

September 2026

At our September meeting on the 17th our speaker will be Andy Newbold whose talk is entitled "Tales of a full time flasher". Andy is a very experienced photographer.

Social and events committee.

The Heart of Wales trip in October is now fully booked and full payment should have been paid to Greatdays. Please contact Eve Dawe for any questions at events@leatherheadu3a.org.uk.

Please note that all enquiries regarding holidays and outings should be addressed to events@leatherheadu3a.org.uk. This includes any outings/holidays that you wish to promote and share with us in the future.

We are always open to new ideas, please share your suggestions..

David Wall is retiring from his role as co -ordinator of the Events Committee at Christmas. It is a role he took on temporarily, over one year ago, when Mary Chandler resigned through ill health. Volunteers to join this small committee are really needed would be most welcome in order that so we can continue with our programme of events and holidays.

Groups. Please remember to contact the leader if you are unable to attend a group. Thank you

Lesley Pearce has offered to start a second canasta group. Please contact her or Muriel Roberts on grps@leatherheadu3a.org.uk

If you would like any information about a group, such as spaces available, there is always a sign sheet at the meetings and you will be put in touch with the leader. Alternatively all group details are on our web site www.leatherheadu3a.org.uk or contact Muriel Roberts our groups co-ordinator. We would also welcome any information of past or future events that can be put on the **NOTICE BOARDS**. Please use this facility as a showcase for your group and your special events.

Local History Group

The local history Group has produced a Timeline of the development of Leatherhead from 4000 BCE to the present day. A copy of the Timeline will be on display at the next meeting and will hopefully also be on the website but most importantly there is a copy in Leatherhead Library. My thanks to the group who spent many hours producing it.

Forthcoming events

Christmas theatre outing. Roy Scott has arranged for a block booking at the matinee performance at Epsom Playhouse to see "Snow White" on 16th December 2026 with the tickets at £22.00. Contact Roy on events@leatherheadu3a.org.uk

2027 New year lunch. This will be on the 8th January 2027 at Tyrrells Wood Golf Club with a cost of around £41.00. Sign up sheets will be available on 17th September meeting .

Other important matters

Web site photos. In order to improve and make the best use of our website we would ask all group leaders to submit photos of any events they have been on, to David Balaam, webmaster on webmaster@leatherheadu3a.org.uk

Facebook - Leatherhead u3a now has its own Facebook page it is <https://www.facebook.com/groups/leatherheadu3a>

We welcome comments and photographs from all members.

NOTE. If you **do not** wish to have your photo on either the website or Facebook please let David Balaam or any committee member know.

STUDY DAYS These are held at the Menuhin Hall, Stoke D'Abernon from 10am to 4pm. Registration is 9.30am. Contact Denise Dobbs, Booking Secretary at <https://u3asites.org.uk/surreyu3anetwork/events>

or Lesley Pearce vicechairman@leatherheadu3a.org.uk The next three months lectures are:

Friday 18th September. The Bayeux Tapestry

Friday 16th October. World Affairs in the Middle East and Africa.

Friday 20th November. The Music and Satire of Gilbert and Sullivan

Ashtead u3a are planning a trip to the Church of the English Martyrs at Goring on Sea on 19th October 2026. The cost is £40 which includes entry into the Brighton Pavilion. Contact. Christopherhaslum@hotmail.com

Report of visit made by the Local History Group to the Spike Heritage Centre in Guildford **THE WORKHOUSE**

Have you ever wondered about 'The Workhouse'? What was it really like?
Perhaps your only impression was gained from Dickens' 'Oliver Twist'.
When you start to think about these Victorian institutions, you find you have more questions than answers.
Who went there and why? If a family went there did they stay together?
What was the accommodation like?
It was a workhouse, so what work did they do?

These and many other questions prompted our U3A Local History group to visit the Guildford Union Workhouse Vagrants and Casuals Ward, also known as 'The Spike'.

The main workhouse buildings, like many all over the country, eventually became a hospital. It was first called Warren Road Hospital, then later St. Luke's Hospital.
However, one of the old buildings remained. This was the Vagrants and Casuals Ward, which was used as a night hostel until the mid 1960's. The building fell into disrepair, but was saved from demolition in 1999 when 'The Spike' became a Grade 11 listed building, largely due to the campaigning of two local residents.

The Charlotteville Jubilee Trust was formed and, after much fund raising, part of the building was converted to provide a local Community Centre, while the main part became The Spike Heritage Centre, enabling the public to experience this part of Guildford's history.

We had an excellent guided tour, giving us an insight into the lives of the inmates and the accommodation for the 'undesirable' vagrants.

We found it very interesting and informative. You can experience it for yourself any Tuesday or Saturday, and Group bookings can be made throughout the year.

Gillian Davis – August 2026

David Wall

30.08.26

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Leatherhead & District u3a - committee