



BASILDON AND BILLERICAY

u3a

NEWSLETTER No 375

FEBRUARY 2025



Signs of Spring?

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Proposed Visit to Bletchley Park



Alan Turing is one of the most well-known Codebreakers to have worked at Bletchley Park, partly due to the Oscar nominated film, The Imitation Game. For the early part of World War Two, he was head of Hut 8, working on decrypting the German naval Enigma code machine. During this time he designed the famous Bombe machine which would help speed up the process of decrypting Enigma, and arguably paved the way for the first computers to be built by other Codebreakers at Bletchley Park.

So why have I told you this?

Have you seen the Bombe or the Enigma machine, or walked in the steps that Turing walked?

Some of our members may also have been there in those far off days?

Well, I know it is only a couple of hours drive to Bletchley, but will it not be easier to leave the car at home and be driven by coach in comfort to the door? Later, when tired and weary from exploring the site you can be driven home.

Mark the date in your diary, **Wednesday 18th June**. You will be told via the Newsletter when you can book.

BUCKET LIST GROUP

Do we have any adventurous members with a Bucket list to fulfil? If so, let me know your challenge, as there may be others with the same wishes. Some u3as have started Bucket list groups, so how adventurous are you?



I took this photograph,
some of you may know where it is.

**You can contact me (Sandra) via the contact page
on our u3a website**

TICKETS SELLING FAST!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

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QUIZ NIGHT

We are holding another Quiz Night to help banish those winter blues, details below:

Saturday 29th March 2025
7.00 PM TO 10.00 PM
Emmanuel Church Hall
Laindon Road
Billericay



All tickets must be booked by a u3a member, and will be on a first come, first served basis, as tickets are limited.

Cash or cheque only please: Members: £2 Non Members: £4

Tables of 8 (Maximum)

Bring your own drinks and nibbles

Tickets will be available at the February and March monthly meetings or by post from the Treasurer:-

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Please make your cheque payable to “Basildon and Billericay University of the Third Age”

If applying by post, please include a stamped addressed envelope for return of your tickets, and a list of the names of u3a members in your team. You can state “Guest” if the names of non-members are not yet confirmed.

MONTHLY MEETING

2.30pm on Friday, 28^h February 2025
at the Canon Roche Centre, Billericay

Speaker **Peggy Griffin** **“The History of Nursery Rhymes “**

Was “Humpty Dumpty” really an egg that sat on a wall? Who was the real “Little Jack Horner”? What is the story behind “Oranges and Lemons”? Find out the stories behind these and other popular children’s rhymes.



Next Month **Friday 28th March**

Speaker: Howard Slater

“GLEN MILLER”



His life story and a musical interlude of his most famous music, together with the mystery of how and when he died. Shown by slides and videos

RAMBLING GROUP



Sixteen of us had a great walk along the River Lea from Hackney Wick as far as Springfield Park, where we stopped for lunch. From there we turned round and crossed a field to walk back on the non-navigable part of River Lea which is much quieter, and crossed Hackney Marshes with its very popular football pitches. It's amazing to see so many boats and barges moored up, often two abreast, and people are living on them. We saw a few that were up for sale at prices between £24,000 and £30,000. At least they do not have to pay council tax!



Our February walk along the Regents Canal will have taken place when you read this.

Our last London walk will take place on **19th March** and is a 5 mile walk around **Rotherhithe**. I have added extra checks at our meeting point to ensure I will not have missed anyone. It is an interesting circular walk with a river, a country park, dockyards, shopping centre and a stream, before adjourning to an historic pub.

Rambling continued

I suggest that we go by train (Greater Anglia) to Stratford, Elizabeth line 1 stop to Whitechapel then Windrush Line to Rotherhithe. From Wickford get the 09.31 train and Billericay get the 9.37 train. The train price from Billericay with a senior rail card is £15.15. For those coming from Basildon or Laindon, take C2C to West Ham, then Jubilee Line to Canada Water then 1 stop on the Windrush Line to Rotherhithe. From Laindon, get the 09.38 train. Please meet by the barrier at Rotherhithe. There is a small shop at the station selling drinks and snacks. **Depending on connections, we should arrive at Rotherhithe at 10.30.**

If anyone wants to travel with me, please meet me at Billericay station by the ticket office at 09.20. Please bring your u3a membership card. There are refreshments available at various places on this walk. As usual, please wear appropriate clothing and footwear. Boots help to protect your ankles. All u3a members are welcome to turn up on the day.

THE FOUR MILE MAX

Thursday, 27th February will be our first walk of 2025. I am arranging this for **The Wick Country Park**, Wickford (not the Memorial Park). We should be able to do a 4 mile walk here, or just under. There are two small car parks in the park but also parking on the roads (no yellow lines). Use postcode SS12 9GP. We will meet at 10.30 at the **top car park**. There is a car park as soon as you enter the gates and then another one if you drive/walk straight up.

I hope to see a good turn out and also any suggestions for March would be welcome.

Newsletter Contributions

If you have any items please send them by **12.00 Noon**
on Wednesday, 19th March 2025

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 bbu3anewsletter@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)