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Farnborough & District

u3a
learn, laugh, live

NEWSLETTER

No. 113 - Summer 2026

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TIPS AGAINST THE HEAT



Avoid the sun
between 10 AM
and 5 PM



Eat light meals,
preferably fruits and
vegetables



Avoid outdoor
activities



Drink plenty of water,
avoid alcoholic
beverages

Chairman's Message

Overall, it has been a very quiet few months for our u3a with little happening other than the setting of the Budget for next year plus 'Business As Usual'. I therefore wish to merely highlight a few salient matters.

Finance

As you will have seen from previous messages we have been successful this year in managing our expenditure in line with expectations with the result that we can be satisfied that our budgetary processes are now well embedded, and we can be substantially relaxed that we can properly forecast for future expenditure with confidence. Much praise must go to Ian, our Treasurer for this situation. Consequently, as you will also have been previously informed, we are therefore able to reduce our annual Membership Fees by 6.7% for 2027-2028 from £45 to £42. Given that inflation is still running at about 3% that is effectively about a 10% reduction in real terms. We are also trialling for 2027-2028 a 50% reduction in Membership Fees for anyone in receipt of either Pension Credit or Universal Credit so as to try to ensure that nobody who might wish to join our u3a is excluded.

Review of the Year

Other points of note are :

I undertook a significant review of our Constitution last Summer and identified a number of matters that, to my mind, needed addressing. These were included in a revised Constitution which was considered and adopted at a Special General Meeting last Autumn. Our Groups continue to expand in number with Tai Chi, now firmly back in the fold, an extra Pilates class started in the year, Walking Football now strongly established and the continuing flourishing of the various Pickleball sessions. These extra classes testify even more to the financial control being exercised by Ian, ably assisted by John, our Venues Co-Ordinator, who has been assiduous in seeking out venues offering better value-for-money. Judith, our Membership Secretary has already held a successful 'Renew Your Membership' session at the July Coffee Morning where she was able to utilise a simple and cost-effective mobile debit/credit card system; this is mainly aimed at those members who are quite happy using 'swiping' (or 'chip and pin') to pay for items but who are not confident at using online banking systems. She will be holding a further such session at the Coffee Morning in August.

Committee Membership

Apart from the changes to the Committee at the Annual General Meeting in October 2026, we have two new members who have recently joined the Committee. We already know of a couple of Committee Members who do not intend to seek re-election next October and, as you would no doubt expect me to do, I cannot let a Newsletter contribution 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. Please think whether there is anything you could do to help and then, if you are startlingly motivated please contact either our Vice-Chair, Pam Hay, at vicechair@u3afarnborough.org.uk or myself at chairman@u3afarnborough.org.uk.

**Jerry
Chair**

27-July-2026

Membership Renewal

I hope everyone has received either an email or a letter advising about the process for renewing membership subscriptions this year.

In addition to payment of subscription by bank transfer or cheque sent in the post, we are using our u3a **Coffee Mornings** in July and August as renewal sessions. These are our usual coffee mornings with the addition of an opportunity to renew your membership by paying with a credit or debit card. The July Coffee Morning renewal session was very successful. We look forward to seeing more of you at the August Coffee Morning if you wish to renew your membership in this way.

The final renewal Coffee Morning will take place on **Wednesday 19 August** from 10am to 12 noon at North Camp Methodist Church (entrance from the car park). Everyone is welcome (whether or not you are choosing to renew your membership in this way) and all the refreshments are free. It's a great opportunity to meet other u3a members, especially during the holidays when most regular groups do not meet.

Alternatively, you are welcome to pay your membership subscription by bank transfer. Cheque payment is also possible but should be used only if absolutely necessary, because we are charged for paying cheques in to the bank.

All the details for membership renewal, including the fees, are in the email / letter you should have already received. If somehow you have not received the information, please contact me and I will make sure you receive what you need.

Judith Layzell

Membership Secretary

membership@u3afarnborough.org.uk

Winter Warmer

To note in your diaries: we are planning another pre-Christmas get-together on **Saturday, 12th December** from **1pm to 3pm** in **St Mark's Hall**.

All members are most welcome. Mince pies, mulled wine and other light refreshments will be provided. So why not make a date for a festive 'natter and nibble'!

