

News Edit July 2024

Proud of our Place Award 6 June



Community Project Award Winner

Two Awards on our 25th Anniversary

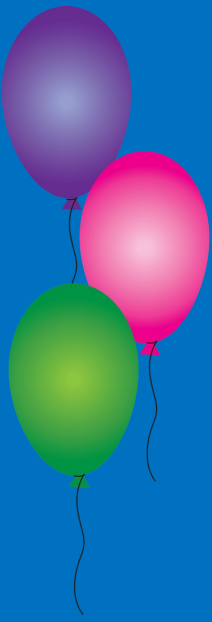


Group Leisure and
Travel Awards

Joyce Cook,
u3a Basingstoke
& Old Basing
Winner

Group Travel Organiser of the Year
Award 27 June

Chair's Report - July 2024



25 Years

It has been an incredible month for our u3a. In the 25th anniversary month of our u3a, two awards have been won!

Our u3a entered the 'Place to be Proud of Awards' run by Destination Basingstoke. Various organisations across Basingstoke attended a ceremony at the Apollo Hotel on 6th June. We won the Community Project Award. Thanks must be given to the work done by group leaders, committee, and all members supporting our u3a

Joyce Cook who runs our Excursions & Holidays Group, was a finalist in the prestigious 'Group Leisure & Travel Awards' held at the Royal Garden Hotel in Kensington on 27th June. Joyce won the 'Group Travel Organiser Award'. Well done Joyce! Over 400 members belong to her group and over many years have appreciated her hard and time-consuming work.

Our AGM will be held on 10th July at Queen Mary's College. There will be a presentation celebrating 25 years of our u3a. Afterwards we will be entertained by Tony Harris, a professional comedian and actor who specialises in historical talks with a hysterical twist. Tony has appeared at two of our previous AGMs. This time he will be playing the part of a First-Class passenger on the Titanic. I hope you will attend this event.

In August, there will be no normal monthly meeting. We will be holding a Members Portal event, details to follow. Instead of a Meet & Greet event, which has previously been held in August or September, we are looking at holding an Open Day after the summer.

We have vacancies on the committee for a Vice Chair and Assistant Membership Secretary. We also need someone to come forward to look after catering at our monthly events. Paula Dulku has done a fantastic job managing refreshments but now is stepping down. I would be grateful if any members who are willing to volunteer would contact me on chair@basingstokeu3a.org.

Lastly, as shown in the papers sent out for the AGM, I am pleased to announce that the membership fee for 2024 – 2025 will be reduced from £38 to £34. After 15th July, members will be able to use their debit or credit cards to renew via the Members Portal. Using this system your record is automatically updated and you receive automatic confirmation of payment. Help will be given to those who cannot use this method.

Thank you everyone for your support.

Ballroom Dancing Group

Our u3a Ballroom Dancing Group is currently full and we already have several ladies on our singles waiting list. **However, we are in need of gentlemen with some ballroom dancing experience to partner some of our existing single ladies who have danced before.**



We could also add couples to our couples waiting list. Use your u3a Members Portal to register for this group. Pearl & Norman (Joint Leaders – Ballroom Dancing Group)

Board Games with u3a

Some years ago I realised that so many people have board games in their homes that they rarely use, except maybe at Christmas time when the family assembles. It seemed such a waste of an opportunity to have some fun who needs grandchildren to play them anyway.

Tentatively I suggested board games as a possible group and although the numbers are not large we have a few regulars who enjoy trying out different games, all of which are intended to provide a fun afternoon. There are games involving travel, hedgehogs, building villages, parachute jumping and many others but definitely no chess!

We meet at St Andrews in South Ham one Tuesday afternoon per month. There is ample

car parking, free, and a warm welcome if you decide to come along and give us a try. The July session is on 23 July at 1.30pm. If you are coming for the first time then let me know and I will send a reminder out nearer the time. We are restricted in numbers so it's first come, first laughing.

