



Clocks forward! Daffodils in all their glorious yellows, whites and oranges; primroses in the hedgerows and the promise of summer in the blush of green in the hedgerows. One of the best times of year and just time to get out in the garden or window box and tidy up before everything goes crazy.

A visit to the Maltings to see the brilliant NT Live production of Dr Strangelove, a remake of the Stanley Kubrick masterpiece starring Peter Sellers and George C Scott from 1964. It was subtitled “How I learned to stop worrying and love the bomb” and is in some ways eerily prescient of the state of the world today. So here’s a thought; stop worrying about the state of the world – leave it to the geopolitics, current affairs and world history groups and concentrate instead on getting maximum pleasure from your membership of the u3a groups and events which you attend. Start here:

Welcome to the April 2025 edition of eNews!

The Editor's part

It's been a very 'volunteer dense' month for me. First a meeting with a large group of the people who are the bedrock of our u3a: the Group Leaders. A lively discussion, as you would expect from such a dedicated group and one topic in particular struck me. Quite a lot of our groups are full. The only way we can keep pace with demand is if we manage waiting lists properly. There are two good ways of doing this. The first is 'overbooking' much like the airlines, selling more tickets than seats on the basis of the experience of 'no shows'.

Other Groups have strict limits for a variety of good reasons, and it's vital that they maintain a waiting list because this is the only way we know we need another group on the same or a closely related topic. You can see this for example in Current Affairs and Wine for Fun, both of which have multiple groups.

One of the great pleasures of being your Chair is that I get invited to represent you at interesting meetings. Farnham Connects, chaired by Pete Glanville, CEO of the Maltings, is one such meeting. Jane Moberley, our Vice Chair, normally attends this quarterly meeting on our behalf but I went along this time and met about 20 representatives from a dozen volunteer organisations operating in and around Farnham, many of whom were new to me. I've included relevant information from a couple of them below in the events and news sections but what struck me was firstly the commitment of these people of all ages to their causes



and secondly the enormous variety of activities they represent. Is it something in the Farnham air that brings out the best in people?

Important dates for your diary

Monthly Meetings



In the 1900s balloons became all the rage among ladies who lunched... and flew for fun. Long before women won the vote these have-a-go heroines seized a freedom in the sky that was to be found nowhere on the ground. In a talk entitled **“High Society” on Monday, 12th May at 2:00pm** Sharon Wright tells all.

On 9th June at 2pm, the last monthly meeting of our year will feature Jennie Bray, the organizer of the monthly meeting programme, giving a talk entitled **Quirky Photographs**. More than this I cannot say!

Theme Meetings



Originally betrothed to Ferdinand at the tender age of 6, **Isabella of Spain** eventually became a woman ruler in her own name in what was totally a man's world. She was the creator of the modern idea of Spain, of “Hispanidad”, of the Spanish empire and she also found time to be the mother of three queens (those of Portugal, England and Burgundy). On **Friday, 25th April at 10:30am** Peter Duffy will introduce us to this remarkable woman's story.

Wouldn't it be wonderful to be ruled by someone with intelligence, charm, empathy, oodles of love, and an ability to fashion a Golden Age. Be careful what you wish for. For 34 years **Catherine the Great**, “The Scarlet Empress”, ruled Russia. Her tumultuous life is the subject of the May talk about another woman ruler by **Alan Freeland** on **23rd May at 10:30am**



From Jane Moberly

Feedback

Many thanks to all of you who responded to my recent request for your views on an 'end of year' social event - there was lots of helpful feedback and ideas. Of those who responded and would welcome a celebratory social event, three quarters were in favour of a 1960s themed disco and one quarter would prefer something else.

We are therefore forging ahead with plans for the disco. You may also be aware that if there is a DJ or someone who could create a suitable playlist within our ranks we would very much like to hear from them!



Understandably a disco is not for everyone and so we intend to vary the type of social event we offer in the future. It is very important to us to have your views so please keep them coming - we are keen to listen!

Full details and all arrangements will be announced soon. Meanwhile find your bopping shoes and save the date for the **evening of 10 June** when The Maltings will rejoice with the music of our youth!