Paul Banner

events@u3afarnborough.org.uk

u3a FARNBOROUGH AND DISTRICT ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AT ST. MARK'S HALL

Tuesday 27th October 2026 at 2pm



AGENDA

1. Introductions
2. Apologies for Absence
3. Minutes of the 2025 AGM
4. Matters Arising from the Minutes
5. Chairman's Report
6. Treasurer's Report
7. Election of Examiner
8. Election of Committee
 - a) Chairman b) Vice –Chairman
 - c) Treasurer d) Secretary
 - e) Committee Members

9. Members' Matters

Questions/concerns should ideally be submitted in advance to secretary@u3afarnborough.org.uk

The committee can guarantee that an answer will be available if any questions/concerns are submitted at least 14 days before the meeting. Otherwise, we will try to provide an answer at the AGM but may not have the necessary information.

10. Any Other Business

Minutes of last years AGM will available to view on our website or a printed copy will be available for viewing at the AGM.

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

Tina McCain

Committee Secretary

secretary@u3afarnborough.org.uk

Monthly Meetings 2026

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

25 September 2026

Marcus Phillips – London Fire Brigade

Marcus Phillips has spent 47 years in the fire industry, including 32 years with the London Fire Brigade, attending thousands of operational incidents across London and gaining extensive front-line firefighting and rescue experience.

These incidents gave him first-hand experience of major emergencies and the realities of operational firefighting.

Alongside his operational role, Marcus served as a training officer, instructing firefighters in breathing apparatus, incident command and first aid. He also worked in fire safety, including as part of the London Fire Brigade team on the redevelopment of Wembley Stadium, ensuring fire safety was integral to the project.

Later in his career, he became a Senior Fire Safety Officer, supporting incident commanders at complex incidents before retiring in 2011.

Since retiring from the service, Marcus has continued to work within the fire sector, training firefighters and contributing to improved safety standards—particularly in residential buildings following tragedies such as the Grenfell Tower disaster.

Today, he shares his experiences through talks and presentations, giving insight into life in the fire service and how fire safety has evolved over time.

23 October 2026

Mark Overd - Community Support Officer Warnings of Bank and other Financial Scams

Mark Overd is a former police officer known for his community policing and Neighbourhood Watch work in the North Camp area.

27 November 2026

Astrid Bower-Veenan

Challenges and Joys of Managing Commercial Bee-hives

An email will be sent out a few days before, with further details, and information will be on the website

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

Peter Wickwar

m.meetings@u3afarnborough.org.uk

Social History Autumn Term 2026

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

Meetings: Fortnightly on Mondays from 14:00 to 15:30

Venue: NCMC Hall

Monday 14th September

Tracking the Industrial Revolution in Four Lamps

with guest speaker; author and broadcaster

Rev. Mark Rudall

Monday 28th September

Social Realism in Victorian Paintings

with group member **Gill Picken**

Monday 12th October

The Huguenots and some Family History

with group member **Andrew Ritchie**

Monday 9th November

Hobbies and Collectables

with member participation

Monday 23rd November

A Brief History of Jewellery and Gems

with guest speaker **Cherry Warren**

Monday 7th December

Seasonal Reflections

with the Social History team

plus member participation

Dick Elsey

Social History Leader



New walking group



Seven intrepid walkers braved the latest heatwave to take part in the inaugural walk of the newly-formed **"Walking Wednesday 2"**. Starting at a local pub the group set off to explore the countryside around Rotherwick, carrying copious amounts of water to keep ourselves hydrated. Five miles later, after a little under two and half hours, we were back at the pub for some well-earned refreshments and lunch.

Walking Wednesday 2 will walk together every two weeks throughout the year, meeting at Guildford Road East to car share for the journey to the starting location. Members of the group will take it in turns to lead the walks, which will generally be 5 – 6 miles in length and will include a refreshment break at the half-way point. The group leader will be on hand to give help and support to anyone who has not led a walk before. Following the walks we will try to arrange a pub lunch for those who would like one and sometimes we will have a picnic together.



If you are interested in joining us, or want to know more, please contact;

Kenny Dawkins

u3a Tennis

Indomitably keen our u3a Tennis turns out whatever the weather (apart from heavy rain).

This year we have played in temperatures ranging from -2° to 32° C. That high was the temperature in the shade on 8th July; however, we still had a full turn-out of fifteen.



Jerry Carlsson

Coffee Mornings



Wednesday 19 August

10am – 12 noon

North Camp Methodist Church

(entry from the car park).

