

## **Ferndown u3a**

**Honorary President - Gerry Lewis**

### **COMMITTEE**

<b>Chair</b>	<b>Anne Hutton</b>
<b>Vice-Chair/Events</b>	<b>Jo Brearley</b>
<b>Vice-Chair/Accommodation</b>	<b>Vivian Dedman</b>

### **Members**

<b>Shadow Beacon Coordinator</b>	<b>Tony Clarke</b>
<b>Group Coordinator</b>	<b>Paul Ellis</b>
<b>Membership Secretary</b>	<b>Debbie Gill</b>
<b>Beacon Coordinator</b>	<b>Malcolm Gill</b>
<b>Brochure Editor</b>	<b>Jude Hodges</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>David Lamb</b>
<b>Community Liaison</b>	<b>Angela Larcombe</b>
<b>First Friday/Shadow Secretary</b>	<b>Linda Pallister</b>
<b>Health and Safety Coordinator</b>	<b>Lynda Pas</b>
<b>Visits Coordinator</b>	<b>Anu Patel</b>
<b>Safeguarding/Equality</b>	<b>Anne Sharp</b>
<b>Minutes Secretary</b>	<b>Val Tucker</b>
<b>Website Coordinator</b>	<b>Robert Wellman</b>

**NOTE for existing members:**

**If any of your personal details change please remember to notify the Membership Secretary, Debbie Gill, giving your new address, telephone number, email address or your emergency contact details as appropriate via: [Memsec@ferndownu3a.co.uk](mailto:Memsec@ferndownu3a.co.uk)**

## Ferndown U3A (Fu3a)

Ferndown U3A (Fu3a) is part of the International Third Age Trust which offers social activities and learning opportunities for people who no longer work full-time.

We're one of the 1000-plus U3A charities across the UK with more than 430,000 members nationally. We think we're one of the best, providing opportunities to *learn, laugh and live!* - all for less than £1.50 a week.

Perhaps you have just moved to the area or are recently retired or working part-time, and wish to meet like-minded people, make new friends, explore new activities, acquire new knowledge, develop (or re-awaken) skills? Fu3a is the place to start.

Our u3a is run *by the members, for the members*. We are all volunteers and everyone's contribution is valued. With around 600 friendly members and nearly 100 groups, we are sure you will find something to suit your interests (in the fullness of time you may decide to offer to run a Group yourself!).

We offer entertainment .....fun events .....and coach trips to interesting places. Each year we arrange a Study Visit – in April 2027 we'll be visiting Scotland.

TO JOIN US PLEASE COMPLETE THE ENROLMENT FORM  
IN THE CENTRE PAGES OF THIS BROCHURE.  
THE FORM IS ALSO AVAILABLE ON-LINE AT OUR WEBSITE  
[www.ferndownu3a.co.uk](http://www.ferndownu3a.co.uk)

You can also contact Fu3a via email - [fu3a@ferndownu3a.co.uk](mailto:fu3a@ferndownu3a.co.uk)  
or you can write to the Membership Secretary c/o 13 Hurn Court, Hurn  
Court Lane, Hurn, Dorset BH23 6BH email [Memsec@ferndownu3a.co.uk](mailto:Memsec@ferndownu3a.co.uk)

The annual fee for 2026-2027 is £72 for all members. This is amazing value for what we provide!

This single payment covers membership of all the Groups you join - plus all our Open Invitation Meetings, First Friday coffee mornings, and affiliation fees to the Third Age Trust. We look forward to welcoming you to Fu3a!

## Fu3a 2026-2027

### FERNDOWN u3a EVENTS PRESENTATIONS & VISITS

#### First Friday Meetings 9.45 for coffee, Speaker 10.15

Sep 18	Barrth	<b>OPENING FRIDAY - What's on this year?</b> Details of all our visits, events and presentations. Catch up with friends!	
23	PPCH	<b>Welcome New Members:</b> with coffee/tea	
25		<b>Coach Trip: Windsor:</b> Castle & town	
Oct 2	Barrth	<b>First Friday:</b> The Ancient Enigmatic Maya	<i>Neil Meldrum</i>
9	KGV	<b>Rebuilding the Nation:</b> Developing the New Towns in the late 1940s	<i>Bob Reeve</i>
16	WMMH	<b>Quiz Night - 7.30pm</b>	
23	KGV	<b>In House Friday:</b> Benin, Biafra and me	<i>Sue Howshall</i>
Nov 6	Barrth	<b>First Friday:</b> Life! A Library of Memories	<i>Alan Jones</i>
6	Barrth	<b>Annual General Meeting</b> follows talk	
13	Barrth	<b>Charity Coffee and Craft Morning</b>	
19	MFLR	<b>Theatre Visit - Operation Mincemeat Musical</b>	
20		<b>Coach trip: Sherborne</b>	
Dec 4	Barrth	<b>First Friday:</b> The Great American Christmas	<i>Chris Walker</i>
10		<b>Christmas Lunch:</b> Remedy Oak Golf Club	
11	KGV	<b>Carols, Mince Pies and Coffee</b>	
<b>2027</b>			
Jan 6	PPCH	<b>New Members Coffee Afternoon - 2pm</b>	
8	Barrth	<b>First Friday:</b> The Story of the African Queen	<i>Kevin Patience</i>
15	KGV	<b>In House Friday:</b> The History of Pantomime	<i>Christine Orange</i>

*Note: The 2026 AGM date is Friday 6th November after the First Friday talk. Tea, coffee and pastries will be served*

KEY: Barrth - Barrington Theatre, WMMH - West Moors Memorial Hall,  
KGV - King George V Pavilion, FVH - Ferndown Village Hall, PPCH - Parley Place Care Home,  
WPCH - West Parley Community Hub 3 MFLR—Mayflower Theatre, Southampton

<b>Feb 5</b>	Barrth	<b>First Friday:</b> Billy the Kid and other bad eggs	<i>Trevor Rutter</i>
5	WMMH	<b>Quiz Night</b>	
12		<b>Coach Trip: Shepton Mallett</b>	
<b>Mar 5</b>	Barrth	<b>First Friday:</b> Sweeney Todd	<i>Steve Herra</i>
12	KGV	<b>In House Friday:</b> Antarctica & South America	<i>Paula Stribling</i>
19		<b>Coach Trip: Yeovil/Montacute</b>	
22	WPCH	<b>Group Leaders' Lunch</b>	
<b>Apr</b>			
12 - 16		<b>Scotland Visit</b>	
23	KGV	<b>In House Friday:</b> Rudyard Kipling followed by a book exchange	<i>Mike Andrews</i>
<b>May 7</b>	Barrth	<b>First Friday:</b> Archaeology - A Melting Pot	<i>Mike Randell</i>
8	FVH	<b>Talent Contest</b>	
12	PPCH	<b>New Group Leader Meeting</b> - 2pm	
28	Barrth	<b>OPEN DAY</b>	
<b>Jun 11</b>	KGV	<b>In House Friday:</b> Champagne in a Broken Teacup - French Resistance	<i>Dr Greg Duncan</i>
18	KGV	<b>Wine Tasting 7pm</b>	
25		<b>Chalke Valley History Festival - by car</b>	
<b>July 2</b>	KGV	<b>In House Friday:</b> Alternative Medicines - Acupuncture	<i>Abbey Palmer</i>
16		<b>Treasure Hunt by Car</b>	
30		<b>Summer Walk with Pub Lunch</b>	
<b>Aug 6</b>	KGV	<b>In House Friday:</b> Cornelius the Early Years with Summer Picnic	<i>Cornelius Cornes</i>
13		<b>Race Around Bournemouth by Bus</b>	
18		<b>Boat Trip to Swanage with town treasure trail</b>	

*NB: a trip to the Globe Theatre is planned but awaiting programme for next year which will be available at the start of 2027.*

## ANNUAL ENROLMENT

- May** Brochures distributed.
- June 1st** Enrolment forms and cheques/bank transfers may be submitted. Cheques will be banked on receipt. Please, do not send bank transfers before 1st June. To be fair to other members, please do not apply to join more groups than you can reasonably attend.
- July 6th** Final date for receipt of enrolment forms for inclusion in the first allocation to Groups.
- Mid/Late July** Initial allocation to Groups. All members whose forms were received by **July 6th** will have an equal chance of securing a place in their chosen groups.
- Where groups are oversubscribed, places will be allocated by a random draw. Those not successful will be placed on a waiting list.
- July 25th** Members will be able to access their results via the internet on the **BEACON DATABASE** via the **MEMBERS PORTAL**, accessible from the Fu3a Website:  
*[www.ferndownu3a.co.uk/members/](http://www.ferndownu3a.co.uk/members/)*  
You can see all meeting dates and leaders' contact details.
- Early Aug** Members without access to the internet, and who have provided an SAE, will receive their results by post.  
*NB Nobody else will receive individual notification either by post or email.*

## ACCESSING THE Fu3a WEBSITE & THE BEACON DATABASE

### 1. Fu3a website: [www.ferndownu3a.co.uk](http://www.ferndownu3a.co.uk)

Once you have gained access you will be able to:

- check the calendar of events and read the Fu3a news
- find out how to contact Fu3a
- read a copy of the brochure and check for any amendments
- read about the Governance and Policies of Fu3a
- look up who is on the Committee
- read about past years' visits and events

Finally, you can access the **BEACON DATABASE** via the **Members Portal** on the website menu bar.