(Which reminds me; old age is when it takes you longer to get over a good time than to have it -Ed.)

Cuppa and a Chat

The next one is on **Tuesday, 22 April** - hopefully the weather will be kind and we can spill outside. We had to bring in extra tables from outside to accommodate all the chatter last time!

Quiz dates

By the time you read this it is likely that the victorious team from the April Quiz will still be basking in glory! The demand has been so great that we have had to run a waiting list. We much regret the disappointment that this has caused, but your safety, especially in the event of a fire, must be a priority.

The next occasion you can pit your wits - and the final time this u3a year - will be on **Thursday, 5 June**. As always we would ask you to book in advance and places will be on a 'first come, first served' basis. So do book early to be sure of a place. If demand remains high we will consider alternative venues in the future.

As always, details of all of the quizzes and C&Cs are on the u3a website. You can find them here <https://farnhamu3a.org.uk/social-events/>. You can reach me on membereng@farnhamu3a.org.uk

News from the groups

Anyone for Bowls?

Our own Bowls Group meets at the Seale and Sands Bowls Club and the club is offering a free taster session with all the equipment provided on **Sunday, 11th May at 10:00am**. All you have to do is turn up in flat shoes. The Club can be found at The Green, The Sands, GU10 1LL (behind the British Legion Club).

Farnham Carnival 2025!

Not strictly a group but we still need some volunteers to help to increase our local visibility by giving up a couple of hours early in the evening of **28th June**. If you can help please contact Paul Sacha at p.sacha@sky.com



Interesting Local News

If you've walked through the grounds of St Andrew's church recently, you'll have noticed that some areas are fenced off. This is because the 16th century bell tower is crumbling. Nick Patrick, a heritage consultant who was at Farnham Connects has kindly send me the following notes.

"Routes & Ringers"

This is an application to the National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) for money to carry out urgent repairs to the 16th century church tower, repair and refurbish the church bells, and carry out upgrades within the church (toilets, heating, lighting, and solar capability). The ambition is to support and make sustainable this historic community asset for everyone – i.e. people of all faiths and none.

NLHF's key investment principles are that projects: 1) save heritage, 2) engage more people with heritage, 3) make heritage organisations and assets economically and organisationally more sustainable, 4) and care for the environment.

The team at St Andrew's has decided to satisfy the second principle by:

- Creating a bellringing centre of excellence at St Andrew's to teach the unique British art of 'change ringing' and engage more people with this tradition.
- Developing a walking hub which builds on the long history of walking and pilgrimage in Farnham which stretches right back to the Neolithic. A place for walking groups to gather, provide interpretation which explains more about these ancient routes and the global tradition of pilgrimage, and encourages Farnham to get active.
- Showcase and celebrate Farnham's Arts & Crafts tradition.

The total cost is close on £3 million with £2.4 million coming from Lottery if we are successful. This requires the team at St Andrew's to raise a significant amount of money.

The team at St Andrew's aims to make the application in August or November which means that they will have a decision by next March at the latest. This is a five year project which will require the input of many experienced and enthusiastic volunteers. A great home for some of the skills found within the membership of Farnham u3a maybe?

More information and offers of help by email to vision2030@standrewsfarnham.org

Farnham Library

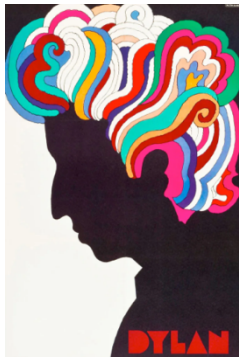
"Super Access" has arrived at Farnham Library enabling qualified members of the library to access the library and its facilities for longer hours including on Sundays. You can find the full details about the hours and how to get access here; <https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/libraries/your-library/find-your-nearest/farnham>



Other dates of interest

From the Maltings own programme:

Each month we highlight three or four events from the Maltings programme.



New York, 1961. Against the backdrop of a vibrant music scene and tumultuous cultural upheaval, an enigmatic 19-year-old from Minnesota arrives with his guitar and revolutionary talent, destined to change the course of American music.

