

EMAIL NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2026



Broxbourne u3a

Registered Charity no. 1090504

**Part of the International u3a Movement
Monthly Meetings, usually 3rd Thursdays,
at the Spotlight, Broxbourne
ENTRY FROM 9am, MEETINGS START AT 10.30am
IN THE AUDITORIUM**

**Please Support Our Monthly Raffle in the Foyer!
4 Prizes: Vouchers £25, £20 & £15 + Prize donated by
Tesco who support our charity**

Programme

**Thursday 17th September 2026
LEWIS COCKING MP
Paul Gillions - RNLI – Saving Lives at Sea
Thursday 15th October 2026
Andy Smith – Wartime & Romance**

Greeters Rota

Supplied by RUGs Group

LEWIS COCKING MP will be joining us at our September meeting in the Spotlight. He will be in the Dinant Room from 9.30am to 10.30am when members are welcome to speak to him. At 10.30am he will move to the auditorium and make a short presentation to our members for approx 10 minutes.

Our speaker, Paul Gillions of the RNLI will then take the stage.

The RNLI will have a sales table in the foyer, manned by RNLI volunteers from Hitchin and if you wish to make a donation to the RNLI Charity you will be able to do so.

SPEAKER PROGRAMME FOR MONTHLY MEETINGS

Sept 17 th	Paul Gillions, RNLI – Saving Lives at Sea
Oct 15 th	Andy Smith - Wartime & Romance
Nov 19 th	Tony Tutton – Musical Memories
Dec 17 th	Christmas at Home – Entertainment by our Members
Jan 21 st	Andy Strange – Women at War
Feb 18 th	Alette Addison - Medical Detection Dogs
Mar 19 th	Tony Harris as “Churchill”
Apr 15 th	Don Mobley – TBA

WE NEED A NEW SPEAKER SECRETARY

The committee are looking for a member to volunteer for the role of Speaker Secretary. All speakers are booked in advance, and it is interesting to look at the available speakers in our area and choose which hopefully will be enjoyed by our members.

Please speak to any member of the committee if you feel you may be able to help.

CHAIR'S CHAT SEPTEMBER 2026



Here we are already in September. A warm welcome to our latest volunteer – David Rees – who has taken on the role of web manager. He has a wealth of knowledge in the IT world and has already improved our website – you will notice a big difference when you visit. He is also offering help with other technical issues which will be gratefully received and will help with our management system.

We do need more volunteers to come forward, in whatever shape or form, and offering as much or as little time as they can. We currently have no secretary (committee position) nor speaker secretary or newsletter editor (both not committee positions but can be). There must be help within our membership of 500+ so do please come forward. We shall provide as much help and support as is needed.

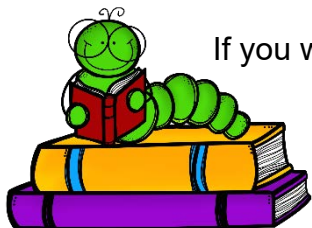
COMMITTEE NOTICES

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



The first row in the tiered seating at the Spotlight is reserved for members with limited mobility. Please support and help if you can.

PRE-LOVED BOOKS



If you want to pass on 'read' books, visit us at our tables at each monthly meeting. All funds raised will be used to support our u3a.

Apologies, we can no longer accept hard back books due to their size and weight.

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JIGSAW SWAP - Julie Mountain



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

SPECIAL OFFER FOR BROXBOURNE u3a MEMBERS



FRANK SINATRA – BIG BAND BASH Featuring Robert Hardman as Frank with the Phoenix Jazz Orchestra.

Saturday 26th September, 2.30 pm Matinee performance.
Cost per ticket £23.50 to Bu3a members, discount of £3 per ticket. Quote code "Frank3" when booking your ticket.
thespotlightvenue.com – info@thespotlightvenue.com – 01992 441946.

OUR CHARITY COLLECTIONS



**WE ALL SEEM TO LOVE RECYCLING OUR TABLET
BLISTER PACKS – KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK!
THIS IS OUR CONTRIBUTION TO NET ZERO
BRING THEM TO THE SPOTLIGHT MEETING**

R N I B

See differently

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

We shall soon be able to send our fourth box of old coins and foreign currency to support the Royal National Institute for the Blind.

