

Bournemouth

u3a learn,
laugh,
live

Newsletter Autumn 2024

*The Chair & Committee hope that you have
had a Brilliant Summer Break!*



*Was this You? Contemplating and Enjoying a
"Maybe-Soon" Sunny Day..... ???*

Photo – Bournemouth Pier – submitted by Steve Twine of Fun Photography Group No. 58

Summer Gala at our new Venue – The Knole



Singing, Dancing and Exercise were just some of the Performances given at the Summer Gala held on Saturday 15th June 2024.

These were held in the **Hampshire Room** which is the room that the larger activity Groups will use for 2024/25. We will also be using the **Christy Room** and the **Dorset Room** for other Groups.



For many Members it was the very first time that they had ever seen **The Knole - our New Venue for 2024/25** (replacing the Friends Meeting House, which has now closed).

Photos at the Summer Gala kindly taken by Geoffrey Black.

Notes from the Chair



Hello to everyone, I hope you're all keeping well and have enjoyed the long Summer days and watching sport, particularly Team GB at the Paris Olympics.

We held the first Summer Gala Party at The Knole (Freemasons' Hall) in June and this turned out to be a very successful and well attended event. Thank you to all the volunteers, Group Leaders and Committee members who helped on the day making the event possible. Only two rooms were available on the Gala day as one of the new rooms for groups in the Autumn ("Christy Room") was still under renovation. Next year, we have been assured that all three rooms will be available to host a future Summer Gala and this will allow more groups to showcase their displays with more room for all.

Other activities held over the Summer included a very successful weekend event held at the "Shake and Stir Festival" and many social "Summer Get Together" events. Thank you again to all those members who host and run these promotions and events.

Volunteer members continue to work during the Summer months processing the 2024/25 membership applications on Beacon. The Beacon membership system is now being fully utilised by volunteers to process applications and update members' choices of groups.

National U3A Week 2024 – 21-29 September

Don't forget we are holding a Bu3a Open Day at Moordown Community Centre (MCC) on Tuesday 24th September (12.30 p.m. onwards) as part of the National u3a Week celebrations.

That same week, on Friday 27th September, we are also holding a Bu3a "Promotion Day" in Westbourne Arcade, for the first time ever. Please come along with your friends and say "hello" at both events!

A quick reminder to all to please "use our new Bu3a website" and keep up to date with news, events and new groups and also to follow and "like" us on our Facebook page.

The latest 2024/25 Bournemouth u3a Programme includes almost 100 Groups and I hope you are looking forward to the new Autumn term to re-commence your chosen u3a activities and social events.

Kind regards, **Stephanie Gardiner (Chair)**

News From the Groups

Literature – “Companion Pieces”

Tribute to a long standing and outstanding Course Leader



This past summer, current and past members of the Literature study class, ‘Companion Pieces’, bade a sad and heartfelt farewell to their course leader – **John Hubbard**. John, (a renowned former English teacher at both Bournemouth Grammar Schools) ran the class superbly for 11

years (in addition to his other popular weekly U3A drama class ‘Post Script’). He inspired attendees with his own rich love of literature and extensive, wide-ranging knowledge. John’s thorough preparation for each session was phenomenal, with regular handouts of poetry, points to explore and additional supportive material. We studied agreed texts in detail – plays, novels, biographies, short stories and poems under an agreed theme, for example: Art and Artists, Music, Parents and Children. John would unfailingly guide our discussions gently with consummate skill and good humour.

This past two terms we had focused on 1950’s literature. The final novel we “unpacked” was *The Jewel in the Crown* (Paul Scott), and within Bournemouth U3A John was certainly a gem. We owe a huge debt of gratitude to John for his lengthy period of commitment and the dedication he has given to running his classes. He inspired and brought pleasure to so many over the years and will be a great loss. We thank him sincerely and wish him happy travels with more time now to pursue his many interests.

Judy Parsons

on behalf of the **Companion Pieces class of 2023/2024**

Photo – John Hubbard in “Full Flow”!! – submitted by Judy Parsons.

Fun Photography Group



The Fun Photography Group focusses on putting the fun into taking photos with visits to local outdoor photo locations combined with indoor meetings. All of our locations are on bus routes and we usually meet up afterwards for a hot drink at a local café.

Our emphasis is on composition rather than technicalities and our members use either their phones or cameras.

