

Testimonial 1 – Hilary H – Intermediate French

Hilary wrote following article for her home u3a newsletter – Harborough Welland.

Do you remember that very hot week we had, early in September? Wasn't it lovely?

I remember it very well because I was at a u3a summer school at University of Chichester.

The summer school was organised by the South East u3a Forum, but I saw it advertised in our national magazine: Third Age Matters.

I chose to do a course on French at an Intermediate level. For three days the 11 of us in that group spoke to each other, in pairs or threes, mostly in French. We played games, did a crossword, watched podcasts, visited websites, discovered the origins of odd phrases. For example, why is it not rude to say "Merde" to someone, to wish them good luck?

We were all much of a muchness in our abilities. Someone from another group at the summer school (more about other groups later) asked me what level of French the course was at. I said "O level plus a year", but someone else from the group overheard me and said "Oh no, it is more like first year university level". Whatever, we all stayed the course and ended up smiling. Our teacher was very gentle, sympathetic and funny!

At the summer school were several other courses, such as yoga, mathematics, fun fizzics, cycling, ukulele, walking, poetry. The cyclists and the walkers did amazingly well to complete their rides and walks in those temperatures!

Perhaps they were sustained by the excellent food we had. Three cooked meals a day and all with plenty of options and self-service, so you could just have the right amount of just what you fancied. There was a free drinks reception on two of the three evenings, too.

Of course, we were staying in student single rooms, which were adequate, but not luxurious. But they were all on the same campus and very handy, so no long walks for meals or activities.

The evening entertainments were also excellent: speakers or the film "Where the Crawdads Sing".

I would heartily recommend attending a South East u3a Forum's summer school at Chichester. I learned a lot, met many lovely people from many u3a's who did different things, and ate very well!

Thank you for the summer school. I loved it!

Hilary - Harborough Welland u3a

**In the 19th century, if a play was a great success, the theatre would have lots of horse-drawn carriages queuing outside to drop their passengers for the theatre. The queueing horses also dropped a lot of manure. So, wishing someone lots of "merde" was wishing them success.*