### 2. The BEACON DATABASE

The Beacon Database is where you can access up-to-date information as to which groups you are successfully enrolled in and whether you are on a waiting list for one or more of your chosen Groups.

On the menu bar click on the **Members Portal** button

- from here you will be able to access the portal
- you will be able to log in by providing the personal details requested along with your membership number

**Once logged in you will be presented with two options:**

- **Groups**, where you can select the groups you requested and check if you are either enrolled, or if you are on the waiting list
  - **Calendar**, which lists all your Group meetings in date order
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**2026-2027****MONDAYS**

<b>K18</b>	Table Tennis Progress 2	09.15 - 10.30	FYC, Hall
<b>A1</b>	Art	09.30 - 12.30	United Church Ferndown
<b>K13</b>	Dance, Dance, Dance	09.30 - 10.45	KGV, Regency Room
<b>K15</b>	Super Movers	09.30 - 10.30	Barrington Centre, Theatre
<b>Z11</b>	Avon Valley Path Walk	From 9.45	Ringwood
<b>J15</b>	Three Great Explorations	10.00 - 11.00	St Mary's Church, Lounge
<b>T23</b>	The Impact of Technology	10.00 - 11.00	St Mary's Church, Lounge
<b>K21</b>	Table Tennis Progress 3	10.30 - 11.45	FYC, Hall
<b>H26</b>	Family History - Family Stories	11.00 - 12.30	St Mary's Church, Lounge
<b>K23</b>	Learn the Lines	11.00 - 12.15	KGV, King's Room
<b>A8</b>	Art History - Flemish Art	11.15 - 12.30	Ferndown Library, Upstairs
<b>A10</b>	Russell Cotes - Gem	11.15 - 12.30	Ferndown Library, Upstairs
<b>H5</b>	Local History	11.15 - 12.45	Barrington Centre, Theatre
<b>K17</b>	Table Tennis Progress 1	11.45 - 1.00	FYC, Hall
<b>B2</b>	Duplicate Bridge	1.30 - 4.30	KGV, Regency Room
<b>K14</b>	Badminton for Fun	1.30 - 4.30	FVH
<b>D11</b>	World Religions	2.00 - 3.30	FVH, Meeting Room
<b>G5</b>	Rummikub	2.00 - 4.00	At Home at Ferndown
<b>G11</b>	Cribbage	2.00 - 4.00	Heathland House Care Home
<b>M5</b>	Musical Melange	2.00 - 3.30	At Home in West Moors
<b>T1</b>	Astronomy	2.00 - 4.00	FVH, Studio
<b>T9</b>	The Normal Distribution	2.00 - 3.30	Heathland House Care Home
<b>D2</b>	Aspects of Law	2.00 - 4.00	Barrington Centre, Hampreston
<b>M1</b>	Enjoying Music	2.15 - 3.45	Classes on Zoom
<b>C9</b>	Knit and Natter	2.30 - 4.00	At Home in West Moors/St Leonards
<b>L12</b>	Spanish Conversation Inter.	3.00 - 4.00	At Home in Ferndown

## TUESDAYS

<b>A5</b>	Watercolours & Mixed Media	09.30 - 12.30	KGV, Regency Room
<b>C7</b>	General Crafts	09.30 - 12.30	W Parley Community Hub
<b>G3</b>	Mahjong	09.45 - 11.45	The Centre, Heatherlands, 1
<b>T3</b>	Photography	10.00 - 11.30	Parley Place Care Home
<b>A7</b>	Watercolours	10.00 - 12.00	United Church Ferndown
<b>H22</b>	Family History	11.00 - 12.30	St Mary's Church, Venue 1
<b>H27</b>	Writing Your stories	11.00 - 12.15	St Mary's Church, Venue 1
<b>H23</b>	Family History Flesh on Bones	11.00 - 12.30	St Mary's Church, Venue 1
<b>C12</b>	Sewing Circle	1.30 - 4.30	The Centre, Heatherlands, 1
<b>C14</b>	Sewing Social	1.30 - 4.30	The Centre, Heatherlands, 1
<b>K1</b>	Badminton 1	1.30 - 3.15	FVH
<b>H9</b>	Essex Boys and Girls	2.00 - 4.00	At Home in Ferndown
<b>M17</b>	Gilbert & Sullivan Operettas	2.00 - 4.30	St Mary's Church, Venue 1
<b>L13</b>	French Conversation	2.00 - 3.00	At Home in Ferndown
<b>M10</b>	Strummers and Drummers	2.00 - 4.00	At Home in Ferndown
<b>J6</b>	Tea at the Museum	2.00 - 3.30	Various locations
<b>W2</b>	Drama Workshop	2.00 - 4.00	FBL, Hall
<b>K2</b>	Keep Fit - Healthy Badminton	3.15 - 5.00	FVH

## WEDNESDAYS

<b>K4</b>	Table Tennis Improvers	09.30 - 11.00	FYC, Hall
<b>K15</b> <b>A</b>	Super Movers	09.30 - 10.30	KGV, Regency Room
<b>D5A</b>	Current Affairs 2	10.45 - 12.00	Barrington Centre, Hayes
<b>K5</b>	Table Tennis - Experienced 1	11.00 - 12.30	FYC, Hall
<b>Y21</b>	Chair Yoga	11.00 - 11.45	KGV, Regency Room
<b>H3</b>	The Blue Lamp - Part 2	11.15 - 12.30	The Centre, Heatherlands, 3
<b>W20</b>	Agatha Christie Book Group	11.15 - 12.15	At Home in Northbourne
<b>J1</b>	Discover Dorset	11.15 - 12.30	FVH, Studio

### WEDNESDAYS (cont)

<b>W16</b>	Readers Circle	11.15 - 12.30	Ferndown Library, Upstairs
<b>M9</b>	Really Awful Singing Group	11.15 - 12.30	FVH, Studio
<b>G1</b>	Games and Scrabble	1.15 - 3.15	The Centre, Heatherlands, 1
<b>B3</b>	Duplicate Bridge	1.30 - 4.30	KGV, Regency Room
<b>C3</b>	Beadwork	1.30 - 4.00	Barrington Centre, Hampreston
<b>W3</b>	Film Genre	2.00 - 4.00	The Centre, Heatherlands, 3
<b>W4</b>	Creative Writing	2.00 - 3.15	St Mary's Church, Beacon
<b>L1</b>	Improving/Speaking Spanish	2.30 - 3.30	At Home in West Moors
<b>Y24</b>	Air Fryer Cooking	2.00 - 4.00	The Centre, Heatherlands, 3
	<b>THURSDAYS</b>		
<b>D5</b>	Current Affairs 1	09.30 - 10.45	The Centre, Heatherlands, 3
<b>W1</b>	Discovering Shakespeare	09.30 - 11.00	KGV, Regency Room
<b>K24</b>	Next Steps	10.00 - 11.00	KGV, King's Room
<b>K20</b>	Short Mat Bowls	10.00 - 12.30	West Moors Bowls Club
<b>Z10</b>	Rusty Riders	10.00 - 11.30	Various routes
<b>M16</b>	Singalong to Popular Music	10.00 - 12.00	St Mary's Church, Venue 1
<b>J2</b>	Scotland the Brave	11.15 - 12.15	The Centre, Heatherlands, 2
<b>J13</b>	The Trains Group	11.15 - 12.30	The Centre, Heatherlands, 3
<b>D7</b>	Philosophy 1 & 2	11.15 - 12.30	At Home in Northbourne
<b>K8</b>	English Country Dancing	11.15 - 12.45	KGV, Regency Room
<b>B4A</b>	Chicago Bridge	1.30 - 4.30	KGV, Regency Room
<b>A9</b>	Watercolour Fun - Beginners	1.30 - 3.30	Heathland House Care Home
<b>K22</b>	Sequence Dancing	1.30 - 3.00	The Centre, Heatherlands, 2/3
<b>M15</b>	Band	1.45 - 2.45	St Mary's Church, Beacon
<b>C8</b>	Yarn & Yatter	2.00 - 4.00	At Home in Ferndown
<b>G10</b>	500 - Australia's Card Game	2.00 - 4.30	Heathland House Care Home

