



**Congratulations
to George
“Le Prof”
who is still leading
the French class as
he approaches his
90th birthday.**

**Or
as the French say
“four twenties
and a ten!”**

**À votre santé
George**

Newsletter Summer 2021

Website: www.u3asites.org.uk/portsmouth

**Facebook [https://www.facebook.com/groups/
httpsu3asites.org.ukportsmouthhome](https://www.facebook.com/groups/httpsu3asites.org.ukportsmouthhome)**

Officers and Committee 2020 -2021

Chair	Hilary Nicklin	0239229 7867
Secretary	Carol Powell	0239275 4289
Treasurer	Jean Morgan	0239281 6949
Beacon Co-ordinator	Ivor Grayson-Smith	0239235 0340
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Social Secretary	Ken Snell MBE	0239278 6825
Website	Carole Grinter	0239282 5363
Vice Chair & Website	Rosemary Sirett	07540597804
Newsletter Editor	Susan Johnson	0239266 9938
Speaker Secretary	Hilary Poley	
Programme Co-ordinator	vacancy	
Facebook and publicity	vacancy	

There are lots of vacancies coming up. Some you can see in the chart above and others will have served their time on the committee and replacements need to be found if we are to continue

Three current vacancies: Programme Co-Ordinator, Facebook/publicity and vice-chair

Two positions will become vacant in November: chair and membership secretary

If you are interested in any of these positions , please contact a member of the committee – contact details above

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Another u3a year and we have not been able to meet up and socialise! We have missed a lot about our u3a, but thank goodness for our zoom meetings. We have come so far with those since the first tentative sessions in April last year, led by our “tech wizard” Susan Johnson, and the other regular zoom hosts Jim Sweasey and Oly Quinn, as well as many Group Leaders who now run their groups by zoom, so there has been much to keep our minds active! This year has also seen the addition of the Portsmouth u3a Facebook page to keep us interested and amused. Thank you to you all!

This is my last end-of-term letter as Chair: my term of office ends at the AGM in November.

AT THAT TIME THERE WILL BE SEVERAL VACANCIES on the COMMITTEE: CHAIR

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY PUBLICITY WEBSITE PROGRAMME CO-ORDINATOR

Our u3a CANNOT FUNCTION without a committee and legally CANNOT CONTINUE without the OFFICERS. The last few CHAIRS have been women: how about a man to

take the role?

WE NEED PEOPLE TO VOLUNTEER. Now would be an ideal time to come forward, and have a chance to “shadow” a role at committee meetings, before the November AGM.

We have organised a weekly programme during the Summer break (COVID permitting) and really look forward to being back to normal at The Hub in September,

In the meantime, enjoy this great Newsletter and remember: LEARN LAUGH LIVE
Hilary

PS At the time of going to press we cannot unfortunately guarantee complete resumption of our groups at The Hub in September (as we had hoped.) As a community centre, The Hub has largely been taken over by the NHS for Covid testing etc. for an indefinite period. The Autumn Term Programme is ready to print and as soon as we have definite news we will contact all our members.

Architecture

February and March were tough months for all of us. Our isolation Christmases seemed a distant memory, a bad dream even, and Easter, with our first release date, was still many weeks away. The weather kept us housebound, healthful walks abandoned in favour of cake, comfort food and alarming extensions to our waistlines.

However, amongst those comforts have been our fortnightly Zoom meetings, feeding our brains and not adding unwelcome inches. Architecture has retained a loyal core of members and it's been good to see our friends regularly, even at one removed from reality.

Our meetings and myself especially owe a huge debt of gratitude to the éminence grise of Architecture, the blessed Jim. He has overseen and organised things in his quiet, understated way and mentored, with endless patience, those of us who have needed guiding thorough the internet jungle. I am still wandering about in the aforesaid jungle, despite Jim's best efforts, but I think this can be attributed to my own stupidity and resistance to the digital world.

The digital world has nevertheless been a way to connect us and possibly for us to retain our sanity. I must learn to go with the flow, I think.