He forges intimate relationships with music icons of Greenwich Village on his meteoric rise, culminating in a groundbreaking and controversial performance that reverberates worldwide. Timothée Chalamet stars and sings as Bob Dylan in James Mangold's **A Complete Unknown**, the electric true story behind the rise of one of the most iconic singer-songwriters in history. **Wednesday, 16th April at 11am, 3pm and 8pm.**

One day in 1949, a young Scottish painter climbed a Swiss glacier. The experience rewired her brain, and transformed her art. Winhelmina Barns-Graham was synaesthetic – associating letters, names and people with particular colours – and director Mark Cousins explores how her neurodiversity and her encounter with the glacier shaped her vision of the world. In **'A Sudden Glimpse of Deeper Things'** her life is explored in a documentary voiced by Tilda Swinton. Peter Bradshaw of the Guardian called it a "lovingly eccentric ode to a forgotten abstract painter" **TUESDAY, 22 April at 11am, 3pm and 8pm.**





...and now for something completely different. You may not know that Farnham Museum is run by a team at the Maltings. You are more likely to know that this is a Grade 1 listed Georgian building, one of Farnham's finest. Parts of it are undergoing restoration, especially now, the beautiful façade on West Street. Whilst all this is under way the Museum is offering **free tours** of this wonderful building on **one Saturday a month at 11am**. The dates are **12th April, 10th May, 14th June, 12th July, 9th August**. No need to book, just turn up.

Please do think about becoming a member of the Maltings. Films for £6 and 10% off food and drinks! Details on the Maltings website. Please remember to treat Malting staff with respect. If you are a Maltings member, you must to show your card to the catering staff in order for them to be able to give you a discount.

Beerex. (Drinking for charity)

Several of our members are also members of Farnham Hedgehogs, a local charity raising money for local people in need. Their biggest fundraiser of the year is Beerex, which this year takes place at the Maltings from **10th to 12th April** at the Maltings. Over 80 beers, and 30 ciders to sample and lots of interesting food too. Why not give it a try? You'll need a ticket from www.farnhambeerex.org.uk or pick up a leaflet at the Maltings. You can view the range of beers and ciders on offer here <https://publuu.com/flip-book/315205/1041903>



Brandenberg Concerts - free and discounted tickets.

There is agreed funding to be able to repeat the "**Betty**" subsidy for u3a members. Currently we are able to offer two forthcoming concerts.

Saturday, 12th April 6.30pm at St Stephen's Gloucester Road. Mozart Requiem – Brandenburg Festival Chorus. **Wednesday, 23rd April 7.30pm** at St Katharine Cree Leadenhall Street -MacMillan Miserere – Schola Cantorum of Oxford.

There are a small number of free tickets for each concert – the discount code to enter is **BETTY100** – available only for unreserved tickets. Once they have gone there is a further allocation of tickets for both concerts – the discount code is **BETTY** reducing the cost of unreserved tickets from £20 to £10.

They are all available at the regular Box Office www.ticketsource.co.uk/brandenburg

The major effort this month has been to ensure that we had the correct information going to everyone about the new member benefits which we have arranged with local businesses. Full information is now available on the website, under Membership.

We also discussed the 25/26 budget and the perennial question of fees and it looks likely that we may have to raise our membership fees. More news next month.

...and finally

With thanks to Hugh Allan for this on the first day of April.

A new member of our u3a, Flora Poil, spotted this announcement from Foyles: "We are diversifying our offering and expanding into clothing in a small way." Here is one of their new bags."

One from Dennis Norden.

"There are three ways of telling if you're getting on: people of your own age start looking older than you: you suddenly become convinced you're equipped with a snooze button; and you start getting symptoms in places you used to get urges.

And from Niela Eliason.

"Through no fault of my own I have become middle aged. It's not a character flaw; it's just something that happened when I wasn't paying attention."

And another church notice.

'Ladies Bible Study will be held on Thursday morning at 11am. All ladies are invited to lunch in the Fellowship hall after the B.S. is done.'

Have a sunny spring!

Philip

