

LEA VALLEY U3A

Members welcome from Broxbourne, Hoddesdon & Lea Valley

Area

Meetings held at Spotlight, Hoddesdon.

Registered Charity No. 1033311 Chair: Glynis Evan

Web Site: www.lvu3a.org.uk / Email: Chairmanlvu3a@outlook.com Find us on our Facebook Page Lea Valley U3A @Lea Valley U3A



NEWSLETTER MAY 2025 Meeting: Monday 12th May – Cafe and Bar open from 1pm, Meeting formally starts in the Auditorium at 2pm Neil Hanson "Myths of Time"

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Chair's Corner

Hello again!

We seem to have been very busy over the last few weeks. We have had some very successful LVu3a publicity stalls at the Love Hoddesdon Spring Fayre and Heritage event and also at the St Georges Day event in Grundy Park. Many thanks to all our members who volunteered to help us run these stalls and we will also be hosting a stall at the Open Air Cinema in Hoddesdon Town Centre on 17th May, so if you could spare an hour (or two!) to help, please give your names to our Secretary, Lesley Robinson.

April also saw another successful and highly enjoyable LVu3a quiz – many thanks once again to John Mills for organising this and also to Marion, Pam, Liz and Joan for organising the refreshments

We have been reviewing some of our policies including our Equality, Diversity and Inclusion policy, our Data Protection and Privacy policies, our Health and Safety policy and our Safeguarding policy. This last one requires us to have a Safeguarding Officer, and I am delighted to say that Sylvia Edington has been appointed to this role.



This month's Spotlight meeting features **Neil Hanson** who will be returning to tell us all about the **Myths of Time** on **Monday 12th May**. His talk will explore the myths and legends that have grown up around many events in

British history from the Great Fire of London to Princess Diana's death.

Our next Interest Afternoon is on **Friday 23rd May** and is a first for us – **Lyndsey Barrell** will be giving us **An Introduction to British Sign Language (BSL)** As usual this will be at the Barclay Hall, Hoddesdon starting with drinks and cakes

and the chance to have a chat with fellow members from 2pm and Lyndsey will start her talk at 2.30pm.Tickets are available on the door priced $\pounds 3$ – do come along.

I hope to see as many of **D D** you as possible at our Spotlight on 12th May and/or at our Interest Afternoon on 23rd May. **Glynis Evans, Chair**



DEADLINE FOR JUNE NEWSLETTER SUNDAY 1st JUNE 2025



2025

Main meetings:

- May 12th **Neil Hanson "The Myths of Time"**. Neil will be examining the myths and legends that have grown up around some of the most important events in British history, like the Spanish Armada, the Great Fire of London and the First World War, that give an often wholly inaccurate picture of what really went on.
- Jun 9th **David Williams "Mysteries of the Estuary"**.
- Jul 14th Lestyn Edwards "My Tutu Went AWOL-Entertaining HM Forces in war-torn Iraq"
- Aug 11th Lou & Mike Casy " Pineapples & Palm Trees" A summer entertainment
- Sep 8t^h Jon Mein " Room at the Inn "Travelling through Georgian Hertfordshire.

Interest Afternoons:

- May 23rd Lindsey Barrell "Introduction to British Sign Language"
- Jun 27th Laura French "Crossness"
- Jul 25t^h Nadene Stevenson " The power of Magnets for Health and Wellbeing"
- Oct 20th No interest afternoon as we have the quiz









Our Lea Valley u3a Facebook page has been updated and is now up and running. We are hoping to reach the wider public in our area who may be viewing our page. Anyone can view the page

but only the Administrator can add posts. However, if you are a Facebook user you can 'like' the posts and comment on them! We would encourage positive comments to our posts to enhance our profile on Facebook. Posts will be added.

Interest Afternoons

Many thanks to everyone who came along to our March Interest Afternoon on Memory Boxes & Time Capsules. Our speaker was Jo Livingston, herself a u3a member in Bexley Heath, who has been delivering talks to u3as and other organisations for over 15 years. Ann Young, one of **our** members present at the talk said how much she had enjoyed it and how well Jo had delivered her presentation and how varied it was within the context of the title.

