learn, laugh, live

Broxbourne u3a

Registered Charity no. 1090504

Monthly Meetings Third 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 19th November 2026
CHARITY CRAFT SALE IN FOYER IN SUPPORT OF ISABEL HOSPICE AND MARIE CURIE

TONY TUTTON - Musical Memories Singalong

Thursday 17th December 2026
Christmas at Home – Entertainment by our Members

NO GROUP TABLES AT THE DECEMBER MEETING

Greeters Rota

Supplied by RUGs Group

SPEAKER PROGRAMME FOR MONTHLY MEETINGS

Jan 21st	Andy Strange – Women at War
Feb 18th	Alette Addison - Medical Detection Dogs
Mar 19th	Tony Harris as “Churchill”
Apr 15th	Don Mobley – The History & Future of Drones
May 20th	National Memorial Arboretum – Speaker

NATIONAL MEMORIAL ARBORETUM IN STAFFS

Following the talk at our May 2027 meeting we are considering arranging a trip to the Arboretum for our members, either later in May or early June. It would be for 2 days with an overnight stay.

If you are interested, please let Barbara Cordina know (broxbourneu3achair@outlook.com). So far three members have put their names forward.

Further details will be announced if there is sufficient interest from our members, no firm commitment at this stage.

If you are able and willing to help with the organisation of this, please speak to any committee member.

There has been interest from members for our suggestion of short trips to local venues, for instance half-day visits to local places of interest. Again, please speak to any committee member for more information.



CHAIR'S CHAT NOVEMBER 2026



Hoddesdon Rotary have sent their apologies for not joining us at our October Spotlight meeting with the Remembrance Poppies. Sadly, the gentleman who had planned to come along with them, was hospitalised the day before, with no opportunity to arrange a replacement. Maybe next year ……

It is with regret that I advise you that our treasurer, Eddie Cordina, has resigned. We thank him for the work he has done and wish him well.

Results of the King's Trust Award for Volunteering have been issued. It was a special honour for Broxbourne u3a to be nominated in the groups section in Hertfordshire this year. We reached the final 20 stage but are not ultimately winners. However, thanks to all our volunteers, we are able to offer encouragement, support and friendship to all our members.

We are moving through a time of change in the way we run our u3a. I believe that the committee has the support of our members for the efforts that we are putting into improving our meetings and management. There is unfortunately resistance to change in some areas of our membership, but it is important to understand that without these changes, Broxbourne u3a will not be able to continue. We have a small number of committee members and therefore must streamline the work which needs to be done to keep us financially and legally secure. Your cooperation at this

time would be much appreciated so that by our next agm in May 2027 we shall emerge stronger, viable, and with much to offer to you all.

At our Christmas meeting in December we shall be entertained by our members, followed by mince pies with tea and coffee in the café area. Our vice-chair, Jan Hack, is working on the programme which will be available shortly. Importantly, it will be an opportunity to pass on our good wishes for Christmas and the New Year to each other.

Barbara Cordina – Chair – broxbourneu3chair@outlook.com

COMMITTEE NOTICES

WE NEED A NEWSLETTER EDITOR



The committee are looking for a member to volunteer for the role of newsletter editor. A good working knowledge of Word is required, an interest in what our u3a offers to members, and working within time limits. Not a committee role and could be a shared role.

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

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

MARKETING OUR u3a IN LOCAL SHOPS

We also need help with putting flyers in our local supermarkets and cafes. Not a committee role and can be done as and when someone has time, and of course as a job share. Please speak to any committee member if you shop locally and can help.

One member has come forward – sharing the work means less for us all, so please help if you can.



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

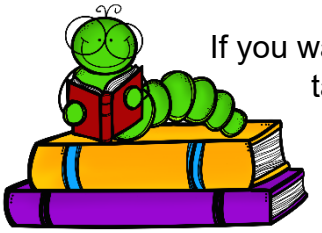
ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEE FOR 2027/2028

Interestingly, nobody at all has responded to this note which was in the October newsletter. The committee would appreciate comments from our members so that decisions can be made.

The committee have maintained the annual membership fee at £15 for several years now. We are all acutely aware of rising costs everywhere, including the cost of the venues we use, printing and other services. We are therefore considering a rise from April 2027 and would value members' thoughts and comments regarding an increased fee.

Of the £15 you each pay - £4 goes to the Third Age Trust for membership and £1 goes to Beacon – leaving us £10 for everything else. We look forward to hearing from you.

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.

RNIB

See differently

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

We shall be taking a break from our coin collecting as from our December meeting and will let you know when we re-start.