### THURSDAYS (Cont)

<b>H7</b>	What Happened Where You Live/Lived	2.00 - 3.30	Ferndown Library, Upstairs
<b>M4</b>	Music Appreciation	2.00 - 4.00	St Mary's Church, Beacon
<b>W19</b>	Book Share and Chat	2.00 - 4.00	At Home in Ferndown
<b>M8</b>	Enjoy Progressive Music	2.00 - 3.30	At Home In West Moors
<b>W5</b>	Play Reading	2.00 - 4.00	At Home in Ferndown

### FRIDAYS

<b>K9</b>	Table Tennis Experienced 2	09.30 - 11.00	St Anthony's Church, Hall
<b>Y1</b>	Indian Cooking	10.00 - 2.00	At Home in Ferndown
<b>K10</b>	Table Tennis Experienced 3	11.00 - 12.30	St Anthony's Church, Hall
<b>Y4</b>	Healing, Self-healing, Exploring Energies	12.15 - 1.30	KGV, Regency Room
<b>Y9</b>	Bon Viveurs	12.30 - 2-30	Various
<b>W6</b>	Film Studies	2.00 - 4.30	The Centre, Heatherlands, 1
<b>G12</b>	Chess and Dominoes	2.00 - 4.00	The Centre, Heatherlands, 2
<b>M2</b>	Choir	2.00 - 3.00	St Mary's Church, Main Hall
<b>M14</b>	Recorder Playing	2.15 - 3.45	At Home in Ferndown

### VARIOUS

<b>Y3</b>	Once A Term Skittles	12.00 - 4.00	Saturdays
<b>Y17</b>	U3A Solo Lunch	12.00	Saturdays
<b>Z1</b>	3 Mile Walks	10.00	Fridays
<b>Z2</b>	5 Mile Walks	10.00	Fridays
<b>Y22</b>	Performing Arts		As advised
<b>T21</b>	Amateur Birding		As advised
<b>Z9</b>	Saturday Afternoon Walks	1.30	Saturdays

**For full details of all venues please turn to page 33.**

## **ART**

### **A1 ART**

*United Church, Ferndown*

*(Eleanor Green)*

*Mondays 9.30 - 12.30*

Our friendly art group explores art techniques using various mediums. Everyone's input is welcome; suitable for all abilities. Projects are flexible; we share our art experiences.

### **A5 WATERCOLOURS AND MIXED MEDIA**

*KGV, Regency Room*

*(Rita Gibson)*

*Tuesdays 9.30 - 12.30*

Bring your own materials and do your own thing. Drawing, watercolour, acrylic, pastels, whatever you fancy, in a friendly and sociable atmosphere. No tuition is given but lots of moral support.

### **A7 WATERCOLOURS**

*United Church, Ferndown*

*(Janet Clarkson)*

*Tuesdays 10.00 - 12.00*

This group is for beginners and for people who have already mastered the basic watercolour techniques and wish to go further.

### **A8 ART HISTORY: FLEMISH ART**

*Ferndown Library, Upstairs*

*(Judith Hodges)*

*Mondays 11.15 - 12.30*

*Dates: 2026: Sept 28th, Oct 19th, Nov 23rd*

*2027: Jan 18th, Mar 22nd, Apr 19th, May 17th*

This year we will look at Flemish Art including that of Jan van Eyck, Breugel (Elder and Younger), Rubens and others working during the early Netherlandish, Renaissance and Baroque periods.

### **A9 NEW WATERCOLOUR FUN FOR BEGINNERS**

*Heathland House Care Home*

*(Deb Fenegan)*

*Thursdays 1.30 - 3.30*

This group offers some tuition on basic skills, but is mainly focussed on everyone enjoying having a go. On some weeks I will set you tasks to develop specific skills, on others you will be free to choose your own subject - your creativity is positively welcomed. Lots of support and encouragement available from your group leader and class mates. Come and have a go at a lovely new hobby!

### **A10 NEW RUSSELL COTES - A GEM HIDING IN PLAIN SIGHT**

*Ferndown Library, Upstairs*

*(Jill Bell)*

*Mondays 11.15 - 12.30*

*Dates: 2026: Sept 21st, Oct 12th, Nov 9th*

*2027: Jan 11th, Feb 8th, Mar 15th plus visit on date to be advised*

The story of Merton and Annie Russell-Cotes and their role in the foundation of Bournemouth as a resort. We will cover their origins, their ownership of the Royal Bath Hotel, their art collection and the building of East Cliff Hall which became the Russell Cotes Museum. We will end with a visit to the museum (entrance fee payable).

## BRIDGE

**Bridge Co-ordinator: Jenny Bass (jmbass17@gmail.com, 01202 873228)**

Members are expected to use Basic Acol / Standard English, Foundation Version. (Weak N.T., Weak take-outs, Stayman & Blackwood. Modern practice encourages Duplicate players to use Transfers & Weak twos bidding). Some groups require you to attend with a partner. For those groups it is essential that BOTH members submit their Enrolment Forms and cheques together in the SAME envelope. If you do not do this no guarantee can be given that both members will be included in the same group if it is oversubscribed.

### **B2 DUPLICATE BRIDGE**

(Jenny Bass)

KGV, Regency Room

Mondays 1.30 - 4.30

Dates: No meeting Dec 21st & 28th 2026, Mar 29th, May 3rd & 31st, Aug 30th 2027

We will play Duplicate Bridge all year for forty six sessions. To join you need:

- 1) A regular partner, but there are often temporary partners available when your partner is away.
- 2) To be able to open, respond and re-bid correctly in the majority of circumstances.
- 3) One member of the partnership who is able and willing to score.

**NOTE:** This group attracts a £40 accommodation supplement.

### **B3 DUPLICATE BRIDGE**

(Jenny Bass)

KGV, Regency Room

Wednesdays 1.30 - 4.30

Dates: No meetings 23rd & 30th Dec 2026

We will play Duplicate Bridge all year. You will need a partner and it is preferable to arrange this in advance, but if you are unable to do so there is often a spare player available. To join this group you should be able to open, respond and re-bid correctly in most circumstances.

**NOTE:** This group attracts a £40 accommodation supplement.

### **B4A CHICAGO BRIDGE**

(Yvonne Warner & Paula Steele)

KGV, Regency Room

Thursdays 1.30 - 4.30

Chicago Bridge in a friendly, relaxed and somewhat noisy group. No need for you to bring a partner. You should be able to open, respond and re-bid correctly in the majority of circumstances. There is no instruction to be expected, unless requested.

**NOTE:** This group does not attract an accommodation supplement.

## CRAFTS

### **C3 BEADWORK**

(Barbara Wescott)

Barrington Centre, Hampreston Room

Wednesdays 1.30 - 4.00

Join us for a self-help workshop using all types and sizes of beads. We are a friendly group where new members are always welcome.

### **C7 GENERAL CRAFTS**

(Jan Gransden)

West Parley Community Hub

Tuesdays 9.30 - 12.30

This is a general craft group which can include card making, sewing, knitting, crochet and embroidery. A project is set for each term, but members are free to bring along their own project and join in this friendly group. New members welcome.

## **C8 YARN & YATTER**

*At home in Ferndown*

*(Christine Rose)*

*Thursdays 2.00 - 4.00*

*Dates: 2026: Sept 24th, Oct 8th & 22nd, Nov 5th & 19th, Dec 3rd*

*2027: Jan 14th & 28th, Feb 11th & 25th, Mar 11th & 25th, Apr 29th*

*May 13th & 27th*

An opportunity to meet fortnightly to knit, crochet or embroider. Please bring your yarn and needles and let's exchange ideas whilst being creative.

## **C9 KNIT & NATTER**

*At home in West Moors/St Leonards*

*(Val Tucker & Janet Banks)*

*Mondays 2.30 - 4.00*

A small, friendly group in a home environment. Just bring yourself, wool & knitting needles. Val will run the group fortnightly at West Moors and for those who wish to meet every week, Janet will host at St Leonards.

## **C12 SEWING CIRCLE**

*The Centre, Heatherlands, 1*

*(Anne Hutton)*

*Tuesdays 1.30 - 4.30*

*Dates: 2026: Sept 15th & 29th, Oct 13th, Nov 3rd & 17th, Dec 1st*

*2027: Jan 5th & 12th, Feb 2nd & 23rd, Mar 9th & 23rd, Apr 27th, May 4th & 18th*

The aim of the sewing circle is to share a love of machine sewing with like-minded enthusiasts. Over the year we will undertake a range of projects, quilting, bag making or developing your own projects. Members will need to bring a sewing machine and fabric. Support given. This group alternates with Sewing Social.

## **C14 NEW SEWING SOCIAL**

*The Centre, Heatherlands, 1*

*(Christine Bourne)*

*Tuesdays 1.30 - 4.30*

*Dates: 2026: Sept 22nd, Oct 6th & 20th, Nov 10th & 24th, Dec 8th*

*2027: Jan 19th & 26th, Feb 9th, Mar 2nd & 16th, Apr 20th, May 11th & 25th*

Machine or hand sewers welcome. Bring your machines and current projects and sew in a social and supportive environment. Or, if you hand sew, bring that along instead. No tuition but plenty of experience to draw upon. There may possibly be group projects if required.