Everyone enjoyed a slice of cake with their tea or coffee and went away with ideas on how to save precious memories for future generations within their families.

To enable us to have better attendance at our future Interest Afternoons, please save the dates so you don't miss out:

April 28th – Our Spring Quiz – tickets must be pre-booked – hope you've got yours! A prompt 1.30 p.m. start at the Parish Centre, St Augustine's Church, Churchfields, Broxbourne, EN10 7AU. Admission £2.00 (£2.50 for non LVu3a members) inc. tea & cake. Parking is available in the road.

May 23rd – 'Introduction to British Sign Language' with Lindsey Barrell – if you've seen Rose Ayling-Ellis' tv programme then you will know this is a must!

June 27th – 'Crossness' with Laura French – we can probably all relate to this!

July 25th - 'The Power of Magnets for Health & Wellbeing' with Nadene Stevenson – an holistic approach to our health & wellbeing is so important.

Aug 28th - Afternoon Tea/Open Garden – who remembers last year's wonderful event? Tickets will be available soon.

Sept 26th – 'Wine Appreciation & Tasting' with Peter Robinson the President of the National Association of Wine & Beer Makers - a tasting & introduction to understanding commercial wines – hic!

Apart from the Quiz & Garden Party the Interest Afternoons are held at the Barclay Hall, behind St Paul's Church in Hoddesdon from 2.00 p.m. for refreshments with the speaker at 2.30 p.m.

Cost is £3 inc. refreshments

Parking is limited but Morrisons car park is opposite although beware of the 3hr time restriction.







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Gibberd Gallery & Harlow Sculpture Trail.

This Friday 16 May. 10.20 at Harlow Civic Centre Refreshments on arrival. External Sculpture tour. 1pm Watercolour tour within the Gibberd Gallery. 2pm Q&A. £15. Places limited, phone Dennis



Garden Group Savour the Diversity of Savill Garden

Members of the Garden Group were divided into two groups on arrival to enjoy wonderful guided tours of the stunning Savill Garden in Windsor Great Park. Commissioned by King George V and created by Eric Savill in 1932, this 35-acre oasis of gardens, woodlands and seasonal plants were delightful with its beautiful



vibrant colours of the rhododendrons, magnolias and spring bulbs. Many of us expressed how impressed we were with the variety of such magnificent displays. Different areas of the gardens were explored whilst listening to a highly informative talk from the knowledgeable guides. The Spring Wood, the Bog Garden and the Dry Garden were amongst the areas enjoyed. A cute family of Egyptian ducks strolling along the path was an added bonus as was the café and shop!!

Summer Term 2025

Ten London Country Houses

Thursday 1st May To Thursday 10th July Half term: Thursday, 29th May Tutor: Adam Smith Fee: £55 for 10 weeks

Many of the large country houses built outside London, with impressive architecture and extensive grounds, have found themselves increasingly surrounded by urban development, but have proved attractive to paying visitors, who have helped them to survive.

WHERE: The Parish Centre, St. Augustine's Church, Churchfields, Broxbourne. (nr Broxbourne Station) Car Park in Mill Lane Broxbourne B.ALL Adult Leisure Learning





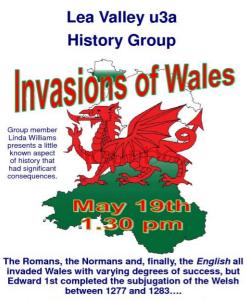
WHEN: Thursday mornings, for three terms a year.

TIME: 10.30 am—12.30 pm, with coffee beforehand

Please make cheques payable to: B. ALL or pay by Bank Transfer: Barclays sort code 20-25-19 A/C No 03871452

For further details, call 01992 306598 or e-mail linda.williamsecc@gmail.com





Mayhem Theatre Arts, Hoddesdon Guests welcome!

Lea Valley u3a Listening To Music Group



June 2nd, 1.30 pm

Group members' choice of music for survival and comfort on a desert island!

> Mayhem Theatre Arts, Hoddesdon

> > Guests welcome.





Lea Valley Registered Charity No.1033311





A Victorian Cathedral of Ironwork.

