



BROXBOURNE U3A
25TH ANNIVERSARY: 2000 - 2025



Broxbourne u3a

Thursday 20th November 2025

At 10.30 a.m.

Doors open at 9.00 a.m.

VIPs arrive 10.00 a.m.

Free Raffle: 5 vouchers of £20 each

Speaker

**The Lord Lieutenant of Hertfordshire
CBE CstJ**

Guests

**MP for Broxbourne – Lewis Cocking
Mayor of Broxbourne - Cllr Patsy Spears
Cllr Mark Mills-Bishop
Dame Pauline Green – TAT Trustee
Dr Sue Rayner-Jacobs – u3a
Alison Gordon – BArts
Lee Rayner - BArts**

CHAIR'S CHAT – NOVEMBER 2025



This month we are celebrating 25 years since Broxbourne u3a was first formed. This is a big moment for all those who have been involved during the years since 2000. We have provided opportunities for local residents who were no longer in full-time employment. We have built up a good number of groups for learning, opportunities to socialise and to feel part of a friendly and interesting group of people, and we have supported the local community.

Over the years committees have come and gone and have donated considerable time to support Broxbourne u3a and its members. U3as are totally reliant on volunteers. Self-help, caring and sharing are the important words in the u3a world. If nobody volunteers then there is no u3a, as members are advised when they join us. Everybody needs to make a contribution of some sort to their u3a. Nobody is paid for the contribution they make, so recognition is important.

At our meeting on the [20th November 2025](#) we shall be recognising members who joined us in the first year of setting up. We shall be presenting them with a certificate to record those 25 years, together with Honorary Membership, which is fully deserved after 25 years.

Our regular Christmas celebration has been moved forward to the 10th December when we shall be singing along to Christmas music and enjoying coffee, tea and mince pies together. Please come along suitably dressed in your Christmas jumpers and hats.

I shall finish by wishing every one of you a Happy New Year, I am excited about the possibilities which will open to us in 2026 and look forward to meeting more of you at our meetings.

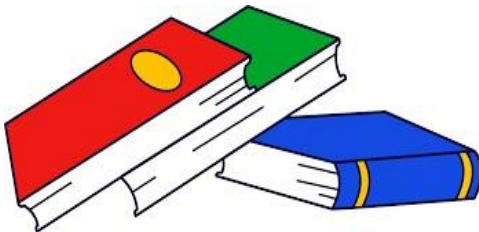
Barbara Cordina / Chair / Broxbourne u3a

broxbourneu3achair@outlook.com

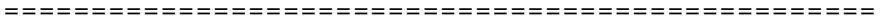
During our 25th Anniversary Celebration we shall take great pleasure in presenting 24 Honorary Membership Certificates to those who have been members for 25 years, as follows:

Shirley Cato, Jean Chatterton, Vivienne Edwards, Margaret Ellis, Sylvia Ells, Elizabeth Elve, David Gostellow, Jean Hart, Mary Howard, Patricia Jay, Margaret Kelly, Dennis Lacey, Shirley Lacey, Jacqueline Margetts, Rosalind Nendick, Stephen Nendick, Rosemary Roles, Rita Shepherd, Ann Sims, June Smith, Glen Travell, Pamela Travell, Barbara Tulley and Vernon Tye.

CONGRATULATIONS EVERYONE AND “THANK YOU”



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



JIGSAW SWAP. Julie Mountain



Bring a puzzle to swap for 50p or buy a puzzle for £1. All puzzle donations gratefully received to get this group up and running. Funds received will be put back into Broxbourne u3a for all members to benefit.

If or when you change your email address, please make sure you give the information to your Group Leader, so that we can stay in touch with you.

PLEASE NOTE, THE FIRST ROW IN THE TIER OF SEATS IS TO BE RESERVED FOR MEMBERS WITH LIMITED MOBILITY

MEETING THURSDAY 15th JANUARY 2026

Speaker – Tony Tutton – “That’ll Be The Day” - The life, music & influence of Buddy Holly

SAFEGUARDING POLICY



Broxbourne u3a have a duty of care to our members and in order to ensure we are compliant with this the committee have adopted the Third Age Trust Safeguarding Policy. You will find it on our website, www.broxbourne.u3asite . We have one volunteer for the role of safeguarding officer and are looking for another.

