

GENERAL MEETING 2.15PM TUESDAY 15 SEPTEMBER 2026

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

Speaker: Tony Harris 'Henry VIII' England's Favourite King

Tony is a professional comedian, raconteur and actor specialising in historical talks with an hysterical twist.

He dresses the part and has a unique blend of history and comedy.

For two years Tony lived and worked at Hampton Court Palace and played Henry VIII for the benefit of tourists.



His aim is to trick people into learning by making them laugh, but every point he makes is historically accurate.

See next page for November speaker

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

GENERAL MEETING

2.15PM TUESDAY 17 NOVEMBER 2026

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

Speaker: Chris Conlon BCA
'Mr Pearly King'

Chris Conlon BCA is a proud and active ambassador of London's historic Pearly tradition. As a Pearly King, he represents a vibrant part of London's cultural heritage — a tradition rooted in charity, community spirit, and the unmistakable sparkle of the iconic pearly suits.

His talk, Mr Pearly King, offers an engaging and colourful journey through the origins of the Pearly Kings and Queens, the craftsmanship behind their famous costumes, and the charitable work that has shaped the movement for generations.

Chris brings humour, warmth, and authenticity, giving audiences a lively insight into a tradition that continues to thrive today.



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**SIT DOWN AND ENJOY A 'CUPPA'
WHILE YOU READ YOUR NEWSLETTER**

CHAIR'S LETTER



Welcome to the Autumn newsletter for Horsham U3A.

I hope that you all are managing to keep well during the continuing very hot weather.

I am so glad that our general meetings continue to be well attended, and that many of you stay on afterwards to enjoy a cup of tea and a good chat with friends.

To help us, please remember to bring your own cup with you to the meetings!

The next meeting will be on the 15th September when Tony Harris will become Henry VIII. Don't miss it!!

Please spread the word about our open event too. It will be on the 30th September 2pm - 4.30pm at the Holbrook club. The Chair of Horsham council has kindly agreed to open the event for us.

I know Christmas seems a very long way off, but please put Wednesday 16th December 2026 in your diaries. Our Christmas event will be held at Broadbridge Heath FC from 2pm - 4.30pm. Lots of fun things are planned and I will be leading the carol singing!

Please consider volunteering to join us on the committee. We need someone to plan outings. If you think you can help, then contact me via email chair@horshamu3a.org.uk to arrange an informal chat.

Thanks to all committee members of Horsham U3A who help to make a difference. It is not only committee members: it is group leaders and of course our RUGs (members of our Really Useful Group). Your work is appreciated and we would not have a Horsham u3a without you.



With best wishes *Simon Hill* Chair, Horsham u3a

INTRODUCING OUR NEW VICE CHAIR, HORSHAM u3a



VICE-CHAIR'S UPDATE

I'm very happy to introduce myself as the new Vice-Chair of Horsham u3a.

I retired in September last year, but joined u3a a few months earlier after visiting the Open Event with my wife, Jean. We quickly found ourselves at home and are now involved in six groups.

It's been a wonderful experience, and I'm looking forward to supporting the committee in the years ahead.

Dave Grainger Vice-Chair, Horsham U3A





SECRETARY'S NOTES

Autumn 2026

After in-depth consideration and discussion, it was agreed by the Committee to dispense with the issuing of membership cards with immediate effect. The only times that members will require their membership number is when they join a group and then at renewal time when the Membership Secretary will notify members of their numbers to enable payment of the annual subscription by bank transfer.

This means that you will no longer be required to present a membership card when you attend General Meetings. Please just give your name at the check-in desks where greeters will check your name against a list of regular attendees or add the names of new members/visitors. Please note – left hand desk for surnames beginning with the letters A-I and the right hand desk for those beginning J-Z.

For a number of years we have had an item in the Newsletter, firstly entitled 'I Know a Man Who Can' and latterly 'Don't Do It Yourself', with a telephone number to call whereby members could receive the names of tradespeople recommended by u3a members. With very few calls now being received and no new recommendations, it would appear that members no longer need this feature and the Committee has therefore taken the decision to discontinue the service.

