



Surprise! President Trump is guilty (who knew?) and we're to have an election on July 4<sup>th</sup>, by which time summer might have arrived. Talking of elections we are losing Mr Hunt and have a slate of neophyte candidates to choose from and the 'literature' is already arriving. As I said at the beginning of the year please do vote and encourage friends, neighbours and family to do the same. If you are voting in person please remember to take photo ID and if you need a postal vote you can apply here <https://www.gov.uk/apply-postal-vote> and you have until 5pm on 19<sup>th</sup> June to do so.

The Farnham u3a year is winding down to its summer recess with the vast majority of groups ending in June. The hardy cyclists and the thirsty oenophiles are the only groups to keep going all through the summer. But the year is not yet over and we still need help with the Farnham Carnival on 29<sup>th</sup> June, the Bourne show on 6<sup>th</sup> July and the new Farnham u3a Open Day on 15<sup>th</sup> July. All it needs is a couple of hours of your time and it makes a big difference to our future. Details and contacts are below.

## Welcome to the June 2024 edition of eNews!

### The Editor's part

Last month I spent quite a lot of time explaining what it takes to run our u3a and asking for help in building small teams to support various essential behind the scenes activities. I focussed on the marketing activities and your response was very pleasing with a total of four really well qualified marketing folk offering to help. Thankyou Julie, Lynda, Phil and Rob, you know who you are! In the run up to the summer I am not proposing to start on the next team as so many of us try to get a break in before the schools break up.

Thank you to those of you who took part in our recent survey. We do this to check on whether or not we are up to scratch overall (we seem to be doing okay with 100% of the sample being either satisfied or very satisfied) and whether there are areas where we can improve. There was a mixed response to this; a number of smaller items, easily addressed but, as ever, it is the excess of demand over supply which is the biggest bugbear. We're aware of this and are taking action wherever we can to address this issue. There's one idea below.

A shorter issue of eNews than usual this month (one person said that eNews was too long !) as we wind down for the summer.

## Important dates for your diary

### Monthly Meetings

For the last meeting of the u3a year we have part talk, part performance. If you are of a certain age you might remember Sting playing **the lute** seen here in somewhat modern format. No, we don't have Sting but we are lucky enough to have David Protheroe who is a professional lute player and writes songs for the lute. Do come and hear about this fascinating instrument from a real enthusiast on **10<sup>th</sup> June at 2pm**.



### Theme Meetings – Cities



The flag of Tbilisi

'A place of warmth'. That may be based on the sulphurous hot springs in the area but it's not a bad name for a capital city - Tbilisi. It's the capital of Georgia, that most beautiful country in the Caucasus and it claims that 'Europe Started here'. Once the crossroads of the world, Tbilisi has been ruled by more world empires than any other city. This talk, by our very own Alan Freeland, explores what makes Tbilisi so desirable to so many. **21<sup>st</sup> June at 10:30am**.

### News from Jane Moberly

#### ***Cuppa and a Chat***

A number of us chased the patch of sunshine to enjoy good company and a chat for the May meeting. Hopefully even more sunshine will be on offer for our next get together on **Thursday 20 June from 10 to 12 midday**. Do drop in and join us - it would be lovely to see you. No need to let me know in advance.

#### ***The quiz***

Don't forget to book your place for the quiz on **Thursday 27 June** - the last quiz of this u3a year. Yet another chance to exercise your wits and win one of the coveted medals. Doors will open at 6 pm for a 6.30 pm start. Please bring £4/head in cash. If transport is a problem, do contact me as we may be able to offer lifts. Contact me via [membereng@farnhamu3a.org.uk](mailto:membereng@farnhamu3a.org.uk) to book your place, either as a ready-made team or as an individual.

#### ***'Space for Humans' on Monday 24 June at 10.30 am*** in the Barley Room

Ever wondered what is going on literally above our heads? Then come along and discover some of the answers in the next in our series of occasional talks. Matthew Stuttart will be offering a non-technical introduction to our relationship with space including satellites, space safety and sustainability, extra-terrestrial life and human activity on the Moon and Mars. Are these of benefit to us humans?

#### ***The Book Exchange***

Bring on the books! Have you a surfeit of books that you have enjoyed but no longer have shelf space for? Then bring them along to our Open Morning on **Monday 15 July**. If you are bringing more than two or three books, please bring your donations to the Barley Room between 9 and 10 am. Books which are not 're-

homed' will be taken to charity shops at the end of the morning. Do contact [membereng@farnhamu3a.org.uk](mailto:membereng@farnhamu3a.org.uk) with any queries.

### **Elsewhere**

There are a lot of organisations offering help and support in our community, but they are not always very well known.

**Sport in mind** is a local charity that uses sport and physical activity to improve the lives of people experiencing mental health issues. They offers a free service for both individual and their carers through weekly badminton, yoga and table tennis. It is open to all and you can just drop in. For example, they have a free yoga session on Thursday at the Spire Church. For more information visit their website [sportinmind.org](http://sportinmind.org).

