



## July 2026 Bulletin

(Please note, the next bulletin will be in September due to the summer recess).

A very wise friend of mine said to me recently that so many activities relating to u3a happen "as though by magic"! Chairs are put out, amazing speakers arrive, fantastic group leaders organise more subjects and activities each month, parties are organised and teas and coffees are made in huge quantities. I am constantly grateful to all the people who are involved but we, as a committee, would welcome more help, as we are a dwindling number. I have just received a request from our wonderful Membership Secretary to find someone to take over his duties ready for the new Membership Year, which starts on 1<sup>st</sup> November. He, and his late wife, have done a brilliant job over many, many years so I think he deserves a rest.

So, please, if you could help us, do get in touch with me for a chat and a coffee because, quite frankly, it doesn't happen by magic. We really need more active committee members to continue to provide the vibrant u3a that we now have. Oh, and I'll buy the coffee!

**Judith Moseley** Acting Chairman

### Members' News

There have been five new members this month:

**Sally Bunce, Terry Turner, Jill Jamieson, Christine Rice and Joanne Davies.** You are all most welcome and we hope you will enjoy your membership.

### Thursday Afternoon Talks

These take place on the first and third Thursday of the month at 2.15pm in the Abbeyfield Hall, above the Co-op in Southdown.

Recently, we have heard of members being unable to access the Trust Hall building as they do not have the code with them. The code to enter is **0809**. This only works for the Thursday Afternoon Talks. Other meetings have their own codes. Please keep a note of this code either in your diary or on your phone.

The next meeting is on:

**Thursday, 16<sup>th</sup> July**, when **Ron Koorm** will be talking on '**Fake News or Deceiving the Enemy in WW2**'. Ronald Koorm is a published author in codebreaking and a lecturer in related subjects of military intelligence.

We then have a break until the beginning of September, although don't forget our **Summer Party** in the garden of the Plough and Harrow on **Thursday, 20<sup>th</sup> August**. Details to follow.

Our first meeting in September is on:

**Thursday, 3<sup>rd</sup> September**, when the talk will be given by **Clare Jenner**, a local physiotherapist.

## 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/>

### **Beacon**

Group Leaders will soon be able to access and manage their groups through Beacon, (the online management system designed by u3a members for the use of all u3as). We are arranging a Zoom presentation for all Group Leaders, who will shortly receive an email with full details of the dates and how to join.

**Mindful Arts and Crafts Group** The first session of the new Mindful Arts and Crafts group will be on Monday **20<sup>th</sup> July**, 10.30am to 12.30pm. This will be held every week, except when the group host is on holiday (which is quite often!). It won't be something you have to commit to weekly; it's more of a drop-in, so come along when you can and bring your own project. It's open to members of all levels and abilities, beginners and experts. The group will practise whichever arts or crafts they enjoy in a tranquil, welcoming atmosphere. There will not be any tuition but more 'experienced' members may be asked to volunteer to do masterclasses if they would like to share knowledge and techniques. The hope is that there will be a WhatsApp group to confirm attendance.

Please be aware that there are 15 steps up to the front door and two impertinent white cats in residence!

For further information, please contact Brian Ball, the Group Co-ordinator, via our website.

**The London Explorers Group** aim to meet every six weeks. Starting at Harpenden Station, we travel to a London station nearest to the tour's starting point. We are met and led by Colin Oakes, a London Blue Badge Guide.

We have, in the past, explored the area around Chelsea; Dickens at Christmas, (which was during a damp, cold Saturday in November, very atmospheric); St Bride's Church and London and its Bridges, finishing at Tower Bridge.

The next tour is **London's Hidden Gardens and Parks** on **Saturday, 11<sup>th</sup> July, 2026**.

The tours usually last about two hours with maybe a coffee break, followed by lunch at a local pub.

If members have a particular area they would like to explore, we would welcome a suggestion. Colin does over 250 different talks and tours so there should be one for everyone. We are limited on spaces and the tours are very popular, so please book early with the Group Leader, Barbara Williams. Her details are on the Groups' page on our website.

**Weekday Strollers Group** – Please note that, following Met Office weather warnings last week, our June stroll has been rearranged. We shall now meet in the car park behind The Bull in Wheathampstead at 10.30 on the **10<sup>th</sup> July** for a pleasant stroll followed by refreshments.

If you would like to join us, you will be more than welcome.

(Note: The July stroll remains unchanged for **31<sup>st</sup> July**)

**Current Affairs Group** – The next meeting of the Current Affairs Group is at 2.30pm on **Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> July** in the Randall Room, Harpenden Trust Halls, Southdown. The meeting will be chaired by Sharon Torres.

**History Group** The next three presentations of the History Group are:

- **Tuesday, 14<sup>th</sup> July:** Double Presentation – Steve French: "Picasso's Guernica" and Gerald Cuff: "A Watercolour of the Mezquita at Cordoba"
- **Tuesday, 11th August:** Mick Nolan: "Why the USA entered World War One and some consequences of that decision"
- **Tuesday, 8<sup>th</sup> September:** Sharon Torres: "Domination – Ottoman style"

We meet in the Randall Room, Harpenden Trust Halls, Southdown at 2.30pm. All welcome. Small contribution towards room hire.

**New Group?** Are you interested in **Architecture**? We are planning to start a new **Architecture Group**. The group will arrange visits to sites of architectural interest, as well as separate meetings to discuss architecture and notable buildings.

If you would like to consider joining this group, please get in touch with Brian, our Group Coordinator, via the website.

### List of talks arranged for 2026

<b>Date</b>	<b>Speaker</b>	<b>Topic</b>
July 2 <sup>nd</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
September 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Clare Jenner	"Ageing Well"
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
November 5 <sup>th</sup>	Geoff Cunnington	"A day at the British Empire Exhibition 1924"
November 19 <sup>th</sup>	Bernard Lockett	"Gilbert and Sullivan"
December 3 <sup>rd</sup>		Christmas Miscellany
December 17 <sup>th</sup>		Christmas Party

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