

Bournemouth

u3a learn,
laugh,
live

Newsletter Spring 2026



*The Bu3a Committee wish you all
a very Happy Easter... and all
the wonderful Joys of Spring...*



Photo – “Easter Bunnies” – submitted by Susan Allibone of Fun Photography Group No. 49

E-mail: info@bournemouthu3a.org.uk

Page 1

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NEW..... Bu3a Lawn Bowls Group



*Ever fancied
trying lawn
bowls...???*

The **NEW Lawn Bowls Group** will be meeting at the **Argyll Bowling Club (ABC)** on Thursday afternoons during the Summer Term 2026.

In a truly beautiful setting on the Bournemouth West Cliff, overlooking Bournemouth Bay, what could be a more delightful, healthy activity on a warm Summer's Day????!!!

If you haven't already joined the Group, then sorry, there is already a Waiting List...!!!

However, we are discussing with the Argyll Bowling Club about running **"Taster Sessions"** during the **Summer Term for Bu3a Members**, with tuition and supervision by experienced ABC Members.

SO..... if you are interested in learning to play Lawn Bowls, then DO ADD YOURSELF to the Waiting List. Please 'phone the Bu3a Office to add your name..... OR..... use the online Beacon System..... OR..... e-mail Nick Monk, the Group Leader (editor@bournemouthu3a.org.uk), with any queries, and/or to register your interest in joining us.

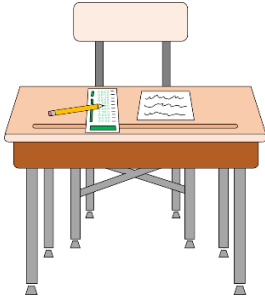
WHY NOT come along to this beautiful location, TRY bowling to see if you like it..... and just ENJOY IT.....????!!!

Nick Monk – Leader Lawn Bowls Group No. 91 - held on Thursday afternoons at ABC, 2.00 – 4.00 p.m., from 23rd April to 18th June inclusive.

E-mail: info@bournemouthu3a.org.uk



Notes from the Chair



Welcome to the Spring 2026 Edition. The weather may be changeable but the Bu3a programmes continue to deliver a range of activities.....on time, on point and on demand.

I took up the role of Chair of the Bu3a in December 2025, following an appeal for volunteers to help in the day to day running of the organisation.

My reward for doing so is to work with a team of talented and enthusiastic volunteers who are intent on offering our members a great range of experiences, within a network of local venues and in the company of like-minded people. A new request for volunteers has been sent out recently and I sincerely hope it will bear fruit. I can assure you that everyone who joins the team will be welcomed.

We have ambitious plans for the future. We will carry on doing the things we do well, but we will also look to introduce changes, aimed at improving our levels of service. For instance, we are planning to introduce a **Summer Programme for 2026**, to bridge the gap between the Summer and Autumn Terms. There will be more information on this once the programme is confirmed.

The Bu3a management team is also **looking at further improvements**..... new venues, new activities, closer relations with BCP Council, protecting our investments, encouraging new group leaders and making it simpler to manage membership renewals. Please bear in mind that everything we do has one purpose in mind.....to make your membership of Bu3a as enjoyable as possible.

There are three promotional events planned for 2026:-

- **Westbourne Arcade - Thursday 9th April - Poole Road end.**
- **Castlepoint - Thursday 16th April - Outside M&S, Upper Level.**
- **Southbourne “Food and Fun” Festival - Saturday 16th May - to be held in Fisherman’s Walk, off Southbourne Grove.**

I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible during 2026 and to listen to your thoughts on what Bu3a can do to improve the programme we offer to members.