As well as taking pictures of a weekly photo topic, we also invite our members to take photos of a different theme each term, and these lead to a competition at the end of that term.

We welcome all levels of photographers from newcomer through to experienced, and we are happy to encourage and offer friendly advice and positive comments.

Group No. 58 – Leader is Steve Allen



(Photos Above of Mudeford from Hengistbury Head, and the Beach Huts, taken by Steve Allen).



Calling All Art Lovers

The Arts Society Poole

The Arts Society Poole welcomes new members to share an interest in art and the arts. There are monthly lectures from October to June held in Canford Cliffs Village Hall on Fridays at 2.00 p.m. Our lecturers are experts in their field and the programme is very varied - unusual topics are sometimes the most interesting! There are occasional visits to places of interest, social events and Wessex Area study days.

For more information see our website..... artsocietypoole@org.uk

Linda Cartwright (Chair, The Arts Society Poole) and Member of Bu3a.

Poets Corner.....

It is most wonderful

To share the world of my little granddaughter
To be beguiled by her joyful peace of mind
And to watch her fly, as free as Manx Shearwater



To walk hand in hand, probing sand at low water
To celebrate her openness, free and colourblind
As I share the world of my little granddaughter

To play and joke as we splash in salt water
To delight that she will be confident womankind
And to watch her fly, as free as Manx Shearwater



To walk alongside as she balances a breakwater
To peer within at her faith and trust unconfined
As I share the world of my little granddaughter

To dig and dam together in sand at high water
To rejoice in her security, preciously undefined
And to watch her fly, as free as Manx Shearwater

To teach her to know the wonder of fresh water
To know her love is a real gift to humankind
As I share the world of my little granddaughter
And watch her fly, as free as Manx Shearwater



Simon Tyndall (Poetry Reading Group No. 17)

Have we got your current e-mail Address and all your up-to-date address/contact details???

Please keep the Office informed by e-mail at
officemanager@bournemouthu3a.org.uk
or by phone via the office.

IMPORTANT Notice for All Group Leaders



IMPORTANT
ANNOUNCEMENT

Pre-Programme Meeting and Electrical Equipment Testing

To be Held on Wednesday 25th September

At St Katharine's Church

Church Road (just down from Belle Vue Road) Southbourne BH6 4AR

Bus Routes 1c, 33, M2 (last bus stop, Southbourne Crossroads)

This year the **Equipment testing will take place immediately before the Leaders' meeting.** If you are using any equipment with a plug you **must** have it tested. Laptop chargers are sufficient – you do not need to bring your laptop. Please email me to confirm that you will be attending. If you are unable to do so, then I will need to pick it up.

Timescale

Access at 12 noon **only for those who are helping to set up.**

Only Leaders with Equipment to be PAT tested to arrive at 12.30 and no later than 12.50 p.m.

All other Leaders to arrive at 1.00 p.m.

Refreshments served from 1.15 - 1.45 p.m.

Meeting starts at 1.45 p.m. Meeting ends at 3.00 p.m.

Help appreciated to stack away chairs and tables - out by 3.30 p.m.

Car parking There is a car park and you may park on some of the grass at the side but you **MUST NOT** go beyond the No Parking notice as this allows for Emergency vehicle access. You may also park on the roads nearby.

Please make every effort to attend.....

Outstanding Membership Forms

If you have not yet completed and returned your 2024/25 membership form, please scan or post to the office without further delay.

Thank you! Jennie & Dorothee



NEW Bu3a Website - FIND US ONLINE.....



We hope that you've visited our new website at www.bournemouthu3a.org.uk

Since it went "live" in the middle of June, we're delighted to note (as at 13th August) that there have been nearly 3,000 visits, viewing over 20,000 pages.

Our aim is to keep the "Events Calendar" and "Latest News" pages as up to date as possible, together with any adjustments to our extensive range of "Groups" for 2024/25. Please do glance at these pages when you can.

At the moment, there are just two of us pulling the strings behind the website, but we have always wanted a somewhat larger team of digital custodians to maintain and improve the site. So, here are **two invitations**:-

1 - Last call for 2024/25 for the "Website Support Workshop".

This is a one term only website training Group that runs this autumn [beginning 1 October, Tuesdays, 2-3.30pm, weekly, at BUINTCOL]. There's room in this Workshop for one or two more interested and digitally confident members who have their own laptops with W10 or W11 installed. Just email howardfincher@btinternet.com to join the "Website Support Workshop".



