

Dates for your Diary

2026 Events

- October 23rd** Fleet U3A Quiz Challenge
1400 - 1700 at Victoria Hall,
Hartley Wintney
- Nov. 18th** Fleet U3A AGM
Begins at 1045
- Dec. 11th** Fleet U3A Christmas Lunch
1200 - 1400 at
Garretts Club House, Queens
Avenue, Aldershot

Group Leaders' Meetings

- Sept. 25th** Group Leaders General
Meeting 1400 - 1530 at
Victoria Hall, Hartley Wintney
- March 25 2027** Programme Checking
1030 - 1200 at United
Reformed Church

Monthly Meetings 2025/26 - The Harlington, Fleet, talk 11.00 to 12.15, coffee from 10.00

- Sept 16th** The Crop Circle Mysteries
Speaker: Andy Thomas
- Oct. 21st** The Story of the Cambridge
Military Hospital
Speaker: Christine Rowley
- Nov. 18th** Running an Apiary
Speaker: Astrid Bowers-Veenman

Visits 2026

- Sept. 14th/18th** Potters Resort, 4 day visit to
Hopton-on-Sea

Chat from the Chair

I hope all our members have enjoyed the summer break. It has certainly been very hot, and it was lovely to see it raining quite heavily as I wrote this the day after our annual enrolment day at Church on the Heath.

It was lovely to see so many existing members at enrolment as well as approximately 30 new members who signed up on the day. Whether you're joining us for the first time or meeting up with old friends, your enthusiasm and energy are the heart of our community here in Fleet. We have over 120 groups in our 2026/27 programme so there should be something for everyone, from Art to Zumba. Our new groups this year include a Male Barber-shop Quartet and two groups covering Artificial Intelligence so hopefully we have something for everyone to enjoy!

Your participation is what makes our U3A so special, and we encourage you to dive in, share your skills, and discover new passions. To our new members, a warm welcome. We hope you'll find Fleet U3A a friendly and inspiring place to connect, learn, and grow. Please keep an eye on our website and newsletters for updates on events, group schedules, and opportunities to get involved. If you have ideas or suggestions, please don't hesitate to share them with the committee—we're here to make your U3A experience the best it can be.

Stephen Grosvenor

Committee Contact Details

Previously our Committee contact details were generated using a system called 'plesk', unfortunately, this year, we have had some serious problems with this system losing many emails. We have therefore decided to create new contact details and they are as shown on the last page of this newsletter.

Please amend your programme or cut the information on last page out and attach to your Programme.

NB this issue has nothing to do with our Beacon system which remains trustworthy and reliable.

Annual Quiz Challenge - Join the Fun!

October 23rd 1400 - 1700

Think you know a little about a lot? Come along and enjoy a light-hearted quiz, with other U3A friends, along with a delicious cream tea.

Winners will be entered into the Regional Inter U3A Quiz in March 2027.

This year's quiz will take place on 23rd October at the Victoria Hall, Hartley Wintney. The cost is £36 per team of six people

Entries close on 9th October; an entry form can be found under **What's New** on our website, <https://fleet.u3asite.uk>

CHRISTMAS LUNCH – GOOD FOOD, GREAT COMPANY!

It's that wonderful time of year when calories don't count, Christmas jumpers are positively encouraged, and there's always room for pudding!

Whether you've been a u3a member for years or are relatively new, come along and join us for a festive Christmas lunch, with delicious food, raffle, plenty of laughter and great company.

✦ *No cooking. No washing up. No awkwardly assembled turkey sandwiches. Just sit back and enjoy!*

-  **Date:** 11 December 2026, 12:00 - 14:00. Lunch will be served at 12.30
-  **Venue:** Garrett's Club House, Queen's Avenue, Aldershot. Parking is available at the club
-  **Cost:** £17.00, including a tip
- Menu:** Roast Turkey or Wild Mushroom Wellington with all the trimmings
Christmas Pudding or Cheesecake with Winter Berries
Teas and Coffees

Places will be on sale at the September & October Monthly Meeting and November's AGM.

Book your place and let's make it a Christmas lunch to remember!  

Jazz and Blues Appreciation Group (JABA)

Calling all Baby Boomer music fans! The Jazz and Blues Appreciation Group (JABA) is resuming its Thursday morning sessions on September 17th. Subsequent sessions are scheduled for October 15th, November 12th and December 10th. If you were and are a fan of Jazz, Blues, or their related forms, you may enjoy the music played and presented at JABA sessions in an informal atmosphere. The venue - SS Philip and James Church in Kings Road, Fleet - is spacious and comfortable, with an excellent sound system. Coffee, tea and biscuits will be available at minimal cost. The theme of each session will be published in a programme. The venue fee for the autumn sessions from September to December is £8. Subject to availability, there may be one or two live music offerings and, on these occasions, an additional small charge may be requested on the door. Members are encouraged to forward ideas and sometimes bring along a track or two to share with other members. We are very keen that members actively participate in the choice of music and how it is presented. If you are interested or have any questions, please let either Fid Chetcuti (sallyandfid@btinternet.com) or Jinny Gribble (jinny.gribble@gmail.com) know. Current U3A members are eligible to continue their membership from last year. Please note that the information regarding the JABA Group Leader in the Fleet U3A 2026/2027 Information booklet is not correct and should read as the co-leaders mentioned above. We hope to see as many of you as possible!

