



WINTER NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the Winter Newsletter which gives you an opportunity to catch up on events you may have missed and to find out what is planned for the next few months.

October

Our speaker was Tony Harris. This was Tony's second visit as he entertained us one December



when he talked about pantomimes. This time he spoke about **'Winston' (Churchill)**. Tony is a professional comedian, raconteur and actor, specialising in historical talks with a hysterical twist. This

time Tony appeared dressed as Winston Churchill and gave a very entertaining and informative talk on 'Winston' demonstrating a very detailed knowledge of the life of his subject. His talk certainly lived up to expectation.

November

Unfortunately, our planned talk 'Springtime in Japan' by Rosemary Le Grand did not go ahead, but her husband **Christopher Legrand** was able to give us a talk on **Vietnam and the Far East**. He explored the beauty and culture of Thailand, Vietnam and Indonesia. He was a confident and fluid speaker and his talk was beautifully illustrated.



December

Our December speaker was Jonathan Jones and the title of his talk was **'A Christmas Cracker'** - a miscellany of prose and poetry for the festive season.



Jonathan was the Town Crier for Farnham for 17 years and regularly gives talks on his role as a Crier and various literary themes.

This was an enjoyable meeting, with a variety of readings, some jolly, others more reflective, all presented in a professional way.

Afterwards members chatted over coffee, mulled wine and mince pies.

Wreath Making – extra-curricular



This was the second wreath making session that Jonathan from Ikebana has led for us and again was very much enjoyed by all.

Members brought greenery and other items along to use in making their wreath and Jonathan also had a huge selection of 'stuff' for members to choose from. Maureen Tory provided some excellent cake and mince pies, tea and coffee were also available. Our members produced amazing wreaths:





2023

January

The planned talk was **'The Andes and the Incas'** given by **Major Paul Whittle** who, unfortunately, was unable to come due to illness. We were very fortunate that a local speaker, **Claire Mitchell**, stepped in at the last minute. Her title was 'Gardening – the quiet revolution', a talk about sustainable gardening, how we can have a positive impact on biodiversity and climate change through how we garden.

Claire explained that the two major problems are too much heat and not enough water which have an impact worldwide, alongside with earth quakes and extreme weather. The average temperature in the UK has been becoming warmer since the 19th century, and the use of fossil fuels increases greenhouse gases.

Gardening is also part of the problem, using energy, heat, water and plastics in the commercially grown bedding plants and annuals that also use fertilisers and pesticides, the manufacture of which increase greenhouse gases. It would be good to avoid the use of black plastic pots and peat. Claire advised keeping pot plants in the shade, mulch flower bed to conserve water in the soil and control weeds. Choose perennials over annuals as they will cope better with drier summers and wetter winters.

Future Monthly Meetings

February



**Hampshire
Isle of Wight
Air Ambulance**

Many people do not realise Air Ambulance services are charity-funded, or that it costs **£15,000 a day** to keep the Critical Care teams flying. Ryland's talk will cover the history and

operations of the charity as well as the equipment and training, and most importantly the expenditure and fundraising needed for this vital service.

March



**Lucy Houston
The Lady who Saved the
Nation
Colin Van Geffen**

When Lucy Houston died on 29th December 1936, so ended the life of one of Britain's wealthiest, most powerful, steadfastly passionate, charismatic, eccentric, militant, forward-thinking political activist, campaigner, publicist, philanthropist, socialite, suffragist and romantic of her time; yet today she has all but disappeared into obscurity, largely forgotten or unknown by the world she helped to save.

April



**'DNA' and The Genome
Darren Gowers**

Portsmouth University

May



**The 'F' Word
Sue Flipping**

June

The Story of English Freedom

Andy Thomas



NOTICES

Group Leaders

If you are a group leader, you should have received an email invitation for a forthcoming meeting of all group leaders to catch up and share information. There will be two Friday afternoons to choose from, on 10th or 24th February in the Community Centre. Refreshments will be served, provided by our wonderful WI.

A number of the groups now have vacancies. Please contact either the group leader if you are interested in joining, or me, Teresa Reynolds, Groups Co-ordinator. Should the group not have current capacity, your details will be passed to me, to form a waiting list.

Our Website

Please follow the Overton and District website for full information on News Groups and Events.

Barn Dance

For our Summer event (August 16th) we are planning to have a Barn Dance, on a hopefully glorious evening, spilling into the lovely garden. We are in the process of commissioning a "stonking" band with a skilful caller. More details to follow.

Proposed summer outing

This year we are suggesting two venues:



Portsmouth

OR



Beaulieu

There will be sign-up sheets for each option at the February meeting so do sign up for your preferred choice or sign for both if you do not have a preference. A decision will be made after the February meeting, based on the highest number, whether to go to Portsmouth or Beaulieu. Initially places will only be reserved for members. Further information to follow.

Help with refreshments



Help from members with purchasing supplies- biscuits, coffee, milk, tea etc., setting up – need to be at SMH about 9.30am, serving and washing up would be appreciated by the committee. None of these tasks are onerous so if you can help please speak to a member of the committee.



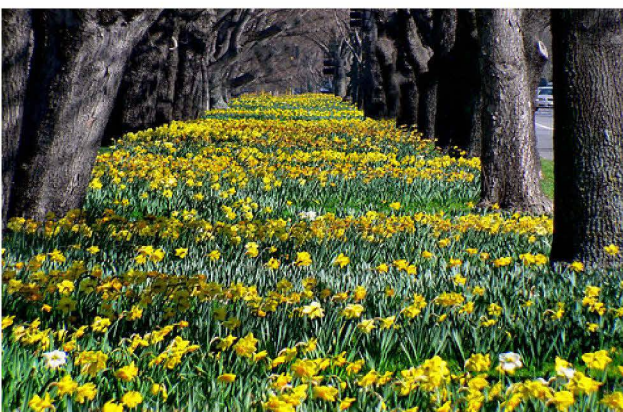
Notice of AGM

The next AGM will be held directly after the April Meeting, Wednesday 19th April.

Need for new committee members

A significant number of committee members have served their time and so will be standing down at the AGM. We wish to thank them for their contributions to the successful running of our u3a. However, this means that we will be seeking some new members for the committee, so please think carefully about putting yourself forward by having a chat with one of the current committee members or drop an email to: enquiries@overtonu3a.org.uk.

There must be many of our members who have the skills and experience to make valuable contributions to our u3a, and since our members are not in full time employment there should be a little wriggle room time wise to attend a committee meeting once a month, and fit in a few tasks in-between meetings. The committee look forward to hearing from you.



Looking forward to springtime!



COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairman: Bob Denny

Vice Chair: Margaret Aldgate

Secretary: Maureen Tory 01256 771953

Treasurer & Membership Secretary: David Carter 01256 770681

Groups Co-ordinator: Teresa Reynolds

Meetings Co-ordinator: Michael Humphery

Adrian Good: Publicity/Information / Sound

Ex-officio Newsletter / Posters: Lizzie Lewis 07858 465901

General enquiries / contact committee members by email:

enquiries@overtonu3a.org.uk