

Bournemouth

u3a learn,
laugh,
live

Newsletter Spring 2025



*The Chair
and the
Committee
wish you
all a very
Happy
Easter...
and all the
wonderful
Joys of
Spring...*

Visit to Garden at Hambledon House on Thursday, 26th June 2025

Why not join Audrey and Alan Kneller on a return visit to the garden at Hambledon House on Thursday 26th June 2025?

We visited the garden back in 2018 and it is well worth a return visit. It's in the village of Hambledon, near Waterlooville in Hampshire.



The delightful garden is on many levels, covering 2 to 3 acres with lots of seating areas, toilets and two covered areas to have refreshments should the weather be wet.

PLEASE NOTE that the garden is NOT suitable for anyone who has difficulty in walking. The price of £35 includes the coach, gratuity to the driver, admission to garden, a talk, a guided tour and tea/coffee and cake too!

This will be a private viewing, and numbers are **restricted to a maximum of 30**. To avoid disappointment, please book your place(s) early.....

We anticipate starting the return journey at about 4.30 p.m.

Time of Pick Up

Where

12.00 Noon	Poole Road, Westbourne outside the old Bingo Hall
12.05 p.m.	Wimborne Road, outside Homeoaks (near Cemetery Junction)
12.10 p.m.	Lansdowne opposite the College in Christchurch Road
12.15 p.m.	Christchurch Road, Derby Road bus stop
12.20 p.m.	Boscombe Lay-by Ashley Road (opp. Bus Station)
12.30 p.m.	Outside Pokesdown Station (opp. The Bell Inn)

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 are also available from the Office at SJI, or on the MCC Notice Board.**

Payment can be made online or by cheque. Completed Booking Forms can be sent either by e-mail or by post (with Cheques if appropriate).

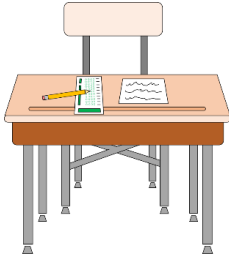
Any booking/payment queries, then please 'phone the Office, or for trip details please 'phone Alan Kneller on 01202 394386.

E-mail: info@bournemouthu3a.org.uk

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Office Tel: 01202 420700

Notes from the Chair



Hello to everyone, and welcome to the latest Spring Edition. Hopefully by the time this newsletter reaches you, there will be some much-needed sunshine and milder weather on the way.

We are pleased to announce that Dorothee has negotiated an extension of our room hire for the Summer Term at BUINTCOL. There are nine newly established groups that have been running since last the Autumn term and most are expected to continue into the future. Thank you to all the new group leaders and members participating in forming these new groups.

Please keep a look out for further Beacon e-mails this Spring/Summer, to see how you might be able to support Bu3a in 2025 as publicity ambassadors, talk organisers, social events organisers and various other volunteer vacancies.

As ever, any **word of mouth spreading the good word** of our great u3a is very much appreciated. We do always need more members to make our groups continue to be viable and we will also run **promotion events** this year as follows:-

Bournemouth Library – Wed. 2nd April – 11.00 a.m. – 4.00 p.m.

Shake & Stir Festival – Sat./Sun. 28-29 June – 10.00 a.m. – 4.00 p.m.

U3a National Week – Sat. through to Sun. 20-28 September

TWO MEMBER OPEN DAYS are to be held at The Knole and at MCC in June 2025, and **these will replace the usual SUMMER GALA**. Tea and cakes will be available, and some displays, and the Brochure for 2025/2026 will be available for you to take away.

Please see Beacon e-mail with details in due course, and they will also be announced and flyers distributed by GLs - for those without an e-mail address.

If you are able to volunteer for any of the above events, please do not hesitate to get in touch with the Office (info@bournemouthu3a.org.uk).

