

Dates for your Diary

2024 Events

- 1st March Coffee Morning 10.30 to 12.00 at Church on the Heath.
- 15th March Inter U3A Quiz, 14.00 to 17.00, Victoria Hall. Hartley Wintney
- 17th April Open Morning, From 11.00 The Harlington, Fleet.
- 28th August Group Enrolment for 2024/25 11.00 to 12.30 at Church on the Heath

Monthly Meetings 2023 /24 - The Harlington, Fleet, talk 11.00 to 12.15, coffee from 10.00

- 21st February Craftsman's Art & Music's Measure
Speaker : Paul Bodiam
- 20th March The National Trust
Speaker David Hunt
- 15th May The Bobby Scheme: Cyber Crime,
Speaker Phil Atkinson

Visits

- 16th May Hever Castle WAITING LIST
- April TBC Leonardslee Gardens TBC.

Dates for Group Leaders

- 28th March Programme Checking 10.30 to 12.00 at United Reformed Church
- 5th July Group Leaders Lunch followed by the GL's General Meeting. 12.00 to 14.00 and 14.00 to 15.30 at Victoria Hall Hartley Wintney

Important Message from our Treasurer

Due to instructions from our banks all future cheques must be made out as follows.

FLEET & DISTRICT U3A

The same format should be used when setting up a bank transfer. **All other account details remain the same.**

This is to comply with our charity commission name.

Neil Morley

Chat from the Chair

Fleet U3A starts the year of its 40th birthday in fine fettle. With over 100 groups and 1700+ members there is much to celebrate. Our Monthly Meetings are back to pre-COVID levels (and the free teas and coffees return in February.) Somehow, I've become a member of four different groups, and only the lack of days in the week prevents me joining more.

It's a privilege to be the Chair of such a great organisation.

Yet I start the new year with a concern I want to share. In the role of U3A Chair I have met many people involved in running key local organisations. From Probus to the Townswomen's Guild, from The Art Society to the WI, it appears that their experience is broadly similar.

It would seem that people have become very reluctant to get involved in the running of associations and societies which they value. Fleet U3A's long running History Group had to fold because there were insufficient U3A members ready, willing and able to assist with the administration of the group. A sad loss indeed.

But why is this? What has changed?

In my professional life I recall having to coax people to belong to the PTA or serve a term as a School Governor. Many were reluctant, modest about their own abilities and fully involved with raising a family. Yet there was a general acceptance that these were important roles, and that there was a general expectation that people would and should step forward.

From my perspective, that general expectation no longer exists, or at least is much less widespread. We seem (and COVID didn't help) to have slipped into being a nation of passive recipients: expecting that the activities, pastimes and organisations we value will somehow just carry on without our input.

My fear is, to quote Joni Mitchell:

*Don't it always seem to go
That you don't know what you've got
Till it's gone
They paved paradise
And put up a parking lot*

As I write, the first of the new year's storms is being forecast, with the now customary warnings about high winds and rain.

If we are unlucky enough to endure three more, members of my family will be taking particular care during Storm Lilian: my Aunt Lilian was a formidable character to say the least.

John Gawthorpe

Monthly Meetings

Last Wednesday we had two dogs at our Monthly Meeting and they behaved impeccably. Their owners, Ann Bradford and Mel Phelan told us all about Guide Dogs for the Blind. They spoke from the heart about their lived experience in being a puppy trainer (Ann) and a user of a guide dog (Mel). They had no notes and no power point slides. They held us spellbound for over an hour.

Several members said to me that they thought they knew everything about guide dogs but they, and I, learned so much. Mel has now welcomed her second dog into her home and described the difference they have made to her life. Living in a sighted world it made us realise how many hazards for Mel and other sight impaired people are caused by carelessness on our part. For instance, the thoughtless placement of bins on collection day!

The 160 members in the hall were so impressed by what they heard and learnt that the retiring collection for the Guide Dogs for the Blind charity raised over £450. Fleet U3A has added our usual speakers' fee of £50 to that to make our Monthly Meeting the most successful fundraising talk Ann and Mel have ever done. Fleet U3A should be proud of its generosity. Thank you.

Thank you, also for your support to Margaret and Linda on their craft stall as they continue to fundraise for the Phyllis Tuckwell Hospice.

Next month on February 21st we will have a complete change of subject. Paul Bodium will talk to us about The Craftsman's Art and Music's Measure. Paul is an amateur instrument maker and will tell us about the development of the guitar.