## **DISCUSSION GROUPS**

### **D5 CURRENT AFFAIRS 1**

*The Centre, Heatherlands, 3*

*(Clare Clayton)*

*Thursdays 9.30 - 10.45*

This is a lively group for people who enjoy a free and entertaining discussion on a full range of current topics.

### **D5A CURRENT AFFAIRS 2**

*Barrington Centre, Hayes Room*

*(Angela Larcombe)*

*Wednesdays 10.45 - 12.00*

From headlines to hot topics - come along and enjoy lively, friendly, informed discussion on today's news.

### **D2 ASPECTS OF LAW**

*Barrington Centre, Hampreston Room Summer*

*(Robert Wickson)*

*Mondays 2.00 - 4.00*

*Dates: 2027: Apr 19th & 26th, May 17th & 24th*

Distinguishing common law and criminal law and case law. The growth of 'Duty of Care' and negligence.

### **D7 NEW PHILOSOPHY - 1**

(Judith Hodges)

*At home in Northbourne*

*Autumn*

*Thursdays 11.15 - 12.30*

*Dates 2026: Sept 17th & 24th, Oct 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd*

An introduction to philosophy looking at the big questions - What is reality? Do we have free will? What is the nature of good and evil? etc. We will discuss a new topic each week but don't expect to get clear answers. Philosophers have been discussing these same topics for thousands of years!

### **D8 NEW PHILOSOPHY - 2**

(Judith Hodges)

*At home in Northbourne*

*Spring*

*Thursdays 11.15 - 12.30*

*Dates 2027: Jan 7th, 14th, 21st & 28th, Feb 4th & 11th*

Each week we will look at an individual philosopher and consider their life and their philosophical beliefs in the context of their time in history and their geographical place. We will start with Aristotle and Plato.

### **D11 WORLD RELIGIONS: FAITH, BELIEF AND INSPIRATION**

(Sue Gomm)

*Ferndown Village Hall, Meeting Room*

*Autumn and Spring Mondays 2.00 - 3.30*

This group will look at faiths and beliefs in different parts of the world and some of the exceptional people these beliefs have inspired and sustained. The group takes a historical and non-denominational approach. The programme is flexible and additional topics will be included at the request of the participants.

## **GAMES**

### **G1 GAMES AND SCRABBLE etc.**

(Tricia Brown)

*The Centre, Heatherlands, 1*

*Wednesdays 1.15 - 3.15*

We play Scrabble, Canasta or Rummikub, but have other games in our box that you are welcome to use. Otherwise bring along something else you enjoy playing. It's not competitive, just a fun afternoon.

### **G3 MAHJONG**

(Anne Hutton)

*The Centre, Heatherlands, 1*

*Tuesdays 9.45 - 11.45*

Mahjong is a tile-based game that was developed in China during the Qing dynasty and is similar to the card game Rummy. The name Mahjong can be translated as "sparrow" and sets comprising 144 tiles, are thought, when shuffled, to resemble numerous sparrows squabbling over food. We welcome players of all standards.

### **G5 RUMMIKUB**

(Elizabeth Newnham)

*At Home in Ferndown*

*Autumn & Spring*

*Mondays 2.00 - 4.00*

*Dates: 2026: Sept 21st, Oct 5th & 19th, Nov 9th, Dec 7th*

*2027: Jan 11th & 25th, Feb 8th, Mar 1st & 15th*

Come and join a light hearted and friendly group for Rummikub.

## GAMES (cont)

**G10 500 - AUSTRALIA'S FAVOURITE CARD GAME** (Sue Hunt)  
*Heathland House Care Home Autumn & Spring Thursdays 2.00 - 4.30*  
An Australian card game similar to bridge but without the coded language. This is now an established group. Any beginners will be encouraged to practise at home online to improve their competence and speed.

**G11 NEW CRIBBAGE** (Cornelius Cornes)  
*Heathland House Care Home Autumn Mondays 2.00 - 4.00*  
*Dates: 2026: Nov 16th, 23rd and 30th, Dec 7th*  
There are still cribbage leagues, but I have not played since a child. Let's have a few sessions to see how it goes.

**G12 NEW CHESS AND DOMINOES** (David Leicester)  
*The Centre, Heatherlands, 2 Fridays 2.00 - 4.00*  
*Dates: 2026: Sept 25th, Oct 9th & 23rd, Nov 13th & 27th*  
*2027: Jan 8th & 22nd, Feb 12th & 26th, Mar 12th, Apr 23rd, May 14th & 28th*  
Come and join this group, keep the mind active, meet more people and, importantly, have fun.

## HISTORY

**H3 BLUE LAMP- PART 2** (Rodger Pettengell)  
*The Centre, Heatherlands, 3 Autumn Wednesdays 11.15 - 12.30*  
*Dates: 2026: Sept 16th & 23rd, Oct 7th, 14th & 21st, Nov 4th, 11th, 18th & 25th*  
*Dec 2nd & 9th*

This year we will be looking at seven murder cases, some over one week and others over two weeks. There is no need to have attended any other parts of the Blue Lamp. Among the subjects covered will be: "The Brides in the Bath"; "The Abduction and Murder of Sarah Payne"; "The Prolific Murders of Dr Harold Shipman" and "The Murders of 'Bambi' and her Family".

**H5 LOCAL HISTORY** (Valerie Lyall & Kay Weeks)  
*Barrington Centre, Theatre Mondays 11.15 - 12.45*  
*Dates: 2026: Sept 28th, Oct 19th, Nov 23rd*  
*2027: Jan 25th, Feb 22nd, Mar 22nd, May 24th*

Calling all curious minds. Have you ever wondered about the secrets hidden in and around our modern town? Did you know that Ferndown once had a zoo? Have you visited the wartime bunker on the common? Have you ever wondered why there is no churchyard in Ferndown, or why we have a fire station with church windows? When we have looked at all these questions we will investigate some of the villages in the surrounding area.

**H7 WHAT HAPPENED WHERE YOU LIVE/LIVED** (David Rose)  
*Ferndown Library, Upstairs Thursdays 2.00 - 3.30*  
*Dates: 2026: Sept 17th, Oct 15th, Nov 12th, Dec 10th*  
*2027: Jan 21st, Feb 25th, Apr 29th, May 20th*

A research group to investigate the history of our local area, as well as presenting interesting accounts of areas where you have lived. Meeting monthly and focusing on different aspects of local history, as well as your own history.

# STUDY VISIT APRIL 2027 SCOTLAND THE BRAVE!

12th - 16th APRIL 2027

## Edinburgh, Glasgow, Loch Lomond and Falkirk

We are planning a 5 day Study Visit to Scotland, based in the area around Edinburgh and Glasgow.

The package will include:

- Return flights to Edinburg/Glasgow from Bournemouth or other regional airport
- Coach transfers throughout the visit
- B&B accommodation for 4 nights in a 3\* hotel
- Reception and group meal on the first night

There will be an all day trip to Edinburgh, plus visits to Glasgow, Loch Lomond and an exploration of the area around Falkirk including the famous Falkirk Wheel and the Kelpies.

Full details and costs will be available at the end of June 2026 as we are still awaiting confirmation of flight details.

**If interested please complete the interest form on page 20.**

**Please note: Edinburgh and Glasgow are built on hills – lots of walking!**



**The Kelpies, Falkirk - Courtesy of Itoldya test 1**

# Fu3a STUDY VISIT APRIL 2027

## INTEREST FORM – SCOTLAND

Visit Organiser	Anne Hutton  Email: <a href="mailto:jannehutton@outlook.com">jannehutton@outlook.com</a>  Tel: 07747 486 434
Dates	12 <sup>th</sup> - 16 <sup>th</sup> April 2027
	5 Days including travel 4 nights
First participant	
U3A Membership number	
Email	
Second Participant	
U3A Membership number	
Email	

## UPCOMING VISIT

We are planning a 3day/2night coach visit to the houses and gardens of Brighton and East Sussex, possibly in September 2027. Details later in the year



## **H9 NEW ESSEX BOYS AND GIRLS**

(David Rose)

*At home in Ferndown*

*Tuesdays 2.00 - 4.00*

*Dates: 2026: Sept 22nd, Oct 20th, Nov 24th*

*2027: Jan 19th, Feb 23rd, Mar 16th, Apr 13th, May 18th*

Did you live in the Ilford/Romford and surrounding areas of Essex during the 1950s, 1960s and 1970s? If so, then come to our home to have a cuppa, chat about those times and reminisce.