Wishing you all the best for the new Summer Term.
Kind regards,

Perry Ellis (Chair)

Introducing our New Committee Members



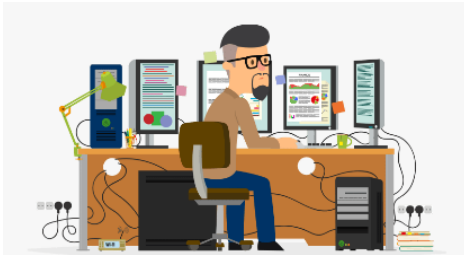
We welcome our new Chair – Perry Ellis

Perry says..... “I joined Bu3a shortly after I retired from full-time work in 2017 and have since enjoyed a broad range of activities, including: French, Pétanque, BBC Radio Archives, History of Musicals, Shakespeare’s Plays, Bridge, topical discussion groups, rambling and quizzes. When I was approached and asked to consider taking on the role of Chair, my first reaction was “Why me?”, and my second was that

there must be someone else who would do it. But, after recalling all the pleasure I have received through being a member, I thought it was time for me to put something back into the organisation. Over its thirty-nine years of existence, Bu3a has done a great job for our members and I look forward to working with the management team to ensure we continue to do so into the future.

For the record, my working experience included thirty-two years in commerce, three years in full-time charity work and ten years working in the public sector. I hope that the experience and skills I have picked up along the way will be put to good use in my role as Chair of Bu3a.”

AND our new Beacon Administrator – Archie Hoggan



Archie says..... “After leaving school at 16, I worked for BT (originally Post Office telephones) for 35 years. In my later years within BT, I worked as computer support, help desk, and field support engineer. My early work involved not only installing programs on PC’s (with a handful of “floppy disks”!) but also in getting the programs to

actually run!! I also had full managerial access to 3 mainframe systems and controlled levels of access to those systems. Much of this work is interchangeable with modern systems such as the u3a Beacon system.

I have been with Christchurch u3a for over 25 years and with Bournemouth u3a for around 15 years. As you may know, I run the Bu3a “Social Cycling” Group.

During my time in BT, I was also a first aider and later a member of St John Ambulance - and I still keep my first aid training up to date. As a St John Ambulance member, I was trained not only in first aid, but also in casualty handling, risk assessments, and child and vulnerable adult protection.

Just a point to add..... There is no such thing as a silly question!..... so, I am approachable and here for you to put my work skills to the benefit of Bu3a!”

News From the Groups

Summer Term Chess [Absolute Beginner Course]



Yes folks, it is time to sign up for Group No. 77 at Moordown Community Centre (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. Just try it and enjoy it...!!!

Group Leader is Christopher Thomas.

Table Tennis for Improvers



Did you love playing Table Tennis as a Teenager? Or even as an "Older-ager"??!!

Table Tennis (TT) is one of the **BEST** all-round sports/pastimes that you can do to keep both your **MIND AND BODY FIT** as you grow older! It has often been called **"The Healthiest Sport for Seniors"!!!**

TWO Bu3a TT groups run on Tuesday afternoons at SJI, Southbourne..... We hire the Merton Table Tennis Club Hall, with their top-class facilities.

Unfortunately, we cannot accept beginners, as there is no coaching available. However, former players will quickly improve, be helped and encouraged, and you will love it...!!

Nick Monk - Leader Group No. 38 and Jennie Pudney - Leader Group No. 31



Social Cycling Group



We meet at the mini roundabout in Kings Park at the park end of Gloucester Road **most Thursdays at 10.00 a.m.** weather permitting. We get together all year round (except between Christmas and New Year) for a social ride of about 1 hour. We then stop for a coffee break and a chat before making our way home. We are not out for a race but just to get some gentle exercise. All types of bikes are acceptable from super lightweight carbon fibre racing bikes to heavy shopping bikes - or even an electric bike!!



Group Leader is Archie Hoggan (Phone 07905 864455)

E-mail: info@bournemouthu3a.org.uk

Page 5

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Fun Photography Group

The Fun Photography Group combines both photo shoot visits to local attractions as well as photographing different subjects at our regular Bu3a venue, The Knole in Boscombe. All the outside locations are chosen on bus routes - with a nearby coffee shop for some light refreshments.



