



BASILDON AND BILLERICAY

u3a

NEWSLETTER No 365

APRIL 2024



APRIL 23RD IS ST GEORGE'S DAY

CHAIR REPORT

We are now looking forward to the summer months, or is that screaming kids, melting ice creams and packed beaches. Look on the bright side, we will soon have it all back to ourselves, then we can miss the hustle and bustle.

But! u3a always has something for us to strive toward, new adventures, new subjects to learn and many new people to meet.

Details of the new Coffee Morning starting in July will be in next month's Newsletter

PLEASE NOTE



The coach trip to Margate and Broadstairs on Thursday, 6th June 2024

is now **SOLD OUT!**

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Hello everyone,

It's the time of year when my thoughts turn to spring lambs, sorting out the garden and...the AGM. Please read the notice about the AGM and feel free to stand for election to the committee or nominate another u3a member. Only paid up members of Basildon and Billericay u3a may participate. Please come along to the meeting in June. It would be lovely to have a good turn out and....there will be scones, cream and jam!

Interest groups

A member has expressed interest in joining a chess group and a Spanish group, which we don't have at present. Is anyone interested at whatever level? Please contact me if you are, or speak to me at the monthly meeting. A list of current groups is being emailed to you. If you wish to join any or go on the waiting list, go to the Basildon and Billericay u3a website, then to contacts and then press the Group Facilitators button and write your message. For more information about the groups, look at the website.

NOTICE OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE BASILDON AND BILLERICAY U3A 2024

Notice is hereby given that the 34th Annual General Meeting of the Basildon and Billericay u3a will be held at the Canon Roche Social Centre, 21 Laindon Road, Billericay **on Friday 28th June 2024, commencing at 2.30pm.**

All paid up members of Basildon and Billericay u3a are invited to the AGM.

Items for inclusion on the Agenda must be submitted to the Business Secretary by email, Royal Mail or handed in at the monthly meetings by **Friday 24th May.**

Nomination forms for election of Officers and Committee Members should also be returned to the Business Secretary by email, Royal Mail or handed in at the monthly meetings by **Friday 24th May** at the latest.

The Nomination form is being issued as a separate form and will be sent to all members by email or Royal Mail, together with the Minutes of the last AGM (June 2023). The Accounts for last year will be sent separately by the Treasurer. The Agenda will be sent in June. Please keep these documents for reference at **our AGM on 28th June 2024.**

Proposers and Seconders must not be a partner or spouse of the nominee, nor a member of the present committee.

The u3a committee consists of the following posts:

Chairman	Sandra Randall	Standing for re-election
Vice Chairman		Vacant
Treasurer	Margaret Way	Standing for re-election
Business Secretary	Linda Anderson	Standing for re-election
Members Secretary	Jean Carter	Co-opted candidate for election
Speakers' Secretary	Linda Stewart	Standing for re-election
Groups' Facilitator		Vacant
Website/Beacon Manager	Debbie Wood	Standing for re-election
Publicity Secretary		Vacant
Accessibility Secretary	Aileen Burgess	Standing for re-election

Further information about any of these posts may be obtained from the Business Secretary.

Any paid up member of the Basildon and Billericay u3a may stand for election to any of the posts on the committee.

Please bring your membership card to the AGM.

DON'T FORGET

If you would like to have a scone, cream and jam with your refreshments at the AGM, please contact the membership secretary by e mail, or at the monthly meeting by Saturday 15th June. This is so we can order enough food!

Business Secretary

MONTHLY MEETING

2.30pm on Friday, 26th April 2024
at the Cannon Roche Centre, Billericay

Speaker Frances Sparrow



Frances Sparrow is a Colchester based speaker since 2014, speaking on a range of historical subjects. This talk is about the first pandemic to hit this country; the Black Death of the 14th century.

Please note there are FIVE Fridays in May. We always meet on the 4th Friday

Next Month's Meeting

May 24th 2024

Speaker Paul Rogers The German Occupation of the Channel Islands

Sources of information come from the speaker's mother who was in Jersey at the time of the Occupation, also from a wad of authoritative accounts, plus he still has relations on the Islands. The talk outlines the taking of the islands, the evacuations, the rules and restrictions imposed by the Germans, life on the Islands for the people and the difficulties of rationing, starvation and summary executions. This is accompanied by a tangible display of rations. It does reflect the picture presented by the film Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society. He also gives a special mention to Alderney, his mother's birthplace and the current investigations into Camp Sylt.