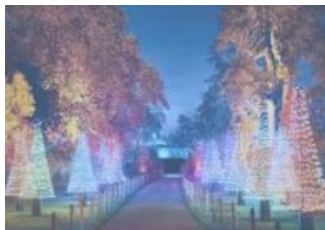
Training will be provided. It will not be a committee role, however, reporting to the committee on a monthly basis will be required.

If you are interested in this caring role, please ask any committee member for further information.

Barbara Cordina – Chair – Broxbourne u3a
November 2025

Gardening Trips Group

Thurs 11th Dec Kew at Christmas
Coach leaves Hoddesdon at 3 pm
£52 per person



There are several places still available on this trip. Please contact Suzanne for more information.

GARDENING GROUP 2 FUTURE DAY TRIPS

£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 9 am and return journeys start 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 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 me please contact me via WhatsApp or telephone

ART GROUP - Jack Snary

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

Next meetings:

Nov. 24th – By the River

Dec. 8th – A Picture of Christmas

Dec 15th – Christmas Lunch? Date and venue to be agreed

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

We are a very friendly and social group who meet twice a month on the 1st & 3rd Thursdays in Bollescroft large room 2-4pm. (Just opposite the Spotlight car park). Visiting callers take us through the dances before we attempt them with music, and continue to call out the movements throughout the dance. Although all dances are different, they include the same dance movements, just in a different order! No previous experience is necessary and you don't have to worry about a partner. It's a great way to enjoy some gentle exercise whilst indulging in a sociable chat. Please feel free to contact us to discuss a visit. The cost is £4 a session which includes a cold drink. Your first visit is free, so please come along and give us a try.

Next meetings: Nov 20th Christmas party on December 4th.

CRAFTS - Sue Wilson

Meetings will be held at my house, usually on the last Thursday of the month 2 – 4 pm. The last meeting of the year will be on 27th November. 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 & Glenys Brown

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: 21st November, 5th December, 19th December

EMBROIDERY - Margaret Cramphorn

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

FAMILY AND SOCIAL HISTORY - Tony Eagling & Phil Melville

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

Next Meeting: 4th December. No meeting in January 2026.

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 the group leader via the website for details.

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 the leader 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 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 Meeting/visits:

26th Nov – The wildlife garden in winter and annual tool sharpening. Please bring your tools. Sharpening equipment and instruction will be provided.

17th Dec - Make a natural wreath for Christmas. Bring garden foliage and items you would like on your wreath, there will be additional foliage to play with. Tools and equipment provided.

28th Jan 2026 – Garden Museum visit. Meet Broxbourne Station 10.00

25th Feb 2025 – Bennington Lordship snowdrops, car share from Broxbourne 10.30.

25th March 2026 – Ashridge Gardens visit. Car share from Broxbourne 10.00

22nd Apr 2026 - RHS Wisley visit. New tulip planting. Meet Broxbourne Station 10.00

GARDENING (2) - Suzanne Fitch & Sue Gilford

Monthly on Monday after the Main Meeting 10am at Hoddesdon Methodist Church Hall, Middlefield Road, Hoddesdon, EN11 9ED

24th November – Brian Carline – An amusing account of school life

Our list of trips is on pages 5 of this newsletter.

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.

HERITAGE - Bob and Maggie Buckley

Next trip: TBA

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.

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.

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,

Next walk There will be no walk in December as it is a busy time for all. Thank you all for your support this year. The next walk will be in January 2026. Details to follow on our WhatsApp group and Facebook page.

MODERATE WALKS - Bernie Cove

Monthly, 2nd Tuesday of the month.

Christmas Walk: Meet on 9th December at The Grandison, Bramfield, SG14 2QL. Coffee available from 10 am – walk commences 10.30 – no coffee break during the walk which is a circular one from Bramfield, about 3 miles. Probably muddy. Anyone who is not joining us for dinner, is very welcome to join us on the walk. I know that there are a few who will be attending the dinner but are unable to walk. Details for the day will be sent out early in December.

January Walk – Meet at 10 am on Tuesday January 13th 2026 in the car park by the Library in Ware. (Car parking charges apply) for our annual NEW YEAR walk to Hertford and back. Approx 5 miles. Coffee at Weatherspoons in Hertford.

MORNING WALKS - Bernie Cove

Monthly 3rd Tuesday in the month.

