

Greetings Members!



I'm just back from Keukenhof tulip fields in the Netherlands, which was glorious! As an experiment, we travelled there with Shearings - we were the youngest on the coach! In the Mauritshuis in The Hague I was barged by a rude man in front of Vermeer's painting *The Girl with a Pearl Earring*. I overbalanced onto the be-sandalled foot of the lady next to me: "Watch out Sue!" she yelled. I turned round to apologise, only to find I'd trodden on one of our own

BSu3a members! Sorry Helen! Great minds...but small world!

Our next **monthly meeting** is on **Monday 11 May** at the Methodist Church. **Doors open at 1.30pm** for trips and stalls, teas & coffees.

May's talk is by **David Webb former Yellow Coat on the TV series Hi de Hi**. David enjoyed a long career as a performer in both theatre and television including eight years in the BBC sitcom *Hi De Hi*. Together with his twin brother, they were the Webb Twin Yellow coats! David's talk on his 30-year career includes singing, comedy and clips of his *Hi De Hi* colleagues, Su Pollard, Paul Shane, Ruth Madoc.

**My Life as a
'Hi De Hi'
Yellowcoat**

David Webb had a long and successful career in showbusiness with his twin brother Tony. **THE WEBB TWINS** will best be remembered as the twin Yellowcoats in the long-running BBC comedy series 'Hi De Hi'.

Before that, they were appearing in theatres across the country with some of our best loved performers including Dame Vera Lynn, Sir Harry Secombe, Bruce Forsyth and Roy Castle.

In his illustrated talk, David tells of the early days in his career and how he and Tony ended up at Maplins Holiday Camp.

Membership 2026

The new membership year started on 1 April. You are still able to renew your membership for only £10 until 31 March 2027. Membership cards are being issued at the monthly meetings at the Membership desk in the lobby. No cash please, but card and bank transfers are possible. Any problems email: membership@bsu3a.org.uk.

Our **New Members' Meeting** on Monday 27 April saw a healthy influx of new members, with several expressing an interest in joining the History, Family History & Sign Language groups. The popular suggestion for a new sign language group came from one of our new members! All groups are listed in the diary sheet (paper copies available to collect at monthly meetings) & on the website:

<https://bishopsstortford.u3asite.uk/groups>

Discount venues in town Caffein in Florence Walk, Garden Terrace Café (Causeway Park), Maison Rami (Church Street), Coopers (Bridge Street) all give discounts of 15% on production of a BSu3a membership card. Rajdhani (Market Square) discounts 10% lunchtimes only; & Stortford independent Newspaper Online discounts nearly 50%.

Members can also donate to our u3a by quoting BSu3a when booking holidays with **Riviera & Hurtigruten** travel companies which will pay a % of the cost of your holiday to our u3a.

Are you a non-swimmer or need improvement?

We've been approached recently by Kerry Thake, Swim Manager at Grange Paddocks, who is Rosemary & the late Jack Treves' daughter. Kerry is currently looking at setting up adult swimming lessons at Grange Paddocks on **Fridays at 9:30am**, and she wants to see if there might be any interest among our members.

You would not need to be a member of Grange Paddocks Pool & Gym to take part in these sessions.

These would be school term-time, teacher-led sessions, catering to a range of abilities. This could include complete beginners who may feel anxious about getting into the water, as well as those who used to enjoy swimming and would like to return to it in a supportive environment, or who would like to improve their swimming skills.

Secondly, in days past BSu3a members previously attended a u3a Aquarobics class, but there wasn't enough interest at the time to sustain this. As Aqua is currently popular again, Kerry would also like to know if this is something our members might now be interested in. If so, we'd be very happy to explore setting up similar sessions as well. If interested, please answer the survey below.

Please complete this brief survey to indicate your interest in either session by right clicking on the hyperlink below:

<https://s.surveyplanet.com/m6ap6hst>

I have circulated by separate email the fourth edition of our regional newsletter **East of England Bulletin** by **Ian Matthews, CEO of the Eastern Region**, who is our lynchpin co-ordinator with the rest of the East of England & Third Age Trust network. The bulletin contains information on online courses & talks which you can sign up to and news from other u3a's around the nation.



Annual Festival in York 1-3 July

A 3-day extravaganza of all things u3a – crafts, workshops, talks, exhibitions, performances. The costs are £18 per day or £50 for all 3 days. Accommodation can be booked at York University where the festival takes place, or independently within York. (I will be going by train) You will need to book & pay for your festival (see link below) and transport yourselves. Please note that there will be a fair amount of walking required around the university for this event.