From the East of England Region of U3As

FLIGHT INSPIRATIONS AVIATION GROUP

NEXT MEETING TUESDAY 7th MAY 2024 from 10am to 12pm

Including presentation, Q&A, and discussion – ON ZOOM

110 YEARS OF AVIATION HISTORY IN HERTFORDSHIRE

1913 – 2023 – SPEAKER GUY THOMAS

Image: de Havilland DH.106 Comet



The Flight Inspirations u3a Aviation group is organised by Don Mobley of Stowmarket u3a and Barbara Cordina of Lea Valley u3a. Meetings are held on the first Tuesday of every month at 10am.

Hertfordshire aviation has influenced culture and society in various ways, serving as a catalyst for technological innovation, fostering a sense of pride and identity within the local community and contributing to the broader narrative of human achievement in flight.

Iconic aviation heroes from Hertfordshire include Frederick Handley Page, who in 1929 bought land at Radlett and developed Handley Page Aircraft Ltd. Sir Geoffrey de Havilland set up de Havilland Aircraft at Stag Lane, Edgware in 1920, then moved it to Hatfield in 1930 where it continued to operate until 1994. His contribution to aviation lies in pioneering spirit, innovative designs and a lasting impact on both military and commercial aviation. He played a pivotal role in shaping the course of aviation history and his legacy continues to influence the industry to this day.

Today the aviation industry in Hertfordshire continues as research, design and development with three main companies operating in Stevenage. The Airbus Defence and Space site is Europe's leading supplier of Satellites, MBDA is a world leader in missile systems and The STEM Discovery Centre is an education facility, developed in partnership with North Hertfordshire College, Airbus and the Hertfordshire LEP.

This event is open to all u3a members and is free of charge.

You need to register for this event with the organisers, then details of the zoom link will be sent to you nearer the date.

These talks are part of the u3a educational programme so you can also book directly with Eventbrite via the national website – www.u3a.org.uk/events/educational-events.

SOLO UNO SUNDAY



Solo Uno Sunday decided to go to Perrywood Garden Centre for our latest trip out as the weather was still not good, and there were plenty of things going on under cover there. Luckily for us the sun came out and the rain stopped so we could have a good wander around the outdoor plant displays. Most of us bought something for our gardens. Queues for lunch were horrible but we did manage to get a table for all of us together which was nice, so we had a good old chatter before having a last look around just in case something else caught our eye.

READING GROUP

We are a friendly, lively group with a shared love of books and reading. We meet on the second Monday of each month in Billericay from 10.30 to 12.30 and currently have space for 4 new members. Books we have chosen for future meetings are

May Light Perpetual by Francis Stafford
June The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo by Stieg Larsson
July Wool by Hugh Howey

HALF RAMBLE

We meet on the first Monday of every month at 10.30am. Walks are open to all u3a members, just turn up on the day. We walk for about one hour at a leisurely pace, mainly on flat ground, but it can be muddy. We always hope to finish with coffee (or lunch) and a lively chat to round off the day. The aim of our group is that individual members will take a turn in choosing, planning and leading a walk on an occasional basis.

Monday 6th May - Stock Village. Meet in Stock village Hall Car Park. Common Road CM4 9LY

Monday 3rd June - Galleywood Common. Meet in large car park on the common just after going over the A12. on the left. CM2 8JU

PETANQUE GROUP

Throughout the Winter period the Group has continued to expand and record numbers have been playing at Lake Meadows on our Monday morning and Thursday afternoon sessions. New members are welcome to join, particularly on the Thursday afternoon meetings. As well as enjoying playing, members also enjoy the social interaction.

For several years we have entered a team in the Essex Invitation Petanque League composed of teams from South Essex. We are the only u3a team in the league and, despite having a much higher average age profile than most other teams, we enjoy learning from and competing against the more experienced teams.

Hearty congratulations are due to Allan Saunders and his team for winning the Winter League for the first time. Below is an extract from the organiser showing the League Table and his comments. A bit like the Premier League on occasions, the outcome was only decided after the final matches.

Extract from League Organiser, Trevor Blows:

Before the final Billericay v Onley match, there were still 3 possible league winners. Billericay needed just a game point.

