

**MAY NEWSLETTER CHAIR'S REPORT, Kay Lovell**

Saying goodbye is never easy but, in case you hadn't realised, this is the last time I shall be writing my Chair's report for our newsletter so 'goodbye' it is!

When I became Chair in 2021, we were still in the throes of Covid lockdowns and restrictions. Communication with you was via technology or, for those without such facilities, written newsletters and bulletins rather than in physical meetings. Slowly but surely we have returned to 'almost' normal and what a joy it has been to return to our monthly meetings in Crosfield Hall and to see our Interest Groups properly meeting again and thriving despite the interlude in customary proceedings. Zoom is a wonderful resource that came into its own during the pandemic and is, in many cases, extending our reach even now.

I want to let you all know that I've thoroughly enjoyed my time with Romsey & District u3a and I've loved the last two years in the role as your Chair. I'm grateful for the friendship you've shown to me, the support I've been given and the cheery faces in front of me at our monthly meetings. I may not have got everything right, or to everyone's liking, but I have done my best and always with the best interest of our u3a in mind. I have happy memories and I hope I have helped make some for you too.

There comes a time when it's right to move on and that's just what I and my husband, Dave, are doing. We are already ensconced in our new house and absolutely love it...even though it's not in Romsey! We do have friends in Romsey so, if you see us around town when we're visiting, don't ignore us, please say hello.

Last, but not least, I wish Romsey & District u3a, its trustees, post-holders, group leaders and all its members the very best for the future.

Kay.



*View from the front
of our new home*

Events Calendar

Date

Meeting Details

Wed 17th May

This meeting will start with the AGM session

Speaker: Sarah Rowcliffe, Deputy Manager and Charity Ambassador at Jane Scarth House.

Topic: The work of the Jane Scarth House Cancer Support Centre.

Description: There will be a PowerPoint Presentation and the talk will give a brief background of the charity, their structure, the services available and who they support. Also, details of how the charity adapted during the Covid Pandemic and the lessons they learned.

It is hoped that Rachel Tucker, the Centre Manager will be able to attend

Wed 21st June

Time: 10.30am (doors open at 10.00am, refreshments after the talk)

Speaker: Colin van Geffen

Topic: Lawrence: Before & After Arabia

Description: The legend of Lawrence of Arabia is well documented in books and films. What of his life before and after the Desert War? Lawrence is described as one of the most influential Englishmen in the 20th century BUT he was not English. A man of many lives, learn the fascinating truth!!

Wed 19th July

Time: 10.30am (doors open at 10.00am, refreshments after the talk)

Speaker: Paul Tracey

Topic: 100 Piers. Painting at the Water's Edge

Description: Paul Tracey spent 5 years visiting & painting piers in the UK, Europe & the USA.

His talk concentrates on the piers along the south coast, their history and how they ended up as they are. Every Pier has its own story to tell.

There will be fascinating illustrations of the paintings plus a few stories regarding the job of selling paintings

A full list of current events is available on our web page

at <https://u3asites.org.uk/romsey/events>

This is the current schedule for the next few meetings at Crosfield Hall. If you are unable to attend we hope you will be able to join some of them from home, via Zoom.

Meetings start at 10.30 am., ZOOM log-in is from 10.15 am.

Interest Group Updates/News : February 2023

Snappers & Enjoying Music : unfortunately both these groups have folded and we would like to thank the leaders, Mike Driscoll & David Pope, for their commitment and effort in running these groups for many years.

In addition, **Italian for Novices** has recently folded and again thanks go to David Haig & Angela Bogatto for helping to keep it going for the past few years.

Scrabble : there is now a new group for Scrabble players, which had its inaugural meeting on Friday 14th April. If you would like to join them, please contact the leader of the group using either the website or the phone number in this newsletter.

