



Broxbourne u3a

Registered Charity no. 1090504

Part of the International u3a Movement

**Monthly Meetings, usually 3rd Thursdays,
10.15am – 12 noon at the Spotlight Theatre**
(Admission, other than Group Leaders, from 9.30am please)

Please Support Our Raffle in the Foyer!

Prizes: Vouchers £30, £20 and £10

**Programme – Thursday 17th July
2025**

**Bobbie Darbyshire – A Beginning, a
Muddle and an End: Where do
Novelists get their ideas?**

**Thursday 21st August 2025
John Harrison – Bricks and Brickwork**

Greeters Rota

Supplied by RUGs Group



CHAIR'S CHAT – JULY 2025

Hello Members, I was pleased to meet some of you at our June Spotlight meeting and to talk to group leaders about their groups.

Groups are very important to our u3a and huge thanks to all leaders who give their time and skills organising them for us. I hope to visit groups and their members over the next few months and am looking forward to that. Groups are our lifeblood and without them we would not survive. Our new group co-ordinator, Liz Burdett, is getting to know everyone and we welcome her to our u3a.

Our RUGS team, organised by Lorraine Anderson, are also very important and cover a broad range of tasks for us every month, some of which we are not aware of – these are our worker bees who always step in when needed. Thank you.

Our committee give their time freely to attend meetings and oversee how we run our u3a for our members. Their skills and experience are much appreciated by all of us – they deserve our thanks. This all reflects the ethos of the u3a of the u3a – self-help – we are all volunteers.

We are currently working on our 25th Anniversary Celebration which will be held at our November Spotlight meeting. I would love to hear from any members who have been with us since we first started. It is difficult to believe that we have been offering support to our local residents for 25 years. We have a thriving and friendly u3a community, available to all, and this must be celebrated.

See you soon!

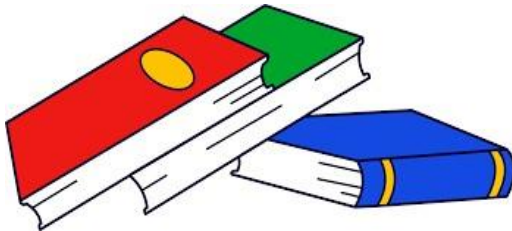


Barbara Cordina / Chair / Broxbourne u3a

INFORMATION ABOUT OUR SPEAKER, BOBBIE DARBYSHIRE

In an entertaining, informative talk, Bobbie Darbyshire, will explain how the complex world of character, location, plot and subplot arrives in a writer's mind. Winner of the 2008 fiction prize at the National Academy of Writing and the New Delta Review Creative Non-fiction Prize 2010, she is author of five novels including "The Posthumous Adventures of Harry Whittaker" and "The Third Bus". Bobbie has worked as barmaid, mushroom picker, film extra, maths coach, cabinet minister's private secretary, care assistant and volunteer adult-literacy teacher, as well as in social research and government policy. Bobbie lives in London and hosts a writers' group.

"Pre-loved Books" – Yvonne Whitehurst



If you want to pass on "read" books for a good cause, visit us at our tables at each monthly meeting. Proceeds go to our u3a.

CHANGED YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS?

Make sure you tell us please!

If or when you change your email address, please make sure you give the information to your Group Leader or any member of the committee who will advise our membership secretary, Liz Elve, of the changes so that our records are kept up to date.

HELP NEEDED FOR THE COMMITTEE



Web Master's Assistant

We are looking for a member with IT skills and a knowledge of Social Media (particularly Facebook and WhatsApp) to join our team as assistant to the Webmaster. Communication is a vital part of the u3a movement in our world today and we need to improve our digital services to our members. If you think you would be able to help, please contact any committee member for more information. This is not a committee role, it is to support and assist our current webmaster provide the best service we can to our members.