2 - First call for 2024/25 for GLs to work with us to annotate and illustrate your individual Group pages on the website with news and milestones – or with anything that will give others a sense of what is going on in your Group. In the first instance, email oliver.merton@hotmail.com to begin to embellish your Group's page.

Oliver Merton and Howard Fincher

Bournemouth



c/o St James Institute
33a Stourfield Road
Bournemouth
BH5 2AR

Tel: 01202 420700

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday 15th October 2024

Commencing at 10.30 a.m.

at The Knole, Freemasons Hall,

Hampshire Room,

Knole Road, Boscombe, BH1 4DH

(arrangements overleaf)

Registered Charity No. 800397

Pull out Annual General Meeting Supplement

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of Bournemouth u3a will be held on

Tuesday, 15th October 2024, commencing at 10.30 a.m.

in the Hampshire Room of
The Knole, Freemasons Hall, Knole Road,
Boscombe, BH1 4DH

to conduct the business set out in the Agenda below.

AGENDA

- 1 - Welcome by the Chair, Stephanie Gardiner
- 2 - Apologies for absence
- 3 - Approval of the minutes of the last AGM [19 October 2023]
- 4 - Chair's Annual Report
- 5 - Treasurer's Annual Report
- 6 - Election of Committee members for 2024/2025
- 7 - Any Other Business (AOB)

Any member who wishes to raise a matter under AOB should notify the Secretary by e-mail [secretary@bournemouthu3a.org.uk] before Tuesday, **8 October 2024**.

Matters raised under AOB on the day will be taken at the discretion of the Chair.

[Morning Groups will be cancelled. Please note that the Bu3a Office at SJ1 may be closed that day.]

Pull out Annual General Meeting Supplement

AGM ARRANGEMENTS

- Please write the date of this year's AGM, **Tuesday 15 October**, in your diaries.
- There is parking at The Knole, but it is also only a short walk from the main Christchurch Road bus route (buses M1, M2, etc.).
- The Committee would like as many members as possible to attend, as we need a good attendance to hold a valid AGM.
- This year's Committee is listed overleaf. By the provisions of our Constitution, the entire Committee stands down each year at the AGM and a new Committee (maximum 12) is elected for the coming year.
- Nominations for the 2024/25 Committee from members are invited. Written nominations, which need to be seconded (with both names clearly printed), should be sent [envelope marked 'AGM election nomination'] to the Office to arrive no later than **Tuesday, 8 October 2024**.
- We have vacancies for a Vice-Chair, Accessibility Officer, IT Manager, Joint Programme Co-ordinator (shadow role), Office Manager and Social Events Organiser that we need to fill for 2024/25.

Pull out Annual General Meeting Supplement



Our Committee Members 2023/24

Stephanie Gardiner	Chair + U3A Beacon System
(Vacancy)	Vice Chair
Michael Crich	Treasurer
Dorothee Merton	Secretary/Beacon Administrator/ Joint Programme coordinator
Jennie Pudney	Joint Programme coordinator/ SJI Representative
Julie Williams	Publicity
(Vacancy)	Office Manager
(Vacancy)	Social Events
(Vacancy)	IT Manager
Nick Monk	Newsletter Editor



The Bu3a Office at SJI

To our dedicated team of Volunteers running the office at
St James Institute..... *We Thank You!*

Monday	Sandra Bassett, Dorothee Merton
Tuesday	Rosa Milton, Graham Maughan
Wednesday	Jennie Pudney, Sue Godwin, Paul Tunnicliffe
Thursday	Mary Laphish, Angela Heasman, Dorothee Merton
Friday	Office closed



LUNCHING AROUND THE WORLD with Bob & Jackie Hucklesby

Originally set up by Pamela Roberts and Joyce Bicknell, '**Lunching Around The World**' has proved a popular concept with Bournemouth U3A members.

Bob & Jackie Hucklesby were handed 'the baton' in 2021 and have relished the opportunity of trying out new restaurants & new cuisines ever since.

Lunches take place at various locations around Bournemouth. We vary the days of the week and we like to vary the flavours - French, Chinese, Lebanese, Nepalese, Thai, Greek, etc. We have developed a really good rapport with several restaurants and look forward to our return visits - and, where possible, we aim to introduce two or three new venues to the mix each year.

Information is e-mailed to members approx. 3 weeks in advance and **places must be pre-booked.**

It's a great way to make new friends. We look forward to seeing you soon.