Don't forget that you can start an interest group any time with help from the Groups' Coordinators. Please speak to Margaret or Jo in the Annexe after the monthly meeting or contact them as follows : Jo 01794 514134 or margaretmarchbank@btinternet.com

What happens to older copies of the newsletter

At our most recent meeting, the Trustees of Romsey & District u3a discussed what should be done with the master copies of our past quarterly newsletter, dating from March 1999 when our u3a was established to May 2022. It was generally felt that they should be archived but where and who with?

Romsey Local History Society (LTVAS) has been approached and they have agreed to add them to their historical holdings where they will be safe and available for consultation at any time the basement workshop is open or at other times by appointment via a message through Romsey History Society's website at <https://www.ltvas.org.uk/> Should you wish to refer to the newsletters for any reason, you now know where to go.

In addition, editions from February 2019 to the present day are available to view on our Flipbook website at <https://issuu.com/romseyu3anews>

John Dick, Publications.



Newsletter deadlines

Please send your copy for the August 2023 newsletter to John Dick at:

publications@romseyu3a.org.uk

The deadline is **FRIDAY 28 July 2023** but PLEASE send as soon as you have it!

Jeff Delaney has sent in another fascinating article of his musical recollections.

A recent music concert highlight has been attending the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra (RPO) for another of their annual nights of film music in London. Highly recommended.

These sell-out performances are held in the magnificent Royal Albert Hall and it's always a delight to see so many youngsters at this venue, some there for the first time – always a big experience. For others, it may have even been their first time in the same room with a full concert orchestra. The atmosphere is always charged with excitement before the music starts. The RPO know that these film concerts are always very popular and have provided a great source of income for them.

While hearing some famous film themes being played, I have the film footage running in my head and wonder if there is an interesting history of how music and film came together.

In fact, it started around the 1890s when the first silent movie performances would sometimes have appropriate piano pieces played in theatres to accompany the scenes on film. The studios would issue and print cue sheets with every film release, to indicate the type of music that should be played to match each scene. A few years on and piano music was starting to be composed for specific films. Some of the larger picture houses brought in the famous mighty theatre organs. The studio bosses were also inviting classical composers of the day to write film scores for a full orchestra, but this led to conflicting opinions. Some composers thought it wasn't the right career move but others saw a great opportunity and some even moved to Hollywood to be close to the action. The bigger the film budget the more lavish the musical score, and all recorded on records to be played in theatres as the film was shown. The piano and organ accompanists were side-lined.

We look back to The Roaring Twenties as the golden age of Hollywood and, of course, the "talkies". The film directors and producers then concentrated on recording the spoken word soundtrack but still on records. I can only imagine the difficulty in the projection room, trying to match the sound on records to the picture being projected on the screen. How often did they stop the show to get sound and vision back in sync. Eventually a way was found for the soundtrack to be printed directly on to the film. We also then had the benefit of the expanded film music to enhance each scene – to lift the emotions during a romantic love scene or heighten the tension in a thriller.

There was a period of film experimentation under the banner of "Film Noir" with various styles of film being tried that required music styles to suit. All forms of jazz were being used although a glut of sci-fi films from America demanded an electronic soundtrack and a strange electronic musical instrument called a theremin became the "sound" of science fiction, but hardly heard of since. In fact I can only recall a theremin being played on one popular record – the Beach Boys big hit Good Vibrations (middle section).

Towards the end of the 1940s the studio bosses were worried about the increasing numbers of television sets entering people's homes. They were convinced that this would have a dramatic and negative effect on cinema box office ticket sales, so they looked for an extra source of income. Film composers were asked to include a section of a film score which could be structured in a song-like style where lyrics could be added. A top recording artist would be invited to record the song and the studio would then get a cut of the record and sheet music sales. Again some composers were not comfortable with this but others, notably Henry Mancini, rose to the challenge and the Film Title Song was born and is still with us today. Just think of all those James Bond films we all know and love, and try to imagine them without a title song. Unthinkable.

So it wasn't until the 1970s onwards, that we see a resurgence of the "Old School" rich symphonic orchestral film scores for the blockbuster films from composers such as John Williams, Hans Zimmer, John Barry and many, many more. These are the composers that the RPO are so keen to celebrate at their Film Night Concerts, and rightly so.

