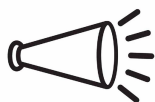


March 2024 Newsletter

A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIRMAN



On Friday 8th March your committee had a table at the Locks Heath Local Charities Event. Despite the blustery weather and not being in our usual prime spot, there was a lot of interest from the public which meant that extra leaflets needed to be printed.

We're planning another event in July.

It's hard to believe we're only a few weeks away from Easter already and I would remind everyone that the next monthly meeting is a week earlier than usual, 22nd March.

Hope to see you there.

It is with some sadness I have to let you know I'm not standing for Chairman for a second term because of a personal issue that needs my full attention. I'd like to thank both the committee and members for their support throughout the last year.

Terry Hammond, Chairman

MEET AND GREET



It's Membership renewal time, where has the year gone?! If you need help or information, please do ask one of our Meet and Greet Team who will be happy to help. **Judy Barrett**

THIS MONTH'S MEETING

This month's meeting is on Friday, 22nd March at St John's when Dr James Taylor will talk about "Grace Darling and the RNLI", on the 200th Anniversary year of the RNLI.

GENERAL NOTICES

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL PAYMENTS – March monthly meeting

We do hope that you will renew your subscription this month if you haven't done so already. Many of you will want to pay by cheque at the meeting. It would assist us if you can follow the guidelines below, thank you :-

- Come as early as you can before 1:30pm
- We only need the cut-off payment slip with your cheque
- Ensure your membership number is written on the back of the cheque
- Do not staple the payment slip to the cheque. Please use a paper clip

If the cheque and payment slip are in an envelope addressed to the Membership Secretary there will be a box to deposit them in or you may give the envelope to the members behind the counter.

Les Hill, Treasurer & John Stych, Membership Secretary



The Locks Heath u3a stall with some of the Committee members at the Locks Heath Centre on Friday 8th March where they were promoting Locks Heath u3a at the first of two “Charity Days” being held this year at the Centre.

INAUGRAL u3a FESTIVAL



The u3a movement is holding its first ever Festival in 2024, between 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.

Further details can be found at : <https://www.u3a.org.uk/events/festival-2024>

TEA AND BISCUIT TEAM. Don't forget the meeting is one week early because of Easter. Friday 22nd. March, 1:30pm

Would you like to join the Tea and Biscuit Team? We provide the refreshments at our monthly meetings at St. John's Church Hall.

4 people are needed each month so you would only take a turn 3 or 4 times a year. I plan to start the new rota for the May meeting.

You would be paired with an experienced person initially and you can come as a pair. We also have a couple of social meetings, (just for us,) during the year. Anyone interested come and see me near the kitchen on 22nd. or, if using web site, it's, contacts, Secretary, start f.a.o. Lois White. Many thanks.

Lois White

TEA FOR TONY BAYLISS – ADVANCE NOTICE

I am holding a celebratory tea for Tony on Saturday 15th June, at Sarisbury Community Centre, for those who knew Tony but were unable to attend his funeral in Coventry last year. If you think you would like to attend, please could you let me know by the end of April, for catering purposes. Also, if you have any food allergies. There is plenty of parking by the tennis courts, and some next to the hall. If you would like to attend but don't have transport, I hope it will be possible to arrange lifts.

Provisional time for the tea is 2:30 to 4:30 p.m., this will be confirmed nearer the date.

Rosemary Baylis 01489 574400, mobile 07306 323455

INTEREST GROUP NEWS

SKITTLES



We had another fun time at The Kings Head, Wickham Square.

Congratulations to Jean, winner of the Mary Drew Cup and Margaret, winner of the John Trophy. Our Cup is named after Mary who along with Jean and I met with the Manager of The Kings Head to discuss booking the Skittle Alley for our get togethers. The John Trophy was donated by a friend of Les. We are so grateful for their generosity.

Our next get together is Monday April 8th. This is the second Monday of the month as the first when we usually meet is an Easter Monday. **Judy Barrett**

BOOK FRIENDS



The next meeting of Book Friends is on Tuesday, 9th April, 2024 at our usual time of 2:00 pm. We shall be discussing our present book entitled "The Court of Lions" by Jane Johnson. I will confirm the venue a little nearer the time. I look forward to seeing my members on 9th April. **Margaret White**

GARDEN GROUP



Twenty-five members of the group met up in the Grove Room on the 2nd Friday in March and exchanged ideas for future visits and meetings followed by a simple quiz.