A former sewage pumping station , constructed between 1859 and 1865 and designed by Sir Joseph Bazalgette, it is located in the London Borough of Bexley and is now a Grade 1 listed building and museum.



2.00 pm Barclay Hall Tickets £3, including Tea and Cake 01992 916485

New Arts' Facility in Hoddesdon?!

Preliminary discussions are currently taking place about the possibility of an extensive new premises in central Hoddesdon, which would come under the BArts' 'umbrella' and could offer

A large Art / Craft Workshop, Permanent Art Gallery for Local Artists, Rehearsal / Workshop Facilities, Studio Theatre / Performance Area Recording Studio, Office Space, Kitchen.

U3a groups could benefit from a range of *new* spaces to hire for activities. Local artists, in particular, would, at last, have a proper gallery in which to display their work.

The new venture would come within an established charity framework and independent management by trustees, ideally with local sponsorship and some initial funding from established sources. Suggestions, private donations, volunteer time for skilled, practical help would be particularly welcome.

Please respond with views etc to leerayner_arts@hotmail.com 01992 467420





GARDEN PARTY Friday 30th May 2025 From 2.00 to 5.00pm At Wickham Hall CM23 1JG Home of David & Suzy Harvey DLL



Stalls, Musical Entertainment Pay at Ent: £5.00 Incl Tea & Cake

Enquiries: renee.friend@isabelhospice.org.uk









Thanks Jill, so much more happening this year we have greater variety of stall, still the music and of course our delicious cakes with their tea. Your details are safe with us. We will never share them with anyone else. You can read our privacy notice on our website for further information: www.isabelhospice.org.uk/privacy



September 29th

£38 incl coach and entry

Deposit £20, Balance by August at latest

The guided tour will reveal how the residents of Ramsgate sheltered and lived below the town during World War II.

There will be time to enjoy Ramsgate after the tour.

Lea Valley u3a u3a

Heritage Group

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u3a



4-Day Spring Break

Friday, May 15th- Monday, May 18th 2026

- Full day in Warwick
- Full day in Coventry, incl guided tour of Coventry Cathedral
- Half day in Stratford-on-Avon
- **Optional visit to NT Charlecote Park** Approx. £15 for non-NT members
- Extra time in Stratford for those not visiting Charlecote

Deposit £50 by June / July Meeting. Minimum of 25 people required





Lea Valley

BUSY FINGERS CRAFT GROUP Our craft group with a difference!

Thank you for your interest in our table at the April meeting where we displayed some Easter craft. We raised ± 28 which

will be donated to Isabel Hospital, so thank you for your support.

We collect unwanted craft materials from members and use them to make items for charity or public display. We did receive some unwanted mitems at the meeting which was great - very many thanks. When we have built up our stock of craft we shall have another table at the Spotlight.



Meantime, wFine all work at home on whatever craft we choose, if you would like to join us please contact

New Members' Meeting



Following our Spotlight meeting on 14th April, we held an informal gathering in the Dinant Room for new members & Group Leaders to glean feedback and ideas going forward for the LVu3a. There was a good response to our questionnaire. Here are the pertinent points made:

The activities; outings; friendliness; variety; learning something new & monthly speakers – were all mentioned as aspects of LVu3a enjoyed by members. Great Feedback

More evening/weekend groups; more interest groups were suggested as areas for improvement. This included various forms of dancing; art group; antiques; investment & pension etc; industries of Hertfordshire etc. As a committee we have taken this on board & are working on adding to our Interest Group list. We are exploring the possibilities mentioned as well as others. HOWEVER, GROUP LEADERS ARE REQUIRED. Please come forward if you would like to start a group.

Help was offered to join the Meet & Greet team/help with refreshments. **Please** contact Pam Benton and/or Marion Barrett if you are interested. Their contact details are on the back of our Newsletters.

There were several suggestions for promoting LVu3a. Most of these we have undertaken as well as having stands at local Borough events. We also have a Facebook page & Instagram account for advertising our events which are also posted to Spotted in Broxbourne & Hoddesdon as well as on the 'In Your Area' & the Herts Community websites.

There were a couple of suggestions for future speakers which a member is exploring & will report back in due course.

