



HASLEMERE MEMBERS NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2026

Dear Members,

As you receive this newsletter, we will be at the start of our **Volunteers' Week**. I would therefore like to say a heartfelt **THANK YOU to all the volunteers within Haslemere u3a**. The contribution you make is immense, and without your time, energy and commitment, Haslemere u3a simply could not function.

Who am I referring to? Our group leaders and organisers; those who help with hospitality; members supporting short- and longer-term projects; IT support helpers; Committee members; and all those working behind the scenes to support them – and many others besides.

Volunteering is also a wonderful way to **become more involved in Haslemere u3a**, so if you would like to help in any capacity, please get in touch with Groups Co-ordinator, Claire Coxwell, via the Contact page on our website – just click and control on this www.haslemere.u3asite.uk

That reminds me – **we are still looking for a volunteer to take on the role of Newsletter Editor**. More details about this interesting and enjoyable position can be found via the May Newsletter on our website.

The May newsletter also inspired me to take two of the photographs featured there and add them to the Welcome page of our website. Do have a look – simply type “haslemere u3a” into your search engine and click on Haslemere – u3asiteworks.

Wishing you all an enjoyable Summer.

Warmest regards, Roger

NEW MEMBERS! ***A huge u3a welcome to:*** Brian and Jill Hartshorn, Isobel Newnham, Bridget Attridge, Jane Whitmore, Anne and Stuart Bancroft, John and Marie Kelly, Vanessa and Alasdair McKenzie, David Stoker, Maxine Lane-Badenhop and Tina Laing.

**HASLEMERE U3A – JUNE LECTURE - THE ART COLLECTION AT
PETWORTH HOUSE WITH IAN YONGE – MONDAY 8TH JUNE,
ARRIVE 1.45 FOR 2.00PM @ HASLEMERE HALL**

This fully illustrated talk will give an overview of the art collection at Petworth House – the largest in the National Trust – featuring, amongst others, works by Turner, Blake, Gainsborough, Reynolds and Van Dyke.

The talk will then explore some of the more unusual stories behind – and little known and sometimes bizarre, amusing facts about some of the key items in the collection – which would be missed on a cursory walk around the House!

The speaker, Ian Yonge, lives just outside Haslemere and is a retired solicitor with a keen interest in art, social history and genealogy and is a long-time guide at Petworth House. He frequently gives tours of the House and Park and of Petworth itself and also gives talks to local groups and societies about Petworth House and Town. *There is currently a discussion about a possible follow up excursion to Petworth House - a private tour for u3a members. Further information to follow.*

JUNE MEMBERS COFFEE MORNING



Our next sociable u3a Members Coffee Morning will be on **Friday 5th June from 11.00-12.00am** at the lovely Haslewey Café, opposite Tesco. It's on a bus route or you can park in the Tesco car park for up to three hours. Come and join us for a chat – and bring a friend perhaps? Why not stay on afterwards and indulge yourself with Haslewey's delicious Bistro menu! Look forward to seeing you!

The Committee is looking for someone to help us organise these coffee mornings? It would be a great way to "give something back" to the u3a and it is not an arduous task! Contact Clare via the Contact page on the website.

However....re the Coffee mornings....!

NEED HELP WITH TECHNOLOGY – OR ABLE TO OFFER IT?

We are launching informal **"Tea and Tech"** sessions - *alongside our monthly coffee mornings!* - for members who would like help and support with phones, tablets, laptops and other technology. We know some members are less confident with IT, so we are planning simple, informal support – including the **"Tea & Tech"** drop-ins and a **Digital Buddy** scheme.

If you'd like help with emails, accessing newsletters or the website, or if you could offer a little assistance to others, we'd love to hear from you. Just a small amount of help can make a huge difference. Interested? please get in touch with **Roger** via the Contact page on our website –

www.haslemereu3asite.uk

FUN AT THE FERNHURST REVELS!



The u3a attended the Fernhurst Revels recently and enjoyed meeting many visitors who showed lots of interest in our activities and groups.

The Classic Cars group was represented and here is Group Leader, Richard Mason, beside some of the beautiful cars on show.



The Town Crier was there again - and of course we had to have a picture with him in his very attractive costume! - and Diana brought her Mahjong set along to showcase one of our many groups.

If any Group Leaders would like to attend our next two fetes - **Churt 13th June, Chiddingfold 14th June** - and bring along something to advertise your group, you would be very welcome.

Or, if you fancy a fun day out in the sun, chatting to the public and introducing them to the Haslemere u3a, or maybe helping us erect and dismantling the gazebo, please get in touch with Membership Secretary, Judith Forde - 07507 643411 – there is no need to commit to every date!

