

Verwood

Our Monthly Newsletter

June/July 2026

Don't forget we are including a section on Events Outside the U3a that may be of interest to members right at the end so you might want to check on them. We are producing new flyers showing the groups we have running which will be printed and distributed at the Open Day and the Rustic Fayre. We also have a new printed membership form available if you know of anyone who does not use computers.

A Letter from your New Chair Howard J C Wells OBE

It is a privilege and a pleasure to have taken up the role of Interim Chair, at least until the AGM in October. I had enormous fun as Vice Chair for three years under Jan Mills' excellent leadership. I felt then I was too busy to take on the Chair. Lesley Newman was beginning to develop the organisation further and I was sorry, both for u3a and for Lesley that unforeseen issues prevented her continuing as Chair.

Big shoes to fill, but I will give it my best shot, with the intention of leaving behind a decent legacy. We, as a Committee, are discussing several exciting ways of embracing change which involves member's interests, both inside the regular programme and beyond. We are exploring other opportunities throughout the summer, with a view to attracting new members as well as providing social events which have not been tried before.

Effective communication with members is vital. Who needs to know? How do we tell them? When do we tell them? We have a new webmaster in Carys Sullivan and thanks again to Gareth Mills for his sterling work in that department. The u3a monthly newsletter is emailed to all members and can also be found on Verwoodu3a website. I would welcome your comments about its effectiveness, as well as providing newsworthy items of interest to Carys.

Please bombard me with suggestions to improve our programmes and operation.

We will have a presence at the Rustic Fayre on August Bank Holiday and hope to see you there, and at our Open Day at Verwood Hub, 15 July from 1300 hours.

Let's learn live and laugh together!



What do we have to look forward to in July

Craft Workshop

Wednesday 1st July, at 2pm, at the Hub.

Wendy Jefferies will be leading this session and we look forward to an afternoon of creativity. See following information and photos.

“Come and enjoy making marble patterns with alcohol inks. With surprisingly little skill or effort you can make your own framed work of art and laminated bookmark. A charge of £4 will be made towards the cost of materials.”

Booking is essential - please
contact craft@verwoodu3a.org. uk



EU Aid to Russia – with Alan Pearce

20th July starting at 2.30 pm in St Michael's Parish Hall

As already announced there will be another Verwood u3a talk/illustrated presentation by Alan Pearce, this time entitled "EU Aid to Russia" - perhaps a somewhat controversial subject!.

It can now be confirmed that St Michael's Parish Hall has been booked for 20th July with the talk starting at 1430hrs and finishing at approx 1600hrs. If you are going to attend then please arrive at 1415hrs to allow time for the attendance register and for everyone to take their seats. Parking at the Hall is free, but limited so car sharing, public transport or walking to the event is encouraged where possible. There is further parking in the surrounding streets.

Any such events we organise would normally only be open to u3a members. However, as there is a large seating capacity at the Hall, it has been agreed that we can offer the opportunity for members to bring along another person or two who are not members. Please do! They are bound to enjoy it and may even wish to join u3a!

If you wish to attend please email aipearce@outlook.com.

If you wish to bring a non member with you please indicate this in your response along with their name(s).

Alan is unable to acknowledge individually each of the emails which have already started flooding in, but since the hall at St Michael's can hold up to 130 people, please assume you have been put on the list and a warm welcome awaits you."



Group Leaders Meeting

Wednesday 8th July in room 5/6 at The Hub starting at 2.00 – 4.00 pm.

Members of the Committee will be meeting with your Group Leaders so if you have any matters, or questions, you would like to be discussed at this meeting please send them direct to your group leader by 1st July.

Alternatively, you can email them to Esme: groups@verwoodu3a.org.uk

Forest FM

U3a interview with Ray Williamson

The broadcast on Forest Radio of 10th June is now available on the website. Howard's interview with Verwood U3a secretary Ray Williamson.

Verwood U3a Travel Group

Trip to Weald and Downland Living Museum Wednesday 22nd July, 2026

Discover this fascinating collection of over 50 historic rescued rural homes and buildings, from as early as 950 AD, set amongst 40 acres of beautiful landscape in the South Downs National Park. Their collection tells the untold stories of the people who lived and worked in rural South East England for over 1000 years.

The museum is also home to the TV programme "The Repair Shop".

DEPART: The Hub, Verwood, 9.00 am (Please do not park at the Hub).
The Museum: 4.00 pm

FOOD/DRINK: On site café/restaurant. Picnic site.

