

Milford and Godalming u3a

Summer Newsletter 2026

Jottings from the Chair

As my term as Chair ends this May, I've been reflecting on the achievements made by the committee over the last three years. Not only have we increased our membership, with over a hundred new members in the last year alone, but also in the range of activities we offer. Proof of the enthusiasm and energy that make our group so special.



We are a friendly curious bunch and have lived, laughed and sometimes learnt something we didn't know before! As always none of this would be possible without our group co-ordinators, members and the committee who keep the whole show on the road.

However now my term of office is ending we're looking for someone to take on the role of chair. You will have the full backing of the experienced committee and, of course, the best part of being chair is the opportunity to delegate roles and responsibilities! So, if you enjoy meeting people and like making things happen this could be an extremely rewarding experience. Please step forward. Feel free to contact me on the email address below for more information on how to apply.

Date for your diary. Godalming Staycation 3rd – 9th August.

We have requested an afternoon slot at the Wilfrid Noyce Centre to enable us to showcase our activities and provide opportunities for members old and new to register for next year. More details to follow.

Thanks once again for making me feel welcome, you will continue to see me around whether it's attending a group or walking my dog on the common.

Lisa
chair@mgu3a.org

Surrey u3a Study Talks

Surrey u3a holds monthly study days which are open to all u3a members. Guests are very welcome. The talks are held in the Menuhin Hall, Stoke d'Abernon starting at 9.30am with registration and running from 10am to 4pm. Flexibility is made so that members can attend the hall in person or view the study days online. The fee per day, including coffee/tea and biscuits, is £12 for hall attendance or £7 online, £15 for guests and £15 for all attendees paying at the door, although booking in advance is preferred. Bookings can be made at <https://surreynetwork.u3asite.uk/events/>

The next study dates and subjects are as follows:

Friday 15th May 2026 – Truth, Lies, Risk & Reason – presented by Professor Philip Harris, Emeritus Professor of Physics at the University of Sussex

Friday 19th June 2026 – 300 Years of English Theatre: from the rise of the Elizabethan playhouses to the fall of Oscar Wilde – presented by Giles Ramsay, independent theatre producer, director and lecturer

Friday 18th September 2026 – The Bayeux Tapestry: Its creation and interpretation – presented by Imogen Carrigan, lecturer on medieval history

Friday 16th October 2026 – World Affairs in the Middle East & Africa: Iran, Saudi Arabia, South Africa & Nigeria – presented by Steve Bird, lecturer on military history and current affairs

Friday 20th November 2026 – The Music & Satire of Gilbert & Sullivan – presented by Bernard Lockett, Gilbert & Sullivan Society

Group Changes

- **Mahjong** – please note the correct meeting times for this group is Monday evenings from 7.30-9.00pm.
- **Thursday Pickleball** – this group is now **full** but you can add your name to the waiting list by contacting the group co-ordinator, Joanne Barry, on joanne.barry@mgu3a.org
- **Boules** – new venue for this group of The Winterton Arms, Petworth Road, Chiddingfold GU4 4UU.



Trip to Hever Castle Monday 20 April 2026

There is so much to see and learn so come with me and experience over 600 years of history at the romantic double-moated 14th century castle once the childhood home of Anne Boleyn, second wife of Henry VIII and mother of Elizabeth I.



Discover magnificent award-winning gardens set in 125 acres of glorious grounds. Included in the price is a new exhibition - *Capturing A Queen: The Image of Anne Boleyn* brings together the largest ever gathering of portraits believed to depict [Anne Boleyn](#), including a ground-breaking newly identified contemporary image unveiled for the first time. Developed from new research by Hever Castle historian Dr Owen Emmerson, the exhibition traces how Anne's image has changed over 500 years and reveals new scientific findings about Hever's famous 'Hever Rose' portrait. You are invited to examine the evidence and vote for the likeness you believe best represents Henry VIII's most enigmatic queen.

See the fabulous **Miniature Model Houses**, which can be accessed via the Hever Shop. This unique collection of 1/12 scale model houses, was commissioned by the current owners of Hever Castle, from the master English miniaturist furniture maker, John J. Hodgson.

Can you find your way out of a Maze?

Intriguing visitors with their many twists, turns and surprises, Hever Castle boasts a historic English Yew Maze and a splashing Water Maze in its stunning grounds.

Kent and Sharpshooters Yeomanry Museum

Attractions in the museum include reconstructions of a World War I trench, with sound effects, and the interior of a World War II Cromwell tank turret. Exhibits include original artefacts such as photographs, diaries, uniforms, flags, medals and equipment dating back to 1797. You can also research ancestors who may have served in the regiments.

There are multiple places to eat & drink across the Hever Castle estate or bring a picnic.