Please note that tickets and accommodation are booked via separate links, which you'll find below. Press control/click below to be taken to the site:

[Book your Festival ticket](#)

Magazine – 2026 Edition

Please send your contributions of stories, poems, photos, descriptions of u3a trips etc for the 2026 magazine to our Editor Maureen at magazine@bsu3a.org.uk. We will only publish the magazine once we receive enough content!

Barbara Chappell, RIP

It is with great sadness that I must let you know that we have lost a true stalwart of our u3a community. Barbara Chappell, who up until recently was running our Plants & Gardens group, died after a short illness in mid-April. Feeling unwell, she and went to stay with her daughter in Luton, where she was admitted to hospital and died the next day. We are relieved she didn't endure an extended period of pain and discomfort. It is still a shock, especially to members of Plants & Gardens group and those members who have known her for so long. Even a short acquaintance with Barbara left you in no doubt as to her vibrant & jolly character: she was great company. We will miss her dearly.



Barbara's funeral will be at **11.30am at Parndon Wood, Harlow on Friday 15 May** and afterwards at the Rugby Club (CM23 2QE) for those wishing to attend. If you can't make Barbara's funeral and would like to make a donation in her memory, please send it to: <https://drobinson.co.uk/donate-in-memory/Chappell>

2026 Trips

Our trips Organiser, Lesley, is busy devising future trips for the summer and a Christmas Lunch. She is assisted by Maria Jackson, so look forward to a varied calendar of trips again this year! If you have requests for trips please contact trips@bsu3a.org.uk.

Thursford Christmas 2026 Trip: on Thursday 19 November 2026 is now full. trips@bsu3a.org.uk. If you wish to add your name to a waiting list please contact trips@bsu3a.org.uk. The cost is £71 inclusive of coach.



Another **Bure Valley and Paddle Steamer trip** has been organised for **Monday 1st June**.

This trip has 10 places still available with the same timings, itinerary and price as the 10 June trip, which is now full. If you would like to join the 1 June trip please email trips@bsu3a.org.uk.

See <https://share.google/veHI2qtyNaOGjfw1w> for details.



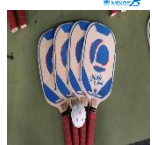
Trip to Hitchin Lavender Fields: Friday 17 July – spaces still available! Departing 12 noon and returning by 5pm, this trip includes a guided tour & a cream tea. Cost is £36. If interested please email chair@bsu3a.org.uk or sign up at the Trips desk in the Oasis Lounge. Payment by cheque or bank transfer only please: Bishop's Stortford University, Sort code 60-02-36 Account Number 67945651 Using reference Hitchin & your membership number.

When considering taking part on trips, please consider your own needs, mobility and ability to cope with the demands of each group/trip. All trip participants are kindly asked to please ensure that you have all completed your ICE (In Case of Emergency) contact details on the reverse of your membership cards.

Groups News



New Sign Language group: the initial meeting of the new sign language group will meet on **15 May at Caffelnn** & will decide how to manage this new group. Our Groups manager will be in touch with those already on the list.



Pickleball – the group is up & running! It meets on Friday afternoons at the Herts & Essex sports hall in Beldams Lane.



New Choir! We're in a position to set up a new u3a choir but before booking venues and our MD we need singers! If you can hold a tune and are interested in singing in this new Stortford u3a choir (potentially early Tuesday afternoons) please email groups@bsu3a.org.uk.



Yoga Group: welcomes new members in our spacious new venue of St Michael's Mead Community Centre. Our new yoga teacher, Kerry Tiffin leads classes personalised to our members, designed to build strength, flexibility and inner peace. The u3a Yoga Class meets Wednesdays 11.45 to 12.45- £7 a session.



Spanish: we have 43 members in our various Spanish groups, which range from beginners to advanced, chat, and grammar groups. We only have 1 member in Beginners Spanish so if you're looking to learn from scratch, now is a good time to sign up!



Italian: by request, we are looking to set up a second Beginners' Italian group. If you're interested in joining this new group, please contact Judith at groups@bsu3a.org.uk.

Committee News

You will be aware that our u3a has an active **Facebook** page which is monitored by our Editor, Maureen (<https://www.facebook.com/BSU3A>). Our Secretary, David Jacobs, has recently volunteered to also assist with **Social Media** advertising and comms. So if you have any news or u3a requests you'd like to see on social media please contact David or Maureen either by facebook messenger or at secretary@bsu3a.org.uk.

If you'd like to attend a committee meeting, please email the Secretary and he'll send you the details of the next meeting.

I attach the **Groups Information/diary sheet**. Hard copies will be at the meeting on **Monday 11 May** & in the library & tourist information office.

See you on Monday 11 May!

Sue RJ

Dr Sue Rayner Jacobs
Chair, Bishop's Stortford u3a
chair@bsu3a.org.uk



BS.u3a Website <https://bishopsstortford.u3asite.uk/>