

Dear Bexley u3a members,

We continue to be frazzled to a crisp and our poor gardens are reminiscent of 1976, dried up and cracking! We are promised a two-day downpour sometime, probably as some of us go on holiday!

A new group is starting in September, run by Sandra Manners. It's a Sunday Lunch club. Venues within the Borough at the moment, for easy travel.

I attend Elder Voices, held at the Civic Centre. Every couple of months, charities and council department heads meet and discuss developments for older people. Some older people miss out on entitlements because they can't access a computer, or don't know how to use one. They are trying to combine information into a directory. I've collected some leaflets and a directory, full of events and advice. They will be available on Thursday, at the social. Lesley and a band of volunteers are organising the catering, in a bid to emulate the halcyon days of Doreen and Vi. They deserve our gratitude and must take a bow on Thursday 13th! Asa is singing to us. That dance floor looks inviting! For those of you who don't have tickets yet, some will be available to members on the door.

Seats on the coach to Whitstable, on 15th September, are still available, at £17 each. A late summer jaunt! Some Welling u3a members are joining us on this trip and on the Winchester Christmas market trip, which is now full. Tickets are also available to family members. Tickets can also be purchased via BACs, sort code 09-01-55 Acc no 26238607. Please use the reference Whitstable followed by your membership number. You can also purchase Summer Social tickets this way quoting the reference social followed by your membership number.

I've seen some London Region u3a stats, showing a list of groups with declining membership. We're thankfully not on the list but Welling and Sidcup groups are! It goes to show we must take every opportunity to advertise ourselves across various mediums and, of course, word of mouth. Please think about your friends with an interest that they would like to share with us! We have to help ourselves.

There is a wonderful opportunity happening again this year, to showcase what is good about Bexley u3a. On October 3rd, from 10.30am to 2pm, Bexley Council is

putting on Ageing Well, again. Our stand is confirmed. I need **YOU** to come along to mingle and chat about Bexley u3a, with potential new members.

The Advanced French conversation group celebrated Bastille day ,July 14th with afternoon tea at Shooters Hill Golf club.



Please send the committee any recent pictures of your groups having fun. Please may we show them off on the day? Live, Laugh, Learn! We're going to lure people towards us with the opportunity to win Bexley branded merchandise. Mugs and pens are on order. Plus sweets! We're incorrigible!

In November, we will have our AGM in the comfort of the air-conditioned CIU club. Sadly, our treasurer Luigi Lipparelli will be standing down due to personal reasons. We need to appoint a new treasurer as without one Bexley u3a could fold. If you are interested in this position, please contact either myself or Luigi or any other committee member.

This will be the last time most of us will be up for re-election in our current posts. Without new, responsible, vibrant committee members, it's still possible that the threat of being disbanded will still exist. Please help the club to get stronger! Once business is out of the way, we hope to be able to provide a speaker. No long speeches allowed!

More of London is having a break in August and the coffee morning at the newly refurbished Furze Wren for new and existing members returns in September!

I have been approached by Jan Sigsworth to try a promote a concept called Helping Hands. It's a concept whereby Bexley u3a members give recommendations for tradesmen, handy neighbour, someone willing to help etc. Jan and Margo will be at every meeting to take your recommendations etc and to give you those recommendations by other members



Take care of yourselves!

Best Wishes from

Rosey,

Chair. Bexley u3a.

Meetings are held at The CIU club, down the side of Primark, Bexleyheath.

2026:-

August 13th – Summer Social: CIU club, home catering! Singer – Asa.

September 10th – John Rayment: History of Thames Sailing Barges

**October 8th – Peter Allen (Speaker who gave talk on TV Detectives):
“Pantomimes.”**

November 12th – AGM, followed by a presentation TBC

December 10th - Christmas Social CIU Club. Earlier start, 13.15pm

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; (vs) 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, third Wednesday in the month, (open to all) New Acoustic Group (vs) New Arts and Crafts Group. From September, Sunday lunch club. From October Absolute Spanish.

If you are interested in any of the above groups, please go to the website for contact details, or speak to Carol, our Group Coordinator.

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. Any groups that are travelling, please notify the Chair, Treasurer or Secretary, in order for the u3a insurance to be valid.

Many thanks.

Executive Committee 2025 - 2026

Chair	Rosey Case		
Vice Chair	VACANCY		
Secretary	Liz Salter		
Speakers' Secretary	Lesley Draper		
Treasurer	Luigi Lipparelli		
Membership	Pat Moss		
Group Co-Ordinator	Carol Durndell		

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