



NEWSLETTER

No. 111 - December 2025

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Chairman's Notes

Special General Meeting and 2025 Annual General Meeting

On 28-Oct a Special General Meeting of our u3a was held to consider changes to our Constitution. These changes had been circulated previously to all members. I was pleased to see that we had 79 members present. The revision to the Constitution was approved unanimously.

Following the Special General Meeting we held the 2025 Annual General Meeting during which our 'normal' matters were dealt with :

My Chair's Report and Ian's Treasurer's Report were each tabled and approved.

Several elections were held :

Peter Gardner was re-elected as our External Examiner,

Each of the four Officers of our u3a was re-elected/elected – myself as Chair, Pam Hay as Vice-Chair, and Ian Hutchings as Treasurer were re-elected together with Tina McCain being elected as Secretary,

Six Committee members were re-elected/elected – Paul Banner, Neil Hay, Judith Layzell, Dave Minett, and Peter Wickwar were re-elected and John Wright was elected as a new member of the Committee.

Certain matters raised by members were discussed.

The expansion of the number of group meetings/sessions for 2025-2026 was greeted favourably.

A specific matter that Jennifer had raised regarding Supplemental Fees being charged for the first time this year in respect of the Bridge group.

I explained that since Bridge is a group that effectively meets weekly (as opposed to fortnightly or monthly), then our normal procedure for charging Supplemental Fees should apply.

In previous years, there had nominally been two Bridge groups each meeting fortnightly (at the same time, at the same place and with essentially the same membership) but with the two being one week out-of-phase. As a result, each of these 'fortnightly' groups had had their room hire costs met from our central u3a funds.

The Committee had determined that these two 'fortnightly' groups was a misrepresentation of the underlying situation and that there was, in reality, only one Bridge group.

Committee Membership

Mary Culverhouse and Stephanie King were Committee members last year and, after several years of great input and effort, they each decided not to continue in the role with effect from the 2025 AGM. I would like to take this opportunity to thank them both for their insight and assistance.

In addition, whilst he resigned from the Committee with effect from the 2024 AGM, Roger Elliott continued to carry out invaluable work until 31-Jul of this year.

Notwithstanding the fact that John Wright has now joined the Committee, it is effectively PLUS 1 but MINUS 3.

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Chairman's Notes (continued)

I therefore wish to (yet again) appeal for other members to come forward to help us. If there are any amongst you who might consider joining the Committee, or assisting in any other way, please contact either our Vice-Chair, Pam Hay, at vicechair@u3afarnborough.org.uk or myself at chair@u3afarnborough.org.uk or any other Committee member to have a chat about it. Honestly, we don't bite!

UPDATE on Groups for 2025–2026

We already had planned one new Group for 2025–2026, namely Walking Football and, it would seem that it is going well. I would like to re-iterate to members that this is a **mixed group** in many senses. Obviously, it is of mixed ability (although reports seem to indicate that most players are improving) but it is also mixed in that it is open to both women and men. So, please ladies don't be shy!!

We have also now commenced an offshoot from the many sessions of Pickleball at Decathlon. In general, this is for our more 'serious Pickleball players and is held fortnightly at Camberley Leisure Centre.

Early in this Term I was made aware that, despite there already being 5 Pilates Groups, there were waiting lists to join any Pilates group. I am pleased to advise that we have now been able to establish another Pilates Group, not very imaginatively called Pilates 6. This group commenced on 11–Nov. It has fewer members than our other Pilates groups since it is specifically targeted for beginners, and so the Tutor felt that she needed to be able to monitor members more closely. Unfortunately for those of you who did not hear about it earlier and would like to have participated, I need to tell you that the class is now full.

We also had had concerns about the Tai Chi Group since the reduced level of interest in that group since January 2025 had meant that it had to be suspended for the 2024–2025 Summer Term. We found a way to keep it going for Term 1 of 2025–2026 year and I am now pleased to say that the number of members interested in it has grown significantly and, all being well, it will henceforth continue to thrive.

Overall, I am pleased to report that that's three new groups for this 2025–2026 year plus one that we had had grave concerns about rising phoenix-like from the ashes.

Finally, as we are coming up to the festive season, I would like to wish everyone a happy time over the end-of-term break and encourage all of you to try something new in 2026. There must be a class which you always intended to sign up to but which you never quite got round to 'jumping' into.

u3a – Learn, Laugh, Live!

Jerry Carlsson
6th December 2025
Chairman

Monthly Meetings 2026

Meetings are held in the Winchester Lecture Theatre, Farnborough College of Technology starting at 3:00pm.