ACCESSIBILITY: If you may need assistance, check the website for details relating to accessibility.

COST: Seniors £35. Adults £37

CONTACT: Sylvia Page – email: sylvia.travel@verwoodu3a.org.uk
Please contact to book your place on this trip.

PAYMENT: Please book and pay by 29th June 2026.

Cheque – payable to Verwood u3a.

BAC's – Sort code 20-72-37

A/C No. 80233196 (Barclay's Ringwood)

Reference: Your initial + surname + W&D

Non members travelling on u3a trips are not covered by u3a insurance.



Riverblue Ukulele Picnic

Woodlands Village Hall on 28th July at 1:30 pm.

Riverblue, the Verwood u3a Ukulele Group, invites you to a picnic. Weather permitting, it will be held on the green outside the hall so bring your picnic (with a beer if you want) and picnic chairs or blankets.

Riverblue will perform music covering several decades and genres from 2 pm till 4 pm with a break of 30 minutes.

Then until 5 pm a bit of social time if wanted.



If the weather is unfavourable the event will be postponed to a future date. Please check the Facebook page or the website to make sure.

Further information contact Gareth -

email: ukulele@verwoodu3a.org.uk

or webpage <https://verwood.u3asite.uk/ukulele>

All Verwood u3a members and families are invited.
Come and join in this social 'music and fun in the sun' event.

Groups

Some groups have availability if anyone would like to join them.

Jazz Appreciation meets on the first Wednesday afternoon each month from 2:00-4:00 pm

Astronomy is due to start on 3rd September at 18.30pm .

Mindfulness/Meditation is due to start on 14th September at 5pm

Knitting Small Items meet on Tuesday mornings at 10.30.

The Folk Circle is currently on hold but their meetings are held monthly on 3rd Wednesday between 2:00 pm-4:00 pm. This group is in danger of closure without more support. Contact Jill or Vaughan Danning v.danning@btinternet.com

Jigsaw Exchange is on the third Tuesday in the month, 3.00pm - 3.30pm, upstairs in the Hub. Contact: CaroleenglishEX@verwoodu3a.org.uk

A six month **Basic Guitar course** is being offered and could begin in September depending on uptake. Please contact Carys Sullivan if you are interested.



What we have been doing in June

Craft Group

A different afternoon today playing with inks, acrylics, modelling paste, polishes and stamps on canvas to produce very individual 'photo boards' each embellished with wooden and metal elements.

Well done to all for having fun whilst mastering new techniques and producing some lovely one off mementoes.

Wendy Ann Jeffries



Card Making

Another lesson in amazing and beautiful card making with Sue Abraham on 11th June



Knitting Group

At the meeting on 19th June

The summer term knits in our group. Carolyn Whitlock.....



Travel Through My Lens

Thank you to all who came to hear Ken Lyndon give a fascinating talk on Ecuador , the Galapagos and the Amazon. What a great finale to our 25/26 academic year of Travel Through My Lens.

Thank you to all our speakers this year. We have had some amazing talks.

If the room is booked for next year our first session will be on Thursday 17th September. We look forward to seeing you there.

Colin and Carolyn

Rustic Fayre Monday 31st August

We will be having a stand at the Rustic Fayre again this year which is being held at Potterne Park on August Bank Holiday Monday, 31st August. It is important for us to participate in such local events as they help to raise the profile of our u3a and attract new members, which is beneficial for our continued growth and expansion and to all of our current members as it ensures that we can continue to provide a thriving community asset.

We are seeking volunteers to help out on the day. with setting up, packing away and manning the stand. The event runs from 12 noon to 6pm and there will be a period of setting up before the start and packing away at the end. Last year a rota was drawn up with most volunteers being asked to attend for one hour, and subject to having sufficient volunteers it is anticipated that something similar could be done this year. Sue Coveyduck has kindly offered to organise the rota so if you are able to volunteer some time to help out at this event please email Sue at suecoveyduck@aol.com

We will be needing exhibits and having seen what the groups have achieved during the year these should make a beautiful display. I will remind you again next month.

Other Events of Interest Outside U3a

Family Fun Day

The Hub on 1st August

u3a has been offered rooms 5/6 to promote activities which might appeal to families. If there is interest from Group Leaders, or members, please contact me.

If you might be interested in joining the U3a please contact Ray or find our Facebook Group [Verwood u3A Official Facebook Group](https://www.facebook.com/verwoodu3a) or Website. <https://verwood.u3asite.uk>

