

News from the Chair

We had a very lively discussion about volunteering at the recent Fadu3a Committee meeting, instigated by Deborah, our new Secretary. Every u3a depends on many volunteers for their success. But is it just a chore or do the volunteers themselves get something out of it? The question is particularly pertinent in respect of our many Group Leaders, especially those who want to set up a new group but don't know where to start.

We thought it might be helpful to have a talk/ Q&A about the role of the Group Leader at the end of our November Monthly Meeting, to give people a clearer view of the duties but also the benefits of the role, and find out if there are ways for the Committee to provide more support if it should be needed.

There are currently other opportunities for volunteering with Fadu3a (**see page 4**), even if it's only turning up early to help shift tables and chairs at the beginning of monthly meetings.

In the light of a recent accident involving our members, I'm asking Group Leaders to complete an Incident Report Form in the case of any accident that takes place during their group's activities. They can contact me for the form, and return the completed form to me. The form is also available on [u3a's website](#).

Our second Racquets Festival took place on 12th July, and was a great success, I'm told (**see pages 2-3**). Congratulations to Angelika and her team, and I'm sure the participants are all looking forward to next year's festival.

The new Crime Fiction Reading Group is up and running, with Deborah and Pauline as Group Leaders hosting a meeting at Brogdale Café in August. The Group meets on the 3rd Tuesday of the month from 10.00am to 12.00 noon. There is **one space left**, do contact them, if you are interested.

Jacquie gave us a fascinating and well-received talk about the role of the magistrate at the last meeting – despite having to wrestle with recalcitrant technology.

Next meeting is the Quiz on Wednesday, 19th August, with our new Quizmaster, Lesley. I hope she gets an excellent crowd!

Best wishes,

Jenny

Racquets Festival 2026

This year's Racquets Festival took place on Sunday, 12th July, at the Abbey School Sports Centre. We all had a thoroughly enjoyable time playing table tennis, badminton and pickleball, and it was great to see members trying out different sports for the first time. Some of those have gone on to apply to join one of the existing groups.

Many thanks to Angelika, her assistants, and all the participants who made it such a fun day. Roll on Racquets Festival 2027!



Pickleball action shot



Table tennis action shot

Photos by Penny, Groups Coordinator

Fadu3a Volunteering Opportunities

Meet and Greet

Currently Jenny and Sarah do Meet and Greet at Monthly Meetings. They're quite happy to continue, but perhaps someone else would like to take over from time to time. You get to speak to lots of new people, and learn more about what's going on in the organisation – a role for the sociably inclined, perhaps?

Facebook

As some of you know, we have a Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/FavershamU3A>), where members can post photos of their latest doings, as the Cycling Group did last month, for example. We're looking for a new administrator, someone who is experienced at using FB. It's not an onerous job at the moment, but maybe you have ideas on how it can be developed.

Fadu3a Archive

We're looking to set up an archive for Fadu3a. We've got photos depicting occasions over the 10 years we've been in existence. There are documents that aren't attached to a particular Committee post, but that we want to keep. It would be great if there was one person to act as Archivist. It wouldn't take up much of your time, and just requires good organisational skills and some shelf space.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday 19th August, Monthly Meeting

August Quiz!!!

Wednesday 16th September, Monthly Meeting

Pete Allen: Oh No It Isn't: A History of Pantomime

What is it about Pantomime that attracts us to this strange concoction of fairy tales, dance, jokes, songs and cross-dressing? And what is it really like to play the back end of a Pantomime Cow? All this, and the answer to whether something really is behind you, will be answered in this festive talk about what has become one of the great British Christmas traditions. Lights, Camera, Ho! Ho! Ho!

Wednesday 21st October, Monthly Meeting

Clive Sherwood: A History of Blues Music

Wednesday 18th November, Monthly Meeting

Talk by Porchlight

Porchlight is a Canterbury based charity that helps people facing the devastating effects of homelessness. Today they tackle the causes and consequences of poverty and inequality. Also empowering people to live the life they want.

Wednesday 16th December, Monthly Meeting

Christmas Meeting and Quiz!!!

Wednesday 20th January, Monthly Meeting

Susan Matocks: What's the difference between everyday life in Australia and the UK?

Australia has: - Different weather; Different houses; Different domestic routines; Different language (sometimes!); More insects; More reptiles; More amphibians. And that's just inside your house!

My talk is a warm, humorous look at everyday life in Australia. My husband and I were both born and bred in Kent and in 1996 we emigrated to tropical North Queensland with our two young children and spent the next 27 years living down under.

This talk gives audience members an insight into the domestic life of Aussies that you won't get from watching *Neighbours*!

COMMITTEE MEMBERS' CONTACT DETAILS

Chair	Jenny Gurney	chairjgfadu3a@gmail.com
Vice-Chair	Jane Howard	
Secretary	Deborah Davies	djmd15@aol.com
Treasurer	Ray Lote	treasfadu3a@gmail.com
Membership Secretary	Julie Rogers	
Committee Member	Sue Lane	
Speakers Coordinator	Cliff Holroyd	cliffhol@gmail.com
Communications Secretary	Sarah Blair	comms.fadu3a@gmail.com
New Members Secretary	Ann McKay	
Groups Coordinator	Penny Bassett	GroupCoFavU3A@hotmail.com
Acting Groups Coordinator	Jenifer Wilkinson	newgroups.fadu3a@gmail.com

WEBSITE: [FADU3A home page](#)

FADU3A FACEBOOK: Now has 106 members. If you're not a member of the group yet, why not join us today using the link below?

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/FavershamU3A>

The still got it photography project

Message from u3a

“We’re inviting you to take part in a celebration of positive ageing through photography.

This project is all about capturing the spirit, energy, and creativity of u3a members. We’re not looking for technical perfection—just images that tell a story or highlight the many ways older people are embracing learning and new adventures later in life. We launched this activity at a workshop during u3a week with u3a photographer Mike Longhurst who aims to capture the contribution made by members to society through photos.

A selection of submitted photos will be featured in our online gallery on [this page](#), and with permission from the photographer and subjects, may also be used in u3a promotional materials to share with others.

This is your chance to:

- Showcase the amazing activities happening in your u3a.
- Highlight the positive approach older people are taking to their learning and activities later in life.
- Share ideas with other members in the u3a movement that reflect the breadth of activities taking place.”