

# News Edit June 2024

Basingstoke Old Basing u3a  
celebrates 25 years of  
living, laughing and learning

**A Place to Be Proud of Awards Basingstoke  
Community Project Award Finalist**

Articles featured inside:

News from our Chair Paul

Green Team—Wildlife in your garden

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u3a AGM

25 Years

learn,  
laugh,  
live

## Thoughts from the Chair-25 years and a finalist-June 2024

It was 25 years ago, this month that our u3a was officially launched. From small beginnings in Old Basing, we have reached over 1000 members. That success is down to everyone: the Group Leaders who have stepped forward to lead groups with an interest they wish to share with others; members who come along to those groups; and finally the committee members who voluntarily have given up their time to ensure that the u3a functions effectively.

On 12<sup>th</sup> June we are holding our annual picnic at Popley Fields Community Centre. This year it will be a special event to celebrate our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary. I do hope you can come along.

I am pleased to announce that our u3a is a finalist in 'A Place to be Proud – Basingstoke' awards which will be held at the Apollo Hotel on 6<sup>th</sup> June. This award is in the Community Project category. I would like to thank Christine Rowley who entered us for this competition. It is wonderful to reach this stage in our 25<sup>th</sup> year.

At our Annual General Meeting in July, we will be voting for the new committee. Under our constitution we elect 12 members to the committee for 12 named positions. Many of the existing committee will be standing for re-election but there will be vacancies which we need to fill. It is essential that we have a full committee to allow the smooth running of our u3a. So please consider coming forward.

One position on the committee which is currently vacant is the Assistant Membership Secretary. It is an important role to fill as we move closer to renewal season. Thank you to the 700 members who have registered on the Members Portal on which memberships will be easily renewed in August and September. I appreciate that some members are sometimes reticent in using computers, and maybe the Members Portal. It is therefore vital that we have an Assistant Membership Secretary to help with renewals for those members.

As we approach the new membership year I would ask everyone to consider sharing an interest they have which is not currently part of our group list. We can offer support in starting a new group. Please let one of the committee know if you have any ideas.

As always, my thanks for your continued support of our u3a.

Paul Dodge-Chair

# Free help to encourage wildlife in your garden

From hedgehog highways to wildflower patches, there's plenty you can do in your garden to help our native wildlife thrive.

Book a free one-hour garden survey with the borough council's Green Team for top tips and advice on what you can plant and do in your garden to make a real difference for nature right at home.



To find out more and book, go to [www.basingstoke.gov.uk/garden-survey](http://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/garden-survey), email [GreenTeam@basingstoke.gov.uk](mailto:GreenTeam@basingstoke.gov.uk) or call the Green Team on 01256 845 777.



## u3a Gardening Group

### April 2024 Gardening Group report

Margaret started the meeting with her presentation on 'Jobs for May' and 'Plants for Difficult Places'. We then split into groups to come up with our own suggestions for planting in shade. The groups also put forward ideas for future group activities.

We broke for tea and time to look at the plant swap table.

After the break we looked at the photos sent in by our members of their gardens and individual plants. One member told us about the plants she grows for the benefit of her bees. Another told us about her plans for a new garden. This often generates discussion around what does or doesn't grow well in our own gardens.

We have partnered with the Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council Green Team to improve bio diversity and make our gardens a haven for plants and wildlife. If you would like to have a friendly chat or email them, they can be contacted on: 01256 845777 [GreenTeam@basingstoke.gov.uk](mailto:GreenTeam@basingstoke.gov.uk)

Say  
hello

## u3a Member, Peter's Musical Story

### Peter's bands

My long-standing (teenage) interest in playing music was rekindled back in 2009 when an AA work colleague (detecting musical interest in our team of 30 people) suggested a musical get-together at the local rehearsal studio, and 10 of us joined in the inaugural fun session.

That became a regular monthly event (with a varying line up) which I looked forward to without fail for the next 6 years, and we made some (mostly) great sounds together. I started off playing guitar and keyboard but ended up playing and preferring bass guitar. It was a great feeling if we tried a new song and everything fell into place first time. We played two charity gigs at the Pure / Plush lounge bar under the name of JAAM, and they were both sold out!

All good things come to an end – the team was dispersed, with half of them being relocated to London. And yet another reorganisation meant my leaving the AA, with time on my hands. Rather than looking for more employment, I decided to concentrate on what I loved – playing music!



Over the next few years, I found myself playing in various bands, of different musical abilities. Live gigs varied from Four Lanes Junior and Infant School Summer Fete to the Bakers Arms in Winchester. The closest to experiencing the 'wow' factor of the JAAM was when I assembled a group of 6 (all AA ex-colleagues) for a charity 60s – 70s music night at Viables, under the name JAMTRAP. Despite the success of that night, for various reasons, it was only ever likely to be a one-off gig for JAMTRAP.

