

Regd. charity No.
1025969

farnborough.u3asite.uk

Facebook
[u3afarnborough](https://www.facebook.com/u3afarnborough)



In this issue

Articles	Page
Chairman's Notes	1
U3a event	2
Pickleball news	2
Monthly Meetings	2
Art Appreciation	3
Beacon Top Tips	3
U3a Quiz	4
Coffee Mornings	4
Notes from editor	4
Other Local events	5
Members Discounts	5
Website	5
Committee contacts	6
Dates for diary	6
Term and copy dates	6

NEWSLETTER

No. 112 - Spring 2026

Chairman's Notes

Overall, it had been a quiet few months for our u3a with little happening other than 'Business As Usual'. That is not to say that we have not been busy because the words 'Business' and 'Busy' have a common root.

Finance

I requested that Ian, our Treasurer start the budget process for 2026-2027 earlier than we have in previous years and, as a result, he was able to provide both a comprehensive update for our likely 2025-2026 financial result together with a first draft budget for 2026-2027 to the Committee at our regular Committee Meeting on 16-March. This has allowed the members of the Committee to have a much earlier sight of what might be the situation at the end of this financial year (i.e. 31-Jul-2026) and, in addition, what our budget might consist of for next year.

There will obviously be changes to both of these as we move forward mainly due to budget assumptions changing (especially with regard to membership numbers and room hire costs) and, of course, other general 'stuff'.

Nevertheless, the only insight I can currently confirm is that the increase in the overall number of operating weeks during the three terms that we made for 2025-2026 to 38 active weeks (from 33 active weeks in 2024-2025) will continue into 2026-2027.

Groups

I am pleased to be able to inform you that our numbers of Groups and their level of activity is healthy.

Examples are :

You may recall that the Tai Chi group had to be suspended in the Summer Term of 2025 due to lack of interest and was consequently in danger of ceasing. It is now thriving and even has a waiting list for members to join.

The increase of the number of Pilates classes from 5 to 6 that commenced in Nov-2025 has been successful, again with waiting lists in four of these I believe.

There has recently been a further Pickleball group set up to meet at Camberley Leisure Centre (now two groups there with the first one having been mentioned in my last Newsletter contribution)

Committee Membership

As you would expect of me by now, I cannot let a Newsletter contribution to pass without requesting, yet again, that each of you consider whether you might be able to assist in the organisation and/or running of our u3a.

Each Committee Member is a volunteer and it is through their hard work that our u3a continues to thrive. However, there is only so much that individuals can contribute so any sharing of the endeavours would be greatly appreciated. Please think whether there is anything you could do to help and then, if you suddenly feel inspired contact either our Vice-Chair, Pam Hay, at vicechair@u3afarnborough.org.uk or myself at chairman@u3afarnborough.org.uk .

Happy Easter !!

**Jerry
Chair**

31st March

U3a Event Princes Mead Farnborough



As you may have heard or read, a number of our groups will be present at our u3a Event at Princes Mead on 16 and 17 April.

If you're in the area why not come along and support those showing what we do to potential new members.

Even better – if you can spare the time – please consider volunteering to help out by manning a table for an hour or so.

If interested, please contact the Leaders of the following groups: Cathedrals; Chess; Book Group(s); Walking Football; Around the Kitchen Table; Writers and Entertainers; Men's Gym; Walking Groups; Painting and Drawing; Social History; French Groups; Bobbin Lace.

For more general information about the event, contact ;

Paul Banner
paulbanneru3a@gmail.com



Pickleball news



Our Pickleball group which plays at Decathlon continues to thrive. So successful has it been that the store management has increased the floor space available and we are now playing on a full sized court dedicated to Pickleball.

Further improvements are in progress, which will include a screened off, gated area.

When all the improvements are in place, Decathlon intends to start a booking system and will introduce a charge which will be partly funded by u3a, and partly funded by the group members. Further information will be shared when it is available.

Also Pickleball at Camberley Leisure Centre will now be weekly instead of fortnightly.



Pam Hay
vicechair@u3afarnborough.org.uk

Monthly Meetings 2026

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

24 April 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/>

We are looking for someone to take over as monthly meetings coordinator, if you are interested please contact myself or another committee member?

Dave Minett
editor@u3afarnborough.org.uk

Art Appreciation



This is our plan for the Summer Term's Monday morning meetings in our new venue, Christ Church, Cove, where we provide a fortnightly session of talks given by group members:

- 20 April** There's more to COLOUR than meets the eye
- 18 May** Félix Vallotton – modern realist painter
- 1 June** Art of Australia
- 15 June** William Hogarth – 18th century satire
- 29 June** Lucas Cranach – German Renaissance, or alternatively a film
- 13 July** Present you own art from home



Colin Philpott

Beacon Top Tips..... for personal details.

Beacon can be used to manage and amend your personal details without needing to go through a middle person such as the Membership Secretary or Beacon Administrator.

