u3a Banstead Area Newsletter

u3a
learn, laugh, live

bansteadarea.u3asite.uk

Chair's Update

November 2026

Dear Members,

Despite the weather it was wonderful to see so many of you at our recent Annual General Meeting! Thank you for attending.

First, I would like to express my thanks to you for putting your trust in me by electing me as Chair of Banstead Area u3a for the next three years. I will do my utmost to serve you to the best of my ability. I know that I am very fortunate to have a great committee to work with and I look forward to sharing ideas both theirs and mine over the coming months.

It has certainly been a baptism of fire! Within a couple of hours of me becoming chair, I had my car hit in the Community Hall car park, our Beacon system went down, and I received an accident form from one of our group contacts. It was a bit like being back at work! They say things happen in threes and I sincerely hope, that, that is my 'three' for the moment!

I would like to thank personally Jennifer Russell our outgoing chair who has put her heart and soul into developing Banstead u3a to what it is today. Also, Anne Kemble our outgoing Secretary, with whom I have worked closely in preparing agendas and finalising minutes.

We have achieved so much over the past three years, through the hard work and commitment of the whole committee, members who work off committee, group contacts and our regular group of fabulous volunteers and of course through the support from you our wonderful members.

Joining our new committee are Glynnis Grossmith, our new Business Secretary and Ian Hack our Social Team Lead. I know that they will be valuable assets to our team.

Off committee, we welcome Kerry Garner who will be producing our monthly bulletins and bi-annual newsletters as well as continuing with publicity, posters social media etc. There are a couple of other off committee roles which hopefully will be filled soon, that I will inform you about in the next bulletin.

Looking to the future, I intend to work closely with your committee to build on our current successes, further develop our presence within the community and expand our opportunities and use of facilities in the local and London area. I would also like to future proof this wonderful organisation by providing further activities which might encourage younger members to join.

This is an organisation that is run by our members for our members, and we are always delighted to hear from anyone prepared to offer their ideas, help, skills and expertise in any way. You can contact me by email: **u3a.banstead.chair@gmail.com**

But ultimately, my aim is to continue to provide nourishment for the mind and soul so that we can all live well, laugh and learn.

With best wishes,
Emma Hart Dyke – Chair, Banstead Area u3a.

Welcome to your new Committee

From left to right
Jill Poke
Assistant Treasurer
Glynnis Grossmith
Business Secretary
Lynn Tripp
Groups Co-ordinator
Emma Hart Dyke
Chair
Sarah Milan
Beacon Administrator
Phil Wilkins
Treasurer
Pam Parker
Membership Secretary
Ian Hack
Social Team Lead



Remembrance Sunday

On Sunday 8th November, members of the committee will be laying a wreath, on behalf of our u3a. We look forward to seeing you on this important occasion, when Banstead comes together to remember those who fought and gave their lives in service to others.

Digital support

Our monthly Digital Support sessions are moving to mornings from November. They will now run from 10.00-12.00 noon on the 3rd Monday of each month in the Collett room at the Banstead Community Hall, Park Road. We offer members one-to-one help with anything digital e.g. iPads, tablets, smartphones, laptops etc. No question is too basic so if the technology is causing you stress, please ask for help!

The next session will be on November 16th (no session in December). The slots need to be booked in advance - either email **u3a.banstead.digital@gmail.com** or phone or message Kerry (07981 915117) or Sarah (07815 862750) to book your slot.

WhatsApp is widely used but there's more to it than meets the eye! To help members learn about it, we are thinking of running a tutorial session in January if there is sufficient interest (maximum 10 people). Alternatively, we could run a session specifically for your group at your usual venue. Please get in touch if you are interested in either of these

Mentors
If you are already reasonably competent with technology (or even an expert!), we would very much welcome you to the team. We would particularly welcome members with Windows or Mac expertise. You don't need to commit to attending the sessions but if we could call on you if needed, please contact us.

Groups Update

After a successful year of welcoming many new members and launching several new groups, here is the latest update on our new and potential group activities.