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

Kind regards,
Stephanie Gardiner (Chair)

News From the Groups

Summer Term Chess Club



Yes folks, it is time to sign up for **Group No. 92 at MCC on Fridays from 10.30 - 12.00 noon - for the Summer term only..... Just 'phone the Office to enrol..... This is Social chess for all.**

Meet new people..... Why not come along, play and just enjoy!!

Are you an **Absolute Beginner**? This is the term when we also offer "**Chess ABC**", the **Absolute Beginner Course!** This is **Group No. 88** for the Summer term only. You may then wish to consider joining the Chess Improvers Level 1 Group in the Autumn term later this year.

Group Leader is Christopher Thomas.

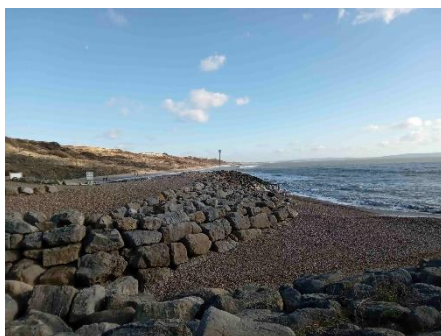
Hiking/Rambling Group



The Hiking/Rambling group enjoyed a wonderful hike from Highcliffe to Mudeford and back recently. This circular (actually long thin oval-shaped!) walk took us along the tree-lined cliff sides of Highcliffe, past the delightful Highcliffe Castle, through the less well-known Steamer Point Nature Reserve

to reach the promenade at Mudeford Quay. Then back along the beach to the Chewton Bunny. It was a stunningly beautiful day with the sun shining on us for the whole hike and, although fairly cold, the clear weather provided us with some exceptional views. Many of us indulged in a sociable light lunch in the Cliffhanger restaurant at the end of the hike. The accompanying photos of group members and the view along the walk were taken by member Carolyn Gardiner.

David Cox – Leader Group No. 70



Fun Photography Group



Pictured are two lovely photos - one celebrating the coming Spring, and also a winning photo of a 'fun still life' of Leicester



Football Club..... both taken by our dear friend and enthusiastic Fun Photography Group member.....
John Horder (photographed left).



John sadly passed away recently, and these photos are our way of remembering what a great photographer and great guy he was..... Our thoughts are with his wife Caroline and family.

Group No. 58 – Leader is Steve Allen.

The Joys (and maybe sometimes not) of being a Languages Group Leader

I retired early quite a few years ago, for no reason other than my employer was making a slightly “Mafioso proposition” of an offer which you really cannot refuse - because you don’t know what we might be able to offer when it’s nearer your real date! I therefore decided I’d do the initial Teaching in the Lifelong Learning Sector (TLLS) qualification. I had no job offer once the course finished – and I wasn’t looking that hard either, thinking I might mentor one-to-one. Fast-forward and jumping over twenty-six months of intensifying home caring for a suddenly rapidly sicker partner, in 2019, newly-widowed and four terms before Covid lockdown, I was offered the voluntary role of Group Leader for the Wednesday Class *L’Atelier de Français*. It continues to be a joy because you do not know *what* responses you might get when you ask:- “Do you regret having dropped a subject at school because you used to get terrible marks for it, or lament not practising something you could do in childhood?” -or- “Which star singer, dead or alive, would you like to have visit to sing you a Valentine’s Day love song?” -or- “Have you ever had electrical white goods or a car you wanted to grab and throw far and hard, because it was so unreliable?” -or-, even “If you could change something about, or add to, the human body what would it be?”.

Thank you to an amazing group for having such fun with these questions!!

Keith Penfold – Group No. 53 Leader - *L’Atelier de Français*

E-mail: info@bournemouthu3a.org.uk

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Office Tel: 01202 420700

Poets Corner.....

Last Orders

“Let’s have order,” says the teacher,
“Take your turn and form a queue,
Know your place and don’t cause trouble,
That’s the best thing you can do!”