The Bu3a Photography Group had another **FUN day out last term**, when we visited the **Bournemouth Aviation Museum**. The museum has lots of different planes, from passenger to fighter aircraft which you can climb into and enjoy.



Steve Allen - Leader Group No. 49 – Wednesdays 12.45 – 2.15 p.m.

The Occasional Walkers Group

The Occasional Walkers group enjoyed several outings in the Dorset countryside last Autumn.....



In a dry September, we walked from Cranborne Garden Centre around the farmland and woodland of the Cranborne estate with views over the Crane valley, and many of us enjoyed a lunch at the Garden Centre café afterwards.

In November we walked from Kingston to Corfe and back, a walk we had enjoyed in a previous June when the going was easy. On this occasion, after a spell of wet weather, we bypassed some of the more difficult terrain and had to take care on some muddy paths. Despite more rain than we would have liked, we still managed to have some laughs along the way and enjoy a convivial lunch in the warmth of the Scott Arms!!



Alastair Moir - Leader Group No. 22



Bu3a Creative Writing and Art Groups provide inspiration for new BCP art installation.

The UK Government is funding a program of 10 art installations along the BCP coastline, providing underserved communities the opportunity to engage in arts and culture.

With the motto "Bournemouth inspires...", our **Bu3a Creative Writing Group** as well as the children of St. Michael's School were invited in pre-tender workshops to come up with words and phrases that filled in the gap with sensory descriptions. Based on this community

feedback, artists were invited to tender their ideas.

Diane Gorvin, a sculptor who grew up and studied in Bournemouth, was chosen as the successful artist. Her design concept titled "Lean into the Wind", a 3.5m high cone of Corten steel, topped with the bronze head of a woman, combined with 3 separate steel groynes, will be located on **West Cliff Green**, on top of the cliff top, overlooking the beach.

Our **Bu3a Art - Experienced and Improvers Group** were then asked to come up with design motifs to go on top of the 3 steel groynes. This exciting addition to the Bournemouth coastline is expected to be completed by this May and will be enjoyed by young and old for generations to come.



Written by Oliver Merton – Member of the Bu3a Art Group No. 87

Thought + Quote for Easter.....



"Success is not final, failure is not fatal: it is the courage to continue that counts."

- Winston Churchill. (British Statesman, Military Officer and Writer).



Poets Corner.....

East River

A silent mythical bay,
Trees embrace and hold it.
Only the sunlight reveals
the calm water entrance.
Then the boat arrives.
Sound splits the silence,
loud skipper orders.
Anchor chain unravels,
humans grapple with ropes.
A solitary bird departs
from the once quiet sandy shore:
To the next hidden mythical bay....



Deirdre Foster (Poetry Reading Group No. 21)



Our Committee Members for 2025/26

As decided at the Committee Meeting held in October 2025, and subsequent co-option of Trustees, the Committee is now comprised of the following EIGHT Members: -

Perry Ellis	Chair
Stephanie Gardiner	Treasurer + Facebook
Dorothee Merton	Secretary + Beacon + Groups, Venues and Programme coordinator
Suzi MacLeod	Office Manager + Beacon + IT
Sandra Bassett	Shadow Trustee
Kathy Palfrey	Shadow Trustee
Nick Monk	Newsletter Editor + Publicity
Archie Hoggan	Beacon Administrator

The Bu3a Office at SJI



To our **dedicated team of Volunteers**, past and present, running the Bu3a Office at St James Institute - whether on the 'phone, or by e-mail, or by working "behind the scenes".....

We Thank You All !

Office and Lunch Club Contact Details

Office – Phone: 07352 997099 – Answered in person only on Monday and Thursday from 10.00 a.m. to 12.00 noon. If your phone call is not answered for any reason, or **at any other time**, the **answerphone will store your message** until we can get back to you!