The usual timings will apply;

10.00 meet in the small hall for biscuits, chat, coffee or tea (No more BYO! The Harlington will be serving hot drinks to us at no charge to you.)

10.45 the main hall should open for you to take your seats by 11.00

11.00 welcome and the talk in the main hall

12.15 the talk and questions end so please make sure you have enough time on your parking ticket (Victoria Road car park allows for more than two hours parking.)

Sadly, I shall miss this meeting as I am on holiday so John Gawthorpe will be in charge...

Paddy Powell

Ukelele Group

2023 finished on a record of twenty-one Concerts performed with three already booked to perform before the end of February, so it looks like another busy year ahead. There are still twelve Beginners in their group, three have 'graduated' from Improvers to Players and one new Improver will be joining in January. The Fingerstyle Group is thriving and has more than doubled in size in the last 12 months. The regular Songbook is now up to 144 songs, including some medleys, that are always popular with concert audiences. December concerts were 70% Christmas songs, which is always a challenge for us all, as for 10 months of the year they never see the light of Day!

There are still places available in the Improvers group but the current Beginners is too advanced to take on any new members that have no previous experience. The new Beginners group will restart in September.

Richard Fielding

U3A French Improvers

Having failed to book a restaurant in time, the group celebrated Christmas by everyone bringing in some food to share – we had a veritable feast and swapped a lot of recipes afterwards. We've all decided that it was more entertaining than going out to eat. After sharing our food, we all played games – in French of course - our Christmas vocabulary definitely improved.

"Bonne Annee"

Trish Semmens



Actions you can take to help Fleet U3A email communication with Members.

Most Fleet U3A communications with our members are via email. Because there is so much spam email around then occasionally Beacon emails that we send to members can be treated as spam by some email providers. How often this happens seems random but probably depends on how busy the receiving email system is and how many customer complaints they have had recently! Yahoo, talktalk and btinternet seem to bounce emails as spam more than some other providers.

You can take action to help avoid our U3A emails being treated as spam, therefore not delivered to you at all, or filed in your email spam/junk folder by your email system:

Firstly you should add the email address noreply@u3abeacon.org.uk as a contact in your email system, maybe as contact 'U3A Beacon' or under whatever contact name you wish. This may help as your email system will know you have our sending email address in your contacts and therefore the sender is known to you.

Secondly, many but not all email systems have a 'whitelist' function to set up a list of email addresses you are OK with. Because all the many email systems are different the best idea is to google 'whitelist' and the name of your email system provider (e.g. gmail) to find out if your system has this facility and how to set it up.

Alan Jones

Secretary and Beacon Admin

Line Dancing

It was "Christmas Jumpers, Sparkly Tops and Christmas Hats" for our last line dancing session of the Autumn Term 2023, before our Christmas break. Lots of laughter (and a little panic) erupted, when our instructor suggested that we choose the dances we would like to do that day. This was quite a challenge as we have learnt well over 100 dances during the past several years and he usually chooses a selection of dances for us to do!!!

Our 10:00am (Advanced / Improvers) class at The Church on the Heath, Elvetham, enjoy learning new dances, and the new 11:15am (beginners/improvers) class is now full, with very enthusiastic members who are enjoying learning the dances and having lots of fun in the process.



Group One



Group Two

The two groups at Crookham Memorial Hall, in the afternoon, continue to thrive. Group 3 (Improvers) is completely full, and Group 4 (beginners/improvers) has a few spaces available for the Spring Term.

All four groups continue to look forward to having fun learning new dances and to enjoy the exercise.

Diane Cook Group Leader 1 & 2 and Janice Fenner Group Leader 3 & 4

Oldies Texting Codes - try them on your children / grandchildren

ATD At the doctors **BFF** Best Friends Funeral **GGPBL** Gotta Go, Pacemaker Battery Low
GHA Got Heartburn Again **FWIW** Forgot Where I Was **BTW** Bring the Wheelchair
BYOT Bring Your Own Teeth

And my personal favourite **TFT** Texting From Toilet Please if you know of others let me know **Ed**

Flower Arranging

Another successful flower arranging term when we have tackled many different kinds of arrangements. We ended with our traditional Christmas arrangement theme and a Christmas lunch to finish off the term. We start back mid January when we are going to try using Agro wool which is environmentally friendly.