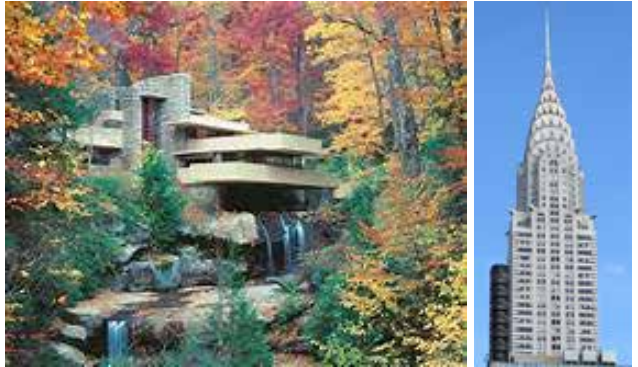
Through our previous six sessions we've pursued the American dream and discovered ten American architects, some famous like Louis Sullivan and Frank Lloyd Wright and some new names, such as Henry Hobson Richardson and Victor Gruen. The link between these ten was the game-changing influence they had on American life and

its landscape. Each of them brought about new styles such as American Colonial, Richardson Gothic, The Prairie House, Modernism and the skyscraper and even Post Modernism. They brought changes to the life of the nation, such as the factory production line, the shopping mall and modern airport.

A brilliant little film on these ten men, with thumbnail sketches of the keynote buildings enabled further explanation of each architect, their life and careers. Sometimes we tend to be a little parochial in looking at architecture, by thinking of it in terms of its classical roots and its European and British development. We all felt it was a useful addition to our knowledge of the changes on other continents and to different ways of life. The

vision and brilliance of these men helped to bring new perceptions to a changing world.

Since then, I chose to explore my two quintessential American buildings, Lloyd Wright's "Fallingwater" and Van Alen's Chrysler building. Both were built in the 1930s and are at opposing ends of buildings' functions – the first, a private and wholly individual house, poised over a waterfall, in an idyllic woodland and the second, a public, city building, a skyscraper, with stunning Art Deco credentials, 77 floors high yet still stirring the imagination with its graceful beauty. I've great hopes that at our next meeting our members will be contributing a patchwork of pieces about their own favourite buildings. These co-operative efforts



are the glue that keep us together as a group of people with a mutual interest and the enthusiasm and curiosity to pursue it further.

Hopefully, our mutual interest will soon be possible as real people, not little rectangles on a screen, and in a real place. I can't tell you how much I look forward to that reality.

Gilly Zeffertt

MEMORIES OF THE PAST U3A IN PORTSMOUTH

Carol Jones

Here are a few events that may jog the memories of a few of our members. The Summer Fetes we held to help boost our funds. I think it was about 2006/7.

The Summer "Garden Parties" held on Freda and Brian Forceys allotment in Locksway Road, Milton. The Garden Appreciation Group. Started and led by Freda who organised many wonderful visits for us. The group was very popular and she never had any trouble filling a coach! The Christmas Entertainment that the Plays and Poems group provide for us.

Barbara Spiegelhalter

Memories of U3A life in Southsea Community Centre St, Paul's Square.

Music classes on a Monday morning with off stage accompaniments Roar and then crash of waste collections. Refuse lorry then bins. Sudden and explosive but triumphant yells of Asian martial arts class in the hall bordering the room.

Ladies loo during winter....no heating at all. A sudden chill upon entering the room, no hot water for wash basins then holding frozen hands in the icy draught of an enfeebled air dryer. Makes me shiver to recall this.

However, lovely things were the café and Ray. Ray took a lot of care beating up each cup

of instant coffee to mix up the powder. Queues stretched into the foyer and moved along really slowly. Staff got to know your favourites, also were quite prepared to negotiate a special meal. Puddings were amazing. Atmosphere was really cosy, meals were prepared for locals living in nearby flats and delivered to them!