Many of our groups now have waiting lists. Please be assured that we monitor these carefully, and where there's enough demand, we do our best to start new groups.

New Group - Padel
The Monday Padel group has now reached its capacity, but a new beginner's group has been set up which meets every Thursday from 12.30pm to 1.30pm at the S3 centre in Sutton (on the Royal Marsden complex). This is a combined beginner's course with Epsom and Sutton u3a padel groups. It costs £7.00 per session which includes coaching and tea and coffee after the session. Racquets and balls are also supplied. The session is full at the moment, but those wishing to be added to the waiting list should contact Ian Hack on **ian.hack@geneline.co.uk**

New Group – German Conversation
This group is looking to increase their numbers with others who are at an intermediate level of German conversation. They meet on the 4th Wednesday of the month in members' homes. Contact Lynn Tripp on **u3a.banstead.gc@gmail.com** if interested.

Potential New Group – Wine Appreciation
Interest has been expressed by members for a 4th Wine Appreciation Group.
If you would be interested in joining this, please email Lynn Tripp on u3a.banstead.gc@gmail.com

Theatre Goers
There are still a few tickets available to see Amadeus, on Wednesday 2nd June 2027 at the Noel Coward Theatre. Please note this is an evening performance, starting at 7.30pm. The tickets are in the Stalls and cost £65.00.

Multi-award-winning Welsh actor Michael Sheen stars alongside BAFTA Cymru winner Callum Howells in a major new revival of Peter Shaffer's seminal play. This psychologically intense historical drama centres on the conflict between Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart and Antonio Salieri in 18th-century Vienna. Contact Ian Hack on ian.hack@geneline.co.uk to reserve a ticket.

Science Enthusiasts!

Our joint Science Group, a collaboration between the Banstead, Epsom & Ewell, and Sutton U3As is going from strength to strength with some very interesting subjects presented over the past year.

They run bi-monthly and the next meeting is on Wednesday 4th November. Anyone with a curious mind is warmly invited to come along. See the poster below for full details. The following Science Group meetings for 2027 will be on: Wednesday 6th January, 3rd March, 5th May, 14th July (not the 1st Wednesday in the month), 1st September and 3rd November.



Coffee Mornings

Coffee mornings continue to be held on the **4th Monday of the month** at the Park Life Café, in Lady Neville Recreation Ground. New members are welcome at 9.30am for an introductory talk followed by a Q&A session. We start promptly at 9.30am and this meeting usually lasts until 10.30am.

All members are welcome from 10.30am – 12.00 noon. Our next Coffee morning is on **Monday 23rd November. T**here are no Coffee mornings in December, May (due to the Bank Holiday) and August. We look forward to seeing you there!

News from Existing Groups

Gardening Group 4 – Diane Swift
Photos taken from our meetings at members gardens. We meet on the fourth Friday of the month at 2.30pm in each other's gardens when weather permits. A tour of the garden with advice on plants and a lot of plants swaps, followed by tea cake and a friendly chat.









Short Walks Group 1 – Jenny Burwood
This group had a very enjoyable and informative walk this morning in Langley Vale Centenary Wood. The rain stopped just in time and the sun came out for us. The photo shows the group by the Witness sculpture.

The Golf Society – Kate Brown. Calling all fellow golfers!
The Banstead u3a Golf 'Swingers' Society (BUGSS) was set up last Summer as a new group offering friendly sociable golf days to golfing members of all abilities. Having run a large national golf society for over 20 years, I was the obvious choice to run the group which now has around 30 members.

So far, we have had five golf days, usually every other month, including Chipstead, Woldingham, Surrey Downs, Epsom and Farleigh. Most days include coffee and bacon rolls followed by 18 holes of golf and ideally, we have around 12 members attending but would be great to have a few more of you!



It is a lovely, friendly group with equal numbers of men and ladies and very mixed abilities ranging from 11 to 44 handicap! Of course, you do not have to belong to a club already or have a handicap.

If you would like to know more or wish to be added to the group, please contact me on **katebrown@golfclubgb.co.uk**. Our next golf day is on 9th November at Surrey Downs and would be lovely to see you there!

