



# BASILDON AND BILLERICAY

u3a

NEWSLETTER No 384

NOVEMBER 2025



**The Lady Mayor's Show**

**November 8<sup>th</sup> 2025**

**The First Lady Mayor of the City of London**

## **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

I am currently filling the role of Groups Facilitator in addition to the post of Chairman, so what our u3a actually needs is a new Groups Facilitator.

This is an interesting role, keeping in contact with all our group coordinators. If you are interested and think you could be that person, feel free to contact me for further details, and full role description (no obligation). We have one Committee Meeting per month and one Monthly Meeting per month.

With other posts filled, we are a supportive team working to keep our u3a the best it can be. You could be part of that team.

## **PUBLICITY OFFICER**

### **BOOM RADIO!**

Do you love music and listen to the radio? If you do, then like me, you may listen to Boom Radio. Boom Radio is a station that caters for “boomers” (born between 1946-1964) and plays music for “our generation”. Boom Radio was the brain child of radio veterans David Lloyd and Phil Riley, who saw a gap in the market overlooked by mainstream radio. Boom, as it is affectionately known, plays a mix of music from the 1950's to 1970's, alongside some recent hits. The presenters are experienced “jocks”, many of whom came out of retirement for the launch of the station on Valentine's Day 2021. The station, which, broadcasts online and on DAB digital radio, is independent and many of the presenters broadcast programmes from their homes.

Advertising is obviously targeted at a specific demographic, with advertisements for retirement homes, holidays, health products, insurance and entertainment to name just a few. The station reaches 711,000 listeners a week (Rajar W2 2025) and the average age of listeners is 55. So it shouldn't have been a surprise when the other week I heard an advertisement for u3a. Fellow members talk about how they first came to hear of u3a, about their positive experiences since joining and how they have made new friends, learned new skills and of the many benefits of being a member. Advertising in this way means we are reaching a bigger audience and hopefully growing our numbers! Interestingly, at the time of writing this, I listened to Boom all morning and heard advertisements for u3a four times!

So if you fancy a change from your usual radio station, tune in to Boom Radio. You can listen via DAB+ across the UK, through the official Boom Radio UK app on your phone or tablet, on the Boom Radio website, via smart speakers such as Alexa or on TV by checking Channel 277 on Freeview.

Happy listening!

## MONTHLY MEETING

2.30pm on Friday, 28th November 2025  
at the Canon Roche Centre, Billericay

Speaker

Tony Harris



The return of one of our favourite guests. Now featuring as **Margaret Thatcher** – another alter ego of Tony's! In the past Tony Harris has brought Henry VIII and Winston Churchill back to life for us: now he dons the two-piece blue suit and brings his handbag to Billericay as Mrs T. We'll learn what she kept in the bag, why she didn't pursue a career in music and all the highlights (and low lights) of her time in Westminster.

Next Month

### CHRISTMAS SOCIAL AFTERNOON

Friday December 12th  
Starting at 1 pm – with Festive Refreshments



We will be holding our popular Christmas Social event again this year in the Emmanuel Hall, Billericay.

### **THIS EVENT IS NOW FULL**

If you have booked a place and find you will be unable to attend please let me know as soon as possible so the place can be offered to a member on the waiting list.

Jean (Membership Sec)

## RAMBLING GROUP



We had a big turnout for our last Ramble across fields before starting our London walks. This walk was extremely local starting in Queens Park. 19 of us set off towards St Giles Church and then on towards Ingatestone Hall and to the Remus horse sanctuary. If the 80 metre electricity pylons get approved, the sanctuary will have a pylon in the middle of their land. Hopefully it will not get approved. Finally we headed for Buckwyns Chase passing some fast-moving horses, then back to our starting point.



St Giles Church



Our November ramble will just have taken place when you read this.

## Rambling continued

Our December walk is 6 miles long in East London. **We will meet at 10. 30 on 17th December by the barriers at Custom House station. This is on the Elizabeth Line going towards Abbey Wood.**

From here we take the walk to Stratford. We will stop for refreshments at the start and at the end of the walk.

For those travelling from Billericay, it is best to travel to Stratford and then transfer to the Elizabeth Line for one stop to Whitechapel. Then change platforms and take Elizabeth Line 2 stops to Custom House, which is on the line going towards Abbey Wood. The ticket price with a senior rail card is £11.75, but you have to tap in and out from Stratford to Custom House. That will cost £2.10. I will be Billericay Station at 9.15am if you want to travel with me.

For those coming from Basildon or Laindon take the train to West Ham, then the Jubilee line to Canary Wharf. From there take the Elizabeth Line 1 stop to Custom House. Also please note that towards the end of the walk, we pass close to West Ham Station, making it easier for your return journey.

All u3a members are welcome to turn up on the day. Please bring your u3a membership card. As usual, please wear appropriate clothing and footwear. Boots help to protect your ankles.

