



## March 2026 Bulletin

Growing up, life in my family was always measured by sporting events. The minute someone mentioned the end of the Six Nations or the Cheltenham Festival, then it was Spring. I'm sure other people feel that way when they see the first snowdrops or daffodils or when the lawn needs its first cut.

We always seem to be looking forward to what's next and we are no different in our u3a. Members always ask me if the calendar of talks will be published in the bulletin, they want to put them in their diary and plan the future. They are on the back page and include some new additions and amendments from last month which are shown **in bold**.

So, here is another date for you, the Seniors Fair, which is organised by the Harpenden Trust, will be on April 1<sup>st</sup> between 10.30am and 1pm at the EMC and we will be there in Function Room 1. Do come along and visit our stand and support us, but also look at all the other services and organisations that Harpenden can offer or provide for you.

Oh, and along the way, enjoy the horse racing and the rugby..... " Sláinte"!

**Judith Moseley**  
Acting Chairman.

## Thursday Afternoon Talks

These take place on the first and third Thursday of the month at 2.15 in the Abbeyfield Hall, above the Co-op in Southdown. Parking is in the Co-op car park but, WARNING, this is getting very full these days, so we suggest you arrive in good time to find a space.

### **Thursday, 19<sup>th</sup> March**

Colin Oakes – “**London and its Museums**”. Colin has spoken to us on numerous occasions over the years and never fails to impress us with his amazing historical knowledge. He has nearly 300 talks for us to choose from, and he is also a Blue Badge guide whom we use with the Exploring London group

### **Thursday, 2<sup>nd</sup> April**

A presentation by the **Creative Writing Group**, who will be sharing some of their writings that they have produced over the past 12 months. Last year, their presentation gave us an interesting and enjoyable afternoon.

## Free Online Talks organised by the National u3a

Below is a list of the online talks arranged by the National u3a for the next month and available free to all members. You can find more details about them at:

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

The subjects are:

Spring-clean your vitality with qi-gong; *Laughter Yoga*; The Evolution of AI and our changing world; *u3a Yoga Network: Subject Surgery*; London Thames Bridges; Is tidal and wave power a viable electricity generation source?; *Mindfulness and Meditation*; AI News; *The Climate Crisis and Some Solutions, the truth in ten*; The cancer research revolution and reasons for optimism; *Deafness and beyond: the tribulation and triumph of Ludwig van Beethoven*; The British airmen of the First World War; *Staying safe online*; Adventures with science with u3a.

In addition to the above, there are four online talks arranged for u3a British Women's History Day on Thursday, 12<sup>th</sup> March and the subjects for these are:

The Match Girls' Strike and how it changed British labour history; *The Lancashire Witches*; Katherine Swynford, myth and reality; *Empress Matilda: the first queen England never had*.

## Members' News

We are delighted to welcome nine new members –

**John Lowe, Sarah Larkins, Jennifer Thompson, Claire Farley, Betty Francis, Yolanda Whale, Richard Mathias, Richard Kirkwood and Roger Small.**

We look forward to meeting you and hope you enjoy your membership.

### **Updating Members' Details**

We have recently realised that some of the membership details on our database are out of date. If you have given up your landline or changed your address, email or phone number, then please contact our Membership Secretary, **Alan Thomas** (contact details on our website). Or you can hand in your change of details at the Welcome Desk at any Thursday afternoon talk.

## Group News

Please note, for further information, contact the relevant group leaders by following this link to the Groups page on our website:

<https://harpenden.u3asite.uk/groups/>

As we shall soon be welcoming Spring and the weather is forecast to improve, we shall shortly restart the **Bus Pass Group** and **Weekday Strollers**.

The **History Group** will meet on Tuesday, 10<sup>th</sup> March, when **Viv Chandler** will talk about 'The Three Sieges of Newark on Trent in the English Civil War and their effect on the population' and the **Science and Technology Group** will meet on 18<sup>th</sup> March, when **Robin Barrett** will talk about 'Astro Photography'. All are welcome and further details are on the Groups page of our website (see above).