Our next meeting will be on the 12th April, when we will try to sort out some prospective dates for visits, once the weather improves. **Marguerite Boulter**

ALL THAT JAZZ



Our meeting on 19th February was attended by nine members. Our theme was "numbers" and we played eighteen tracks with numbers in the title, from Opus One, and One o'clock jump to Pennsylvania 65000 O O O during the afternoon. We next meet on Monday 18th March, when the theme will be "Cities and Countries". **David Badcock**

LUNCHEON GROUP



Our next lunch will be at Avenue 141, Fareham College, Bishopsfield Road on TUESDAY, 16th April at 12 for 12.30pm.

NB. The lunch is on Tuesday NOT Wednesday

A pre-order menu is required and as the College staff only return from their Easter break the day before I need to know numbers and your menu choices

by **Wednesday, 27th March**, please.

If you would like to join us please let me know at the General meeting on Friday, 22nd March or telephone me 01489 577027 or email rachelblundell@btinternet.com

Thank you, **Rachel Blundell**

CREATIVE WRITING



Please do not skip over this URGENT message!!!

This group has recently lost two members and we do not want to see it fold due to a shortage of members!

Most of the time that I have been a member of this group it has had a total of 6 members, and this has worked very well. We meet twice a month on the

first and third Thursdays of the month between 10:00am and midday. Usually, one of our members acts as host and provides table and chairs and perhaps tea or coffee and maybe biscuits. There is no charge and this is a relaxed and sociable meeting.

If you enjoy making up stories, writing poems, or just putting your thoughts and ideas into Facebook, this might be just the place for you! We are not looking for professional writers, just people who enjoy sharing their thoughts with other people. Here's a piece that one of our members wrote yesterday:

From Ian;

"Recently I came across all my old certificates, 50yards swimming etc. My English O Level was among them, grade 4. That was hard work, which makes it all the more surprising that I joined a "Creative Writing Group". I still don't know why I joined, but what I do know is that I'm really enjoying it.

I guess it's because we have all learnt things over the years, worthy of sharing, so we just write them down. Except of course, being "creative", we can embellish them or make it all up, fiction. It's surprising once you start writing, you get to the 500 words (suggested length) in no time at all. In fact the tricky bit can be stopping it getting too long. This is especially true when you tell the story through dialogue. Once your characters start talking, they say the strangest things and it can be hard to get them to stop.

Sometimes I have ideas bouncing around in my head, and "creative writing" is a way of letting them out, decluttering my brain".

If this has tweaked your interest, please get in touch and come along to one of our meetings to see what it is like.

Adrian Martiensen – Group Leader (contact details via the Editor)

CANASTA



Firstly may we wish all U3A members and their families a very happy Easter. Canasta is an easy game to learn and we will be more than happy to teach you at your own pace. Most of our members could never play until they joined the group and they all love it! We meet on the second and fourth Thursday of the month at the Victory Hall in Warsash. We are a friendly and laid back group and you would be very welcome. For more information please either ring 01489 577663 or email Liz Kennedy on lizkennedy2904@gmail.com Alternatively email Pauline Bower on paulinebower@icloud.com or call her on 077104 79933 for more details. **Liz Kennedy and Pauline Bower**

WALKING GROUP – MARCH 2024



Thank you to all who joined us for the walks in February and early March. We had to abandon the walk from St Mary's Church, Warsash to the shore as it was too wet, but some members stayed for coffee at St Mary's Church. We also had to change the meal venue for our walk along the shore from Hillhead to Lee-on-the-Solent Sailing Club due to the fire at Osborne View. Thank you to the staff at The Crofton who accommodated us well. We also had to adjust the walk on 13th March as the ground is still saturated and large puddles remain.

In late March and April, we have planned the following walks starting at 10:30am:

27th March: We will meet at Bursledon Railway Station (SO31 8AA) and walk north to Manor Farm in River Hamble Country Park. This is a long walk and definitely one requiring boots as areas in the country park can get quite muddy. We will stop at Manor Farm for refreshments. Marion is the Walk Leader (01489 578629). Marion will recce this walk to see if it is passable. Maureen will confirm through Beacon.

10th April: We will start at Wicor Recreation Ground (Cranleigh Road, Porchester, PO16 9DP) (car parking charges apply) and walk along the shore to Porchester Castle. This is a short walk. Refreshments and toilets will be available at St Mary's Church in the castle grounds. The return walk will again be along the shore. The path is not tarmac, so walking boots are the best footwear. Marion is the Walk Leader (01489 578629).

24th April: This walk will start at the main car park for Holly Hill Woodland Park, Barnes Lane to go through the woodland park to the footpath beside the River Hamble. We will the walk north beside the River Hamble and stop at Mermaids in Universal Boatyard for refreshments. We will return via Crableck Lane and Holly Hill Woodland Park. Walking boots will be needed for this walk. Maureen is the Walk Leader (07899 890028).