Many thanks to all who attended.





Fruits

Y	R	R	Ε	B	P	S	A	R	T	Ε	A	L	M
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В	Ι	Ρ	Ε	N	В	W	G	Α	Α	R	R	W	Ε
R	R	Α	Ε	A	0	A	A	Y	N	Ρ	R	A	N
R	Ε	K	W	С	0	T	0	S	A	Α	L	Ρ	G
В	R	Ι	Ι	Α	Y	Ε	В	T	N	Ρ	Ε	Ρ	R
W	0	W	Y	A	R	R	L	R	A	A	Μ	L	A
W	R	Ι	N	R	R	Μ	U	A	В	Y	0	Ε	Ρ
R	A	K	0	0	В	Ε	Ε	W	L	Α	N	В	Ε
Ρ	N	L	L	С	Ι	L	В	В	K	Ε	Ε	R	G
Α	G	В	С	Ι	Ι	0	Ε	Ε	В	R	Ε	Y	A
R	Ε	Ε	Ε	В	Μ	N	R	R	R	S	Ε	0	Ι
Α	0	Ε	N	K	0	Ε	R	R	Ε	G	N	С	Ε
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BLACKBERRY LIME WATERMELON BLUEBERRY PAPAYA KIWI ORANGE RASPBERRY APPLE BANANA STRAWBERRY GRAPE LEMON

The Arts and Literature

ART APPRECIATION Dennis Bruce

taxi4dennis@hotmail.co.uk Gibberd Gallery & Harlow Sculpture tour led by local guide. Self drive. 10.20 to 14.30 £15 includes refreshment on arrival and tours of Gibberd Watercolour Gallery & Sculpture Trail. Date. Friday 16th May

BROXBOURNE ARTS FORUM - BArts Lee Rayner email

See Events leaflet / Pick up a full programme from the Spotlight.

BOOKS FOR SALE Joan Underwood –

CHINESE BRUSH PAINTING Group 1 Sybil Hammond

CREATIVE WRITING Lesley Robinson

Now Amalgamated with Broxbourne

PLAYREADING Kay Braithwaite

READING FOR PLEASURE (1) Carol & Keith Reast

READING FOR PLEASURE (2)

¹Love Marriage' by Monica Ali had mixed comments. The story revolved around the impending marriage of two hospital doctors in London, the man English, the woman Indian. This revealed various relationship and cultural issues within the families. Next book 'The Offing' by Benjamin Myers. We meet in members houses at 10am, normally on the 3rd Friday. We have space for 1 new member. For more details contact Rosemary as above.

ARCHAEOLOGY & ANCIENT HISTORY Mary & Laurence Cole

Our group meets on

Zoom on the 4th Wednesday afternoon of the month. We welcome anyone interested in learning more about ancient civilisations such as Egyptian, Minoan, Mycenaean, Greek, Roman or British as revealed in the many documentaries we can show. If you would like to join us, please ask us to send the Zoom link.

EXPLORING LONDON (2) Chris Vaughan

EXPLORING LONDON (5) Ann Young

EXPLORING LONDON (6) Contact Val Champney on

Beverly Clark on

Friday May 16th visit to Wimpole

Estate Post code CG8 0BW. Meet at 11.00am self drive. Contact Val Champney on 07948 688801. **Thursday 19th June** Visit to Copped Hall cost £15.00 Meet at 11.00am self drive Contact Mike Cooper on

Friday 4th July visit to the London canal museum which will include a demonstration of ice cream making, tea or coffee followed by a walk along the canal and lunch (not included in price). Cost is dependent on the number of people going but £10.00 deposit at the May meeting would be appreciated. Further details to follow. Contact Marion Barrett on .

. **Saturday 16th August.** Coach trip to Sonning to the theatre and meal. Cost £117.95 Contact Teresa Pigney on For further Information contact Val Champney on

FAMILY HISTORY Mary and Laurence Cole - On first

Monday of the month at 10-12pm at Hoddesdon Methodist Church.

GARDEN GROUP Dennis Bruce

Monday 26th May Bennington Lordship Garden 2pm to 5pm Self Drive, sharing possible. Herbaceous borders will be at their peak £8 on the day. Homemade cakes, teas are available in the village hall. find me with the Group Tables. These visits are open to all Lea Valley members.