## **H22 FAMILY HISTORY**

(Valerie Lyall)

*St Mary's Church, Venue 1*

*Autumn*

*Tuesdays 11.00 - 12.30*

*Dates: 2026: Sept 15th, 22nd & 29th, Oct 6th, 13th & 20th, Nov 3rd, 10th, 17th & 24th, Dec 1st*

This is a friendly and supportive group which explores the wide variety of records available to assist us in tracing our family history. The group is open to beginners and those with previous experience.

## **H23 FAMILY HISTORY - FLESH ON THE BONES**

(Valerie Lyall)

*St Mary's Church, Venue 1*

*Spring*

*Tuesdays 11.00 - 12.30*

Did your family fight in the Civil War? Were they sailing, fighting or exploring with the Navy? How did they cope with natural disasters or during epidemics?

What happened to those who broke the law? What was their life like? This group will be looking at lesser known sources to tell their stories. Prepare to be surprised by what you can discover.

## **H26 FAMILY HISTORY - STORIES FROM MY FAMILY TREE**

(Valerie Lyall & Debbie Gill)

*St Mary's Church, Lounge*

*Autumn and Spring*

*Mondays 11.00 - 12.30*

*Dates: 2026: Sept 14th, Oct 5th, Nov 9th*

*2027: Jan 4th, Feb 1st, Mar 1st*

Relax with friends to chat and to share your family stories. Talk about and share photographs, letters, interesting objects and items you are saving to pass on to your own family. Share with interested friends, recollections of towns and villages where you, or your ancestors have lived.

## **H27 WRITING YOUR STORIES**

(Valerie Lyall)

*St Mary's Church, Venue 1*

*Summer*

*Tuesdays 11.00 - 12.15*

*Dates: 2027: Apr 20th & 27th, May 4th & 11th*

Have you ever wished your ancestors had recorded their life stories for you? Are you thinking about writing your own story? Have you found an interesting ancestor whose story you would like to tell? This group helps with ideas, suggestions and formats.

## **JOURNEYS OF DISCOVERY**

### **J1 NEW DISCOVER DORSET**

(Judith Hodges)

*Ferndown Village Hall, Studio*

*Wednesdays 11.15 - 12.30*

*Dates: 2026: Sept 16th, Oct 14th, Nov 11th*

*2027: Jan 13th, Feb 10th, Mar 10th, May 12th*

A look at the character and history of a selection of Dorset towns and villages, including Wimborne, Corfe Castle, Wareham and Dorchester.

## **J2 NEW SCOTLAND THE BRAVE**

(Anne Hutton)

*The Centre, Heatherlands, 2 Spring*

*Thursdays 11.15 - 12.15*

*Dates: 2027: Mar 4th, 11th & 18th*

The group will meet in advance of the trip to Scotland in April 2027. We will look at the history and culture of the areas we will visit.

## **J6 TEA AT THE MUSEUM**

(Clare Clayton)

*Tuesdays 2.00 - 3.30*

*Dates: 2026: Oct 13th, Nov 10th, Dec 8th*

*2027: Jan 12th, Feb 9th, Mar 9th, May 11th*

A group for people who enjoy visiting museums and places of interest as well as taking tea! There will be seven visits throughout the year - exact venues will be chosen in due course. We will try to stay within an hour's drive of Ferndown. Some people may need a lift.

## **J13 NEW THE TRAINS GROUP**

(Bob Reeve)

*The Centre, Heatherlands, 3 Autumn*

*Thursdays 11.15 - 12.30*

*Dates: 2026: Sept 24th, Oct 8th & 22nd, Nov 12th & 26th, Dec 10th*

Join us for this popular group as we explore local historic steam railways and hear updates on their progress. There will also be opportunities for group members to report visits made further afield. (No, we are **not** nerdy trainspotters, and ladies are welcome too!)

## **J15 NEW THREE GREAT EXPLORATIONS**

(Ian Billington)

*St Mary's Church, Lounge Spring*

*Mondays 10.00 - 11.00*

*Dates: 2027: Jan 11th, 18th & 25th*

Three talks on exploration - 1. South American exploration; travels of Alexander Von Humboldt and Charles Darwin. 2. Antarctic exploration; the race for the South Pole. 3. Space exploration; the race to the moon, covering Mercury, Gemini and Apollo programmes alongside the USSR missions.

## **KEEPING FIT AND HEALTHY**

### **BADMINTON**

#### **K1 BADMINTON 1**

(Paul Ellis)

*Ferndown Village Hall*

*Tuesdays 1.30 - 3.15*

A friendly, enthusiastic and mixed ability group. We welcome players of all standards but some experience is necessary. If you played in the past, you probably still can!

Numbers are strictly limited to ensure that participants have plenty of exercise.

No need to bring a partner.

#### **K2 KEEP FIT & HEALTHY BADMINTON**

(Patricia Meldrum)

*Ferndown Village Hall*

*Tuesdays 3.15 - 5.00*

A very friendly group; we welcome members who have some experience. Numbers are limited so that members can have a reasonable number of games.

#### **K14 BADMINTON FOR FUN**

(Pam Dickinson & Kim Miles)

*Ferndown Village Hall*

*Mondays 1.30 - 4.30*

Come along if you enjoy playing Badminton in an informal and friendly atmosphere.

All abilities are welcome.

## TABLE TENNIS

### **K4 TABLE TENNIS - IMPROVERS**

*(David Leicester)*

*Ferdown Youth Centre, Hall*

*Wednesdays 9.30 - 11.00*

The group has a great time with much laughter and fun.

### **K5 TABLE TENNIS - EXPERIENCED 1**

*(Peter Gibson)*

*Ferdown Youth Centre, Hall*

*Wednesdays 11.00 - 12.30*

This group is for experienced players only.

### **K9 TABLE TENNIS - EXPERIENCED 2**

*(Peter Gibson)*

*St Anthony's Church, Hall*

*Fridays 9.30 - 11.00*

This group is for experienced players only.

*During Lent meetings will be held on Tuesdays.*

### **K10 TABLE TENNIS - EXPERIENCED 3**

*(Peter Gibson)*

*St Anthony's Church, Hall*

*Fridays 11.00 - 12.30*

This group is for experienced players only.

*During Lent meetings will be held on Tuesdays.*

### **K17 TABLE TENNIS - PROGRESS 1**

*(Janet Clarkson)*

*Ferdown Youth Centre, Hall*

*Mondays 11.45 - 1.00*

This group is suitable for players with some experience. Help and advice is always available

### **K18 TABLE TENNIS - PROGRESS 2**

*(Janet Clarkson)*

*Ferdown Youth Centre, Hall*

*Mondays 9.15 - 10.30*

This group is suitable for players with some experience. Help and advice is always available.

### **K21 TABLE TENNIS - PROGRESS 3**

*(Janet Clarkson)*

*Ferdown Youth Centre, Hall*

*Mondays 10.30 - 11.45*

This group is suitable for players with some experience. Help and advice is always available.

## SPORTS

### **K20 SHORT MAT BOWLS**

*(Carolyn Dearlove)*

*West Moors Bowls Club*

*Thursdays 10.00 - 12.30*

As the title implies the game is played over a much shorter length than the outdoor green game. At both ends is a fender and one foot from that there is a white line, representing the ditch. It is a fun game played in teams of four. An element of balance is required as the bowls are heavy.

## **DANCING**

### **K8 ENGLISH COUNTRY DANCING**

*(Barbara Wescott)*

*KGV, Regency Room*

*Thursdays 11.15 - 12.45*

We have in this country, an amazing and unique tradition of country dances spanning centuries: dances that are still as engaging as they were when they were first written. In our group we enjoy dances of the 17th and 18th centuries and this coming year we shall be including a selection of modern dances that follow the same style. Come and help us keep our heritage up and running.

### **K13 DANCE DANCE DANCE FOR LATIN AND BALLROOM**

*(Jean and Brian Morgan)*

*KGV, Regency Room Autumn and Spring*

*Mondays 9.30 - 10.45*

Mainly ballroom and latin dancing with some popular sequence dance included.

All levels and lady leaders particularly welcome.

### **K15 SUPER MOVERS**

*(Jo Brearley)*

*Barrington Centre, Main Theatre*

*Mondays 9.30 - 10.30*

Come and enjoy a lovely session of dancing to music - no instruction given. What a great way to start the morning and to get you into shape.

### **K15A SUPER MOVERS**

*(Jo Brearley)*

*KGV, Regency Room*

*Wednesdays 9.30 - 10.30*

Come and enjoy a lovely session of dancing to music - no instruction given. What a great way to start the morning and to get you into shape.

### **K22 NEW SEQUENCE DANCING**

*(Keith Harris)*

*The Centre, Heatherlands, 2/3*

*Thursdays 1.30 - 3.00*

Sequence dancing is great for increased fitness and memory boost. This dance group is for all abilities ranging from beginners to experienced dancers with the format dependent on the relevant level of experience. The sessions will include demonstrations of new dances and revising more popular social sequences.