Beacon Administrator

The committee have decided to take on a new admin system provided by the Third Age Trust, "Beacon", which will greatly benefit all members of Broxbourne u3a. To achieve this we need your help. We are looking for a member with good IT skills to help us with this. Beacon is an online management system, specifically designed for u3a's in the UK and once set up, will greatly reduce the amount of work required to keep our u3a running, and will open up more opportunities for our members.

We currently do not have anyone on the committee who is able to take on this role, so if you are computer literate, enjoy your IT and would like to join our team, please let us know. You would receive instruction and support from our national office in setting this up, with a dedicated helpline available, and would ultimately advise the committee as to how best they can use the system. This is a committee position.

If you would like to know more, or if you know someone who may be interested, please contact any committee member. We are hoping to be operational before the next AGM/Membership renewal so there is an urgency to fill this role.

Minutes Secretary

We urgently need to find a member who can help the committee by taking on the role of Minutes Secretary. This is a vital role on the Broxbourne u3a committee. We fully understand that shorthand writers are few and far between and we are therefore happy to welcome anyone with speedwriting abilities or someone who can work from a tape which is recorded at the committee meetings, or any method which works! We meet once a month and will offer as much support as is needed. We hope that someone will come forward soon – just speak to any committee member for further information.

FRAUD & SCAMS Event by Barclays

The date for this has now been set for 22nd September 2025 from 10am to 12pm in the Dinant Room at The Spotlight. Further information to follow. **ALL ARE WELCOME!**



GROUP NEWS

GARDENING TRIPS GROUP

Wed 23rd July – **Sandringham Flower Show** £44 per person



Set in the magnificent surroundings of Sandringham Park with Sandringham House and Sandringham Church as a background, the Sandringham Flower Show is one of the most prestigious horticultural events in the East of England.

Fri 1st Aug – **Walled Garden Luton Hoo, NGS Open Day + Ascott House, NT property** £32.50 NT Members, £50.05 non-NT members



There are not many people for this trip, so please contact Suzanne via the website if you are interested.

FUTURE DAY TRIPS – GARDENING TRIPS GROUP

Fri 22 nd Aug – Scotney Castle, Kent	NT members £25 Non-members £39
Thurs 25 Sept – Chartwell	NT members £25 Non-members £45
Fri 22 nd Aug – Scotney Castle, Kent	NT members £25 Non-members £39
Thurs 11 th Dec – Kew at Christmas Coach leaves Hoddesdon at 3pm	£52 per person

£10 deposits are required to reserve places on any trips

Those of you without NT membership are better off coming with us rather than going alone.

Unless advised differently, all trips leave the Spinning Wheel at 9am and return journey starts at 4pm. Please write on the back of cheques what trips you are paying for to make admin easier. **Please note, when you put your name down for a trip, you must pay a deposit or the full amount. Any names on the list without monies received after the next meeting, will have their names removed.**

If you need to speak to Suzanne please contact her via WhatsApp.

MEMBERS OF BROXBORNE, CHESHUNT & LEA VALLEY u3a's at Meopham Valley for a wine tasting in May 2025



LIST OF CURRENT GROUPS AVAILABLE TO **BROXBOURNE u3a MEMBERS**

ANNUAL HOLIDAY - Val and Michael Foley

Joan Underwood will be at the meeting today (17th July) to give information on the next Annual Holiday, where it is, cost, etc. and will be taking any bookings/deposits. Please speak to her if you are interested.

ART GROUP - Jack Snary

Bollescroft Main Hall, fortnightly 10-30 - 1.00 pm. Price £5 includes tea/coffee.

Next meetings:

July 28th – On a Beach Holiday

NOTE: There will be no meetings in August.

Sept 1st – A Bowl of Fruit

Sept 15th – A ruin that Cromwell knocked about a bit!

Sept 29th – Out of Africa

Oct 13th – A Local Landmark

Oct 27th – A Potted Plant

CHAIR MOBILITY AND STRETCH CLASS - Janet Harman

Weekly on Friday afternoons, 2-3 pm in the main hall, United Reformed Church, Mill Lane, Broxbourne, EN10 7BQ.