GENERAL HISTORY David Pracy –

We meet at Mayhem Theatre Arts, Brewery Road, Hoddesdon, 1.30 to 3.30 on the 3rd Monday of the month. Our next meeting is on **19 May**, when Linda Williams will talk about Invasions of Wales and what came afterwards. Buses stop right outside. Unfortunately parking at Sainsbury's is now only two hours, but there is other parking nearby. **New members welcome.**

HERITAGE GROUP Joan Underwood

18th July Smallhythe Place and Great Dixter House

and Gardens. £44 NT members, £55.50 non N T members.13 th August Godinton House and Garden. £44.50 pp. Sept 29th Ramsgate WW11 tunnels. Coach, driver's tip, entrance and guide £38pp. Fri. 15th to 18th May 2026 4days/3nights, DBB ensuite facilities, including tour of Coventry Cathedral, £499pp. Deposit £50 at July meeting. Further details from Joan. Open to all u3a members.

LOCAL HISTORY Glynis Evans This is a

new group and if you are interested in joining, please contact Glynis for further details. Next meeting: **2pm Thursday 15th May.** Reviewing the work of the previous LVu3a Practical Local History Group under the leadership of Jack Edwards (including his books Cheshunt in Hertfordshire and Road Names)

MOTO (For members on their own) Eileen Gibbs

Eileen Gibbs has come forward to be the

group leader to launch this group. Her initial idea is this could be a way of pairing up members on their own to go on holiday (especially a cruise) but have no one to go with and do not want to go alone. It could also be used for theatre and cinema visits. If you think this might be for you, please contact Eileen.

Hobbies, Indoor Games etc

ASTRONOMY Laurence Cole on We

meet at The Haywards in Broxbourne at 7.30pm on the first Tuesday of the month. New members welcome.

BRIDGE Richard Lord

BRIDGE 2 New Group for beginners.mobile or

email Please phone or email for details,

FINGERS Barbara Cordina

A craft group with a difference. We collect unwanted craft materials from members and use them to make items for charity or local displays. All crafts welcome.We work from home and meet occasionally to plan our projects.

EXPLORING PHOTOGRAPHY Stan Benton

If you are interested in joining the group or finding out more then please contact Stan Benton.

JIGSAW SWAP SHOP – Richard & Kathleen Lord –

Swaps 50p or buy for £1. Proceeds to Lea Valley

u3a. Please secure puzzle boxes with an elastic band or tape.

KNIT AND NATTER Gill Fowke Fridays 1pm

to 3 pm. Dobbs Weir village hall £3 per person to cover hire and refreshments. Knit, crochet, embroider etc (Or just come to make tea and coffee and natter!) At the moment it can be every Friday but we will get feedback from everyone and go from there.

MAHJONG Sybil Hammond -

At Nazeing Congregational Church at 10am. Please get in touch with me if you are interested in joining.

NEEDLE FELTING GROUP Gill Winter.

SCRABBLE Martin Benson

Rejuvenated Scrabble group Now meeting 1pm to 3pm on first and third Wednesday each month, at The Haywards. Queries to Martin Benson.

Keep Fit and Outdoor Activities

CROQUET Joint leaders: Richard Lord

David Pracey . We

play at the Broxbourne Sports Club, Mill Lane, Broxbourne, EN10 7BA on Wednesday mornings from 9.30 am until 12.30 pm. Plenty of free parking. We have now resumed after our winter break and will continue until the end of October. **New members welcome.** If you haven't played before, we will show you the basics and treat you very gently!

FRENCH BOULES - Jacques Bremont

Every Thursday at 10:00am at Rye Park.

PILATES Joan Underwood -

Wednesdays 1.30pm. Methodist Church Hall, Middlefield

Road, Hoddesdon. £5 per session. We have room for two additional members. As this is not a beginners group some experience of Pilates would be advisable.

STROLLERS Diane Wells email or on mobile

Strollers Group stopped due to lack of interest.

