

Message from the Chair



Welcome to our Summer Newsletter.

As you all know, some of our groups are finishing for the summer. Your Group Leaders will have told you if yours is one of these. I always view this time of year with mixed emotions; sad that I won't see some friends in a group for a little while, and happy to have time to get away and maybe see some friends a little more distant. It is but a hiatus, as our Open Day is on 17th August from 2pm - 4pm at Cranleigh Sports & Social Club, where you will be able to see what is happening from September through into 2027 and meet our amazing Group Leaders!

I would like to say a big "Thank you" to Jenny Marty and Gary Wallis whose groups Reviving Latin and Coarse Fishing will not be continuing into the new academic year. I would also like to say "Welcome" to four new Group Leaders. Martin Hayton is stepping aside from Golf, replaced by Bruce Rea-Palmer. Sue Weeks, Max Aitken and Michael Collings make up the quartet – we will see what their new groups are at the Open Day!

Not wishing the summer away, I need to let you know that our Annual General Meeting is in November. We currently have a full committee but we will be looking for at least two more people to join us for the next year. It is a lovely, friendly group, and with only four meetings a year, and is not too taxing.

Please give me a call if you would like to know more about being a committee member. 07765 256326.

Have a lovely summer
Veronica

Group Leader Coordinator's Update



Well, it is Carnival time. I'm sure to see a few happy faces at this year's event. I hope it cools down just a bit!

We have some amazing groups within our Cranleigh & District U3A. Not a lot will prevent members from taking part, and so it was, on one of the hottest days of the year, did it stop the Badminton group from playing? No! A good time was had by all thanks to Nicholas the group leader, who after an hour and half of exhaustive play, led the group into party time with drinks and nibbles. What a way to end the U3A Badminton year and if your group also carried on regardless through the extreme heat, we trust you kept hydrated, and ended up smiling, well done.

April to June is always a busy time. It is the time when a lot of forward planning takes place. My thanks to all the Group Leaders and their support teams who have responded to the request for their group updates for the 2026/2027 year. The development of our U3A handbook that details all the changes that have taken place has now gone into print. A special thank you to the proof-reading team Barbara and Martin and to Angela Hardman for her kind support and guidance. Fingers crossed that there are no errors.

Open Day planning is now underway. We will be using the Cranleigh Village Sports & Social Club again this year. It will be on Monday 17th August, doors open at 2pm. I hope to see you all there.

As always, if you have the motive, the 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

Walking groups



Members of the Wednesday Short Walks group (above) enjoyed lovely weather at the beginning of May for an interesting walk around the Chilworth Gunpowder Mills, after which some of the group stayed on for lunch in the garden at the Percy Arms.

Somewhat different weather prevailed for our June walk, though 9 hardy souls braved the rain for a circular walk along the canal at Loxwood, returning to the Onslow Arms to dry out and enjoy a snack lunch.

If you like to walk around 3 miles, can manage the odd stile and/or incline and, ideally, would be willing to lead a walk occasionally, do consider joining this friendly group. We meet on the 1st Wednesday of the month at 11 am for circular walks, starting and finishing at a local pub or café.

Helen Clarke is the Group Leader – helenclarke510@gmail.com



Both the Monday and Friday Long (5 mile) walking groups (above) have also been out enjoying our wonderful countryside. As you can see from the photos, the weather is usually kind, but recently the Monday walking group experienced what Group Leader Marilyn described as ‘torrential rain’. Luckily, a rare event! The lunch afterwards was therefore much appreciated...

All of the groups, both short and long, are friendly folk who love to chat as they stroll along. Come and see us on Open day for more details.

Ukulele group



The uke group have recently performed for two Cranleigh groups - Senior Link (above left) who are a weekly social group for older adults plus a fund-raising event for Memory Lane (above right), a support group for individuals who are experiencing dementia or memory loss. Both concerts were a big success.

At Senior Link the group played some well-known songs for the attendees. Words were displayed on a large screen so everyone could join in the singing.

There was a full house of family and friends who came to support the Memory Lane members. The ukulele group performed four songs – two either side of the interval. All funds raised went to support Memory Lane.

Well done and thank you everyone who supported u3a Ukes.

Brian Allen (Group member)

Outings

URGENT APPEAL

We are looking for two or three more people to join the Outings Team to help with arranging and running day trips. Anyone joining us would be given lots of support and mentoring through their first few visits and helped with ideas for venues. We are sure there are people out there with great organisational skills and lots of new bright ideas for day trips.

One or two of us have been organisers for many years and are ready to step back when we have a new team in place.

Please contact Elaine on elaine.lock@btinternet.com or 01483 278608 and she will be happy to tell you what is involved.

Looking forward to hearing from you.

The Outings Team

MAHJONG



Having started this new group with Sue Weeks, our Group Leader, I am pleased to say that it is proving to be very popular. Sue has taught many complete beginners, who are now able to say 'Yes, I play Mahjong'.

Come and see us on Open Day.
Veronica

SPEAKER PROGRAMME



Since October we have had talks about Tower Bridge, The Role of the Town Crier and the History of Punch and Judy. For our next talk, we welcome back Peter Smith to tell us all about Weeds, Worts and Fairies.

Tuesday 28th July, 2pm at Cranleigh Methodist Church. Entrance is £5.00 and includes refreshments.

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.

I hope to see many of you there.
Veronica

Request for Help – Simple Tech Support

We are looking for one or two volunteers to help with setting up a projector and laptop for the Travellers' Tales Group when they meet in the Bandroom. No great technical knowledge is required, and full guidance will be given. The group meets eight afternoons a year.

We are also looking for one or two slightly more technically minded volunteers to do projection for the Musicals Group in the Arts Centre (for which full training will be given) and/or to be part of a team maintaining our Website and our Beacon information system.

If you would like to help, please contact Martin Hayton (07920 406444 or webmaster@cranleighu3a.org) for more information.

Articles for the Oct 2026 edition of the Newsletter to reach the editor by 20th Sept

If any members would like to 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