These "Film Night" concerts usually occur in May/June each year so make a diary note for 2024, and when the orchestra strikes up to play the Main Theme from Star Wars, don't hold back, raise your imaginary light sabres along with the rest of us!

See you there!! Jeff.

P.S. Next years date for the RPO's Film Gala will be Saturday 11th May at 3.00pm and 7.30pm.

Architecture and Local History Group

Styles in Architecture was the title of our February talk. **Dorte Stollberg-Barkley**, a German-trained architect, took us on a tour from ancient Egypt to the present day with a superb slide presentation.

The pyramids of ancient **Egypt** were based on the triangle, the most stable shape. **Classical Greeks** were masters of proportion with their columns and orders – Doric, Ionic and Corinthian. Their **Roman** successors adapted this style and used their technical skills to engineer viaducts, aqueducts (*photo: Nimes, S. France*) and tunnels.



Classical architecture has been much copied through the ages. Medieval architects created the **Romanesque** with its emphasis on round arches and small openings. The style is known as **Norman** in this country with Romsey Abbey in its original form a prime example. The Abbey's later additions used the **Gothic** with its pointed arches. Gothic architecture has three forms: **Early English** of which **Salisbury Cathedral** (1220–1250) is a perfect example, the **Decorated** style – Westminster Abbey (*photo*) and Wells Cathedral – and **Perpendicular** with much wider arches – Bath Abbey and St George's Chapel.

The **Renaissance** from the 16th century saw the return of classical architecture with its symmetry, columns and porticos. The Italian, Andrea Palladio, was the supreme architect of this period and his designs were adopted widely in Europe. Inigo Jones was the leading classical architect in England as exemplified in Banqueting House in Whitehall (*photo*) and the south façade of Wilton House. Elegant town houses in the classical style were built in the **Georgian** period whereas in other parts of Europe the style evolved into **Baroque** and **Rococo** with lavish use of gold and marble as in Versailles near Paris.



Such extravagance evoked a return to more simplistic, natural styles as in our **Arts and Crafts** movement at the turn of the 20th century, with parallel ones in other European countries. Another notable development was the **Bauhaus** in Germany (*photo*) which emphasised basic shapes and primary colours. Technical advances in concrete, steel and glass allowed **Modernism** to flourish with Le Corbusier's idea of a city inside one building. 'Form follows function' reached its climax with services on the outside of buildings as in Lloyds of London by Richard Rodgers.

In the present century, thoughts are turning to more sustainable architecture using renewable materials, conserving energy and the vertical 'greening' of buildings (*photo: Ken Yeang*).

Shirley Rogers



The March meeting was a fascinating talk by **David Spurling** on **Hyde Abbey**. Hyde Abbey was a 12th century Benedictine monastery just outside the walls of Winchester. Consecrated in 1110, it was dissolved and demolished in 1538 following the dissolution of the monasteries. It was known to have housed the remains of **Alfred the Great** and his son **King Edward the Elder**. The Abbey was largely forgotten about until 1788 when graves and artefacts were found when a prison was being built; all that remains today is the gatehouse. In the 19th and 20th centuries excavations began.

David described how the group **Hyde 900** was formed in 2010, to mark the 900th anniversary of the foundation of the abbey, supporting research into the history of the Hyde area. Local people have allowed their gardens to be excavated and in one case, even a house was offered. Foundations have been uncovered and a possible map of the layout has emerged. The group have had expert help in identifying stones which have been found throughout the area, including in local walls and houses. Abbey stone has been found in **St Bartholomew's Church tower** and abbey timber was reused in **Old Hyde Abbey House**. The help of Winchester Cathedral mason Ross Lovett, for one, has been invaluable. One of the most exciting finds was a carved head made from Caen stone, originally part of a capital. It is an enormous task to record all the findings, which are then displayed in **Winchester Museum**.

David also described how stone had been found in his cottage in Headbourne Worthy and what he had discovered when he took his fireplace apart. A feature in that fireplace was identified as a **Romanesque Billet Moulding** which was originally part of a doorway.