COUNTRY DANCING - Val Foster and June Brown

Your Country Dance group takes place on the 1st & 3rd Thursdays, Bollescroft large room. We are a very friendly and sociable group and warmly welcome new members, so do pay us a visit. Your first visit is free and then it's £4 per meeting.

Next meeting: July 17th. No meetings in August. Sept 4th and 18th.

Broxbourne u3a Website <http://broxbourne.u3asite.uk/>

CRAFTS - Sue Wilson

Meetings will be held at my house, on the last Thursday of the month 2 – 4 pm. The next meeting will be on 24th July and we will be making felt flowers. There is space for 2 more people. As I have my machinery at my house and people will bring their own materials, there will be no charge. If anyone wants to join us please contact me via the website.

CREATIVE WRITING & POETRY - Janet Hack

We meet at 10.30am on the first Thursday of the month at The Methodist Church, Hoddesdon.

DISCUSSION - Ann Sims

Meetings will be 2.00 pm to 4.00 pm on the 1st and 3rd Fridays at Oasis Room, URC, Mill Lane, Broxbourne.

Next Dates: 18th July, 1st August, 15th August - meal to be advised.

FAMILY AND SOCIAL HISTORY - Tony Eagling

Monthly 1st Thurs. 10am - 12noon. 1st Wormley Scout Hut, Cozens Lane West, Broxbourne.

Next meeting: There will be no meeting in August.

FOLK AND COUNTRY MUSIC GROUP - Andy Bradford

Meet on the third Wednesday of the month, at members' homes. We listen to English and Celtic music, Americana, and other cultures. Please contact the group leader via the website for the date and location of the next meeting.

FRENCH - Monica Davies

We meet on the first and third Thursday of each month at 2.30pm. This Everyday French programme includes simple conversation and culture. Contact Monica via the website.

FRENCH BOULES (1) - Alan Cudd Every Monday 10am at Rye Park, Old Highway, Hoddesdon. New members welcome, beginners or experienced. Boules available to borrow for the session on the day.

FRENCH BOULES (2) - Steve Nendick

Every Wednesday 10am at Rye Park, Old Highway, Hoddesdon. New members very welcome, beginners or experienced. Boules available to borrow for the session on the day.

GARDENING (1) - Focussing on practical Horticulture and Garden Design with RHS qualified group leader Geraldine Stone

Everyone welcome. Please contact me via the website if you would like to attend, want a lift or to offer one, or have any enquiries or suggestions. We have a group on WhatsApp for communication which you can join. Winter meetings are from 10.30 to 12.00 and, unless otherwise stated, will be at Mill Lane URC in the upper function room. Free parking on the roads after 10.00 am. **Next visit:** Please save the date of 30th July in your diary.

GARDENING (2) - Suzanne Fitch & Sue Gilford

Monthly on Monday after the Main Meeting 10am at Hoddesdon Methodist Church Hall, Middlefield Road, Hoddesdon, EN11 9ED
29th September – Jacqueline Aviolet
20th October – Peter Day – Songs about gardens or flowers
24th November – Brian Carline – An amusing account of school life
Our list of trips is on pages 6/7 of this programme.

GOOD READ - Maureen Lincoln

Members read and meet to discuss books written in the last seven years that have won a prize. Variable dates to suit members.

GUITAR PLAYING - Denis O'Shea

Advanced Group: First and third Friday mornings of the month. We meet at St Augustine's Church, Broxbourne, 10.45 monthly, charge for hall hires to be paid. If you are interested in playing with this group, please contact Denis O'Shea via the website to discuss.

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HERITAGE - Bob and Maggie Buckley

Next trip: 18th July to Walmer Castle and Gardens and Deal. Cost is £27 for English Heritage members and £40 for non-members. The closing date for this trip will have to be 22nd June unless we have a enough people interested in going. This number is 20. Please come and book your place at the next meeting. All trips leave Hoddesdon at 9am and Cheshunt at 9.15am unless otherwise stated.