Also we had lots of foyer space.. noticeboards with lists uncovered so that you could write on them, space to show paintings from the Art group. Raffles on Charts. I don't know when Portsmouth U3A first moved in but I remember that we had to move out in July 2014. We had no choice. Such a well-established true community centre loved by all.

Diana Swann

U3A Portsmouth moved from our Community Centre home to the Somerstown Hub in 2014 during my Chairmanship. The atmosphere beforehand was Doom and Gloom. We had explored other possible venues, but found none. As I led my straggling and reluctant fellow members into the Hub, I felt like Moses crossing the Red Sea. Nobody heeded the plus factors of a large café and a lift, for we were dogged by disasters in those first months.

We were dismayed that parking was practically non-existent and even dropping-off entailed a trip to the first floor Office for a key to unlock bollards .

Rooms were inappropriately assigned. I had to make a list for the Hub Office itemising size of class and whether they needed a screen and/or darkness for films or presentations. Typically, the much -vaunted Art Room proved to be the worst-lit space in the Hub. We frequently had to cancel classes to enable the Council's Housing Department to run courses (their Residents Participation in Weight Management was a force to be reckoned with!).

But the major confrontation was the Battle of the Blinds for rooms, 3 and 4, where dazzling sunlight made presentations impossible. This was only solved when the City Council meeting needed a room themselves for a presentation, and found they could not use Room 4 because of the lack of blinds. Our larger meetings, which often involved a screen were moved to the dark Sports Hall until expensive blinds were finally installed.

The (fortunately willing) Hub Manager, had to interrupt her Annual leave repeatedly in the first weeks to improvise solutions, while inexperienced new staff in the office had to survive a steep learning curve. Throughout all this I optimistically attended the monthly meetings for Somerstown Residents' Association, though my requests were often ignored. Resignations of Office staff meant I had to interview potential newcomers.

However, there were minor triumphs – wastepaper bins and clocks began to proliferate after our protests and we were assigned space on the Noticeboard.

But 'Not fit for purpose' cries resounded as queues of wheelchairs formed, because there was nobody mobile enough to push open the heavy fire doors. I finally went to The News with our story of the move and tried to impress upon the Council and public that provision for U3A was inadequate, even though the Hub's space and attractiveness would bring prestige to the City.

Nearly six years have elapsed since my stint as Chair. I never cease to wonder that U3A finally regarded the Hub as home – that is until March 2020.....

Jo Palmer

I recall 2 past members whom we lost in 2018 - Vivienne Pittard who was Membership Secretary at that time - I understand at the grand age of over 90 she took a course in spread sheets.

Also Alan Spicer who ran no less than 5 groups; his flat was apparently piled high with books and CDs and we still have much of his collection in store awaiting distribution when the present pandemic is over.

I personally thought that an important event during Barbara Spiegelhalter's Chairmanship in 2017 was the promotion of the U3A in an Older People's Fair in St Thomas' Cathedral sponsored by the then MP for Portsmouth South - Flick Drummond.

I have got some info. about the Portsmouth U3A in about 1989-90 (that's before my time)! My niece tells me she was working at The News at the time and got to know about the U3A as we apparently used to run courses for people retiring - she says she used to book the courses so they must have been for people outside the U3A.

FRENCH

Our French classes, zoomed on Monday mornings from 10 to 11 a.m., remain well attended in these barren times. Attendance fluctuates between 15 and 18 members weekly, and those unable to take part in the zooms are sent the weekly lesson sheets so that they can – if they wish – keep up to date with the work

being done. The cohesion of this wonderful group was again amply demonstrated earlier this week when a number of us met on the Common on a sunny afternoon well furnished with a variety of thirst-quenchers, together with a range of sausage rolls and other delicacies. The conversation burgeoned And indeed, the group remains as close-knit now as it has done for years, the members comfortable with each other;- a call for a volunteer to speak to the rest of us in French never goes unanswered!

