



HASLEMERE MEMBERS NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2026

Dear Members,

We may no longer be arriving at university/college with a suitcase, or walking nervously into a new office on our first morning, but the **start of a new u3a year** can still bring that same **flutter of expectation**.

The difference now is that we can leave behind the anxious pressure to prove ourselves and embrace **simple curiosity and enjoyment**: *What shall I discover? Who shall I meet? What might I try for the first time?* We haven't lost the excitement of new beginnings; we've simply reached a stage of life where we can **enjoy them for their own sake**.

If you are trying something new this term, you don't have to walk through the door wondering if you will fit in. One of the best things about Haslemere u3a is how naturally our members and Group Leaders **welcome anyone new**.

You might arrive knowing no one, but before long, someone will have introduced themselves, explained what's happening and **made you feel that you belong**.

So, as we begin another u3a year, remember that **new beginnings don't mean starting alone**. Whether you're a brand-new member or an established one trying a group you've always meant to join, there will be friendly faces pleased to see you.

Go on – give something new a try. You might be surprised at just how welcome you are made to feel.

Warmest regards, Roger Abayasekera (Chairman)

NEW MEMBERS! ***A huge u3a welcome to:*** Paul Chamberlain, Diana May, Andy Wilson, Karim Ouda, Susan and David Widdup, Pamela Young, David and Sheila Simons,, Susie Stoop, Kathleen Cronin, Kevin Dudley, Alison Allison, Edward Jones, Roger and Kirsty Bates, Jane Devlin, Robert Manley, Martin Wells, Beryl Meyrick, Ann Ivory.

WHAT A FANTASTIC OPEN DAY – THANK YOU FOR COMING!



A massive u3a thank-you to our 15 wonderful volunteers who, together with our Group Leaders, helpers and Committee Members – made our Open Day such a success. By all accounts and from feedback from Members renewing and potential new Members, it was a lively, sociable, interesting and highly enjoyable event with 42 new Members signing up on the day!

Well done, everyone – it certainly was a memorable day!



Open Day was also a terrific opportunity for Christine Howard, our u3a Vice Chairman to promote the launch of the new Artificial Intelligence (AI) Group.

She certainly grabbed everyone's attention by dressing as Linda the Robot from the recent hilarious BBC1 drama **ANN DROID!**

Interested to know more about this new Group? Contact Christine via the Contacts page on the Haslemere u3a website.

LOOKING AHEAD – COMMITTEE OPPORTUNITIES

We will have **four Committee roles** to fill at our AGM on Monday 9th November. Three are being handed on by current post-holders who, after several years of dedicated service, are ready to pass them on to new Volunteers.

- Secretary (currently vacant & our most immediate need)
- Newsletter Editor
- Excursions Secretary
- Health & Safety Coordinator

If you would like to find out more about what any of these roles involve – or if you might be interested in job-sharing a role with a friend – please get in touch with Roger via chairman@haslemereu3a.org.uk or use the Contact page on the website and message him directly.

SEPTEMBER SPEAKER – “LIFE! A LIBRARY OF MEMORIES” WITH ALAN JONES. MONDAY 14TH SEPTEMBER, 2.00PM @ HASLEMERE HALL

Alan Jones has enjoyed several fascinating careers ranging from a BBC journalist to a registered nurse. His lecture will be an opportunity for you to take a book off the shelf, turn back the pages of time and recall years of your childhood and teenage years!

Alan's talk looks back on growing up in the 1950s, '60s and '70s in a Britain undergoing decades of great change. From sweet rationing to rock and roll, the Winter of 1963, colour television, decimal currency, a Man on the Moon and the three-day working week – this talk will bring back many memories of your life! Complimentary teas and coffee will be served afterwards.

INVITATION TO GROUP LEADERS: THE BEACON HILL FETE!

Our last outdoor event of the year will be at the **Beacon Hill Fete** on **Saturday 5th September from 1.00pm**. If any Group Leaders would like to attend and bring along something to advertise your Group, chat to the visitors and introduce them to the wonderful Haslemere u3a - you would be very welcome.

ADVANCE NOTICE: The **Haslemere Hall AGM** - NOT the u3a AGM! - is being held on Tuesday, 15th September at 7.30 pm in the Haslemere Hall Annexe. The Hall AGM is only open to Members of Haslemere Hall.

