



Eastleigh District Bulletin February 2026

Editor – Malcolm High

Eastleigh district u3a registered charity number 1181236

Email xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx or mobile xxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Message From Our Chairman

Hi all, I trust you all enjoyed the Christmas festivities and that the new year has started positively for you all.

I'm still currently on my extended holiday in sunny and very hot Australia, with current temperatures around the 42 degrees mark. I understand this is very different to the conditions you have at home. I hope you are all remaining as warm as possible and that you have still been able to attend the many activities we offer to you.

I do hope you see some improvement in this cold weather you are currently suffering although it must be nice to see some of the white stuff as that seems to be such a rarity these days.

A very happy new year and I look forward to seeing you all on my return.

Andy-Chair

Sue White

Please note that Sue no longer has a landline and, apart from email, she can only be contacted using her mobile number xxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Glenda Biggs

Also, Glenda no longer has a landline so please only use her mobile number xxxxxxxxxxxxxx



Welcome to the new members who have joined since December

Louise Cameron, Joan Dawkins, Paul and Stephanie Dibden, Lesley Dickson, Teresa Hunt, Rosemary Jones, Gill Lob, Lyn Rouse, and Jane Slowgrove.

For help or information about membership please contact our Membership Secretary Sue High on xxxxxxxxxxxx or email xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

We hope you will join some of our groups which are an opportunity to meet new people and make new friends. Details of the groups and leaders will be found on the notice board on display in the hall at the Open Meetings.

For up-to-date information about u3a activities please see the News, All Events and Groups pages on our website eastleigh.u3asite.uk. If you would like to find out more about our groups please contact Pat White on xxxxxxxxxxxx

Speakers for the coming months at Open Meetings 2 to 4 pm

- 18th February** **Blue Lamp Trust: Promoting and enhancing community safety in a variety of ways. E.g. Individual advice on home security, long-life smoke alarms and cyber security.**
- 18th March** **Bobbie Darbyshire: 'A Beginning, a Muddle and an End'. Where do novelists get their ideas? From initial spark to realization on the page, Bobbie explains how the complex world of character, location, plot and subplot arrives in a writer's mind.**
- 15th April** **Fran Sandham: 'A Solo Walk Across Africa'. The account of Fran's 3,500 mile solo walk coast-to-coast across Africa. From the Atlantic on Namibia's Skeleton Coast to the Indian Ocean at Zanzibar. Completely alone. No back-up, no support team, no porters, no journalists and no strings attached.**

u3a College Lunch

Three course lunches at the Eastleigh Technical College are held at 1200 on Thursdays in The Avenue Restaurant cost £18.00 Dates for the college year are as follows



2026
Feb 26th, Mar 19th, Apr 16th,
May 21st, June 11th.
For bookings and payments
please contact Sue White on
XXXXXXXXXXXXX or



XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

or see Sue White at the Open Meeting. Payments may also be made via BACS quoting number 119.

Out and About and Pub Lunch Groups

Dear Members,

I have been ill for the last eight weeks with pains in my legs, waist and buttocks and have had to resort to using crutches to get around. I am under my GP and have had X- Rays which did not show any problem. Now I have to have a load of blood tests to try and diagnose the problem I have. I am living on pain killers.

It is with sadness and regret that as from today I am stepping down from running these groups and we need someone to step up as it would be a great loss to lose these groups.

No dates or venues have been arranged for lunches at present.
No dates or destinations have been arranged for out and about.
I hope someone comes forward to run these groups as they are very popular. I am always willing to give advice.

Finally I would like to thank all group members for the help and support you have given me.

All best wishes, Terry Holmes. 👍👍 XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

Events team visit Blue Reef Aquarium and Gunwharf Quays 24th February 2026

Sue Aburrow will be leading the visit. Now she has final numbers she has been able to work out that the cost of the entrance and the coach is £37.00. If you have already paid a deposit you will need to pay £27.

Here are our bank details:

Bank account name: Eastleigh District u3a

Account number: [44192560](#)

Sort code: [30.92.94](#)

If you pay by BACS, please include the event reference code ([154](#)) on your instruction form. If you pay by cheque, please make this payable to Eastleigh District u3a and write on the back what your payment is for. Please email Sue to let her know if you're posting this. Sue can also take payment at the next Open Meeting on 21st February.

If you are posting a cheque Sue's address is: xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Please be aware that if you reserve a place on an outing or event, you will be responsible for the full cost, as pricing is based on the number of members attending. Of course, we'll make every effort to find someone to buy your ticket, but this isn't always possible.

Classical Music Group

All group members please take note that February's meeting in the Grace Mears Room at Fair Oak Village Hall has been moved back to Tuesday 3rd March at the slightly earlier time of 1000-1200. This is due to the final date for a trip I signed up for has now landed on the same day as our usual meeting so I'm double booked. Please accept my apologies for this change. I hope this does not cause you any inconvenience.

We would also love to welcome any new members to the group. We go to around 10 classical music concerts through the year and meet monthly on the last Tuesday of the month at the Village Hall at 1030-1230 where we learn about music and composers and listen to excerpts from the next concert we'll be attending.

Mal High

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Walking Groups

There are 2 walking groups in our district u3a.



Our recent walk through Cranberry Park

The Amiable Amblers: This group meets on the first Wednesday of each month. As the name suggests, the pace is gentle, the routes are mostly on the level and the total distance never exceeds 3 miles. There is usually a refreshment stop. If interested, contact Ann Beeching on xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx or [xxxxxxxxxxxx](tel:xxxxxxxxxxxx)

The Pacemakers: This group meets on the third Tuesday of each month. Although not excessive, the pace on this group is moderate, may include a little more challenging terrain and the total distance is up to 6 miles. Again, a refreshment stop is usually included. We're a friendly bunch but, unfortunately, we've lost some members due to ill health so we'd love to see some new members join us. If interested contact Ann Beeching as above or Malcolm High on xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx or [xxxxxxxxxxxx](tel:xxxxxxxxxxxx).



Knit and Natter

Knit & Natter has started again and meets on the 4th Friday each month, new members very welcome. More details from Gillian Spanner on xxxxxxxxxxxx



Ping Pong



We are always looking for new members to join our players. You don't have to be good players as we are all at different levels. Some are good but if you are like me I play to enjoy myself. There is plenty of laughter and chat including a cup of tea

or coffee with a biscuit.

We meet on the first Friday of the month at 10.00am to 12 o'clock midday at The Pavilion on the Park in the Woodpecker Hall. Hope to see some new players.



Gardening Club

We meet on the 2nd Wednesday of the month. At Fair Oak Village Hall in the Grace Mears Room. From 10.30am to midday.

We discuss all sorts of gardening plans and problems. Also about famous Gardeners and gardens. We go out to visit different Gardens. Sometime with guided tours. Recently we went to Saville Gardens for the day. (Picture right).

If you are interested in either group, please contact Sue Aburrow on xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx or xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx



WELFARE



If you or someone else you know is not feeling so good and would like a card or chat please do contact me. My job is to make sure that you know that we are thinking of you. I cannot do this if you don't tell me.

My contact details are xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx or xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

For u3a Members, by u3a Members

The ethos of u3a is to live, laugh, learn. We are here to help each other. We need your support. The best way you can help our u3a to keep going is to volunteer. There is always something you could help with; make the tea at Open Meetings, help organize a group, be part of the committee. Please ask a committee member if you would like to be part of the whole group, not just the bits that you do now. Thank you.