### **K23 NEW LEARN THE LINES FOR LINE DANCE** *(Jean & Brian Morgan)*

*KGV, King's Room*

*Autumn & Spring*

*Mondays 11.00 - 12.15*

Beginners group, with progression.

### **K24 NEW NEXT STEPS**

*(Barbara Wescott)*

*KGV, King's Room*

*Autumn & Spring*

*Thursdays 10.00 - 11.00*

Enjoying your English country dancing - or do you have some experience? Why not add 'Next Steps' to your list! Figures and calls are the ones you are used to but the dances are slightly longer. Come along and help us preserve some of these delightful treasures.

## LANGUAGES

### **L1 NEW IMPROVING AND SPEAKING SPANISH** (Joanna Russell)

*At home in West Moors*

*Wednesdays 2.30 - 3.30*

*Dates: 2026 Sept 16th & 30th, Oct 14th, Nov 4th & 18th, Dec 2nd*

*2027: Jan 6th & 20th, Feb 3rd & 24th, Mar 10th & 24th, Apr 21st,  
May 5th & 19th*

Aimed at those who have some basic Spanish and wish to learn more and practise simple conversation in a friendly and encouraging group. We will watch videos, practise reading aloud and translating, and most importantly, talking Spanish.

### **L12 SPANISH CONVERSATION - INTERMEDIATE** (Jenny Daniel)

*At home in Ferndown*

*Mondays 3.00 - 4.00*

*Dates: 2026: Sept 14th & 28th, Oct 19th, Nov 2nd, 16th & 30th*

*2027: Jan 4th & 18th, Feb 1st & 15th, Mar 1st & 15th, May 3rd, 17th & 31st*

This group is not for beginners but for those who can converse in a simple way and want to practise their Spanish and wish to `use it` not `lose it`. Emphasis on conversation not grammar.

### **L13 FRENCH CONVERSATION**

(Jenny Daniel)

*At home in Ferndown*

*Tuesdays 2.00 - 3.00*

*Dates: 2026: Sept 15th & 29th, Oct 20th, Nov 3rd & 17th, Dec 1st*

*2027: Jan 5th & 19th, Feb 2nd & 16th, Mar 2nd & 16th, May 4th & 18th*

This group is not for beginners but rather those who have a working knowledge of French and wish to `use it` not `lose it`. Emphasis on conversation rather than grammar.

## MUSIC

### **M1 ENJOYING MUSIC**

(Rachel Lewington)

*Classes on Zoom*

*Mondays 2.15 - 3.45*

We will study a wide variety of classical music using the very best recordings and scores where appropriate. We shall also place the musician in context linking it to the life and times of the composer and to the history and art of the period.

### **M2 CHOIR**

(Jo Brearley)

*St Mary's Church, Main Hall*

*Fridays 2.00 - 3.00*

*Dates: 2026: Nov 6th & 20th, Dec 4th*

*2027: Jan 15th & 29th, Feb 12th & 26th, Mar 12th, Apr 23rd, May 7th & 21st*

The choir was newly formed last year and has proved to be popular. If you enjoy singing and have a reasonable to good voice, come along and enjoy the benefits. A varied song choice should keep everyone happy.

### **M4 MUSIC APPRECIATION**

(Jo Brearley)

*St Mary's Church, Beacon Room*

*Thursdays 2.00 - 4.00*

*Dates: 2026: Sept 17th, Oct 1st & 15th, Nov 5th & 19th, Dec 3rd*

*2027: Jan 7th & 21st, Feb 4th & 25th, Mar 11th & 25th, Apr 29th,  
May 13th & 27th*

Come and enjoy listening to and learning about different composers set in the context of their times. This is a relaxing group. No prior knowledge is required. Just a smile!

## **M5 MUSICAL MELANGE**

(Tony Clarke)

*At home in West Moors*

*Mondays 2.00 - 3.30*

*Dates: 2026: Sept 14th & 28th, Oct 12th, Nov 2nd, 16th & 30th*

*2027: Jan 4th & 18th, Feb 1st & 22nd, Mar 8th & 22nd, Apr 19th,  
May 10th & 24th*

Do you enjoy listening to music? This is a fortnightly opportunity to listen to and discuss a diverse range of music in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere. Meetings are themed, with a varied programme of music chosen primarily for enjoyment. Open-minded music lovers will share a social experience, not an intense study of music. You'll learn, but not in a hard way!

## **M8 ENJOY PROGRESSIVE MUSIC**

(Paul Ellis)

*At home in West Moors.*

*Thursdays 2.00 - 3.30*

*Dates: 2026: Sept 24th, Oct 22nd, Nov 19th*

*2027: Jan 14th, Feb 11th, Mar 11th, May 6th*

An opportunity to listen to and enjoy progressive music, explore its scope and development and perhaps discover some new favourites.

## **M9 THE REALLY AWFUL SINGING GROUP**

(Judith Hodges)

*Ferndown Village Hall, Studio*

*Wednesdays 11.15 - 12.30*

*Dates: 2026: Sept 30th, Nov 25th*

*2027: Jan 27th, Feb 24th, Mar 24th, Apr 28th, May 26th*

No it isn't a misprint; this group is for anyone who loves to sing but whose voice may offend others! We sing along to a range of popular songs from the 1950s onwards as well as some more recent songs from musicals. The idea is to have fun with others who are similarly vocally challenged.

## **M10 NEW STRUMMERS AND DRUMMERS**

(David Rose)

*At home in Ferndown*

*Tuesdays 2.00 - 4-00*

*Dates: 2026: Sept 15th, Oct 13th, Nov 10th, Dec 8th*

*2027: Jan 12th, Feb 9th, Mar 9th, Apr 20th, May 11th*

Were you in a group or a band in the 60s and 70s playing rock and roll and blues? Do you still have your equipment? Let's get together and chat about what we did, where we played, did any recordings and session work have any demo discs, and maybe get together for some 'jammin'.

## **M14 RECORDER PLAYING**

(Elizabeth Bosanko)

*At home in Ferndown*

*Spring*

*Fridays 2.15 - 3.45*

*Dates 2027: Jan 8th & 22nd, Feb 5th & 19th, Mar 5th & 19th*

Not a beginners' group, but for those who already play the recorder. We will play a variety of music, including folk tunes, classical, popular etc. in a friendly atmosphere. You will need your own instrument/s and be able to read music and it would be helpful to bring a music stand.

## **M15 BAND**

(Jo Brearley)

*St Mary's Church, Beacon Room*

*Thursdays 1.45 - 2.45*

*Dates: 2026: Sept 24th, Oct 8th & 22nd, Nov 12th & 26th, Dec 10th*

*2027: Jan 14th & 28th, Feb 11th, Mar 4th & 18th, Apr 22nd, May 6th & 20th*

Come and join our 'Band' and have some fun.

## **M16 SINGALONG TO POPULAR SONGS**

(Alison Page)

St Mary's Church, Venue 1

Thursdays 10.00 - 12.00

Dates: 2026: Sept 17th, Oct 1st & 15th, Nov 5th & 19th, Dec 3rd

2027: Jan 7th & 21st, Feb 4th & 25th, Mar 11th & 25th, Apr 22nd,

May 6th & 20th

A singalong session where you get to choose the songs. Words will appear on screen so no need for folders or printing. We will start by warming up our voices and proceed with songs which you have chosen from a list of available tracks. We will have a break in the middle for a drink and chat. All abilities welcome.

## **M17 NEW GILBERT & SULLIVAN OPERETTAS**

(David Keen)

St Mary's Church, Venue 1 Autumn & Spring

Tuesdays 2.00 - 4.30

Dates: 2026: Sept 15th & 29th, Oct 13th, Nov 3rd & 17th, Dec 1st

2027: Jan 12th & 26th, Mar 9th & 23rd

We will enjoy viewing ten of the most popular Gilbert and Sullivan operettas on DVDs of brilliant productions from 1982. The featured soloists are mainly excellent young singers, many of whom went on to enjoy distinguished operatic careers. They are backed by the very good Ambrosia Opera Chorus. I will give a brief introduction to the operetta at each meeting.

## **TECHNICAL AND SCIENTIFIC TOPICS**

### **T1 ASTRONOMY**

(Graeme Nash)

Ferndown Village Hall, Studio

Mondays 2.00 - 4.00

This one-year group deals with all aspects of astronomy. Topics considered include some basics of the Earth's place in the universe, the history of astronomy to 1900, instruments and observing techniques, the solar system, the Sun, the stars, galaxies and cosmology including the origin of the universe. Weather permitting, observations of the Sun (using safe filters) and Venus are made. The presentation is informal with use made of view graphs, slides, models and astronomical equipment. No previous knowledge of astronomy is assumed. Active participation by group members is encouraged and extra topics suggested by them warmly welcomed.