Mel McMahon Group Leader



u3a Rounders

A glorious sunny day, and what a venue at the Sports and Social Club, Basingstoke. Carol as always very professional with her warm up to make sure we were all ready to practice our throwing and batting.

We played a game and everyone got into the spirit and ran and laughed.



Fun, fun and great exercise and company

For once I am in the picture, orange trainers matching Carol's rounder markers and bands. Malc thanks for taking the picture.

Member Comment: "I really enjoyed rounders, I could actually hit the ball quite quickly and it was such fun".

Venue: Basingstoke Sports and Social Club, Fairfields Road

Basingstoke RG21 3DR

Dates: 1st and 3rd Wednesday each month

Time: 13:30 - 14:30 Team Leader Carol Grant



Use the Members Portal to join

Two u3a Awards for our 25th Anniversary

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u3a Winners, Community Project



Proud of our Place Awards Basingstoke

It is so lovely to be recognised for this award on our 25th Anniversary. To achieve the award we provided information about our expansion, introduction of new technology i.e. website, members portal, our sustainable financial planning and continued commitment from our volunteers.

These efforts allow our u3a to reach out and support our 1020 members who live in and around Basingstoke.

On Thursday 6 June at the Apollo Hotel in Basingstoke, Paul Chair, Rod Vice Chair and Christine PR attended the awards ceremony. When Mark from Vivid Housing, one of the judges for Community Project Award said “and the winners are u3a Basingstoke Old Basing” we were all so surprised and thrilled at the same time. Take a look for yourselves on video of your proud committee members receiving this awards which recognises all the hard work all our volunteers put in throughout the year. 25 years serving our members.

www.destinationbasingstoke.co.uk



Strategic Games



2nd and 4th Monday each month 13:00 till 16:00

"Don't let the name Strategic Board Games intimidate you. If you enjoyed board games, like Monopoly, Risk and Cludo in the past come along and get to know some modern classic board games like Wingspan, Catan Carcassone and Ticket to Ride. If you haven't heard of these games, no problem our friendly members are on hand to help introduce these and other games to you. We meet on the 2nd and 4th Monday of each month at Popley Fields Community Centre from 1pm until 4pm. Biscuits, tea and coffee 50p per person." Use the Members Portal to join.

Susan Group Leader susanbeard@gmail.com

Free help to encourage wildlife in your garden

From hedgehog highways to wildflower patches, there's plenty you can do in your garden to help our native wildlife thrive.

Book a free one-hour garden survey with the borough council's Green Team for top tips and advice on what you can plant and do in your garden to make a real difference for nature right at home.

To find out more and book, go to www.basingstoke.gov.uk/garden-survey, email GreenTeam@basingstoke.gov.uk or call the Green Team on 01256 845 777.

Group Travel Organiser of the Year



Group & Leisure Travel Awards

Joyce Cook, Basingstoke & Old Basing
u3a Winner

Group Travel Organiser (GTO), Joyce Cook has taken her group all around the world – she loves arranging mystery tours and going the extra mile for special occasions.

**Joyce Cook, Basingstoke & Old Basing
U3A**

Joyce has been a group travel organiser for 35 years, taking members all over the world to the likes of Spain, Canada, Austria, Cyprus and most recently, Montenegro.

When she first began organising for the U3A group, there were 70 members and she has grown it to more than 400 with many people who join the branch doing so because they have heard about the holidays available to book.

Joyce prides herself on coming up with new ideas of where to go and told us: "I rarely repeat the same location within three years. I like to look at where we went the previous year and then look in the opposite direction."

Arranging a range of day outings and UK breaks, as well as European and long-haul holidays, Joyce caters for various interests. Asked what the most rewarding aspect of her role as a GTO is, Joyce said: "Seeing smiles at the end of a trip. I also look out for people who are on their first trip, perhaps since a bereavement."

"It is rewarding when you see these people joining in and laughing. Several of my members have made new friends this way and now they will share with one of their new friends rather than having a single room."