The cost is £38.00 which includes the coach, entry and driver's tip

Pick up on Home Farm Road in Godalming at 09.20 and Milford Village Hall at 09.30

Depart from Hever at Hever at 16.00

Email Sue to book your place – outings@mgu3a.org

**Gardening Group
(meet on 4th Friday 2.00pm-4.00pm)
St John's Church Hall, Milford**

Just to give members the heads up that the gardening group are organising another specialist speaker talk. This will take place on Friday 27 November 2026 at 2.00pm at Milford Village Hall. Lizzie Gibbison, who previously ran her own clematis nursery in Send, will be talking about Clematis.



peter.stevenson@mgu3a.org

Monthly Talks

Friday 10 April – 2.00pm - Milford Village Hall

The Man who Caught a Million Criminals: The Invention of DNA Fingerprints – Ian Goodall

Ian tells the story of the invention of DNA and how it was first used to solve a double murder case in Leicestershire.

Friday 8 May – 2.00pm - Milford Village Hall

AGM followed at 2.30pm by

On Balance – How to Stay Vestibular Fit – Fiona Barker

Fiona gives an interactive talk on the importance of the vestibular (inner ear) system from optimal sports performance to falls prevention.

Friday 12 June – 2.00pm - Milford Village Hall

Tax Care & Estate Planning – Co-op Estate Planning

Gardening Group

Do join us for a coach visit to Denmans Garden on 3rd June 2026. Pick-up points will be Hurst Farm Road Busbridge at 9.00am or Milford Village Hall at 9.15am.

Denmans is situated in Fontwell, W Sussex. It is an award winning Grade 2 garden of influential landscape designer John Brooks MBE. This tranquil garden features dry river beds, a walled garden, ponds and unusual plants.

On arrival we will have a short talk over refreshments by one of the gardeners. Lunch will be in their cafe. This will have to be prebooked. Details will be given when you have booked for the visit.

The cost of the visit will be £36 and includes everything except lunch. Your friends are very welcome to join us.

To book a place please contact me, Liz Coult, by **13th May at the latest** as I need to make sure the visit will be viable **and** not incur further costs.

My contact details are Liz.coult@btinternet.com, 01483 417269 or on 07484738448.



u3a Friends Newsletter Community

The u3a Friends newsletter shares news, learning opportunities and member stories from across the u3a movement.

Signing up to the newsletter means you are up to date and in touch with all that's happening across the movement as it happens. You'll also gain exclusive access to the Friends Extra website - a range of offers, discounts and services. Each issue of the Friends Newsletter includes a link to the Friends Extra benefits website.

To find out more use this link:

<https://www.u3a.org.uk/news/newsletter>



Festival 26: 1-3 July 2026

Following the success of last year's u3a Festival, Festival 26 is already in the planning stages.

Once again, the event will be held at the University of York, so please save the dates. Ticket and accommodation bookings aren't open yet but updated information about the event will be shared on the u3a Friends newsletter and a link to join this is included elsewhere in this newsletter.

The u3a are looking for volunteer activity leaders, crafters, speakers, musicians, sports enthusiasts and stewards to help build a rich and engaging programme. If you think you may be interested in getting involved do contact the organisers at festival@u3a.org.uk.



Your Committee Needs You!

Our AGM is due to be held on 8 May 2026. This year a number of our committee trustees are resigning or coming to the end of their term of office. We are now seeking new trustees to join the team to help lead our u3a.

The trustees ending their terms of office this year are:

Lisa Seeley (Chair)
Ray Seeley (Room Bookings Manager)
John Oakey (Friday Talks Organiser)
Sue Allen (New Member Liaison)

Ray and John are prepared to stand again but Lisa and Sue will be leaving their roles and the committee. They will be sorely missed.

If you are interested in joining the trustees of Milford & Godalming u3a, please contact Lisa in the first instance for more information about the committee, the roles available and the skills you will be able to contribute. A list of job descriptions for the roles of trustees on the committee can be obtained from Lisa at:



chair@mgu3a.org

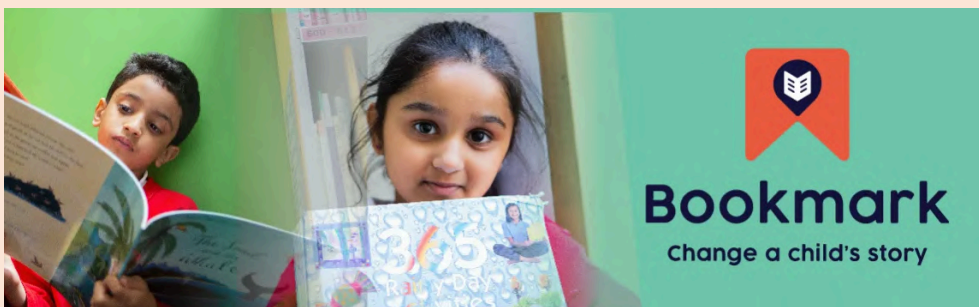
Bookmark Reading Charity

The Bookmark Reading Charity are recruiting for volunteers aged 18+ to join their online Volunteering Programme. Their mission is to help children aged 5 - 11 discover the joy of reading through one-to-one support with their wonderful volunteers.

