



Broxbourne u3a

Registered Charity no. 1090504

**Part of the International u3a Movement
Monthly Meetings, usually 3rd 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 16th April 2026
Fran Sandham – Solo Walk Across Africa**

**Thursday 21st May 2026 - AGM
Followed by Tony Brown – Life of an Oak
Tree**

**Greeters Rota
Supplied by RUGs Group**

CHAIR'S CHAT – APRIL 2026



April is here and the future of Broxbourne u3a is in the hands of our members.

May brings our AGM and without a treasurer and secretary we shall not be able to continue and will have to close.

Do we want our u3a to close? Of course not! We must rally together and find members to take on these roles.

Please speak to any committee member for more information.

HELP SPREAD THE WORD, FIND VOLUNTEERS, SO THAT WE CAN MOVE FORWARD IN THE WAY WE ALL WANT!

Barbara Cordina / Chair / Broxbourne u3a

STOP PRESS!!

Regrettably we have to cancel our August meeting as the Spotlight will be closed for six weeks whilst remedial works are taking place in the Auditorium and the Dinant Room.

PLEASE MAKE A NOTE IN YOUR DIARY.

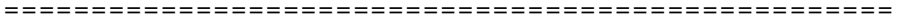
PRE-LOVED BOOKS



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

WE REGRET WE ARE NO LONGER ABLE TO ACCEPT HARD BACK BOOKS.

DVDs AVAILABLE – FREE OF CHARGE.



JIGSAW SWAP



Bring a puzzle to swap for 50p or buy a puzzle for £1. All puzzle donations gratefully received. Funds raised 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 TIERED SEATS RESERVED FOR MEMBERS WITH LIMITED MOBILITY

MONTHLY MEETINGS 2026

April 16 th	Fran Sandham - Solo Walk across Africa
May 21 st	AGM followed by: Tony Brown - Life of an Oak Tree
June 18 th	Alex Mair - Crime Scene Search
July 16 th	Andrew Colley - The Man who tested Parachutes & John Neil
Aug 20 th	Alan Fitzgerald - Subterranean London
Sept 17 th	Paul Gillions, RNLI - Saving Lives at Sea
Oct 15 th	-Wartime & Romance

Gardening 2 Trips 2026

Thurs. 23rd April – Pashley Manor Gardens £35 each



Pashley Manor, on the border of Sussex and Kent, has 11 acres of beautiful borders and vistas. The gardens are family owned and maintained. Visitors are often delighted at the attention to detail displayed and the intimate peaceful atmosphere.

FUTURE DAY TRIPS

Wed 13th May – Leeds Castle £42 each

Thurs 4th June – Coton Manor and Canons Abbey £45 each

Wed 17th June – East Ruston Old Vicarage plant fair £37 each

Tues 14th July – Thompson & Morgan Garden at Jimmy's Farm £42

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

Tues 1st Sept - Leonardslee Gardens, nr Horsham, W Sussex, £32.50 each

Thurs 10th Dec. – Blenheim Palace, Price for Palace and coach is £59, Light trail £26, making total of £85.

£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: Apr 13th – Foreign climes

Apr 27th - A form of transport

May 11th – The May Queen (only one meeting in May)

June 1st - A local church

June 15th – Fishing by the River

June 29th – In Full Bloom

July 13th - A Rainy Day

July 27th - A stately pile

THERE ARE NO MEETINGS IN AUGUST

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 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: 16th April, 7th and 21st May, 4th and 18th June, 2nd and 16th July. **NO MEETINGS IN AUGUST**

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 30th April. If anyone wants to join please contact me via the website.

CREATIVE WRITING & POETRY – Jan 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: 17th April, 1st and 15th May 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 1st Thurs. 10am - 12noon. 1st Wormley Scout Hut, Cozens Lane West, Broxbourne.

Next Meeting: Thursday 7th May

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 for the date and location of the next meeting.

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 group 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:

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.

20th April - David Willett – Famous Gardeners & their Gardens

18th May - Tricia Thompson – Drink related plants

22nd June - Jacqueline Aviolet – At the Nursery

Summer Break – No Meetings – Day trips only

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

Our list of trips is on pages 4 and 5 of this newsletter.