Gardening Group 2 – Emma Hart Dyke
We had a wonderful visit to Tanglewood Garden a couple of months ago and hope to visit Wisley later this month. Recently, we have been visiting each other's gardens and giving advice as requested. Topics have included: plants for a sunny border and a shady border, looking at plants that survive in dry conditions (as some of us lost established shrubs during the hot weather this summer), practical pruning of shrubs such as hydrangeas, splitting and sharing plants, collecting seeds for the spring and sharing ideas on designing a new garden that a member has recently acquired in a recent house move.









Reading for Pleasure Group 3 – Emma Hart Dyke

It has been lovely to meet at Priory House, where we have been made to feel very welcome. We have read and discussed a range of books over the year, most of which we have enjoyed. We take it in turns to choose a book for the group each month and we have ended up reading books we might never have picked up and thoroughly enjoyed them! It is interesting to discover how we select a book to read, whether it is from the blurb on the back, by recommendation or simply the cover or spine! This month's book is 'The Women' by Kristin Hannah and our book for November is 'Gorsky' by Vesna Goldworthy.



Events run by TAT

As a member of Banstead u3a, you also have access to activities run by the Third Age Trust (TAT). TAT is the umbrella organisation of all u3as in the country and offers regular online talks, workshops and courses on a wide variety of topics, mostly via Zoom. These range from mindfulness, laughter yoga and cookery demos to talks on AI, history and environmental issues amongst many others. See what's on offer here: **www.u3a.org.uk/events**. Some talks get booked up quickly, so it is a good idea to book as soon as they are announced. We usually publish a link to the talks in our monthly bulletin, but it is possible to register via the website, for a monthly e-mail announcing what's coming up. For some of these events, you will need to create a registration with TAT.

In addition to these talks, TAT run Interest Groups Online. This is essentially a virtual u3a which runs several groups online with members from across the country. You need to join Interest Groups Online first for £12 per annum, but once you are a member, you can join any of the groups that they run. Find out more here: **www.u3a.org.uk/learning/interest-groups-online**

Banstead Community Hall Car Park

Please be aware that this should only be used when attending Banstead Community Hall Events. If attending an event at the URC, or one of our Coffee Mornings at the Park Life Café, you need to park elsewhere.

If there is a coach trip organised, we hire use of the car park and members are asked to park in the spaces at the back of the car park. Thank you for your help with this.

Surrey u3a Study Days

Surrey Study days are open to all u3a members and guests are very welcome. They are held in the Menuhin Hall, Stoke d'Abernon; starting at 9.30am with registration and run from 10am to 4pm.

They offer hybrid events so that members can attend the hall or view the study days online. The fees including coffee/tea and biscuits, are £12 for pre-booked attendance in person or £7 online, £15 for guests and £15 for all attendees paying at the door.

Friday 20th November 2026
The Music & Satire of Gilbert & Sullivan
Presented by Bernard Lockett, Gilbert & Sullivan Society

Friday 19th February 2027
Return to the Moon
Presented by Craig Underwood, Emeritus Professor of Spacecraft Engineering, University of Surrey

Friday 19th March 2027
AI in Society and the U3A Movement
Presented by Russell Whitworth, Andrew Freeland & Dr Andrew Rogoyski, Director, Surrey Institute for People-Centred AI, University of Surrey

Friday 16th April 2027
The Brilliance of British Architecture
Presented by Ian Swankie, Accredited Lecturer for The Arts Society, and a Freeman of the Worshipful Company of Art Scholars

Friday 21st May 2027
The Gut Biome - Microbial Monarchs: The Tiny Rulers of Mankind's Destiny
Presented by Dilogen de Alwis, Retired Ophthalmologist who is now practising as a Nutrition, Health and Wellness Coach

Lunch-hour Recitals by Menuhin School Pupils: Indicated by *** above.
We are delighted that these recitals have been offered by the school at certain study days. Details of the performance will be circulated to attendees for information, before the day when possible.



