

Bournemouth

u3a learn,
laugh,
live

Newsletter Summer 2025

Bournemouth

u3a learn,
laugh,
live



91 Groups + Social Events



Programme 2025 – 2026

AUTUMN TERM 2025
Monday 29 September –
Friday 5 December

SPRING TERM 2026
Monday 5 January –
Friday 13 March

SUMMER TERM 2026
Monday 20 April –
Monday 22 June

There are no half-term breaks, but u3a closes on Public Holidays

The 2025/2026 membership donation for all 3 terms is £66
From 7 December, membership donation for the 2026 Spring & Summer terms is £44
From 15 March, membership donation for the 2026 Summer term only is £22

REGISTERED CHARITY NO. 800397

Learn, Laugh, Live!

*The Chair
and the
Committee
remind you all
to collect your
NEW
2025/26
Programme
and Renew at
either of the
two new*

*Member Events! - See Pages 3 and 4 for
Important Changes and Renewal Details!!*

Julia's House - The Great Mermaid Tail Trail

Over 40 giant mermaid tail sculptures made a colourful splash throughout Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole (BCP) this summer. Did you see them?



Dorset & Wiltshire Children's Hospices

The **Great Tail Trail** raised vital funds for Julia's House children's hospices in Dorset & Wiltshire and was delivered in partnership with Wild in Art – see <https://www.juliashouse.org/home>



The Fun Photography Group really enjoyed taking shots of these amazing fun sculptures.....

Two are shown here.....

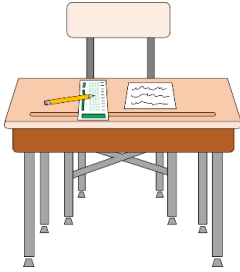
Left - the "Pirate Tail" at Castle Point, and.....

Below - the "Bea Tail" in Westbourne Arcade.



Photo Above taken by Nicole Chattlain, and Right by Steve Allen, Group Leader of Fun Photography Group No. 49.

Notes from the Chair



Hello to everyone, and welcome to the latest Summer Edition of the Newsletter and I hope you are enjoying the warm weather and longer daylight hours.

On 6th March, the Committee decided **NOT to run a Summer Gala Day in June**. The focus this year will be on holding **TWO Member Events** – one at the Moordown Community Centre (Thursday, 12th June – 11.30 a.m. – 3.30 p.m.) and one at the Knole (Tuesday, 17th June – 10.30 a.m. – 12.30 p.m.). Copies of the **New 2025/26 Programme will be available for collection** at these two Member Events. Some volunteers and members of the Committee will be there to discuss any queries you may have about rejoining for 2025/26.

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 be running 25/26 promotional events as follows:-

Shake & Stir Festival 28th June – Saturday only (11 a.m. – 5 p.m.) in Southbourne Grove.

U3a National Week 2025 – We will hold Bu3a Open/Promotion Days at:-

- Moordown Community Centre (Tuesday, 23rd September)
- Westbourne Arcade (Thursday, 25th September)
- The Knole, Boscombe (Tuesday, 30th September).

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 **2025/26 Bournemouth u3a Programme** includes both new and continuing Groups and I hope you are looking forward to the new Autumn term to re-commence your chosen u3a activities and join us in social events.

Finally, just to give you all **Advance Notice**, the **Bu3a Annual General Meeting** will be held at the Knole, Freemasons' Hall, Boscombe, in the Hampshire Room, on Tuesday 14 October at 10.00 a.m.

Kind regards,

Stephanie Gardiner (Chair)

IMPORTANT - 2025/26 Membership Renewal

This year the Committee have decided to **simplify the membership renewal process**, reducing administration and giving **existing members priority to continue in their ongoing groups**.

The **good news** is that members wanting to **renew their 2025/26 Bu3a membership** no longer have to complete an application form! To obtain early access to the groups that members regularly attend, the following will apply:-

- 1) By **9th June, 2025**, members need to let their Group Leaders know that they wish to continue to attend their group/s again in 2025/26.
- 2) Group Leaders will record the names of those members who wish to continue in their groups (**75% cap on member numbers – at the sole discretion of the Group Leader**) and then they will pass these details on to the Joint Programme Co-ordinators.
- 3) From **9th June onwards**, the Office Manager will send e-mail (to all members with e-mail addresses stored on Beacon) instructions for returning (by e-mail) up to 3 chosen groups back to the office for processing. (**N.B. non e-mail members will be contacted by phone or may phone the office with their preferred groups**).
- 4) From **23rd June onwards**, access to Groups on Beacon will be frozen and the office will update the group member lists.
- 5) Members will be **advised of their confirmed groups** by e-mail/phone once the records have been updated on Beacon.
- 6) **Please do not contact the office by phone until after 31st July, 2025** but send any queries by e-mail. The Office will be very busy processing members' group choices, renewing existing members records (and processing new members applications) along with handling and allocating payments on the Beacon membership system.

