

Horsham
u3a

Newsletter
Summer
2025



<https://horsham.u3asite.uk>

Registered Charity No. 1054606

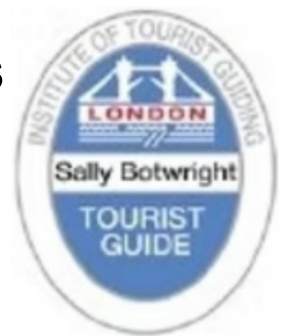
General Meeting **u3a** Horsham
Tuesday 15 July 2025 2.15pm

AT: THE HOLBROOK CLUB NORTH HEATH LANE HORSHAM RH12 5PJ



Our Speaker **SALLY BOTWRIGHT**
“London Curiosities and Oddities”

Sally was born in London, has always loved the city and is a Blue Badge Guide. She loves to tell the stories of the areas and the people who bring them alive, in an interesting and entertaining way. In 2015 she was delighted to become a Freeman of the City of London.



London is full of oddities and curiosities which she has discovered with her tours. Where is the glistening grasshopper?

What is Quasimodo doing in London?

We will hear many more fascinating details.

The Holbrook Club is situated on bus routes 61, 71 and 200
Ample free parking is available

L e a r n L a u g h L i v e

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"Live in the sunshine, swim in the sea,
drink in the wild air," and
"Summertime is always the best of what might be".

"Deep summer is when laziness finds respectability."
Sam Keen

CHAIR'S LETTER



Welcome to the Summer Newsletter for Horsham u3a.

I hope that you have all been able to enjoy the wonderful summer weather!

Our open event on 20th May was highly successful and it was great that the chair of Horsham Council, Tony Bevis attended. Thanks to all who helped make this such a success.

Our next meeting will be on **15th July. Sally Botwright** will be talking to us about London Curiosities and Oddities. I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at this event.

Please remember that if you want a cup of tea or coffee, bring your own cup or mug!

Further details of upcoming events are on our website. <https://horsham.u3asite.uk/events/> and also on our facebook page.

Sadly, the committee is still short on members. The most urgent vacancy is for a vice chairperson. Here are the bullet points for the role:

- **To work with the chairman and other members of the committee**
- **To stand in for the chairman when the chairman is not available**
- **To be a 'can do' person**
- **To bring new ideas**
- **To understand why we are here on the committee.**

If you think you might be able to do this role but are unsure, then still please contact me. I am happy to answer questions and talk about the role.

With best wishes, *Simon*

Chair, Horsham u3a



SECRETARY'S NOTES

Two important events have taken place since the March newsletter: the AGM and the Open Event.

The well-attended AGM took place on 25 March and a brief resumé of the meeting is as follows:

The minutes for last year's AGM were approved, as were the Chair's report and the Treasurer's report. Tim Hossack has completed his final financial year as examiner of the accounts and an Independent Examiner will be appointed for next year.

It was agreed that the accounts would, in future, be made available to members prior to the AGM to allow enough time for consideration.

A full report of the meeting and a list of the appointed committee members is available on the website.

It was very gratifying to attend the annual Open Event held on 20 May and to see so many visitors coming through the door, nearly 50% of whom had heard about the event via an existing member, so thank you everyone for spreading the word. The teams from the groups were kept very busy chatting with the guests and came away with lists of potential new members.

We were honoured by a visit from the Chairman of Horsham District Council, Tony Bevis, who spent time chatting to all the group leaders and guests.

A very good day was had by all!

Kind regards

Vivien

Secretary



The committee wishes to **WELCOME** all these first-time members who have joined us recently:

Fran Adenis
Simon Barnes
John Boulton
Helen Bradley
Susan Brosnan
Jean Clarke
Terry Connolly
Siobhán Freeman
Ken George
Christine Gilbert
Dave & Jean Grainger
Janet Guyatt
Pauline Hall
Jackie Hart
Phil Hasluck
Flo Hill
Jean Judd
Linda Lee



Joey & Ronald Lessem
Jacqueline Moir
Mari Oliver
Chris O'Riordan
Andrew & Lesley Oxenham
Sue Page
Marion Pennills
Anne Runcorn
Christine Sandford
Cheska & Thomas Scanlon
Mike Scott
Anna Sylvan
Margaret Todd
Berni Uwins
June Vine
Bob Wilson
Chris Wright



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

- 15 July 2025 - **Speaker - Sally Botwright**
London Curiosities and Oddities
- 16 September 2025 - **Speaker - Bill Gage**
Steaming Through Sussex
- 18th November 2025 - **Speaker - Helena Griffiths**
Half a Continent in 80 Days

Individual views, opinions and statements expressed in correspondence, letters, articles and other published material appearing in the Horsham u3a newsletter, are not necessarily those held by Horsham u3a or its committee.