Dates for the diary

Date	Event	Speaker	About
Monday **2nd November 2026** 12.00 noon	Houses of Parliament tour	Tour Guide	This event is now fully booked.
Wednesday **4th November 2026** 2.30pm (Doors open at 2pm)	Joint Science Group - 'From Frogs to Fields': Michael Faraday	Laurence Scales	u3a members £3.00 non-members £5.00. Pay on the door.
Monday **16th November 2026** 10.00am – 12.00 noon Collett Room, Banstead Community Hall	Digital Support Session	Sarah Milan and Kerry Garner	Offering members 1-1 help with anything digital e.g. iPads, tablets, mobiles, laptops etc. No question is too basic, ask the things you don't understand! Please email Kerry Garner to book a slot.
Wednesday **18th November 2026** 2.30pm (Doors open at 2pm)	Open Meeting - A Schoolgirl's War	Mary Smith	A fascinating story of how girls at a Kent school were educated in underground tunnels during the Second World War. Free event to Banstead u3a members. £3.00 for guests.
Monday **23rd November 2026** 9.30 - 10.30am 10.30 - 12.00 Noon	New Members' Welcome Meeting Members' Coffee Morning	Venue: Park Life Cafe, Lady Neville Park	Find out about all things u3a Meet other members and make new friends.
Friday **4th December 2026** Leaving BCH at 9.00am and returning 4.30pm.	Canterbury Coach trip		The cost is £20.00. Please email Kerry Garner to go on the waiting list. The coach is now full.
Saturday **12th December 2026** 7.30pm (Doors open at 7pm)	Social Event - Christmas Party	With live Band 'Atlantis'	A bring you own event (food, drink and glasses) Banstead u3a members free/Guests £10.00. To book your place, email Sue Quigley (pay on the door).

Wednesday **16th December 2026** 2.30pm (Doors open at 2pm)	Open Meeting – 'Passports, Assassins, Traitors & Spies'	Martin Lloyd	How the actions of a group of assassins brought about a change in the passport regulations. Free event to Banstead u3a members. £3.00 for guests.
Wednesday **20th January 2027** 2.30pm (Doors open at 2pm)	Open Meeting – 'Bees & Honey: Tradition, Myth, Symbol & Magic'	Peter Smith	Free event to Banstead u3a members. £3.00 for guests.
Monday **25th January 2027** 9.30 - 10.30am 10.30 - 12.00 Noon	New Members' Welcome Meeting Members' Coffee Morning	Venue: Park Life Cafe, Lady Neville Park	Find out about all things u3a Meet other members and make new friends.
Wednesday **10th February 2027** 2.30pm (Doors open at 2pm)	Social Event - Tea Dance	The Phoenix Swing Band	Come along and dance or listen to the music. Tea/Coffee and cake served. £5.00 for Banstead Area u3a members/£10.00 for guests. To book your place, email Sue Quigley (guests pay on the door).
Wednesday **17th February 2027** 2.30pm (Doors open at 2pm)	Open Meeting – 'In for a Penny, In for a Pound'	Jo Livingston	Free event to Banstead u3a members. £3.00 for guests.
Monday **22nd February 2027** 9.30 - 10.30am 10.30 - 12.00 Noon	New Members' Welcome Meeting Members' Coffee Morning	Venue: Park Life Cafe, Lady Neville Park	Find out about all things u3a Meet other members and make new friends.
Wednesday **17th March 2027** – 2.30pm (Doors open at 2pm)	Odette Ellicott Talk – 'The Dancing Fawn', a 17th century masterpiece	Bertie Pearce	Free event for Banstead u3a members only.