RECYCLING OUR TABLET BLISTER PACKS



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

CRAFT SALE TODAY – PLEASE SUPPORT OUR MEMBERS' EFFORTS

FUNDS RAISED WILL BE DONATED TO ISABEL HOSPICE AND MARIE CURIE

POSSIBLE NEW GROUP

A member has asked if we can set up a group "**APPRECIATION OF CLASSICAL MUSIC**". If you are at all interested in joining or leading such a group please contact our Group Coordinator, **John Allison**, contact details on the back page of the newsletter.



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 newsletter and website to broxbourneu3achair@outlook.com

Find us on Facebook at "Broxbourne u3a Group"

GROUP LEADERS MEETING
THURSDAY 15th OCTOBER 2026

Our Group Leaders Meeting was well attended. We must move forward if we are to survive with so few volunteers, and clearly there is some resistance to change. Fortunately, members generally are supportive of the committee's plans, which will enable Broxbourne u3a to continue.

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OUR DECEMBER SPOTLIGHT MEETING
17TH DECEMBER 2026

As this is a “new” date for our meetings and an extra one, our committee have decided to make it a “Christmas at Home” event **by suggesting our members take part in the entertainment, rather** than booking a speaker.

Following the entertainment, mince pies, tea and coffee will be available to all in the café area. The meeting will close at 1pm.

Please speak to our vice-chair, **JANET HACK,** about any ideas you may have. Contact details on the back cover.



OUR INTEREST GROUPS IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER

ART GROUP - Jack Snary
Bollescroft Main Hall, fortnightly 10.30am - 1pm. Price £5 includes tea/coffee.
Next meetings:
Nov 30th – An urban scene
Dec 7th - The Christmas Tree
NOTE: DATES ONLY ONE WEEK APART
Dec 14th – Christmas lunch?

COUNTRY DANCING – THIS GROUP HAS NOW CLOSED. WE ARE LOOKING FOR A NEW LEADER TO RE-START THE GROUP. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN HELPING, PLEASE SPEAK TO JOHN ALLISON, OUR GROUP COORDINATOR, WHO WILL OFFER ALL ASSISTANCE REQUIRED. CONTACT DETAILS ON BACK PAGE OF THE NEWSLETTER.

CRAFTS - Sue Wilson
Meetings will be held at my house, usually on the last Thursday of the month 2 – 4 pm. If anyone wants to join us please contact me via the website.

CREATIVE WRITING & POETRY - Janet Hack
We meet at 10.30am on the first Thursday of the month at The Methodist Church, Hoddesdon.

DISCUSSION - Ann Sims & Glenys Brown
Meetings are held 2pm to 4pm on the 1st and 3rd Fridays at Oasis Room, URC, Mill Lane, Broxbourne.
Next Dates: 20th November; 4th and 18th December; 15th January.

llMargaret 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: TBA

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 contact the group leader via the website for the date and location of the next meeting.

FRENCH BOULES (1) & (2) - Alan Cudd
Every Monday and Wednesday mornings from 10am at Rye Park, Old Highway, Hoddesdon. New members 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. 25th Nov - TBA

GARDENING (2). Suzanne Fitch & Sue Gilford
Monthly from 10am at The Hoddesdon Methodist Church, Middlefield Road, Hoddesdon EN11 9ED
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

Advanced Group: 1st and 3rd Friday mornings of the month. We meet at St Augustine's Church, Broxbourne from 10.45, charge for hall hires to be paid. If you are interested in playing with this group, please contact Cliff Hunt to discuss.

THIS GROUP WILL BE TAKING PART IN OUR DECEMBER ENTERTAINMENT – OUR THANKS TO YOU ALL.

HERITAGE - Bob & Maggie Buckley

We are sorry to say that there will be no more Heritage trips this year due to personal reasons. We hope to run the first trip next year in February and then possibly in late March or early April (maybe Dover Castle). **However, we would like to relinquish leadership of the Heritage Group and, therefore, are hoping that someone else will come forward to run this group.**

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. £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.

KNIT & NATTER - Val Sambridge
Monthly on 2nd Thursday
2pm - 4pm at Broxbourne URC, Mill Lane.

LONDON WALKS & EXPERIENCES - Gill King
Meet second Saturday of each month at Broxbourne station at 9.30am for onward travel to London. Our December walk on Saturday 12th will be to see the lights and store decorations in the West End. Meet at Broxbourne station at 9.30am to catch 9.44am into London. Depending on attendance we will either go direct to Liverpool Street or Tottenham Hale to catch tube to Bond Street, where we start.
PLEASE NOTE, THE MAXIMUM NUMBER OF WALKERS IS 25 – BOOK YOUR PLACE EARLY TO ASSIST THE LEADER.