The work is ongoing and volunteers of all ages are involved including children. Hyde 900 have a comprehensive website <https://www.hyde900.org.uk/hydeabbey/> and hold open days and volunteer digs for anyone who is interested. Our group hopes to have a guided tour of the site in the near future.

On 3 April the group was blessed with warm sunshine for our first outdoor meeting, when **Jo Morgan** led a walking tour of the **Mills of Romsey**, a follow up to her December talk. We were joined by a few members from Romsey Local History Society, as Jo had also given them the talk on zoom in February.

The tour was supposed to last about an hour but was so fascinating, with members contributing many interesting facts that the tour took much longer. We were very fortunate that the owners of **Burnt Mill** let us visit their garden although there was much debate as to the origin of the name, yet to be resolved. We really appreciated the tremendous impact the mills had on Romsey supporting all the different industries throughout time. Even more recently Broadlands was using a mill to generate electricity. Thanks to Jo's hard work and extensive research, the subject was brought to life. *(photo: Sadlers Mill)*



Kathy Feely

Birdwatching Group February visit to Acres Down, New Forest

On a cloudy morning, eight hopeful members of the birdwatching group gathered in the Forestry Commission car park at Acres Down, north-west of Lyndhurst. Lesser spotted woodpecker, woodlark and goshawk were the target birds for the morning, as well as finding a few more species to add to the group's year list.

Carrying telescopes, tripods and bags full of provisions we set out along the gravel track leading into the enclosures. First heard was the high-pitched intermittent trill of a treecreeper. We paused and scanned the nearby tree trunks and were rewarded by good sightings of the bird itself, its brown streaky back, pale belly and curved 'darning needle' bill in evidence.

We stopped at various points, ears straining for any woodpecker drumming. The cracked trunks of the surrounding trees were scanned intently for the sparrow-sized, lesser spotted. We also exchanged 'intel' with other birders intent on the same quest, but as far as anyone knew the lesser spots had gone into hiding somewhere else.

After fortifying ourselves with coffee and snacks we attempted the upper slopes of Acres Down. These provide one of the highest look out points in the New Forest. Beautiful views over the surrounding tree lines and valleys of mixed conifer and deciduous trees make it a very agreeable place to spend an hour or two.

Soon after reaching the top, we heard the lovely song of a woodlark calling from afar but then coming closer towards us. It was spotted overhead, a smallish brown bird with a very short tail, appearing almost bat-like in flight. It fluttered higher and higher, reeling out its descending song. A new bird for 2023 for some of the group, so very welcome indeed.

Lunchtime was approaching so we headed back, disappointed that no raptors had decided to fly. After negotiating a herd of bullocks, we emerged from the woodland onto another viewpoint. Andrew was straight on the case and spotted two circling raptors high up over the distant tree line. Telescopes were quickly assembled and we scanned the two soaring birds which were soon to be joined by a third. Could this be three 'gosses'?

Relaxing at Furzey Gardens café we enjoyed /fortified ourselves with coffee, cake and pasties. Feeding a tame robin on the terrace brought us luck, as a beautifully showing kestrel turned up on a birch tree in front of our table. A female bullfinch also made a guest appearance flying across the garden.

So, did we see a goshawk? We think so. The shape of body, wings and tail and the rather elastic wing beats confirmed it for us. Our day list had a final count of 19 species on it and that means we now have 57 species on the group year list. Not bad going for February!

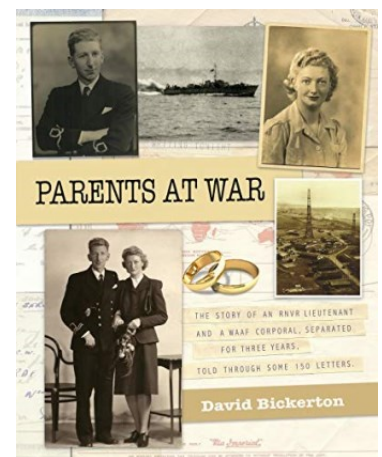
Marion Slattery, Group Coordinator

Genealogy group

At our very interesting March meeting David Bickerton talked to us about his parents' experiences during World War II, based on 150 love letters they'd written to each other before they married. David subsequently did a lot of research into events of the time to fill in the historical details, his book is available on Amazon UK Books.