Monday **22nd March 2027** 9.30 - 10.30am 10.30 - 12.00 Noon	New Members' Welcome Meeting Members' Coffee Morning	Venue: Park Life Cafe, Lady Neville Park	Find out about all things u3a Meet other members and make new friends.
Wednesday **21st April 2027** 2.30pm (Doors open at 2pm)	Open Meeting – 'Racing through the Southern Ocean'	Ian Worley	Free event to Banstead u3a members. £3.00 for guests.
Monday **26th April 2027** 9.30 - 10.30am 10.30 - 12.00 Noon	New Members' Welcome Meeting Members' Coffee Morning	Venue: Park Life Cafe, Lady Neville Park	Find out about all things u3a Meet other members and make new friends.
Wednesday **19th May 2027** 2.30pm (Doors open at 2pm)	Open Meeting – 'Does Truth No Longer Matter?'	Andrew Baker	Free event to Banstead u3a members. £3.00 for guests.
Wednesday **16th June 2027** 2.30pm (Doors open at 2pm)	Open Meeting – 'Victorian London'	Ian Bevan	Free event to Banstead u3a members. £3.00 for guests.
Monday **28th June 2027** 9.30 - 10.30am 10.30 - 12.00 Noon	New Members' Welcome Meeting Members' Coffee Morning	Venue: Park Life Cafe, Lady Neville Park	Find out about all things u3a Meet other members and make new friends.
Wednesday **21st July 2027** 2.30pm (Doors open at 2pm)	Open Meeting – 'The Salisbury Novichok Poisonings'	Paul Barwick	Free event to Banstead u3a members. £3.00 for guests.
Wednesday **15th September 2027** 2.30pm (Doors open at 2pm)	Groups showcase, recruitment drive, members' renewal	No Speaker	An opportunity to renew membership, join the u3a and find out what groups and activities are available. Our opportunity to showcase the branch.

Wednesday **20th October 2027** 2.30pm (Doors open at 2pm)	AGM followed by talk – 'The M25 – Friend or Foe?'	Roger Mendham	Free event for full Banstead u3a members only.
Wednesday **17th November 2027** 2.30pm (Doors open at 2pm)	Open Meeting – 'Silk Roads'	Alan Freeland	Free event to Banstead u3a members. £3.00 for guests.
Wednesday **15th December 2027** 2.30pm (Doors open at 2pm)	Open Meeting – 'Train to the Arctic Circle'	Paul Whittle	Free event to Banstead u3a members. £3.00 for guests.
Unless otherwise stated the venue is **Banstead Community Hall, Park Road, Banstead SM7 3AJ. Free Parking.**			