Next walk: Tuesday 25th November. (Leaders Hilary and Peter. Walk is about 5 miles. Park in Heartwood Forests car park situated off B651, High

Street, Sandridge, St Albans, AL4 9DG. It is a large free car park. No toilets, and bring your own drinks. Journey time about 30 minutes. No Morning and Short walks in December.

SHORTER WALKS

Monthly 3rd Tuesday of the month.

Next walk: Tuesday 18th November.

Meet for a 10.30 am start in the car park at FORTY HALL. Coffee at Middleton House. From Cheshunt on the A10 southbound, go past the M25 and at the first set of lights turn right into Bullsmoor Lane. At the T Junction turn left past the Pied Bull pub and continue over Maidens Bridge At the next traffic lights. Entrance to Forty Hall is on the right at the top of the hill. Approx 2-mile walk. NB: Toilets available at Middleton House.

PUB LUNCHES (1) Jean Hart & Annette Thrasher

Monthly on the 2nd Friday at 12 noon.

PUB LUNCHES (2) Marjorie Boulter

Monthly on 2nd Wednesday at 12 noon.

PUB LUNCHES (3) Les & Wendy Hickford

Monthly on 1st Wednesday at 12 noon.

PUB LUNCHES (4) Roger Barratt & Sue Barratt Clarke

Next lunch: 25th November at the Atrium Restaurant, Herts. Regional College, Turnford. Christmas lunch is 16th December at the Black Swan, Nazeing.

QUIZ GROUP - Lin Coe

On the 4th Friday each month 2pm – 4pm Bollescroft Hall.

Next Meeting: 28th November.

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). Last session for 2025 will be Thursday 11th December and sessions will resume on Thursday 22nd January 2026.

SCRABBLE - Margaret Beeston

We meet at 2 pm 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 10.30 am to 12.15 pm. 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 via the website 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 for details. 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 re: this group.

WOODTURNING - Dave Gostellow

Fortnightly on Tuesdays. Please phone for details

GROUP SHARES

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. Please contact Ann via the Ware website for details.

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. Please contact Jack via the Cheshunt website for details. 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. Visit our website for more information.

From Janet Hack, Leader of our Creative Writing Group

U3A POEM

By Janet Hack

I was sitting at home and I felt all alone
Well only me, himself and the cat
Looking for company not daytime TV
Well, you know what we all think of that

My friend Mrs Clark who lives near the park
Said why don't you join me today
I'm off up the road to the Spotlight I'm told
We can join the Broxbourne U3A

Well, the greeter at the door said there's lots to explore
And we have more than 300 members within
Well, you know that impressed so I straightened my dress
Took a deep breath, said thankyou and went in

There are courses galore and a whole lot more
To begin with its very confusing
But everyone was nice so I nodded twice
And tried to look like I knew what I was doing

Well, there are lots of Short Walks, and Astronomy talks
And knitting well that's just my thing
Especially the natter 'cause I like a good chatter
Or there's trips you can do in the Spring.

I thought about Shakespeare but I could be too dim there?

And Heritage an History the same
But I certainly dance so I might take a chance
Because if they'll have me, I'm definitely game

I like Creative Writing which is quite exciting
Cause I haven't written since school
But before you say Hey - I produced this today
So p'raps I'm not dim after all.

Well himself got the hump, He was a right old grump
He said where do you go to all day,
I said don't misconstrue There's lots there for you
So get your coat I will show you the way.

Well he took up the golf, And now plays guitar
And we joined the rummikub together
And we're both so busy we gets in a tizzy
But now life for us both, is a pleasure

People to talk to and people to share
Their knowledge with a laugh and a joke
So don't sit at home feeling all alone
The U3A welcomes all types of folk

RNIB OLD COIN COLLECTION



Our old currency collection for the RNIB is underway. We have received our boxes and I am delighted to say that we have already filled one box. The RNIB advise that on average the value of currency in such a box is £100. The boxes themselves are smaller than shoe boxes but the weight when filled is very heavy so there is a maximum of 7kg for each box due to carriage restrictions.

PLEASE SUPPORT THIS PROJECT BY BRINGING YOUR OLD FOREIGN AND UK CURRENCY WHICH YOU CAN NO LONGER SPEND, TO OUR SPOTLIGHT MEETINGS COLLECTION.