David's father Don volunteered for the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve in June 1940, aged 23. He served on two battle cruisers, including HMS Dorsetshire when she was involved in the pursuit and sinking of the German battleship Bismarck in 1941. Don underwent officer training and served as a sub-lieutenant and later a lieutenant on Motor Launches involved in minesweeping and antisubmarine activity, becoming a commanding officer.

David's mother Linda was born in 1920 and in April 1941 she volunteered for the Women's Auxiliary Air Force and was trained as a radar operator. In 1942 she was a Leading Aircraft Woman and was promoted to Corporal in 1943. Linda was involved in tracking enemy aircraft on bombing missions.



In July 1942 Don and Linda met near Haverfordwest and he spent 3 months in the area. Don sent the first letter to Linda 4 weeks after they met. In October 1942 they were parted for three years when Don was sent to the Mediterranean. He and his Motor Launch were involved in the invasions of North Africa, Sicily, Salerno, Anzio and Elba. His final operation was the invasion of Southern France in August 1944 where his crew were regarded as liberators. The Maquis signed a document known as "The Pact of Friendship" on Don's ship.

Don returned to Liverpool on 4th July 1945 and sent a telegram to Linda. Ten days later they married in Penzance and were together for 65 years.

David's book "Parents at War" features copies of some of the letters, family photos and details Don and Linda's remarkable wartime experiences.

Report by Wendy Varnham, Genealogy Group

Scrabble group

I'm pleased to announce that the newly formed Scrabble group has now enjoyed two successful sessions. New members will be *very welcome* to join us. The group will meet fortnightly, variable days. Contact Tony for details.

Tony Prince, leader.



Walking Group

A beautiful bluebell walk over Telegraph Hill, Sheffield English, was enjoyed by members of the Romsey & District U3A walking group.

Jan Morley



History, Social & General

The history group meets generally on the third Monday morning of the month in a room at the United Reformed Church, and we enjoy a wide variety of interesting subjects presented by our members. New people are always welcome to join the group, and there is no pressure on anyone to become a speaker!

In one of our recent talks we were introduced to Licoricia of Winchester, a Jewish businesswoman who lived there in the thirteenth century and who became the richest Jewess in the country and had close connections with Henry III. Married twice, she had at least five children and thirteen grandchildren, but she spent most of her life as a widow and carried on her very successful money-lending business in her own right. She was a leader in her community and had frequent meetings with the king in the Great Hall of Winchester castle, but she was imprisoned four times in the Tower of London and was finally murdered at her home in Jewry Street.



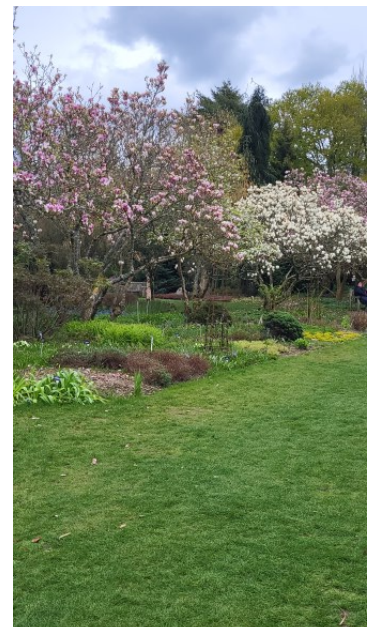
We also heard a lot about the way the Jews were treated in those days, some of which reminded us of Nazi Germany, and we learned that they were invited to England by William the Conqueror in 1070 and expelled 220 years later by Edward I. It was to educate people about Winchester's medieval Jewish community and to celebrate the life of this important but little-known woman that money was raised to erect a statue of Licoricia last year. This sculpture, by Ian Rank-Broadley, stands in Jewry Street outside the Library and next to the Theatre and shows her with her little son Asher, the child of her second marriage. Leaflets about Licoricia and a city trail highlighting places connected with the medieval Jews can be obtained from Winchester Tourist Information Centre.