“Don’t hoard clutter,” drones the Life Coach,
“Order will enhance your life,
Only keep things if they’re useful,
Too much stuff will cause you strife.”



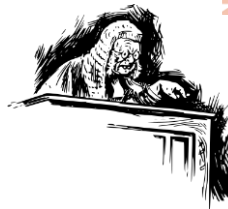
“Are you ready, what’s your order?”
Asks the waiter standing there.
He is patient and attentive,
Wants a tip, so has to care.



On the track a runner crouches,
Knows the training has been done,
Waiting for the starter’s orders,
Trying not to jump the gun.



“Order, Order!” shouts the Speaker,
Seeking quiet from the House.
He commands them like a lion,
Inside feeling like a mouse.



“I am calling for last orders”,
States the landlord, “It is time.....
Time to make your way back home now.”
“And time for me to go to mine.”



Carole Roscoe – Creative Writing Group No.65

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.



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

u3a

Bournemouth

[Home](#) [Groups](#) [Events Calendar](#) [Latest news](#) [Join / Renew](#) [Contact](#) [Management](#)
[Learning](#) [Resources](#) [FAQ](#)

Search ...



"I wish I'd known about u3a before."

"And it's a great way to socialise."

Welcome to Bournemouth u3a. Our community is for those in later life who want to keep active in mind and body. Our members use their experience and knowledge to learn from each other in congenial special interest Groups.

...and there are lots of them, meeting during daylight hours in term time across the Bournemouth area. Together, we hope to embrace healthy ageing as an adventure ... with some laughs along the way.

If you're looking to rebalance your life by embarking on something new and different, you've arrived at the right place!



Our Bournemouth u3a website continues to evolve. As you will see when you log on, we have reconstructed the home page and reduced the number of pages.

The philosophy of the new home page is to welcome members and potential members and to provide the most recent news with regard to upcoming events and group activities. Within the Groups section of the home page, we want to give Group Leaders the chance to showcase their groups' activities with photos.

The next step will be to improve the registration process with an online form instead of having to print one out and to fill it out. We hope to have this in place in the Spring.

In addition, we welcome Peter Smith, who has joined Howard Fincher and myself on the website management team.

If you haven't done so already, then please do try our new Bu3a website..... As always, we welcome your feedback.

Oliver Merton

Our Committee Members 2024/25



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



Can YOU help us please...??? There are the above-mentioned **THREE vacancies** on the Bournemouth u3a Committee, and the Committee **NEEDS** your help to fill these important roles!!

If you think you that you would like to help us, or maybe chat

things over in person first, then please contact Julie, our Publicity “lead”, by e-mail at :- publicity@bournemouthu3a.org.uk



The Bu3a Office at SJI



To our dedicated team of Volunteers running the Bu3a Office at St James Institute.....

We Thank You!

Monday	Suzi MacLeod, Sandra Bassett
Tuesday	Rosa Milton, Dorothee Merton
Wednesday	Jennie Pudney, Sue Godwin, Paul Tunnicliffe
Thursday	Mary Laphish, Angela Heasman, Suzi MacLeod (as Reserve)
Friday	Office closed

Please note that due to illness/holidays etc., there may not always be a volunteer in the office.

Office and Lunch Club Contact Details

Office Phone: 01202 420700 – Mon. to Thurs. 10.00 a.m. – 12.00 noon
E-mail: info@bournemouthu3a.org.uk
Lunch Club: Bob Hucklesby - E-mail: bobhucklesby@btinternet.com

The Bournemouth U3A Office – EASTER CLOSURE from Thurs. 10th April 2025 and reopening Mon. 28th April 2025

The U3A office will be closed for just over two weeks over the Easter holiday. The Summer term starts the week commencing Monday, 28th April 2025, when the Bu3a Office will reopen.

May we in the SJI Office take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy Easter and Summer Term.
Suzi MacLeod (Office Manager)





LUNCHING AROUND THE WORLD with Bob & Jackie Hucklesby

The 'Lunching Around The World' group is going from strength to strength..... and restaurant to restaurant..... and we've enjoyed welcoming many new diners this year.

