

Message from the Chairman

May 2022



Welcome to our May newsletter.

Hello everybody and welcome to my first newsletter as Chairman.

I hope you all had a really great Easter break and that you were able to enjoy time with your family and friends and didn't eat too many chocolate Easter eggs! Even the weather was on our side.

Let me first introduce myself. I retired three years ago as Estates Director for Hampshire Constabulary overseeing their Estate rationalisation programme. My background being in Architecture, Project Management, Construction, and Commercial Estate.

Having moved, initially temporarily, down South to work on the Hampshire police project I liked the area and people so much that I decided to stay and have now lived in Romsey for over 10 years and love it! But enough about me.

What a fantastic turn out we had at the AGM. Thank you for that. Those that attended were informed, educated and entertained!

Firstly by Alan Jones an excellent speaker on body language, secondly by a number of our groups putting on a display of what they're about and seeking new members and finally by our ukulele band.

As to the future we are looking to develop our clubs social side as we now move into the new normal Covid world. This will be with more Discovery days and some other ideas for events we are currently working on. But if you have some thoughts please let us know.

We'd also like to develop more groups so if you've got an hobby or interest you think would make a new group please do contact either of our group coordinators or me. Don't be shy we're here to help you.

Maybe your group is at capacity and could a second one be set up?

If you're at the next speaker meeting, please do say hi, I'd love to meet you.

Dave Green. - Chairman

Monthly update

Let's update you with the latest reports from the committee and on events and Interest groups.

Events –

Our Annual General Meeting and Speaker Meeting last month was attended by over 80 members who enjoyed a super presentation from Alan Jones on body language. With his humour and demonstrations it made for a most entertaining meeting,

At the AGM nominations for our new committee were received and approved.

Annual General Meeting and Speaker Meeting

Date – Thursday May 12th

Time – 2.00pm for a 2.15 start.

Speaker – Paul Stickler.

Topic “The Green Bicycle Murder”



Our speaker, Paul Stickler, is a retired detective turned criminologist and crime historian. His experience in murder investigations and his passion for history, make his presentations absorbing, challenging, entertaining and informative.

Paul will talk to us about The Green Bicycle Murder in July 1919: 21 year old Bella Wright went for a cycle ride in the Leicestershire countryside and was shot dead a short distance from her home. A man seen on a green bicycle became a suspect and was subsequently arrested. Follow the extraordinary trail of events and decide for yourself whether the man was guilty or whether she had not been murdered at all!

Come along, we look forward to seeing you.

Events Update

Guitars4Ukraine – Friday April 8th – This was an amazing event that as well as being highly entertaining also raised some £2200 for those suffering in Ukraine, our thoughts are with them.



Congratulations and thanks go to all involved including our u3a guitar groups and organisers Bob Jones, John Roe and Shirley Tarran.

Club Wide Social Events News

Message From Sue Keith (Social Secretary)

Social Secretary's Plan

The Social Secretary is a new role in Archway u3a. The committee want to give our membership the opportunity to take part in a number of social events.

The plan is to organise a variety of social activities where there is something which will appeal to everyone. Theatre visits may also be arranged.

These events will focus on the living and laughing aspect of u3a.

Discovery Days outings will continue every few months, where members can also learn something from the visit as part of a great day out.

We hope to organise regular social events such as quiz's, social evenings, and smaller meetings, where members can meet other members for a drink, and chat.

Every event will be open to every Archway member, and not linked to any of our groups activities.

These social happenings may be held in the Crosfield Hall, in a local cafe or bar, or outside in a local open space.

Both I and the Discovery days team are now looking for your ideas for a club day out. Something unusual perhaps that would tempt more members to join us.

If you have any ideas for social events or Discovery Days locations you can share we would love to hear from you. Please either reply to the email that issued the newsletter or contact me direct via the link on our Contacts Page on our website

Thank you.

Discovery Days

20 members of the club attended our second Discovery Days event at the Portsmouth Historic Dockyard to see the Mary Rose museum and many stayed on for a post visit lunch. A good time was had by all. Its many years since I last visited and its improved so much, well worth the visit.

love to hear from you. You can contact him via the groups page on the Archway website or via the group coordinators.

