

Dates for your Diary

2025 Events

Members

August 27th Group Enrolment for 2025/26
11.00 to 12.30

Group Leaders Meetings

July 4th Group Leaders Lunch
Victoria Hall, Hartley Wintney.
12.00 to 14.00

Sept. 20th Group Leaders' General
Meeting, Victoria Hall, Hartley
Wintney 14.00 to 15.30

Monthly Meetings 2025 - The Harlington, Fleet, talk 11.00 to 12.15, coffee from 10.00

May 21st The History of Hampshire Loca-
tions that have inspired my
novels. Speaker Michelle Salter.

June 18th Gongoozling for Beginners, Life
on the Canals.
Speaker: Neil Sadler

Visits

June 10th Chartwell & Emmetts garden

July 16th Buckingham Palace

Sept 12th Kynren - 4 night visit

Sept. 26th Fawlty Towers Experience
(Fully booked - waiting list)

November Magic Circle tbc

***New Updated Policies applicable to Fleet
and District U3A can now be found on the
Website.
Fleet.u3asite.uk***

Things for you to do please:

- A) Look at the Beacon Site and read how to
Register for the Beacon Portal. This registration
needs to be done before you Renew your Mem-
bership on line.
B) look on the Beacon site and read **How to re-
new your Membership**.

Chat from The Chair

I hope you have all enjoyed the unexpected warm weather we have had in the past couple of weeks. It was definitely better than the very dull and cloudy weather my wife and I enjoyed overseas!

As the summer approaches our 2024/25 programme of events and group meetings will be coming to an end in the coming weeks. However, there is still a lot to look forward to including –

19 May – monthly meeting talk by Michelle Salter on the Hampshire locations that have inspired her novels

5 June - Fleet u3a rollers day out to Kingston Lacy – all member's welcome

10 June – Visit to Chartwell (Winston Churchill's home)

18 June – Neil Sadler talks about life on the canals at the last monthly meeting of 2024/25

Please have a look our website for more details on the above.

The 2025/26 programme is almost finalised and it will be going to press in the coming weeks. Lots to look forward to next year. The committee would welcome any articles before the summer break from group leaders outlining what their groups will be up to in the new year starting in September.

Don't forget that there are a lot of events run by the U3a nationally from free online events to special interest groups, etc. Look at our "National u3a" page on our website to find out more. Upcoming events include –

12 May – how generative Artificial Intelligence ("AI") works

20 May – Laughter Yoga

27 May – how going digital can save you money

Our annual Open Morning on 16 April was a success and we hope to have more new members joining us in the coming months.

If you have any questions on the above or any other aspect of our u3a please do contact me at chair@fleetu3a.org. I look forward to meeting as many of you as I can in the coming months.

Stephen Grosvenor

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL INVITATION ACADEMIC YEAR COMMENCING SEPTEMBER 2025

On Monday 2nd June, Renewal Invitations will be dispatched to all current members, either by email or post to those without an email address.

Whether you renew on-line, by Bank Transfer or by post, the request is very straightforward:

**PLEASE HAVE YOUR COMPLETED RENEWAL FORM
RETURNED BY MONDAY 14TH JULY 2025**

On Thursday 17th July a team of volunteers will post out your new Membership Cards and Fleet U3A Programmes to all those who have renewed on time. After that date, the team cannot guarantee that late renewals will receive their Membership Cards in time for Group Enrolment Day on Wednesday 27th August. **Without an up-to-date Membership Card, you will not be able to enrol for any classes - and there will be no facility whatsoever to process renewals on Enrolment Day itself.**

So, the message is very simple:

**DO PLEASE HAVE YOUR COMPLETED RENEWAL
RETURNED BY Monday 14th JULY 2025**

Thank You

Anne M Morley
Membership Secretary

Monthly Meetings

On May 21st we will be back to our usual Monthly Meeting. Our speaker is a local author, Michelle Salter. She writes books set in the 1920s in Fleet and Church Crookham. The title for her talk is, 'The History and Hampshire Locations That Have Inspired My Novels'. Michelle will have some of her books to sell after her talk so do bring some money with you if you think you may be interested.

Mark Goodwin, our Vice-chair and new Monthly Meetings Secretary, will be on hand to welcome you all in May.

The usual timings apply on May 21st:

- 10 o'clock for coffee, tea, biscuits and chat in the small hall
- Book and jigsaw swap table in the small hall including the used stamps collection for Phyllis Tuckwell
- 10.15 the visits desk will open in the foyer
- 11 o'clock for the talk in the main hall
- Guests are welcome, just check them in at the desk in the foyer
- 12.15 the talk and questions will finish so please make sure you have arranged enough parking time.

Thanks, as always, go to the Monthly Meeting team for setting up and clearing away so efficiently at each meeting.