As we become more fluent in the language itself we can now safely leave the cats sitting on mats type of exercise, and begin to take a closer look at our neighbours across the Channel. One of the class members has made a valuable contribution in this respect by lending me a really excellent series of dvds in which a learned gentleman takes us across France, commenting fluently on what we see – the characteristics of such areas as the Camargue, the Cathar homeland with its desperately sad, nay, brutal history, the significance geographically, culturally and historically of towns like Montpellier and Carcassonne, and much else of interest. These minilectures will enable me to encourage volunteers in the class to talk about their own experiences in the places studied – already we have heard from those of us who have got to know the fascinating Canal du Midi (see picture), for example.

This will, I hope, become a regular feature next term, especially welcome if the pandemic



keeps us sorrowing here on this side of La Manche. Which reminds me that we are also keeping in zoom touch with our 'cousins' over there in Caen. We may not be able to organise the yearly visits for a while yet but such a strong connection was made in the past that the 'twinning' is still very real. It might be worthwhile to remind ourselves that this correspondence with the University of Caen group, with its yearly four-day visits, has been in place now for some seventeen years and is one of the jewels in the crown not only of our U3A but of the whole of the British U3A organisation. Vive la France!

George Jenkins

German

The group has continued to explore a wide range of subjects. We have looked at Gunther Demnig an artist famous for the "Stolpersteine", commemorative brass plaques installed in pavements and walkways, made a virtual visit to Berlin's zoo to see the twin pandas celebrating their first birthday and enjoyed a visit to the Cologne Carnival. We have listened to Schubert's "Winterreise", enjoyed a talk about Thomas Mann and his book "The Magic Mountain" and learnt a little about the work of the Romantic artist Caspar David Friedrich. There have been times for discussion about the changing political scene as the country votes soon to elect a new chancellor. We have listened to a talk about the history of "Twinning" between cities in different countries and discussed the issues now facing the future of this movement. More recently we began to explore the subject of poverty and deprivation in Germany. We also watched a fascinating video giving us a glimpse of the future, where German environmentalists have used old solar panels to convert discarded railway lines into environmentally friendly cycle lanes.



Spanish

The Spanish group is small but beautifully formed and we have continued throughout lockdown with weekly zoom sessions. I have been able to find a variety of you tube clips to let us travel the Spanish speaking world from the comfort of our own homes. Mainly we have been following the adventures of two young cousins in Mexico who speak nice and slowly for us and repeat things many times so we can take it in and remember it.

We discovered that a girl's 15th birthday is a really big deal for Mexicans. They celebrate with a huge family party with family and friends and a special cake and an extravagant dress. It's like a prom dance combined with a wedding in a celebration of passing from childhood to womanhood...she's now old enough to get married historically. For many of these girls it is an even bigger event than their wedding will ever be, with many unique traditions. It is the first time the girl can wear a long dress. Parents must have to start saving from the moment their daughter is born.

We have also followed the real adventures of the Spanish royal family. Juan Carlos is now hiding out



in Dubai or somewhere in the Middle East while his son Felipe reigns. There is also palpable tension between the emeritus Queen Sofia and her daughter in law Leticia. Of course Leticia was never good enough in Queen Sofia's eyes for her son, She was a divorced TV presenter. Now of course Leticia is Queen and has the upper hand.



Have you heard of Amanacio Ortega, Spain's richest man, who at one point was richer than Bill Gates. He is the owner of Zara and Mango but of course has since diversified. He lost 10 billion euros during the pandemic but still has some to spare.

There is time to fit in a bit of grammar as well and have even dipped our toes into the conditional. Hopefully when we return to the hub we will encourage more people to join us and might even manage a trip to a tapas bar again to practise our vocabulary.

Can you tell which one is Amanacio and which one is Juan Carlos? If you would like to join us please contact me: **Susan Johnson 0239266 9938**

1



2



2. Amanacio Ortega

1. Juan Carlos

Art Appreciation

Art Appreciation has worked very well on zoom for those who are able to connect but of course this misses out a part of the audience and limits discussion. We have been able to supplement the fortnightly class with lectures from the Royal Academy and a weekly quiz to show us how much we still have to learn. Sky Arts and BBC 4 have been battling it out as to who can produce the most programmes on Art. There was even a book of the week on radio 4 about Holbein so we are probably getting more input than usual.