We would like to thank all those who have maintained the lists and manned the phones over the years for their valued help.

Kind regards *Vivien Bennett* Secretary, Horsham u3a





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

Fiona Anderson
Carol Carpenter
David Mills
Pauline Olive



Dilys Pemberton
Celia Swallow
Karen Tobin
Peter Toogood



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

15 September 2026 - General Meeting (see front page)	Tony Harris
30 September 2026 - Open Event (see page 9)	2pm - 4.30pm
17 November 2026 - General Meeting (see inside front cover page 2)	Chris Conlon
16 December 2026 - Christmas Party To include singing led by our chair, Simon	2pm - 4.30pm.

In July Ann, our Speakers' Secretary, had a difficult situation where the speaker had to cancel their talk shortly before the general meeting.

Ann did very well to find someone to fill in but it was a close call.

This has made the committee realise it would be useful to have a couple of members on whom we could call to deliver a talk at short notice.

Please contact any committee member if you or anyone you know may be able to help.



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.



We Love Paperbacks - TEMPORARY HOMES NEEDED

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. No book should be read just once or have a single owner.

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

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



Go ahead! Paddled in a puddle?



ATTENTION ALL



MEMBERS

30TH SEPTEMBER 2026 **OPENEVENT**

Our annual **OPENEVENT** is when we showcase to the people of Horsham what we have to offer. There will be groups displaying their activities throughout the afternoon. Group leaders will be ready to share their talents and knowledge of their activities. Members will be on hand to answer questions, to tell of their experiences and what being a member means to them.

Whether you are an existing member who wishes to know more of what is on offer or know someone who may be thinking of joining, do come and join us. This



is your chance to hear about our many activities on offer both locally and nationally with the Third Age Trust, to meet people and have fun in your retirement.

We are excited to be joined by Joanne Knowles the Chair of the Horsham District Council who will open the event at 2pm. A reporter from the local AAH magazine will also be present.

Refreshments will be available to purchase. See our website for more details:

https://horsham.u3asite.uk/u3a_events/open-day-2026/



If you could spare any time to help, I would love to hear from you.

For any event to be successful, there is always an army of people working in the background.

Assistance is needed to welcome people to our Open Event to point out the many different interest groups that will be present and answer any questions.

OPENEVENT 2026

When: Wednesday 30 September 2pm to 4.30pm

Where: AT THE HOLBROOK CLUB

NORTH HEATH LANE, HORSHAM, RH12 5PJ

Thank you, Jane. Email: events@horshamu3a.org.uk

ATTENTION ALL



MEMBERS

CHRISTMAS PARTY

WEDNESDAY, 16 DECEMBER 2026



**Save the date as tickets
will be going fast!**

**Dig out your Christmas Jumper ready to
join the fun.**



Will you be lucky at the raffle?

Are you a wiz with a quiz?

**A chance to socialise with fellow
members.**



See our website for more details:

https://horsham.u3asite.uk/u3a_events/christmas-event-2026/

ATTENTION



ALL MEMBERS

SURPRISE YOURSELF! DON'T BE AFRAID TO COME FORWARD

We need two enthusiastic members to organise coach outings several times a year and holidays.

Contact:
Shiela on
Esme on



'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.



PROPOSED NEW GROUPS

WOULD YOU LIKE TO LEARN A NEW SKILL OR BRUSH UP ON AN OLD ONE?

The game of chess is well known as a brain enhancer. It can improve cognitive skills like memory, planning, and problem-solving. It may also help reduce symptoms of certain brain conditions.

Whether this is a game you have never tried and would like to learn or you already have some knowledge of chess, I am looking for fellow Horsham U3A members to help me start a group.



Although chess is taken very seriously by its devotees, I anticipate our group to become a relaxed and entertaining fortnightly or monthly get together, centred on learning about and playing the game.