This year marks the National Year of Reading, a government initiative to inspire a love of reading across the country. According to the National Literacy Trust (2023) one in four children in England leave primary school unable to read well, and for those from disadvantaged communities, the challenge is even greater – and the consequences can last a lifetime.

Many of the volunteers at the charity are retirees who find the experience incredibly rewarding - it's flexible, full training and support is provided and volunteers can read with children online from the comfort of their home.

If you would be interested in finding out more about this opportunity then contact the Bookmark Reading Charity direct at <https://www.bookmarkreading.org/volunteer>.



u3a and me - Member Survey

u3a is about more than just activities. It's about the connections we make and the difference u3a brings to our lives. The u3a want to know from you what you enjoy, what you get from u3a, what makes involvement easier or harder, and how u3a fits into your life right now. By doing so, you can help us raise the profile of u3a and show the benefits it has on society. Your feedback will be shared with u3as to help us ensure u3a remains welcoming, flexible and sustainable for years to come.

Please take a few minutes to complete our short survey and help us tell your u3a story. As a thank you, you can choose to be entered into a prize draw to win a **£100 John Lewis voucher**.

To access the survey please use this link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/u3a-me>

History of Godalming (3rd Wednesday 2.00-4.00pm) Via Zoom

The History of Godalming group meets on the third Wednesday of each month on Zoom. It covers all aspects of Godalming's fascinating history. Topics covered this year include: Godalming by Road, Rail and River; The Wey Navigation; the Watts Gallery ; Godalming's Cemeteries; The Marshalls and Marshall Road and the History of Godalming Band. Even though the meetings are by Zoom, we still have a lively discussion and people are always encouraged to share their memories of the topics. We even have time for a cup of tea!



For more information contact
ian.honeysett@mgu3a.org

This bulletin is published three times a year

**If you would like to have an article included in the next edition please send copy
and photos to**

newsletter@mgu3a.org

Copy deadlines: 13 August 2026 and 15 December 2026

The logo for u3a, consisting of the lowercase letters 'u3a' in white on a blue square background.

Online Events

Free Online Talks, Workshops and Courses

u3a members can access a wide range of free online talks, workshops and courses through their membership. Most sessions are led by fellow members, sharing their expertise, with additional talks from notable speakers and organisations.

All events are bookable via Eventbrite. Please ensure you can attend when booking and cancel if you're unable to make it so others can participate. Events are exclusively for u3a members. Sign up to events mailing to get monthly online events straight to your inbox.

A flavour of what's coming up in April:

- **Laughter yoga with Judith**, Wednesday 8 April at 10am
- **The magic of magic squares**, Friday 17 April at 2pm
- **Cryptic crosswords for beginners: six-session course**, starts Wednesday 22 April at 10am

For more information go to:

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

New Groups in *Interest Groups Online (IGO)*

The online community *Interest Groups Online (IGO)* continues to grow, with enthusiastic members starting new and exciting groups that you can join from the comfort of home. This month's new groups include Russian reading and conversation 2 and opera appreciation. There is something to suit all interests, from history to science to the arts. Join *IGO* today to meet like-minded members and learn something new. Please note there is a small annual fee of £12 to join.

For more information:

<https://www.u3a.org.uk/what-we-do/learning/interest-groups-online>

MOTO (Members on their Own)
(meet on 2nd Thursday 2.00pm-4.00pm)
Burton Pavilion

MOTO continues to run a varied programme for its Members. They meet regularly to encourage friendship, companionship and the chance for new adventures for its members. Aably led by Mike they have a varied and wide-ranging programme of activities for members to enjoy.

Over the last term these have included many different trips. They meet regularly at various local establishments for a meal. Most recently fifteen members met at a local Indian restaurant. In late February thirteen members had a lovely lunch at The Winterton Arms from an interesting menu.



The group had a lovely evening enjoying Gilbert and Sullivan's Utopia at the Borough Hall in Godalming. A colourful and top class production that had a twenty-five piece orchestra.

Six MOTO group members hopped on the train to visit Tate Britain to see the Turner Constable exhibition. They were born a year apart and were both heralded by the Royal Academy and put top in their field but they

had conflicting styles. A very nice day out for the group and the sensational artwork made dull January seem a distant memory. The light of Turner and the realism of Constable were well portrayed and explained.

