



I think it was back in March that I was delighting in the fact that the temperature was above 10C. What a contrast and what a summer. At last, as we approach autumn we have some prospect of rain but who knows how much and when? I sense some garden reorganisation will be on the cards and the Horticulture group will have its hands full with questions. Whatever the weather throws at us there will always be a welcome for you at Farnham u3a in a new 'academic' year in a moderately well controlled climate so....

Welcome to the September edition of eNews!

The Editor's part

Before I retired from the world of industry I was taught that leadership had two important roles; one was to lead on direction setting and sticking to that direction and the other was to find new leaders. (A third was to always hire people who were smarter than me; in my case that was no problem!) Most of you will have seen that since March there has been a new hand on the tiller of Farnham u3a. In a really good example of new



found leaders, Lynda Robinson very kindly took on the role of Chair whilst I was away dealing with lymphoma. I would like to thank her very sincerely for all the hard work she has put in over the last few months, supported by a brilliant committee, to keep on delivering the u3a we all want. I'm delighted to say that when I formally step down in September at the end of my three year term she has agreed to continue. She has kindly asked me to stay on the committee for a year to deal with some specific topics, of which more next year. Whilst on the topic of thank-yous I'd like to thank all those of you who wrote and wished me well during my absence; it really did help.

On which note let me remind you about our **AGM**. Apart from the usual short formalities, I'm delighted to tell you that we will be joined by Lauren Wayland, the manager of Farnham Museum. She will talk to us about the museum itself but also about the restoration of its home in Wilmer House. This is an underappreciated Farnham gem (the Museum not Lauren though both may be true!) and this should be a fascinating half hour. I'm also delighted to tell you there will be free teas, coffee and cakes!

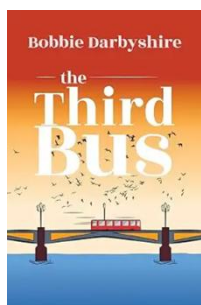
The date is **Tuesday, 15th September at 2pm in The Barley Room at the Maltings** . Even if you do not plan to attend please do vote as without a quorum of votes the committee cannot formally function. Sally Bowden, our Secretary sent out a formal notice on 19th August with a list of the resolutions (just four at the moment) and the voting instructions. You can reach Sally here. secretary@farnhamu3a.org.uk

Two other quick items; the Ringo app is now in use at the Maltings car park. Invaluable as you can top up your parking without having to go to reception or back to the horrible ticket machines, and those of you who have not yet renewed your membership will find that the online system, which we encourage you to use, has been upgraded to make it easier to use.

Important dates for your diary

Monthly Meetings Monday afternoon at 2 pm

28th September Bobbie Darbyshire: A Beginning, a Muddle and an End



Bobbie Darbyshire has worked as barmaid, mushroom picker, film extra, maths coach, cabinet minister's private secretary, care assistant, volunteer adult-literacy teacher, plus in social research and government policy. In an entertaining, informative talk, this prize-winning author explains how ideas formulate in the novelist's mind.



26th October Hilary Roberts: Manipulated Reality: The Camera at War

Hilary presents a new perspective on the role of image manipulation in war photography over the past 170 years, exploring the consequences for our understanding of historic and contemporary conflicts.

Theme meetings Friday mornings 10:30 am

18th September Christopher Marino: The Story of Cantor Fitzgerald and the 9/11 Attacks



When the terrorists attacked the World Trade Center on 9/11 no company suffered more human loss than Cantor Fitzgerald. 25 years on, Farnham u3a member Chris, who worked for Cantor, shares his first-hand account of that tragic day and the dramatic aftermath of rebuilding the firm.

23rd October: Peter Tomlinson: A Towering Achievement

A look at the history and expansion of Heathrow Airport and the building of the essential Control Tower. Discover how it was conceived and completed with all the ensuing challenges, right in the middle of one of the world's busiest airports. An insider view from the man who used to run this tower.



The Social Scene

From: Jane Moberly, Membership Engagement

Quizzes:

Here we go again! Get your thinking caps on and your places booked for the next two quizzes, which are rather close together – Thursday, 17 September and Thursday, 22nd October, both starting at 6:30 in the Barley Room. Doors open at 6pm. Booking details are below.