MAKING SENSE OF AI – WITH ALAN FREELAND, FARNHAM U3A



Our recent talk on Artificial Intelligence with Alan Freeland was an absolute triumph, receiving glowing praise from everyone who attended. Alan made the talk very relevant to Haslemere u3a and brought humour to the talk whilst giving a useful and practical presentation to our audience of over 40 Haslemere u3a attendees.

Members described the presentation as brilliant, highly informative and exceptionally well-delivered. The session proved to be an eye-opener, making many of us realise just how much we already use AI in our daily lives. Beyond just theory, the talk gave attendees the practical confidence to experiment with tools like ChatGPT, whilst also sparking a thoughtful

discussion on the future impact of AI on business and employment.

The only regrets reported from the morning was that this fascinating session could not go on longer - and that more members were not there to benefit from Alan's excellent insights! There has been considerable follow up interest from our members requesting copies of Alan's presentation and also, an interest in setting up an AI Group within Haslemere u3a.

Alan's u3a Group in Farnham has two aims: First, to provide members with the confidence and support to proactively use Artificial Intelligence (AI) in their everyday lives, both for fun and as an assistant in solving life's many tasks. Members are expected to use AI Chatbots, such as ChatGPT, between meetings and share their experiences. Second, to explore how AI is being used in society. Members are expected to share their views on these topics. Typically, each month's class will have two sessions, one focused on AI and society and one focused on members' use of AI.

"Wouldn't it be great to set up a similar group within Haslemere u3a?" said Vice Chairman, Christine Howard. "Please contact either myself or Claire Coxwell via the Haslemere u3a website if this would be of interest to you and we will work to take this forward. In the meantime, thank you so much Alan for your time and giving us such an excellent presentation."

NEWS OF GROUPS To contact a Haslemere u3a Group or find out more information, please go to the Groups page of the u3a website – just control/click on www.haslemere.u3asite.uk and you'll go straight there! For enquiries about starting a Group or anything else related to Groups, please contact Claire Coxwell or Richard Mason, our Group Co-ordinators, via the Contacts page on the website – www.haslemere.u3asite.uk

We have had a request for a **BEGINNERS GARDENING GROUP** – sharing tips about gardening and learning from each other. There has been some interest already. Are there any Members out there who enjoy gardening and might like to work as part of a team to set this up. Claire Coxwell, Groups Co-ordinator is waiting to hear from you via the Contacts page of the website!



Bonjour!! Our **INTERMEDIATE FRENCH CONVERSATION GROUP** meets fortnightly on Thursday afternoons and has a couple of spaces.

Here are a few of their members enjoying reading the news – en Francais of course! For more information, please contact the Group administrator via the Groups page on our website.

Interested in contributing more to the u3a? Why not join our **VOLUNTEERING GROUP** and we will contact you as and when opportunities come up – such as help at a Summer Fete, organising refreshments, design posters etc. Rest assured you will only volunteer when you want to! For more information, contact this group via the Groups page on our website.

Our popular **CINEMA CLUB** Members have been busy watching a variety of films at Haslemere Hall and, where possible, afternoon films as well as evening ones are included in the choices available. You can sign up to their mailing list by finding the Cinema Club on the Groups page of the u3a website. Enjoy!



LINE DANCING is a low impact form of exercise and a great way to improve fitness, memory and musicality. Sally from Milford Line Dancing group talks us through the steps making it great fun!

The Group meets term time only, every Thursday from 3-4pm at Fernhurst Village Hall. “Newbies” are very welcome! For more information, visit the Groups page on the website – www.haslemere.u3asite.uk

SAVE THE DATE!

Haslemere u3a Open Day

(previously known as Enrolment Day)

Tues 18th August 10.30am – 12.30pm

@ Haslemere Hall



Haslemere u3a has now over 70 friendly, welcoming groups. Come and explore our interesting groups which cover a wide range of subjects.

*** Meet the Leaders: Chat face-to-face with our Group Leaders and secure your place for the upcoming Autumn term.**

*** Meet our friendly Committee members**

*** Find out how you can take part, contribute, volunteer and get involved**

August/September is the u3a membership renewal time. Most of you will do this online, but if you prefer to renew in person, you will be able to do this at the **August Open Day! This event is open to people new to the u3a as well as existing members - so why not bring your friends along! Watch out for more information on our Events Page on the Haslemere u3a website – www.haslemere.u3asite.uk**

To contact a Group or find out more information, please go to the Groups page of the u3a website. Check out our Events Page too!

