



NEWS ROUND UP

Baddow and
Galleywood u3a

Welcome to issue
10 September 2026

General Meetings are held on the third Wednesday of the month at 2:00pm
at Great Baddow Millennium Community Centre, Baddow Road, Chelmsford, CM2 9RL

A note from the editor

Welcome to the tenth issue of our News Round Up. As always a BIG thank you to those who have sent in articles and photos!! We need more! If you have anything to contribute please send them to me for the next issue in November *Jean*

Round-Up of what our groups have been up to.....

Art Appreciation Leader - Debbie

2nd Friday of the month at 11:15 am Venue: Meadgate Church Orchard Centre

Why paint pictures when you can take a nice photograph? The three artists we looked at today demonstrated in various ways the differences between straight representations (sorry photographers) and artworks. They also made us think about whether we, as onlookers, should have to work out what is going on in the artists' minds or whether they should, through their art, encourage us to examine our own values, perceptions and prejudices.

Renoir's paintings are universally admired and by studying a few of them more closely we learnt about the techniques he used to create his unique style. His apprenticeship in a porcelain factory influenced his work as did his association with other like-minded artists of the same era. A limited palate with use of blue and vermillion, strong sense of line (but not outline), blurry backgrounds against strong figures which tell a story in the foreground, along with the amazing brushwork and imagination bring to life scenes of the everyday from the artistic Paris that he loved. And, as with all the impressionists, his depiction of light, the way it falls on and reflects off different textured surfaces give the pictures life and depth.

In the light of the recent death of David Hockney, we had a presentation in tribute to him. As well as looking at some of his pictures we learnt about the man and his philosophy. A Yorkshireman, who returned to his roots after a spell in America, he came across as a generous and pragmatic character. From the age of 8 he would draw every day and produced thousands of artworks. He did not believe in the so-called 'rules' of art, forcing the Royal Academy to change its rules so he could be awarded a Diploma, deciding that a square was a square, even in the rules of perspective dictated that it should be a trapezium and embracing new ideas and technologies as they became available. Like Picasso, whom he greatly admired, his style changed over the years, and like Picasso,

each painting, whatever medium or style he is employing, is unmistakably his. He believed that art should be for all, and you do not have to work too hard to understand what his paintings are telling you. Which generally is that life is wonderful and water is fascinating to paint.



Leonora Carrington was our third artist. A rebellious child of a very strict father, she was expelled from several schools (including New Hall here in Chelmsford) before being allowed to study art in Europe. Here she met Max Ernst, a well-known surrealist and they spent time together. She rarely explained the imagery in her surreal paintings although there are one or two constant themes. A white horse represented her 'alter ego' where she could be free and wild. In a portrait of Max Ernst (where he is dressed in furs with a fish tail) there are two white horses – one frozen and one small one confined in a jar in Max's hand. The affair was not a happy one at that stage and these two representations of herself as the horse shows how she felt within the relationship. In other pictures however, we struggled to work out what was going on.

Transport group 🚂 Leader - Alan

4th Monday of the month at 2:30pm. Venue: Park View room

The Transport Group had its most successful trip to date on Monday 6th July. The plan was to go by rail on the Gainsborough Line to Sudbury, and then by electric boat to Henny where we had lunch at the Swan. However the best part of the day for most of us was the beauty of the River Stour, just a short distance upstream from Flatford Mill.

This got me thinking once again about the scope of the Transport Group. Yes to cars, boats, planes, trains and even prams, but what about a river? And then it dawned: rivers can be as much a part of a transport system as roads, rail, stations, bridges and pavements. I am not sure whether air itself should qualify as the medium for flight, but air traffic control definitely qualifies.

It was becoming clear over the period before this trip that it would be hot, and in the end the date fell during the third heatwave of summer 2026 which, fortunately, was not quite as hot as the second heatwave. However we brought water and sun protection, and nobody looked excessively red when we arrived back in Chelmsford although my first priority was an ice cream before my walk home.

The River Stour runs along the Essex/Suffolk border so we weaved between the counties on our river trip, especially on the return leg when there were weeds caught on the propeller and the driver kept putting the engine into reverse to try and dislodge the weeds. Incidentally a lesson for me: Stour rhymes with floor, not flour!

The boat was run by friendly and knowledgeable volunteers from the River Stour Trust. They pointed out pill boxes and a lot of willow trees, not just along the banks (cf. the River Chelmer) but willow farms with lines of trees vanishing into the distance. We saw a lot of wildlife including swans (far more than in Chelmsford) and surprisingly large dragon flies.

The River Stour was originally used to transport cargoes from Sudbury to Manningtree where they were transferred to larger boats. Apparently most of the bricks in the Royal Albert Hall followed this route. However the river has not been maintained properly and now there are just a few short stretches that remain navigable.

Future trips are likely to include the Post Office Railway, Tower Bridge and the London Transport Museum. Oh and a return to the Stour before too long.

Alan



One of the boats run by the River Stour Trust at the landing stage at Henny.

Please contact [Alan](#) if you are interested in joining this group.