HISTORY - Mick Coe

Monthly 3rd Wed. Meet 2pm at Hoddesdon Methodist Church, Middlefield Road. If anyone is interested in joining the History Group, please contact Mick Coe via the website. There will be no meetings in August or September.

ITALIAN - Nunzia Cusumano

The Italian group meets every Tuesday 2pm-3pm in Hoddesdon. Please contact Nunzia Cusumano via the website for further details. All abilities welcome, depending on numbers additional sessions can be accommodated. A list is on the information table.

KNIT AND NATTER - Val Sambridge

Monthly on 2nd Thursday 2-4pm at Broxbourne URC, Mill Lane.

LONDON WALKS AND EXPERIENCES - Gill King

Meet every second Saturday of the month, 9.30 at Broxbourne Station.

Next walk: Unfortunately, due to the hot weather on July 12th, we cancelled the walk to Richmond, which will now take place on 9th August. We go to Tottenham Hale, change to the Victoria Line, then the District Line to Richmond. Hopefully it will be a more comfortable day.

MODERATE WALKS - Bernie Cove

Monthly, 2nd Tuesday of the month.

Next walk: There is no walk in August.

Broxbourne u3a Website <http://broxbourne.u3asite.uk/>

MORNING WALKS - Bernie Cove Leaders Gary and Breda.

Next walk Tuesday 22nd July. Meet for 10am start at Ermine Street/Martins Green car park. From Hoddesdon take Cock Lane. Cross over the A10 and car park is on the right just before the Danemead Scout Campsite entrance. Walk approx. 4.5 miles. **NB:** no pub/café/toilet stop en route. There will be a short break at some point, so bring your own tea/coffee etc. if required.

SHORTER WALKS - Sue Barratt Clarke

Monthly 3rd Tuesday in the month. No shorter walk in August.

NEEDLECRAFT - Margaret Cramphorn

Every 1st Tuesday between 2-4pm at members' homes. Needlework projects and discussion.

PUB LUNCHESES (1) - Jean Hart & Annette Thrasher

Monthly on the 2nd Friday at 12 noon.

PUB LUNCHESES (2) - Marjorie Boulter

Monthly on 2nd Wednesday at 12 noon.

PUB LUNCHESES (3) - Les & Wendy Hickford

Monthly on 1st Wednesday at 12 noon.

PUB LUNCHESES (4) - Roger Barratt & Sue Barratt Clarke

Fourth Tuesday of the month. **Next lunch:** 22nd July at MANTOS, Wormley High Road, EN10 6LE. Meet at 12.30 pm.

QUIZ GROUP - Lin Coe

On the 4th Friday each month 2pm – 4pm Bollescroft Hall. **Please note, there will be no quiz in July and August. Next Meeting:** Friday 26th September.

Broxbourne u3a Website <http://broxbourne.u3asite.uk/>

SALSA FUN & FITNESS - Lynn Phillips & Val Sambridge

Have fun, dance and exercise, all at the same time! If you like the sound of Latino music, enjoy dancing and want to keep fit, why not give us a try? Our instructor, Victoria, keeps things simple as she teaches us the basics of Salsa, Merengue, Chacha-cha and more – delivered in an exercise class format. The steps are easy to learn so all you need to do is follow along, just add your own attitude and style. 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month, 10 am – 11.00 am at Wormley Scout Hut. Cost £5 per session (first session free) **NO MEETING IN AUGUST.**

SCRABBLE - Margaret Beeston

We meet at 2pm on the first and third Wednesday of the month. A friendly group that meets in members' homes, with refreshments. Please contact Margaret via the website for details of venues and dates.

SHORT MAT BOWLS - Bob Finning

Laura Trott Centre, 10.30 – 12.30. Fortnightly on Friday. Cost is £4.40 or £4.10 with a Friends of Spotlight card. Equipment provided. Members are asked to arrive by 10.15 to organise teams. Car parking is free to players but they must give their car registration number to reception on entry.

