



## **Broxbourne u3a**

Registered Charity no. 1090504

**Part of the International u3a Movement  
Monthly Meetings, usually 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays,  
at the Spotlight Theatre, Broxbourne**

**ENTRY FROM 9 am, MEETINGS WILL START AT 10.30 am  
IN THE AUDITORIUM**

**Please Support Our Raffle in the Foyer!  
Prizes: Vouchers £25, £20 and £15.**

**Programme  
Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> February 2026  
Duncan Bickley – Blood Ashes –  
Urgent Helicopter Missions**

**Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2026  
Dave Willett – The Suffragettes**

**Greeters Rota**

**Supplied by RUGs Group**

# CHAIR'S CHAT – FEBRUARY 2026



The daffodils are showing us the way into Spring, and we welcome them with open arms. It seems we can no longer rely on the old weather systems and must adapt accordingly.

2026 is moving on and we have a lot to look forward to as members of Broxbourne u3a.

The change in the auditorium at the January meeting with the group tables now at the front was very well received by members and group leaders alike. One of the group leaders asked me to encourage members to take a look at the tables and see what our groups have to offer, so I hope you will do this.

We are always looking to set up new groups and offer help to anyone with any ideas and suggestions. I spoke to as many members as I could in January and received several suggestions, for which I thank you. We shall have forms on the Secretary's Table with suggested groups, please add your name if you are interested. Group leadership can be shared, and help is always at hand – it is the initial ideas we are looking for. We also received a long list of potential speakers which will be very useful.

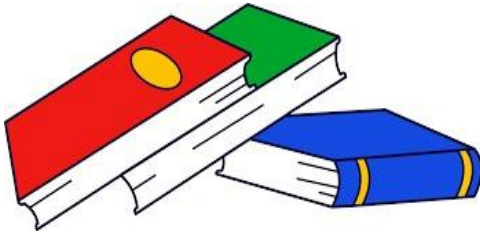
A reminder to everyone that membership renewal is not far away. Liz on the Membership table will have renewal forms available at the February meeting so please collect yours. Please also consider signing the Gift Aid form which will raise additional funds for our u3a.

Our AGM is also on the horizon and this year we shall be looking for members willing to join the committee as some of the current trustees move on. There are several roles which do not involve being on the committee itself, so please start to consider what skills you have. Do not hesitate to ask any of the committee if you have any questions. It is important to remember that you are only asked to commit the time you have available, there are few set requirements as to how much work you take on, and we are flexible enough to be able to accommodate one and all. PLEASE think about this.

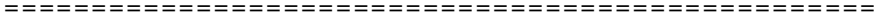
Barbara Cordina / Chair / Broxbourne u3a

[broxbourneu3achair@outlook.com](mailto:broxbourneu3achair@outlook.com)

## A GOOD READ



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.

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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.

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

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## **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](http://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

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## **SPEAKERS AT MONTHLY MEETINGS 2026**

Feb 19 <sup>th</sup>	Duncan Bickley - Blood Ashes – Urgent Helicopter Missions
March 19 <sup>th</sup>	Dave Willett -The Suffragettes
April 16 <sup>th</sup>	Fran Sandham - Solo Walk across Africa
May 21 <sup>st</sup>	AGM followed by: Tony Brown - Life of an Oak Tree
June 18 <sup>th</sup>	Alex Mair - Crime Scene Search
July 16 <sup>th</sup>	Andrew Colley & John Neil -The Man who tested Parachutes
Aug 20 <sup>th</sup>	Alan Fitzgerald - Subterranean London
Sept 17 <sup>th</sup>	Paul Gillions, RNLI – Saving Lives at Sea
Oct 15 <sup>th</sup>	Wartime & Romance
Nov 20 <sup>th</sup>	TBA

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## GROUP LEADERS MEETING

Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2026

12pm to 2pm following Spotlight Meeting  
in the Dinant Room



### Gardening 2 Trips 2026



Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> March – RHS Wisley – RHS members free ,  
Non-members £36.60

Walled garden at RHS Wisley, located south west of  
London, a short distant from Guildford

### FUTURE DAY TRIPS

Thurs. 23<sup>rd</sup> April – Pashley Manor Gardens £35 each

Wed. 13<sup>th</sup> May – Leeds Castle £42 each

Thurs. 4<sup>th</sup> June – Coton Manor and Canons Abbey £45 each

Thurs. 17<sup>th</sup> June – East Ruston Old Vicarage plant fair £37 each

Tues. 14<sup>th</sup> July – Thompson & Morgan Garden at Jimmy's Farm £42

Tues. 28<sup>th</sup> July – NT Ascott House & Gardens NT members £20. Non-members £40.