If you are interested, please contact: Pam: groups@horshamu3a.org.uk

YOGA IS GOOD FOR EVERY BODY

It's a safe, low-impact way to boost bone health, heart health & joint mobility.

A Yoga group was requested by members in the survey that Horsham u3a conducted earlier this year. Your committee listened and now we have a professional Yoga instructor and a group leader lined up – but currently there are insufficient members to make the group viable.



It will be a beginners' group, on either a Monday or a Thursday morning. You DON'T have to be able to FOLD YOURSELF IN HALF or DO THE SPLITS, but if you're interested in staying active as you age and improving strength and flexibility, contact Pam, Groups' Co-ordinator, indicating which morning you would prefer, or stating 'either' if you have no preference.

Email: groups@horshamu3a.org.uk

GROUP NEWS

POETRY GROUP



The Poetry group in Horsham u3a is running from September at The Trafalgar Road Baptist Church on the fourth Thursday afternoon each month.



It is lovely to hear people's experiences and interests in poetry and lyrics and to share our own efforts. We are a small group and would welcome more members.

Do come and sample us, Rosalind.

Email: poetry@horshamu3a.org.uk

JAZZ & BIG BAND GROUP

Leader Frank Chard

Our meeting this morning, Friday 7th August started well! There was no water, or hardly any, in the taps. With a group meeting usually of over twenty members it was a bit worrying. I managed to get a kettle and a half out of the two taps, phoned the caretaker who came with no more knowledge than we had. One of our local members went home across the road and brought back two kettles of water, so at least we could have coffee in the interval.

I was doing the programme, having never worked the equipment before, and much to my surprise it all worked. All going well when one of our members became unwell and looked at any minute as if he would collapse. We called the ambulance, finding out the correct address of the Tythe Barn and within minutes two wonderful girls arrived with the ambulance. They dealt with the emergency and the rest of us kept out of the way and had our coffee break.

Thankfully he recovered and was taken home and we continued with our interrupted programme. What an odd morning.

Roy, who was unwell, and his family wish to give a huge thank you to everyone at the meeting and the ambulance service who spent time to thoroughly check him and to make sure he was ok.

Esme on behalf of Frank



GROUP NEWS

FAMILY HISTORY WALKING TOUR OF HORSHAM MAY 2026

Email: familyhistory@horshamu3a.org.uk

In May, twelve members of this group, ably led by Vee Willis and Tom Close, started by looking at a plaque on a house wall in Causeway which paid tribute to the worthy ladies of Horsham who helped with hospital service during the First World War. Next this group looked at the Old Town Hall given to the people of the Town by the Duke of Norfolk, whose crest is on the wall. At one time, Assizes were held there, the judges having been escorted by Pikemen to their work. Once this ceased, business men felt a drop in income. The Town Hall now houses Bill's Restaurant but the cells, which once contained John George Haigh the Acid Bath Murderer, are still in use, though some people find them creepy!

Through a twitten, Sussex name for a narrow lane, to East Street where we looked at the Railway Bridge where the Old Horsham Jail used to be. This lasted only seventy years, but bricks from it can still be seen on local railway lines, so to Piries Place where we looked at the statue of William Pirie, once Head of Colliers, complete with Donkey and Cart, much loved by generations of children.

Once in the Carfax, the origin of the name was discussed before returning to Causeway. This street has many fascinating houses and leads down to St Mary's Church, which the Group hope to visit next year. The origin of the name Horsham was Horseham. A place where horses were traded. It was also a market place for sheep which had walked many miles, some stopping off at the pub in Faygate.

One of our walking tour groups stopped in the Causeway and whilst they were looking at a house the postman arrived, no-one was at home so he took out his keys and let himself in. It was his house.

Our thanks to Vee and Tom for a most interesting and rewarding morning and a reminder to look around at the town where we live. Walking tours from the Museum take place every Wednesday and Sunday afternoons at 2.30. Leaflets are available in the Museum.