I thought I'd found my ideal band with Uprow – we were a friendly bunch, doing music I liked, and with a great lady singer. We played at parties, pubs, inside and outside, and we played New Year's Eve 2019 at the Row Barge, Woolhampton to a very enthusiastic audience. But along came COVID, and a year of enforced practising solo. Other band members were also having issues regarding jobs (or lack of!) so all that more or less finished off the band.

Still, like buses, another one came along. This one had a very professional web site, and they rehearsed in a grand country house, which had a band practice area with a permanent drum kit set up. I was very nervous at the audition – until I discovered that they were more out of practice than I was, and I got the job! But we disbanded 3 months later without ever performing a gig!

After that it was 'bits and pieces' for a while. With 'new' bands, I did a couple of one-off charity fund-raising gigs (Dogmersfield fete, and Waterlooville Community centre) and deputised a couple of times for an old band.

I even played a gig on a cruise ship – it was a private party on the John Pinkerton on the Basingstoke canal! Yes, we did manage to get our drum kit and all our equipment on board without sinking it!

Then – tired of waiting for the right opportunity – I decided to start my own band, based on my love of Beatles music. I was swamped with applicants! The 'Hey Judicators' has been going for about a year now, and have a second appearance pencilled in at the Railway Club on October 5th, and a date to be confirmed at the Irish Centre.



But I still had some time on my hands. When the established (Farnham-based) band the Beat Tones asked me to join them, I seized the opportunity, and have enjoyed performing 60s and 70s numbers (including many Beatles and Stones favourites) at parties at Frensham Sailing Club, Farnham Golf Club, and at a pub here and there.

So now, when filling in a form that requires me to state my occupation, I state 'Musician' rather than 'Retired' even though my net earnings (after studio hire and travel expenses etc.) are negative!

Having said that, I and fellow band members will generally play for free (or just for expenses) for charity events, which are generally good fun.

If you want to celebrate a special occasion, and you fancy some live music, please get in touch. For private parties, yes of course it's more expensive than hiring a DJ, but live music is a bit special – isn't it?

Peter Hall

Facebook: Bass-ingstoke Music

[www.beat-tones.uk](http://www.beat-tones.uk)





# A Member's Cheesecake you can Eat!

And not feel guilty about how many calories you are consuming!



Carol Sim, a recently joined member of our u3a and Slimming World, who loves to cook has been working on how to make a low calorie or in Slimming Worlds terms, less syns cheesecake. I love my puddings so this is great news and as you can see not too difficult to make yourself.

**MIXED BERRY CHEESECAKE SERVES 6**

## INGREDIENTS:

450g FAT FREE COTTAGE CHEESE

RASPBERRY SHORTCAKE ALPEN LIGHT BARS.

50g I CAN'T BELIEVE IT'S NOT BUTTER LIGHT

2 X HARTLEYS SUGAR FREE JELLY CRYSTALS

300g MIXED BERRIES



## METHOD

Blitz the cereal bars until broken down, giving a coarse crumb. Melt the butter, mix into the crumb base, and press into a 8"/20cm lined loose bottom cake tin, or pie dish. Press down with a spoon to make it firm and level, and refrigerate whilst you prepare the topping.

Melt both jelly sachets in 100ml boiling water. Stir until completely dissolved, and leave to cool. (quicker in the fridge or freezer, if you make sure it doesn't set.)

Put the Cottage Cheese & cooled jelly into a blender, and blitz until completely smooth – it takes about 3 minutes to get rid of the cottage cheese texture.

Chop about half the berries into smallish small pieces, and spread them out on the base.

Pour the topping over the base in the tin, make a slight dip in the middle for the remaining berries and refrigerate until set – approx. 1 – 2hrs.

Remove from the tin, and decorate with the berries.

# Quiz about June



1. Trooping the Colour is held in London annually on a Saturday in June, on which parade ground?
2. June has two zodiac signs, name both?
3. What in the UK is celebrated on the third Sunday of June?
4. Which animated cartoon character has three triplet nieces named April, May, and June?
5. 'Seven Days In Sunny June', by Jamiroquai, is the soundtrack when Andrea and Christian meet at James Holt's party in which 2006 American film?
6. In which year did June Brown first play the role of Dot Cotton, in *EastEnders*?
7. Which historical novel begins in 1815 and culminates with the 1832 June Rebellion in Paris?
8. The longest day of the year can occur on one of three dates in June, name any of the three?
9. In its own country it is commonly known as the June Fourth Incident; where did this incident happen?
10. What is the June birthstone?