Paddy Powell

Wanted! Events Team Volunteers

I've recently become Events Secretary and dived straight into the deep end with the Inter u3a Quiz and the Open Morning. Thankfully my predecessors left a comprehensive handbook and other members of the committee helped out at both events. Thankyou! I would really appreciate some help with future events, so, if you have a few hours free a month and would enjoy helping out please contact me at events@fleetu3a.org.uk.

Diane Baldock

Creative Writing

Our latest idea for a story was 'Never on a Sunday' which prompted stories as diverse as one about native inter-village skirmishes and another detailing Hell's punishing programme of events. However, Jill Low's story got the most votes and you'll find it below.

Margaret Garrod

Never on a Sunday by Jill Low

When my son, Joseph, was about six years old, he decided one day to make his own dessert. This was ice cream based but I insisted he include fruit. I helped him hull and halve some strawberries and slice part of a peach. He managed to add the ice cream, chocolate sauce and sprinkles.

"Now we need red sauce, Mummy," he declared.

"Red sauce? You mean, strawberry? We haven't got any," I told him.

"No, Mummy, red sauce," he insisted, and fetched the tomato ketchup, his favourite.

"No, darling," I said, taking the bottle from him, "you can have ketchup on burgers and on chips, but never on a sundae."
© Jill Low

Open Day and Publicity

Well done everyone who encouraged a friend or neighbour to come along to our Open Morning. Several new members signed up when they saw what was on offer at Fleet U3A. The group leaders put on super displays of all that they do for us. As Publicity Sec, I have copies of our Fleet U3A leaflet, business cards and generic U3A leaflets, to hand out or leave in venues and other public spaces. If you know of somewhere that might welcome some publicity materials from us, please let me know so that I can spread the word about how wonderful we are!

Paddy Powell



Some photographs of the day.

Poetry Voices

NO SHOW – SAD FACE! Voices have decided that, regretfully, we will **NOT** be able to share our, tentatively planned, poetry programme *Learn Live Laugh* in May, either formally or informally, to an invited U3A audience – or anyone else. Personal commitments, holidays etc meant that too few of us were able to commit now.

However, we intend develop the programme at a more sustainable pace with a view to polishing things up for some time in the autumn. Because the U3A's 35th anniversary is still worth celebrating. And a celebratory programme with poems of hope, optimism, positivity will be fun to prepare!

We've already found a lot to make us smile and even got our heads together to create our very own acrostic poems! Two of which we share with you below – we hope they make you smile too. Note the first letter of each line to find the 'secret' words!

REASONS (to be cheerful)

Reflections shimmer on a mirrored lake
Every waking day and every sleeping night
A warmth in every breath we take
Shadows dancing in an eerie light
Opening our minds and hearts
Nothing we will ever find
Surpasses life as dreams unwind

POSITIVE

Put all your serious work aside
Our cause is looking higher
So, give a laughing day a ride
In search of burning fire
The message falls in every verse
In time and rhythm bending
Victory will prove a curse
Every next line ending.

Christine West

Rollers- Kingston Lacy



When: Thursday June 5th

Cost: £30

The entry fee for any non-National Trust member is £19

We will leave the Cody Car Park at 9am and return about 6.00 pm(ish)

For bookings and any questions please contact me, Jenny Teagle, on

outreach@fleetu3a.org.uk

Thank you, Jenny

The Film Set – an update

Just in case you were wondering about the cinema trips to the Reel Cinema in Farnham: Farnham U3A have not managed to arrange a date in April and are now struggling to book a date for May as there are two bank holidays. The Reel cinema also has difficulties because some screens were damaged by film goers throwing food during the Minecraft movie!

So, the upshot is that the films have been selected but no date has been agreed yet. Farnham U3A hope to have something fixed in the next couple of weeks. The films will be:

'The Penguin Lessons', (starring Steve Cougan amongst others) where an Englishman experiences personal and political changes after adopting a penguin during a turbulent time in Argentina's history.

and

'Black Bag', (starring Cate Blanchett and Piers Brosnan amongst others) where when his beloved wife, Kathryn, is suspected of betraying the nation, intelligence agent George Woodhouse faces the ultimate test - loyalty to his marriage or his country.

Watch this space... I will let you know as soon as I hear anything.

Paddy Powell

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

We are now paying for all booked sessions at the majority of venues. If you have to cancel a session will you please let Barbara, the Venues Secretary, know a.s.a.p. as she can then try to avoid paying for the venue on that occasion.

Fleet U3A Website

Keep up to date with all our activities, News, Events, Visits Monthly Meetings on our website
fleet.u3asite.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.

COMMITTEE & EMAILS



Chair & Webmaster	Stephen Grosvenor	chair@fleetu3a.org.uk webmaster@fleetu3a.org.uk
Vice Chair & Monthly Meetings	Mark Goodwin	vicechair@fleetu3a.org.uk
Secretary	Anne Smith	secretary@fleetu3a.org.uk
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**PLEASE AVOID TELEPHONING MEMBERS
BEFORE 9 a.m. OR AFTER 5 p.m.**