By Jean Hammonds Family History Group



GROUP VACANCIES

HELLO FROM PAM, YOUR GROUPS' CO-ORDINATOR

Contact: groups@horshamu3a.org.uk

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.

GROUPS HAVE VACANCIES

To find out more, please contact the group leader listed below and quote your membership number when enquiring. Also see the website. <https://horsham.u3asite.uk/groups/>

Discussion 1 -	Rosalind	discussion1@horshamu3a.org.uk
Discussion 2 -	Rosalind	discussion2@horshamu3a.org.uk
Family History -	John	familyhistory@horshamu3a.org.uk
Garden Visits 2 -	Chris	gardens2@horshamu3a.org.uk
Going Places 3 -	Steve	gp3@horshamu3a.org.uk
Going Places 6 -	Veronica	gp6@horshamu3a.org.uk
Jazz & Big Band -	Frank	jazz@horshamu3a.org.uk
Mahjong 1 -	Norah	mahjong1@horshamu3a.org.uk
Mahjong 2/Rummikub -	Brenda	mahjong2@horshamu3a.org.uk
Poetry -	Rosalind	poetry@horshamu3a.org.uk
Recorder Rebels -	Pam	recorders@horshamu3a.org.uk
Rummikub/Mahjong 2 -	Susanna	rummikub@horshamu3a.org.uk
Scrabble 1 -	Gillian	scrabble1@horshamu3a.org.uk
Scrabble 2 -	Gillian	scrabble2@horshamu3a.org.uk
Science & Technology -	Simon	sciencetech@horshamu3a.org.uk
Short-Mat Bowls 1 -	Paul	shortbowls1@horshamu3a.org.uk
Short-Mat Bowls 2 -	Chris	shortbowls2@horshamu3a.org.uk
Tai Chi -	Pauline	taichi@horshamu3a.org.uk
Ukulele -	Rita	ukulele@horshamu3a.org.uk
Writing for Pleasure 2 -	Krystyna	writing2@horshamu3a.org.uk

MESSAGE TO GROUP LEADERS

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 Thursday 5 November 2026, if you have vacancies in your groups. Thank you for your co-operation with this.

When members join or leave your groups please will you let me know:

Email: groups@horshamu3a.org.uk. Thank you, Pam.

"THE HOLIDAY CAMP PHENOMENON"

Talk by Kathryn Ferry, 21 July 2026. Review by Marlene

Our July speaker, Kathryn Ferry, is a historian and author specialising in 19th and 20th century architecture and design. Her focus in this talk was on seaside culture, highlighting new phases in our country's leisure history.

For the earliest phase she told us about Cunningham's, which is recognised as the first holiday camp. It was created by a Presbyterian couple for under-privileged boys, and consisted of bell tents set up on the Isle of Man. Initially quite regimented, after 1894 it became less so. By 1904 it was so successful, the Douglas Bay camp hosted 6,000 young men per year. The dining hall could seat 1600 people.

Other early holiday camps were also set up for social and philanthropic reasons. These included a Civil Service one in Corton-on-Sea and the Caister Socialist Camp which followed a Labour/Socialism ethos, where everybody pitched-in together. The 1920s and early 1930s saw more sites being developed. The Coventry Co-operative Camp, which opened in Rhyl, N. Wales, had prospective campers queueing back in February to get a place there.

Bell tents and similar were replaced by huts, and some camps became more upmarket. An example given was New City, Middleton-on-Sea (1921-2), near Bognor Regis, a former seaplane factory, in which some guests had private baths and central heating, and there were garages for 100 cars. Dance halls, tennis courts, hairdressers and similar were also being provided.

Kathryn mentioned some of the main players in this field, names still recognisable today. Two such, Captain Harry Warner and WE Butlin, were even partners for a time (with the Seaton Holiday Camp). In 1936, the Butlin's Skegness venue was a luxury holiday camp with top facilities and entertainment, aimed at the middle-class market.