SINGING FOR FUN – Rita Cusumano & Carole Walker

All abilities welcome. Every Wednesday morning 10.30am to 12.15pm. Mayhem Theatre Arts, Brewery Road, Hoddesdon.

SPANISH (1) - Dulcie Fordham & Jenny Jones

Basic Spanish and general conversation. Every Thursday at 2-4pm. We meet in the local area. This group is not suitable for beginners and is currently not taking new members.

SPANISH (2) - Deborah Kerr & Amanda Davies

The meetings will be held every Thursday from 2.00 pm – 3.30 pm in the parlour of the Methodist Church, Hoddesdon. Initially the cost will be £6 per person.

SUNDAY LUNCHES - Lorraine Anderson

Held on the 2nd Sunday of each month. All welcome, but each meal is limited to 20 people, 1st come 1st served, so please contact Lorraine by the previous Wednesday.

T'AI CHI - Ann Glover

Fortnightly on Tuesdays, 2.30 – 3.30. Mayhem Theatre Arts Studio, Brewery Road, Hoddesdon. Please contact Ann via the website. New members very welcome.

WINE APPRECIATION - Denis O'Shea

Group meets on third Wednesday of the month in U.R.C Meeting Room, Mill Lane, Broxbourne. Starting time 7:30pm. Please contact Denis O'Shea via the website to discuss this group.

WOODTURNING - Dave Gostellow

Fortnightly on Tuesdays. Please contact Dave via the website.

GROUP SHARES WITH LOCAL U3As

BRIDGE GROUP - Terry Askew (Hertford Group Leader)

Weekly on Tuesdays, 2-4pm at Place House, Ware. £10 for 6 weeks, includes tea and biscuit. **This is not a beginners' group. Some knowledge of the game is required.**

CROQUET - Ann Neuff (Ware Group Leader)

Our members are welcome to join Ann's group.

LOVE TO DANCE – Jacky Williams & Roz Hills (Cheshunt Group)

Dances to include Salsa, Jive, Cha Cha and Charleston etc. Group held weekly on Thursday mornings 10-15 – 11.45 am, at Rowlands School Hut, behind the Beaumont Centre, Cheshunt. Cost £6.50 per session including tea and coffee.

MODEL MAKING GROUP - Jack Snary (Cheshunt Group)

Meetings are held at The Crocodile Pub at a cost of £2 per person. Broxbourne members welcome to join this group.

WALKING NETBALL – Jacqui Fry (Cheshunt Group)

Our members are enthusiastically invited to join this group. Held every Wednesday at The Laura Trott Centre, 2 – 3 pm Cost £4 per person. Please wear trainers and bring water.

OTHER LOCAL CLUBS

HODDESDON FLOWER CLUB – We meet on the 2nd Wednesday of the month, in Jackson Hall, Burford Street, at 2 pm. No need to bring flowers, just sit and watch the professionals. New members welcome, £7 for visitors.

BROXBOURNE COMMITTEE @ JULY 2025

Chair	Barbara Cordina
Vice Chair	Jenny Murtagh
Business Secretary	Judith Hutchings
Treasurer	Mike Sutterby
Group Co-ordinator	Liz Burdett
Membership Secretary	Liz Elve
Minutes Secretary	Vacancy
Programme Secretary	Margaret Beeston
Speaker Secretary	Rita Cusumano
Web Master	Chris Common
Welcoming/RUGS	Lorraine Anderson
Committee Member	Lesley Harrison

Please note - a £2 Temporary Membership Fee is charged to visitors attending the monthly meeting and a dated receipt will be given. This confers all the advantages of Broxbourne u3a membership, including Insurance for that month only, during which time a group activity can be joined if there is room, on production of the receipt and payment of the usual group attendance fee. Member information held by Broxbourne u3a will not be disclosed to any third party unless a member subscribes to the Third Age Trust magazine 'Third Age Matters', when address information will be passed to the distributor.

Broxbourne u3a Website – <https://broxbourne.u3asite.uk/>

FIND US ON FACEBOOK !