£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:** Feb 16<sup>th</sup> – In the Woods

March 2<sup>nd</sup> – A Rose by any other Name.

March 16<sup>th</sup> – A self-portrait

March 30<sup>th</sup> – At the Races

### **CHAIR MOBILITY & 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 & June Brown**

We are a very friendly and social group who meet twice a month on the 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> 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:** 19<sup>th</sup> February, 5<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> March, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> April, 7<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> May.

### **CRAFTS – Sue Wilson**

Meetings will be held at my house, usually on the last Thursday of the month 2 – 4 pm. Our next meeting will be on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> February. If anyone wants to join us please contact me via our 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 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Fridays at Oasis Room, URC, Mill Lane, Broxbourne.

**Next Dates:** 20<sup>th</sup> February, meal at The Bull, Broxbourne at 12.30 pm, 6<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> March at URC.

### **EMBROIDERY - Margaret Cramphorn**

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

### **FAMILY & SOCIAL HISTORY - Tony Eagling & Phil Melville**

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

**Next Meeting:** 2<sup>nd</sup> March

### **FOLK & 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 our website.

### **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 leader via our 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 01992**

Everyone welcome. Please contact the group leader via our website.

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:**

27<sup>th</sup> Feb 2025 – Bennington Lordship snowdrops, car share from Broxbourne 10.30.

25<sup>th</sup> March 2026 – Ashridge Gardens visit. Car share from Broxbourne 10.00

22<sup>nd</sup> 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.

- 23<sup>rd</sup> Feb - David Willett – Royal Parks of London
- 23<sup>rd</sup> Mar - Peter Warne – Tenerife, its wildlife and scenery
- 20<sup>th</sup> April - David Willett – Famous Gardeners & their Gardens
- 18<sup>th</sup> May - Tricia Thompson – Drink related plants
- 22<sup>nd</sup> June - Jacqueline Aviolet – At the Nery

### **Summer Break – No Meetings – Day trips only.**

- 21<sup>st</sup> Sept. – Frances Watkins – Medicinal plants linked to Shakespeare
- 19<sup>th</sup> Oct. - Tricia Thompson – Garden Design through the Ages
- 23<sup>rd</sup> Nov. - Katy – Buzzed Off – all about Bees ad Hornets.

**Our list of trips is on page 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 the group leader via our website.

## **HERITAGE - Bob & Maggie Buckley**

**Next trip:** 15<sup>th</sup> April to Basildon Park, Berkshire, a Grade 1 National Trust house and Estate. The cost will be £30 for National Trust members and £50 for non National Trust members.

## **HISTORY - Mick Coe**

Monthly 3<sup>rd</sup> Wed. Meet 2pm at Hoddesdon Methodist Church, Middlefield Road. If anyone is interested in joining the History Group, please contact the group leader via our website.

### **ITALIAN - Nunzia Cusumano**

The Italian group meets every Tuesday 2pm-3pm in Hoddesdon. Please contact the group leader via our website for further details. All abilities welcome, depending on numbers additional sessions can be accommodated.

### **KNIT & NATTER - Val Sambridge**

Monthly on 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday 2-4pm at Broxbourne URC. Mill Lane.

### **LONDON WALKS & EXPERIENCES – Gill King**

Meet every second Saturday of the month

**Next walk** March 14<sup>th</sup> around Regents Park. Meet at Broxbourne station at 9.30 to catch the 9.44 train to Tottenham Hale. From here take the Victoria Line to Kings Cross Station, then change to the Northern Line to Chalk Farm Station.

### **MODERATE WALKS - Bernie Cove**

Monthly, 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month.

**Next Walk:** Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> March, Meet for a 10 am start at the layby on the B1004 Wareside to Widford road (just before Widford Church). Walk is hilly and likely to be muddy. 5.5 mile circular walk stopping for coffee at The Crown pub in Hunsdon.

### **MORNING WALKS - Bernie Cove**

Monthly 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday in the month - Leaders Mel and Angela

**Next Walk:** Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> February. Meet at 10 am in Bayford – Park in Ashdene Road, opposite The Bakers Arms PH – Circular walk of about 5 miles via Epping Green and Little Berkhamstead Mostly flat, maybe muddy. We will have a tea/coffee break en route so bring your own refreshments. No toilets.

### **SHORTER WALKS - Bernie Cove**

Monthly 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month.