Joyce Cook—u3a Group Leader Excursions & Holidays

u3a Social History Group



u3a trip along the Basingstoke Canal organised by the Social History Group with Richard and Janet Field earning great praise for the fantastic food and general organisation. A great cruise along the canal from Odiham to Odiham Castle and back.

Pictures taken by: Carol Sim



The Basingstoke Canal route of 37 miles was approved by Parliament in 1778.

- John Pinkerton (after whom our boat was named) was awarded the contract.
- The canal was completed in 1794 at a cost of £154,163.

- It ran from wharves in Basingstoke town centre to the River Wey Navigation at Byfleet.

- Timber, flour and chalk were the main cargoes to London, returning with coal and fertiliser.
- 1923, A.J. Harmsworth bought the canal & secured contracts, carrying coal/timber to Woking.
- After his death in 1947, the canal fell into increasing decay.
- In the 1970s, Hampshire & Surrey County Councils took control of their sections of the canal.
- Over 17 years, they funded a programme of restoration.

In May 1991, it was formally re-opened by HRH the Duke of Kent, with 32 miles of navigable waterway from Greywell Tunnel to the the River Wey Navigation.



Richard very kindly produced this potted history of the Basingstoke Canal (taken from "A Guide to the Basingstoke Canal", by the Basingstoke Canal Society).

Help Desk at u3a AGM



Help Desk at the AGM for members who would like assistance registering on the Members Portal.

Will start at 1.30 – 2.00 pm then close for the actual AGM. Restarting at 2.40 – 4.00 pm.

To book your appointment please email:
membership2@basingstokeu3a.org

You will need to bring either your phone or laptop/tablet as you will need to open an email during the process.

Wednesday 10th July 2024 starting 1.30pm
Queen Mary's College, Cliddesden Road, Basingstoke

u3a Square Dancing

Square dancing is good fun, there is no complicated footwork involved and it can be done by anyone who can walk freely.

You do not need a partner, we swap around so everyone gets a turn.

After a very enthusiastic and crowded launch in January, we have settled down to a core group of about 16 dancers, and are looking to sign up some more for the start of the new term in September.

There are still 2 weeks left in July (11th and 18th) if anyone wants to have a taster session. Use the Members Portal to join

Venue: The Ridgeway Centre from

Date: Every Thursday

Time: 14.00 to 16.00 pm



Picnic in the Park

On 12 June as part of our 25 years Anniversary.....and what a day!



We had 12 fantastic cakes entered into the cake competition at the 25th Anniversary Picnic this year. Thanks to Yvonne, Debbie, Maz, Ray, Janice, David, Linda, Susan, Carol, Jane, Janet and Barbara for the fantastic variety. The 4 judges had a really hard time deciding on the winners but:

3rd place was Yvonne Harris with a sublime coconut sponge

2nd place was Linda Fawkes with a strawberry sponge, with fresh strawberries grown in the allotment that would make a M&S buyer weep with envy

1st place entry was Carol Clarke with an ingenious and absolutely delicious raspberry custard cake. Carol said it was the first time she made it. We can't wait to try some of the cakes she makes regularly if this is the standard.

Thanks again to all that entered. The hungry picnic attendees loved them all.

A big thank to Elaine Budd for the **Cake Competition**



Picnic in the Park 12 June 24

Thank You!

A big thank you to those members who organised Picnic in the Park, and those on the day who worked like troupers!

- Natalie Larner
- Alastair & Carol Sim
- Bev Sturdy
- Chris Vickers
- Rod Marshal
- Tony Summers
- Liz Cook
- Linda Goodman
- Janet Christopher
- William Costin
- Paula Dulka

- Line Dancing
- Instructor
- Debbie Straw

- Group Leader
- Brenda Austin



u3a Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 10th July 2024 starting 1.30pm

Queen Mary's College, Cliddesden Road, Basingstoke

We ask as many members as possible to come along to our AGM. After conducting formal business, we are pleased to have Tony Harris back playing the part of a First-Class Passenger on the Titanic. Tony is a professional comedian, raconteur and actor who specialises in historical talks with a hysterical twist.

