

Message from the Chair



Welcome to our Spring Newsletter.

2026 has got off to a good start with several new groups starting; including Talking Art, another Table Tennis group based at Rowleys as is the new Mahjong group. This is now up and running and welcoming absolute beginners to this interesting game, as well as more seasoned players. We can only take four absolute beginners each month but will teach everyone over the next few sessions.

We are always happy to set up new, and different groups but we do need committed people to take on the role of Group Leader to get them going.

Unfortunately, we were not able to run the Tuesday Painting and Drawing group this year due to insufficient take up and I know that was a disappointment to several enthusiastic and really good artists. We will offer this again at the Open Day in August though as a new Group Leader has come forward who would like to see this reinstated.

If you think that you have an idea for a new group, please get in touch with our Group Leader co-ordinator, Robin Chapman glcoordinator@cranleighu3a.org, and we will investigate how much interest we get for the topic.

I, along with our Secretary Marian Walter, was invited to a Smart Cranleigh meeting, guest speaker Jeremy Hunt to give opinions and discuss the way forward for Cranleigh. One of the issues I felt very relevant, was the hope to run a bus from Cranleigh, round the local villages, and on to the Royal Surrey. Will it happen? I really hope so, it would be so useful for many of our members.

With the sunshine of the past few days, let's look forward to an enjoyable Spring.

Best Regards

Veronica

Group Leader Coordinator's Update

It has been a busy few months since the new year. All our volunteer group leaders have been active with forward planning in preparation for our U3A book update for the 2026-2027 season. My thanks for all the responses received.

In recent months we have been developing several new group activities to launch. I am pleased to note that some new groups have now been established and our Tennis link-up opportunity extended:

- Talking Art – contact Max Aiken – *held on 2nd Wednesday of the month at 2pm, in the Crane room at the Cranleigh Arts Centre*
- Mah-Jong - contact either Sue Weeks or Veronica Barnard - *held on 4th Monday of the month at 2pm, in the main community area at Rowleys.*
- Begin/Improve Table Tennis – contact Michael Collings *held on 1st & 3rd Friday at 2pm, in the main community area at Rowleys.*
- Tennis (6-week sessions) - contact Jane Thomas - *held at Rudgwick Tennis Club, Monday afternoons at 2pm on April 13, 20 & 27, May 11 & 18, and June 1st.*

Details of all four activities as above are now detailed on our U3A website at: <https://cranleigh.u3asite.uk/groups/> where you can contact the group leader.

A further link-up is Introduction to Bowls which is offered by both Cranleigh and Ewhurst Bowls clubs and follows on from their Open days.

- Bowls - Cranleigh contact: Steph Witt at [steph](#) - Open day: Sunday 10th May 10am to 1pm. Beginners' days are Saturday mornings 16th, 23rd & 30th May at 10am.
- Bowls - Ewhurst contact: Roger Newman - Open day: Saturday 16th May 10:30 - 4pm *See separate article on page 4 for more information.*

We were overwhelmed by the level of interest for the Mah-Jong group, with the initial limit of 25 quickly being reached. However, new group membership can be dynamic so if you would like to participate, please contact the group leaders.

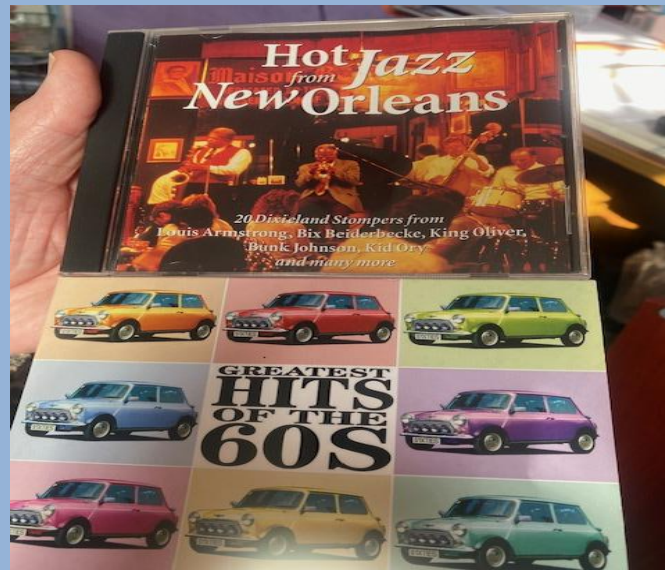
On the opposite side of the coin, we received notification from the group leaders of our Investment group, golf, coarse fishing, and reviving Latin groups that their numbers have dwindled, decisions have therefore been made to take all four groups off line. Meetings will now be arranged informally by remaining members.

As always if you have the motive, means and opportunity to establish a new group then please let us know so that we may work together to take your idea forward.

Robin Chapman glcoordinator@cranleighu3a.org

NEWS FROM OUR GROUPS

Jazz and Nostalgia Music Club



Peter Fuller and I have been running this session on a monthly basis for 9 years - we even kept going throughout Covid!

Sadly, we lost Bob Horn last year. He was a mine of information on all aspects of our music.

Over the past year we have seen a decline in attendance - we have 40 on the books but generally only get an audience including the presenters of about 15!