We ended 2020 with Australian Impressionists who could give their French counterparts a run for their money. They were known as the Heidelberg School but were based near Melbourne. This is a painting by Jane Sutherland which could be mistaken for a Van Gogh.

To balance our view we started 2021 with Australian Aboriginal Art. The Aboriginals are now using modern materials and portraying the new Australia and declaring their part in it.



As a complete contrast we came back to the and to Gainsborough. We discovered that although he is famous for his portraits he really wanted to be a landscape painter but portraits were where the money was. His landscapes were a forerunner to Constable. Gainsborough tried to balance his paintings with the portraits he was being paid for and the landscape that he loved.



UK



Our next subject was Holbein. He is most famous for his portrait of Henry VIII that is how we all remember Henry but he could also design jewellery, fireplaces, and turn his hand to almost anything it seems. There is no mistaking who is boss in this painting! Moving on slightly from

Henry VIII there was Nicholas Hilliard and Iconography in Elizabethan times. The very unsubtle message in the material of this dress, which is covered in eyes and ears, is of course, that Elizabeth knows what is going on. Nicholas Hilliard was famous for his miniatures and it was very popular to have a painting of your loved one that you could wear as a jewel.



As a complete contrast the next topic was the US Post Office Murals that were commissioned by FD Roosevelt in the 30s as part of the New Deal . It was aimed to give employment to artists and to boost morale. We may have our stamps but of course the US has to go bigger. Artists were asked to paint in an "American scene" style, depicting ordinary citizens

in a realistic manner. Abstract and modern art styles were discouraged. Artists were also encouraged to produce works that would be appropriate to the communities where they were to be located and to avoid controversial subjects.

Projects were closely scrutinized by the Section for style and content, and artists were paid only after each stage in the creative process was approved.



To round off the summer term we looked at saucy seaside postcards and the paintings of Beryl Cook All guaranteed to raise a smile. 6 million copies of this postcard were sold Anyone want to join this bridge class? As you can see we cover a variety of topics and if you would like to know more about joining the class please contact me.



Susan Johnson 9266 9938

History People and Blue Plaques

This term we have been discovering the stories of the people behind the Blue Plaques that you can see on buildings around Portsmouth. The original blue plaques scheme started in London; it is administered by English Heritage, who was commissioned by the Society of Arts in 1866.

From 2000 to 2005 English Heritage extended the blue plaques from London to a select number of provincial cities, including Portsmouth.

Portsmouth was chosen due to its naval history and its diverse range of historical figures. The purpose of the blue plaques scheme was to highlight the links between people and places that would otherwise go unnoticed.



The house in Campbell Road where Rudyard Kipling lived

Portsmouth has 30 plaques commemorating a diverse number of people from all walks of life - Military men, Authors, Artists, Architects, Engineers, Scientists, Educators, Actors, Musicians, and Sportsmen. People who were born in Portsmouth, such as Charles Dickens, John Pounds, Isambard Kingdom Brunell, Hertha Ayrton and Peter Sellers. People who lived and worked in Portsmouth including Alec Rose, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, Neville Shute, Thomas Telford, William Wylie and Thomas Ellis Owen and others like Rudyard Kipling and The Cockleshell Heroes who just stayed for a short time.



Some of Portsmouth's Blue Plaques

There is even a plaque on a pub at Paulsgrove for a musician, Jimmy Kennedy, who got lost on his way to Southampton and called in at 'The Harbour Lights,' Public House for directions. The name of the pub inspired him to write the song 'Harbour Lights' and he also wrote among others 'The Teddy Bears Picnic.'



During the Summer Term we paid a virtual visit to the Village of Selborne and The Wakes Museum, in Northern Hampshire. The museum commemorates the life and times of the Reverend Gilbert White credited with being the first UK environmentalist.