Please contact me if you have any questions or require any more information.

## **ARCHAEOLOGY 2**

### **VISIT TO THE CABINET WAR ROOMS**

Five of us made this trip, travelling by Greater Anglia or c2c. We met at the entrance to the Cabinet War Rooms, which are located beneath the Treasury Building in Whitehall. We had pre-booked tickets for 11.00am, and on entering the Museum and booking in, we were issued with audio guides.

After working out how to use these devices (why are they always different wherever you visit?) we then proceeded to tour the complex. Needless to say, as we all progressed at different paces according to our individual interests, we soon lost contact with each other.

The subterranean site was well labelled and divided into small areas with an appropriate commentary, as well as information plaques. It was easy to follow the trail as it was well signposted, but the corridors and rooms were a complicated warren, which would have been disorientating otherwise.

Half way round there was another area set aside as the Churchill Museum. This was a vast space filled with memorabilia of his life – the good, the bad and the heroic. There was no audio guide for this section but the information boards, video/film clips, display cases gave a fascinating and thorough look at his story. Not just his political life, with all of its ups and downs, but his military career, his family life, his artistic skills as well as the general background of events at the times.

Nearby was a café which provided welcome refreshments before we continued the tour. We finally all met up in the gift shop before dispersing to make our individual ways home or to other venues.

## **GOLF GROUP**

### **2025 NOVEMBER REPORT**

The Brentwood Council Course at Hartswood is one of our favourite courses because it's easy to book and competitively priced. On October 16<sup>th</sup> four u3a golfers enjoyed their rounds there in colourful autumn conditions.

Over the weekend 19<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> October several u3a golfers took their clubs and their wives to enjoy a private "awayday" event at the Ufford Park Resort, Woodbridge. The golf course was immaculate and challenging, and the dinners convivial.



Back to normal on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> October with a visit to Mardyke where five u3a members turned up to find quite a regimented organisation, with new detailed instructions for playing several holes and a fairly specific dress code. The course was in good condition with posts and tapes to keep players off the areas of the course sensitive to damage in the coming winter season. We appreciate efforts being made to hopefully enable the course to be playable at all times.

On Nov 6<sup>th</sup> the Hartswood course was beginning to be soft as the trolleys picked up mud and needed a good clean at the end of the round. It was an overcast and windless day enjoyed by five u3a golfers who coped with the lack of "summer roll" of balls on the fairways.

At Stapleford Abbots on 13<sup>th</sup> November golfers with loyalty cards were able to receive more "credits" towards a free round before Christmas. Although it was a lovely sunny day the golfers seemed to find the course energy sapping – partly through soft ground conditions, longish grass, and maybe the slow pace of golfers in front making it a four and a half hour round.

Before Christmas there's a few Thursdays left when we would be pleased to welcome golfers to join us at 10:30 before we give the game a break for the festive season.

## **RAILWAY JOURNEY GROUP**

Nine of us managed to get to Kings Lynn, or as the locals say “Lynn”.

This involved four different trains and for the first time we bought split tickets, which reduced the total price.

This was an early start for us but was well worth it.

We were met by our prearranged tour guide at Kings Lynn station for an extremely interesting tour with so much heritage to see.

Kings Lynn was one of England’s most important ports in the 12th century with merchants’ houses stretching down to the river and cobbled lanes. The Customs House overlooked the medieval harbour.

There are so many magnificent buildings to see that date back to the 15th century, and well worth a visit.



The public library



The Town Hall and Guild Hall



The harbour and St Margaret's Church



## **ESSEX DISCOVERY GROUP**

### **VISIT TO BATTLESBRIDGE**

This month our visit was to Battlesbridge Antiques Centre.

We met in The Barge for coffee to decide how we were going to organise ourselves for the day. There are so many different outlets there now and, as we had different interests, it needed discussion. In fact, we found it best to mooch round as a loose group being aware of each other's location, and pointing out likely items that individuals might want to look at.

We began in the Granary which is on several floors and divided into many different dealerships. We then progressed around nearly all the outlets, finally separating at lunch time, which found half the group back at The Barge to enjoy whitebait and chips, and the rest at a tearoom for sandwiches.

The weather was very kind to us, bright, dry and no wind. Three of us managed to buy items, and the others managed to keep their purses shut successfully. So we were all happy.



### **THE FOUR MILE MAX**

We will do the walk that was cancelled last month. This will be in Stock on Thursday, November 27<sup>th</sup>. Please park in the car park in front of All Saints Church (postcode CM4 9BU). There are bollards, but cars can get in. Brian will be leading this walk as he knows the route.

There will be no walks in December and January so I'll look into something for February – weather permitting.

# Newsletter Contributions

If you have any items please send them by **12.00 Noon**  
**on Wednesday, 17<sup>th</sup> December 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](mailto: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)