Answers can be found on the last page.

## u3a A-Z of Cuisine- Mayflower

**Mayflower Basingstoke Chinese-Wednesday 22nd May**

We had our second meeting this month at Mayflower Basingstoke and they really looked after us.

The food was fantastic and service excellent, I should have taken a pictures of the food but didn't get chance as it soon went.

It was lovely to have small tables of 6-8 so we could all chat and enjoy each others company.

**Members Comment:** Thank you again Christine for finding such a gem eating place in the centre of Basingstoke.

You may remember it was such a cold wet day for May so it was so nice to be in a warm restaurant with other foodies.

**Members Comment:** Thanks for organising the fabulous lunch for us I thoroughly enjoyed it.



You may recognise our Chair, Paul enjoying mixing with other members and especially the food. He liked it so much they gave him a doggy bag.

Group Leaders Christine & James Rowley



## u3a Award Finalist



The A Place to be Proud of Awards recognise the contributions made by individuals, groups, organisations, places and initiatives that make our borough a diverse, vibrant community and a great place to live and do business.

u3a Basingstoke Old Basing are proud to be a finalist in the category of:

### Community Project Award

Our u3a, its volunteers and Committee are pleased to be selected as a finalist in the A Place to be Proud of Awards run by Destination Basingstoke for the award category above.

This is particularly fitting as we are about to celebrate our 25th year as a Charity serving Basingstoke.

And in 2024 we reached our goal of over 1,000 members

Good luck to Paul, Rod and Christine who will be attending the Awards ceremony on 6th June at the Apollo.

## Nancy Bus

Nancy Bus operated one of the earliest bus services into Basingstoke. This and other local old bus operators will be covered at the next

**Transport Group meeting on June 27<sup>th</sup>.**

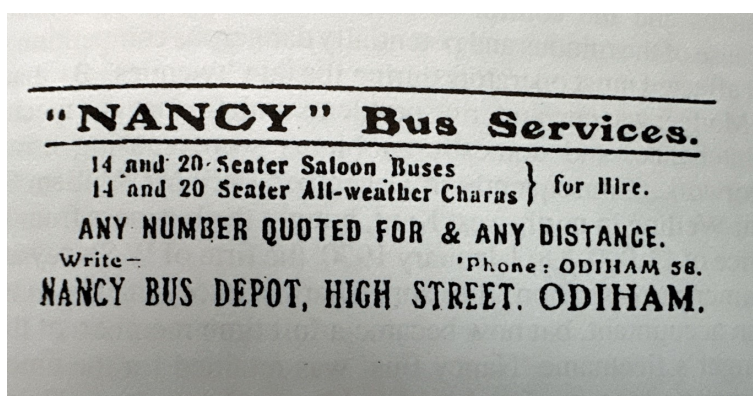
From June the Transport Group will have revised times:

10:00 to 11:45 on the fourth

Thursday of the month at

Kempshott Village Hall

(not July or August).





## Picnic in the Park

Celebrating 25 years



Goody bags  
Bring your own  
picnic & chairs

Popley Fields Community Centre

WEDNESDAY 12 JUNE 2pm



A line dancing  
demonstration

A photo booth

A goody bag

We will also be bringing back the

cake competition and after the judging we will all get to sample them! Our cakes last year were lovely and taste is much more important than looks, so you don't have to be a professional baker. Prizes will be awarded for first and second place.



u3a Basingstoke Old Basing Celebrating our  
25th Anniversary June Picnic in the Park

Popley Fields Community Centre, Carpenters Down,  
Basingstoke, Hampshire, RG24 9AE

# My dog Georga Sharing another Walk

## War Memorial Park Basingstoke



Now here is a park I love, lots of sniffing, lots of trees and a dry path for mummy to walk on. I love getting my paws wet so prefer the grass.

You meet lots of nice people and dog walkers who usually stop for a chat, yes takes 1.30 hours to walk round, not me stopping all the time!

From 11am you can also have a coffee/tea light snacks and cake at the Orchard House Café. When our weather is good you can sit outside and enjoy the ambiance of the park.

We may see you one day, say hi Woof Woof

Oh nearly forgot one of many seats to try out as you walk round.

Free Parking All Day

You could even walk into town, see just behind me.





## u3a Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> July 2024 starting 1.30pm

Queen Mary's College, Cliddesden Road, Basingstoke

We ask as many members as possible to come along to our AGM. After conducting formal business, we are pleased to have Tony Harris back playing the part of a First-Class Passenger on the Titanic. Tony is a professional comedian, raconteur and actor who specialises in historical talks with a hysterical twist.