Payments



Please **pay your £66 (non-refundable) membership donation** (plus any other donations – at your discretion) **by 31st August, 2025** in full by one of the following methods:-

- 1) **On-line banking via BACS** (Business Account: **Bournemouth u3a**, Sort Code **20-11-39**, Account No. **83283216**).
- 2) In person by **Barclays contactless Card-reader** (using Debit or Credit Card) at one of the two June Member Events.
- 3) **On-line payment** via the website **bournemouthu3a.org.uk/join-renew** (using PayPal account or directly by Debit or Credit card).
- 4) **By cheque** (send by post to the SJI Office – See Page 9 for address).

Finally, don't forget to add your Membership No. and Surname as a reference on any payment method used.....

News From the Groups

New Group: Autumn & Spring terms - The Age of Reason or the Enlightenment



We live in the 21st Century, but we are very much influenced by the past and especially the topics that came up in the 17th/18th centuries. These included: historiography, knowledge, science, equality, politics, economics, education, atheism, literature, philosophy, etc. The first couple of sessions will be an introduction into the topic, which helps to put the issues into perspective. Each session afterwards will be a unit in itself. Everyone is welcome and I hope we have interesting discussions, as we might not agree with all those ideas that were put forward.

Written by **Esther Tomlinson – Group Leader, The Age of Reason or the Enlightenment** - Group No. 42. Wednesday, 10.30 – 12.00, MCC

Uni-Sing Concert at MCC – Held 25th March, 2025

Members and friends gathered at MCC for Uni-Sing's annual Easter break concert. Another splendid performance by the group showcasing their talented soloists and choir singing some old and new songs. Led by Thelma, they filed in, to their signature tune 'Teach the World to Sing'. Other favourite songs followed, then a change of theme to musicals, continuing with ballads and other popular songs - including a rousing rendition of 'Barcelona'. Returning to musicals and the golden 60's, we were entertained to songs by the Ronettes, Chris De Burgh, and the Mamas & the Papas. With no time for a breather, next came 'California Dreaming' and the title song from Phantom of the Opera. The pace picked up with medleys of Abba songs and a tribute to 'West Side Story'. For the finale we were taken back to 1945, "You'll Never Walk Alone" a show tune from the Rodgers and Hammerstein musical Carousel. What a non-stop show! The audience were left to admire the stamina and dedication of the singers. The afternoon was not over as there were tea and cakes to enjoy in the café. We look forward to next year's offering.

Retiring donations amounted to £393. Bu3a have received a cheque for £200 and MCC are hoping to put their share towards some new furniture for the courtyard garden.

To Thelma, her singers and everyone who supported the concert – Thank you! I was blown away. The Uni-Sing ensemble were amazing. The detail of all the performances made it a wonderful show. From the dress, choreography, range of genres, the clarity of words and their singing..... Bravo!!..... Sandra Grant

Uni-Sing Group No. 3. Monday, 10.30 – 12.00, MCC

Wine Tasting Group



This group was launched last autumn and has been sampling and evaluating wines from around the world. Members do seem to be enjoying themselves - as there were eight empty wine bottles at our last session!!

We shall continue meeting on a regular basis throughout the summer.....

Why not join us next year?

Group No. 89 – Leader is John Papadopoulos.

Poets Corner.....

Twelve things to do before you are Three.....

Splash consequence-free through mud and puddles.
Giggle uncontrollably at squirrels chasing across winter trees.



Demand the green apple: then flatly refuse to eat it.
Dig around in soil searching for earth worms.



Snuggle up to an adult who reads to you a world of wonder.
Know that water from the tap is clean: safe to drink.



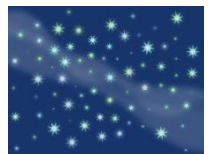
Stand mesmerized beside an enormous yellow digger.
Sleep confident that tomorrow will dawn expectant.



Play I-spy by your own rules: and win.
Watch a hole in the road being filled: and ask why.



Gawp as little stars twinkle diamond-like in the sky. And
Be assured that you are unconditionally loved and cherished.