ATTENTION



ALL MEMBERS

GENERAL MEETINGS

Our General Meetings take place at the **Holbrook Club, North Heath Lane, Horsham RH12 5PJ** usually at **2.15pm on the 3rd Tuesday** of every other month (January, May, July, September, November), with the AGM usually being held on the 4th Tuesday in March.
Bus routes 61, 71 and 200 serve the club.

These meetings, generally with a speaker, are **free for members to attend** and are also social occasions with complimentary tea/coffee after the talk when there is the chance to chat to fellow members and committee members.



'IT COSTS TO WASTE'

IT'S ESTIMATED THAT BILLIONS OF DISPOSABLE CUPS ARE USED AND SENT TO LANDFILL GLOBALLY, EVERY YEAR!

Do your bit to reduce this.

Stop single use cups and bring your own mug to the general meetings and events.

Your drink will taste so good from your own mug too.

Thank you, you're tea-riffic.



We Love Paperbacks

You don't own a paperback; you have it for a little while and then it moves on with its life. The best you can do is help it find a new good home.

Pam and Simon, who run our book stall, would be pleased to receive any paperbacks which you no longer need.

Bring them along to the general meetings, but please, please, **NO hardbacks**. Thank you.





ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS

PRAISE WHERE IT'S DUE

I know that you will all agree, it is uplifting to hear, when someone lets us know we are doing something right and appreciation is given.

The committee had a message from the son of a member to say that his mother was no longer able to attend due to ill health. He went on to say that everyone involved in Horsham u3a should be aware of his heartfelt thanks to the committee for organising such a fantastic and diverse programme, adding: 'It's a truly wonderful organisation'

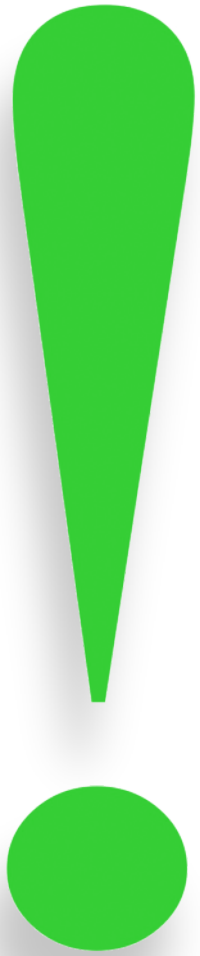
At the AGM in March, a lady spoke out and thanked everyone involved in running the Horsham u3a, and appreciation was given for all their hard work and commitment.

You can imagine how the committee and volunteers felt when getting this appreciation. However, sometimes the reverse is also true. Discourteous complaints can be very demoralising when everyone involved is a volunteer, working to their best ability, unseen, and doing all they can for the benefit of members.

If you have any suggestions, the committee would love to hear them, I can assure you they are appreciated, will not go unheard and those suggestions are always discussed and consideration is given to how they may be implemented.

Or better still, please contact the committee and offer your help if you are able.

Thank you for reading this,  Newsletter Co-ordinator.



To the committee, oh so wise,
With your skills, we're on the rise!
You made sure everything was set,
And fixed those things we all forget!

To the volunteers, a mighty crew,
Who worked so hard and powered through!
With your energy, cheer, and care,
You make events beyond compare!

So here's a thank you, loud and clear,
For all your help throughout the year!
We couldn't have done it, that's no lie—
Now let's all sit back and eat humble pie!



Images from the **OPEN EVENT**

Here are a few images from the Open Event on Tuesday, 20 May 2025.

Many more images will soon be on the website:
<https://horsham.u3asite.uk>



Continued.....



GROUP NEWS

Talk in french

A NEW GROUP FRENCH CONVERSATION

'Hello'
'How are you?'
'I'm fine, thank you, and you?'