Everyone is welcome; all refreshments are free.

Come to meet friends old and new, and renew your membership for the 2026 – 2027 year if you wish.

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

Wed Sep 16;

Wed Oct 21;

Wed Nov 18

Which?

Which? Magazine Scam Alerts.

Which? send out regular news on the latest scams.

Keep up to date on these frauds by following the link below. You do not have to join Which? to receive them.

<https://www.which.co.uk/consumer-rights/scams>

Friday 2 Study Trip to Coniston

In May this year Friday 2 walking group went to Coniston in the Lake District for their annual Study Trip.

The date coincided with the Bluebird Festival on Coniston Water (the first running of Donald Campbell's K7 jet hydroplane at Coniston since his fatal attempt at the water speed record in 1967) so the group had a very full and interesting trip.

The group of 14 stayed at the HF hotel at Monk Coniston. The scenic location of this Grade II listed house was the inspiration for the 1930's novel, Swallows and Amazons, and the house was once owned by Beatrix Potter. The grounds of the hotel are superb, and during our trip in May were full of beautiful flowering shrubs (including azaleas and rhododendrons).

The first walk of just under 8 miles went up past the very picturesque Tarn Hows and then onto the top of Black Crag with views of Windermere in the distance.

For the second walk we drove to the very pretty village of Hawkshead, with some nice shops and even nicer pubs.

The walk of some 7 miles took us up and over Latterbarrow and down to Wray Castle on the banks of Windermere.

Our third 7 miles walk took us up and over High Guard Woods into Coniston and then up Coniston Fell. Some went up Boulder Valley to Levers Water and then back to the Sun pub in Coniston, where we waited for the intrepid 3 who scaled the 803 metres summit of the Old Man of Coniston. On the way up they climbed through a hailstone blizzard and on the way down descended through a torrential downpour, but they arrived at the pub smiling and enjoyed a thoroughly deserved celebratory drink (or two).

Not everyone walked every day, and some enjoyed a day at the Ravenglass and Eskdale Steam Railway, and others a boat trip on Windermere.

Next year the group will enjoy a study trip (in September) to the coastal village of Alnmouth in Northumberland, close to the iconic Bamburgh Castle.



Summer Quiz Winners

Farnborough u3a Summer Quiz was held on Saturday 27th at St Mark's Hall. Congratulations to the top scoring teams; The winning team was Forty Two, followed by the Free Wheelers, with the Desperados and the Germans tied for 3rd place.

It was well attended and enjoyed by all. Many thanks to Jerry and Linda Carlsson for setting the well-balanced questions and running the quiz, to Mike Johnson for operating the sound system, and to all those who helped set up and clear up afterwards.



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.

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

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	Alison Donelan	groups@u3afarnborough.org.uk
Events Coordinator	Paul Banner	events@u3afarnborough.org.uk
Communications Coordinator	Dave Minett	editor@u3afarnborough.org.uk
Beacon Administrator	Dave Minett	BeaconAdmin@nehr.uk
Monthly Meetings	Peter Wickwar	m.meetings@u3afarnborough.org.uk

Dates for Diary



Wed 19 Aug	Coffee Morning and Membership Renewals 10:00 –1200 North Camp Methodist Church
Wed 16 Sept	Coffee Morning 10:00 –1200 North Camp Methodist Church
Fri 25 Sept	Monthly Meeting 3pm Farnborough Tech College
Wed 21 Oct	Coffee Morning 10:00 –1200 North Camp Methodist Church
Fri 23 Oct	Monthly Meeting 3pm Farnborough Tech College
Tue 27 Oct	AGM 2pm St Marks Hall
Wed 18 Nov	Coffee Morning 10:00 –1200 North Camp Methodist Church
Fri 27 Nov	Monthly Meeting 3pm Farnborough Tech College
Sat 12 Dec	Winter Warmer 1–3pm St Marks Hall

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

Term dates for 2026/27

Autumn 7 Sep to 11 Dec 2026
Spring 4 Jan to 25 Mar 2027
Summer 12 Apr to 23 Jul 2027

Half term breaks:
 26 Oct – 30 Oct 2026
 15 Feb – 19 Feb 2027
 31 May – 4 Jun 2027

Copy date

Items for the next issue should be submitted by

Friday 4th December 2026

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