The architecture of the large holiday camps was of significant interest for our speaker, who showed us many pictures of big modern, streamlined main buildings and substantial green areas. Land trains were used on changeover days for the thousands of guests arriving and departing. Staff such as the Redcoats (identifiable by their blazers) acted as ice-breakers and intermediaries.

Railway and other posters became a popular way to advertise these camps, and we were shown many colourful examples of these.

1938 saw the introduction of paid holidays for employees, which also helped the popularity of holiday camps. During the war years, some of these camps became accommodation and similar for soldiers, but after the war, the holiday camp concept continued to grow and flourish.

In 1946, a third entrepreneur, Fred Pontin, entered the scene with Brean Sands in Somerset, followed by Camber Sands in Sussex. The 1950's and 1960's showed expansion in this field, with exciting novelties such as indoor heated pools, dry ski slopes, water-skiing, monorails and Tiki Bars being added.

By the 1970's, self-catering holidays were becoming popular, with static caravans used for accommodation. Other changes were also starting to appear. Pontin's Holidays offered three options – fully-inclusive holidays, Rent-a-Chalet or Pontinental. The last was in Torremolinos, as this was now the era of overseas holidays.

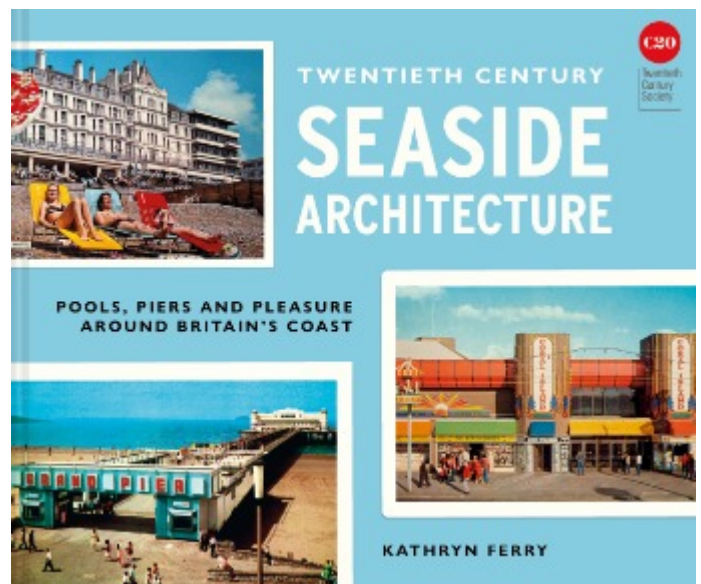
However, in the 1980s, Butlin's camps were being closed and revamped; Southcoast World was one such re-named. Warner's concentrated on country house hotel holidays with no children, while Pontin's was taken over by the Britannia Hotels group, with Prestatyn shut down. Against this trend, chalets were once again popular, such as in Minehead.

Continued over, with photos...

Continued from previous page...

Many of the audience enjoyed reminiscing about their own experiences in British holiday camps. In addition, a particular interest in Kathryn's talk was that she highlighted the changes in peoples' expectations (from the early basic accommodation to the greater level of comfort and facilities offered in the subsequent phases of the holiday camp phenomenon) and made us aware of the different styles of architecture used.

Our thanks go to Kathryn, both for her lively and informative talk and for stepping in at short notice to deliver it.