Jinny and Fid

Strollers kept strolling throughout Summer.

Hello and welcome back after the summer break. Strollers have met throughout the Summer, yes, even when it was thirty plus. Understandably, some of our strollers chose sensibly to retreat into the cool of their homes on the very hot Mondays. As for others, well mad dogs and English women have ventured as far as the De Havilland car park, had a very brief consultation and gone straight into the pub for the regular coffee and catch up. Only a few, sporting factor 50, determined to show off their magnificent sun hats, parasols and sun-glasses went on a short stroll round the green and rapidly retreated into the pub to join those strollers already catching up!!

We've carried on carrying on because we are a happy band who enjoy getting together. So now looking forward to our xx season, I can't believe it. Everyone is welcome, we meet every 2 weeks on Monday morning from August 31st, 11am at the De Havilland pub car park, Elvetham Heath. Stay safe

Jenny Teagle

REMINDER TO ALL MEMBERS

Please will you complete the reverse side of your membership card by adding your emergency contact name/s and telephone number/s. Thank you. Anne M.

Personal View of a Visits Day Out

My wife and I have just been on a visit to the Weald & Downland Museum (home of The Repair Shop), organised by our u3a Visits team. The coach picked us up at Sainsbury's on Fleet Road (practically round the corner from home). We arrived at the venue and were met by one of their staff, who gave us a map and told us a bit about the place, then took us in and set us free. First, we looked through their museum, which put some of the history in context, then we went to see the Repair Shop barn; what we see on TV is actually there in the barn. After that we explored the 40-acre site some more, visiting many of the buildings and speaking to the volunteers (there are over 50 buildings - too many to visit them all). After that we had lunch in the cafe and a glass of wine on their deck outside, overlooking the pond with all its ducks. A very pleasant way to spend a Sunday afternoon!

There were some 30 of us on the air-conditioned coach, but there was still plenty of space for more. If this visit were on offer again, we would definitely jump at the chance.

John Marcotti

Thank you John for this, it was lovely to receive an article from a member who had enjoyed their experience of a u3a event. More please from members. Ed.

Pétanque.

Welcome to the Fleet U3A Pétanque group. We have vacancies for new members to start the 2026 / 2027 season

We play every two weeks from 10.00 until 12.00 starting on Monday the 7th of September 2026 right through to late August 2027. We play on the outdoor ground at Cody Sports Club, which is located between Farnborough and Fleet. The cost is £4.00 per session and is paid on the day. We are a very friendly group and welcome new members.

Equipment is provided and no special clothes are required except comfortable flat shoes. This is a game that almost any-one can play and enjoy.

We play three, half hour, games. To determine who you are playing with and who the opposition will be we all throw one boule towards the cochonnet (cosh) or jack. The team leader then sorts out the nearest boules to make a team.

A game is played with four players in two teams and using three boules each. One person throws a small ball known as a cosh down the playing area known as a piste. The aim of each team is to get one or more of their boules closer than those of their opponents and gain points for doing so. Further rounds are played until one team reaches 13 points. We play three complete games in each session. These games will be against different people. Plenty of training and advice will be given.

Chris Walters

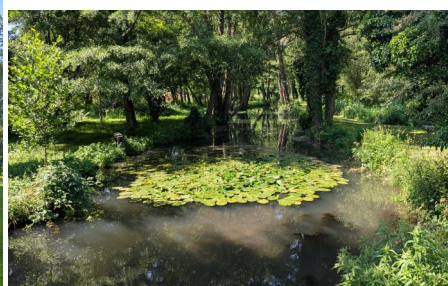
Please contact Chris on 07516 703958 for more information.



Short Walking Group

Chris Mundy and Annie Beunier led twelve of us on a delightfully varied walk from Mattingley Church. We started by a quick visit to the church - a very old and interesting building well worth a bit more study. We walked across streams and through woods and pastures collecting a variety of sights and sounds. A flock of sheep complaining announced that they were being shorn in their field. As well as cattle, we came across some alpacas. One of the streams we crossed had kingcups in it.

It was a very hot day so we stopped frequently for



"rehydration" breaks when we found a good bit of shade. Fields were not only growing crops and providing pasture but also vast solar arrays.