Onley needed a 3-0 and points difference to overtake them.

Falcon hoped Onley would do them a favour!

Onley had a good lead in triples but two vital coche moves gifted points to Billericay for a 13-12 win and the league title. Well done to Allan and his team.

Some consolation were 13-11 Onley wins in the doubles and singles. A good competitive morning played the way it should be!

A great finish yet again to our league season. Well done to all. Trevor

LEAGUE TABLE	P	F	A	Pts Dif	Pts
Billericay U3A	12	24	12	93	24
Falcon Evicts	12	23	13	85	23
Bardfield	12	23	13	35	23
Onley	12	22	14	86	22
Bocking Dyers	12	14	22	-99	14
Birchanger	12	12	24	-80	12
Bocking Millers	12	8	28	-120	8

RAMBLING GROUP



Great Burstead Church

Nine of us made the walk at Little Burstead in March. The weather was extremely kind to us and, although it was muddy in places, it was an extremely good walk. At times you wouldn't have thought we were in Billericay. Part of the walk was across Barleylands fields and Burstead golf course. We crossed the River Crouch three times, and some of us sat outside the Dukes Head in brilliant sunshine at the end.



The steeple of Great Burstead Church in the distance, but taken on the footpath in Billericay.



Little Burstead Golf Course

Details of our next walk at South Weald on 17th April were in the March newsletter.

Our walk on 15th May at 10.15 starts at Purleigh Bell Pub in Purleigh, CM3 6QJ . This is close to All Saints Church on The Street. You can either go via Danbury or South Woodham Ferrers. The publican has said that we can park in their car park opposite the pub. It is about a 30 minute drive from Billericay. This is a 6 mile walk and hilly in a couple of places with 2 good stiles. The walk is on footpaths and roads, but there are no toilets on the walk, although we can use the pub facilities before we start. We can also prebook our meals if we want to at the same time. The walk was tested on 8th March and was muddy, but should be better in mid May. We will be passing the Stow Maries 1st World War Airfield and, although it will be closed, you will see some of the buildings.

Please car share if possible.

Please bring your u3a membership card with you. As usual, please wear appropriate clothing and footwear. Boots help to protect your ankles.

RAILWAY JOURNEYS GROUP

APRIL 2024 VISIT TO HORIZON 22 AND THE WELLCOME COLLECTION, LONDON

20 of us went to the Horizon 22 building in Bishopsgate, the newest and highest viewing platform in London. Entry is free but you need to book tickets online, which are normally released 60 days ahead. We went through a basic security check and then into the lift to the 58th floor. The huge glass windows give stunning views of London and although there isn't any information on display, it was easy to identify the London landmarks. It was evident that St. Paul's Cathedral is surrounded by relatively low-rise buildings to preserve certain views of the dome. In the direction of Canary Wharf, this really highlights just how much the river Thames winds its way through London. It is worth a visit and there is a small kiosk where hot drinks are available.



The view from Bishopsgate



Inside the Wellcome Museum

After lunch in Gracechurch Street, we returned to London Liverpool Street station to take the underground train to Euston Square. It was a short walk to the Wellcome Collection, a free museum and library exploring health and human experience. We had a free 30 minute guided tour of their permanent exhibition, 'Being Human'. This explores who we are, the past, present and hopes and fears for the future and new forms of medical knowledge in a changing world. It is divided into four sections; genetics, infection, minds and bodies and climate breakdown. Some of the exhibits are interpreted by artists, for example hereditary conditions, to emphasise that certain aspects of our health are inherited from our ancestors.

There are many other free exhibitions and events in other galleries throughout the year.

PLEASE NOTE: THERE ARE FIVE FRIDAYS IN MAY

Newsletter Contributions

If you have any items please send them by **12.00 Noon**

on Wednesday, 15th May 2024

I am always happy to receive your report or comments at any time before the cut-off date.
Please send all items in **editable format** to bbu3newsletter@gmail.com

If you are sending photos please send them separately in JPG format.

Only send photos that you have taken yourself. We cannot use photos or pictures that have been downloaded from the internet, unless copyright free.

All contributions will be acknowledged.

Current and past newsletters can be viewed on our website <https://u3asites.org.uk/bb>

Please note that, in the interests of security, all personal details of individuals (address, email or phone number) have been redacted from the on-line versions.

(Editor)