Possible new groups



Birdwatching 2. The present birdwatching group is full and has people waiting to join so now is the time to think about starting a second group. If you are interested in this please contact the group coordinators.

Walking group for people wanting to go on longer walks than the current group – from five to ten miles. Please contact the group coordinators if you are interested in this.



We are always looking to develop more groups so if you have a hobby or interest that you would like to share with others why not consider forming a new group, please contact the group coordinators via the form on the contact page of the website.

Membership News

Message From Barbara Vincent (Membership Secretary)

Membership Renewals

Only a few days left to renew Membership!

We now have about 300 members who have renewed their membership, thank you to all of those and to Janet our Treasurer who has been very busy!

If you haven't renewed yet and would like to continue attending our Groups and meetings, please do so soon before your membership lapses. A link to the membership renewal form can be obtained here:

<https://u3asites.org.uk/files/r/romsey-archway/docs/ramembershiprenewalapplicationform-2022-2023.pdf>

If you have any questions, do contact me, Barbara, your Membership Secretary, via the Contact page on our website.

New members.

This month we welcome Valerie C, Brian M, Ian T, Rupert B.

The Committee hope to meet you soon, and that you find plenty to enjoy from your Membership.

Recent members welcome event.



It is almost a year since we had a meeting for our recent members, and that was on Zoom! We plan to hold a coffee morning at the Comrades Club in Romsey in the next few weeks. Invitations will go out soon to the 60 or so members who have joined us since April last year. We hope to see many of our newest members there, to get to know us, each other and to find out about our groups and events. It will also be a chance to tell us what you would like from Romsey Archway u3a!

Website News

Message from Richard Crowder (Webmaster)

Over the next couple of months, the website will be modified, to include new features and revised pages. All the current information will be available, but may be moved to a new location. If you look at the new News page, you will find details of the changes as they occur, together with updates or reports on some of our activities. Any feedback would be appreciated, via the contact page.



Poets Corner

A particularly relevant and poignant poem written by Judy Duncan our Speaker meetings organiser

WHY

With heartfelt sympathy for the people of Ukraine

Written by Judy Duncan

He scrambled to the open air, and rubbed his itchy, dusty eyes;
He gazed around in disbelief and looked up to the skies.
He shuffled slowly through the hot, dry sand, but his home was there no more,
His body bruised and bleeding, his feet were bare and sore.
His parents gone – now lying beneath the rubble of this decimated city.

Although his face was wracked with pain

He did not shed a tear;

For what he's seen, so dreadful: hurt – pain – fear.

His little heart was broken – he would never smile again.

His tears, when at last they came

Flowed down his sunken cheeks;

He raised an arm and wiped his nose –

Still he could not speak.

No one to talk to in this barren, hostile land;

Nothing anywhere – only rubble, rocks and sand.

Dazed with sorrow he wandered,

To where, he did not know.

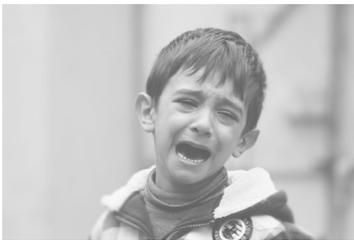
No Ma to hold his tiny hand and tell him where to go.

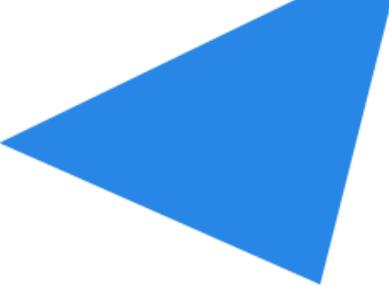
He cried for Ma and Papa too,

For Ali, Aza, Asha and little baby Shoo;

And all the other children with whom he used to play,

But can play no longer – not now – nor any day.