Barbara Jones



Some Happy Flower Arrangers



Hart Health Walks (HHW)

It is great to get out in the countryside for a couple of hours on the walks provided by the u3a Walking Groups A and B. However, walking for that time can be a struggle or an impossibility for those with minor mobility problems like dodgy knees and hips or with heart or circulatory problems. There are also many recovering from injury or surgery who need to build up slowly to fully regain their previous fitness. The u3a Shorter Walks group does offer some help here with monthly walks but many need a sustained programme of more regular walks to maintain or improve their fitness. For these groups, or those who just like a medium-length walk any day of the week, Hart District Council have been supporting the Hart Voluntary Action (HVA) charity for some years. HVA organise the Hart Health Walks (HHW) programme, run by volunteer walk leaders.

HHW organise walks of approximately one hour duration, and about 2 to 2¼ miles distance, from seven locations within the HART area each week. The walks start from Fleet, Crookham Village, Hook, Yateley, Odiham, Hartley Wintney and Blackwater on a regular timetable (see <https://www.hartvolaction.org.uk/whats-on/>). Two of the locations also have slower/shorter walks, namely Hartley Wintney and Crookham Village. Details of the walks from the individual start locations can be found by clicking on the location in the timetable.

All the locations have facilities for sharing a tea or coffee with new friends after the walk. Some are proper cafés, others require a small cash payment, between £1 and £2.50 depending on location.

The website for Hart Voluntary Action is not that easy to navigate but some FAQs regarding the Health walks can be found at <https://www.hartvolaction.org.uk/services-for-residents/health-walks/>

For those looking for a rewarding volunteering task where they can indulge their love of walking, the organisation is always in need of Walk Leaders, Middle and Backmarkers. Training is offered. Contact Caroline at Hart Voluntary Action (healthwalks@hartvolaction.org.uk) for details, talk to one of the HHW leaders who also walk in the u3a walking groups or contact me.

David Lawes (u3a walking group B and HHW leader - DCLAWES@YAHOO.CO.UK)

Visits

When you read this latest newsletter I expect Christmas will be a distant memory but the visits team hope you had an enjoyable time and are looking forward to getting back to 'normal' after the Christmas break. Our November outing to Woking Theatre to see the 'Drifter Girl Story', clashed with the closure of Fleet Road for the Fleet Christmas Festival. This meant all the Sainsbury bus stop departures were re-routed to Albert Street, with a cut through between McDonalds and the toy shop.

On arrival in Woking there was plenty of time for a coffee/lunch or just to browse the shops before the 2.30 matinée performance.

We had excellent seats in the Royal Circle. It was good to hear all the favourite Drifter songs performed by the four actors.

Faye Treadwell was the first African- American female music manager and she had to overcome many hurdles both professional and personal in her life. Faye was played by Carly Mercedes Dyer, a very experienced actress and singer, who took over from Beverly Knight in the original production. Our group's opinion was that Carly failed miserably when singing and appeared to have great difficulty in reaching high notes without screeching.



The sound for this production was very poor and we all found it hard to follow the story as the personal mikes didn't seem to be able to project the spoken voice clearly.

The Drifters had 17 different top forty hits in the UK between Jan, 1960 and Dec 1976. The story explained that the Drifters were on tour all over the UK and how the 'No Dogs' or 'Blacks' were part of their everyday life on tour. Faye's husband George had been married to Sarah Vaughan and managed her and Billy Holiday. George died very suddenly, and Faye bought out his partners to manage the 'The Drifters' who she firmly believed in. As a black single mother, among other issues, she battled to get the group the recognition she thought they deserved. They have left a legacy of all time favourites 'Stand by me' the iconic 'Save the last dance for me, and 'Saturday night at the movies'. Words below. Enjoy.

Well, Saturday night at 8 o'clock
I know where I'm gonna go
I'm a-gonna pick my baby up
And take her to the picture show
Everybody in the neighborhood
Is dressin' up to be there, too

And we're gonna have a ball
Just like we always do
Saturday night at the movies
Who cares what picture you see
When you're huggin' with your baby
In the last row of the balcony?

At the first Monthly meeting in January we were selling our rearranged visit to **Hever Castle**. As promised all the original members who had booked were offered a place. Many missed out as they do not read their emails regularly, also please check your SPAM box if your emails don't provide notification. A Beacon message from us goes unread as well!

We now have an extensive waiting list and we now hope to be able to get a larger coach.