Bon Appetit!

Bob & Jackie

Autumn Dates

WEDNESDAY 9TH OCTOBER – 12.30 - THE REAL GREEK, BH2 Complex, Bournemouth Square/Exeter Road

MONDAY 21st OCTOBER – 12.30 - THE WONDERFUL KITCHEN, Charminster Road.

FRIDAY 22nd NOVEMBER – 12.30 - CHAPLINS, Christchurch Road, Boscombe (TBC)

To book, please contact: E-mail: bobhucklesby@btinternet.com
Tel: 01202 551401

Quote :- "One cannot think well, love well, sleep well, if one has not dined well."
- Virginia Woolf (English Writer)



TEN PIN BOWLING

with John Oram

Monday 23rd September and Monday 16th December, and we will probably continue with making ad hoc arrangements in the meantime. At Hollywood Bowl, (Bowplex), 382 Poole Road, Branksome, Poole BH12 1DA (Opposite Tesco).

As usual please arrive promptly at 11.00 so that we can organise a group for each lane and all start together at 11.15 a.m. As our sessions will be in school term time, we should get the concessionary rate. We usually play two games finishing by about 1.00 – 1.30 although some may choose to play just the one game.

Bowling shoes are available for hire but ordinary footwear is perfectly acceptable. No need to book, just turn up and by all means bring a friend if you wish. If you don't feel like playing just come along and watch and have a chat. Enjoy the fun and there is a coffee bar.

There is plenty of parking on site and of course many buses pass the door along the Poole Road.



OUR NEXT QUIZ with Alan and Audrey Kneller

Wednesday 11th December 2024, at 2.00 pm, arrive from 1.30 pm,
at The Annunciation Church Hall, 218 Charminster Road,
Bournemouth BH8 9RW.

We again invite group/team leaders to make up a table of a maximum of 6 members and notify the Office by phone, or preferably email, of your contact details and team name. A group can have more than one team.

If no one in your group wants to make up a team, contact the Office telling them of your interest and you will be linked with another group that cannot make a full team, or you could be linked with other individuals to make a new team.

Continued.....

OUR NEXT QUIZ – Cont'd with Alan and Audrey Kneller



Admission is £3 per person, to include refreshments, payable at your table. We had a superb response to our last two Quizzes, but we are limited in the number of tables which can be accommodated in the hall. So..... to avoid disappointment, **please be sure to book your team a place** as soon as you can..... **John Oram**

Quote:- "It's like, at the end, there's this surprise quiz: Am I proud of me? I gave my life to become the person I am right now. Was it worth what I paid?"
- Richard Bach (American Writer)

COFFEE CLUB



Come and enjoy a beverage of your choice and meet friends, as well as newer members of Bournemouth u3a.

Coffee clubs take place from 10.30 - 12.00 Noon.

However, if you want to stay on at the venue and have lunch that's fine. I'm sure they'd appreciate it.



Thursday October 24th - Southbourne Ludo Lounge

Buses U3, M2, 1b, 1c - alight Fishermans Walk and walk past the Post Office.

Your host will be Julie



Wednesday November 20th - Westbourne Conservative Club, Alum Chine Road

Lots of buses. Alight at The Westbourne pub or Post Office if coming from Bournemouth, or at Iceland Store and walk through the Arcade to Alum Chine Road, if coming from Poole.

Your host will be Julie

Quote:- "Without my morning coffee, I'm just like a dried-up piece of roast goat."
- Johann Sebastian Bach (German Composer)

CHRISTMAS LUNCH at THE CUMBERLAND HOTEL



27 East Overcliff Drive, BH1 3AF

Tuesday 10th December 2023

Arrive by 12.30 for start at 1.00 p.m.