30 Jan 2026 *Details to be announced*

27 Feb 2026 *Details to be announced*

27 Mar 2026 *Details to be announced*

An email will be sent out a few days before, otherwise check the website for further details;

<https://farnborough.u3asite.uk/>

Peter Wickwar
m.meetings@u3afarnborough.org.uk

Note from the Editor



All members are welcome to submit articles on planned future events, what groups have been doing, or items of general interest. Subject to available space some articles may be held over to a later edition.

Submissions should not normally be more than 500 words in length, and may be subject to editing for space reasons, photos welcome to support articles.

Dave Minett
editor@u3afarnborough.org.uk

Beacon Top Tips..... for groups.



Beacon can be used to manage groups without needing to go through a middle person such as the Membership Secretary or Beacon Administrator.

For **Group Members:**

- 1) Log on to the **Beacon Members' Portal** by clicking on the link in the menu bar of our website (farnborough.u3asite.uk)
- 2) Click on the [Farnborough u3a Groups](#) option.
- 3) To join a group, find the relevant group and click the link to join. The group contact will be advised of your application.
- 4) If the group is full, Beacon will tell you that you will be added to a waiting list.
- 5) If you have any queries, you can get in touch with the group contact via the contact details on Beacon or via the contact form on the website.

For **Group Leaders:**

- 1) Log on to the Beacon Admin site via the link in the menu bar of our website; (farnborough.u3asite.uk)
- 2) Manage your group membership (adding or removing members, making someone a leader) by clicking on the **Members** heading in your group.
- 3) To add someone, scroll to the bottom of the **Members** screen. There are two options for adding a member – by **Name** or by **Membership Number**. Using the **Name** option will bring up a list of all current members, then you can click Add as required. (This means there is no need to check with the Membership Secretary whether someone has paid.)
- 4) To remove someone from the group or make them a leader, there is an option in the right-hand column of the **Members** screen.

More tips from Beacon next time!

Judith Layzell
membership@u3afarnborough.org.uk

Social History Spring Term

We share our memories and knowledge on the effect of change on our own lives and those who went before us.

Meets: Fortnightly on a Monday from 14:00 to 15:30

Venue: NCMC Hall

- | | |
|---------------|--|
| 12 Jan | London's Railway Termini Part 1
<i>with Dick Elsey</i> |
| 26 Jan | History in Song
<i>with Andy Johnston plus members of the Ash Vale Village Singers</i> |
| 9 Feb | Heirlooms, Past and Future
<i>with member participation led by Anne Ross</i> |
| 23 Feb | 1926 and all that
<i>with the Social History team</i> |
| 9 Mar | How Steam Power Changed the World
<i>with guest speaker Rev. Mark Rudall</i> |
| 23 Mar | A Factory in a Garden – a very sweet talk
<i>with Margaret Rose</i> |

Dick Elsey
Social History Leader



Coffee Mornings



Coffee mornings are held on the 3rd Wednesday of the month during term time.

Coffee Mornings are not held during half-term weeks.

10:00 –12:00 North Camp Methodist Church Foyer

Jan 21 & Mar 18.

Come along for free tea or coffee, cakes or biscuits. All members and guests welcome, and committee members are present for any questions.

Hazel Barker

Art Appreciation



We provide a fortnightly session of talks given by group members, covering a variety of artistic periods. Occasionally we have films, or short talks. This is our plan for next term's Monday morning meetings, currently in North Camp Methodist Church.

- 12 Jan** **Picasso** at the Tate Modern
- 26 Jan** **Norman Cornish**, the Durham ex-pit painter
- 9 Feb** **Kandinsky** – evolving abstraction
- 23 Feb** **Velazquez** – The Spanish Golden Age
- 9 Mar** **Dora Carrington**
- 23 Mar** Part 1: A short film
Part 2: A short talk on **George Telfer Bear**

Colin Philpott

u3a Quiz

**Saturday, 28 March 2026 7pm
at St Mark's Hall**



For those thinking of taking part in our pre-Easter Quiz, please be sure to put this date in your diaries.

While non-members (e.g. members' spouses, or potential members) are welcome, spaces are limited, so teams (of 6) should, for the most part, be made up from our u3a members. Details will be issued in the New Year. If anyone has any immediate queries, please contact;

Paul Banner
events@u3afarnborough.org.uk

Pickleball



It's a game that has really taken off recently. You could be forgiven for thinking that it's a modern invention. But surprisingly, it was developed in the USA as long ago as 1965, as a combination of badminton, tennis and table tennis.

Our u3a offers 5 weekly and 2 fortnightly Pickleball sessions and we have a healthy number of members who regularly play: 58 and counting! We run one session weekly at Camberley Leisure Centre (on a full sized court) and the rest at Farnborough Decathlon on its first floor (on an 80% court size).

