



### June meeting

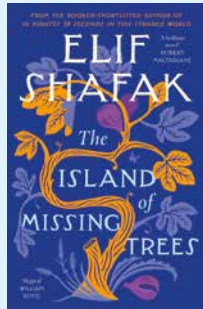
This month we were delighted to welcome back local author Helen Matthews. Her latest novel *The Girl in the Van* was recently published by Darkstrokes Books. It tells the story of Laura, a bereaved mother trying to forge a new life when an unexpected stowaway in her camper van disrupts her life. A thrilling mystery then unfolds which eventually leads to Laura discovering the truth about her daughter's untimely death. It touches on modern slavery, an issue close to Helen's heart as she is an ambassador for the anti-slavery charity Unseen.

Helen talked us through the process of writing, finding a publisher, editing the book and producing an engaging blurb and eye catching front cover. Our meeting was well attended and members were keen to ask Helen many interesting and challenging questions. Helen is currently writing her fifth book and we look forward to a future visit.

Please come along to the Summer Festival at the Community Centre on July 16th. We will be there with our book lucky dip! Come and support us.

In September our book choice is *The Island of Missing Trees* by Elif Shafak set in Cyprus 1974.

Later in the Autumn we are planning a crime night with a visit from a published crime writer. Follow us on Facebook for more details and you are welcome to join us for coffee, cake and book chat at the cafe.



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## THE SUN CAME OUT FOR OUR JUBILEE CELEBRATION AND OUR MEMBERS DID TOO

[www.basingstokeu3a.org](http://www.basingstokeu3a.org)  
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### HUNDRED AND TEN OF US CAME TOGETHER TO CELEBRATE

Our u3a came together over half term to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee - some of us able to share our coronation memories too. We dug out our memorabilia, packed a chair, grabbed a drink and set out for a picnic in Stratton Park. Our Committee kindly provided each person there with a goodie bag, containing some snacks, a u3a pen and a coaster, to celebrate the occasion. And the sun came along too!

Our members all belong to lots of different groups, with different interests of course. We do have a monthly meeting where everyone can come together, usually with a speaker, but our Stratton Park picnics give us a chance to come together in a very informal way and have some fun in the sun!




### And Netball used the moment!


We organise all kinds of activities, covering sports, board games, creative arts, science, languages, literature, music - to name but a few. Never shy of publicity, our walking netball group came prepared for the camera, leaving our walking football and rounders teams in the shade! Until September our membership fee is just £25, so it's a good time to look at all the activities we run for you to try.

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


If you would like a paper copy of all our current activities phone: 07787 520 281




**Saturday, 30<sup>th</sup> July – 9.30am till 4.30pm**  
**Castle Square, The Malls, Basingstoke**  
**come and meet**




**'Lennie' in his 'Lair'!**

 Free 'Colour it Yourself' face mask to the first 40 children...

Step into our Lion picture and take away your own photo... 

**'Be a Little Lion like Lennie', with 'Funny Faces Face-Painter Caroline...'**  
10am – 4pm  
**AND**

 **Waiting to be 'loved' again, our 3<sup>rd</sup> pre-loved books sale**  
**All books 50p. - or more if you wish!**  
*ordinary people – amazing things!*