Simon Tyndall – Poetry Reading Group No. 21

OBITUARY – Sadly – Doreen Thomson



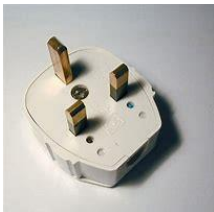
Doreen Thomson died in hospital on 25th March. Shown on the left of the photo, she was always very well presented - everything matching including earrings and brooches! She and Ron had a very happy and long marriage, and had travelled widely together, collecting mementoes from all over the world, but they had no children. We remember Doreen's kindness, patience and encouragement.....

She was a very conscientious **Group Leader**, making tablecloths and scoops for **Rummikub**, and getting embroidered bags for the **Scrabble** letters, and was always present however inclement the weather. Her Christmas cards were beautifully written, and personal to each of us. If you joined her classes as a beginner, she would encourage you to improve, highlighting ways to raise your score. She had a brilliant mind, often discussing her fiendish newspaper puzzles, and we were in awe of how she would plan to achieve the play she wanted.

She was respected and liked by her two groups and was always warm and welcoming. She remembered people's ills and anxieties and was genuinely kind and thoughtful. When one of our scrabble ladies was seriously ill, Doreen organised a small group of us to visit and play at her home, so that she was not left out by being housebound. We will really miss Doreen as a calm and reassuring presence, and as a friend.

Written by Julia Drage

IMPORTANT Notice for Group Leaders



A reminder that Group Leaders who use their own Electrical equipment in any of our venues must have it tested - obviously at no cost to yourself. If it has a plug, it needs to be tested. It is a condition of the Venue Insurers. If you are using any equipment (e.g.a laptop or Cd Player) on battery power then that is exempt.

The testing is due in September and hopefully it can be arranged at the same time as the Pre-programme meeting. If you have had your equipment checked previously, I have your details and will advise once an appointment is confirmed.

Otherwise, **please email me: accommodation@bournemouthu3a.org.uk** so that I can contact you nearer the time.

Jennie Pudney



Our Committee Members 2024/25

| | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Stephanie Gardiner | Chair + U3A Beacon System/Facebook |
| (Vacancy) | Vice Chair |
| (Vacancy) / Michael Crich | Treasurer |
| Dorothee Merton | Secretary/Beacon Administrator/ Joint Programme coordinator |
| (Vacancy) / 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 **FIVE vacancies** on the Bournemouth u3a Committee, and the Committee **NEEDS YOUR HELP** to fill these important roles!!

If you think 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 | Office closed |
| Wednesday | Jennie Pudney, Sue Godwin, Paul Tunnicliffe |
| Thursday | Mary Lapish, 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 – you can always leave a voicemail message!


Office and Lunch Club Contact Details

Office Phone: 01202 420700 – Mon./Wed./Thurs. 10.00 a.m. – 12.00 noon, or leave voicemail message anytime.


By Post: Bournemouth u3a, c/o St James Institute, 33a Stourfield Road, BOURNEMOUTH BH5 2AR

E-mail: info@bournemouthu3a.org.uk

Lunch Club: Bob Hucklesby - E-mail: bobhucklesby@btinternet.com



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.



Treasurer's Report



We have once again managed the finances carefully over the year. The overhead reductions have continued with further savings in communications (printing and postage) costs. In addition, despite some significant increases in venue hire charges and the extra costs of the additional use of Bournemouth University International College, we will keep

accommodation costs within budget. It is highly likely that we will contain costs within budget for the current year.

Membership numbers are better than budget, and whilst other donations are lower, we expect to be able to keep the membership donation at £66 for the 2025/26 year. This is the minimum donation to enable us to maintain the current programme and relies on the continued support from members who make a supplementary donation in addition to the £66. However, costs continue to increase, and with pressure on other donations and the uncertainty about the levels of gift aid we can reclaim, we still face financial challenges in the future. If you are able to round up your annual donation from the minimum £66 up to £70 or £80, please do so. This will help to protect our financial position with a level of reserves that keep the Charities Commission happy and maintain the lower level of membership donation for those less able to afford an increase.

Gift Aid

The Third Age Trust have entered into discussions/negotiations with HMRC, about the level of Gift Aid we will be able to claim in future years. So, it is even more important that we maximise this important source of income. Our thanks to all who completed their Gift Aid form last year! If you continue to pay tax, then your previous Gift Aid Form is still valid. This does not affect the amount of tax you pay but we are able to recover an additional 25% of your donations from HMRC.