Being a fun game and essentially played indoors accounts for its general popularity. In our u3a, much of its success must be due to Decathlon, which very generously allows us to play on their premises free of charge. They are even considering extending the playing area to make the court full sized (possibly at a nominal charge). But having a full-sized court in their store would be brilliant for our players. For as long as Decathlon allow, our members will continue to play on their site and enjoying this healthy pastime.

If you've never visited this store, it is worth checking out their full range of sports gear and equipment. They don't just support Pickleball!

U3a pickleball players can receive a 10% discount on equipment.



Paul Banner
events@u3afarnborough.org.uk

Writers and Entertainers Group



We performed our great sketch evening "60s and Beyond" on 25th October at Farnborough Gate Bowls Club. It was a good value evening for only £5!!!

All the material was written and performed by members of the group. We all had great fun rehearsing and- we believe - it went really well on the night. The audience appeared to enjoy it too! We are planning more events during 2026, so please come and join us and dip your toes into the wonderful world of entertainment.

Tina McCain

secretary@u3afarnborough.org.uk

Not just Elvis night

This event in November was sold out and the feedback from those present was very favourable, with a majority of those present dancing.

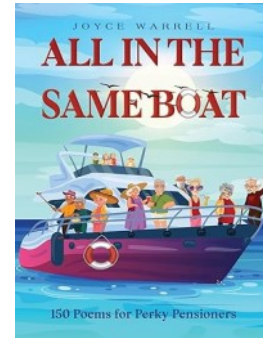


Winter Warmer

The Winter Warmer on 6th December was well attended by about 100 members, with the mulled wine being popular.



All in the Same Boat 150 Poems for Perky Pensioners



I've had the most amazing news! My book, All in the Same Boat -150 Poems for Perky Pensioners, was published on 7th November!

I have had the most amazing adventure over the last few years (with support and encouragement from many u3A members!)

Briefly: When I was 78 I didn't want to be old and grumpy so I wrote a light hearted rhyme about getting old and sent it to a friend, It snowballed, I kept writing, I began to share my rhymes with various groups to raise money for Phyllis Tuckwell.

Feedback was so positive and many happy times were spent with people saying that they all felt the same!

I became quite well known in the area.

I kept writing and sharing and now have this amazing result!

My book is available from high street bookshops and online retailers, it is for all of us who are getting older!

My reflections on life over the last few years (I'm now 84) .

I've found it's never too late!

Joyce Warrell

Member discounts

Reminder:

All u3a members are entitled to a 10% student discount at **Ryman's** . Members of any of our Walking Groups are entitled to a 10% discount at **Cotswold Outdoor**.

Also the **Red Lion Pub** in Odiham is offering 10% discount for food and drinks on weekdays.

To receive the discounts just show your current membership card , either on your phone or a printed copy.

Committee Contacts

Chairman	Jerry Carlsson	chairman@u3afarnborough.org.uk
Vice Chairman	Pam Hay	vicechair@u3afarnborough.org.uk
Treasurer	Ian Hutchings	treasurer@u3afarnborough.org.uk
Membership Secretary	Judith Layzell	membership@u3afarnborough.org.uk
Venues Coordinator	John Wright	venues@u3afarnborough.org.uk
Events Coordinator	Paul Banner	events@u3afarnborough.org.uk
Communications Coordinator	Dave Minett	editor@u3afarnborough.org.uk
Monthly Meetings	Peter Wickwar	m.meetings@u3afarnborough.org.uk



Dates for Diary

- Wed 21st Jan** **Coffee Morning** 10:00 -1200
North Camp Methodist Church
- Fri 30th Jan** **Monthly Meeting** 3pm
Farnborough Tech College
- Fri 27th Feb** **Monthly Meeting** 3pm
Farnborough Tech College
- Wed 18th Mar** **Coffee Morning** 10:00 -1200
North Camp Methodist Church
- Sat 28th Mar** **u3a Quiz** 7pm
St Marks Hall

Our Website

Our website provides the easiest way to keep members up to date with the latest Farnborough and District u3a specific news and details of events. The new website has been developed both for you as an existing member and to make it attractive and easy for potential members to find out about our u3a, and simple to join.

Visitors to the site will be able to search for groups by category, alphabetically (for those who are familiar with the names of the group), by day of the week and by venue. New and existing members can find Information and photographs on each group. Please take a look as any feedback would be appreciated.

If you have internet access please check the website regularly. If you can't do this yourself, perhaps a member of your family, or a friend could do it on your behalf.

The website is www.farnborough.u3asite.uk

Any new announcements will be prominently indicated on the home page.

Term dates for 2026

Spring	5 Jan to 27 Mar 2026
Summer	13 Apr to 24 Jul 2026
Autumn	7 Sep to 11 Dec 2026

Copy date

Items for the next issue should be submitted by

Friday 20th March 2026

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