

Message from the Chair

Welcome to our Spring Newsletter.

What a joy it is to see fewer wet, grey days and more splashes of sunshine and awakening blossom!



I am sure that the walking groups, hardy lot though they may be, are enjoying seeing all the beautiful spring flowers on their walks – roll on the bluebells- instead of having to avoid mud and the constant flooding everywhere.

The gardeners amongst us can start to ‘do’ and even our indoors activities seem to perk up with the lighter days at this time of year.

As ever we say a big ‘Thank You’ to our group leaders who give their time and energy to keep all our groups active whatever the weather.

Enjoy the articles in the newsletter

Best Wishes
Veronica

Group Leader Coordinator's Update

We are truly fortunate to have a wonderful team of Group Leaders who offer our members such a wide choice of activities. Although at the time of writing we are in March and the daffodils are in full bloom we are already planning for the new programme of activities starting in September. Some of our Group Leaders have been in their roles for several years and, not surprisingly, a few are looking to either 'retire' or feel that the time is right to hand over to others. They are:

- Brian Allen - whilst continuing to lead the Ukulele Introductory course, Brian will be handing over the baton for the Ukulele Group
- Chris Ashman: Music Appreciation
- John Ashworth: Science & Technology
- Robin Chapman: Guitar
- Anne Davis - French Conversation
- David Harrison – Friday Walking Group
- Sue Kariuki – Bridge for Improvers
- Pat Morgan – German Conversation
- Mark Reed – Spanish for Improvers
- Michael Roberts – Towns & Villages Group D
- Sue Taylor – Badminton Group A
- Sally and Malcolm Terson – Towns & Villages Group A
- Margaret Townsend – Towns & Villages Group B
- John Westley – Bridge for Beginners

We very much appreciate their dedication and contributions to Cranleigh and District u3a over the years.

The success of our groups and activities relies on u3a members volunteering to organise/facilitate/lead a group and we are delighted that members are already offering to take over the reins of some groups. If you can help, and would like to find out more, please have a chat with the Group Leader. If you prefer not to take on a role alone, we are happy to support joint arrangements - several groups have 2 or 3 leaders. Please, don't let being new to the group or new to Cranleigh stop you – we'd love to hear from you.

As always, if you have a suggestion for a new activity and you are willing to help take your idea forward, do let us know. Please contact:

Angela Hardman: glcoordinator@cranleighu3a.org

Getting the most from your u3a Membership

Did you know that in addition to the many groups and activities run by Cranleigh u3a, your membership also opens the door to a much wider range of opportunities? For example:

Surrey u3a Network

The Surrey u3a Network offers Study Days on a wide variety of topics at the Menuhin Hall in Stoke d'Abernon. You can find more details at their website: <https://u3asites.org.uk/surreyu3anetwork/events>

South East u3a Forum Summer School

The South East u3a Forum organises an annual Summer School at the University of Chichester. This year it will take place from Monday 2nd to Thursday 5th September. You can find more details on their website: <https://u3asites.org.uk/southeastu3aforum/events>

u3a Festival 24

The u3a movement is holding its first ever Festival, to be in York from 18th – 20th July 2024, where members will be running a wide variety of activities - talks, sporting events, musical entertainment and workshops which will really make this u3a national festival something to remember. You can sign up for selected days or for the whole event. Please see the Festival 24 website for more details: <https://www.u3a.org.uk/events/festival-2024>

u3a National Learning Events

You can join a wide range of online talks, workshops and courses for free! Check their website for details: <https://www.u3a.org.uk/events/educational-events>

u3a Interest Groups Online (IGO)

Interest Groups Online (IGO) offers a variety of peer-led online learning opportunities. From start-up during Covid lockdowns, IGO has grown steadily and now offers over 90 interest groups accessible from the comfort of your own home. For more details, take a look here: <https://www.u3a.org.uk/learning/interest-groups-online/interest-groups-online-groups>

You can also find links to all of these opportunities on the “Links” page of the Cranleigh u3a website: <https://u3asites.org.uk/cranleigh/links>