£28.00 per person incl. gratuities (supplement of £3.00 per person for a fish main course)

MENU

STARTERS	<p>(A) Roasted Pepper & Tomato Soup, Basil Infused Oil</p> <p>(B) English Ham Hock & Pea Terrine, Homestyle Fruit Chutney, with Sourdough Toast, Small Salad, Balsamic Syrup</p> <p>(C) Salmon & Dill Gravlax, Soaked Beetroot Puree, Capers, Leaves</p> <p>(D) Lemon Grass & Sweet Potato Soup (GF, VG), Fresh Herbs</p> <p>(E) Lightly Curried Cauliflower Salad (GF, VG), Rocket Leaves, Toasted Almond, Coriander & Mint Dressing</p> <p>(F) Tricolore Salad (GF, VG), Rocket Leaves, Beef Tomato, Basil Infused Oil</p>
MAINS	<p>(G) Traditional Roast Turkey Breast, (DF, GF available), Pigs in Blankets, Apricot & Cranberry Stuffing, Chef's Pan Gravy</p> <p>(H) Slow Cooked Feather Blade of Beef (GF), Rosemary & Red Wine Jus</p> <p>(I) Open New Forest Mushroom Pie (GF available), Baby Spinach, Garlic & Chardonnay Sauce, Puff Pastry Slice, Parmesan</p> <p>(J) Chef's Vegetable Ratatouille (GF, VG), Roasted Mediterranean Vegetables, Provençal Tomato Sauce</p> <p>(K) Sweet Potato & Chickpea Bake (GF, VG), Vegan Mozzarella, Coriander, Salsa Verde</p> <p>All served with Crispy Roasties and Seasonal Vegetables</p>
DESSERTS	<p>(L) Luxury Christmas Pudding, (GF, VG available), Creamy Brandy Custard,</p> <p>(M) White Chocolate & Raspberry Blondie, Fruit Coulis</p> <p>(N) Sicilian Lemon Crème Pot, Vanilla Cream, Blueberry Compote (GF)</p> <p>(O) Christmas Pudding (GF or VG available), Brandy & Nutmeg Sauce</p> <p>(P) Carrot Cake (VG), Plant Based Cream, Pistachio</p> <p>(Q) Mulled Spiced Poached Pear (GF, VG), Winter Berries, Saffron & Vanilla Syrup</p>

NOTE - (GF) = Gluten Free, (VG) = Vegan, (DF) = Dairy Free.

If you have any dietary requirements or need allergen advice, please contact the Cumberland Hotel before booking.

Please complete ONE of the two booking forms sent to you with your e-mail copy of this newsletter – EITHER the FILLABLE file (only with MS Word) or the PRINTABLE file (for PDF Reader) * OR*** complete the paper booking form enclosed with your paper copy of this newsletter.**

Paper copies of the booking form are also available from the Office at SJI, and on MCC Notice Board.



Dates for your Diary

Date	Event	Venue	Time
2024			
Tues. 10 Sept.	Summer Get-Together	Cosy Club, Old Xchurch Road (next to Beales)	10.30
Sat. to Sun. - 21 to 29 Sept.	National u3a Week 2024	All u3a's Nationwide	N/A
Mon. 23 Sept.	10 Pin Bowling	Bowlplex, Branksome	11.00
Tues. 24 Sept.	Bu3a Open Day (u3a Nat. Week)	Moordown Community Centre	12.30 Onwards
Wed. 25 Sept.	Group Ldrs' Mtg. and PAT testing	St Katharine's Church Church Rd, Southbourne	12.00 Onwards
Fri. 27 Sept.	Bu3a Promotion Day (Nat. u3a Wk)	Westbourne Arcade	10.00 - 16.00
Mon. 30 Sept.	Start Autumn term	All Bu3a venues	
Wed. 09 Oct.	Lunching around the World	The Real Greek, BH2 Complex, Bournemouth	12.30
Tues. 15 Oct.	Bu3a Annual General Meeting	The Knole, Freemasons Hall, Boscombe	10.30
Mon. 21 Oct.	Lunching around the World	The Wonderful Kitchen, Charminster Road	12.30
Thur. 24 Oct.	Coffee Morning	Southbourne Ludo Lounge	10.30
Wed. 20 Nov.	Coffee Morning	Westbourne Con. Club, Alum Chine Road	10.30
Fri. 22 Nov.	Lunching around the World	Chaplins, Christchurch Road, Boscombe (TBC)	12.30
Fri. 06 Dec.	End Autumn term	All Bu3a venues	
Tues. 10 Dec.	Christmas Lunch	The Cumberland Hotel, East Overcliff Drive	12.30
Wed. 11 Dec.	Bu3a Quiz	Annunciation Church Hall, Charminster BH8	14.00
Mon. 16 Dec.	10 Pin Bowling	Bowlplex, Branksome	11.00
Thur. 19 Dec.	OFFICE CLOSSES 16.00 FOR XMAS	RE-OPENS TUES. 02 JAN. 2025	10.00
2025			
Mon. 06 Jan.	Start Spring term	All Bu3a venues	
Tues. to Tues. 01 to 15 Jul.	Tuscany Holiday	Sunny Italy!!	N/A

Tuscany Holiday Review (including Hotel Torretta) – July 2024

Already a member of the North London U3A, and with family ties in Bournemouth, I thought that joining the Bournemouth U3A would be a fabulous way to make new friends and pave the way for an eventual move out of London.