Who knew we had so much hidden in our drawers and cupboards? Our contributions have been outstanding.

A thank you to you all from the RNIB.

**IF YOU HAVE A FAVOURITE CHARITY, LOCAL OR NATIONAL,
PLEASE LET ANY MEMBER OF THE COMMITTEE KNOW AND
WE SHALL TRY TO ARRANGE FOR OUR MEMBERS TO OFFER
THEIR SUPPORT IN WHATEVER WAY THEY CAN.**



CALLING ALL CRAFTIES !!



Is anyone interested in having a Craft Sale at our November meeting to raise funds for a local charity of our choice?

Knitting, sewing, cards, paintings, anything you have created would be welcome. Christmas would be our focus.

I have had just one member contact me regarding this, which is disappointing. Please speak to me if you support the idea and we can make plans.

Also: Any unwanted craft materials you have would be most welcome, just bring them along to a meeting.

Barbara Cordina / Chair

STAY SAFE WHEN YOU ARE WITH US

A REMINDER TO ALL OUR MEMBERS THAT YOU ARE PERSONALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR YOUR OWN SAFETY WHEN ATTENDING BROXBOURNE u3a EVENTS AND GROUPS. ONLY YOU CAN KNOW IF YOU ARE FIT ENOUGH TO TAKE PART.

ALSO, PLEASE MAKE SURE THAT YOUR GROUP LEADER HAS YOUR EMERGENCY CONTACT DETAILS IN CASE OF PROBLEMS BY ALWAYS HAVING YOUR MEMBERSHIP CARD WITH YOU, WITH EMERGENCY CONTACT DETAILS ON THE REVERSE SIDE.

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

Find us on Facebook at “Broxbourne u3a Group”

NOTE FOR ALL GROUP LEADERS



Do you want your group to be “Group of the Month” in our newsletter? Do you want to promote your group? Do you want to recruit new members?

Just send a photograph of your group “at work”, with a short text, and it will be included.

At the end of the year we shall produce a booklet featuring all of our groups, with Groups of the Month taking pride of place. This will be circulated to all members to encourage new members to join your group.

Your new committee are fully supportive of our groups and appreciate the importance of offering these opportunities to our members.

So far the committee have received little interest in this from group leaders which is disappointing. It will be removed if nothing is received by the next newsletter. This has been done in an effort to support our groups and encourage members to join them.

DO YOU HAVE AN IDEA FOR A NEW GROUP?

If so, just have a word with anyone from the committee and we shall look into it. New groups are always welcome, and we offer any support needed.

GROUP LEADERS MEETING

THURSDAY 15th OCTOBER 2026 12pm to 2pm
FOLLOWING THE MAIN SPOTLIGHT MEETING
VENUE TO BE ADVISED

Please confirm your attendance so that we know numbers. We will be issuing badges so that the new committee members will be aware of your groups so need to know in advance. An email has been sent to all group leaders, and it would help if you could please respond as soon as possible.

OUR DECEMBER SPOTLIGHT MEETING **17TH DECEMBER 2026**



As this is a “new” date for our meetings and an extra one, our committee are thinking of making it a “Christmas at Home” event by suggesting our members take part in the entertainment, rather than booking a speaker. The Singing For Fun group has expressed an interest, and we are sure that others will enjoy taking part.

GROUP OF THE MONTH SEPTEMBER
PUB LUNCH 1
LEADERS: JEAN HART & ANNETTE THRASHER



10 members celebrated the 300th pub lunch held at the King Harold's Head at Nazeing, scene of the very first lunch held March 2000. It would have been earlier but for 19 months when Covid struck, such meetings were forbidden.

Group Leader, Jean Hart and her late husband, Alan, started the Group and very quickly had over 75 members keen to join. List halved, Pub Two was set up and it has been great to see more Lunch Groups formed ever since.

Throughout the 26 years the lunches have been friendly and convivial, strong friendships forged. Those no longer with us were remembered with affection.