As usual the web site had been updated, but so many members don't look at that either, so the result is you miss out on a place. We are struggling to find venues that are reasonable, interesting and will appeal to members.

We are planning a visit to Leonardslee Gardens in April so watch out for information.

You may recall I have mentioned that take up from Fleet U3A has been poor during 2023, so we have now found a company that has smaller coaches. The prices for travel have rocketed and this is having a real effect on our planning for trips. Fleet U3A is so lucky to have visits as so many U3A's do not.

Help Needed Please

We are doing our best for members but **'the team' needs help**. We have lost Andy as she has moved to Devon. Visits will be restricted further if we do not get some people to help us. It's not hard and you get to choose where you would like to go and meet nice people. So come on members give something back to an association that is giving you so much in the way of fun, learning and most importantly friendship.

I do hope people will step forward to help us and also the committee.

Carole Matthews

Will Fleet U3A Spanish Disappear?

In the past we have had four thriving Spanish groups, thanks to the enthusiasm of Caroline Noad training up enough members to join my Intermediate and Advanced groups. However, nobody has come forward to lead either of Caroline's groups since she stepped down. One result is that my Spanish Intermediate Conversation group is down to 6 people, at least half of whom are good enough to move up to the Advanced Group in September.

Once again, I am appealing to one or two of many good Spanish enthusiasts in Fleet U3A to restart a Beginners' or Year 2 group in September. You do not have to be an experienced teacher, just sit with the group and lead them through a very easy coursebook, such as the BBC Spanish Talk 1 and 2. I will always be available as a point of reference if you come across something that you don't quite understand.

If you did go through Caroline's Spanish groups and have been a bit nervous about joining my Intermediate group on a Monday morning, why not give it a try? You do have to be ready to answer questions in Spanish, but you will always know in advance what sort of questions you will be asked. You will also have a session where you will be in a small group chatting in Spanish without my interference, so you can just have a go and not worry about mistakes.

Both the Intermediate Conversation group (Monday mornings) and Advanced Conversation group (Thursday afternoons) have a similar format. We start off with questions and answers in Spanish on a pre-advised topic. I then explain some grammar points, either those that I have planned or those that come up because of the first session. There will be a chat session in small groups, as mentioned above. I may add some simple written exercises to help to remember what we have talked about. There will be a chance to listen to some Spanish or watch simple videos.

The Advanced group is full until Summer but there are places on the Intermediate Conversation group. Please email or phone me, if you are willing to start a basic Spanish group or wish to try out my Intermediate Conversation group.

Nick Keeley

nickkeeley@hotmail.co.uk 07973787218

Crochet Group

Well, we started back for our monthly meeting at the Crochet club. And yes, we have more than enough members, but will always make room for a new face if we can.

As you all know Eve is the experienced one with all the know-how, and she is an excellent teacher. patient and Kind just what you need when you come into a group for the first time. Whereas I am an excellent wingman ☺☺☺ good at serving tea and coffee. *(and being really lovely ..Ed comment)*

We meet the first Monday in the month and hopefully you learn a bit more each time. The Cows, hats, and baby blankets are looking lovely.

Never worry, I just do my best to see everyone is happy and having a giggle. Our members are so friendly, full of enthusiasm and good ideas.

We wish everyone a very happy healthy and safe New Year and look forward to seeing you all at the next U3A meeting. Best Wishes to you all.

Katherine Smith and Eve Pengilley

Creative Writing

Our theme for the first meeting of the new term was 'In the waiting room'. This prompted stories about a doctor's waiting room, job candidates awaiting an interview, even a heaven and hell scenario, but here is Alison's take on the subject.

Margaret Garrod

In the waiting room by Alison Edwards

Felicity felt anxiety curdle in her stomach. There had been shouting, loud words and then he had slammed out of the house, the car driving away. She had curled up on the sofa, drifted off to sleep in a huddle of worry. Now she paced back and forth, checking the window from time to time. Waiting, waiting, always waiting. Then she heard it. The car pulling onto the driveway. She hurtled to the front door, reaching it as it opened.

'It's OK, girl, but you have got to stop eating my shoes!' Felicity wagged her tail. Waiting over, forgiveness guaranteed.

© Alison Edwards

Irrelevant Observations

- ◆ Did you realise that the roman numeral representing **50** is **L** and for **40** are **XL**
- ◆ Did you ever notice that The IRS spells Theirs, now who do you think thought that up? Clever eh!
- ◆ When filling in an ICE (In Case of Emergency) form surely 'Ambulance' has to feature as the first contact

Ed.