If you are a taxpayer and pay the membership or other donations for both you and your spouse, we will classify you as 'Joint Members' which enables us to claim gift aid for both partners. (N.B. if payment is received from the non-taxpayer, then unfortunately we cannot claim any Gift Aid). If your **circumstances have changed** and you no longer pay tax, please add/send a note/e-mail to that effect with your membership application form/renewal.

Michael Crich – Treasurer



LUNCHING AROUND THE WORLD with Bob & Jackie Hucklesby

We love LATW... we have made so many new friends this year and it is great to see a growing number of regulars coming back time after time.

We have really enjoyed a feast for the senses with visits to LUXOR, COTE, NUSARA and ROMANZO. We have heard great things about the 29029 family of restaurants and are really looking forward to trying out the wonderful Nepalese cuisine later this month.

Sadly, one of our favourite restaurants has recently closed so we will be on the lookout for new ideas for next year's programme.

We are always open to suggestions - so if you have recently enjoyed a fabulous meal and think that the location would suit a group of 20 - 30 diners - then please let us know..... bobhucklesby@btinternet.com or tel: 01202 551401.

Buon Appetito!

Bob & Jackie



TEN PIN BOWLING with John Oram

Monday 7 July and Monday 22 September, 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 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 do not 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 SECOND QUIZ for 2025 with Alan and Audrey Kneller

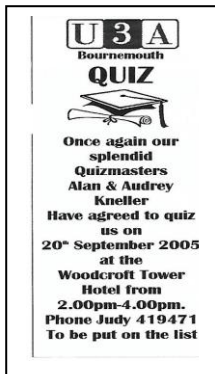
Wednesday 2nd July 2025, at 2.00pm, arrive from 1.30,
at The Annunciation Church Hall, 218 Charminster Road,
Bournemouth BH8 9RW.

Re the **next Quiz (in December)**, this will be run by **Julia Glassborow and Jane Whitlock - please see Article below.....** 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.



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**

**Sadly, our Stalwart Quizmasters for many, many years.....
Alan and Audrey Kneller are Retiring.....!!!**



Thank You for All Your Support over the Years

Audrey recently came across this cutting advertising a **quiz we presented to members back in September 2005**, from which we realised just how long we have been doing them!! We have now decided that it is time for someone else to take over the mantle and that the **Summer Quiz booked for Wednesday 2nd July 2025** will be our swansong.

Similarly, the return **visit to the gardens at Hambledon House on Thursday, 26th June 2025** will be our last garden visit.....



We would like to thank all the Committees and members past and present who have supported us over the years.
We couldn't have done it without you.....

Alan and Audrey Kneller

E-mail: info@bournemouthu3a.org.uk

Page 12

Office Tel: 01202 420700

SUMMER GET-TOGETHERS



During the summer break the Bu3a committee organise three get-togethers where both new and long-standing members can meet for drinks and a chat. There will be several committee members attending so they can answer any questions or give more information to brand new members who joined after the year ended in June.

Please add the following dates and venues to your diary:-

Wednesday 16th July at The Westbourne Conservative Club, at 10.30 am (Alum Chine Road, near Seamoor Road, Westbourne Centre).

Tuesday 12th August at the Cafe On The Green, (Boscombe Cliff Bowling Club.) at 10.30 am (Corner of Woodland Avenue and Boscombe Overcliff Drive).

Tuesday 9th September at the Cosy Club, Old Christchurch Road 10.30 am (next to old Beales Store, numerous buses run to The Square).

We look forward to meeting you at one or all of these popular events.

The Bu3a Committee

Shake & Stir Vintage Music and Lifestyle Festival

To be held on Saturday June 28th and Sunday June 29th at Southbourne Grove Shopping Area (to be pedestrianised) and Fisherman's Walk Park, in Southbourne (M2 bus stop opposite).

Bu3a's Gazebo will be on Southbourne Grove with other stalls and vendors only on the Saturday, June 28th. NOTE that the events taking place in Fisherman's Walk Park over the Weekend will be ticketed this year. We will be there on the Saturday in the pedestrianised area between 11.00 and 5.00 pm. Come along and see us. Bring your friends/neighbours with you. It should be a fun day.

