



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 19th March 2026
Dave Willett – The Suffragettes**

**Thursday 16th April 2026
Fran Sandham – Solo Walk Across Africa**

Greeters Rota

Supplied by RUGs Group

CHAIR'S CHAT – MARCH 2026



Here we are already in March, Easter is on the way as is the end of our u3a year. Membership renewal notices are on their way to you all. The

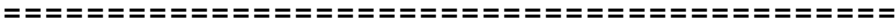
committee are pleased to advise you that there will be no increase this year, the annual subscription will remain at £15, although this may have to change next year.

Our AGM will then take place at our Spotlight meeting on 21st May. Several of our long-term committee members will be leaving the committee as they have exceeded their term of office for Broxbourne u3a. This means a time of change for everyone and altho many of us dislike change, we have to move on with the times.

I believe we shall have a smaller committee following the AGM but with additional help from members supporting committee members. Roles such as speaker secretary, newsletter editor and others do not require a place on the committee. We are, however, losing our Treasurer, Mike Sutterby, and Business Secretary, Judith Hutchings. These roles are part of our four Principal Officers needed to abide by our constitution and the regulations of the Charity Commission. We are of course a registered charity. We are therefore looking for volunteers to take on these important roles. If you are interested in

contributing to your u3a, please speak to any current committee member who will be able to explain what is involved. We are very flexible and look to make the role fit with members' skills and availability – so don't hesitate to find out. We need you !!

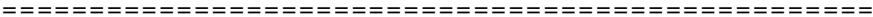
Barbara Cordina / Chair / Broxbourne u3a



PRE-LOVED BOOKS



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. Funds raised will be put back into Broxbourne u3a for all members to benefit.

NOTE FOR MEMBERS

If 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 THAT AT OUR SPOTLIGHT MEETINGS, THE FIRST ROW OF THE TIERED SEATS IS RESERVED FOR MEMBERS WITH LIMITED MOBILITY.

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

MONTHLY MEETINGS 2026 - SPEAKERS

March 19 th	Dave Willett	The Suffragettes
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 & John Neil	The Man who Tested Parachutes
Aug 20 th	Alan Fitzgerald	Subterranean London
Sept 17 th	Paul Gillions	RNLI – Saving Lives
Oct 15 th		Wartime & Romance
Nov 20 th	TBA	

Gardening 2 Trips 2026

Tuesday 24th 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 23rd April – Pashley Manor Gardens £35 each

Wed 13th May – Leeds Castle £42 each

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

Wed 17th June – East Roston 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.

£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 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 16th – In the Woods

March 2nd – A Rose by any other Name.

March 30th – At the Races

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 & 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: 19th March, 2nd and 16th April, 7th and 21st 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 26th March. If anyone wants to join us please contact me via the Broxbourne u3a 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: 20th March, 3rd and 17th April 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 2nd April

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 the website for the date and location of the next meeting.

FRENCH - This Group has now closed, see note later in the newsletter.

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 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:

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.

23rd Mar - Peter Warne – Tenerife, its wildlife and scenery

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 page 6 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 - 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 to discuss.

HERITAGE - Bob and Maggie Buckley

Next trip: 15th 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 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 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 March 14th 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, 2nd Tuesday of the month.

Next Walk: Tuesday 14th April. Meet for a 10 am start at the Old Ignatian FC in Turkey Street, Enfield. The postcode is of little use as Turkey Street is in 3 separate unconnected parts. Approx 4.5 mile walk, coffee at the Café at Forty Hall. Directions – From Cheshunt take the A10 south towards Enfield. Continue past the M25 roundabout and immediately after take the right filter at the first set of lights into Bullsmoor Lane. Turn left at the T-junction by the Pied Bull pub. Take the first left into Turkey Street, opposite entrance to Myddleton House. Old Ignatian car park is on the left at the end of the road. There is no other entry by car to this part of Turkey Street. Toilets may be available before and after at the Clubhouse.