In the early days the venues were far and wide particularly in the summer months and over 150 different venues have been visited. Recently Jean and assistant Annette Thrasher were asked to keep it local ! Just three of the original group remain, Jean herself, Marge Ellis and Sylvia Ells. At August's meal the latter two stood and kindly thanked Jean. Marge's poem began "Jean, Jean, the luncheon Queen, Round the pubs she will be seen" and ended "Hope the legacy carries on, Pleasing all and everyone"

Annette and Jean certainly intend to carry on !

OUR INTEREST GROUPS IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER

ART GROUP - Jack Snary

Bollescroft Main Hall, fortnightly 10.30am - 1pm. Price £5 includes tea/coffee.

Next meetings:

Sept 21st – Sun, sand and sea

Oct 5th - Past times

Oct 19th – A formal garden

Nov 2nd - A penny for the Guy

Nov 16th – A domestic pet

Nov 30th – An urban scene

Dec 7th - The Christmas Tree

NOTE: DATES ONLY ONE WEEK APART

Dec 14th – Christmas lunch?

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: 17th September, 1st and 15th October.



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 24th September. If anyone wants to join us please ring me on the above number.

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 2pm to 4pm on the 1st and 3rd Fridays at Oasis Room, URC, Mill Lane, Broxbourne.

Next Dates: 18th September 2nd October 16th October.

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: October 1st. The speaker is Mike Barbakoff, whose presentation is entitled "Set Europe Ablaze: Women of the SOE in WW11".

FOLK & COUNTRY MUSIC GROUP - Andy Bradford

Meet on the 3rd Wednesday of the month, at members' homes. We listen to English and Celtic music, Americana, and other cultures. Please ring 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 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 10.30am to 12pm 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: Wed 30th Sept – Plant survivors post drought. 11 St Michaels Road, 10.30am, free parking on road.
Fri 9th Oct – NGS Open day at **Sweetbriars Flower Farm**. £5 entry, London Road, Hertford Heath, SG13 7NT. Meet at 11am.
Wed. 28th Oct – The Magic of Fire on plants.
Wed. 25th Nov - TBA



GARDENING (2) - Suzanne Fitch & Sue Gilford

Monthly on Monday after the Main Meeting at Hoddesdon Methodist Church.

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.

FUTURE DAY TRIPS

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 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.



GOOD READ BOOK GROUP - Maureen Lincoln & Monica Gilmartin

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: 1st and 3rd 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 & Maggie Buckley

Next Trip: Unfortunately, the next trip will not be to Dover castle as listed in the August Programme, due to works there. This may be re-arranged in the future.

A new trip is now planned for a different date and venue, see below:

Tuesday 29 September to BURY ST EDMUNDS & PAKENHAM

WATER MILL - The cost will be £42 if at least 25 people are on the trip, leaving Cheshunt at 8.30 and Hoddesdon 8.45, returning at 5pm. Pakenham is a working mill dating from before the Domesday survey. Run by volunteers the cost includes a guided tour of the mill and refreshments in their cafe. There will be free time in Bury itself, see photo for suggestions of things to do.

Please contact **Bob and Maggie Buckley** via the website if you are interested. They would like to have 25 names on their list to keep the cost as stated.

HISTORY - Mick Coe

Monthly 3rd Wed. Meet 2pm at Hoddesdon Methodist Church, Middlefield Road. If anyone is interested in joining the History Group, please contact Mick Coe.

HOLIDAY - Joan Underwood

STOP PRESS: December 6th – 8th 2026 visit to Oxford. 2 Extra single rooms are now available. Contact me via the website if you are interested. £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.

SUMMER HOLIDAY, 13th – 18th June 2027 – Northumberland including visits to Bamburgh Castle, Vindolanda, Alnwick Castle, and NT Cragside. £815 pp. Further details and booking at September meeting.

KNIT & NATTER - Val Sambridge

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

LONDON WALKS & EXPERIENCES - Gill King

Meet every second Saturday of the month.

Next walk will be October 17th around Clerkenwell. This is a 2-mile walk starting at Angel Station and ending at Barbican station. Meet at 9.30am at Broxbourne station to catch the 9.44am train to Tottenham Hale. Victoria line to Kings Cross and then Northern Line to Angel.