NEWS FROM OUR GROUPS

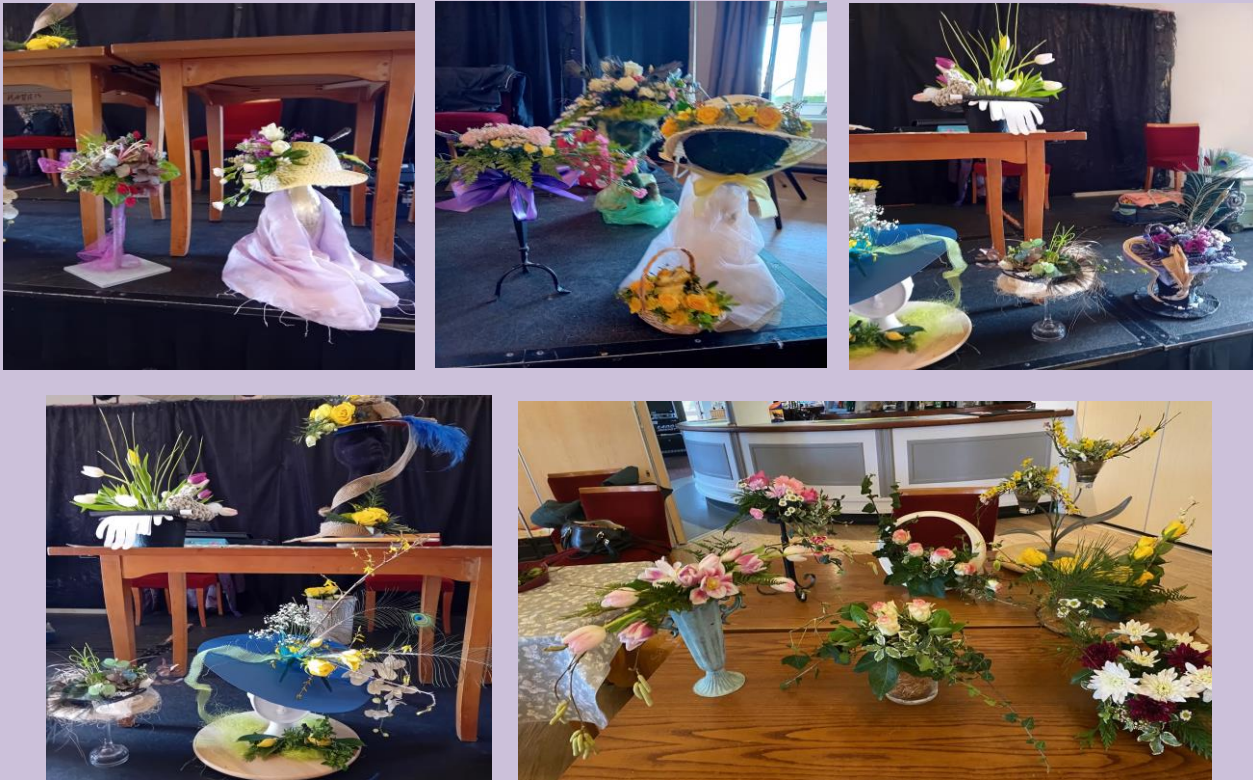
U3A Flower Arranging Group

Our lovely group of ladies has been very productive over the last couple of months.

At Christmas we made a variety of tree decorations for the home. January was a time to look at the moon and construct a crescent shaped floral design.

February had us weaving ribbons through mesh to make basket arrangements but the most fun was had in March with many innovative hat designs.

The photos below are an example of our great colourful work.



Linda Loring



Music Appreciation - The Tingle Factor

In February, Chris Ashman presented his 35th session of the 'Tingle Factor' and said farewell to his group. Chris played a wide selection of music that had influenced his musical career, ranging from Handel's 'Messiah' to 'Bring me Sunshine' by Morcambe and Wise, with pieces by David Coysh in between.

Chris brought the session to a close with Auld Lang Syne, saying that he had enjoyed sharing his love of music of all types and periods during his time with the Tingle Factor. We wish Chris well in his retirement.

U3A Garden Group

The Garden Group has over 90 members now and we have really lively meetings with a range of garden related presentations, including the invasion of Asian Hornets that are killing our bees, gardening in a German Interment Camp in the First World War, the Pioneering Rewilding of the Knepp Estate and Jim Butress who was the head of the London Parks for many years.

We also have lively discussions about gardening issues (and some other chatter of course!) over tea and biscuits, such as how to garden on clay, cope with Climate Change and how to introduce different styles of gardens, such as using the techniques of Gertrude Jekyll and Beth Chatto.

In our spare time we have been looking after the beds in Fountain Square including watering over the very dry summer last year and replanting areas with new geraniums. Also, we have funded the purchase of more daffodils, tulips and geraniums to fill in some of the gaps. A lot of the original bulbs are still flowering after 11 years, when they were planted for the first Britain in Bloom Competition. The varieties are Tete a Tete daffodils and Appeldorn tulips.

The Rotary Club also kindly contributed to the cost of new plants and bulbs for Fountain Square.

Many thanks to the Garden Committee too for seeking out and booking our fascinating speakers.



Gill and the Committee

Speaker Programme

Having had an interesting talk in January by David Rose, all about nostalgia and many more facts about traditional packaging, poisons and food stuffs we continue the speaker programme for this u3a season with:

On Tuesday April 23rd, we have Ian Dowding, the chef who invented Banoffee Pie. He will give a presentation about his career and how he came to devise, what is believed to be, a favourite dessert of the Royal Family. I can't guarantee tasting said dessert but can guarantee that you will have some nice refreshments after the talk – and who knows, Maybe!