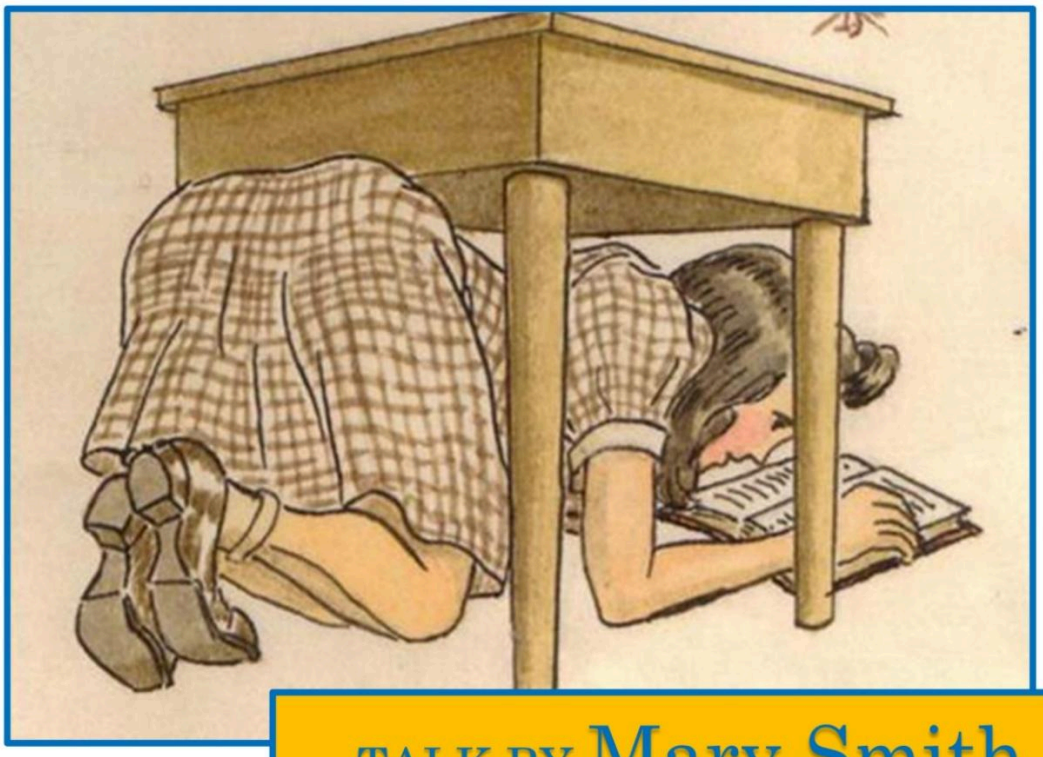


A Schoolgirl's War

Wednesday 18th November
2.30pm (doors open at 2pm)
Banstead Community Hall
Park Road SM7 3AJ
Free on-site parking

Free for
Banstead Area u3a members
£3 non-members.
Includes tea/coffee
https://bansteadarea.u3asite.uk/

Mary was the headteacher of a school where some exquisite art work was found documenting, the lives of school children and their teachers as the war unfolded. The art teacher's paintings feature air raids, doodlebugs, underground lessons in shelters and disrupted schooling. The talk will also feature fascinating photos where those lessons took place. No doubt this talk will bring back memories.



TALK BY Mary Smith

u3a learn, laugh, live

OPEN MEETING EVENT

Saturday 12 December

Doors open at 7pm – Band on stage at 7.30pm

Christmas PARTY



Atlantis will perform a lively selection of popular hits from the 1960s and 1970s including some festive gems

Bring your own drinks, glasses and nibbles

FREE ENTRY FOR BANSTEAD U3A MEMBERS
£10 NON MEMBERS

To book email Sue via u3a.Banstead.events@gmail.com

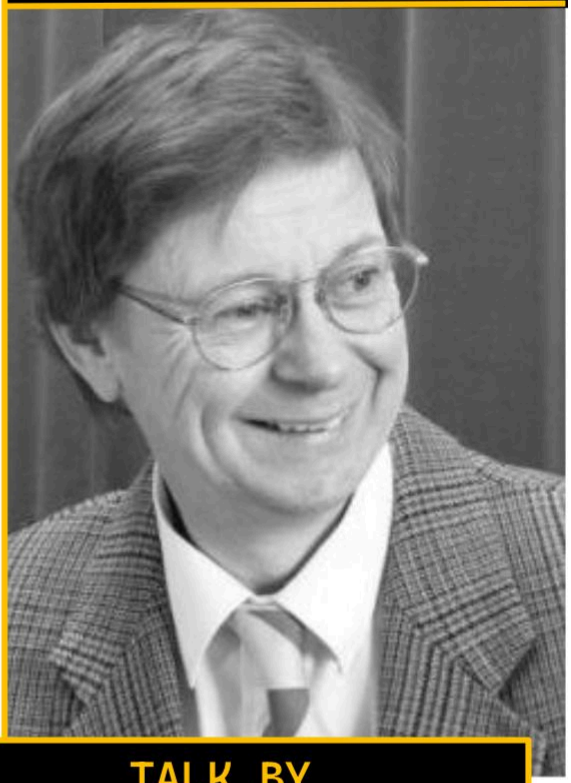
BANSTEAD COMMUNITY HALL, PARK ROAD SM7 3AJ

Passports, Assassins, Traitors & Spies

Martin tells of how three passports have played their influential role in the course of history: an attempted assassination which altered the regulations for issuing passports; the capture of a spy which caused a worldwide modification to the design of the document and for one person the passport itself which turned into a killer.

Wednesday 16th December
2.30pm (doors open at 2pm)
Banstead Community Hall
Park Road SM7 3AJ
Free on-site parking

Free for
Banstead Area u3a members
£3 non-members.
Includes tea or coffee
bansteadarea.u3asite.uk



TALK BY
Martin Lloyd

u3a learn, laugh, live

OPEN MEETING EVENT