Chairman’s Chat

Oh to be in England now that Spring is here! I’m referring, of course, to our real Spring, our English Spring, not that mild, wet and windy phoney Spring that we’ve had all through Winter – that was just some cheap foreign import. To stand in the garden and see those lovely little primroses, those gently swaying daffodils and those perky snowdrops and crocuses visibly shivering their way through December, January and February was enough to bring tears to your eyes. If flowers had teeth, I would have heard them chattering.

But not to worry because we have now got the whole of real Spring to look forward to and, of course, our monthly U3A meetings which you always attend in such large numbers and where it is always such a pleasure to meet you all. As always, your Committee will continue to search for guest speakers who are, not only interesting, but entertaining as well but that is not always easy to judge in advance. In addition, we are always on the look out for new ideas that will make our meetings even more enjoyable and any ideas or suggestions that you may have will always be welcomed. See you all at our next meeting. In the meantime, take care.

MIKE WATKINS

Dates For Your Diary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Speaker/Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, 13th April</td>
<td>Lawrence Shaw on “Shedding New Light on the New Forest”</td>
<td>Lawrence is a heritage mapping and data officer for the New Forest National Park Authority.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, 11th May</td>
<td>Ron Taylor on The Spice of Life”</td>
<td>Ron traces the history of herbs and spices, their origins and uses.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, 8th June</td>
<td>Jenny Abery from the Bumblebee Conservation Trust.</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

STUDY DAYS

Friday, 22nd April  Jane Austen and The Navy
Lymington U3A are holding a Study Day from 10am to 12:30pm at the Lymington Centre, New Street.
Jane Austen had two brothers in the Royal Navy and her writings on the Navy led to her being regarded as one of the most important commentators of the age. Details can be found on the website. Alternatively, telephone Janet Norton on 01590 674193.
OUR WEBSITE. www.u3asites.org/lyndhurst

The website has grown since the last Newsletter with a ‘News’ page and also a ‘Site Map’ as the new additions. The latter is useful to get a simple diagram of the whole site and all the various sub-pages. Just click on any entry and you will be taken straight there.

While I look after the main body of the site the Group pages are all looked after and updated by the Group leaders or contacts who have their own passwords to access the page and sub-pages and photos can also be added. You can reach me with suggestions, corrections and site queries by emailing me or by phone via the Contacts page. The Group contacts can be reached by way of the email envelope symbol on the respective page.

On the Events page I am adding not just the monthly meetings but any events which have been opened up to all members and are not restricted to the individual Groups. I will also add occasional study days by other local U3As. For example there is a morning on ‘Jane Austin and the Navy’ organised by Lymington U3A in April. Study Days and Conferences organised by National U3A and the Chichester Summer School are on the ‘Links’ page. You will also see these advertised on the notice boards at monthly meetings.

I hope you find the site of interest and also of value. There is a lot of information on it and I think you will find it well worth a browse now and again.

John Robinson
Website Manager
GROUP NEWS

The special presentations by interest groups started at the last general meeting with interesting exhibits by the Mah Jongg interest group and the Cycling group.

A current list of all Groups and their points of contact can be found at the end of this newsletter.

PHILIP DINN
Groups Co-Ordinator

CYCLING IN THE FOREST

When we started the cycling group early last year, I thought that I would give it a go for six months and if it didn’t work through lack of support, not to worry. It’s not a job and at least I’m helping other people.

Well, quite a few months on, and amazingly we’re still going strong despite various setback, (mainly to do with punctures), and we seem to be gaining in numbers. So, well done to everybody who has supported and enjoyed the group, and welcome to new members.

We have some exciting bike rides in mind. How about the South Downs Way, for example, which is totally legal riding. Or, Winchester to Eastbourne....

As encouragement to would be group leaders, give it a go. It’s good fun and anyway we’re retired—we’re allowed to make mistakes!