E-mail: info@bournemouthu3a.org.uk

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

Website: <https://bournemouth.u3asite.uk/>

The Bournemouth U3A Office – EASTER CLOSURE from Fri. 27th March 2026 and reopening Mon. 13th April 2026

The U3A office will be closed for just over two weeks over the Easter holiday. The Bu3a Office will reopen on Monday 13th April and the Summer term commences on Monday 20th April 2025.

May we in the SJI Office take this opportunity to wish you all a very **happy Easter and Summer Term.**

Suzi MacLeod (Office Manager)



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

Please keep the Office informed by e-mail at

info@bournemouthu3a.org.uk

or by 'phone/message via the office.



u3a Festival 2026 – in YORK on 1st - 3rd July 2026

This year's festival gives you a choice of participating in the many activities and workshops for either one, two or all three days.

This takes place at the **University of York campus** and is a celebration of fun, learning and the community that makes u3a so special. Activities are grouped under “Music and entertainment”, “Sport and exercise”, “Talks and walks” and “Workshops and hands on sessions”. It is a residential course with some University Accommodation available at reasonable prices.



For more information, please check out :-

<https://www.u3a.org.uk/what-we-do/events/festival-2026>

Farewell to Nigel Evans.....

Many Group Leaders and numerous Bu3a members were very sad to note the death, just before Christmas 2025, of **Nigel Evans.....**

He was a pupil at Poole Grammar School, graduated from Bristol University in the early 1960s and received his PhD there in 1968. He returned to marry Jill at St Peter's Church in Parkstone that summer. His professional life afterwards was always in academia, including a 6-year spell lecturing at McGill University in Montreal, Canada. Afterwards, Nigel was based with the British Services Schools in Germany and the Netherlands, and then at the European School in Munich until he retired in 2004.



Nigel's lifelong love of amateur athletics and acting (from his days with an Army Entertainments troupe in Germany) **added to his great raconteur skills** - in both reasonably fluent French and 'have a go' German! (the latter occasionally peppered with Anglicisms...!!). He was a keen member of both the Bu3a Groups "L'Atelier de français" and "Deutsch Pur".

He is survived by Jill to whom he was married for over 57 years, and their two sons. Something of an “unstoppable force”, his other great love was Provence. Nigel passed away there, in Nice, in late December. **Once met, never forgotten - we will all miss him very much.....**

Keith Penfold, Leader Group No. 44, L'Atelier de français

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Page 10

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LUNCHING AROUND THE WORLD with Bob & Jackie Hucklesby

The '**Lunching Around The World**' group continues to go 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 KALA THAI, LEVANT & WONDERFUL GARDEN have brightened up 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 welcoming you to one of our lunches.

Bon Appetit!

Bob & Jackie

Summer 2026 Dates

THURSDAY 30th April – 12-30 – KOSTAS GREEK CORNER
Corner of Chessel Avenue/Christchurch Road, BOSCOMBE BH7 6AQ

WEDNESDAY 20th MAY – 12.30 – EL MURRINO ITALIAN
154 Old Christchurch Road, HORSESHOE COMMON BH1 1NL

FRIDAY 19th JUNE – 12.30 – THAI SMILE (To Be Confirmed)
674 Christchurch Road, BOSCOMBE BH7 6BT

To book, please contact: E-mail: bobhucklesby@btinternet.com
Tel: 01202 159186

****Please do not RSVP to the U3A Office****

Quote :- “There is no sincerer love than the love of food.”
- **George Bernard Shaw** (Irish playwright, critic, and political activist).



OUR NEXT QUIZ with Julia Glassborow and Jane Whitlock

The first Quiz under the new management of Julia Glassborow and Jane Whitlock in December was a cracker!

We go again on... **Wednesday 18 March 2026, at 2.00 p.m.**

At our regular venue:- The Annunciation Church Hall, 218 Charminster Road, BH8 9RW.



Arrive from 1.30 p.m. although we would again appreciate help from 1.00 p.m. with setting up the hall.

We have a shopping list ready for the refreshment break – always a pleasure!

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

your table (maximum of **SIX** members). There is a PRIZE, and much kudos, for the winning team!!