Tablet Blister Packs for recycling, our first bucketful!
SUPPORT OUR RECYCLING PROJECT, BRING YOUR USED
TABLET BLISTER PACKS TO OUR MEETING AND HELP OUR
ENVIRONMENT
HELP NEEDED !

VARIOUS PICTURES OF GROUP ACTIVITIES OVER RECENT YEARS



London Walks

Guitar Group at Chase Farm Hospital, August 2023



Singing for Fun – early days

Barts Meeting November 2025 at The Spotlight





Wine Appreciation Group – Visit to Champagne, France 2017

Group Leaders Meeting October 2025



HISTORY OF BROXBOURNE U3A

Most years we had at least one holiday per year both in the UK and overseas.

- 2000 Broxbourne u3a formed. Chairman Glyn Wilson
- 2001 Over 300 membership. Holiday to Dutch bulbfields
- 2002 Over 400 m/ship. Celebration of Queen's Jubilee
- 2003 500 m/ship. National Chairman Kate Wedd visits us
- 2004 550 m/ship. Glyn retires, becomes our first President. Steve Nendick becomes new Chairman.
- 2005 637 m/ship. July Open Day, not a membership drive, more a celebration of our success, said the Chairman.
- 2006 Lake District Holiday. Visit to Dinant.

- 2007 800 m/ship. President & Chairman Glyn Wilson. To celebrate 25th anniversary, u3a speaker was David Battle of Antiques Roadshow..
- 2008 880 M/ship. Chairman Jean Hart. 100th Monthly meeting. Lucky programme holder Diana Rew presented with bottle of champagne. Bunny Campione from Antiques Roadshow was our guest speaker.
- 2009 890 M/ship. Maureen Dennis sets up our website. Health Matters seminar.
- 2010 Inheritance Tax Seminar, Creative Writing Group publishes book "Telling Tales".
Lea Valley u3a suggests 5 local u3a Chairmen form Committee to organise an event to celebrate 30th National formation.
We assist with setting up Cheshunt u3a.
- 2011 Mavis & Glyn Wilson given Life Memberships in recognition of their contribution to the success of Broxbourne u3a.
In November 5u3a Committee organises their Showcase in the Civic Hall.
- 2012 30th Celebration in Civic Hall. Choral concert featuring 400 singers from the 5 u3a's. Great success. 2 Olympic walks organised by Herts Network – our walkers participated
Jean Hart retires as Chairman and Steve Shirley fills the role for 6 years.
- 2013 Jean Hart took over as President of our u3a. On 24th December, Founder Chairman Glyn Wilson passed away. Teak bench placed on Civic Hall terrace in his memory.
- 2014 Handcrafted poppies made by Craft members. Money raised to Royal British Legion. Exploring London Group saw ceramic poppies in the Tower of London
- 2015 982 M/ship. 15th Anniversary celebrations 17/9/15. Charles Walker MP and the Mayor attended.
- 2016 Holidays in Harrogate, South Wales, Bath and Scotland.
- 2017 Holidays in Derbyshire and Lake District.
- 2018 Steve Shirley retires and Bill Brock takes the role of Chairman
- 2019 Holidays in Cornwall, Shropshire and Jersey.

This is the end of the history written down. As we know, Covid struck 2020 and we had no meetings at the Civic Hall. Bill Brock remained as Chairman until 2023 followed by Jenny Murtagh for a couple of years. Barbara Cordina took over as Chairman in May 2025



SING-ALONG WITH US AT CHRISTMAS

Wednesday 10th December 2025

2pm to 4pm at Herts Studios, Hoddesdon

Organised & Performed by our Singing Group



Opposite Sainsburys Carpark

Free parking 2 hours Sainsburys & Asda, 3 hours Morrisons

FREE TEA, COFFEE & MINCE PIES

SHARE THE SEASON'S GOODWILL WITH US

MEMBERS ONLY

Book your place at our November Meeting

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

or find us through the u3a website - www.u3a.org.uk Please send photos or articles for the website to

Chris Common at Broxbourneu3awebm@outlook.com.

Find us on Facebook at "Broxbourne u3a Group"

YOUR COMMITTEE

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

Information for all future programmes should be given by the 1st of the month please, to Margaret Beeston – contact via website.

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.