In formal business, we vote for committee members who are up for re-election and newcomers. We must have 10% of our members present to vote our committee. We welcome your support. Please note, the AGM will not be available by Zoom due to technical problems.

We have some vacancies coming up on the Committee, some of the existing team are not going for re-election. We normally meet every two months and are very friendly and supportive of each other.

If you are interested in a Committee Role please contact our

Chair Paul Dodge email:

chair@u3abasingstoke.org



1.30pm Refreshments

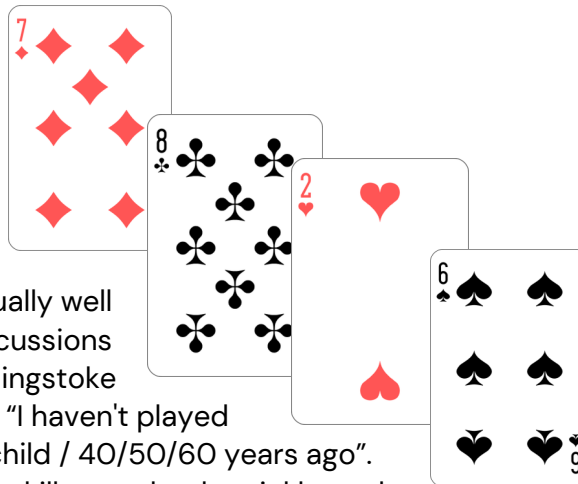
14:00 AGM

14:40 Tony Harris - The Titanic

Titanic - The Ship that never Sank – First Class Passenger

Promising to be a interesting and funny meeting, join us 10th July.

u3a Canasta



Canasta is one of those card games that can be played equally well by 2, 3, or 4 players. Many discussions took place during the first Basingstoke U3A session along the lines of "I haven't played since I was at college / still a child / 40/50/60 years ago". However, like riding a bike, the skill came back quickly, and a set of 'u3a rules' is available – we all had our own minor variations on the theme!

The game is played with two standard packs of playing cards plus all 4 jokers, the jokers and the 2s being 'wild' cards. The aim of the game is to score as many points as possible from 'Canastas' (seven or more cards, either all with the same face value or at least four plus 'wild' cards) that have been 'melded' (declared). The hand finishes when one player, has 'melded' all their cards including at least one Canasta; ideally when the opponents still have many cards in hand, which will earn them a negative score!

The skill of the game lies in melding as many cards as possible, while not leaving a shortage of cards to complete the Canasta needed to go out (and completed Canastas score bonus points too), and not discarding cards your opponents can use.

The Basingstoke group meets every month on the first and third Monday afternoons (except bank holidays) in Christ Church, Chineham, 2.00–4.30pm. While the group was originally for experienced players only, we are now happy to welcome those who would also like to learn in a friendly atmosphere.

Use your u3a Members
Portal to register for this group.



Group Leader Fran



u3a A-Z of cuisine



Elai Basingstoke Wednesday 26 June



Elai is a snazzy urban South Indian restaurant and cocktail bar set in the heart of Basingstoke. Each dish has been perfectly curated using traditional cooking methods to create a multi-sensory dining experience.

It must have been the hottest June day but if you spot the air conditioning in the picture above you will know we were all cool chicks and happy eaters.

Big thank you to the staff who took great care to ensure all our choices were delicious and everyone had something to drink.



James and Christine Rowley Group Leaders

This is our third A-Z of Cuisine and we were so delighted to see so many of our u3a colleagues turn out on such a hot day. Here's to the next one.



u3a Basingstoke Old Basing

25 years and counting — our u3a history



We have alot to celebrate and talk about

Launching our 25 years at our AGM 10 July



Have a story or group you would like to feature in our monthly News Edit Contact:

[Christine Rowley PR & Publicity](#)

[Email: PR@basingstokeu3a.org](mailto:PR@basingstokeu3a.org)

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www.basingstokeu3a.org

[Email basingstokeu3aenquiries@gmail.com](mailto:basingstokeu3aenquiries@gmail.com)