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

PUB LUNCHES (2) Marjorie Boulton
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.

QUIZ – Lin Coe
The next quiz will be on 27th November (4th Friday in the month). There will be no quiz in December.

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 Wednesdays of the month. A friendly group that meets in members' homes, with refreshments. Please ring for details of venues and dates.

SHORT MAT BOWLS – THIS GROUP HAS NOW CLOSED AND WE ARE LOOKING TO REINSTATE IT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN HELPING WITH SETTING A NEW GROUP UP LOCALLY THEN PLEASE SPEAK TO JOHN ALLISON, OUR GROUP COORDINATOR. CONTACT DETAILS ON BACK PAGE.

SINGING FOR FUN – Rita Cusumano & Carole Walker
All abilities welcome. Every Wednesday morning 10.30am to 12.15pm. Mayhem Theatre Arts, Brewery Road, Hoddesdon.
THIS GROUP WILL BE PART OF OUR DECEMBER ENTERTAINMENT – OUR THANKS TO YOU ALL.

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 LUNCHES - 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 – Bernie Cove

SHORT WALKS Leaders: Mel & Angela
Monthly 2nd Tuesday. Next walk on Tuesday **17th November 2026** 10am start. Meet in the Burgess Hall (scout hut) car park in Goffs Lane, Cheshunt EN7 5EG. We will walk to the New River tow path then to Cheshunt Golf Club for teas/coffee and a loo break. A number of historical points of interest on the way include Ermine Street, the oldest school in Cheshunt and the remains of Cheshunt Great House. The walk is flat and covers 3 miles and a bit.

MORNING WALKS Monthly 4th Tuesday
Next walk: Tuesday 24th November 2026. (Leader: Sue Brock). Meet for 10.00 start in the Car Park along the lane opposite the Red Lion Pub at the far end of Stanstead Abbotts. Walk in the Ash Valley of about 4 miles. Might be muddy.
Stopping for coffee/tea/??? En route. One short incline!



MODERATE WALKS

XMAS WALK Meet on **Tuesday 8th December 2026** at The Fish & Eels Pub at Dobbs Weir EN11 0AY
Coffee available from 10.00am (to be confirmed) – walk commences at 10.30am - no coffee break during the walk which is a circular one from the Pub. About 3 miles. May be muddy. Flat. Anyone who will not be attending the dinner afterwards, is very welcome to join us on the walk. I also know that there are a few who will be attending the dinner but for various reasons are unable to walk. Details for the day will be sent out early in December.

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.
PLEASE NOTE THAT AS FROM JANUARY 2027 THE DAY OF THE MEETING WILL CHANGE TO THE SECOND TUESDAY OF THE MONTH, FROM 7.30pm.

WOODTURNING - Dave Gostellow 01992 479228

Fortnightly on Tuesdays. Please phone for details.

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

ITALIAN. Nunzia Cusumano, nancycusumano1@gmail.com. The Italian group meets every Tuesday 2pm-3pm in Hoddesdon. Please note that 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. Visiting is limited to 3 months, after which the visitor will be asked to join Broxbourne u3a if they wish to continue attending meetings.





YOUR COMMITTEE

Chair	Barbara Cordina	broxbourneu3achair@outlook.com
Vice Chair	Janet Hack	jan.hack2023@outlook.com
Treasurer		broxbourneu3atreasurer@outlook.com
Membership	Liz Elve	broxbourneu3amemsec@outlook.com
Groups	John Allison	johndallison42@outlook.com
Spotlight	Sandra Yates	sandra.u3a@outlook.com
Meetings	Tony Knight	tonyknightbroxu3a@mail.co.uk
Helpers		
RUGS	Lorraine Anderson	
Catering	Lesley Harrison	
Website	David Rees	webmanagerbu3a@gmail.com
Beacon	Marilyn Walker	broxu3abeacon@outlook.com
Visitors	Wendy Hickford	
Vacancies		
Newsletter		
Speaker		
Marketing		

Please provide all Information for future newsletters to broxbourneu3achair@outlook.com *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*.



Our membership magazine

u3a matters is the membership magazine of the u3a movement.

It is packed with stories about members and u3a activities, plus celebrity interviews and features on technology, recipes, travel, competitions, and a lively and popular letters section.

Published 5 times a year, in early February, April, June, September and November, there is also a screen reader–friendly version available for every issue.

The full version of u3a matters is exclusively available to u3a members as a physical print version. To receive your copy, please contact your u3a committee. Cost £4.20 a year, for all 5 issues, for postal charges.