### **T3 PHOTOGRAPHY**

(John Brookman)

Parley Place Care Home

Tuesdays 10.00 - 11.30

Dates: 2026: Sept 15th, Oct 13th, Nov 10th, Dec 8th

2027: Jan 12th, Feb 9th, Mar 9th, Apr 20th, May 18th

Are you interested in photography and love taking pictures? Then come and meet like-minded people. A monthly meeting, field trips, image sharing and inspiration. From beginners to experts, all welcome.

### **T9 NEW THE NORMAL DISTRIBUTION**

(Cornelius Cornes)

Heathland House Care Home Spring

Mondays 2.00 - 3.30

Dates: 2027: Jan 4th, 11th, 18th & 25th, Feb 1st

Normal Distribution; this permeates the nation's statistics. Most of the world's data falls within this curve. Your intelligence, the speed of birds in flight, the weight of elephants, you name it. The normal distribution is one of those topics that sounds abstract, but once people 'see' it, they suddenly understand half the world better: measurement, variation, probability, uncertainty, even everyday intuition.

## **T21 AMATEUR BIRDING**

(Anu Patel)

*I will email members of the group 2 weeks before any birding trips.*

The four sessions will include birdwatching locally in Ferndown Common, Holt Heath, Longham Lakes, Blashford Lakes. and Kingfisher Barn. Further trips to Poole Harbour, Brownsea Island, Studland, Arne Nature Reserve and Durlston Park will also be possible depending on the number of members who are interested in going, the weather and the time of year. No special ability is required, except an interest in birds. Binoculars will be helpful in seeing and identifying birds.

## **T23 THE IMPACT OF TECHNOLOGY**

(Ian Billington)

*St Mary's Church, Lounge*                      *Spring*

*Mondays 10.00 - 11.00*

*Dates: 2027: Feb 1st, 8th & 22nd*

A series of three talks on technology and history. The first, 'fire' covering the Industrial Revolution, the second on 'electricity' and the final one on the 'information' revolution.

## **WORDS - WRITTEN, SPOKEN AND VISUAL**

### **W1 DISCOVERING SHAKESPEARE**

(Jill Beard)

*KGV, Regency Room*

*Thursdays 9.30 - 11.00*

What is Shakespeare all about? This is your opportunity to find out through watching clips from performances, reading aloud and discussion. No previous knowledge is needed. The course is straightforward and fun. Our first play will be *The Comedy of Errors*.

### **W2 DRAMA WORKSHOP**

(Rita Burke)

*Ferndown British Legion, Hall*

*Tuesdays 2.00 - 4.00*

We are a friendly group who put on two performances a year; a variety show at Christmas and an end of term play in May. When not rehearsing we work on other elements of acting. All abilities welcome; there is a part to play for everyone.

### **W3 FILM GENRE**

(Kim Miles)

*The Centre, Heatherlands 3*    *Autumn & Spring*    *Wednesday 2.00 - 4.00*

*Dates: 2026: Sept 16th & 30th, Oct 14th, Nov 4th & 18th, Dec 2nd*

*2027: Jan 6th & 20th, Feb 3rd & 24th, Mar 3rd & 24th*

There are many classes or categories of film that we can refer to as genre, such as westerns, musicals, film noir, gangsters etc. I would like to take some of these genres and investigate them by showing two/three complete film examples but discussing them at certain points: why certain shots have been chosen, the use of colour, (or black and white) to emphasise ideas, the clues that make it that genre, the use of lighting, point of view and so on. The films chosen would be both key examples of that genre and, just to make it REALLY interesting, films that subvert or twist the ideology of that genre. I am NOT going to choose genre that might upset or offend any members of the group, so no horror, violent crime etc. I will always add a list of films that could take you further.

#### **W4 CREATIVE WRITING**

(Sue Row)

St Mary's Church, Beacon Room

Wednesdays 2.00 - 3.15

Dates: 2026: Sept 16th & 30th, Oct 14th, Nov 4th & 18th, Dec 2nd

2027: Jan 6th & 20th, Feb 3rd & 24th, Mar 10th & 24th, Apr 21st,

May 5th & 19th

This group works as a self-directed workshop with members taking turns to read out their pieces of creative writing, be that short fiction, poetry or creative non-fiction. A theme is usually set for the following session but members are free to use it or not as they wish. We are a friendly group of amateur writers who give each other lots of encouragement and help. Writing is purely for our own pleasure and beginners are most welcome.

#### **W5 PLAY READING**

(Jan Gransden)

At home in Ferndown

Thursdays 2.00 - 4.00

We read a range of plays, old and new and meet a range of playwrights. The group is not involved in performance so you can relax. Where else could you be a stropky teenager, a clever detective, a young lover or a wicked villain for the afternoon? Just bring your voice!

#### **W6 FILM STUDIES**

(Kim Miles)

The Centre Heatherlands, 3 Autumn & Spring

Fridays 2.00 - 4.30

Dates: 2026: Sept 18th, Oct 2nd & 16th, Nov 6th & 20th, Dec 4th

2027: Jan 8th & 22nd, Feb 5th & 26th, Mar 12th

If you are a film enthusiast then please come along and join our group. We meet fortnightly and our aim is to watch, enjoy and then discuss the merits of the film. We aim to show a wide variety of films from our sizeable library and new releases as they become available. We encourage group participation and ask members to recommend films they would like us to show. We are a friendly and welcoming group.

#### **W16 READERS CIRCLE**

(Sandy Keen)

Ferndown Library, Upstairs

Wednesdays 11.15 - 12.30

Dates: 2026: Sept 16th, Oct 21st, Nov 18th, Dec 9th

2027: Jan 20th, Feb 24th, Mar 17th, Apr 21st, May 19th

If you enjoy reading join us in discussing modern books from different genres. A list of books will be available at the start of the term so you can source them from your library or bookshop/online. The book for discussion in September is 'A Spy Alone' by Charles Beaumont, an international spy thriller set in modern-day Britain. Our monthly meetings are friendly, lively, and great fun.

#### **W19 NEW BOOK SHARE AND CHAT**

(Helen Deakin)

At home in Ferndown

Thursdays 2.00 - 4.00

Dates: 2026: Oct 1st, Dec 3rd

2027: Feb 4th, Mar 4th, May 6th, July 8th, Aug 5th

Bring along a book with you to discuss and share with the group.

#### **W20 NEW AGATHA CHRISTIE BOOK GROUP**

(Judith Hodges)

At home in Northbourne

Wednesdays 11.15 - 12.15

Dates: 2026: Oct 7th, Nov 4th, Dec 9th

2027: Jan 6th, Feb 3rd, Mar 3rd, May 5th

Each month we will read and discuss one of Ms Christie's classic 'Who Done It?'s. In October this will be her first novel, published in 1920, 'The Mysterious Affair at Styles'.

## LIFESTYLE

### Y1 INDIAN COOKING

(Luise Cornes)

At home in Ferndown

Autumn

Fridays 10.00 - 2.00

Dates: 2026: Nov 27th

Do some Indian cooking with Luise, and eat the results. Class of 3. Food will not be too hot but if you do not like spicy food please do not sign up. There will be a £10 charge to cover ingredients.

### Y3 ONCE A TERM SKITTLES

(Bev Boon)

Saturdays 12.00 - 4.00

Dates: To be advised

Enjoy a pub lunch and company at suitable pubs in Dorset followed by a game of social skittles. No partners or teams are required as it will be individual and non-competitive. The pub lunch will be pre-booked in advance and paid for on the day. All abilities welcome, meet new people and have a fun afternoon.

### Y4 HEALING, SELF HEALING, EXPLORING ENERGIES WORKSHOP

(Elaine Astin)

KGV, Regency Room

Spring

Fridays 12.15 - 1.30

Dates: 2027: Feb 26th, Mar 5th, 12th & 19th, Apr 23rd

Experience exploring energies all around us to harness and utilise for our own and others' wellbeing. We move around so wear something comfortable.

### Y9 BON VIVEURS

(Doreen & Dennis Quilter)

Dates to be advised

Afternoons 12.30 - 2.30

This group makes monthly visits to enjoy different cuisines and the company of like-minded 'Bon Viveurs'. Venue suggestions are very welcome from group members. Meals/drinks are always payable direct to the restaurant by members and you may be asked to provide a financial commitment where numbers are number-dependent or a deposit is required. Dates will vary throughout the year but will usually be on a Thursday or Friday.

### Y17 U3A SOLO LUNCH

(Bev Boon)

Second Saturday of each month

12.00 onwards

The lunches offer a chance for members who live alone to meet socially on one Saturday of each month, usually the second Saturday, for a pub lunch and a chat. Does not run in December. An email is sent out by the leader of the group before each meal giving details of the venue. Places are allocated on a first-to-reply basis.

### Y21 CHAIR YOGA

(Caroline Thompson)

KGV, Regency Room

Autumn & Spring

Wednesdays 11.00 - 11.45

Chair yoga for seniors; a modified form of yoga that allows individuals to practise traditional yoga poses while sitting on or standing with the support of a chair. It is beneficial for older adults as it helps maintain their independence, mobility and overall well-being.

