



BASILDON AND BILLERICAY

u3a

NEWSLETTER No 377

APRIL 2025



St George's Day

April 23rd 2025

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

As the date of our AGM approaches, we are now coming to the end of our 35th year. In each of those years we have had a hard working committee all working on your behalf. Some members of the current committee have been members of our u3a for many years, and some have joined us more recently. This means we have an age range from just retired to a bit longer retired and we try to cover as many of the requirements of our members as possible.

So, to come to your part. If you are new to u3a, or have been a member for many years, you have something to add to our u3a and also our committee. Please consider standing for election to the committee in June. The male members of our u3a seem to be a bit shy, don't be we need your input as well!!

MONTHLY MEETING

**2.30pm on Friday, 25th April 2025
at the Canon Roche Centre, Billericay**

Speaker Roy Tyzak "Investigating Murder"

Roy is an ex-policeman who gives talks about the role of the police, especially during his time in the East End of London in the 1970s

Next Month Friday 23rd May

Speaker Barry Linton "Staying Safe Online"

Barry is a serving policeman, who will focus on the key risk areas, and will talk about the latest scams being reported to Essex Police, particularly those affecting older people. His topics will include:-

Dangers of free Wi-Fi

Scam emails, texts, phone calls, WhatsApp

Contactless Bank Card Frauds

Impersonation Frauds

Bogus calling numbers appearing on your phone

Internet on-line Payments

Passwords

Romance Frauds

Dangers of social media

NOTICE OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE BASILDON AND BILLERICAY U3A 2025

Notice is hereby given that the 35th Annual General Meeting of the Basildon and Billericay u3a will be held at the Canon Roche Social Centre, 21 Laindon Road, and Billericay **on Friday 27th June 2025, 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 23rd May.**

Nomination forms for the 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 23rd 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 2024). 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 27th June 2025.**

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 | S.R. | Standing for re-election |
| Vice Chairman | | vacant |
| Treasurer | M.W. | Standing for re-election |
| Business Secretary | L.A. | Standing for re-election |
| Members Secretary | J.C. | Standing for re-election |
| Speakers' Secretary | L.S. | Standing for re-election |
| Groups' Facilitator | | vacant |
| Website/Beacon Manager | D.W. | Standing for re-election |
| Publicity Secretary | L.B. | Co-opted for election |
| Accessibility Secretary | A.B. | Standing for re-election |
| <i>Non-specific responsibility</i> | | vacant |
| <i>Non-specific responsibility</i> | | vacant |

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. ***New and long-term members are all invited to join our 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 14th June. This is so we can order enough food!

Business Secretary Email

GOLF GROUP

APRIL REPORT



It seemed like Spring had at last arrived as two u3a golfers make their way down the newly mown first fairway at Stapleford Abbotts with bright blue sky over head on 27th March.



Of course, sand bunkers can soon turn a pleasant easy walk into a struggle to make progress with the ball. Fortunately, the u3a group place an emphasis on enjoying the golf and allow players to pick up the ball and move to the next hole!

The day was fine and sunny and the notoriously muddy 18th fairway was dry and firm, enabling us to play a full unhindered round with no winter conditions affecting our route round the course.

Whilst enjoying tea on the terrace at the end of our rounds we hoped for more fine days and golf courses as the summer stretched out in front of us.



It was another fine day at Hartswood Golf Course on 3rd April when five u3a golfers enjoyed breezy conditions. Many trees on this course were still bare of leaves which makes the golf a little easier. The course and clubhouse alterations were totally finished with good chipping and putting practice areas provided alongside the first tee.

On a cold cloudy 10th of April the group met at Risebridge Golf Club. Initially the golf matched the weather but as the sun came out and the weather warmed, so did the golf.

Some confusion on the last hole when the preceding group played the wrong ball but yet another glorious day of golf.

ESSEX DISCOVERY

VISIT TO THE CHELMSFORD MUSEUM



This Museum is situated in Oaklands House in Oaklands Park at the far end of Moulsham Street, away from the City centre. The original House has a modern extension which houses the entrance, reception desk and gift shop. Our group met there but soon split up into smaller groups to see the eclectic mix of exhibits available.

The modern area also includes a large exhibition which demonstrates Chelmsford's industrial history, especially Marconi, famous for the discovery of radio; Hoffmans, known for making all sorts of ball bearings and Cromptons who made diesel engines. Other items also display some rural industries such as milling.

Upstairs in this section is the Essex Regiment Museum which displays colourful uniforms and sparkling musical instruments, as well as weapons used in historic battles.

Passing through into the original house there is an amazing set of different collections, each in its own room. Here we saw items from Prehistoric times, Roman artefacts, Natural History, Social History and local history.

There was plenty to keep us informed and amused until lunch time. We then met up again in the very busy Hive Café, also in Oaklands House, for a delicious lunch.