Sculpture of Gilbert White in his garden at The Wakes

ROMAN PAYS LIP

An ancient payslip has revealed how a Roman soldier was left flat broke after the military took out fees for his food and clothes. Penniless Gaius Messius participated in the Siege of Masada in what is now Israel

THE ROMAN ARMY

Name: Gaius Messius
 Occupation: Roman soldier
 Date: Around 75AD
 Pay: 50 denarii

DEDUCTIONS:
 16 denarii for 'barley money'
 20 denarii for 'food expenses'
 5 denarii for 'boots'
 2 denarii for 'leather strappings'
 7 denarii for a 'linen tunic'

Total deductions: 50 denarii
 Pay after deductions: 0 denarii




We have also stopped off at Portchester Castle and discovered how the Roman Army lived, and what life was like for a Roman Soldier. Gaius Messius was a soldier and his payslip was found on a Roman Tablet discovered at Masada in Palestine. It showed that he earned 50 denarii and after paying his debts to the army for his food and equipment there was nothing left. However, he knew if he was lucky enough to live until his retirement he would be well rewarded with money and land. Translation of Gaius Messius payslip

As another u3a year comes to an end I want to say a big THANK YOU to the members of the History Group for all their support during the year and especially to all those who have volunteered, in the tradition of the u3a, and made excellent contributions - To Ivor Grayson Smith for taking us to Italy on a tour of Ravenna, To Susan Johnson for her talk about The Weald and Downland Museum in Sussex, To Jackie Forsyth who took us to Vindolanda, the Roman Settlement near Hadrian's Wall, To Jim Sweasey for the piece about Germany's Airport and to Jean Barrow who told us about the Southsea Wall. And of course an ENORMOUS THANKYOU again to Jim for his technical expertise and calmly keeping things running smoothly

This has been an exceptional year, when we have actually been living through a notable time in History. In years to come 2020 will be looked back on and remembered along with other significant dates - 1066 The Battle of Hastings, 1588 The Spanish Armada, 1666 The Great Fire of London and 2020 The Global Pandemic.

Hopefully, from September, The Hub will be open again and I do not think I will mind queuing for my tea or coffee if we can enjoy meeting in person in the cafe. Enjoy the summer.

Rosemary Sirett (07540597804)

THE PELHAM BOOK GROUP

Our monthly Zoom book group sessions continue with interest and enthusiasm. We welcomed the return of Diana Swann with her perceptive, insightful analysis of our reads so our group numbers are complete.

This term began with “Little Stranger” by Sarah Waters, a Gothic tale set just after WWII in a crumbling manor, very atmospheric with the little stranger disturbing events. If it sounds appealing there is a very good 2018 film of the novel with a strong cast . Our next book was a shorter 1911 novel “Ethan Frome” by Edith Wharton set in a freezing, wintry Massachusetts where the consequences of the conflict between duty and a profound unrequited love destroy the lives of three characters. As a complete contrast we then embarked on “NW” by Zadie Smith, her fourth novel, labelled “experimental”. We impressed ourselves by managing to read it through but decided she might have been rather self-indulgent offering the reader such a somewhat distracting comprehensive medley of narrative techniques! Perhaps a few too many techniques for our tastes in sharing the lives of four different characters living in that post code area, fascinating and tragic though they might be. “Frankenstein, the Modern Prometheus”, Mary Shelley’s famous classic Gothic tale was next to receive a lively discussion concluding in our sympathies with the Monster, Frankenstein self-obsessed. We are currently finishing our longest tome yet, Arnold Bennett’s “The Old Wives’ Tale” 725 pages to be discussed soon. For me it was a compelling family saga revolving around two sisters and late Victorian values questioning the purpose of life. You can imagine what has been occupying all our spare reading time this month and what a range of fiction we cover over the months.

Our continued thanks to Havant library for providing the texts and Maggie who dutifully collects them for us and crosses Southsea making the book swap.