Cuppa and a Chat:

You may already have planned to come along on Tuesday, 22 September or perhaps Friday, 16 October would suit you better. Either way, do come and join me in the Reception Café of The Maltings between 10 am and 12 midday. I cannot guarantee sunshine but there will be a warm welcome and interesting chat. I hope to see you there!

Jane Moberly
Membership Engagement

As always, details of all of these events 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

The Day trips group: from Jonathan Jones

On what proved to be the hottest day this year so far, 34 undaunted Farnham U3A members set off to visit one of the country's finest Elizabethan houses, set at the foot of the South Downs in West Sussex, near the village of Pulborough. Simon Jenkins, the author and heritage advocate, wrote of Parham House “*nothing at Parham is superfluous, nothing involved. It is a house of magic*” and so indeed it proved to be.

The property was saved from the brink of destruction at the hands of the unforgiving elements after the roof collapsed, when it was purchased in 1922 by The Hon Clive Pearson, the great-grandfather of the current incumbent, Lady Emma Barnard. It has since been lovingly and painstakingly restored and is now home to a remarkable collection of paintings, furniture, and especially needlework, a beloved passion and pastime of Lady Emma. Another passion of Lady Emma's is the glorious flower arrangements which adorn the property throughout. Many of the objects on display had been sold off prior to 1922, but had then been 'hunted down', purchased, and returned to their rightful home.

We were divided into two groups of 17 to be shown round the house by two very knowledgeable and entertaining guides. Highlights were the Grand Hall, the Long Gallery (third longest in the country – see the photograph) and the painting where the man's foot followed you round the room (has to be seen to be believed).

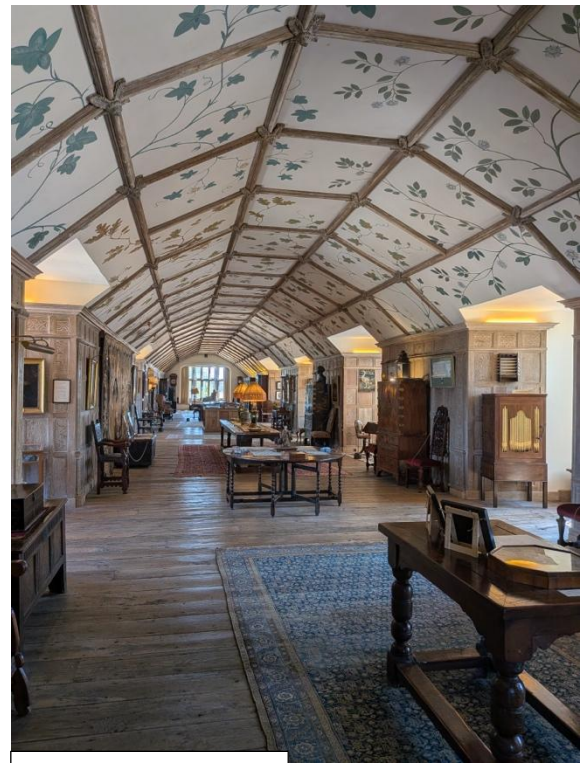


Photo: Colin Jordan

The whole property is set within and surrounded by award-winning gardens, including a Pleasure Garden, a four-acre Walled Garden, a vegetable garden, an orchard, a historic glass house and a Wendy House. Unfortunately we are unable to attest to the 'glory of the gardens' as, after a pleasant lunch in the Mower Shed, offering a basic selection of sandwiches, salads and cakes and drinks, all we wanted to do was to seek the sanctuary of a shady nook until it was time to depart. However, what we did see was enough to make us resolve to return soon to make good this omission.

From Maria Mitchell and Cynthia Barnett

The poster shown here tells the story.

If you're a fan of 60s, 70s or 80s music this is an afternoon for you. At just £5 tickets are a steal and you can buy them at MOTO meetings on 7th and 18th September, 8th and 23rd October and 16th November.

Alternatively drop a note to moto@farnhamu3a.org.uk

Listen ★ Sing ★ Dance

to music from the 60's, 70's, 80's

Jim Hutton is a very talented musician and accomplished guitar player. He has recently performed at the Ivy Club and Birdies in Farnham.