Julie Reeves.

Sir Harold Hillier Gardens

I imagine many of you regularly visit Hillier Gardens, my wife and I walked up there and I had to take this lovely picture of the Magnolia trees. It's such a lovely walk around this part of the garden in spring, not to be missed.

John Dick.



Wendy Jelbert's quarterly update.

Here we are again, our Romsey painters and teachers, have something locally happening in the Art world nearly all the time!

We feel that the connection that binds us together is so important and crucial for our well-being, especially when there is sickness amongst our dear families. As a local teacher, we help them to sketch and search out natural scenes and plants to capture in our sketch books. Fig 1. In Freshwater Bay during a Walking tour, I demonstrated how you can just stop and enjoy any scene that takes your fancy.....it can be more rewarding than taking a photo, although taking a little longer!

Best regards, Wendy.



Wendy's BEGINNERS COURSE IN ACRYLICS AT HILLIERS ON MARCH 5th

I took another Beginner's Course at Hilliers. Here are the delighted Students holding up their work, which was a splendid effort ! Later on this year, I will be holding several more Painting Courses in the teaching block, if you are interested? These will be advertised in HILLIERS EVENTS magazine.

FRESHWATER BAY SKETCH

This is a sketch made whilst on a walking holiday in the Isle of Wight, it shows the Freshwater Bay Hotel and the bay, using pen, line and wash.



CREATIVE COLLECTION ART EXHIBITION

I won the votes for the best painting in our CREATIVE COLLECTION section to advertise our forthcoming show at Hilliers, from Thursday May 4th – Sunday May 21st....10am–5pm daily. I do hope that this painting may encourage you to pop along and see us?



Industrial Heritage group

In early April fifteen members of the Industrial Heritage group left Romsey in the Community minibus, driven by our member Dick Hewett, to visit the Cowley plant, home of the Mini production factory. On arrival we were introduced to the small Mini Museum where we could take photographs (no photography or mobiles allowed in the Factory) which house a collection of Mini cars from the very first ones to the present day and were surprised how some of them had changed and grown in size but are still the Mini.

We then listened to a Health and Safety talk and were equipped with high viz vests / goggles / ear pieces. Once ready with bags /water/food /phones all stored away in lockers, it was time for the Tour.



Our Guide, John, led us through doors to what could have been a food production factory; so bright, so very clean and so busy; people and robots so organised and efficient. The first department we viewed was the body assembly plant, it was extremely interesting and quite fascinating watching the robots work, rest and service themselves when needed. Clever indeed and so efficient. Then it was time to move on and board the

BMW mini bus to be driven to the Final Assembly Building where we watched all various components put into place on the body of the Mini; windows / electrics / lights / Dash panel/ wheels.

1700 vehicles are made every day. All are made to order, mostly to customer specifications, e.g. colour / wheels / Roofs; such a choice of each. The plant now employs 3,600 people whereas it used to employ between 26 & 30 thousand. No individual parts are made on the site. All parts come in ready to fit. This was a most interesting visit indeed.



Janet Payne & John Stone, Group Leaders.

Short Day Trips Group

Romsey U3A lunch

On Thursday 26th January, 78 members of the Short Day Trips Group enjoyed a superb two course lunch with coffee at the Ampfield Golf Club, Romsey. This annual event was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone. Thanks were given by Kay Lovell our Chairperson, to all the catering staff for such a lovely meal, and the Committee for all their help in putting this event together.

Organiser:- Margaret Waghorn

Trip to Dorchester, 23rd February 2023

The Short Day Trips Group took a coach outing to Dorchester. The town is frequently passed by enroute to other destinations in the Southwest of England but it has many places to interest a visitor .