GEOFF ASTON
....AMAZING HOW QUICKLY WE GOT THE HANG OF IT ......
FRIENDLY BRIDGE

Our friendly Bridge group is now well established and holding two playing sessions each month. In accordance with our “Charter” (see our group page on the club’s web site for details), we avoid the pressures of time and competition, instead focusing on enjoying the game and improving our skills. After playing a hand we often review our own bidding and play, with the result that several of us are indeed slowly improving!

This is an ideal form of Bridge for infrequent, inexperienced or rusty players to get (back) into the game, while being relaxed and enjoyable for more confident players. We can’t undertake to teach Bridge from scratch, but we would welcome anyone who knows the rudiments of bidding and play – it’s not only the inexperienced who learn from our freedom to take a second look at a hand and work out how it could have been done better!

Do think about coming along and joining us. If you’re not sure, or if our meeting dates/times don’t suit, email your contact details to Mike Windle (contact via the web page) to see what we can arrange.

MIKE WINDLE
FRENCH CONVERSATION

If any of our U3A members are planning a holiday in France for this summer, or getting involved with the French Twinning, then one of our two French groups could help with the language!

French Beginners and French Conversation sessions are held on a regular basis, with plenty of opportunity for practice at various levels and in a relaxing setting. If you are interested in joining us you can contact group organisers by sending email messages via the Individual Groups pages.

With French conversation in particular, which is definitely a post-beginners group, each member takes a turn in choosing and presenting the subject to be discussed. Topics introduced so far range from Art to Wine and everything in between and although we haven’t yet covered X, Y or Z, please feel free to come along with ideas to share.

Occasionally we play word games (in French) so dictionaries can be a great asset, but our focus is mainly on using the language and communicating, talking either in small groups or as a larger group sharing “conversation”.

Recent work on using the correct tenses when speaking about the past, present and future reminded us all of the need for some knowledge of grammar, but this is only partly what we are about. Our main focus is to enjoy practising the French language in a friendly and convivial atmosphere and to help one another achieve this goal during the one hour session.

APRIL ROBINSON
ENJOYING TECHNOLOGY IN THE THIRD AGE

The Computer Group has now completed its metamorphosis into a U3A-wide Enjoying Technology workshop, with the result that we are now doing something useful for many more U3A members. Our first three months in the new format have addressed Choosing the Right Technology (just in time for Christmas!), Getting the Best out of your Smartphone (to find out what you can do with that new iPhone) and Windows 10 – Now, Later or Never? (to allay some of the suspicions and concerns about this important topic for PC users). Coming up next is Doing More with your iPad, and then who knows what? (It will depend on what interests members most – possibly Staying Safe Online).

In essence, we hold two workshops each month. Both of these address the same topic, but because they are free-ranging and driven by the interests of those present, they rarely cover the same ground twice. The second workshop does not depend on having attended the first. If the topic is one that interests you, your best approach would be to come along to the first workshop if you can, with a view to attending the second one also if you want to find out more. If you can only make the second one, that will work too.

We are currently reviewing our meeting dates, but the latest information is always on our page of the Lyndhurst U3A web site. There will be no workshops in March, but be sure to reserve the dates in April if you are an iPad user!

MIKE WINDLE
WALKING GROUP

The Walking Group co-ordinator is now Chris Manning, who has already updated the website with a programme of walks for the coming year.

Anyone wishing to join the group or, indeed, to lead a walk, should contact Chris via the website.

Thank you Chris for all your hard work.

———

MUSICAL ENTERTAINMENT IN VICTORIAN TIMES

A Talk by Peter Trodd on 10th February at our monthly U3A meeting.

The talk concentrated on Musical Entertainment in Victorian Times, from street musicians playing honky tonk tunes using a monkey to encourage a contribution transported on carts and played outside of houses, shops or businesses regardless of the annoyance this might present.

In the home smaller portable music boxes were developed, organettes, and more expensive Swiss cylinder boxes from 1805, many had a beautiful tone but with only perhaps six tunes popular at the date of sale the owner probably became tired of the same melodies.

