

Upton and Lytchett u3a

Newsletter July 2026

Greetings to all our members – a final Newsletter prior to our AGM

An explanation of our new fee proposals:

As membership enrolment approaches, your committee is busy preparing for the year ahead, including reviewing our Groups, their running costs and membership numbers. Here we explain the new fees that will be proposed at our July AGM.

For the past few years we have been in the fortunate position of being able to subsidise the running costs of some of our Groups. This is because during Covid our running costs were generally much lower and a result we built up a funding reserve. By subsidising Groups we have reduced this reserve to a much lower level and we now hold only an amount sufficient to ensure our ongoing financial viability.

All of the money received through membership fees goes on providing our members with activities to participate in. Venue hire is by far our main cost, accounting for more than 80% of our outgoings. The remainder is spent on a compulsory capitation fee we pay to the Third Aid Trust (TAT), payments made to speakers for our talks and incidental items such as printing, providing refreshments at our events, etc.

We are committed to providing a wide range of activities for our members and we firmly believe that the membership fee provides good value for money. In addition to being able to join several Groups, our members can attend a number of talks throughout the year and a Christmas party and they can participate in the numerous online events run by TAT. They also have the reassurance of knowing everything they do through u3a is fully insured.

If our u3a is to continue to provide these things and to develop, then our fees must reflect our costs and it is only fair that Groups that cost the most to run, cost the most to join. For all of our Band 1 Groups we have held the fee at the same level as last year, for others the new fee reflects the increase costs to us and the reduction in subsidies now needed. The table below reflects the fees required next year to continue running our Groups, provide new ones, organise our talks and other activities. If you'd like to know more about how your money is spent, please come along to the AGM on 22nd July.

Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 22 July 2026 at 2.00pm

Lytchett Matravers Village Hall, High Street BH16 6DD

NOTICE is hereby given that the AGM of Upton & Lytchett u3a will be held as above.

Notices of Motions and Nominations for Committee Members should be sent to:
Sharon Morgan by midnight Tuesday 07 July 2026 sharon@applehouseprojects.com
post: The Apple House, 3 Palmers Orchard, Lytchett Matravers, BH16 6HG

Attendance at AGM -

Please advise Sharon Morgan - Honorary Secretary, Upton & Lytchett U3a if you wish to attend the AGM or to send apologies;

email: sharon@applehouseprojects.com

post: The Apple House, 3 Palmers Orchard, Lytchett Matravers, BH16 6HG

Motion 1 – Appendix 1

Band 1 Groups – Art & Craft – Birdwatching – Books – Bridge – Chess – Classic Books – Classic Cars & Bikes – Coffee at the Barn – Country Walks – Discovering Wessex – Exploring Dorset – French Conversation – French Imperfect – Gardening – Garden Visits – Garry’s 3-4 Mile Walks – German Conversation – History of Art – Line Dancing – Local History – Mah Jong – Modern Jive – Nature Walks – Pétanque/Boules – Photography – Play-Reading – Sunday Lunch – Wednesday Walks – Writing for Fun

GROUP	BAND	Upton & Lytchett Member		Purbeck Reciprocal Member
		Full Year	Part-Year 01Apr-31Aug	Full Year
Band 1 Groups above	Band 1	£25	£12	£10
Board Games, Current Affairs	Band 2	£30	£15	£15
Argentine Tango	Band 3	£50	£25	£35
Tai Chi Advanced, Table Tennis	Band 4	£60	£30	£45
Pickleball	Band 5	£75	£37	£60
Swimming	Band 6	£140		

Rapid change of plan for our Tea + Talk!

Thank you for the many appreciative comments about our recent Tea + Talk, ***Travels with our Ancestors***, given by Helen Baggott. Helen very kindly stepped in at short notice when our planned speaker had to cancel following an accident. As an editor, speaker and writer, Helen brought to life the stories behind old postcards, researching the people who sent and received them more than 100 years ago. Her talk was full of intriguing details, including the remarkable story of a young woman who travelled to Egypt alone at a time when this was almost unheard of. During a storm, she wanted to go on deck to experience it first-hand; the captain agreed, but only if she was strapped safely to the boat. She survived — and the story certainly captured our imagination. Many of us left keen to look again at our own old postcards and the stories they might hold.



Have you seen any drones whizzing around lately – I think there is a new one on the block!



What does u3a mean for you?

For me – I think it's brilliant, offers wonderful opportunities and friendship!

How fortunate we are to live close to Dorset's heathland. One splendid evening with a glorious sunset we went to hear and see the nightjars – remarkable birds with an amazing, mechanical whirring call and distinctive wingbeats. The Art Group trip was another memorable treat: a free guided tour of the artworks at Kingston Lacy! Experiences like these with u3a friends always encourages me to learn more.



Our interesting talks have intrigued me – with tea and cake afterwards a proper treat! Birthday parties and gatherings this year have been great fun, giving us all the chance to enjoy friendships old and new. It is especially good to hear that our new u3a members are enjoying the companionship, making friends, and developing new interests, particularly those who are new to the area.

People were very kind and supportive when I was unwell – the warmth and joy of companionship with our members is truly heartwarming. Life can sometimes take a difficult turn, and that's when friendship and support matter most. Our u3a, presents us with an opening to meeting many wonderful and interesting people.

We are all different and bring different skills with much to admire in one another. I am hopeless at skittles and Pétanque but admire those who can play well. If Line Dancing and modern jive whet your appetite – we hope to offer these Groups shortly. We have Pétanque pitches in Lytchett – free to use – perhaps start a WhatsApp Group?

Hope it's not hot like this again! Enjoy my 1922 postcard!