The reason for this is perhaps multifold, some have just lost interest, some have moved away, some are ill or have passed away and some take on too much on Open Day and never appear.

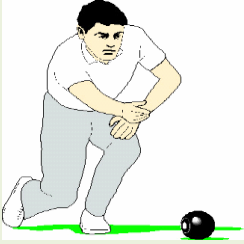
Furthermore, we struggle to get presenters.

Perhaps many U3A members are unaware of what we do so can I invite any member to come and try us out for our remaining sessions this year with a view, if they are interested, to join us then for 2026/27.

We would like to celebrate our tenth year but only if numbers make it worthwhile to continue.

It is an enjoyable and social afternoon covering many types of music, from the 1900s up to the 1980s.

Derek Bonham



EWHURST BOWLING CLUB

Affiliated to: B.E., S.C.B.A., W.S.B.A., & S.C.W.B.A.

If you would like to try your hand at bowling, Ewhurst Bowling Club is the place for you. In conjunction with the U3A we are having an Open Day on Saturday 16th May from 10:30am to 4:00pm so please come along between those times. We also invite you to our Bowls for Beginners Practice 18th and 27th May and 1st and 8th June 2:00 to 4:00pm.

Flat soled shoes are required; all other equipment is provided.

If you would like to try bowls before these dates, please ring Roger Newman on 01403 753140

If you have recently moved to the area and you have some bowling experience, you will be made most welcome, please contact Roger to find out more about our Club. Please visit www.ewhurstbowls.co.uk for more information.

We look forward to welcoming you to our friendly club.

Musicals Group

We have nearly finished another season I started doing this in 2004. It seems to have been enjoyed by those attending about 40 or so, but there is always room for more.

I try to vary the content each time from shows recorded on stage to those on film - both recent and going back to the 30s and 40s. For example, we have seen Matilda and Wicked (Part one) to Top hat and Billy Elliot.

I start by talking about the original show, its production, and then any changes made to create the film version. When possible, I also include a 'short'. For example, an excerpt from a John Wilson Promenade Concert.

Why not come along and try us out? You do not have to come to every film plus we use the excellent Arts Centre Cinema to see them at their best.

Peter Fuller

Pilates

The second free Pilates Introduction Course has now come to an end and was very well supported and warmly received. It was a pleasure to see participants growing in confidence with the exercises and beginning to experience the benefits that regular Pilates practice can bring to strength, mobility, posture and ease of movement.

Many of those who attended are now continuing in my regular Pilates classes at Cranleigh School, where we build steadily on the foundations introduced in the course.

Thank you to everyone who joined and helped make the course such a success!

Please browse my website for more information, or simply get in touch.

Sue Hope C.I.M.S.P.A.

<https://pilatesprime.co.uk>

suehope21@gmail.com

Speaker Programme



Our excellent speaker Jonathon Jones in January had a disappointing turn out. In the main because we had torrential rain on the day, and on many days preceding, causing massive flooding on most roads into Cranleigh, and those which weren't flooded had traffic lights and road works!

I really felt for him but he came in full regalia and entertained us royally. Thank you to all our regulars who gave him great applause for his informative talk.

The topic in April is the history of Punch and Judy. Love them, or loathe them, they were always a part of a seaside holiday - together with Donkey rides and Candy Floss. You do realise I'm giving my age away here!

Gary Miles, our speaker was supposed to present this in October but sadly, due to a bereavement he had to postpone, so let's give him a really good Cranleigh welcome on Tuesday April 28th. 2pm at Cranleigh Methodist Church. Entrance is £5.00 including refreshments – we may even include sausages for Toby the dog.

Hope to see you there. It always helps with the catering if you can drop me an email to let me know you will be coming.

Thank you

Veronica veronica@cranleighu3a.org

Bank Charges.

Like many charities, the Cranleigh & District u3a have now started to have to pay service charges imposed by their bank.

What does this mean for the Cranleigh & District u3a?

Our bank has now started charging us for each cheque or cash amount paid into our u3a accounts. Additionally, we will also incur a separate charge for making any deposit into our account that contains cheques or cash.

What can you do to help minimise any bank charges?

As the new charges only relate to cheques and cash this means that if you pay for your membership subscription or the cost of your u3a Outing by bank transfer (or PayPal) we will not incur any bank charge.

Our bank has recently cancelled their arrangement with the Post Office which previously allowed us to pay in cheques & cash over their counters adding to our difficulties handling these types of payment.

It is understood that some members without internet banking may still need to pay by cheque, however if you are able to pay by bank transfer this would help keep our costs down and save time driving to the nearest bank. Many thanks for your cooperation.

Paul Arrowsmith
Treasurer

Articles for the July 2026 edition of the Newsletter to reach the editor by 20th June

If any members would like submit an article relating to their group, please feel free to do so. It doesn't have to be a whole page.

We would love to hear from you.

Please prepare your text as a Word document, photographs in jpg or png format, and send them as separate attachments to your email to:

newsletter@cranleighu3a.org

Thank you!

Brian

...and a big Thank you for your contributions to our January edition of 2026.