Or, if you are thinking about starting a Group or anything else related to our Groups, contact either Claire Coxwell or Richard Mason, our two Group Co-ordinators via the Contacts page on our website – www.haslemere.u3asite.uk



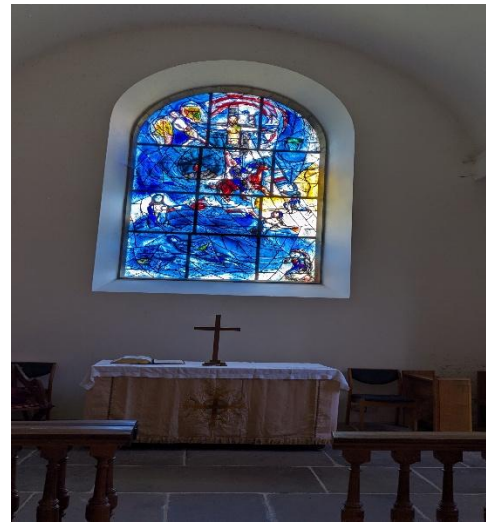
THE NATURE AND CONSERVATION GROUP

recently visited Magdalen Hill Down near Winchester with butterfly expert Arthur Greenwood. The weather was perfect and they saw lots of butterflies and wildflowers.

The Group was accompanied for most of the way round by Fiona, the Reserve Manager and then enjoyed a lovely picnic lunch

amongst the wildflowers. The next group meeting is on **June 18th** when the Group will be visiting Group Member, Frank's wildlife garden in Haslemere at 11.00am. On **July 16th** Charlotte from the National Trust will give the Group a guided tour of Swan Barn Farm in Haslemere at 11am. For more information go to <https://haslemere.u3asite.uk/u3a.../nature-and-conservation/>

A HIGHLY ENJOYABLE EXCURSION IN GLORIOUS SUNSHINE!



Twenty-five Haslemere U3A members recently went on an organised day outing to Chartwell House and the wonderful Church at Tudeley. Twenty of the group were members of the National Trust and therefore had free entry to the house. The National Trust no longer gives guided tours, but each room had its own very knowledgeable volunteer.

“Chartwell House was the home of Winston Churchill and still contains all Churchill’s original furniture and fittings,” said u3a Excursions Secretary, David Lee. “Tea and coffee was provided on arrival and we started with an illustrated talk by one of the guides about Churchill’s very impressive artwork. We then headed into the gardens and on to Chartwell House where we were free to wander to Churchill’s studio, the walled garden and to have lunch.”

“After Chartwell, we headed to the church in Tudeley, a half hour drive. Unfortunately, I was unable to get a guide here, but having spoken to the

Church secretary/treasurer, I was able to give a talk with an illustrated handout beforehand.”

“This church is the only church in the world where ALL the windows are stained glass uniquely made by the artist/sculptor, Marc Chagall. The history is that in the 1960s, a wealthy landowner near Tudeley lost his 20-year old daughter in a drowning accident. The family approached Marc Chagall asking him to design and install a stained glass window in their church in her memory. At the opening ceremony of the window, Marc Chagall was so enthralled with the church he offered to produce stained glass for all the windows. This church is now a “must see” by many national and international visitors. I have copies of my handout for anyone who wishes to have one - David.leeFRCS@gmail.com - and of note, one of the windows in Chichester Cathedral is also stained glass by Marc Chagall. We arrived back at 5.30pm after a very lovely day out.”

SAFEGUARDING - Do you have concerns about the welfare of any of our members or do you yourself need help?

Haslemere u3a take the welfare of their members seriously and, as such, have adopted the Safeguarding policy laid down by our National Organization. Full details of this policy can be seen on our website – www.haslemere.u3asite.uk - under Documents, including the signs and indicators of abuse and neglect and what to do if someone discloses a safeguarding concern to you. Safeguarding is everyone’s responsibility and therefore any member who has concerns regarding safeguarding should raise them via members of the Haslemere u3a Committee and not keep them to themselves. This can be done via your Group Leader or direct by using the Contact page on our website. All discussions and records will remain confidential.

Additionally, Hourglass (formerly Action on Elder Abuse)

<https://www.wearehourglass.org> provides confidential support and advice for older people experiencing abuse, or those concerned about an older person’s welfare. Available weekdays 9am - 5pm on freephone 0808 808 8141.

NEXT STUDY DAY: 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 & Lecturer. For more information, please go to:

<https://surreynetwork.u3asite.uk/events/>

NATIONAL ONLINE LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES WITH THE u3a.

Discover a huge range of online talks, workshops and classes. Find out more by clicking [here](#).