Rollers - Adventure to Chichester November 29th

What to say, just **THANKYOU SO MUCH...**

Let me start on a positive note. The coach arrived on time with John, our driver, who was immediately keen to help, in his friendly and professional manner.

Thanks also to Alan for the photo shoot as we all assembled in readiness, full of anticipation of the day ahead!!

I hope you all enjoyed the day. The feedback I received was all good, lots of retail therapy, meeting with friends, visits to the Gallery, visits to the Cathedral and plentiful food and drink.

We were lucky with the weather, yes it was cold but winter sun and dry. I enjoyed seeing you around the town, in the Cathedral and in the cafe exchanging brief catch ups on your day. So far so good!!!

It was all going so well. Everyone boarded the coach to come home in really high spirits. Bags full of Christmas goodies, amazing finds in posh charity shops, Christmas food from the market stalls including heavy ham transported on the handles of my wheelchair!!



Buzzing chat was heard about the Gallery, exhibitions, the Cathedral and long-ago challenges finally completed. As Wordle and other mind-blowing games were opened to amuse on the journey home, I began to relax, satisfied in the knowledge that the day had gone well.

SHORT LIVED, OH DEAR, Linda ran forward to urgently speak John, foreboding went with her. She spoke of a bang and a strong smell permeating the back of the coach. John already had a red warning light on the dashboard, he must stop. We had only been going 10 minutes and were on a very busy dual carriage way coming out of Chichester. It was about 4.30pm as the rush hour was beginning. We stopped in the inside lane. John got out and went to look in the engine returning grim faced, serious and very concerned. He announced the fan belt was in two, bad news!! For the next hour there were phone calls to and from the depot in Farnborough, discussion about a mechanic coming, then another accessible coach as the temperature onboard began to drop. The timing changed from thirty minutes delay to an unknown time as the temperature onboard continued to drop. Poor John was so concerned but helpless.

Eventually the mechanic arrived, oh too dark now for anything to be done.

Finally the replacement coach arrived, yippee everyone got off and rapidly got on the nice WARM replacement...except me!

So, there were two drivers and the mechanic needing to work out a plan to get me off, along the carriage-way and onto the replacement. No problem.... big mistake. The coach was positioned as close to the edge of the inside lane as possible. Beyond was a deep gully, thick undergrowth, trees with overhanging branches and uneven ground with tree roots. The lift would end up in all this with me facing the unknown.

I would need to get off the lift into this unknown abyss, turn 90 degrees and proceed parallel to the coaches to alight the new coach using its lift. NO NOT SAFE. The ground was wet the wheelchair is heavy, wheels could get stuck or tip.

Ground clearance began, the guys pulling overhanging branches off trees, stomping the ground to check for holes, roots, or anything, pulling tufts of grass, gingerly I descended off the lift, slowly turning to position myself parallel to the coach. Suddenly the team went from three to five as Linda Norman and a concerned gent from the trip arrived unannounced offering to lift or push the wheelchair along. Lorries were now thrashing past on the carriageway as rush hour was in full swing, it was noisy, windy, and getting colder as everyone on board was snug. The spectacle going on outside proved worth watching as the time went on. I edged very carefully along the narrow, cleared route alongside the warm coach. I stopped only to realise I had gone too far and was past the lift. It was necessary to do a 360 degree turn into the undergrowth to get into position the mount the lift. What a carry on, everyone is watching from their warm seats, I just had to go for it, wheels might get stuck, tip or battery pack up, no choice.

Well, cautiously, stomach churning, no feeling in hands or feet I began to move. Guys pushing, Linda directing me oversteering and some wheelspin, tree branch and all I arrive facing the lift ready to get on. Onwards and upwards I smell the warmth, folk were clapping, Jane is videoing, and I too am onboard.

Continued page 8

We set off, what to say, well we arrive back at 7.30pm just 2 hours late, yes all's well that ends well. Betty kindly said to me as she finally got off the coach to go home "What an adventure!" Yes, but not necessarily required.

I can only finish with the GOOD NEWS. On my arrival home at 8.30pm, I had an email waiting. D&P Coaches apologising profusely and giving a total refund of all charges incurred. At least everyone has been reimbursed for the adventure!

