

Dear Bexley u3a members,

Have you noticed the longer daylight hours? Looking at my raspberry patch, fresh shoots are coming through and before long, I'll have to cut the grass. Spring is coming!

As Chair, I've attended a couple of meetings, lately. Bexley Council organises regular meetings, attended by representatives of various groups that have older residents amongst their organisations. These include organisations for the deaf, and Care homes, amongst others. A Social Services official attended. This is the Elder Voices Partnership Meeting. The main speaker had responsibility for mental health in the area. It's sad to hear that there are increased reports of poor mental health in the older population. We must bear in mind what our friends are going through and be kind to each other.

The other meeting was the annual u3a London Region Chair's get together, in Islington. The focus was on what we could do to increase membership. Some groups are offering membership deals, bring a friend days and organising publicity events. We mustn't give a lower age limit and suggest new people are no longer in full time employment. Retired is a word no longer approved of! A number of clubs are producing their own publicity information. U3a branded information is considered pretty boring! New members can bring us new opportunities to 'live, laugh, learn!' All u3a clubs encourage equality, diversity and inclusion.

Please remember we hold an informal coffee morning from 10.30am in the Furze Wren pub, in the centre of Bexleyheath the first Wednesday of the month. This month it is on the 4<sup>th</sup>.

The More of London group had an enjoyable visit to The Charles Dickens' House in London, last week. The weather was lovely, just as well, as we had a little walk from Chancery Lane tube station! More trips are at a planning stage.

Please remember that membership subscriptions are now due, before the end of March, payable by BACS, cash or cheque. £20. Tell your friends about u3a. There's a National do in York, this year. London Region hold events. There are u3a zoom interest meetings. Check their websites. Obviously we have a website

ourselves and a Facebook page, cleverly referenced Bexley u3a. (cunning, I thought!) Please help us to grow and especially develop, Bexley u3a

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:-**

**March** – Fabulous Fifties, Delia Taylor

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

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

**June - TBA**

**July – TBA**

**August – Summer Social: volunteers for a catering committee most welcome!**

**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, French Intermediate; 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