As always you can book on Beacon for the talk for which there is a £5.00 admission. The talk starts at 2pm and we would ask that you arrive by 1.45pm.

On Tuesday 23rd July Neil Sadler will take us on a Gongoozling trip along some of the 2000 miles of navigable waterways, more on this in our next newsletter. I look forward to seeing you at one, or both, of these talks.

Veronica

Cranleigh u3a Current Affairs group

The Current Affairs Group meets on the third Friday of the month between September and May. Ours is a lively group of 30 members. Over two hours, we discuss current affairs of local, national and international interest.

We set the meeting up by asking members to pose a question or two on a subject of interest to them. Recent questions have included:-

How can the UK housing markets be fixed so that renting and buying costs are reasonable?

Can we see London charging almost £200 for SUV's to be allowed to park in London for 6 hours as Paris has recently started to do?

Local councils collapsing - what's gone wrong and why?

What can be done to restore Cranleigh to a destination of choice for shoppers and diners?

Our aim is to encourage thoughtful discussion and debate that leads to a greater understanding of the issues we discuss, a well-developed appreciation of the diversity of views in a democracy such as ours and the opportunity to agree or disagree reasonably. If we have collectively done a good job, you should leave our meetings having thought the two hours invested had been worthwhile.

So, do come along and give it a try! We look forward to seeing you soon.

Brian Belcher - Group Leader

Lawn Green Bowling

In collaboration with Cranleigh U3A, Ewhurst Bowling Club will be holding a Bowls for Beginners course on the following dates:

Monday 20th May, Wednesday 29th May (as the Monday is a holiday), and Mondays 3rd and 10th June.

Location: Ewhurst Bowling Green, Cranleigh Road, Ewhurst GU6 7RN.

Time: 2 pm to 4 pm.

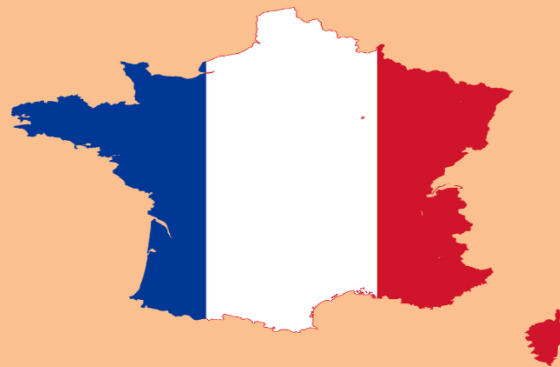
Participation is free. Please wear trainers or other shoes without sharp heels or edges. All other equipment will be provided.

As stated in the Handbook, bowls is a very popular game which is easy to learn, skilful to play and highly social. Over the four weeks you will be coached to a standard so that you can join in informal games ('roll-ups'), from which point you can become as competitive or as casual as you wish.

Note that there will also be an Open Day at the Club on Saturday 18 May.

If you have any questions please contact:

John Greenwood, Tel 01483 273095, email johnhgreenwood@outlook.com



French Conversation

Our wonderful Group Leader is no longer able to lead our friendly group of members who enjoy meeting up to converse in French and discuss a wide range of topics. If you are a fluent French speaker or, have a good standard of French, please would you consider helping and gently guiding our members to keep up their language skills? To find out more please contact:

Angela Hardman: glcoordinator@cranleighu3a.org



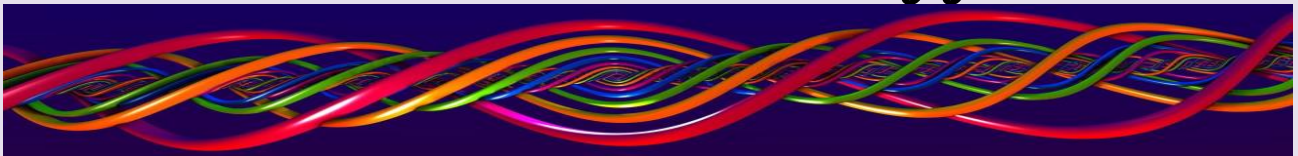
ideas

Do you have an interest or skill that you would like to share with others?
We are always open to ideas for new groups and would love to hear from members who are willing to lead/coordinate/facilitate a new activity.

Please contact:

Angela Hardman, Group Leader Coordinator: glcoordinator@cranleighu3a.org

Science & Technology



Group

Our very popular Science & Technology group is looking for member(s) to oversee and coordinate our meetings and speaker programme. We have a supportive team in place including administration and treasurer roles.

If you would like to find out more about what is involved in this role please contact: John Ashworth ashworthome@gmail.com

Copy for the July 2024 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 format, and send them as separate attachments to your email to:

newsletter@cranleighu3a.org

Thank you!

Brian