**Next Walk:** Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March - Leaders Mel and Angela

Meet for a 10.30 am start in the long layby in Barrow Lane outside Cheshunt Cemetery (EN7 5LN) for a pleasant stroll to Cedars Park. Tea/coffee break at the park. All on the flat, no mud, about 3 miles.

### **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**

**Next lunch:** Contact group leaders via our website.

### **QUIZ GROUP - Lin Coe**

On the 4<sup>th</sup> Friday each month 2pm – 4pm Bollescroft Hall.

**Next Meeting:** Friday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2026

### **SALSA FUN & FITNESS - Lynn Phillips & Val Sambrodge**

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).

### **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 the group leader 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 JON**

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.

### **SPRING HOLIDAY - Joan Underwood**

15<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> May 2026, Coventry/Warwick/Stratford upon Avon. Please remember to pay the balance for this Spring Holiday by the end of February. I shall be available at the February, March and April meetings to finalise details of the holiday.

### **SUNDAY LUNCHESES - Lorraine Anderson**

Held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of each month. All welcome, but each meal is limited to 20 people, 1<sup>st</sup> come 1<sup>st</sup> served, so please contact the group 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 the group leader via our 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 the group leader via our website to discuss re: this group.

### **WOODTURNING - Dave Gostellow**

Fortnightly on Tuesdays. Please contact the group leader via our website.

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## **BROXBOURNE u3a**

Charity no. 1090504

## **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 the group leader via the Ware website.

### **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 –Contact Vivienne Edwards**

We meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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, £10 for visitors.

### **FRIENDS OF LOWEWOOD MUSEUM.**

We are a support group for the Museum to help with the donations from our funds for the purchase of relevant artifacts for display and conservation. We also put on a series of talks on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month from February to May and September to November every year at the United Reform Church Hall, Mill Lane, Broxbourne EN10 7BQ. Tea/coffee served at 7.30 pm. Talks start at 8 pm. Visitors welcome - £5 per person. For further details please contact Diane Weston via the Museum website for further information.

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## **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**

## **RECYCLING TABLET BLISTER PACKS IS A REAL SUCCESS**



Thank you all so much for your contributions to our recycling project which is wonderful.

A huge thankyou to Susan and Bernie Cove who have offered to collect the packs each month and take them to Brookfield for us. Let's all keep up the good work.

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## **URGENT APPEAL**

We are in desperate need of a volunteer to lead the Annual Holiday Group. Val Foley ran this group for many years, which we truly appreciate, but unfortunately is unable to continue in this role. Without someone stepping up into the role there will be NO Annual Holiday going forward. Val is happy to assist a new leader in learning the ropes, but informs me it is not an onerous position. She says that it is good fun and she has enjoyed all the holidays she has organised. As a minimum it would mean organising one holiday a year, which I understand is done via a Travel company. If anyone feels they could take up this opportunity, please contact me to organise a hand over.

Many thanks,  
Liz Burdett. Group Co-ordinator.

We desperately need people to volunteer as group leaders, most especially for the Annual Holiday, for which I have appealed above. We now need people for the bookstall as I have been advised that the current leaders are stepping down. There are also plans for new groups to be started that would require leaders. Without the help of willing volunteers we cannot run the groups. Currently we are struggling to be able to continue the Annual Holidays and now the bookstall. As you can see the situation is becoming extremely difficult. I just hope we can get some response.

Many thanks,  
Liz Burdett. Group Co-ordinator.

## **HOLIDAY IN NORMANDY.**

We have been offered a fantastic opportunity to join Cheshunt u3a on their upcoming visit to Normandy.

Holiday departing 2nd September 2026, 5 days 4 nights on a bed & breakfast basis. £539 pp with no single supplement , staying at the Grand Hotel d'Esperance, Lisieux, Normandy. The purpose is to visit the British Normandy Memorial, officially opened in June 2021, plus the surrounding area.

Anyone interested in booking or needing further information, please contact Mary Hanney on 01992 426341 or email [maryhanney@gmail.com](mailto:maryhanney@gmail.com)

Many thanks

Liz Burdett, Group Co-ordinator

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## **OUR CREATIVE WRITING GROUP**



The latest offering from our Creative Writing Group. The cost of the book is £5 and all profits go to Cancer Research.

**Broxbourne u3a Website** <http://broxbourne.u3asite.uk/>  
or find us through the u3a website - [www.u3a.org.uk](http://www.u3a.org.uk) Please send photos  
or articles for the website to

Chris Common at [Broxbourneu3awebm@outlook.com](mailto:Broxbourneu3awebm@outlook.com).

Find us on Facebook at "Broxbourne u3a Group"

## **YOUR COMMITTEE**

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

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

**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.***