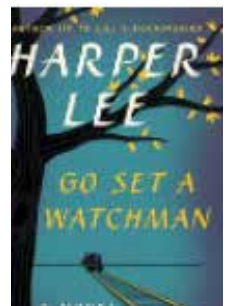
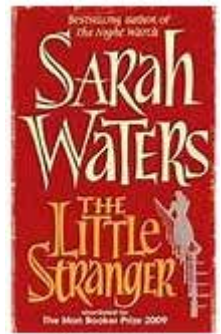
Please contact: Judith Wise for any further information.
judewise1@googlemail.com or 02392357463

World of Books



With much help from Ken and Roy the group have still managed to keep reading from books supplied. This year we have read : The Whole Day Through. P. Gale, A Bend in River. V. S. Naipaul The Bees. Paul Laling. And are now chewing our way through Huckleberry Finn

We are hoping to resume meeting in September when we hope to enjoy Lee Harper’s other book Go Set a Watchman. Audrey Thorpe



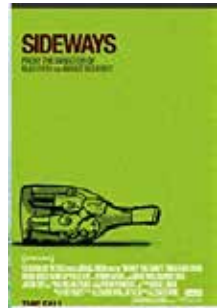
Film Club 1:45 – 4:15

Wednesday September 22nd **Sideways**

Director: Alexander Payne

Writers: Rex Pickett (novel), Alexander Payne Stars: Paul Giamatti, Thomas Haden Church, Virginia Madsen

Two men reaching middle age with not much to show but disappointment embark on a week-long road trip through California's wine country, just as one is about to take a trip down the aisle.



Wednesday October 20

Plein Soleil directed by René Clément

The American Tom Ripley (Alain Delon) has been sent to Italy to persuade the wealthy Philippe Greenleaf (Maurice Ronet) to return to San Francisco and take over his father's business. Philippe intends to do no such thing and the impoverished Tom enjoys living a life of luxury, so the two men essentially spend money all day and carouse all night



Wednesday November 24th

The Chorus directed by Christophe Barratier

The Chorus (French: Les Choristes, literally "The Choristers" or "The Choirboys") is a 2004 French musical drama film directed by Christophe Barratier. Co-written by Barratier and Philippe Lopes-Curval, it is an adaptation of the 1945 film A Cage of Nightingales (La Cage aux rossignols). The story is inspired by the origin of the boys' choir The Little Singers of Paris.



December tbc

Portrait of a Lady on Fire directed by Céline Sciamma

At the end of the eighteenth century, Marianne, a painter, is teaching an art class in France. One of her students asks her about a painting of hers, which Marianne calls Portrait de la jeune fille en feu.

Years previously, Marianne arrives on a distant island in Brittany. She has been commissioned to paint a portrait of a young woman of the gentry named Héloïse, who is to be married off to a Milanese nobleman. Marianne is informed by Héloïse's mother, The Countess, that she has previously refused to pose for portraits, as she does not want to be married; she had been living in a convent before the suicide of her older sister necessitated her return and her betrothal.



Patchwork and Quilting

We are all looking forward to Patchwork and Quilting starting up again once we can get back to the hub. This type of class would not have worked on zoom so being able to meet up in person will be wonderful after such a long time. Our first meeting will be Thursday September 16th at the hub. We have those new machines ready for us and will hopefully be able to put them to good use when we are able to get together again. New members welcome. Penelope Scipio and Carol Jones