Lunches take place at various locations around Bournemouth. Recent visits to Luxor, Cote Brasserie and Nusara have brought colour and warmth to the long winter days and we're very much looking forward to the Summer term.

Information is sent out approximately 3 weeks in advance (including details of any pre-ordering requirements, preferred payment methods, bus routes, car parking etc.) and **places must be pre-booked.**

We look forward to seeing you at one of our meals.

Bon Appetit!

Bob & Jackie

Summer 2025 Dates

**THURSDAY 24th APRIL – 12.30 - ROMANZO GREEK RESTAURANT -
87 Poole Road, Westbourne BH4 9BB**

**TUESDAY 20th MAY – 12.30 – 29029 NEPALESE RESTAURANT -
14 Poole Hill, (Nr Bournemouth Triangle), BOURNEMOUTH BH2 5PS**

**WEDNESDAY 18th JUNE – 12.30 – THAI SMILE RESTAURANT –
674 Christchurch Road, Boscombe BH7 6BT**

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

Quote :- “Eating is not merely a material pleasure. Eating well gives a spectacular joy to life and contributes immensely to goodwill and happy companionship. It is of great importance to the morale.”

Elsa Schiaparelli - Italian fashion designer

OUR NEXT TWO QUIZZES with Alan and Audrey Kneller



Alan and Audrey Kneller presented another bumper Quiz in December to open the Festive Season. As always in a U3A event the refreshment break was enjoyed by all and we learned the magic Christmas trick of how to make four whole plates of biscuits disappear in double quick time! Thanks once again to Alan and Audrey.

Not long to wait for our next Quiz which will be on **Wednesday 26th March 2025, at 2.00 pm, arrive from 1.30 pm. At our regular venue: The Annunciation Church Hall, 218 Charminster Road, Bournemouth BH8 9RW.**

And we can now announce another Quiz which will be held on Wednesday 2nd July 2025, again at 2.00 pm, arrive from 1.30 pm.

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.



Admission is £3 per person, to include refreshments, payable at your table.

We usually have a superb response to our Quizzes: 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 :- “Fortunately, human forgetting follows a pattern. We forget exponentially. A graph of our likelihood of getting the correct answer on a quiz sweeps quickly downward over time and then levels off.”

Gary Wolf - American professional wrestler

COFFEE CLUB - Summer Term Dates



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

Coffee clubs take place 10.30 - 12.00

And why not stay on at the venue for lunch?



Thursday 15th May - Parry's Cafe, St. Peter's Church, Hinton Road, Bournemouth.

Plenty of buses come to Bournemouth Square, and then a short walk, or the M1 and M2 buses stop outside the church.

Before or after our get-together, take some time to wander around this historical and beautiful building.

Your host will be Julie.

Tuesday 10th June – Venue To Be Announced

We are hoping to host this month's Coffee Club at the very popular Boscombe Cliff Bowling Green Cafe.



Due to their closure over the winter, we've been unable to talk to them in time for this newsletter. Please watch out for a Beacon e-mail and/or an announcement from your Group Leader, confirming the location.

Your host will be Julie.

Appeal.....

Do you enjoy the Coffee Club meetings? Would you prefer to have them on **different days?**

When we started these events there were two people hosting, Julie and Anita. Anita relocated to Bath and Julie's been hosting them alone - with help from a few friends, when she couldn't make it. Due to other commitments she

can now only organise them on either a Tuesday or a Wednesday morning. So, if you feel you would like to help organise and host a Coffee Club on one of the other days, please get in touch by e-mail at publicity@bournemouthu3a.org.uk.

Thanks – Julie

Quote :- " Sometimes I sound like gravel, and sometimes I sound like coffee and cream." **Nina Simone** - American singer and songwriter



TEN PIN BOWLING with John Oram

Monday 24 March 2025 and Monday 7th July 2025, and additionally we may make other ad hoc arrangements. To be held 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 p.m. 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.