The **Current Affairs Group** asks:

Are you amazed by what we humans are achieving? Or do you fear we are on the eve of destruction?

Did we teach our children well?

Are the answers still blowing in the wind?

If you want to discuss these questions, the **Current Affairs Group** meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month: details are on our website.

**The Climate Change Group** asks:

Are you interested in Global Warming ?

When the group first started the book, 'A Hundred Ways to Reverse Global Warming', gave the group a great deal of information and still does. In summary, CO<sub>2</sub> is warming the atmosphere. Heat is absorbed by the ocean, causing it to expand and encroach land. CO<sub>2</sub> is also upsetting weather patterns, impacting on agriculture. Climate change cannot be summarised in this brief bulletin. If you want to explore the issue further, group and contact details are contained on our website.

The **Reading for Pleasure Group 2** is currently reading 'Babel' by R F Kuang. This is a fantasy novel set in a fictional 19th-century Oxford where bright children are brought to England from all corners of the empire, in order to create magic to benefit the wealthy of London, while the **Reading for Pleasure Group 3** is currently reading 'The Garden of Evening Mists' by Tan Twan Eng. This is a story set in post-war Malaya about Yun Ling, who has retired to her home village after four decades away. She was interned in a prisoner of war camp during the occupation by the Japanese from 1941 to 1945. Her sister died there and the story follows the building of a memorial garden and her relationship with ex-gardener, Aritomo.

The present **Walking Group** is now full and we are planning to start a second one if there is enough demand. The **New Walking Group** will run along the same lines as the original group. Walks will be from four to six miles long, in the local area. The pace will be quite gentle, so the walks will take from two to three hours; the aim is to enjoy healthy exercise and good conversation in the beautiful Hertfordshire countryside. Initially, the walks will be every fourth Monday morning, but we would hope to go out more frequently in due course.

We shall organise the first walk when we know there is enough interest, so, if you would like to come and try the **New Walking Group** or would like more information, please contact Hugh Fricker.

### Reminder

And don't forget – the Harpenden Seniors Fair is on Wednesday, 1<sup>st</sup> April, at the Eric Morecambe Centre from 10.30 to 1pm. It is well worth a visit and we will be having a stand there. Please come and see us.

## List of talks arranged for 2026-27 (Changes in Bold)

Date	Speaker	Topic
March 19 <sup>th</sup>	Colin Oakes	"London and its Museums"
April 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Creative Writing Group	A presentation by the Creative Writing Group
April 16 <sup>th</sup>	Morgen Bailey	"An Author and Editor's journey through the Publishing Industry"
May 7 <sup>th</sup>	Peter & Moira Hart	Reflections on Kitty Hart Moxon OBE's Story: "A Holocaust and Auschwitz Survivor"
May 21 <sup>st</sup>	Alison Wall	"Plague Houses and Pandemics"
<b>June 4<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Alex Amos</b>	<b>"Weddings in Art".</b>
June 18 <sup>th</sup>	Alison Bourke	"Tunnel Vision; Stepping Through Time"
July 2 <sup>rd</sup>	Andy Smith	Poetic Presentation
July 16 <sup>th</sup>	Ron Koorm	"Fake news or Deceiving the Enemy"
August 20 <sup>th</sup>		Summer Party at Plough and Harrow
<b>September 3<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>Clare Jenner</b>	<b>"Ageing Well"</b>
September 17 <sup>th</sup>	Philip McKinder	"An unexpected change in the Weather"
October 1 <sup>st</sup>	Sharon Torres	"Venice H <sub>2</sub> O"
October 15 <sup>th</sup>		AGM
<b>November 5<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Geoff Cunnington</b>	<b>"A day at the British Empire Exhibition 1924"</b>
<b>November 19<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Bernard Lockett</b>	<b>"Gilbert and Sullivan</b>
December 3 <sup>rd</sup>		Christmas Miscellany
December 17 <sup>th</sup>		Christmas Party
January 7 <sup>th</sup>	Steve French	"The Spanish Civil War"

All the above to be held in the Abbeyfield Hall commencing at 2.15 unless otherwise indicated.