



BASILDON AND BILLERICAY

u3a

NEWSLETTER No 392

JULY 2026



HEATWAVE 2026

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

I hope you are all keeping cool, and enjoying your u3a membership.

Reading in this Newsletter of all the interesting group activities, there is plenty to choose from. If the group you are looking for is not on our list please let me know.

For anyone looking to meet other members or just pop in for coffee and conversation, the Coffee Morning is on the first Thursday of the month.

BASILDON AND BILLERICAY u3a COMMITTEE 2026-2027

Chairman		S.R.
Treasurer		M.W.
Business Secretary		L.A.
Members Secretary		J.C.
Speakers' Secretary		L.S.
Committee Member/Website/Beacon		S.D.
Non-specific responsibility		T.B. (resigned)
Vice Chairman		Vacant
Groups' Facilitator		Vacant
Publicity Secretary		Vacant
Inclusivity Secretary		Vacant
Non-specific responsibility		Vacant

Can **you fill any of these roles?**

DO YOU WISH YOUR U3A TO CONTINUE?

WITHOUT **YOU IT WILL CLOSE.**

In June 2027 our Chairman and Treasurer will have completed 5 years

on the committee and will have to stand down.

Our u3a cannot continue without a Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary at the very least.

JOIN US!

MONTHLY MEETING JULY 17TH 2026

PLEASE NOTE

CHANGE OF DATE

We have received an email from the Canon Roche Centre and Billericay Parish advising us that they are starting building work upstairs in the week commencing 20th July and they don't know if the downstairs facilities will be affected. Also, the first days of work might mean a lot of noise and movement in the centre.

They asked if we could move the meeting forward a week to the 17th July, which has been agreed by the committee to avoid any disturbance.

Speaker Richard Pusey,
“The London of Samuel Pepys “



NEXT MONTH

28th August 2026

SPEAKER Tom Hind

“The History of Magic”
plus a demonstration of magic tricks.



GOLF GROUP

JULY REPORT

U3a golfers have been out and about playing several courses, usually in good summer weather on firm courses with plenty of bounce in the fairways and good run on the balls.



On 11th June we were at Epping where the steep up and down fairways were energy sapping. Photo is new member Terry with a super drive to the 12th at Epping. Needs a good putt for birdie!!

For the 18th June we went for a flatter course at Cranham where Mike's excellent drive to the island green and two good putts showed us how to get a par on this challenging par 3 finishing hole!!

The weather was getting hotter so after some "whats app" discussion a few members opted for 25th June at Stockbrook driving range. This enabled us to have practice in the shade under the canopy over the tee off and playing positions using the virtual Stockbrook course displayed in the screen. We agreed that it's nothing like playing the real course but at least gave us some exercise in the shade.



It was still hot on 2nd July when we opted for real golf at Stapleford Abbots which, despite the exhaustion experienced, was easier to follow than virtual play on screens.

On 9th July, following the experience of hot weather earlier, four of us opted for two buggies, three players opted to walk (one just 9 holes) which at Risebridge brings the players back to the clubhouse. One buggy pair opted to stop for lunch at the 9th and continue with the second nine later.

Photo of some u3a members at Risebridge.

In all the u3a golf has been fragmented into groups finding ways of continuing golf through the hot summer conditions.

ESSEX DISCOVERY

WALK IN ROCHFORD



This is a photo of the survivors of a guided walk around Rochford. I say survivors, as the walk took place on the hottest day of the year so far, and we did lose a couple who drifted off before the finish. Also in the photo is Andy, our guide, who provided us with an amazing amount of information during the two hour walk

We began at the Horse and Groom where we followed the River Roache to the reservoir with Andy describing the history of the river and explaining the rationale for the digging of the reservoir. This led us to the railway and the freight house which arrived in the 19th century. Andy told us about the subsequent development of the town

We walked under the railway bridge to the church. Here Andy pointed out some architectural features and told us how different people influenced the different features. He also showed us several graves that had their own stories to tell

This led us to Rochford Hall, now home to the Rochford Hundred Golf Club. This was the family home of the Boleyn family for some considerable time, and was later owned by Sir Richard Rich, so there is much national history to be told there.

From there we walked back into town with Andy pointing out some of the many buildings that were interesting including notorious pubs, schools for rich children and poor children, the workhouse and hospital, the town hall, various properties with Tudor and Georgian features, and much more.

We finished the walk back at the Horse and Groom in need of refreshment but grateful to Andy for being so informative.

RAILWAY GROUP

HOLLAND PARK & THE DESIGN MUSEUM-TUESDAY 7TH JULY



We had a good day out when the Railway Group visited Holland Park and the Design Museum, despite the temperature being over 30 degrees. Holland Park is generally considered to be the loveliest park in London and is located in a select area. The park itself has its own police station and so any possible troubles are easily avoided.

We travelled from Wickford, Billericay, and Shenfield on the same train to Liverpool Street station, and then on the Central Line to Holland Park station. As we walked to Holland Park, we stopped at the statue to Saint Volodymyr (980-1015) of Ukraine which is located just outside the park. It is a sign of just how upmarket the area is, as the statue had flowers and a bottle of Champagne in an ice bucket put next to it.

The photo above shows the group in front of the statue of Baron Holland.



The park itself has many features such as a Japanese garden and lake with Koi carp, a heron, and other birds with their ducklings. There was a concert in progress and a wedding while we were there.

We had lunch in the park, either in the café or a picnic in the flowered areas with shaded seats, and then moved on to the Design Museum. This is London's newest museum of contemporary art and design and has a mission 'To explore the present and future of design and how it has shaped the modern world' The museum has exhibitions of contemporary design and contemporary art some of which, like the museum, are free to view.

We returned via High Street Kensington station on the Circle Line to Liverpool Street which again was uneventful, even though the station also serves as the route to Wimbledon. We had tickets that covered us for the return after 4pm from main line stations and for which national rail operators require an additional payment.

It was a day out that we can thoroughly recommend.



u3a

Beginner's Bridge Group

Every 4th Monday of the month

2:00 – 4:00 PM
Canon Roche Hall,
Billericay

We are a small, friendly group learning as we go along, with some guidance from one member. Anyone interested in playing is very welcome — from beginners to experienced players who may wish to join us.

For more information/ to join us, please contact the group facilitator via our u3a website

RAMBLING GROUP

There was no walk planned for June. The July walk from Little Easton will have taken place shortly before this newsletter is published.

Look out for details of our next walk.

Newsletter Contributions

If you have any items please send them by **12.00 Noon**
on Wednesday, 19th August 2026

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)