A GOOD READ BOOK GROUP - 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 - Cliff Hunt

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 Cliff Hunt via the website

HERITAGE - Bob & Maggie Buckley

Next trip: 25th June 2026. Peterborough Cathedral for "The Longest Yarn: Britain At War" exhibition and a chance to look around this magnificent Cathedral with free time in the afternoon to look around Peterborough itself. The Longest Yarn exhibition is made up of scenes, people and incidents - all knitted together in great detail. The exhibition has been touring the country to great reviews.

Cost is £27 per person for the coach provided there are 25 people going on the trip. Otherwise the cost will have to be increased. Entry to the Cathedral and Exhibition is by donation.

Pick up at Cheshunt Old Pond at 9.00 am, and Hoddesdon, Lowewood Museum at 9.15 am. Pick up times and places are different as we are going north.

Book your place at the u3a meeting or by telephone.

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.

HOLIDAY - Joan Underwood

December 6th – 8th 2026 visit to Oxford. £395 per person staying at 4* Mercure Hotel, Eastgate, Oxford. Includes visits to Blenheim Palace and the Christmas Market held in the grounds, plus one and half days in Oxford visiting museums etc.

See Joan at the Annual Holiday table for more information

KNIT & NATTER - Val Sambridge

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

LONDON WALKS & EXPERIENCES - Gill King

Meet every second Saturday of the month.

Next walk April 18th, walk around Marylebone. This is slightly later than usual due to other commitments. It is a 2.5 mile walk. Meet at Broxbourne Station at 9.30 am to catch the 9.44 train to Tottenham Hale. From here take the Victoria Line to Kings Cross, and then either the Circle or Hammersmith and City Line to Edgware Road where the walk starts. Due to holidays the next walk will be in July.

MODERATE WALKS - Bernie Cove

Monthly, 2nd Tuesday of the month.

Next Walk: Tuesday 12th May. Meet for a 10.00 am start at the Hertford Rugby Club. From A10 north, take the Hertford turn. First exit from the roundabout at top of ramp on to A414, then first left into Hoe Lane. Entrance 200 yards on left, SG12 9NZ. Approx 4.5 mile walk taking in McDonalds, Foxholes, Hertford Heath and coffee break at The Leafy Oak Café.

MORNING WALKS - Bernie Cove

Monthly 4th Tuesday of the month. Leaders Gary and Breda.

Next Walk: Tuesday 28th April. Meet for a 10.00 am start in 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. 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 - Bernie Cove

Monthly 3rd Tuesday of the month.

Next Walk: Tuesday 21st April, meet 10.00 am at Car Park of Cheshunt Golf Club, EN7 6QD. A circular walk from Cheshunt Park. Approx 3 miles. Flat but may be wet and muddy in places. Toilets available in Club House, coffee/tea available afterwards.

MAY 19th – Leaders Gary and Breda.

Meet 10.00am at The Feathers Pub, Wadesmill, outside Ware SG12 0TN. Parking in the pub carpark if using the pub. Coffee/lunch at The Feathers after the walk. **Please don't park in the pub carpark if not using the pub.** Alternative parking along Youngsbury Lane.

PUB LUNCHESES (1) - Jean Hart & Annette Thrasher

Monthly on the 2nd Friday at 12 noon.

PUB LUNCHESES (2) - Marjorie Boulton

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

We meet on the 4th Tuesday of each month.

Next lunch: 28th April at The Black Swan, Nazeing

QUIZ GROUP - Lin Coe

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

Next Meeting: Friday 24th April 2026

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).

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 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.

SPRING HOLIDAY - Joan Underwood

15th – 18th May 2026, Coventry, Warwick, Stratford upon Avon. Thank you everyone for the prompt payment of balances last month. I'm arranging an extra visit to The Lord Leycester Hospital while we are in Warwick on Sunday 17th May. The cost of a guided tour is £12 pp. If you would like to be included please see me at the April meeting with your payment. Please make cheques available to Lea Valley u3a. Hopefully, Just for Groups will have sent me all details of the trip by then.