TABLE TENNIS Details Dennis Bruce

Fun way to keep fit in 2025. All welcome, our group are of mixed abilities. Mondays, Laura Trott Centre, 2pm to 4pm. Phone for more details.

WALKING NETBALL LVu3a contact Gwen Fish Now

amalgamated with Cheshunt U3A. LVU3A members can join the group without having to become Cheshunt members.

WALKS- INTERMEDIATE Jill Dockley Details:

The walks will be circular to make transport arrangements easier, and will be in the region of 5 to 6 miles long. They take place on the first Friday of the month, meet at 9:45 for 10:00 start.

WALKS - SHORT Jill Dockley Details:

These walks are generally on the 3rd Sunday of the month and if you would like to be included on the mailing list please contact Jill Dockley

Eating and Drinking

EAT YOUR WAY AROUND WORLD Pam/Stan Benton -

Please see Pam

or Stan at the next main meeting to reserve your place.Open to all members of the Lea Valley u3a but places are limited.

PUB LUNCHES (2) Vivien J. Smith

There is no Pub Lunch on Mon. 26th May due to the Spring Bank Holiday. At the moment this group is full but if you want to join, please contact Glynis Evans on 01992 916485 and we hopefully re- open a 2nd Pub Lunch.

Languages

FRENCH Beginners & Intermediate Mary Cole-

Both groups meet every Wednesday morning in term-time, with Improvers from 10.30 am - 12 noon, and Intermediates overlapping from 11 am - 12.30pm. If you are interested, call me or come and see me at my table at the monthly meeting.

Music

LISTENING TO MUSIC Lee Rayner email

Meets 1.30 pm first Monday in month at Mayhem Theatre Arts, Hoddesdon. Best of all kinds of Group LeaderLee Rayner.

MUSIC APPRECIATION 50s – 80s Mary Cole

Our group meets on Zoom, usually on the second

Wednesday afternoon of the month from 2.30 – 5pm. If you are interested in a relaxed afternoon listening to music on a set theme, featuring popular music artists from the 1950s to the late 1980s, call me. We might be able to fit in one or two new members.

OTHER GROUPS

The following Groups are not part of LVU3A, but welcome our members. MOVEMENT and MOBILITY Tuesdays 11.30am. First Wormley Scout HQ.

Cozens Lane West, Broxbourne. £5 per session. Contact: Lucy Kennedy, mobile

HANDBELL RINGING - LVU3A members are welcome to join this local group based in Broxbourne. Ring Sybil Hammond & Mary Cole –

NAZEING HANDBELL RINGERS

We get together to make music with handbells in Nazeing, on a Tuesday afternoon, would you like to join us? Playing music is good for your mental and physical wellbeing. It is a fun and sociable activity, and we are a fun and friendly group! Experience is not necessary, and although the ability to read music, at whatever level, would be an advantage, again, it is not necessary. If you would like to know more, or come along for a taster session, please contact **Pam Benton**

FRIENDS OF LOWEWOOD MUSEUM We are a support group for the museum to help with donations from our funds for the purchase of relevant artefacts for display and conservation. We also put on a series of talks on the third Tuesday of the month from February to May and September to November every year at the United Reformed Church Hall, Mill Lane, Broxbourne EN10 7BQ. The evening commences with tea/coffee at 7.30pm. Talks commence at 8pm. Visitors welcome £5.00. For further details please contact **Diana Weston -**

LVu3a Committee and Helpers for 2024/2025

General Enquiries		
Glynis Evans		
Committee		
Chair		
Glynis Evans		
Treasurer		
Tim Robinson		
Secretary		
Lesley Robinson		
Membership/Gift		
Aid		
Barbara Cordina		
Group Co-ordinator	VACA	ANCY
	[
Webmaster		
John Mills		
Newsletter Editor		
Alan Cole		
Publicity		
Lee Raynor		
Committee Member		
Marion Barrett		
Committee Member		
Sonia Scott Miller		
Safeguarding Officer		
Sylvia Edington		
HELPERS		
Speaker Secretary		
Mary Cole		
Zoom Adviser		
Laurence Cole		
Powerpoint		
Secretary		
Tony Crowther		
Meet & Greet		
Pam Benton		