And this is just a flavour of what this group has to offer. All in all, lots of ways to do what the u3a do best.



For more information about this group do
contact Mike at mike.jones@mgu3a.org

MOTO's Warners Holiday

A week is a long time in politics,
But just enough for our eclectic mix,
Ten strong we drove to Littlecote,
And hence I offer this anecdote.

Three first timers came this year,
No name checks, but they were full of cheer,
Not many fellas, but you know who they are,
Both a bit noisy and made good use of the bar.

Five more characters to make our ten,
It's a pity for them there weren't more men,
plum of voice and well refined,
Oh how eloquent when we dined.

Some of an age where it was NO barrier,
In the pool, laser guns, snooker bowls with no one to carry 'er,
Two petite ladies, one went out and a little damp,
The other stayed in, played the games, ended up Warners Champ.

Last but not least, something always gets lost,
Prescription glasses - oh what a cost,
Hunted high, hunted low,
Wherever did those glasses go!

Back home now, with mountains of laundry,
And coming to the end of our holiday story,
To tell you more would be a bridge too far,
Oh, by the way, those glasses were in the BAR!



Did you know the u3a has free online training events for members?

u3a members can access a wide range of free online talks, workshops and courses through their membership. All events are bookable via Eventbrite. Sign up to events mailing to get monthly online events straight to your inbox.



Use this link to access the information page:
<https://www.u3a.org.uk/events/educational-events>

HAVE A LISTEN TO YOUR u3a RADIO PODCAST


I'm Maggie West, your u3a Radio Podcast presenter and a member of Reigate & Redhill u3a. Each month, in just thirty minutes, our production & reporter team share fascinating stories and learning experiences from across the country – from life as an executive airline pilot, to being a maid at Buckingham Palace, to “quantum physics made simple,” and even the mysteries of the ancient archaeological site Göbekli Tepe in Turkey.



It's all part of our u3a spirit: Learn, Laugh, Live.

Do you have a story to tell, a learning experience to share, or a passion that could capture listeners' imaginations? Whether it's a piece of history, a unique hobby or something thought-provoking, we'd love to feature it in a future episode. Just let us know, and we'll do the rest!

Get in touch: communications@u3a.org.uk

 Listen: Just 30 minutes each month — simply [click here](https://www.u3a.org.uk/learning/u3a-radio-podcast) to enjoy! Alternatively put the following into your web browser: <https://www.u3a.org.uk/learning/u3a-radio-podcast>.

Do you know anyone who may be interested in joining Milford & Godalming u3a?

All the information about joining us can be found on our website

<https://mgu3a.org>

Do you want to keep up to date with what is going on in our group?

Why not join our Facebook page – Milford & Godalming u3a - where we post new information about groups and activities?



South East u3a Forum Summer School Monday 7th - Thursday 10th September 2026 University of Chichester

The dates for 2026 are:

Thursday 2nd April 2026.- Course list and details will be posted on the Forum website at **11.00am**

Friday 8th May 2026.- Bookings will go 'live' at **11.00am**

Courses

The finalisation of courses for this year is moving forward at a steady pace, with four courses confirmed at this point; we have three returners and a completely new tutor and topic. A list of confirmed courses will be available in early March on the website, with the full complement by the end of March.

Cost

The prices for 2026 summer school are as follows:

En-Suite Accommodation £390.00	Standard Accommodation £360.00
Non-Residential with dinner £220.00	Non-Residential no dinner £175.00

The residential prices include accommodation, all meals and refreshments offered at break times and a 'Welcome' drink on the first evening, with a 'Farewell' drink on the last evening, both prior to dinner. Also, the evening entertainment is included; available on campus each evening at 8.00pm.

Full information on all aspects of this Summer School can be found on the South East u3a Forum's website:

<https://southeastu3aforum.u3asite.uk/2026-2/>



All images are from Summer School 2025

Guildford Quilters Exhibition

Tue 12th - Sun 17th May 2026 10-5pm
Cranleigh Village Hall, Cranleigh, GU6 8AF

Browse our exquisite handmade quilts, cushions, and gifts as we celebrate 40 years of Guildford Quilters. Explore the vibrant village of Cranleigh.

- FREE Entry
- Demonstrations
- Refreshments
- Traders' Tables
- Charity Raffle
(Supporting Dementia UK & Cranleigh Lions)



www.guildfordquilters.co.uk

Milford & Godalming u3a Website Information

As well as finding information about all the groups and activities being run by our u3a, the website also has copies of all our policies and procedures. You will need to sign in to access these. In addition, copies of the job descriptions for committee roles are also available in this area.

All members should note that when joining our u3a they agree to abide by the Code of Conduct for Members, a copy of which can also be found in the member's area of our website.

