

BEXLEYu3a

<https://bexley.u3asite.uk>

Facebook: Bexley u3a

September 2026

Dear Bexley u3a members,

In last month's newsletter, I outlined how tenuous the existence of local u3a clubs are and how Sidcup and Welling are losing members. Everything depends on volunteers being prepared to do the work to make enjoyable events for others to come to. This year, our Speakers' Secretary Lesley, not our Social Secretary, because we don't have one, formed a group of ladies, who made sandwiches, cakes and nibbles for our annual Summer Social, well publicised, on 13th August.

It was a lovely spread. Asa was a very entertaining singer. His set was just right. If you've seen the photos on our Facebook page, you will see us up and dancing. It was a good, enjoyable do. So why did only forty-one out of two hundred plus members, turn up? The CIU club is air conditioned. It was a disappointing turnout.

Since we last met, Luigi has announced that as of November, he is resigning as Treasurer and from his IT and website roles, for personal reasons. Bexley u3a cannot continue after the November AGM if these roles aren't filled. It's such a shame, as we have new groups to offer and better organisation. Luigi has offered to help train a new treasurer. He will also act as a IT support person, to the committee.

Please send in lots of nominations to Liz Salter. I thought we would be on this precipice next year, but hey! Stuff happens! We might have to have an Emergency General Meeting after the AGM to vote on dissolving Bexley u3a. New members! Please make your mark on the Committee. You can come along to our committee meetings to see how we rock and roll. Ask one of us.

Not everyone has been away on holiday, but hopefully everyone has taken the opportunity to have exciting days out this Summer.

Interesting things are coming up. On 10th September, at the CIU club, we have John Rayment, speaking about Thames Sailing Barges. On 15th September, we are off to Whitstable for the day, by coach. On 3rd October, we have a stand at Ageing Well, an exhibition of useful societies and services for older people, held at the Civic Centre.

It's an opportunity to bring in new members. I need volunteers to spread the word about Bexley u3a. Welling are having a stand this year. Our planned visit to The

Charterhouse on 20th October has been disrupted by circumstances beyond their control. Hopefully another day can be negotiated. I've emailed those concerned.

There's a coach tour to Winchester Cathedral on 26th November. I've heard it's one of the best. I have a few seats left on a Routemaster bus tour of the London Christmas Lights, on 9th December. £24. It starts from the Embankment, at 16.30pm, returning there, ninety minutes later. We have a Christmas Social, starting at 13.15pm, on 10th December. The singer booked is The Singing Cabbie. Please support us.

Best Wishes from

Rosey.

Chair. Bexley u3a.

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

2026:-

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.**

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

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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; (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.

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 Carol 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.

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#### **Executive Committee 2025 - 2026**

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|---------------------|------------------|--|--|
| Chair               | Rosey Case       |  |  |
| Vice Chair          | <b>VACANCY</b>   |  |  |
| 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