Thanks are due to our leaders, to Keith Mundy who was our back marker and to Sally Mullin who organises our group.

Kerensa Pearson

MOTO3

Most people in U3A know that MOTO stands for “Members On Their Own”. It is a friendship group for those of us who have lost Husbands, Wives, Partners and now find themselves alone.

The summer months can be particularly lonely for our members, when most Fleet U3A groups and classes close for the summer, to allow our hard-working volunteer Group Leaders a well-earned break.

Without their regular weekly or monthly classes to attend, our members feel even more alone. Therefore, all four Fleet U3A MOTO groups become more important and valuable to their members through the summer months.

This summer, MOTO3 continued with its regular monthly meetings, coffee morning and afternoon, weekly pub quiz night and our book club. We also played pub skittles, went to live music shows, theatre, walks with dogs and followed by coffee and chat, and even an impromptu invitation to meet in a pub garden, to make the most of the good weather.

Most recently, 15 of us decided to go for a quiet meal at a local Italian restaurant, featuring a Frank Sinatra tribute act. The thing about MOTO3 is, that it is impossible to keep them quiet for long. First, they began to sing along with “Frank Sinatra”, (who was brilliant), and he dubbed our group the “Von Trapp Family Choir.” When he invited people in the restaurant to come up and dance, MOTO3 led the way. Soon, almost everyone was up on the dance floor, having a great time and making new friends

All in all, a very special evening for our group. We all enjoyed it so much, that we have already booked to go again next month.

Terry Collier



I thought I just ordered a slice



Insider information - There were three ladies who were prepared to divorce their husbands to join our Group. The husbands were not dancing so Terry danced with them.

Art Group 3

Monday Art Group went to the Elvetham hotel for High Tea and had a lovely time. Unfortunately Julie, the group leader, could not join us because she was poorly. However, it was lovely to see everyone who came.

Daisy Khepar



Creative Writing

It's been five years since the last official James Bond movie and with any luck they will soon decide on the actor to replace Daniel Craig. Let's hope they don't mess with the formula and certainly not to the extent envisaged in Richard's tongue in cheek piece below.

Margaret Garrod

No time to say goodbye by Richard Fuller

Press release: New James Bond Film

We know many of you are eagerly awaiting the new James Bond movie. We know that there has been lots of speculation about who plays the role of Bond and the likely plot.

Here at Chubby Broccoli and other Vegetable Productions, on behalf of MGM, we are pleased to announce:-

The role of Q will be removed from the film. We have bowed to pressure from the gay section of society who object to the letter Q being misappropriated from the Q in Queer (despite the fact that it is a much older Royal Navy term for the Quartermaster).

The role of M will be removed from the film. We have bowed to pressure from women's groups that the use of the letter M has male connotations, and any such misogynistic tendencies must be removed from all movies.

Bond will no longer be referred to as 007. We have bowed to pressure from educational reformists who no longer wish for any person to be placed in any order. This placing in order, 1st, 2nd etc can harm the mental health, especially of young children (and despite age restrictions not allowing them to view the movie), they must be protected at all times.

We have bowed to pressure so that no antagonists will be of Russian or eastern European extraction as this has offended large swathes of the population of these countries, and in particular that nice gentleman Mr Putin.

No antagonist will in any way be linked to any Mafia organisation. We have apparently in previous productions upset these law-abiding families, who are simply trying to make an honest living.

Bond will no longer be male, to avoid misogynistic inferences, neither will Bond be female as this has feminist connotations so, to appease a minority, and upset the large silent majority of fans, Bond will be genderfluid. This will considerably reduce the pool of talented actors to choose from and thus speed up the selection process.

The plot will involve no violence, sex or crime, nor will there be seen to be any damage to any property in any shape or form. This is to avoid offence and mental stress to any viewer who may find such scenes upsetting.

We have bowed to pressure from environmental groups so the plot will not involve exotic locations and far-flung places as this requires large number of people and equipment to be transported vast distances creating large quantities of carbon dioxide.

The plot will instead, involve a group of actors in a London office frowning at a large screen showing a map of the world. Bond will then be seen sitting on a train. Next, we see him/her/they sitting in a seaside café in Brighton. We have bowed to pressure from alcoholics anonymous and him/her/they will drink tea, stirred not shaken, instead of vodka Martini. The final scene will show Bond returning to smiles all round in the office. Keeping this production to five minutes long will make it acceptable to all the millennials with their limited concentration spans.

What we can announce is that the title of the new film will be:-

No time to say goodbye

This is a homage to the fact that we will carry on making Bond movies time after time as the franchise works and is profitable, no matter how formulaic or repetitive they may become. So, if you miss this movie, look out for the next dreary remake and the next...