The town has roots dating back centuries. Nearby Maiden Castle is an iron age hill fort, whilst Dorchester itself has the remains of a Roman settlement including the well-preserved remains of a Roman house. Like Romsey, it was a brewery town with Eldridge Pope's ales then competing against Strong's. Their site, vacated in 2003, unlike that of Whitbread in Romsey , has been creatively redeveloped as a busy town-centre attraction.

Some of the group explored the town and shops, whilst others visited places of interest, such as the newly refurbished and visitor-friendly Dorset Museum. As well as displaying items depicting Dorset's history, the Museum has a display of memorabilia from the 1980s and a comprehensive homage to Thomas Hardy.

The day itself had remained cloudy, with a cold wind from the north, so a warm coach ride home was 'just the job'.

Ken Shorter, group leader.

Trip to Chichester 23rd March 2023

The weather was changeable, to say the least. However, 47 indomitable members embarked on a trip to Chichester. The coach dropped us close to the Cathedral where many of us took refreshments. As the sun came out, some of us strolled round the beautiful Cathedral Gardens and chatted to the gardener about the adverse effect of the cold snap on our gardens. A highlight of my day was a visit to the Novium Museum in Tower Street (name derived from the Roman name for Chichester). This is well worth a visit. It is built over the exposed archaeological remains of a Roman bath house.

After lunch and some retail therapy, indulged in by many of our trippers, I sought shelter from the rain in the Cathedral. I joined other members of the Group who were listening to young pupils from the Prebendary School (next door) having music practice. Though very young they are obviously very talented musicians. The journey home was uneventful though it rained very heavily enroute. We arrived back in Romsey in time for a brief spell of late afternoon sunshine.

Gilian Gardiner SDT committee

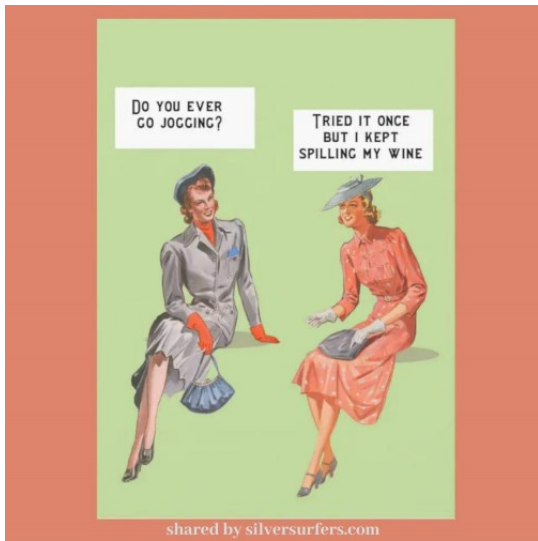
Coronation Scam—be aware

Scammers never sleep and they have seen yet another opportunity to grab your cash by attracting you via the Coronation. I suggest you read the Which article below by clicking on the link and please take care.

<https://www.which.co.uk/news/article/coronation-scams-watch-out-for-dodgy-emails-websites-and-cold-calls-aHfOf8k2lsrP>

John Dick, u3a Webmaster

and finally, some light-hearted jokes. I hope you have enjoyed reading the newsletter, please let me know. John Dick, webmaster@romseyu3a.org.uk.



Appendix 1—Interest Groups Contact details (January 2023)

1. Activities groups

Art Appreciation Jo Morgan	2nd Monday	01794 514134
Bird Watching Marion Slattery	Varies, by arrangement	07478 101661
Garden Visits 1 Mary Nickols	1st Friday, mornings	01794 322678
Garden Visits 2 Sue Boulain Sylvia Imeson	3rd Thursday, mornings	01794 522131 01794 500786
Horticulture Cathy Suter	4th Tuesday, mornings	07891 731159
Pickleball Trisha Meredith	Wed's at 5.00pm and Thurs- days at 2.00pm	07880 645683
Short Day Trips Kay Lovell	4th Thursday	07905 798136
Strollers Margaret Massie	2nd Wednesday	01794 522047
Table Tennis Improvers Juliet Austin	Mondays, weekly 13.00—14.30	01794 514354
Table Tennis Fridays Peter Sliwa	Fridays, 12.30 - 2.00pm Abbotswood Community Centre	07510 370747
Travel Janet Moody	2nd Tuesday	01794 517589
Walking Jan Morley	1st and 3rd Tuesdays, Mornings 10.00am	01794 519967