Date for your Diary... Promotion Day and Membership Drive

If you happen to be at **Bournemouth Main Library on Wednesday, 2nd April** you will see our stand with pop-up display banners and meet our volunteers there.

We are hosting a promotion day/membership drive there, for the first time, **between 11.00 a.m. and 4.00 p.m.**

We will be there to tell interested people all about Bournemouth u3a, and the benefits of joining our great organisation, as well as handing out flyers.

The Summer Term membership donation of only £22.00 is great value. We find that newcomers enjoy the different groups and social events and usually decide to continue with us by joining for the full year which starts in September.

Word of mouth is the best way to encourage people to join us. Please continue to tell friends and acquaintances about Bournemouth u3a - the new things that you learn, the friendships, and keeping your mind and body active.

Please show them our latest Flyer as shown on the INSIDE BACK COVER.

Julie - Publicity



Dates for your Diary



Date	Event	Venue	Time
2025			
Mon. 24 March	10 Pin Bowling	Bowlplex, Branksome	11.00
Tue. 25 March	Uni-Sing Concert	Moordown Community Centre	14.00
Wed. 26 March	Bu3a Quiz	Annunciation Church Hall, Charminster BH8	14.00
Thur. 27 March	Coffee Club	Ludo Lounge, Southbourne	10.30
Wed. 02 April	Bu3a Promotion Day	Bournemouth Main Library, The Triangle BH2	11.00 -16.00
Thur. 10 April.	Office closes for 2 weeks	St James Institute	12.00
Thur. 24 April	Lunching around the World	Romanzo Greek Restaurant, Westbourne	12.30
Mon. 28 April	Start of Summer term	All Bu3a venues	
Mon. 28 April.	Office reopens again	St James Institute	10.00
Thur. 15 May	Coffee Club	Parry's Cafe, St. Peter's Church, B'mouth BH1	10.30
Tues 20 May	Lunching around the World	29029 Nepalese Restaurant, B'mouth BH2	12.30
Tue. 10 June	Coffee Club	To be Announced	10.30
Wed. 18 June	Lunching around the World	Thai Smile, Christchurch Road, Boscombe	12.30
Mon. 23 June	End of Summer term	All Bu3a venues	
Thur. 26 June	Garden Visit	Hambledon House – See Page 2 for details	See Stops
Sat./Sun. 28/29 June	Bu3a Promotion Days	Southbourne Shake & Stir Festival	10.00 -16.00
Wed. 02 July	Bu3a Quiz	Annunciation Church Hall, Charminster BH8	14.00
Mon. 07 July	10 Pin Bowling	Bowlplex, Branksome	11.00

Bournemouth



Looking for a present for a
RETIRED or SEMI-RETIRED LOVED ONE
who seems to have everything?



Why not buy them an annual subscription to
BOURNEMOUTH u3a..... ???

A great opportunity to get out and make new friends with like-minded people. We have over 100 Groups and Activities as well as many social events throughout the year.

Summer Term Activities Donation for 2025 is only £22
which gives access to 3 Groups a week + social events.

Contact us on: 01202 420700

(Monday-Thursday 10.00-12.00)

Email: info@bournemouthu3a.org.uk

Or check out our website: www.bournemouthu3a.org.uk

Learn, Laugh, Live!

From Stage to Stereo: A Musical Journey Through
Decades of Hits and Theatre Classics

UNI - SING CONCERT

Tuesday 25th March 2025
at 2pm



**FREE
Admission**

Refreshments Available

UNI-SING

Please support
u3a & the MCC
CASH Donations
accepted as you leave
the concert

M.C.C.
Coronation Avenue
Moordown
Bournemouth BH9 1TU

u3a
learn, laugh, live

Great afternoon Show! Donations support MCC/Bu3a