Photos courtesy of group member David C



Transport Group members travelling on the beautiful River Stour.



Inside the lock at Sudbury, waiting for it to start filling.

MEMBERS STORIES - The u3a Paint or Draw online monthly challenge

She's done it again! 🎨

Another u3a Paint and Draw entry in July by Julie this time on the theme of 'Illumination'. Up to 15 photos of submitted artwork are chosen each month on a given theme and can be viewed on the u3a website here <https://www.u3a.org.uk/what-we-do/learning/learning-activities/paint-or-draw>



'LV15 Trinity light vessel' by Julie, Baddow and Galleywood u3a

This light ship provided illumination for shipping navigation in the Bristol Channel and Morecambe Bay from 1954 to 1986. It was then converted to a residential activity centre.

Now moored on the ancient Tollesbury Wick salt marshes in Essex where it is enjoyed and admired.

Artwork in acrylic paint, pen and chalk pastels.

What have YOU enjoyed about u3a? Are there any new skills you've discovered?

London Walks group 🚶‍♀️ **Leader - Jean**

2nd Weds of the month (April to Sept only)

Various London locations

July walk - 'The Street of Ink' (Fleet Street EC4)

Fleet Street was once just a track joining the City of Westminster to the City of London, taking its name from the ancient River Fleet which trickled beneath it. Then, the river was effectively a sewer emptying all kinds of filth and effluent into the Thames beneath what is now Blackfriars Bridge.

The first printing press was set up in 1500 by Wynkyn de Worde and the street became home to Britain's newspapers for centuries afterwards until the industry moved out to Docklands, Wapping and other parts of London in the 1980s and 90s.

Some of the buildings, heritage plaques and old signage remain, and it was these we saw on our walk as well as the many pubs frequented by the 'hacks' and 'inkies' (journalists and printers/typesetters, respectively) who famously had large thirsts and allegedly did much 'business' in them.



The Old Bell was built on the site of de Wordes first printing press, and found fame as the pub where a 1950s Sunday Express journalist left his notebook containing details about a planned top secret code-breaking site (later to become GCHQ) to which MI5 were alerted. Nearby is the Punch Tavern, once called the 'Crown and Sugar Loaf' but renamed as it was basically the back-room extension used by half-cut Punch Magazine writers. The Olde Cheshire Cheese pub had a resident celebrity 'foul-mouthed' parrot who could also mimic the popping of champagne corks and made over 200 international headlines when it died at the age of forty.

Further down Fleet Street, Ye Olde Cock Tavern is famed as the narrowest inn in the City and the watering-hole of Dickens, Dr Johnson and Pepys who spent most of their time in pubs. Opposite the Royal Courts of Justice stood the Wig and Pen Club, where the lawyers would go to meet journalists and sell juicy stories.



Although there's much redevelopment going on, many newspaper buildings remain including the sculpted, glass fronted art deco Daily Express and the Egyptian-theme-decorated Daily Telegraph building. Over the road, is the Reuters and Press Association HQ. Reuters have always led the way with first news stories, even today.

Next to St Dunstan-in-the-West church is DC Thompson, the exterior exhibiting reminders of publications past and present. Although their most famous publication, which is so well-known and loved amongst those of a certain age, '*The Beano*' is sadly missing.

It was near here that a certain Mr Sweeney Todd ran an unusual barbers shop...supposedly.





Across the street is the Fleet Street Heritage Sundial, showing five mastheads of editions no longer published.

Round the corner, Magpie Alley is richly decorated with historic tiles telling the story of the newspaper trade where you can literally 'read all about it!' (see collage photo)

No visit to Fleet Street is complete without seeing St Brides, the Journalists church. Its' tiered spire is said to have inspired the modern wedding cake. Inside, the Journalists and Hostage Altar displays photo memories of journalists who have died in conflicts whilst bringing us the news. Constantly burning alter candles kept hopes alive in the 1980s for journalists John McCarthy and Terry Anderson when they were being held hostage in Beirut.

Although no newspapers are based there these days, you will still hear the UK press referred to as 'Fleet Street', but in reality the last media outlet, Reuters, moved out in 2005.

If you're wondering why there is a statue of a cat (bottom right in the photo collage) - it's Dr Johnson's celebrated feline companion Hodge, to whom he often fed oysters! Lucky cat.....

Jean (Guide) with a big thank you to Marjorie for the photo collage

Strollers 🎨 Leader - Jo

3rd Thursday of the month at 11am. Various venues



July Strollers at Heybridge Basin.

Very hot so only a short stroll along the river bank followed by lunch at The Jolly Sailor

Jo

Local History group 🏛️ **Leader - Jean**

4th Wednesday of the month at 2pm. Venue: Park View room

July's visit to the new Ingatestone Museum at Ingatestone station.



The museum is inside the Station Gatekeepers Cottage (one of the last surviving in England) and was officially opened last October by Lord Petre.