In formal business, we vote for committee members who are up for re-election and newcomers. We must have 10% of our members present to vote our committee. We welcome your support. Please note, the AGM will not be available by Zoom due to technical problems.

We have some vacancies coming up on the Committee, some of the existing team are not going for re-election. We normally meet every two months and are very friendly and supportive of each other.

If you are interested in a Committee Role please contact our

Chair Paul Dodge email:

[chair@u3abasingstoke.org](mailto:chair@u3abasingstoke.org)



1.30pm Refreshments

**14:00 AGM**

**14:40 Tony Harris – The Titanic**

Titanic – The Ship that never Sank – First Class Passenger

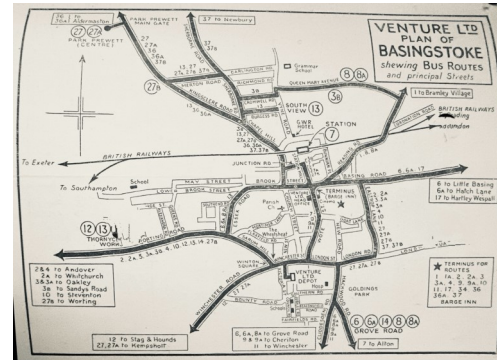
Promising to be a interesting and funny meeting, join us 10th July.



# Old Basing

Do you have any photos of Old Basingstoke? If so, please send them through. Our Chair, Paul is interested in photographs of our area, before the town expanded.

To the right is a town plan of Basingstoke 1949. It shows the Venture bus routes that operated at that time.



## Addicted to Vinyl

### New Home Group for July

If you enjoy listening to and collecting or talking about old records which take you back to when they were released, this could be the group for you.

Christine & James Rowley will host this group in their home in Sherborne St John. We can provide the vinyl and there is an opportunity for vinyl enthusiast to come along and share their love for music if you wish.

Covering 60's 70's and 80's, which we think produced the best sounds we will feature singles and albums from our record collection together with contributions from members of this group.

Each month we would have a selected Album and requests can be made via email before the meeting.

Date: Sunday 7th July Time: 2pm till 4pm Home: Sherborne St John

Contact by email Christine Rowley [newgroups@basingstokeu3a.org](mailto:newgroups@basingstokeu3a.org)





# Join us for u3a Festival 24



The u3a movement is holding its first ever Festival in 2024, **18 – 20 July**, where members will be running a wide variety of activities - talks, sporting events, musical entertainment and workshops which will make this u3a national festival something to remember.

## How can I take part?

### Venue

u3a Festival 24 will take place in the beautiful city of York over 3 days and will be held at the [University of York based around their exhibition centre](#). Tickets are now available to be part of the Festival. There are 5 options so you can book for the whole 3 days, or for Thursday only, Friday from 9 – 6pm, Friday from 9am – 11pm or for Saturday. Please read all the options and just book for what you need to allow space for as many members as possible:

## How much are tickets?

Day 1, Thursday 18 July – £25 including buffet supper

Day 2, Friday 19 July – £10 for the full day

Day 3, Saturday 20 July – £5 for a half day

Full festival to include all 3 days and a buffet supper on Day 1 – £35

### Parking

There is plenty of parking available at the university, including a number of disabled parking spaces. The nearest car park for the festival is located off Newton Way.

<https://www.u3a.org.uk/events/festival-2024>

# Members Portal



Thank you to the over 700 members who have registered on the Members Portal.

We realise some members are not keen on new technology.

This is why in August, we are looking at holding an event to help those existing members who have not been able to register or have concerns about the new Members Portal.

More details will follow next month.

## ANSWERS: TO JUNE QUIZ

- |                                                             |                                            |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| 1. Horse Guards Parade                                      | 6. 1985                                    |
| 2. Gemini (until June 20) and Cancer (from June 21 onwards) | 7. Les Miserables                          |
| 3. Father's Day                                             | 8. 20th, or 21st, or 22nd                  |
| 4. Daisy Duck                                               | 9. Tiananmen Square, Beijing, China (1989) |
| 5. The Devil Wears Prada                                    | 10. Pearls                                 |

Have a story or group you would like to  
feature in our monthly News Edit Contact:

[Christine Rowley Public Relations Officer](#)

[Email: PR@basingstokeu3a.org](mailto:PR@basingstokeu3a.org)

[facebook.com/Basingstokeu3a](https://facebook.com/Basingstokeu3a)

[www.basingstokeu3a.org](http://www.basingstokeu3a.org)

Email [basingstokeu3aenquiries@gmail.com](mailto:basingstokeu3aenquiries@gmail.com)