All Bookings BY E-MAIL ONLY to Jennie Pudney at jpu3a@outlook.com

The SJJ Office cannot accept any bookings.



We look forward to seeing you on the 18th of March.....

John Oram and Jennie Pudney

TEN PIN BOWLING with John Oram



Monday 23rd March 2026

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 session 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.



COFFEE CLUB - Summer Term Dates

Please come and **join other Bu3a members** for a chat over a beverage of your choice.

Coffee clubs take place 10.30 - 12.00 Noon.
AND... why not stay on at the venue for lunch?



Tuesday 19th May - Ludo Lounge, 34 Southbourne Grove, Southbourne

Buses M2, 33, 1b, 1c U3 and alight at Fisherman's Walk. Ludo Lounge is on the same side as the Post Office.



Thursday 11th June - HOPEFULLY this will take place at Cafe on the Green, Boscombe Cliff Bowling Green, corner of Boscombe Overcliff Drive/Woodland Avenue.

This is a few minutes' walk through Woodland Walk from Boscombe (near the Parkwood Road bus stop). Buses M2, 1a, 1b, 1c.

This venue will be confirmed closer to the time, as the Bowling Green and the cafe are closed for the winter but will reopen after the Easter break.

Looking forward to seeing you at one or both Coffee clubs..... Julie W.

Dates for your Diary..... Promotion Days and our Bu3a Membership Drive 2026

We are holding THREE Promotion Days in Spring/Summer 2026 :-

- **Westbourne Arcade - Thursday 9th April - Poole Road end.**
- **Castlepoint - Thursday 16th April - Outside M&S, Upper Level.**
- **Southbourne - Saturday 16th May - "Food and Fun" Festival.**

If you are in the area on these days, the do **STOP BY** our **Stand** and say **"HELLO"** to our volunteers!

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, etc.

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 OUTER BACK COVER.

Julie – Publicity

Dates for your Diary



Date	Event	Venue	Time
2026			
Fri. 13 March	End of Spring term	All Bu3a venues	
Tue. 17 March	Uni-Sing Concert	UNEXPECTEDLY CANCELLED (Was MCC)	14.00
Wed. 18 March	Coffee Club	Westbourne Con. Club, Westbourne BH4	10.30
Wed. 18 March	Bu3a Quiz	Annunciation Church Hall, Charminster BH8	14.00
Fri. 20 March	Lunching around the World	White Elephant (Thai) Westbourne BH4	12.30
Mon. 23 March	10 Pin Bowling	Bowlplex, Branksome	11.00
Fri. 27 March	Office closes for 2 weeks	St James Institute	12.00
Thur. 09 April	Bu3a Promotion Day	Westbourne Arcade	10.00 -17.00
Mon. 13 April.	Office reopens again	St James Institute	10.00
Thur. 16 April	Bu3a Promotion Day	Castlepoint - Outside M&S - Upper Level	10.00 -18.00
Mon. 20 April	Start of Summer term	All Bu3a venues	
Thur. 30 April	Lunching around the World	Kostas Greek Corner, Boscombe, BH7	12.30
Sat. 16 May	Bu3a Promotion Day	Southbourne Food and Fun Festival	11.00 -18.00
Tues. 19 May	Coffee Club	Ludo Lounge, Southbourne	10.30
Wed. 20 May	Lunching around the World	El Murrino Italian, H'shoe Common, BH1	12.30
Thur. 11 June	Coffee Club	To be Announced	10.30
Fri. 19 June	Lunching around the World	Thai Smile, Boscombe (To be confirmed)	12.30
Mon. 22 June	End of Summer term	All Bu3a venues	

Bournemouth

u3a learn,
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u3a



What's the best
thing you've learnt
this week?



Learn, Laugh, **Live!**

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 2026 is only £22
which gives access to 3 Groups a week + social events.

Contact us on: 07352 997099

(Monday + Thursday 10.00–12.00, or leave message anytime)

Email: info@bournemouthu3a.org.uk

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

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