"Bonjour"
"Comment ça va?"
"Je vais bien, merci, et vous?"



When?

1st Thursday of each month
at 10.30 a.m.

Where?

Upstairs in Bill's Function
Room

Format?

Very informal; one subject per
meeting

All levels of the language are welcome with the hope that more knowledgeable members can encourage those less capable.

If we have a great divergence in abilities, then we'll simply split into groups where members will feel comfortable and yet still be stretched.

email: french@horshamu3a.org.uk

If you would rather talk to someone, you can call, **Jill** (member of the group) on

GROUP NEWS

Towns and Villages Group 6 Veronica - tv6@horshamu3a.org.uk

VISIT TO FIRE STATION - MARCH 2025

The Horsham Fire Station has been operational since July 2023, and our visit was in March 2025. The building (known as Platinum House) looks huge from the outside and is just as impressive on the inside. We were welcomed by Green Watch, who are justly proud of their new premises. Nowadays it is a fire and rescue service, with more emphasis on rescue. It is the main training centre for Sussex, Surrey and Kent, and the rooms on the upper floor are exclusively for this purpose.

There were three fire appliances in readiness for call outs; one with an extending ladder for tall buildings (one of two in the area) and two others, ready to go. All the heavy equipment for rescue is neatly stacked along the side of the vehicle. They also carry their own water supply. It costs around £100,000 to equip each vehicle. Maintenance is done in a separate building at the rear of the site. The fire service also do home safety checks, help with smoke alarms and school visits.

A few brave souls in our party had a go with the fire hoses! (see picture). There was a call out during our visit and the crew made a very hasty exit. However it was a false alarm and they soon returned in time to finish their demonstration. A very interesting visit.



VISIT TO IFIELD BARN THEATRE - APRIL 2025

The theatre is located opposite St Margaret's Church in Ifield with the village pub nearby. The building consists of a 700 year old tithe barn, forming the theatre and dressing rooms, a former granary which is now the kitchen, and stables which have been converted to workshops. The first seats for the theatre came from the original Capitol Theatre in Horsham (they have since been updated with more comfortable seating!).

We went "backstage" and saw the dressing rooms, and the huge collection of costumes of every size and colour, hats and jewellery (fake) and uniforms, shoes and all sorts, neatly stored on shelves in plastic boxes. They do several shows a year, and of course a pantomime. They are very well supported, but newcomers to the audience are always welcome.

Their next production is a gory version of Dracula in September.



GROUP NEWS

Woven Tapestry - Proposed New Group

There has been a suggestion that a new group be set up called Woven Tapestry. You will learn how to make a small woven tapestry using different methods. You will need a wooden frame ideally 15" x 22" made from wood 1 1/4" x 3/4". You will also need a clamp to add the frame to a table.

If anybody is interested in joining this new group please get in touch with me so that we can discuss how to move this idea forward.'

Kind regards, Pam

Groups' Co-ordinator: groups@horshamu3a.org.uk



Recorder Rebels

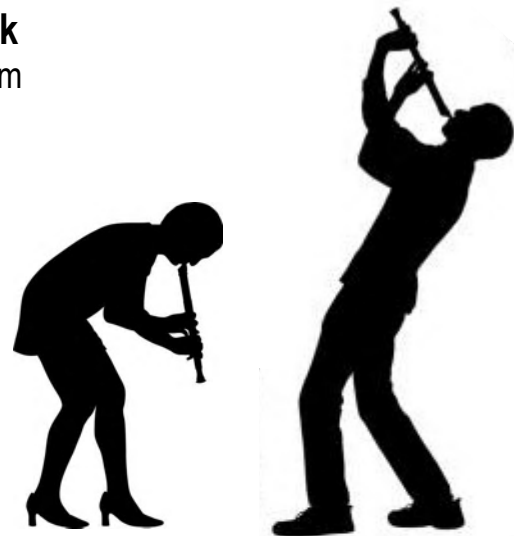
Group Leader: Pam recorders@horshamu3a.org.uk