This is useful if, for example, you change your email address or phone number, or stop using a landline. You can also update your Beacon password if you wish. Please also make sure you have an **Emergency Contact**, along with their contact details, listed on your Personal Details page.

How to amend your personal details on Beacon.

For **Members including Group Leaders**:

- 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 **Update Your Personal Details** option. Edit your Personal Details as required.
- 3) Click on the **Update Personal Details** button at the bottom of the page before exiting the page. This will update your details for all the groups of which you are a member.

If you are a **Group Leader**, you need to update your contact details on the Beacon Admin site as well as amending the Members' Portal. (This information on the Details screen of your group is not automatically populated from the Members' Portal.)

So, 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) Go to your **Group** screen.
- 3) In the **Details** screen, check your contact details and amend them if necessary.
- 4) Click **Save Record** at the bottom of the Groups page before exiting that screen.
- 5) If you have already amended your details on the Members' Portal, check that your personal details have been updated in the **Members** page of your group.
- 6) If you have not updated the Members' Portal, follow the instructions above for **Members including Group Leaders**.

In the next newsletter there will be information about the membership renewal process for the year 1 August 2026 – 31 July 2027.

Judith Layzell
Membership Secretary
membership@u3afarnborough.org.uk

U3a Quiz Night



A good night was had on Saturday 28th March as 17 teams battled to win our pre-Easter u3a Quiz.

It was a high scoring contest with all teams managing to score over more than half of the available points.

After a very close contest, the eventual winners were the Freewheelers team, captained by Charlie Halliday.

The picture shows Charlie and his team John, Charlie, June, Nigel, Judith &, Dave being presented with the John Anderson trophy by quiz master, Paul Banner.



The raffle, held in memory of our former secretary, Andy Nelson, raised £85 for Sarcoma UK.

We would like to thank everyone who attended the event.

We will be holding a Summer Quiz on Saturday 27th June. Please contact Jerry for further information chairman@u3afarnborough.org.uk

Paul Banner
paulbanneru3a@gmail.com



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

Wed 15 April

Wed 20 May

Wed 17 June

Wed 15 July

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

If any member would like to help out at the coffee mornings please let us know

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.

I will be starting work on the yellow book in May, so group leaders watch out for emails .



Dave Minett
editor@u3afarnborough.org.uk

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 groups), 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.

If any Group leaders require any changes please let me know so the website can be updated.

Dave Minett
editor@u3afarnborough.org.uk

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.

Pickleball players may receive a discount on certain related products at **Decathlon**, contact your group leader for details.

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

Local events of wider interest



RUSHMOOR
BOROUGH COUNCIL



JOIN THE
GREEN
FRINGE
HUNT

Explore Nature,
Solve Clues, &
Enter to Win!

16TH-31ST
MAY

Positively connecting communities
with their surrounding green spaces
through sustainable travel and
participation in local activities

FULL LIST OF EVENTS!

To find out more
and see the full
list of events and
activities, visit:
[www.rvs.org.uk/
green-fringe-
festival](http://www.rvs.org.uk/green-fringe-festival)

Or Scan the QR
Code



Activities for all ages | Litter Picks | Painting | Crafts |
Performances | Guided Walks | Work Parties



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
Committee Secretary	Tina McCain	secretary@u3afarnborough.org.uk
Venues Coordinator	John Wright	venues@u3afarnborough.org.uk
Groups Coordinator	Neil Hay	groups@u3afarnborough.org.uk
Events Coordinator	Paul Banner	paulbanneru3a@gmail.com
Communications Coordinator	Dave Minett	editor@u3afarnborough.org.uk
Monthly Meetings	Peter Wickwar	m.meetings@u3afarnborough.org.uk



Dates for Diary

Wed 15 April	Coffee Morning 10:00 –1200 North Camp Methodist Church
Thu 16, Fri 17 April	Princes Mead Event (see page 2 for details)
Fri 24 April	Monthly Meeting 3pm Farnborough Tech College
Wed 20 May	Coffee Morning 10:00 –1200 North Camp Methodist Church
Sat 30 May	Group leaders Tea Party Farnborough Gate Bowling Club
Wed 17 June	Coffee Morning 10:00 –1200 North Camp Methodist Church
Sat 27 June	u3a Summer Quiz St Marks Hall
Wed 15 July	Coffee Morning 10:00 –1200 North Camp Methodist Church

We have been informed of the death of one of our members, John Stone.
He had been an active member of several groups over many years.
We extend our sympathy to his family and friends.

Term dates for 2026/27

Summer	13 Apr to 24 Jul 2026
Autumn	7 Sep to 11 Dec 2026
Spring	4 Jan to 25 Mar 2027

Half term breaks:

25 May – 29 May 2026
26 Oct – 30 Oct 2026
15 Feb – 19 Feb 2027

Copy date

Items for the next issue should be submitted by

Friday 17th July 2026

v.1.2