SUNDAY LUNCHES - Lorraine Anderson

Held on the 2nd Sunday of each month. Please contact the Group Leader via the website for details.

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 the website for details. New members very welcome.

WINE APPRECIATION - Mary Phillips

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 the website for further information re this group.

WOODTURNING - Dave Gostellow

Fortnightly on Tuesdays. Please contact the Group Leader via the website 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 ring for details.

MODEL MAKING GROUP - Jack Snary (Cheshunt Group Leader)

Meetings are held at The Crocodile Pub at a cost of £2 per person. Please contact Jack via the website for further information. Broxbourne members welcome to join this group.

WALKING NETBALL – Jacqui Fry (Cheshunt Group Leader)

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 01992 442907. vivanne@hotmail.co.uk. 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, £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 3rd 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 Diana Weston – diane.weston@ntlworld.com – 07778 380072.

ITALIAN - Nunzia Cusumano, nancycusumano1@gmail.com. The Italian group meets every Tuesday 2pm-3pm in Hoddesdon. Please contact Nunzia Cusumano for further details. All abilities welcome, depending on numbers additional sessions can be accommodated.

YOUR SUPPORT FOR THE ROYAL NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR BLIND PEOPLE BY DONATING YOUR OLD AND FOREIGN CURRENCY IS OUTSTANDING!



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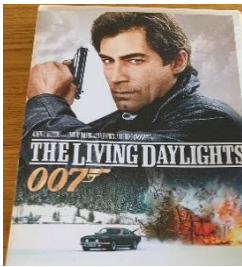
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See differently



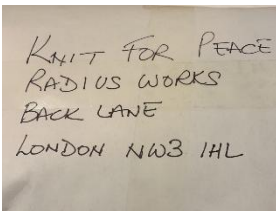
**PLEASE CONTINUE TO SUPPORT
OUR PROJECT OF RECYCLING
OUR TABLET BLISTER PACKS**

**PLEASE KEEP UP THE GOOD
WORK**



DO YOU STILL HAVE A DVD PLAYER?

A member of the public has kindly donated some dvd's to Broxbourne u3a. We shall have a small number on the bookstall at the April meeting when they will be FREE OF CHARGE. If there is any interest we shall make more available at the May meeting.



OUR FIRST DONATION TO THE CHARITY KNIT FOR PEACE

Our first parcel has gone off to Knit For Peace containing knitted donations from our members. The charity accept any knitted items which are then sent on to those in need across the world.

www.knitforpeace.org.uk Check out their website if you can.

I am happy to collect any knitted items you wish to donate and forward them on to the charity. It is good to have a reason to knit and support others.

HAPPY KNITTING – I HAVE SOME DONATED WOOL IF YOU NEED ANY.

Barbara Cordina / Chair / Broxbourne u3a

URGENT APPEALS

We continue to be 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 still 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 continues to become extremely difficult. I just hope we can get some response.

Many thanks,
Liz Burdett. Group Co-ordinator.



The latest offering from our Creative Writing Group. The cost of the book is £5 and all profits go to Cancer Research. There are still a few more copies to sell.

MEMBERS' CORNER – APRIL 2026



Introducing you to a new feature in our monthly newsletters. A space for members to air their views, pass on information and generally speak to everyone.

APRIL FOOLS' DAY

One common prank is to carefully remove the cream from an Oreo then replace it with white toothpaste. There are many similar pranks that replace an object (usually food) with another object that looks like the original object but tastes different, such as replacing sugar with salt or vanilla frosting with sour cream.

As well as people playing pranks on one another on April Fools' Day, elaborate pranks have appeared on radio and television stations, newspapers, and websites, and have been performed by large corporations. In one famous prank in 1957, the BBC broadcast a film in their *Panorama* current affairs series purporting to show Swiss farmers picking freshly-grown spaghetti, in what they called the Swiss Spaghetti Harvest. The BBC was soon flooded with requests to purchase a spaghetti plant, forcing them to declare the film a hoax on the news the next day.

With the advent of the Internet and readily available global news services, April Fools' pranks can catch and embarrass a wider audience than ever before.

Found on Wikipedia

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

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.

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.