Appendix 1—Interest Groups Contact details (January 2023)

2. Discovering the Past groups

Architecture/Local History Kathy Feely	1st Monday, mornings	01794 884031
Genealogy Graham Woodbury	4th Wednesday, mornings	07736 335625
Geography/Geology Janet Moody	3rd Tuesday, afternoons	01794 517589
History, Social & General Pat Batchelor Patsy Batson	3rd Monday, mornings	01794 514578 01794 519957
Industrial Heritage Janet Payne John Stone	Winter; 2nd Monday, morning March-October visits	01794 523120 07733 293103

3. Discussion groups

Bookworms Kaye Hannah	1st Monday, afternoons	01794 512033
Books for Pleasure Gilian Gardiner	2nd Monday, afternoons	02380 252307
Crime Fiction Book Club Bryan Langford	2nd Tuesday each month at 2.00pm. Venue pre-arranged each time.	01794 651312
Current Affairs Aelred Derbyshire	2nd Tuesdays, 2.15pm	01794 651350
English Literature Sue Brookes	3rd Tuesday, 11.00am	01794 651591
Philosophy Chris Amery	Last Friday of the month, 2.15pm	01794 523135
Wine Appreciation Derek Morley	2nd Thursday, 7—9pm	01794 519967

Appendix 1—Interest Groups Contact details (January 2023)

4. Games groups

Bridge for Improvers Lindsey Dunford	Weekly, Wednesdays 2.00pm	01794 524457
Canasta Margaret Ellis	1st and 3rd Mondays, pm	01794 516100
Mah Jong Margaret Ellis	1st Thursday, afternoons	01794 516100
Short Mat Bowls Jo Morgan	7.15pm, 4th Monday (Sept 2022 to April 2023)	01794 514134
Scrabble Tony Prince	Fortnightly, variable days	07939 680563

5. Languages groups

French 1 Mike Wood	Twice monthly, Monday am	01794 519129
French 2 Liz Gill	Twice monthly, Monday pm	02380 736744
French Conversation Maryse McKee	2nd Thursday, 2.00pm	07979 847216
German Conversation Teresa Rayment	Fortnightly, Monday at 2.00pm	01794 513528
Italian Intermediate Carole Cox	Weekly, Friday, pm	01794 323392
Italian Intermediate 2 Carole Cox	Weekly, Monday, pm	01794 323392
Italian Improvers Marjorie Blundell	Varies, by arrangement	01794 323263
Latin Literature Sally Dickens	Varies, by arrangement	01794 511713
Spanish Vincent Prensa-Vilegas	Weekly, Thursdays 10:00—11:30am	01794 522508

Appendix 1—Interest Groups Contact details (January 2023)

6. Music groups

Opera & Classical Song Michael Ward	2nd Monday, 11.00am	01794 523685
Recorder Anne Hayes	2nd & 4th Friday 10.30—12.30	01794 518434
Singing for Pleasure Jo Morgan	4th Monday, 2.00pm	01794 514134

7. Skill & Dexterity groups

Creative Writing Jennifer Wineberg	4th Monday, afternoon	Jennifer@wineberg.co.uk
Introduction to Computers Sylvia Croxall	3rd Wednesday, afternoon	01794 840101
Painting Thursday Janet Moody	Every Thursday morning	01794 517589
Technology John Broughall	Weekly on Wednesday, 10.30am	J.broughall@ntlworld.com

8. Theatre & Drama groups

Cinema Pat Robertson	As and when arranged	01794 518802
New Theatre Group Janine Richards	2nd Thursday, every 2 months	07759 215390