When I spotted Margaret's Tuscany trip, I was beyond excited! Her itinerary seemed to capture the very essence of Italy. Despite having lived in Italy for years, I had never ventured to Tuscany, so this was the perfect opportunity.

Our visit to Villa Marlia and its stunning gardens was a delight, followed by a lunch at a charming hilltop trattoria in San Gennaro. The food, the flowing wine, and the company made for an unforgettable experience. Over the next few days, our air-conditioned coach whisked us off to Siena, Volterra, and San Gimignano. During our free days, some explored Lucca, Florence, Prato, or Pistoia, while others lounged by the hotel pool.

The family run Hotel Torretta gave our U3A members a special welcome. Clearly Margaret has built a unique bond both with the family (Dante & Gabriel) and staff. All our needs were catered for in a friendly and efficient way. The food was delicious and abundant with many choices.... What more could you ask for?

The real magic of this trip was the incredible company. I met fascinating, well-travelled people with diverse interests. It was my first solo travel experience - where striking up a conversation was effortless and everyone was so amicable.

We enjoyed pizzas, spritzes, and gelatos in Montecatini Alta, soaking in the authentic atmosphere - if you visit, go there one evening after dinner; it's truly enchanting. The regulars on this trip shared their knowledge of previous trips, and market day became a highlight as we purchased dresses for just five euros! As well as the lady on the corner stand, selling good value stylish linen outfits. Evening gatherings featured everyone proudly showcasing their new finds before dinner.

On our trip to Vinci and the vineyard wine tasting, I enjoyed the opportunity of translating the winemaking process between the owner and our group..... words flowed much easier after a few glasses..... and what a lunch! The final grappa ensured we slept all the way back to the hotel.

A huge thank you to Margaret and David for their flawless and undoubtedly time-consuming planning and organising and thank you to everyone for our mutually delightful company.

Written by Denise Hopkins

PLEASE ALSO SEE BACK COVER FOR DETAILS OF Bu3a 2025 HOLIDAY

E-mail: info@bournemouthu3a.org.uk

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Office Tel: 01202 420700

Bu3a Promotion Day.....

Shake & Stir Vintage Music and Lifestyle Festival - June 2024



Did you make it to this annual event in Fisherman's Walk, Southbourne?

There was live music in different areas throughout the two days. We were treated to dance demonstrations, there were Artisan stalls, lots of food and drink and vintage displays. Many people joined in the dancing and had fun, especially as the weather was good.

During this "party vibe" our volunteers handed out brochures, and shared lots of information about Bournemouth u3a. It's still amazing to find that not EVERYONE has heard of us! But once they do, and they find a group or two that interests them, they will join. Let's keep up this momentum and mention Bu3a to as many people as possible so that our organisation can keep growing.

Many thanks to all the volunteers. You all did a grand job.

Julie (publicity)

PICNIC ON THE BEACH

Held Wednesday 7th August 2024



Another very well attended Picnic near the "SoBo" Beach Café in Southbourne.

Okay, the weather wasn't brilliant, but it didn't rain, we had some sun, and we all really enjoyed it!! It was great to all meet up again for a chat!

Hosted by John Oram and John Moore



TUSCANY HOLIDAY IN JULY 2025

Following a very successful and memorable holiday this summer (see page 18), another U3A group will be returning next year from the 1st to 15th July 2025.

The holidays are based at the Torretta Hotel in Montecatini Terme. The U3A group always have a warm welcome from the Simoncini family and their friendly, attentive staff. Throughout our stay, we experience Tuscan cooking at its best. Not forgetting copious opportunities to sample local wine and delicious ice-cream!

The diversity of Tuscany allows us to pursue special interests such as art, gardens, music, history and wine!

However, it's not all serious stuff! There will be, as usual, plenty of time to relax by the pool or wandering off to explore other Tuscan delights.

If you are interested and would like to find out more, please contact me at:-
margaretronchetti@hotmail.com