

Dear Bexley u3a members,

I hope this letter finds you well.

The ten shortest days of the year are behind us! Hooray! Snowdrops and crocuses in the garden, suggest that Spring is on the way. Just don't look at the weather forecast!

The CIU club has made us very welcome, I think you'll agree.

General news; new membership cards for 2026 are available from Luigi and Pat. Big Fred, the speaker, has been fixed and PAT tested. We're able to use the CIU club's speaker, but Big Fred will be there when we're on our travels.

The Committee is looking to purchase a projector and bigger screen. We've just used the Church's machine before, but, as a number of speakers use one, we felt it necessary to invest in one.

The More of London group are visiting The Dicken's Museum, later this month, and The Guildhall in June. Carol and I will be filling in the gaps in between. The Horniman Museum is our May trip. It could be free, or there are attractions to pay for. Please let me know what your groups have been up to.

Lesley and John are starting a new group for Classical Music lovers. They intend to visit various venues for Concerts. Please see Lesley, in order to join in the fun.

On the first Wednesday of each month, at 10.30am, Lesley and I are to be found in The Furze Wren, imbibing coffee! Should old or new members wish to pop in for a chat, just wander in!

Maureen Wright is conversing with Welling u3a about a joint venture. She brings to our attention an exhibition at The Guildhall Art Gallery, of Underground Art, running from 27/02/2026 to 20<sup>th</sup> September, should you wish to check this out.

Mary Jupp has been leading her Decorative Arts Group for some time. Unfortunately, for personal reasons, she doesn't feel able to continue as Group Leader. Please contact her, and let me know, if you feel you can take over from her.

Looking towards our Summer Social in August, at the Robert's Hall, on Thursday.13<sup>th</sup> August, would there be any helpers out there to get together to make sandwiches , as part of an in-house team? Please let Lesley or me know. Thanks.

On 17<sup>th</sup> January, legendary former member, Edna Sutton, celebrated her one hundredth birthday. Liz delivered a card and flowers on behalf of Bexley u3a. Edna has been a very active Bexley member. Well done her!

And then we have been shocked by some sudden, very bad news. Maire Carr has provided an Obituary.

### **Margaret Collins.**

No doubt her many friends were shocked and saddened to hear that Margaret had passed away. A terrible shock to her family but for Margaret's own sake it was a sudden death and in her own home. Last Summer she had moved into her new flat and was content and had happily settled in.

Margaret was a lovely jolly lady, always cheerful and had a zest for life. The increasing infirmities of old age didn't deter her – just slowed her down a bit. Over her years as a member of u3a she had been a Group Leader and had belonged to various groups – Decorative Arts, her Art Group, Gardening and Play Reading, perhaps others. Of course, it is for Town and Around, that Margaret will best be remembered. Interesting and such varied outings and coach trips were all expertly arranged by her for us to enjoy. We often discuss where we had visited.

Margaret will leave a big void in the lives of her family and friends. R.I.P. Margaret. At the time of writing a date has not been arranged for her funeral.

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Personally, I was very sad to hear the news. We had some jolly interactions, and she knew me by name. A condolence card has been sent to Margaret's daughter, on behalf of Bexley u3a.

Margaret's daughter, Fiona Atley, has forwarded a note:

I am sorry to have to let you know that my dear mum, Margaret Collins died on 14<sup>th</sup> January. She had been a member of the u3a for many years and joined in with lots of groups and outings. Her funeral will be at Eltham Crematorium on Wednesday, 18<sup>th</sup> February at 11.45. Her friends are welcome to attend but please email me: [fionajatley@gmail.com](mailto:fionajatley@gmail.com) to let me know so we have an idea of numbers.

The wake will be at Danson Boathouse. No flowers please but donations to Momentum charity, which have helped Margaret's granddaughter.

Best Wishes to all,

From Rosey

Chair.

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**Future Meetings in the New Year will be held at The CIU club, down the side of Primark, Bexleyheath!**

**2026:-**

**February** – An Actor's Life for Me, Sue Parker Nutley

**March** – Fabulous Fifties, Delia Taylor

**April** – History of Hall Place, Kirsty Macklen

**May** – Decluttering the Attic, Eileen Mahony

**June - TBA**

**July – TBA**

**August – TBA**

**September** – John Rayment: History of Thames Sailing Barges

**October** – Peter Allen (Speaker who gave talk on TV Detectives):  
“Pantomimes.”

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Current Bexley U3A Groups

Alternative Book Group (v); Armchair Travellers (vs); Choir (vs); Creative Writing; Crochet; Family History Advanced; Advanced French Conversation, Beginners Italian (vs) Jazz appreciation (vs); Knit and Natter (vs) ; Life Story and Reminiscence (vs); More of London; Play Reading(vs); Poetry Reading; Rummikub; Scrabble; Spanish Beginners (v) Spanish Intermediate{vs}; Steam

Trains (vs); Strollers(vs) Table Top Games (vs); Tea Cake and Chat (vs). Fun Choir (vs), Classical Concert Visits (new) (vs); Furze Wren Coffee Morning, (open to all)

If you are interested in any of the above groups, please go to the website for contact details, or speak to a Committee member at meetings.

We, as a committee, will ensure that your enquiry reaches the correct Group Leader and you receive a response.

If you are a Group Leader please keep Lesley and Luigi informed of any alterations to times of meetings, change of leadership details, vacancies etc and photographic evidence of your group enjoying their activities.

Many thanks.

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**Executive Committee 2025 - 2026**

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|--------------------|------------------|--|--|
| Chair              | Rosey Case       |  |  |
| Vice Chair         | <b>VACANCY</b>   |  |  |
| Secretary          | Liz Salter       |  |  |
| Treasurer          | Luigi Lipparelli |  |  |
| Membership         | Pat Moss         |  |  |
| Speakers Secretary | Lesley Draper    |  |  |

Please let Liz, our Secretary, know of personal events e.g. significant birthdays, anniversaries, condolences, etc. so that she can send cards