When: Twice monthly on Thursday afternoons 2.30pm - 4.00pm
1st and 3rd Thursday

Venue: Horsham

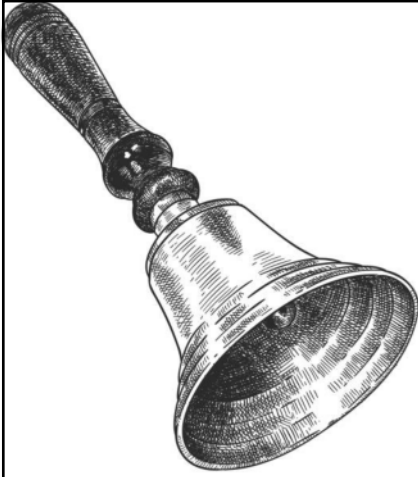
Did you learn recorder as a child or maybe you have always wanted to learn? Then we are the group for you. No previous musical ability is needed (although a little helps), just enthusiasm to learn with fun and laughter as we develop our skills together.

Contact Pam above and bring along your recorder and join us.



YOUR CONTRIBUTION TO THIS
NEWSLETTER IS NEEDED
PLEASE SHARE YOUR STORIES AND UPDATES
WITH ANNE:
newsletter@horshamu3a.org.uk

GROUP NEWS



Calling All Musical Ears

I took over a Handbells group when the very musically-talented Ann Smith moved away from Horsham in 2016 and I organised the “clangers” up until 2023, by which time covid had taken its toll and my own musical ears were doing their own ringing under the guise of tinnitus and so the group was forced to close.



Horsham u3a still has a 2-octave chromatic set of belleplates which are gathering dust. We are looking for somebody to take up the reins and resurrect a Handbells group because I know there are members out there who would be interested in participating. You don't have to be able to read music, just be able to count (in your head) at a steady pace. This was a fun group; we had a lot of laughs and it didn't matter if anybody “dinged” when they should have “donged”!

If you have any questions and want to talk to me about this in the first instance, please email: membership@horshamu3a.org.uk. Otherwise if you are interested in joining and/or running the group please contact Pam, our Groups' Co-ordinator, email: groups@horshamu3a.org.uk.

It's good for the little grey cells and you will enjoy it. *Jenny*



GARDENS GROUP

VISIT TO CHINTHURST GARDENS

Leader - David

Email: gardens@horshamu3a.org.uk

We visited these lovely gardens on a beautiful sunny day. What a treat they are. Last time we visited it poured with rain. The garden is a delight and their vegetable patch is to be envied.

We had coffee and cake served to us which made this marvellous visit even more memorable.

This is a photo of their scarecrow. It is one of the best scarecrows we have seen.

By Esme.

HELLO FROM PAM, YOUR GROUPS' CO-ORDINATOR

MESSAGE FROM GROUP LEADERS TO ALL MEMBERS

If you have decided to leave a group of which you have been a member, please would you, out of courtesy, tell the group leader of your decision. This means that he/she will be able to fill the vacancy as soon as possible either from the waiting list or when a new member enquires about joining the group.

THESE GROUPS HAVE VACANCIES (at the time of going to print)

If you would like to join any of them please contact the group leader listed below and quote your membership number when enquiring. **There may be vacancies in other groups: see the Groups Directory or on the website for contact details:-** <https://horsham.u3asite.uk/groups>

Dinner Dinosaurs - Pam

dinner@horshamu3a.org.uk

Discussion 1 - Rosalind

discussion1@horshamu3a.org.uk

Garden Visits1 - David/Angela

gardens1@horshamu3a.org.uk

Mahjong 2 / Rummikub - Brenda

mahjong2@horshamu3a.org.uk

Short-Mat Bowls 2 - Chris

shortbowls2@horshamu3a.org.uk

T&V 1 - Margaret

tv1@horshamu3a.org.uk

Ukulele - Rita

ukulele@horshamu3a.org.uk

Whodunnit? - Susan

whodunnit@horshamu3a.org.uk

MESSAGE TO GROUP LEADERS

When members join or leave your groups please will you tell me: groups@horshamu3a.org.uk.

Vacancies will be featured in the next newsletter as long as you tell me about them. **Please make a diary note to tell me by Friday 8 August if you have vacancies in your groups.** Thank you for your co-operation with this.

Pam

Groups' Co-ordinator Contact: groups@horshamu3a.org.uk

LUNCH 2 Who likes eating out?

Sadly our Lunch 2 group has recently closed, so if there is anybody out there who enjoys meeting friends, old or new, for a lunch once a month, or more often if you wish, and would like to re-start this group, please contact me. The group used to meet on the 1st Tuesday of the month but that is

not set in stone, so can be re-arranged to suit the group members.