Julie – Publicity



Dates for your Diary



| Date | Event | Venue | Time |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|---|-----------------|
| 2025 | | | |
| Thu. 12 June | Member Event for 25/26 Renewal | Moordown Community Centre | 11.30 - 15.30 |
| Tue. 17 June | Member Event for 25/26 Renewal | The Knole, Freemasons' Hall, Boscombe | 10.30 - 12.30 |
| Wed. 18 June | Lunching around the World | Thai Smile, Christchurch Road, Boscombe | 12.30 |
| Mon. 23 June | End of Summer term | All Bu3a venues | |
| Thu. 26 June | Summer Garden Visit | Visit to Hambledon House (Nr Waterlooville) | Pick-up Various |
| Sat. 28 June | Bu3a Promotion Day | Southbourne Shake & Stir Festival | 11.00 - 17.00 |
| Wed. 02 July | Bu3a Quiz | Annunciation Church Hall, Charminster BH8 | 14.00 |
| Mon. 07 July | 10 Pin Bowling | Bowlplex, Branksome | 11.00 |
| Mon. 14 July | Picnic on the Beach #1 | Beach Hut 12B, West Beach Bournemouth | 12.00 Noon |
| Wed. 16 July | Summer Get-Together | Westbourne Conservative Club | 10.30 |
| Tue. 12 Aug. | Summer Get-Together | Cafe on the Green, (Bosc.Cliff Bowling Club) | 10.30 |
| Wed. 20 Aug. | Picnic on the Beach #2 | Beach Hut 1414, near "SoBo" Café, Southbourne | 12.00 Noon |
| Tue. 09 Sept. | Summer Get-Together | Cosy Club, Old Xchurch Road (next to Beales) | 10.30 |
| Mon. 22 Sept. | 10 Pin Bowling | Bowlplex, Branksome | 11.00 |
| Sat. to Sun. 20 to 28 Sept. | u3a National Week 2025 | All u3a's Nationwide | N/A |
| Tue. 23 Sept. | Bournemouth u3a Open/Promotion Day | Moordown Community Centre | 11.30 – 15.30 |
| Mon. 29 Sept. | Start of Autumn term | All Bu3a venues | |
| Tue. 30 Sept. | Bournemouth u3a Open/Promotion Day | The Knole, Freemasons' Hall, Boscombe | 10.00 – 12.00 |
| Tue. 14 Oct. | Bu3a Annual General Meeting | The Knole, Freemasons' Hall, Boscombe | 10.00 |

Bu3a Promotion Day.....



The photo shows Dorothee Merton (Secretary) and Keith Penfold (Group Leader) at our latest Promotion Day held on Wednesday 2nd April. This was held at a **new location** for us - **Bournemouth Main Library**. During the hours we were there we had several in-depth conversations with prospective new members about the benefits of joining Bournemouth u3a. Thank you to everyone who helped on the day!
Julie – Publicity



TWO PICNICS ON THE BEACH this year.....!!

Last year we had another very well attended Picnic (see Photo left), so we are offering an **extra date & location this summer!** It's great to all meet up for a chat and so much cheaper than a café.....!!

Come along to Bournemouth West Beach on MONDAY 14th JULY at 12 Noon – only a ten-minute walk from Bournemouth Pier..... Stroll past The Oceanarium and Happylands Amusements and keep a lookout for Beach Hut No. 12B (See Photo right) - a turquoise beach hut just before the cliff lift. (Please note that this lift is out of action). The Town Centre car parks are very expensive, but several bus routes stop at Bournemouth Pier.



AND..... DO COME ALONG to the beach at Southbourne on WEDNESDAY 20th AUGUST at 12.00 Noon - in front of beach hut 1414, by lamp post 311, just west of the site of “SoBo” Beach Café, (formerly called “The Bistro”). Warren Edge car park off Southbourne Coast Road is conveniently nearby.

Bring everything you need; food, drinks and something to sit on. We will “pitch camp” by 12.00 noon.

We are hoping for lovely sunshine but if on either day it is a bit cooler than we would like, it won't put us off! However, if it is really unpleasant then we will not be martyrs! We hope that you can all join us and do bring along a friend.....

John Oram - with kind help from John Moore (for SoBo Beach Day) and from Bob & Jackie Hucklesby (for Bournemouth West Beach Day)

Bournemouth



Looking for a LASTING 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 for them to get out and make new friends
with like-minded people. We have over 90 Groups and
Activities as well as many social events throughout the year.
A Whole Year of Activities for 2025/2026 IS ONLY £66
which gives access to 3 Groups a week + social events.

Contact us on: 01202 420700
(Monday/Wednesday/Thursday 10.00–12.00)

Email: info@bournemouthu3a.org.uk

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

Learn, Laugh, Live!