We look forward to catching up with you on one or more of these walks. Please let Marion, John or Maureen know if you are joining any of these walks so that we know who to expect and avoid leaving anyone behind. It is also important if we have to change or amend the walks, as we have had to do recently. Walking boots are the best footwear for the walks, unless we are totally on tarmac paths. Also, please be aware of weather conditions and bring appropriate clothing. Please try to share transport to the start of each walk to save parking spaces, parking charges and the environment.

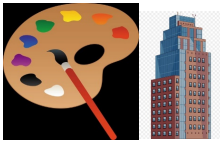
All walks start at 10.30am. **Maureen Richards and Marion Wilkinson**

CINEMA GROUP – Contact: Kathy Kanji, Solent u3a.



At the time of writing this article Kathy Kanji is still waiting for a response from the Cinema Manager as to whether or not we shall be able to see a film in April. Further information will come from Kathy Kanji. Those members not on email should contact me later this month on 01489 601684. **Celia Creedon**

ART AND ARCHITECTURE



David Lee's March presentation about the Victorian portrait photographer, Julia Margaret Cameron was well received. We learned that she was a true pioneer in a male-dominated profession. Her artistic approach was unique and attracted many notable sitters, Charles Darwin, Alfred Lord Tennyson, Henry Taylor and Ellen Terry, etc. Her portrait pictures have a unique haunted

atmosphere and although not properly acknowledged in her time, she has since become widely acclaimed.

In April, John Stych will present William Morris, poet, artist, writer and textile designer. Anyone who has had the job of choosing a pair of curtains will already probably have met some of his work. He boldly championed hand-made Arts and Crafts production in the Victorian industrial era. An illustrated talk not to be missed.

We will also finalise arrangements for our summer trips. Car sharing can not only provide convenience but can also be cost effective. We need volunteer drivers and passengers to come forward.

Finally come and join us – a welcome awaits! We are scheduled to meet in St John's Church Grove Room, Tuesday 9th April at 10:10 a.m. Admission £2 per person. New members welcome.

Andrew Kennedy and Ray Gardner

HERITAGE AND CULTURES

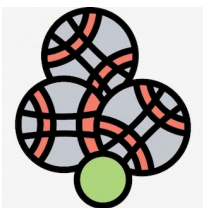


We have a very interesting talk on the aviation aspect of our Coastguard Service coming up, courtesy of Chris Bond. That will be on Tuesday 19th at 10:30am in the Evens Room at St John's Church. We look forward to seeing members from the branch as well as our group.

Our little group goes from strength to strength. Later in the year, there are visits to the Chichester Canal, Bishops Waltham Palace and the Royal Victoria Chapel + cemetery at Netley, organised by group members. Please get in touch with me or Dilys Lillywhite for more information and booking.

David Lee

PETANQUE



1st and 3rd Friday each month at 10:00 am. Next session April 5th. Venue is Fareham Petanque Club terrain, Fareham NW Community Centre, Henry Cort Drive, PO15 6PH with plenty of parking spaces.

Tuition given and equipment available. Wear stout shoes or trainers. We do not play in pouring rain, but do continue if rain starts during play, so

waterproof may be advisable. **Lois White**

SHEPPERD SINGERS



The singers this month have been practicing for our upcoming “sing out” to a group of Stroke survivors in Crofton. This has included learning some very different and new, to us, songs. Next month we have been invited back to “sing out” to Hamble Heights Care home in late April.

The majority of us enjoy these “sing outs” although some of our singers are a bit shy and decline. Which is absolutely fine. It gives the focus to us to be the absolute best we can be. Our pianist Christopher continues to keep us amused by his unfailing humour. I’ve never known a teacher to help us learn so much without us feeling we are being taught. An amazing quality and skill. We are so very lucky that he is so passionate and available to teach us.

Best wishes for Easter. **Carol of The Sheppard Singers.**

The Third Age Trust Newsletter links –

If you would like to view the most recent newsletters issued by The Third Age Trust at national level, please click on the following links.

February – Your u3a Friends Newsletter

<https://us9.campaign-archive.com/?u=656ad5962b370cc9e2731d1ed&id=885652721d>

FACTOIDS – You may find interesting:



- In 2013, a Florida law accidentally banned computers.
- you can't write perfect French on French computer keyboards.
- In 1861, only 2.5% of Italians could speak Italian.
- 70% of Italians imagine that life is good in France, but only 43% of French agree with them.
- In Germany, it is illegal to wear a mask or take a pillow to a demonstration.
- Elizabeth I owned 3,000 dresses and the world's first wire coat hanger.
- Elizabeth I invented gingerbread men.
- Blackbeard was a pirate for two years.
- The most common sentence in the Harry Potter books is 'Nothing happened'.
- Yoda's first name is Minch.

Note from the Editor:

Thank you all for your contributions to this month's Newsletter.