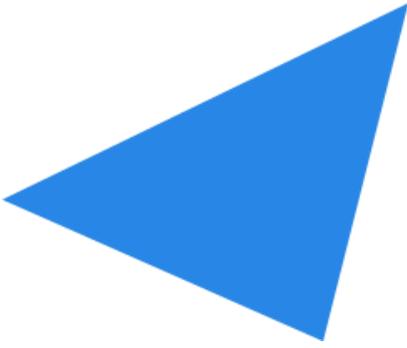
His little heart was broken with grief he could not bear;
His face told the story, but the world it did not care.
What is it with this wicked world that we should kill each other,
To prove a point that we have made;
Leave a child without a mother.

He curled up on the hot, dry sand,
Making not a sound,
Eyes closed so he could not see
The chaos all around.
He did not feel the impact
He did not feel the pain
All he knew for certain
Was that he'd see his Ma again.
He turned his head sideways, looked to the sky
And whispered very quietly:
"If there really is a god up there,
Tell me WHY, WHY, WHY?"



What about you?

If there are any budding poets out there please feel free to submit us your poems for publication in the newsletter.



JUST FOR FUN!!

Quiz of the Month?

1. How many Academy Awards did 1994 film Forest Gump win?
2. Hamlet was the Prince of which country?
3. Which French artist, born in 1834 was best known for his paintings of ballet dancers?
4. In 1995, the first ever item sold on eBay went for \$14.83, what was it? A cracked fish tank, a broken laser pointer, or a children's picture Bible without any pictures?
5. In a decathlon, out of the ten events, how many are held on a running track?
6. Which TV detective lives in the village of St Mary Mead?
7. As of May 2020, who plays the current Dr Who?
8. Which Queen of England had the name "Bloody Mary"?
9. Gary and Martin Kemp were in what band?
10. Who sang Unchained Melody? Answers at end of Newsletter

Thought for the Day :

"The best thing about the future is that it comes one day at a time." – Abraham Lincoln

On this day

5 May 1980 SAS rescue ends Iran embassy siege

The siege of the Iranian embassy in London comes to a dramatic end after a raid by SAS commandos

7 May 1945: Germany signs unconditional surrender

Germany signs an unconditional surrender ending six years of war in Europe

7 May 1956: Minister rejects anti-smoking lobby

The Health Minister, RH Turton, rejects calls for a government campaign against smoking, saying no ill-effects have been proven.!!

QUIZ ANSWERS 1 Six. 2 Denmark 3 Edgar Degas. 4 Broken laser pointer. 5 Four - 100m, 400m, 1500m and the 110m hurdles. 6 Miss Marple. 7 Jodie Whittaker. 8 Mary I. 9 Spandau Ballet. 10 The Righteous Brothers.

Dates for Diary

Thu Apr 14th	AGM Followed by a Quiz
Thu May 12th	Monthly Meeting Crosfield Hall 2:15pm The Green Bicycle Murder by Paul Stickler
Thu Jun 9th	Monthly Meeting Crosfield Hall 2:15pm Portsmouth: Harlots, Dung and Glory by Andrew Negus
Thu Jul 14th	Monthly Meeting Crosfield Hall 2:15pm Sex Violence and Alcohol: Some After Effects of the Great War by Francis Hurd
Thu Aug 11th	Monthly Meeting Crossfield Hall 2:15pm Life in a Ugandan Missionary Hospital by Martin Radford
Thu Sep 8th	Monthly Meeting Crosfield Hall 2:15pm River Kwai Railway – The True Story by Paul Whittle
Thu Oct 13th	Monthly Meeting Crosfield Hall 2:15pm Violet Szabo by Jeremy Prescott
Thu Nov 10th	Monthly Meeting Crosfield Hall 2:15pm The Miracle Flower by Jeremy Prescott
Thu Dec 8th	Monthly Meeting Crosfield Hall 2:15pm Christmas Party!

Useful Contacts

There is a lot of useful information about u3a that can be found on the National U3A Website at <https://www.u3a.org.uk>

Our Romsey and Archway U3A Website is

<https://u3asites.org.uk/romsey-archway/home>

You can contact us at <https://u3asites.org.uk/romsey-archway/contact>

Please join our Romsey Archway Facebook at –

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/443593039767427>