I can't apologise enough; all I can offer is heartfelt thanks for the kind wishes received and a remote hope that you will give Rollers another chance next year.

I hope you and yours enjoyed a Happy Christmas and a wish you all a good New Year full of adventures.

Jenny Teagle

Strollers

We are a jolly lot who love to enjoy ourselves. So, for the third year we took advantage of the festive dining option and shared Christmas lunch at our coffee haunt the De Havilland Arms Elvetham. We decided to start our festivities early, I think we might have been the first group of the year right at the start of December...thanks Jane our photographer.

It went really well, good food, good service and more importantly good fun. June did a quiz for us and was rewarded for her efforts with a bottle courtesy of Ian, the manager, who joined in... thanks June.

Santa (Ian) had purchased a ramp, just for me, so we could all sit at a table up a couple of steps. A bit more private, we're a noisy lot!! thanks Ian.

As the strolling group, which we are, I should mention that of course we strolled first before lunch to work up an appetite and amazingly it didn't rain.

Unfortunately, that was our final meet before Christmas as covid reared its ugly head. We have just regrouped and yesterday saw in New Years Day with a stroll and our obligatory catch-up coffee. We did wait for the pub to open, however, worth it with a roaring log fire and plenty to catch up on.



Betty celebrated 90 years young on Christmas Eve so the lovely picture of her and the festive pillar box we dedicate to her...thanks Jane. Isobel also celebrated a birthday over Christmas which we caught up on over coffee.

As the weather is more challenging at this time our strolls are generally shorter and only over dry, solid ground. The walk around the pond can be muddy and uneven. That said, some of our group do at times prefer to take on the longer routes around the pond. Strollers is a flexible group, members decide to go at their own pace, no pressure, no stroll at all if not appropriate, just coffee and the social, we are a team who care and share with each other. There is a leadership team who are happy to head off around the longer paths with anyone who wishes to go.



We are back to meeting every two weeks now from January 15th. We assemble at 11am in the car park at De Havilland Arms, Elvetham. Wishing you a Happy New Year. *Jenny Teagle*

Reminder to Group Leaders - Programme Dates

The Programme Secretary has sent out reminders for Programme dates to be submitted ASAP. However, it seems that this has in some cases not elicited a response. Can I remind you that unless you submit your programme dates then your group will be deleted from next years Programme; plus the Venues Secretary will not know your dates and will not, therefore, be able to book a venue for you.

Ed.

French Intermediate Group
Space Available

A place has recently become available in the tutor-led French Intermediate group, who meet every Monday morning at the United Reformed Church. If you are interested please contact the Group Leader, Howard Robinson whose details can be found in the Fleet U3A programme booklet

Phyllis Tuckwell Stall at the January
monthly meeting

Thank you for helping us raise £122 for Phyllis Tuckwell Hospice Care. Linda sold lots of her lemon drop chilli relish, whiskey marmalade and chutneys, but unfortunately too many people were on new year diets to be tempted by her cakes. Thanks as always to the card making group for giving us their cards to sell. We hope to hold our next sale in the spring. Finally, congratulations to Jean Carr, the winner of the raffle prize.

Margaret Garrod and Linda Martin

Fleet U3A Website

**Keep up to date with all our activities,
 News, Events, Visits Monthly
 Meetings on our website
www.fleetu3a.org.uk**

Find us on Facebook

Find us on Facebook - Fleet U3A has its own Facebook Members' Group, our Facebook page can be found by entering "Fleet U3A" in the search box at the top of any Facebook page. You can then request to join our private Members only group, you will be asked for your Name and Membership number.

We now have 360+ Fleet U3A members in our private Facebook Members Group for contact and discussion between members. This is a Private Group for members of Fleet U3A only, you are encouraged to join.

Group Leaders - Important

In the event that you have to cancel a session will you please let Barbara, the Venues Secretary, know a.s.a.p. as she may then be able to avoid us paying for the venue on that occasion.

Can all members / GLs be mindful that with the current cost of living situation all venues are trying to maximise their revenue. To this end some are invoicing for the full term in advance rather than monthly in arrears. This means that it is difficult to get a refund on any booked dates as per the programme if a date is cancelled after the term has started. If this is the case it will not be possible to refund any venue fees paid.

COMMITTEE
EMAILS



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**PLEASE AVOID TELEPHONING MEMBERS
 BEFORE 9 a.m. OR AFTER 5 p.m.**