Pam, Groups' Co-ordinator

Email: groups@horshamu3a.org.uk

Please send me your articles, news, views, group reports and ideas.

I would also be pleased to hear any suggestions for changes you would like to see to improve your newsletter.

Thank you, Anne. newsletter@horshamu3a.org.uk

“So far, So Good”

Talk by Malcolm Wells MBE 25 March 2025. Review by Marlene

Malcolm Wells, our speaker for the day, gave us an exuberant and fascinating glimpse into his interesting life. His talk covered his work with Canine Partners and the type of assistance the dogs can provide, his time in the army, receiving his MBE and his impressive record of charity work support.

In his early days as a young cello player, he applied to join the army and became part of the Royal Artillery Orchestra, said to be the oldest symphony orchestra in the world. As principal cellist he has played at banquets, Royal occasions and even football matches (cue for one of Malcolm’s amusing anecdotes – playing BBC’s “Match of the Day” theme for a match being shown on ITV).

The next stage of his career came in 1990 when the band received six months full-time training as paramedics before setting up a temporary base hospital in Kuwait, and then creating a field hospital nearer the front line for the Gulf War. Malcolm described the experience as shades of the M*A*S*H TV series and provided an amusing anecdote about a Scud missile landing nearby which had not gone off. Bomb disposal assistance was requested, but in the meantime they were told to surround the device with sand bags. Sadly, plenty of sand, no bags! We were shown pictures of the soldiers standing around the device, much to the dismay of the bomb disposal experts when they arrived later!

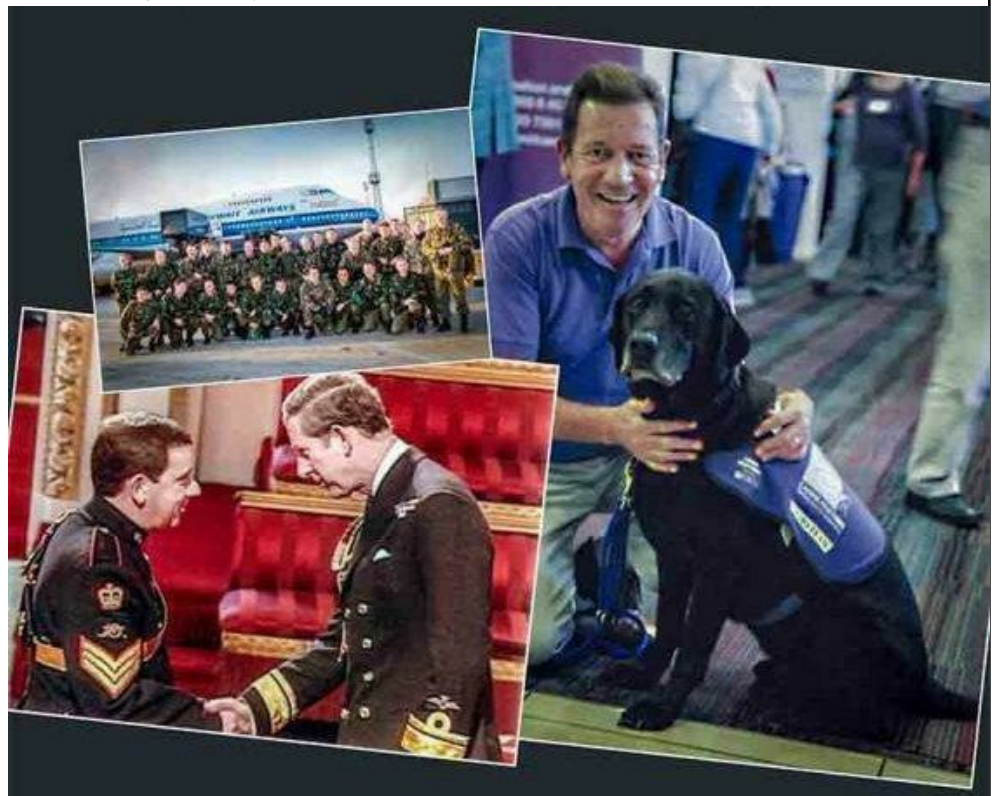
This was followed by a visit to Malta to assist in the island’s George Cross celebrations, with a story about a trumpeter in a rowing boat commencing

to play the “Last Post”, but ending up in the harbour water.