## News from the Groups

### **Fame for the Walking Group!**

This handsome lot have featured on the front cover of the June 'What Car?' magazine! They were asked by the journalist who was reviewing the latest Honda if they would mind being extras for his photoshoot. I notice it's outside the pub, I wonder if they negotiated a fee.....



### **New Group Leader needed**

The Theatre Group is looking for a new leader and contact, to take over in September 2024. It would suit 2 or 3 people working together and needs computer access but it is a big group so you meet lots of people and get to choose the shows!

Contact Sarah Burt for more information at [u3atheatregroup@gmail.com](mailto:u3atheatregroup@gmail.com) or 01252 725127 if you are interested. She is happy to provide any help that is needed to get you started.

### **Jigsaws?**

If jigsaws are your thing there's a proposal to hold a monthly swap. If you would be interested please contact Val at [secretary@farnhamu3a.org.uk](mailto:secretary@farnhamu3a.org.uk)

## Other dates of interest

### **From the Maltings own programme:**

Whether you saw the live show or the film, '**Les Miserables**' will have left you with lasting memories. If you didn't see it, here's another chance as the original film has been remastered and re-released. Starring Anne

Hathaway, Russell Crowe and Hugh Jackman in the deservedly multi-award winning film. See it on **Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> July**.

The great American songbook is bound to feature in **The Rodgers and Hammerstein 8<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Concert on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> July**, if you like classic musicals you'll love this.

If you like live music in an intimate atmosphere give the Cellar bar a visit to see **Briggs and Stark** perform their mix of Americana and folk on **Friday 12<sup>th</sup> July**.

Slightly more experimental, why not try some comedians who are trying out their Edinburgh fringe shows? **Lou Sanders and Sara Barron** have both made TV appearances, so they are definitely not complete novices. See them on **Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> July at 8pm**.

Please do think about becoming a members of the Maltings. Films for £4 and 10% off food and drinks! Details are on the Maltings website.



## News from the Committee

### Membership and Registration.

You will, I hope, have received an email from me about both our proposed changes to renewing your membership, registering for groups, and our Open Morning.

In summary:

- **Renew your membership** on-line from **July 1st**.
- Visit the **Open Morning** and **Book Swap** on **15th July**,
- **Register for groups** with group leaders from **16th July**.

### An idea for next year

It's a fact that there is a constant demand for new groups. Talking to other u3as about how they deal with the demand, one is experimenting with some small, very informal groups which initially meet to simply talk about their interest in a particular subject, sometimes with a book in mind or a short film or YouTube video to trigger discussion. They call these groups 'Bite Sized' engagements and we are considering trying out one or two. They may emerge into fully fledged groups over time but if they provide value to the participants as bite sized groups that's fine too. So if you have a passion for a subject or maybe you have had career which immersed you in a subject which you would like to share please drop me a line.

[Chair@farnhamu3a.org.uk](mailto:Chair@farnhamu3a.org.uk)

### Help please

We still really do need help with

The **Farnham Carnival Parade** on **June 29<sup>th</sup>** where we need volunteers to walk the parade with us in the early evening (2 hours maximum) . Please contact Steve Tilburn [venues@farnhamu3a.org.uk](mailto:venues@farnhamu3a.org.uk)

The **Bourne Show** on **6<sup>th</sup> July** where we need a small number to staff our stand for an hour or so in the afternoon. Please contact Sally Bowden [sally.bowden@sky.com](mailto:sally.bowden@sky.com)

**Farnham u3a Open Morning** on **15<sup>th</sup> July**. We want to show everything our u3a does. Thanks to those who have agreed to represent groups, but we are still looking for representatives for some groups. If you attend Horticulture, Scrabble, Tai Chi, Sunday or Pub lunch groups, or Movement to Music and are free on

15th July to help, please let Val know - [secretary@farnhamu3a.org.uk](mailto:secretary@farnhamu3a.org.uk) - And tell all your friends and neighbours to come and see what Farnham u3a is about.

Please do consider giving up a hour or two, they are all worthwhile causes and I'm pretty sure you'll enjoy yourself!



## ...and finally

Firstly, I am assured the first two are real church notices...

'The church will host an evening of fine dining, super entertainment and gracious hostility.'

'Ladies Bible Study will be held on Thursday Morning at 10 am. All ladies are invited to lunch in the hall after the B.S. is done.'

And finally....

Two friends are walking their dogs, a Dalmatian and a Chihuahua, when they smell something delicious from a nearby restaurant. Mike, who has the Dalmatian, says "Let's go and get something to eat".

David, the Chihuahua owner, replies "We can't go in there, we have dogs with us".

"Just follow my lead" says Mike as he puts on a pair of sunglasses and walks into the restaurant.

"Sorry," says the owner, "no pets allowed"

"But this is my guide dog" says Mike

"A Dalmatian?"

"Yes, they're using them now"

The owner says "Very well, I'll show you to a table"

David repeats the process and gets the same response. "Sorry, no pets allowed"

"But this is my new guide dog" says David

"A Chihuahua?" asks the incredulous owner.

"A Chihuahua?" says David, "They gave me a Chihuahua?!"

Please feel free to send me contributions to the newsletter especially this part!

I hope you have a lovely summer. See you in September!

Philip Oliver Farnham u3a