretching as well as fascinating.



At our next session on Tuesday 24th November, we shall continue the theme of Deep Time by looking at how the continents have been rearranged over time and perhaps where we shall drift in the future. More stimulating and mind stretching perhaps. Anyway, all are welcome to join us at 2a Hearsall Avenue, Broomfield and do bring an interesting rock to discuss too.

Ros & Ian

HEALTH MATTERS

At our October meeting, we talked about Clinical Trials: why they are needed and what they involve, how they are conducted and their importance for our health. We looked at some old clinical trials and discussed what was learnt from them and how they could be improved.

Our next meeting will not be now until January and further information about this will be given in future Newsletters.

Gill Sturman

LACEMAKING

Lacemaking usually takes place every Friday (but not on 27th November nor 4th December and, obviously, not on Christmas day).

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, anticipating the onset of Autumn, had the challenge of photographing in low light as our October theme and we had some great creative entries. Check out our gallery on the website to see some examples of our members' work.

Our next meeting is November 19th, from 10-12 at United Reformed Church, Little Waltham.

New members are always welcome, and remember, the best camera is the one you have with you, whether it be a mirrorless digital, a DSLR or a mobile phone.

Glynn Wadeson

SCRABBLE

Our next session is on Tuesday, 24th November at 1.30 pm in The Globe, Rainsford Road, Chelmsford.

We will not be meeting in December and will be getting together again on Tuesday, 26th January 2027.

If you would like to join us for these friendly sessions please contact me.

Barbara Bartlett

STROLLING IN NATURE

The Strollers didn't meet this month but we hope to be able to meet on 17th November for a stroll along the River Chelmer. Details nearer the time. Hope to see you..

Sue Browning

TABLE TENNIS

We welcomed one returning player and a complete newcomer to the game this month. I think they both enjoyed the experience and we look forward to welcoming them regularly.

This month's sessions will take place on 12th and 26th November, and followed by 10th December. (There is no second session in December this year, it would have fallen on Christmas Eve!!)

We meet at Melbourne Sports Centre at 11 am, cost £2.50. New members are always welcome to this lively, fun and friendly group.

Pauline Vinter

TAI CHI

Dates for the main sessions for November (at 11:00-12:30) are: 6th, 13th, 20th and 27th.

Dates for the beginners sessions for November (at 1:00pm-2:00pm) are: 6th and 13th.
After that they join the main session.

Dates for December are: 4th and 11th; after that there is a break until 8th January.

All sessions are 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, November 4th and 18th.
- Wednesdays, December 2nd and 16th.

Lorna Stuart

BROOMFIELD UKULELE GROUP (BUGS)

There has been a change of location since last month.

The ukulele group will be meeting at Keith's house on November 5th and at Lynne's on the 19th November. In December we are meeting at Pat's house on the 3rd and at Jennie's on the 17th.

We meet between 2pm and 4pm. You do not have to host to join the group and we are happy to help anyone who might like to learn a few chords to start playing.

Pat Platt

WALKING

We were at last able to undertake our walk from Little Wakering. Starting our walk, once again, along the KCIII Coastal Path overlooking mud flats (and stranded boats) it seemed only a short distance between the Norman churches of Little Wakering & Barling, but inevitably the crow doesn't follow the meanderings of an Essex creek!

Once inland we continued to the small locally developed Barling Magna Wildlife Park (a nature reserve) it is currently semi-mature and appears well used by the local community. Regretfully someone had seen fit to poison the various rainwater butts around the site – used to provide a drinking source for wild animals & birds – according to the warning signs. We have some odd individuals around!!

Leaving the reserve we crossed fields, passing a raised farm reservoir, before some brief road walking before once again returning to the fields (at which point we encountered a brief rain cloud) before reaching the pub for a well deserved lunch.

Unfortunately, due to unforeseen circumstances, we will not be walking this month. This means our next walk will be in January 2027 (as we take a rest in December). I look forward to returning to our traditional January (watery) walk in due course.

Malcolm Taylor

GROUP LEADERS

Art Appreciation	Linda Cook
	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	Pauline Vinter
	Jean Lock
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