

ALAN BEEBE 1948-2026

Sadly Alan, after a short time in hospital, passed away recently and I have been asked by our committee to draft a few notes on his life, particularly with reference to our u3a.

Alan was born in 1948 in Rustington, moved to Cambridge as a baby and from an early age had a leaning to play musical string instruments. His father played guitar and although, we understand, not necessarily encouraged by him, Alan developed a lifelong affinity for guitar and bass guitar, playing in groups in his younger years.

In more recent years, Alan developed a likening for the ukulele. He attended courses with the internationally well-known local musician Richard Durrant and set up our u3a group with singers and ukulele players. Alan was keen on encouraging new learners and introduced a number of potential players to the instrument with instruction at his home. Apart from our u3a, Alan was involved with a number of other ukulele groups in Henfield, Shoreham and Hassocks.

Over his lifetime, Alan collected a number of instruments, Guitars, bass guitars and ukuleles. (See picture of him with some of his collection.)



Alan working life was as a printer. He and his wife Caroline ran a printing company until they retired a few years ago. Some of the work developed into exhibition functions and he and Caroline became efficient event organisers, a skill which they carried into their u3a activities. Alan retained his interest in printing and was always keen on providing printing materials for the u3a and arranged printing for a number of ukulele song books, as well as other items for u3a.

Alan was a founder member of our u3a, serving as a member of our first committee and later as chairman for three years. He served, for some years, on a u3a area forum, setting up new u3a groups. For many years he and Caroline ran annual group holidays, filling a large coach and many enjoyed a sociable week away, to UK hotels, with daily outings.

Alan's passing will leave a big hole in many of our hearts. Our thoughts remain with his wife Caroline and their family.

Terry Careford