Sit back, listen, sing and dance to his interpretation of songs from that era.

Jim has also written many songs himself and will include a few of them for you to enjoy.



Friday, 20th November 2026

Maltings, Barley Room 2-4 pm

Tickets from Maria or Cynthia at MOTO meetings on 7 & 18 Sept, 8 & 23 Oct, 16 Nov (2-4 pm) or email:



moto@farnhamu3a.org.uk

Tickets £5



Ballroom and Latin Dance

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*Move to the music.
Connect for life.*

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STARTING SEPTEMBER 2026

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REGISTER AT
U3A ALTON
alton.u3asite.uk

Learn, laugh, live

For information visit alton.u3asite.uk or speak to your U3A Membership Team.

We have been given the opportunity for Farnham u3a members to join a group that is being run by Alton u3a, to learn Ballroom and Latin dancing with a professional instructor. See the flyer.

These classes will offer the chance to keep healthy and active, improve balance and coordination, and above all have fun while learning to dance. The instructor, Vitor Fernandes, is a very experienced professional Ballroom and Latin instructor, and will tailor the sessions according to the level of experience within the class. All are welcome and there's no need to come with a partner.

The classes will take place weekly on Tuesday afternoons, in the Assembly Rooms, Alton. The cost of classes is £10 per session. The first session is on Tuesday, 1st September.

If you would like to join this group, or require more information about it, please contact Maria via email on ball@farnhamu3a.org.uk

News from the u3a Trust

Expand your horizons this September with *u3a week*

From 19-27 September, we'll be celebrating *u3a week* and we are delighted to announce our programme of online events, designed to present new perspectives.

- Monday, 21 September - *Secrets of the human brain: Sleep and dreams*
- Tuesday, 22 September - *The Enchanted Archipelago - a journey through the Galapagos with HX*
- Thursday, 24 September - *Promoting brain health: from evidence to action*
- Friday 25, September - *Live cookery demonstration - try something new*

Alongside our online events, we are encouraging members to try something new just for fun. Visit [the u3a week page](#) to book your place at an online event and discover ideas for getting involved - and don't forget to [let us know](#) what you try.

The rise of punk music

Join us on Thursday, 17 September at 10am for our online talk, *"The Titanic sails at dawn": punk in the 1970s*. Lee Wellbrook will explore the origins and rapid growth of UK punk in the 1970s, explaining how economic

uncertainty, social change and youthful frustration fuelled a culture of rebellion, creativity and self-expression. Beyond the music, he will examine how punk transformed fashion, identity and everyday life, leaving a legacy that continues to have an impact today.

Revisit *u3a Festival 26* with the *u3a Radio Podcast*

Each month, the *u3a Radio Podcast* features interesting stories all about u3a and learning, all created by our team of members. For the latest episode, roving reporter Maggie Dee travelled to *u3a Festival 26*. Interviews include event-opener Johnny Ball, a u3a steel band musician, and a member who switched careers from being a builder to a shoe designer. Listen now on podcasting platforms - just search *u3a Radio Podcast* - or [on our website](#).

Member Offers



Details of all these lovely member-only offers are on our website.

Other dates of interest

From the Maltings' own programme: Tickets for all events are on the Maltings website

Alex Kriche: Friday, 4 September, 8pm

Working as TV and film composer over the last few years for independent and major record labels, Alex is now focusing on song writing and performing. Working with renowned professional musicians, Alex's characteristic approach to musical composition, an original combination of jazz, soul and funk, has developed his soaring repertoire of material alongside arrangements of classic hits from well-known artists.





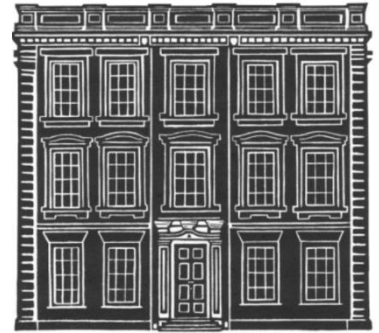
unravel... autumn: Friday, 11 – Saturday, 12 September

Held over two inspiring days, unravel... autumn, Farnham Maltings' celebrated yarn festival, returns offering a vibrant showcase of creativity, craftsmanship, and community. Whether you're an experienced maker or just starting out, there's something for everyone to enjoy – from the curated marketplace, to bookable workshops, inspiring talks and more.