We do hope you will continue to enjoy and support our work.

Richard Fuller

Wine Appreciation



U3A wine Appreciation groups went to a beautiful vineyard in Sussex called Roebuck Estates organised by Barry Khepar. Our guide had thirty years experience in the vineyards and was now ready to move on to new pastures. We were very lucky to have her to give us her extensive knowledge in wine making. We then went for a lovely meal in a



nearby pub which we all enjoyed thoroughly!!
Daisy Khepar

Rollers went to Uppark House

So June 1st dawned dry, with some sunshine peeking through. Rollers, as enthusiastic as ever, all arrived in good time, parked prettily under the supervision of Rollers Team parking guides, and were ready for the compulsory photo shoot - courtesy of Alan, Rollers photographer. (Many thanks to Team parking and Alan.)

Scott, our great D&P driver arrived punctual as ever, ready for another adventure.

Photo done, we were boarding, no late comers or cancellations on the day just the largest Rollers group to date 35...great support, many thanks.

That's my introduction and enough from me for now. I will let the Rollers speak for themselves.

I thoroughly enjoyed it. Fortunately, didn't see the rat 🐭. We had a lovely tour of the gardens as well as the visit to the house which was interesting. The guides were so welcoming, helpful and knowledgeable. A good day even if the weather was a bit chilly in the afternoon.

I had not been there before, the views across the South Downs were wonderful and I could not believe the distant view of the Isle of Wight and the Spinnaker tower. The house was worth seeing and I look forward to more Rollers visits.

Our coach driver is simply the best. All went so smoothly.

Many thanks to Team Rollers helpers. Looking forward to the next adventure.

What more to say, these are abridged feedback comments that say it all. *My first visit with the Rollers, I thoroughly enjoyed the trip and found everybody so friendly and helpful thanks. Super day, fantastic day, brilliant day, great way to spend a day, delightful day, coach and driver super, here's to the next one!.*

THANKYOU for all your kind, positive messages. It was another adventure; there was a rat seen only by me and those sharing coffee with me in the afternoon!!

I leave you with Rollers photo's, photo shoot by Alan and the Under the Greenwood Tree by Margaret, an extremely old and beautiful maple at the entrance to the scented garden with two Rollers in hiding!!



Au revoir **Jenny Teagle**

We had a fine, but not too hot day for our August walk led by Kit Mitchell. The distance was 4 miles taking in The Devil's Highway Roman Road and the Three Castles path with views of Broadmoor Hospital. Everyone behaved themselves, so there was no need for a stop at the Violence Reduction Centre.

Hello and welcome back after the summer break. Strollers have met throughout the Summer, yes, even when it was thirty degrees plus. Understandably, some of our strollers chose sensibly to retreat into the cool of their homes on those very hot Mondays.

We've carried on carrying on because we are a happy band who enjoy getting together.

Everyone is welcome, we meet every two weeks on a Monday morning at 11 o'clock in the De Havilland pub car park, Elvetham Heath. Stay Safe. **Jenny Teagles**

Jenny Teagle

A Big Thank you from Your Committee

Firstly, to our very own Catering Team for all the work they undertook at the recent Group Leaders Lunch. Despite unexpected numbers turning up (due once again to the Plesk email system failing) the Team coped admirably and managed to feed everybody. Well done all.

Secondly, we would also like to thank all those volunteers who turned up to help set up, and take down, the tables, chairs and other equipment that were needed to enable the Open Day to run smoothly. All these behind the scenes activities would not be possible with out such help.

Thursday Cycle Group

The Thursday Cycle Group have had a successful year with sixteen rides, which included Tweseldown, Crondall, Farnborough, Hartley Wintney, Odiham, and Tweseldown. The rides were of varying lengths between about 10 and 13 miles with an average of seven cyclists on each ride.

One of the rides in June, was an 'end of year' ride to Hartley Wintney. Instead of having our usual coffee break outside; we had coffee and cake at St John's Church where eleven of us enjoyed an end of year chat.

For the year 2026 / 27, the Thursday rides will be on the first and third Thursday of each month. We cycle at a leisurely pace and do not leave anyone behind!

If you would like to join, please contact Stephen on 07931730457 or stephenphillips100@hotmail.com



Group Leaders & Members

Important

We are now paying for all booked sessions at the majority of venues. If you have to cancel a session please be aware that you will still have to pay the venue for that session.

COMMITTEE & EMAILS



Chair & Webmaster	Stephen Grosvenor	sigfleetu3a@gmail.com
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Secretary	Anne Smith	u3aannezsmith@gmail.com
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Outreach Sec & Enquiries	Jenny Teagle	
Minutes Sec	Julie Lysaght	fleetu3amins@gmail.com
Hon President	Paddy Powell	paddyu3a@gmail.com

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

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.