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**



USEFUL CONTACTS

Age UK Advice Line
Carers Support West Sussex
Citizens Advice Horsham
Community Link Personal Alarms
Dementia UK
Department for Work and Pensions
Fire Service, Living Safe and Well Visits
Gas Emergency
Horsham Area Community Car Scheme
Horsham District Council (General)
Horsham Hospital
Horsham Library
Horsham Wellbeing
NHS Choices
Silverline Helpline

01403 260560
0300 028 8888
0808 278 7969
01403 215230
0800 888 6678
0345 605 6055
0345 872 9719
0800 111 999
01403 250202
01403 215100
01403 227000
01403 224353
01403 215111
111 (non emergency)
0800 470 8090



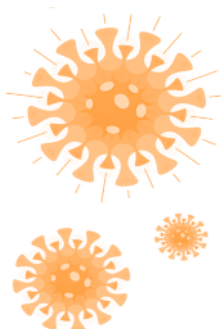
MESSAGE FROM THE HORSHAM U3A COMMITTEE

COVID 19, flu and other **viruses** have not gone away 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.



Meet Your Committee for 2026/2027

Officers/Trustees

Contact details on back page



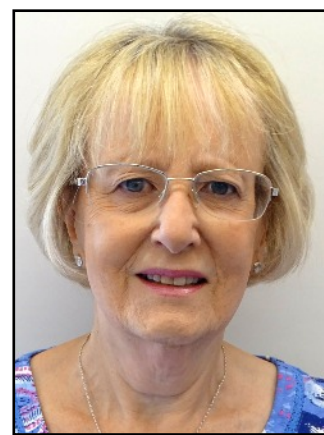
Chair
Simon Hill



Vice-Chair
Dave Grainger



Treasurer
Jeff Brockett



Secretary
Vivien Bennett

Members/Trustees

Contact details on back page



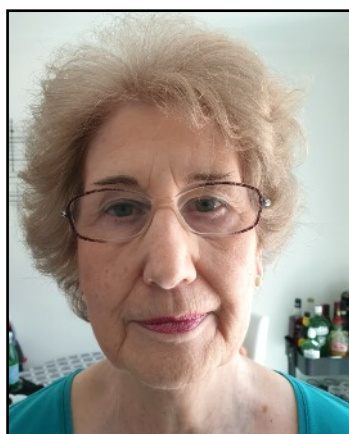
Events' Co-ordinator
Jane Broomer



Groups' Co-ordinator
Pam Johnson



**Membership Secretary
& Data Controller**
Jenny Faulkner



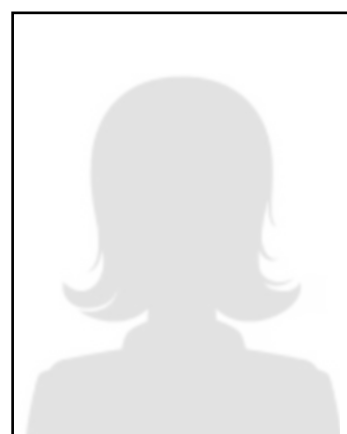
Publicity Agent
Shiela Campbell



Speakers' Secretary
Ann Valentine



Website Manager
Mike Harrod



**Co-opted
Minutes' Secretary**
Jane Wilson

Contact details: Committee Members for 2026/27

Officers

Chair	Simon Hill	chair@horshamu3a.org.uk
Vice-Chair	Dave Grainger	vicechair@horsham.org.uk
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
Social Co-ordinator	Vacancy	
Speakers' Secretary	Ann Valentine	speakers@horshamu3a.org.uk
Publicity Agent	Shiela Campbell	publicity@horshamu3a.org.uk
Website Manager	Mike Harrod	web@horshamu3a.org.uk

Co-Opted

Minutes Secretary	Jane Wilson	minutes@horshamu3a.org.uk
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Non-Committee (attends committee meetings)

Newsletter Co-ordinator	Anne David	newsletter@horshamu3a.org.uk
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All of the above can be reached with one single email: committee@horshamu3a.org.uk

We are urgently looking for a Social Co-ordinator.

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

Obituary

It is with deep regret we have to announce the death of the following
Horsham U3A member:

Irene Bantin

Our thoughts are with her family and friends at this sad time.

**If you have any news, views, comments or contributions
FOR THE NEWSLETTER, PLEASE SEND THEM
BEFORE Thursday 19 November 2026
To Anne: newsletter@horshamu3a.org.uk**