Heritage Symposium Talk: Another Brick in the Wall: Monday, 14 September, 7.30pm

Join us for an engaging panel discussion exploring the on-going restoration of Willmer House, home to the Museum of Farnham. Hear from a panel of experts, including representatives from:

Arts Council England, National Heritage Lottery Fund, Graham Abrey – Lead Conservation Surveyor, Emma Simpson MBE – Historic Brick Conservator, Roy Waight – Local historian and author



Tickets [free event, advance booking required]: farnhammaltings.com/events/heritage-symposium-talk-another-brick-in-the-wall

Krapp's Last Tape by Samuel Beckett: Friday, 25 September, 7.30pm

"Just terrific... such a wonderful piece of work. Brilliant, outrageous, and a tribute to the vaudeville that exists in Beckett... heartbreaking." John McAndrew, Royal Shakespeare Company

Starring David Westhead (*W1A*, *Strike*, *Star Wars*, *Enola Holmes 2*, *Bodyguard*), a veteran of The Royal National Theatre and Royal Shakespeare Company, this 50-minute theatrical experience delves into the life of Krapp who, at the age of 69, looks back over his life.



Family festival 2026: Saturday, 26 September, 10am-4.30pm



Join us for a day of creative and fun-filled events for families to enjoy together.

Led by acclaimed artists, this year's programme includes dance, pottery, printing, music-making, theatre, circus, puppetry, art installations and more.

£2 entry at the door. Admission includes most activities, with a small number of workshops and performances ticketed separately (with entry included).

News from the Committee

This month we covered advertising, the renewal of our contract with the Maltings and some changes to it, a good look at the various Group changes underway, succession planning, (more on this soon), and how the system for membership renewals was being upgraded to make it easier to use. We also looked at the poor service we have been getting from our bankers who have, thanks to the sterling efforts of our Treasurer, offered us some substantial compensation.

...and finally

This month we start with some wisdom from the famous, with thanks to Jenny Bray:

The way I see it, if you want the Rainbow then you gotta put up with the Rain - Dolly Parton

Some cause happiness wherever they go - others whenever they go - Oscar Wilde

Better to remain silent and be thought a fool than to speak out and remove all doubt - Abraham Lincoln

Failure is the opportunity to begin again - only more intelligently - Henry Ford

A bank is a place that will lend you money if you can prove that you do not need it - Bob Hope

The Bloomsbury Set: People who lived in squares, painted in circles and loved in triangles - Dorothy Parker

The Camping Tent

Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson are on a camping trip. They set up a nice tent under the stars, cook a good meal, enjoy a glass of wine, and fall asleep.

Some hours later in the middle of the night, Holmes wakes up and nudges his companion.

"Watson," Holmes whispers. "Look up at the sky and tell me what you see."

Watson blinks sleepily, looks up past the mesh of the tent, and says, "I see millions and millions of stars."

"And what does that tell you, Watson?" Holmes asks.

Watson provides a lengthy analysis of the night sky from astronomical, astrological, meteorological, and theological perspectives before asking Holmes for his conclusion. Holmes sighs and reveals the practical reality: someone has stolen their tent.

The Teacher and the Student

"If there are any idiots in the room, will they please stand up", said the sarcastic teacher. After a long silence, one student rose to his feet. "Now then mister, why do you consider yourself an idiot?", inquired the teacher with a sneer. "Well, actually I don't," said the student, "but I hate to see you standing up there all by yourself."

The Taxi Driver

A taxi passenger tapped the driver on the shoulder to ask him a question. The driver screamed, lost control of the car, nearly hit a bus, went up on the footpath, and stopped inches from a shop window. For a second, everything was quiet in the cab. Then the driver said, "Look, mate, don't ever do that again. You scared the living daylight out of me!" The passenger apologized and said, "I didn't realize that a little tap would scare you so much." The driver

replied, "Sorry, it's not really your fault. Today is my first day as a cab driver — I've been driving a hearse for the last 25 years."

Enjoy the rain!

All the best,
Philip