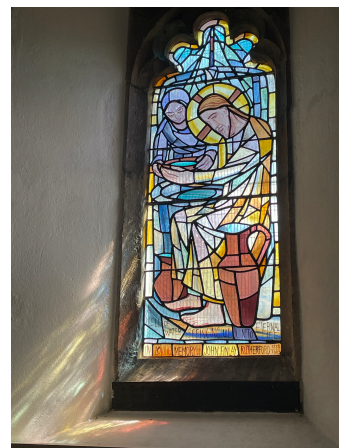
There are displays showing the development of Ingatestone and Fryerning from the 'original stones' onwards and of the importance of the stagecoach and railway to the area. Also displayed are evacuee memories and photos of the villages during the Second World War.

If you don't know about the 'original stones', two can be found at the junction of High Street and Fryerning Lane, and the third outside St Edmund and St Mary's church.

August visit to St Mary with St Leonard's Church, Church Green, Broomfield

This visit followed on from a talk in May by Catherine Pearson on the local wartime artist Rosemary Rutherford. Her father was vicar at the church in 1929 and Rosemary created many of her paintings and stained glass whilst living at the vicarage.

During the war the church suffered bomb damage, and Rosemary spent time learning how to work with stained glass to design some new replacement windows. Four of the windows are her work, and can be seen in the church. They are quite unusual.

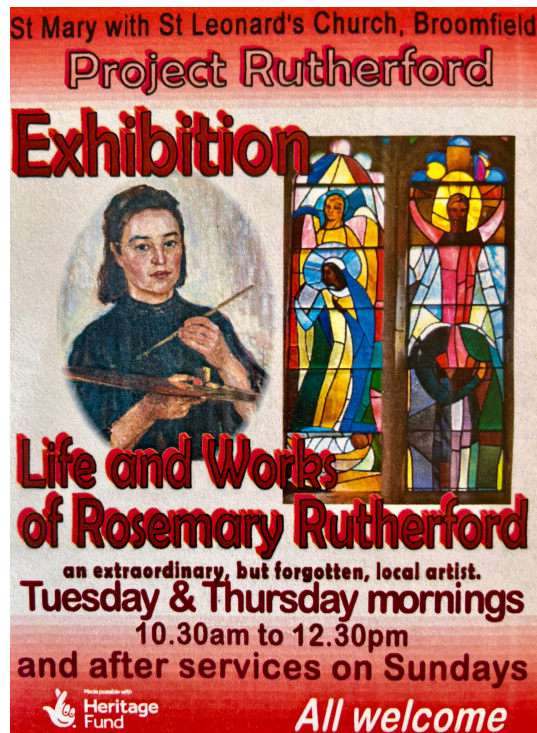


She created a total of 40 windows, which can be seen in churches throughout East Anglia and further afield from Yorkshire to Sussex. She was a VAD (Voluntary Aid Detachment) during the war and sketched or painted what she observed in hospitals and with evacuees at home. On leave from her nursing war service in 1941, she painted the fresco which can be seen in the church's round bell tower.

There's also an exhibition of Rosemary's artwork in the church, there's lots to see and it's worth visiting. Details on poster below.



'Christ Stilling the Storm' fresco



Jean

Artificial Intelligence



Some u3as have been using AI to generate posters to encourage new members! I know there is fierce debate about the use of AI but this made me wonder.....

What do you think?

The power of the u3a membership card! (and our website)

Recently, one of our members had a very lucky reunion with their wallet which they had lost. It was found by a member of another u3a and their identity was discovered by finding their Baddow & Galleywood u3a membership card. They were able to alert our membership secretary via our website to report they had found it, and after a few emails the wallet was safely returned.

Dangers of QR Codes

Quick Response ("QR") codes are everywhere now. See an advert in the paper and just use your phone on the QR code, and it saves all the bother of typing in all the website details. Well, QR codes can do a whole lot more than the simple bar codes you see on your grocery items. A QR code can do many of the things we do with our fingertip on our phones, and that can include changing your phone's settings without you being aware.

The dangers are specific to QR codes situated in a public place like a Car Parking Tariff Notice, or stuck on the corner of a restaurant table so you can immediately order and pay without waiting for anyone to come to your table. Scammers are now sticking identical looking QR codes over the top of the genuine QR code. These scam codes can direct your phone to a fraudulent website or even change your connection from being on 5G mobile (encrypted) data to a nearby Wi-Fi hot-spot set up on a nearby scammer's laptop. In that way the scammer 'eavesdrops' your transaction so you will get your parking time/meal order but they will also be able to see your full bank card details. These scams are now increasing in number and sophistication. So, take care when using QR codes. Check if they have been stuck on over another QR code.

From Cyber Crime by Barry Linton South Woodham Ferrers u3a

Coming up at the General Meeting

Weds 16 Sept - **Essex Therapy Dogs** - How the dogs can help people

Weds 21 October - **My Life in Magic** - talk by John Richard

Weds 18 November - **'Make Do and Mend'** by Amanda Sutherland

Newsletter contributions - If you have any items please send them before mid-October for inclusion in the next issue.

Please note: in the interests of security, all personal details of individual members (surname, address, email or phone number) have been removed