SEPTEMBER MEMBERS' COFFEE MORNING - PLUS THE "TEA & TECH" HELP SESSION



Do come and join us at our next Members Coffee Morning on **Wednesday 9th September from 11.00-12.00am** at the lovely Hasleway Café opposite Tesco's.

We would like to say a huge Thank You to u3a Member, Trish Bell, who has recently volunteered to help us with the running of these popular Coffee Mornings – much appreciated!

The monthly Coffee Mornings also now feature our friendly **"Tea & Tech"** help sessions. This relaxed support is specially tailored for anyone who feels a bit stuck or overwhelmed by technology. Bring your smartphone, tablet or laptop and receive patient, hands-on help with the basics. Find out how to get onto our website and access newsletters, groups, events etc. Hasleway has a delicious lunch menu too!!

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

20TH CENTURY RUSSIAN POETRY

“I am pleased to report that this new Group, looking at Russian poets and their poetry successfully got off the ground recently,” said Group Leader, Jeanette Hatcher. “Starting with the 19th Century, we looked at the lives and poetry of Alexander Pushkin, Mikhail Lermontov, Nikolay Nekrasov, Afanasy Fet and Fyodor Tyutchev - and we dipped a toe into the 20th Century with the lives and poetry of Innokenty Annensky, Alexander Blok and Maximilian Voloshin and explored the concept of reading poetry in translation. “As a bonus, through open minded exploration and discussion, the reading of poetry from other countries can also slowly reveal that specific country’s history, politics and other facets of its cultural history.”

“From September, we will be looking at 20th Century Russian poetry through the work of some of the major poets of that century many of whom did not survive the Stalin era. What did they write about, how did their poetry survive and what is their legacy; these are some of the questions I hope we can address.”

As the editor, Albert C Todd writes in his introduction to the anthology, *Twentieth Century Russian Poetry*, ‘*The history of the Russian and Soviet peoples in the twentieth century is a bizarre, fantastic fable that could not have been invented by the wildest imagination. It is fortunate for us that so many men and women of extraordinary talent lived through it. Their poetry is a unique record of the soul of Russians in that century.*’

This intriguing new Group meets on the first Thursday of each month from 2.00 until 4.30 pm at a private address near Haslemere Hall. For further information please contact Jeannette via jeannettehatcher@btinternet.com or give her a call on 07771951760.

NEW BASIC LIFE SUPPORT TRAINING COURSE



The course will be run by Dr. David Lee FRCS, and administered by Hilda Russell. The Basic Life Support Training course is a valuable introduction to First Aid and will be held on **Friday 23rd October** at the Methodist Church in Weyhill, Haslemere.

The duration of the course is two hours, from 2.00-4.00pm and there is **no charge** for u3a Members.

If you are interested in joining the course, please contact Hilda Russell via the First Aid Group on the u3a website.



UKULELE GROUP MEETS THE ALPACAS!

During the summer break, the ukulele group have carried on meeting weekly in various homes and gardens.

At one session, held in the art studio of a member from Liphook, some of the group enjoyed meeting her alpacas who were munching in the adjoining field.

This very popular Group welcomes beginners as well as experienced players and enjoy playing and singing all kinds of music. The Group meets on Wednesdays, 5.30-7.00pm at St. Paul's Church Hall in Camelsdale and if you are tempted to have a go, they have spare ukuleles and some friendly people to help you get started! Interested? Contact the Group Leader via the website.

We have been asked to think about starting an **EVENING BOOK CLUB GROUP** as all our present, popular Book Club groups are either in the morning or afternoon weekdays. If this might interest you, please contact one of our Group Co-ordinators via the website.

NEW! EXPLORING LOCAL BUILDINGS OF INTEREST GROUP

We have so many members who are interested in the history of our area as shown by the popularity of our Local History group, Local Artists of the late 1800s group and The Literature of our Local Area group..... so, we are considering setting up a new group to explore local buildings – and in particular local religious buildings.

This is something that many other u3as run successfully in other areas. Members will take it in turns either individually or in pairs to organise a visit to one or more local buildings. They will arrange for interesting information to be available during the visit. Refreshments may be arranged nearby. If you would be interested in attending a meeting to help us set this new group up in the Autumn, please get in touch with our Group Co-ordinators via the Contacts page of the website.

U3A STUDY DAY – FRIDAY 18TH SEPTEMBER – The Bayeaux Tapestry: It's Creation and Interpretation – presented by Imogen Corrigan BA MPhil FRHistS FRSA, lecturer on Medieval History.