Our next meeting date coincides with Good Friday and, despite our best efforts, we find that as most of us will be involved with family activities or holidays it is impossible to have an outing in April.

PRACTICAL ART GROUP

We meet on the second Tuesday afternoon of the month for 2 hours, and we have a new venue – the small hall at Emmanuel Church. There is ample parking and the room is bright and airy. The caretaker looks after the tables and chairs.

The class is for anyone who wants to do drawing and painting. Carole, our leader, helps beginners with drawing and water colour painting, and at each session offers advice to all who attend, whether they are beginners or have been coming to the class for some time. It is a time for total absorption in what we are doing, and is a form of relaxation from the stresses of daily life. We are a small group at present and newcomers would be very welcome.

RAILWAY JOURNEYS GROUP

MAY VISIT TO SUDBURY, WITH A QUIZ WALK

On a gloriously sunny day 20 Railway Group members set off for Sudbury in Suffolk

The target was that all members would be on the 10.34 train from Chelmsford with members setting off by train from Wickford, Billericay and Shenfield and others deciding to take the 300 bus from Billericay. With some driving to free parking at Stock and then the 300 to Chelmsford, the miracle worked and all the planning paid off, as we all met as a Group on the 10.34 from Chelmsford.

Changing trains at Marks Tey, the branch line train was ready and waiting for us, and within a couple of minutes we were on our way to Sudbury.

The group divided themselves into 4 teams and the self-guided historical Quiz Walk sheets were handed out. The teams set off with a short time gap between them, so that they didn't crowd some of the narrow paths and upset the locals.

Detailed guidance was given on the sheets on the route to take. Several of these types of events have been arranged previously and despite the organisers being given an allowance that a 10% lost rate is acceptable, no members have ever been lost! As the teams followed the route, they looked for answers to simple observations questions, which were clearly visible from the path. There were 45 questions to answer, and 3 of the groups managed to get 40+ answers correct.

Also, along the route, the quiz sheet gave historical information about buildings and the various areas the teams walked through. The route was designed to take the teams to areas they would not normally venture into, and see some of the interesting aspects of Sudbury. This included how the 101 Dalmatians became part of Sudbury's history, and the infamous Simon of Sudbury. The route was about 2 miles long and chosen to be flat easy walking.

The ending point was of course at a Wetherspoons, which meets all the needs of the Group. Completed answer sheets were handed in, marked and handed back to the teams with the winners being awarded a bag of sweets each from the organisers.

Some took advantage of the free time and browsed the shops in Sudbury and the group drifted back to Sudbury Station for the journey home. The branch line train from Sudbury was met by the Ipswich train to Chelmsford and Shenfield, which arrived as the last member of the group descended from the footbridge at Marks Tey. Those choosing the 300 bus route from Chelmsford were met by an empty bus which departed just after they boarded.

An enjoyable day was had by all in the Suffolk sunshine.

RAMBLING GROUP

ROTHERHITHE



Our final walk before reverting to country walks was well attended, and was a surprise to everyone as the landscape kept changing. We started by walking alongside the river Thames. After 20 minutes we entered a large parkland that was previously the Russian Dockyard.

After a refreshment stop, we walked around Greenland Dock which felt more like the south of

France. From there we passed Canada Water before adjourning to the historic Mayflower pub which dates back to 1555. It is the only pub in the UK that sells US postage stamps. There are now 28 million Americans living today that can trace their genealogy directly to one of the 23 families on board The Mayflower.



Rambling continued

Our 1st country walk around Ongar will have taken place when you read this newsletter.

Our next walk takes place on **Wednesday 21st May. Meet at 10.15am in the Car Park of St Margaret's Church, Castledon Road, Downham, Post Code CM11 1LG**

This is a 10 minute drive from Billericay. It is reasonably flat. We walk along footpaths, but there are 2 hilly sections and 5 easy stiles. The walk is 5.5 miles long with no facilities. The walk was tested on 10th April and walking conditions were good.

Please wear appropriate clothing and boots are essential. Bring your membership card on the day. Where possible please car share.

All u3a members are welcome to turn up on the day.

Refreshments are available at the end of the walk in Ramsden Heath.

GREEN FINGERS

VISIT TO FEERINGBURY MANOR



Ten members of our gardening group had our first outing of 2025 to Feeringbury Manor near Coggeshall. The sunny weather was ideal for exploring this 10 acre garden with two ponds and the River Blackwater meandering through. Lots of spring bulbs, magnolias and camellias were in full bloom.

Afterwards, we made the short drive to Perrywoods Garden Centre, where we had lunch, followed by a mooch around the plant areas and their well-stocked shop.

Newsletter Contributions

If you have any items please send them by **12.00 Noon**
on Wednesday, 14th May 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 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)