PUB LUNCHES (1) Jean Hart 01992 679668 & Annette

Thrasher 01992 467804 Monthly on the 2nd Friday at 12 noon.

PUB LUNCHES (2) Marjorie Boulton

marjboulton40@gmail.com

Monthly on 2nd Wednesday at 12 noon

PUB LUNCHES (3) Les & Wendy Hickford

Monthly on 1st Wednesday at 12 noon.



PUB LUNCHES (4) - Sue Barratt Clarke

We meet on the 4th Tuesday of each month at 12.30pm visiting local pubs. Next lunch 22nd September, venue to be decided.

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, Chachacha 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, 10am – 11.00am 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, 10.30am – 12.30pm. Fortnightly on Friday. Cost is £4.60 or £4.30 with a Friends of Spotlight card. Equipment provided. Members are asked to arrive by 10.15am to organise teams. Car parking is free to players, but they must give their car registration number to reception on entry.

SINGING FOR FUN – Rita Cusumano & Carole Walker

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



SPANISH (1) - Dulcie Fordham & Jenny Jones

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

SPANISH (2) - Amanda Davies

The meetings will be held every Thursday from 2pm – 3.30pm in the parlour of the Methodist Church, Hoddesdon. Initially the cost will be £6 per person.

SUNDAY LUNCHESES - Lorraine Anderson

Held on the 2nd Sunday of each month. Please email or ring for details.

T'AI CHI - Ann Glover

Fortnightly on Tuesdays, 2.30pm – 3.30pm. Mayhem Theatre Arts Studio, Brewery Road, Hoddesdon.

WALKING GROUPS

MODERATE WALKS - Bernie Cove

Monthly 2nd Tuesday in the month. Next walk **Tuesday 13th October 2026**. Meet at 10am at GILSTON Church. Directions: take the A414 towards Harlow, continue straight on at Harlow roundabout until you come to Pye corner. Turn Left at Plume of Feathers Pub, signposted to GILSTON. Church is 1 mile up this narrow lane. This circular walk is approx 5 miles via Eastwick and stopping at the Moorhen Pub for coffee. **PARKING is LIMITED. CAR-SHARING will help.** May be muddy. Unlikely!!

MORNING WALKS - Gary & Breda

Monthly 3rd Tuesday in the month. Next walk **Tuesday 22nd September 2026**. Meet 10am at The Feathers Pub, Wadesmill, outside Ware, SG12 0TN. Parking in the pub car park if using the

pub. Coffee / lunch at the Feathers, after the walk. **Please don't park in the pub car park if not using the pub.** Alternative parking along Youghsbury Lane.

SHORT WALKS - Gary & Breda

Monthly 3rd Tuesday in the month. **Tuesday 20th October 2026.** Meet 10am at The Feathers Pub, Wadesmill, outside Ware, SG12 0TN. Coffee / lunch at the Feathers, after the walk. **Please don't park in the pub car park if not using the pub.** Alternative parking along Youghsbury Lane. This is a different walk to September's Morning walk.

WINE APPRECIATION - Mary Phillips

Group meets on third Wednesday of the month in URC 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 Dave via the website for details.

THE COMMITTEE ARE ALWAYS LOOKING TO SET UP NEW GROUPS FOR OUR MEMBERS. IF YOU HAVE ANY IDEAS OR WOULD LIKE TO SET ONE UP YOURSELF, JUST LET US KNOW.

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 – diana.weston@ntlworld.com – 07778 380072.

ITALIAN. Nunzia Cusumano, nancycusumano1@gmail.com. The Italian group meets every Tuesday 2pm-3pm in Hoddesdon. Please note _ depending on numbers additional sessions can be accommodated.

VISITORS ARE WELCOME TO OUR MEETINGS

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.

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
Webmanagerbu3a@gmail.com

Find us on Facebook at “Broxbourne u3a Group”

YOUR COMMITTEE

Chair	Barbara Cordina	broxbourneu3achair@outlook.com
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Visitors	Wendy Hickford	
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Newsletter		
Secretary		
Speakers		

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