Back in the UK, Malcolm found he was to be awarded the MBE for services to charity. While at Buckingham Palace for the ceremony (describing himself as having more braid than Prince Charles) he was mistaken for a member of the Royal Household.

After his army career, Malcolm went on to work for a number of charities, which included a hospice, 16 years at Canine Partners, giving presentations countrywide as National Speaker, and as a volunteer for an educational charity “Literacy in a Box”. A last amusing comment concerning one fundraising activity, a parachute jump, had us all laughing – “Why would you choose to jump out of an aeroplane that is working perfectly well?”

The audience thoroughly enjoyed Malcolm’s light-hearted presentation of the amazing experiences of his life and work, and we thank him for sharing them.



USEFUL CONTACTS

Age UK Advice Line	01403 260560
Carers Support West Sussex	0300 028 8888
Citizens Advice Horsham	0808 278 7969
Community Link Personal Alarms	01403 215230
Dementia UK	0800 888 6678
Department for Work and Pensions	0345 605 6055
Fire Service, Living Safe and Well Visits	0345 872 9719
Gas Emergency	0800 111 999
Horsham Area Community Car Scheme	01403 250202
Horsham District Council (General)	01403 215100
Horsham Hospital	01403 227000
Horsham Library	01403 224353
Horsham Wellbeing	01403 215111
NHS Choices	111 (non emergency)
Scottish and Southern Energy	0345 071 9710
Silverline Helpline	0800 470 8090



ARE YOU GETTING MORE SCAM CALLS AGAIN?

This is a good site to check/report the numbers.

<https://who-called.co.uk>

Contributed by **Isobel**



I KNOW SOMEONE WHO CAN...

Gary Cooper holds the list of local contractors and workers who have been recommended by other u3a members.

If you are in need of having anything done, give **Gary a ring on:**
01403

He would also be interested in hearing from you with any recommendations.



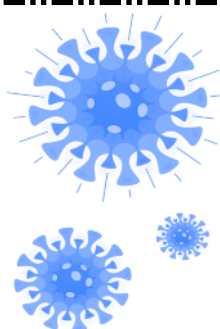
MESSAGE FROM THE HORSHAM U3A COMMITTEE

COVID 19, flu and other **viruses** are with us and although some may display mild symptoms, it may be more severe for others.

Therefore, the Horsham u3a committee asks you to please not attend meetings and events if you feel unwell or have cold/flu symptoms.

We trust you will use your judgement to keep each other safe.

Thank you, Your Committee.



Contact details : The Committee for 2025/2026

Officers

Chair	Simon Hill	chair@horshamu3a.org.uk
Vice Chair	Vacancy	
Treasurer	Jeff Brockett	treasurer@horshamu3a.org.uk
Secretary	Vivien Bennett	secretary@horshamu3a.org.uk

General Committee

Events' Co-ordinator	Jane Broomer	events@horshamu3a.org.uk
Groups' Co-ordinator	Pam Johnson	groups@horshamu3a.org.uk
Membership Sec & Data Controller	Jenny Faulkner	membership@horshamu3a.org.uk
Minutes' Secretary	Esme Cloherty	minutes@horshamu3a.org.uk
Social Co-ordinator	Vacancy	
Speakers' Secretary	Ann Valentine	speakers@horshamu3a.org.uk
Website Manager	Mike Harrod	web@horshamu3a.org.uk

All of the above can be reached with one single email committee@horshamu3a.org.uk

Non-Committee (attends committee meetings)

Newsletter Co-ordinator Anne David newsletter@horshamu3a.org.uk

We are urgently looking for a Vice Chair and a Social Co-ordinator.

If you think you can help, please contact Simon, Chair, or Vivien, Secretary, above.



Obituaries

It is with deep regret we have to announce the deaths of the following
Horsham U3A members:

Chris Duffy

Enid French

Our thoughts are with their families and friends at this sad time.

If you have any news, views, comments or contributions,
**PLEASE CONTRIBUTE TO THE NEWSLETTER
BEFORE Friday 15 AUGUST 2025**

Please send articles for the newsletter to Anne: newsletter@horshamu3a.org.uk



Committed to
Sustainability

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