## **Y22 PERFORMING ARTS**

*(Anu Patel)*

Members will be invited to go to theatres, cinemas, classical music concerts, art galleries, ballet, dance and all arts related activities throughout the year. Booking forms will be sent to all members interested in going to any particular event two or three months in advance of the event, whenever possible. Any queries regarding the group or events can be directed to me via email or post (for those who do not have access to emails or mobile phones).

## **Y24 AIR FRYER COOKING**

*(Anne Hutton)*

*The Centre, Heatherlands, 3 Autumn Wednesdays 2.00 - 4.00*

*Dates: 2026: Oct 21st*

New to air frying? Still just cooking chips? Let's expand our range of meals. Members will need to bring their own machine and there will be a small charge for ingredients. This is a repeat of last year's group.

## **WALKS**

### **Z1 3 MILE WALKS**

*(Richard Buxton)*

*Fridays 10.00 start*

*Second Friday of each month (not July or August)*

Ten walks of around 3 miles with no stiles and a point of interest. Details sent out on the Monday before each walk.

### **Z2 5 MILE WALKS**

*(Anne Sharp)*

*Fridays 10.00 start*

*Dates: 2026: Sept 25th, Oct 23rd, Nov 27th*

*2027: Jan 29th, Feb 26th, Mar 19th, Apr 30th, May 21st, June 25th*

Circular walks within 25 miles of Ferndown, of 5-6 miles in length, mostly with few stiles or steep gradients, though you should be confident of walking for 2.5 hours on sometimes rough or inclined tracks. Points of interest will be noted by email prior to the walk and post-walk refreshments are sometimes taken by members of the group at a nearby location (self-arranged).

### **Z9 SATURDAY AFTERNOON WALKS**

*(Robert Wellman)*

*Dates :2026: Sept 19th, Oct 17th, Nov 21st*

*1.30 start*

*2027: Jan 23rd, Feb 20th, Mar 20th, Apr 17th, May 15th*

We meet once a month for a gentle afternoon walk of around three miles and including a refreshments stop. Each walk features a different local location and details are emailed to members in advance. Dates may be subject to change in poor weather.

### **Z11 NEW AVON VALLEY PATH WALK**

*(Clare Clayton & Bob Reeve)*

*Mondays 9.45 start*

*Dates: 2026: Sept 21st, Oct 12th*

*2027: Apr 26th, May 10th & 24th, June 7th*

The Avon Valley Path walk follows the river Avon for 34 miles between the historic centres of Salisbury and Christchurch. Join us for six Monday outings when we trace its course using designated footpaths, (the longest leg is 8 miles and the shortest 3.5 miles). We'll meet on each occasion at the Furlong long-stay car park in Ringwood. Bus routes X3 and 125 will take us to our start points for each section on the walk (and return us to Ringwood!) so remember to bring your bus pass. There will be appropriate stops for coffee and lunch.

## **CYCLING**

### **Z10 RUSTY RIDERS**

(Vivian Dedman)  
Thursdays 10.00 - 11.30

*Dates: 2026: Sept 24th, Oct 22nd, Nov 19th, Dec 3rd*

*2027: Jan 21st, Feb 25th, Mar 25th, Apr 22nd, May 20th*

This will be a leisurely cycle using, in the main, the Castleman Trailway, cycle paths and gravel tracks. We will meet at Ferndown Forest Golf Club BH22 9PH, ready to set off at 10am. We will cycle for about an hour/8 miles, stopping as necessary, and return to the golf club for a coffee. Cycle helmets must be worn. Electric bikes are welcome.

## **DATA PROTECTION REGULATIONS**

We are required by legislation to obtain your authority to use any of your information as follows:

- to store it securely for membership purposes
- to communicate with you as a Fu3a member
- to share with the leaders of those Groups where you are a member
- to send you general information about the Third Age Trust (the national organisation to which U3As are affiliated)

You will find a statement on the Enrolment Form which you should **ONLY** sign if you agree to your information being used in this way.

Please be advised that you can request for your data not to be used for any of these purposes at any time by contacting us:

**Email: [fu3a@ferndownu3a.co.uk](mailto:fu3a@ferndownu3a.co.uk)**

## VENUES

- **Barrington Centre**, Penny's Walk, Ferndown BH22 9TH
- **Ferndown Village Hall (FVH)**, Church Road, Ferndown BH22 9ET
- **Ferndown Youth Centre (FYC)**, Mountbatten Drive, Ferndown BH22 9FB
- **Ferndown British Legion (FBL)**, Church Road, Ferndown BH22 9ET
- **King George V Pavilion (KGV)**, Peter Grant Way, Ferndown BH22 9EN
- **St Anthony's Church Hall**, West Moors, 8 Pinehurst Road,  
West Moors BH22 0AP
- **St Mary's Church**, Church Road, Ferndown BH22 9EU
- **The Centre (formerly Heatherlands)**, Barns Road, Ferndown BH22 8XH
- **West Moors Memorial Hall (WMMH)**, 231 Station Rd,  
West Moors, BH22 0HZ
- **Ferndown Library**, Penny's Walk, BH22 9TH
- **Heathland House Care Home (HHCH)**, 405 Wimborne Rd E, Ferndown  
BH22 9LZ
- **Parley Place Care Home (PPCH)**, 300 Christchurch Rd, West Parley,  
BH22 8SL
- **United Church Ferndown**, Wimborne Road East, Ferndown BH22 9NF
- **West Moors Memorial Bowls Club**, Station Road, West Moors,  
BH22 0HZ
- **West Parley Community Hub (WPCH)**, 275 Christchurch Rd,  
West Parley, BH22 8SQ

**NOTE:** All these venues are accessible **except for The Studio at Ferndown Village Hall.**

1. Ferndown British Legion has a stair lift
2. Ferndown Library has a lift
3. Disabled parking is available at: St Mary's Church, The Centre, St Anthony's and KGV.

**More details, maps and parking information are available via the  
FU3A Members' Portal (see page 7)**

## **HEALTH AND SAFETY**

Your health and safety are very important and we make every effort to ensure that the premises we use for our groups are fit for purpose.

Not only do we conduct our own Health and Safety risk assessments but we also require those whose venues we use to send us their own risk assessments.

However, we must stress that everyone attending Fu3a Groups has a personal responsibility for their own safety.

This means:

- looking where you are going
- being aware of cables and leads
- not lifting anything that is too heavy
- being aware of slippery surfaces
- being aware of others around you

Should an accident occur your Group Leader will follow the reporting procedure, including the completion of the necessary forms.

## **PHOTOGRAPHS**

We sometimes take photos to use in displays, on the Fu3a Website or on our FACEBOOK page.

It is your responsibility to exclude yourself from any photographs when they are taken if you do not wish to be included in this way.

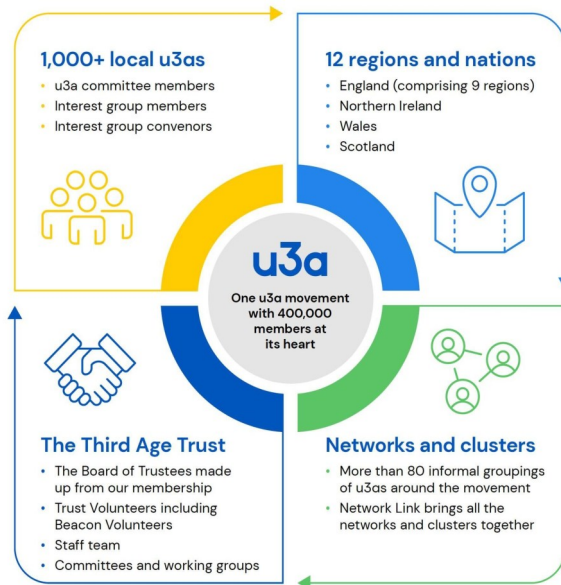
## ACCESSIBILITY

We endeavour to make all Groups accessible to those with mobility problems, but unfortunately this is not always possible.

On page 33 are the details for each venue, including accessibility (whether there is a lift or stair-lift) and whether there is disabled parking.

Please check the venue details for each Group you are applying for and, to avoid disappointment, only apply for those Groups you can access.

**We want everyone to get the very best experience from their membership of Fu3a.** If you have any special requirements to make life easier for you, e.g. you need to be near the front of a group, or you need access for a mobility scooter, please ensure you make your Group Leader/s aware of your needs before the commencement of your group/s.



# **The Fu3a year 2026 - 2027**

## **AUTUMN TERM 2026**

**14th September - 11th December**

**Half term**

**26th - 30th October**

## **SPRING TERM 2027**

**4th January - 25th March**

**Half term**

**15th - 19th February**

## **SUMMER TERM 2027**

**19th April - 28th May**

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