Contact Penny on 02392 835200

Science and Technology



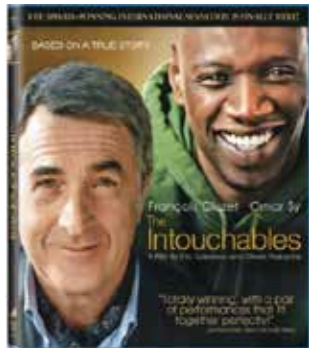
Yesterday 1st of July, we had our last meeting, on ZOOM, as usual, before the summer break. I hope our next meeting will be in person, in September, in the hub. But who can forecast the next steps in this unpredictable world. Science does attempt to explain the truth behind the headlines and goes a long way to mitigating the horrors that are possible. The vaccine production by many diverse methods has been a triumph of technology over the natural world. Now we have to concentrate on the other disasters waiting in the wings, mostly man made but some would say natural in the evolutionary sequence of life on our planet. Science attempts to explain them all and so perhaps we are more aware of them. We need to remove carbon from our energy budget. The Pacific North West and Siberia are making temperature records this year. Lytton in British Columbia has established a recorded maximum temperature for the whole of Canada, a "shade!" below 50c, and now the town is in flames and evacuated. Antarctic ice is breaking up over the land in a process like oil fracking only it is water or hydro fracking. The consequent sea level rise is faster than we had calculated. On a plus side we have our first electric airplanes. Our first mass produced electric automobiles and our first hydrogen powered trains operating on main lines. Closer to home we have a need to tame the internet social platforms. We need to fight the digital virus with the same success as we are having against the organic variety. What new things we will be discussing in September is anyone's guess but there will be plenty of them and I hope we will be sitting around a table showing our evidence and arguing its truth face to face. September will then be a month to celebrate.

Brian Greener

Summer Programme 2021

27th July Speaker 2:00

Pauline Rowson, author of the Inspector Andy Horton crime novels and other thrillers and mysteries, many set in and around Portsmouth. Pauline will bring copies of her book if members would like to purchase.



3rd August Film at the Hub 2:00

A millionaire, who has suffered an accident, takes on a young man from the projects to be his carer. With unpredictable results. Based on a true story.

10th August
Quiz at the Hub 2:00

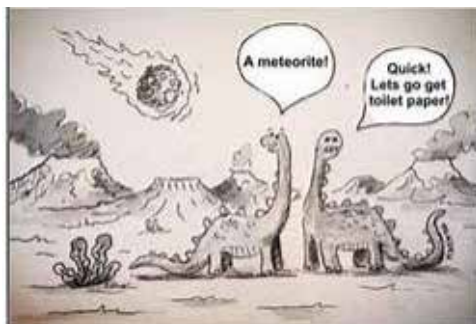
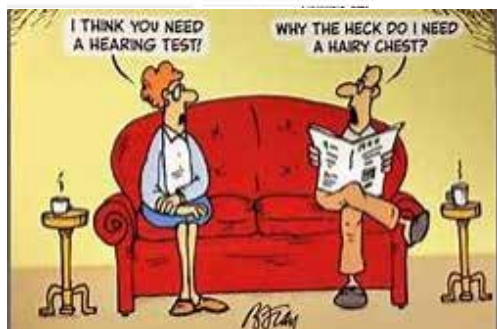
Fun interactive quiz – you know more than you think



Just for fun



Some days I just wish I had the wisdom of a ninety year old, the body of a twenty year old and the energy of a three year old.





Principles of the u3a Movement

The u3a Movement is non-religious and non-political and has three main principles:

The Third Age Principle

- Membership of a u3a is open to all in their third age, which is defined not by a particular age but by a period in life in which full-time employment has ceased.
- Members promote the values of lifelong learning and the positive attributes of belonging to a u3a.
- Members should do all they can to ensure that people wanting to join a u3a can do so.

The Self-help Learning Principle

- Members form interest groups covering as wide a range of topics and activities as they desire; by the members, for the members.
- No qualifications are sought or offered. Learning is for its own sake, with enjoyment being the prime motive, not qualifications or awards.
- There is no distinction between the learners and the teachers; they are all u3a members.

The Mutual Aid Principle

- Each u3a is a mutual aid organisation, operationally independent but a member of The Third Age Trust,
- which requires adherence to the guiding principles of the u3a movement.
- No payments are made to members for services rendered to any u3a.
- Each u3a is self-funded with membership subscriptions and costs kept as low as possible.
- Outside financial assistance should only be sought if it does not imperil the integrity of the u3a movement