MORNING WALKS - Bernie Cove

Next Walk: Tuesday 24th March (Leaders Arthur and Sheila). Meet 10 am Dobbs Weir Carpark, Dobbs Weir EN11 0AZ. Mostly on the flat but one set of high stairs to cross the railway. Mixture of grassy paths (probably muddy) and metalled paths. 5 miles, about 2 hours 15 minutes, but we walk at a leisurely pace. Toilets in the Riverside Palace café (start and end).

SHORTER WALKS - Bernie Cove

Monthly 3rd Tuesday of the month.

Next Walk: Tuesday 21st April, meet 10.30 am at Car Park of Chesunt 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.

PUB LUNCHESS (1) Jean Hart & Annette Thrasher Monthly on the 2nd Friday at 12 noon.

PUB LUNCHESS (2) Marjorie Boulton

Monthly on 2nd Wednesday at 12 noon

PUB LUNCHESS (3) Les & Wendy Hickford

Monthly on 1st Wednesday at 12 noon.

PUB LUNCHESS (4) Roger Barratt & Sue Barratt Clarke

We meet on the 4th Tuesday of each month.

Next lunch: Tuesday 24th March at Innamorati Garden, Ware, Herts.

QUIZ GROUP - Lin Coe

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

Next Meeting: Friday 27th March 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 ring 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. Please contact the 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 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 Mary Phillips via the website, to discuss this group.

WOODTURNING - Dave Gostellow

Fortnightly on Tuesdays. Please contact the 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 check the Hertford u3a website for details.

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 u3a 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 & GROUPS

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

YOUR SUPPORT FOR THE ROYAL NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR BLIND PEOPLE BY DONATING YOUR OLD AND FOREIGN CURRENCY IS OUTSTANDING! I THANK YOU ON THEIR BEHALF.



R N I B

See differently

Coins, as you know, are very heavy and we have just sent two packs with a total weight of 14kg! Incredible! RNIB pay the carriage costs. This is proving to be a very popular and well supported project – keep up the good work!

RECYCLING FOR THE FUTURE OF OUR PLANET !



**WE ALL SEEM TO LOVE
RECYCLING OUR TABLET
BLISTER PACKS – LAST MONTH
WE HAD 3 SACKS FULL!!! KEEP
UP THE GOOD WORK**

URGENT APPEALS FROM OUR GROUP CO-ORDINATOR

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, and 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.

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.

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

Many thanks

Liz Burdett, Group Co-ordinator

French Group

I have been informed that the French group has regrettably had to close. I would like to thank Monica for the many years that she has been running the group, and bringing pleasure and the French language to so many people. Unfortunately nobody from the group was able to continue it. We will be advertising for a new group start-up on the table in the foyer of the Spotlight.

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 a few more copies to sell.

Available at our Spotlight Meetings.

MEMBERS' CORNER – MARCH 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. We start off this month with an interesting tale from our member, Janice Mottram.

THE VALUE OF OUR u3a MEMBERSHIP CARDS **by JANICE MOTTRAM**

Several weeks ago, I attended the u3a Tai Chi class. Before the class we change our shoes downstairs as the floor in the room that we use has had a new floor recently. I enjoyed the class and returned home.

The next morning, I received a text from my son (who is named on my membership card as my emergency contact) that he had been contacted by someone who had found my purse in the foyer. In changing my shoes and turning off my mobile phone, I had unknowingly dropped it. He said that he would send me the telephone number of this kind person.

I rang the number and spoke to N---- M---- and thanked her for tracking me down. She then said that she was interested in Family History and was intrigued by my surname as she had found this surname in her family tree for people born in North London which is where my husband's family is from.

The actual forename she mentioned as part of her tree was not familiar to be but I knew that forename was frequent in this tree. I asked who the mother of the person was and learnt that it was Elizabeth J---- who I knew was in my husband's tree. To confirm this, I asked whether this lady was born in Cawsand, Cornwall which she was. Through further exchanges, we ascertained that her great-grandmother was the sister of my father-in-law's grandfather, enabling both of us to add to our family trees. As one of the programme organisers for the Broxbourne u3a Family and Social History Group, this was great news for me.

This just shows the value of the membership card!

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	Vacant
Web Master	Chris Common
Welcoming/RUGS Committee	Lorraine Anderson
Speaker Secretary	Lesley Harrison
	Rita Cusumano

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