A changeable metal disc box was developed by Symphonion in 1885, quickly followed by Polyphon and Regina and because these could be produced much cheaper and with multiple tunes available, led to a collapse of the Swiss industry.

However the first recording of the human voice by Thomas Edison on wax cylinders from 1890 and this in turn led to the development of the gramophone and the bankruptcy of the entire music box industry by about 1905.

Finally the presentation at Nipper the dog famous now for the HMV label but with a advertising career with a variety of other labels.

During the presentation a selection of tunes were played on various machines with the audience asked if they could recognise the occasional tune.
MONTHLY HIGHLIGHT ON GROUPS
This month the Interest Group corner was a hive of activity, not least due to the presence of our two special presentation groups.

PHILIP DINN
Groups Co-Ordinator

MAH JONG

The photo shows Juliet and Steve during a quiet period. The display was designed to demonstrate both the start of a game and an example of how it could finish.

The set on the left has beautifully lacquered racks showing traditional Chinese decorations, with the tiles being made of bone and bamboo. Steve tells me that during the afternoon several people commented on having seen a set in their childhood, maybe with family having spent some time in the Far East. So, check those lofts—you may never know what you might find.

Contact Juliet for more information.

CYCLING IN THE FOREST

Geoff was on hand to demonstrate you needed more than just a bicycle when out and about in the forest. Here, discussing the finer points of punctures Geoff is joined by George, a member of the cycling group.

The group has been very active since starting and welcome all new members. So, have a look at the Cycling group page on the website for further details.

Next month it will be the turn of Genealogy and the Walking special interest groups.
## Current Groups List

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Art</th>
<th>Point of Contact: Jan Wheat</th>
<th>Monday AM</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Book Club</td>
<td>Point of Contact: Pat Porter</td>
<td>Monday PM. 3rd Mondays 4PM. In homes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boule (Suggested)</td>
<td>Point of Contact: Awaits</td>
<td>Contact Groups Co-ordinator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bridge</td>
<td>Point of Contact: Mike Windle</td>
<td>2pm 1st Wednesday and 3rd Monday.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creative Writing</td>
<td>Point of Contact: Mike Watkins</td>
<td>Monday PM.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cycling In The Forest</td>
<td>Point of Contact: Geoff Aston</td>
<td>3rd Friday each month</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Days Out</td>
<td>Point of Contact: Juliet Tilley</td>
<td>10:30am Last Thursday of the month.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enjoying Technology in the Third Age</td>
<td>Point of Contact: Mike Windle</td>
<td>2:30pm. 4th Monday and the Friday following the U3A monthly meeting.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>French Beginners</td>
<td>Point of Contact: Mike Letheren</td>
<td>Thursday 5pm, alternate weeks.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>French Conversation</td>
<td>Point of Contact: April Robinson</td>
<td>Wednesday 5:30 PM. 1st &amp; 3rd Wednesdays</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gardening</td>
<td>Point of Contact: Alexis Hockham</td>
<td>See Groups web page</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Genealogy</td>
<td>Point of Contact: Fiona Dinn</td>
<td>2:30PM Last Wednesday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lunch Club</td>
<td>Point of Contact: TBA</td>
<td>Visits vary. See web page.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mah Jong</td>
<td>Point of Contact: Juliet Tilley</td>
<td>Wednesday PM. Meeting regularly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natural History</td>
<td>Point of Contact: Linda Bradshaw</td>
<td>Thursday PM. 4th Thursday. More members needed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Photography</td>
<td>Point of Contact: Linda Bradshaw</td>
<td>Wednesday AM. 4th Wednesday. More members needed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walking</td>
<td>Point of Contact: Chris Manning</td>
<td>1st Monday &amp; 3rd Thursday 10AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wine Tasting</td>
<td>Suggested.</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
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**Deadline for copy for the June 2016 Newsletter is 31st May 2016.**

All contributions should be sent to the Editor, Fiona Dinn via the email link on the webpage, or by post.

Photo credits: Mike Watkins, Page 1.
Philip Dinn, Page 9.
Cartoon credit: Mike Watkins, Page 4.