

# LEARN, LAUGH & LIVE on the Isle of Wight

Welcome to the IoW U3A Newsletter  
No 3 - March 2020



## Future Speaker Meetings

All meetings are held at St John's Church  
Hall, St John's Road, Newport,  
IW, PO30 1LN  
2.00 p.m. Refreshments available.

**Thu Mar 12th** Talk on our  
IW Donkey Sanctuary by  
Derek Needham and Carol  
Foote. The donkeys live at  
Lower Winstone Farm,  
Wroxall.



**Thu Apr 9th** Talk/  
demonstration on Reiki  
and Tapping by Beth  
Gelhard, clinical  
hypnotherapist, who  
demonstrates as well as  
talks - it will be on Reiki,  
Tapping & EFT.



**Thu May 14th** Talk on "Secrets of the  
Solent" by Susan Gibson, who will be looking  
at the hidden wonders found in and around our  
Solent shore.



**Thu Jun 11th:** Our first AGM which we hope  
to make a special occasion.

Getting to Meetings – if you struggle to get  
to meetings then let us know and we will  
try and organise a lift – email:  
[membership@iowu3a](mailto:membership@iowu3a)

The U3A is an educational and social charity  
which encourages people in their third age (later  
life and with time to spare) to carry on learning.  
It encourages social interaction and combats  
loneliness

Always check our website  
[www.iowu3a.uk](http://www.iowu3a.uk)

email [info@iowu3a.uk](mailto:info@iowu3a.uk)

## Announcement

Jane Bowskill has decided to retire as chair for  
personal reasons - thank you Jane for being there.

Carol Bradshaw has kindly agreed to take over until the  
AGM in June. Thank you Carol.

And Roger Skidmore has taken over as Newsletter  
editor - see below. Please send new copy to him -  
news and reviews always very welcome.

Would **you** be interested in joining the committee?  
Think about it. We are an interesting collection of  
people. And it is a satisfying job, especially getting a  
new group like this up and running.

If you would like more information please come to a  
speaker meeting and chat to someone to find out more.

Please check for errors and omissions.  
News and articles always welcome.

Newsletter editor Roger Skidmore,  
[rogerskid@zen.co.uk](mailto:rogerskid@zen.co.uk), 01983 822900



## Group Meetings

All Groups are listed on the web site at [www.iowu3a.uk](http://www.iowu3a.uk) with up to date details.

Email: [groups@iowu3a.uk](mailto:groups@iowu3a.uk)

At time of going to press:

### Books, Topics & Chat - Tuesday p.m.

This Group takes it in turns to suggest Books, TED talks, Newspaper articles, etc., to discuss. We also look for appropriate trips to literary festivals, etc., to go to. The aim is to cover a wide variety of subjects to achieve variety and hopefully widen horizons.

### Film Studies Next Meeting - 11th March 2pm - Ryde

To develop an understanding of the language of cinema and a deeper appreciation of film through group viewings and discussions of films' apparent and underlying meanings and significance.

Once a month - day to be decided - Jim Moody - make contact through email

[groups@iowu3a.uk](mailto:groups@iowu3a.uk)



### Gardening Cooperative - Carol

Meets monthly on Thursdays at 2pm.

For all gardening enthusiasts whether you have a garden or not. Meet up, drink tea, plan projects and, when it's not raining, garden. Do come and join us. Contact Carol on [groups@iowu3a.uk](mailto:groups@iowu3a.uk)

Projects might include:

Community projects; greening space; adopting verges, guerrilla planting; Learning from each other about what techniques work best for propagation, cuttings and germination ;

Swap seeds, plants, books, ideas;

Visit gardens or allotments of group members to help with a project, and gardens open to the public.



Don't have garden, no problem come along and connect with some-one who has more than they can manage and would love to share.

Planned meetings as follows: May 21st in Yafford, June 18th in Brighstone and July 9th in Northwood. Lifts could be available.

### Genealogy

If you have ever considered researching your family story beyond your grandparents but have found even the thought of it all a bit overwhelming then joining our Genealogy Group could be your answer. It could provide you with renewed enthusiasm for an intriguing and satisfying pastime, creating a fully researched and detailed family tree to pass on to future generations.

You can explore how to access the sources for ancestral research online or at Libraries, Archives, Record Offices and through local family history societies. Discover, step by step, how to research accurately and back up your discoveries with primary source information, most of which is now available online for free or via fee paying websites.

Ancestral research is a problem solving experience but you will be amazed at the diverse volume of material which is now available at your fingertips. Everyone, in all walks of life, has great stories to tell.

The Genealogy Group next will start in November. Check the groups tab on the website for updates nearer the time.

### Multicraft - Dina Jung - Tuesday p.m.

This group is for those people who love making things, in any material. Many people have experience in crafts that are not "run of the mill" and can come along and share this knowledge. We could also learn from books or online if no-one has experience in something that interests us. Things on offer so far are handmade leather goods, pewter casting in cuttlefish, spinning (mainly alpaca) and silver chain mail jewellery but this is just for starters as other people can make suggestions for us to try. We aim to meet once a month at 2pm and it is generally held in someone's house with tea and biscuits, etc.

## Writing

Next Meeting Thursday April 2nd 14:00  
Sandown

For all aspiring writers – whatever your goals, whatever your dreams. Whatever you dream of writing.

We will gather together to drink tea and to discuss goals, to support each other to plan small steps, to experiment, to become bold and share our work and to learn from the vast resources available through U3A subject specialists and other U3A writing groups.

The Writing Group held its first meeting on the 6th February in lovely Yafford. There were four participants. We managed to sneak in a small discussion about our favourite authors and then talked about what we thought the group was about. It's about writing. Our aim is to produce a piece of writing, any length from a short poem to 500 words on a topic that inspires us. One person has chosen to write about her garden for instance. We next meet on Thursday 2 April in Shanklin - that's plenty of time for you to prepare your own piece. Come and join the group ! Contact Christine for more information.

Special thanks to Sally for hosting (and for the lovely calorie-free mini Jaffa cakes).

## Rummikub - Still Planning - Yafford

Start date is pending - contact Sally on [groups@iowu3a.uk](mailto:groups@iowu3a.uk)

According to Wiki - Rummikub is a tile-based game for 2 to 4 players, combining elements of the card game rummy and mahjong. Players have 14 or 16 tiles initially and take turns putting down tiles from their racks into sets (groups or runs) of at least three, drawing a tile if they cannot play. In the Sabra version (the most common and popular), the first player to use all their tiles scores a positive score based on the total of the other players' hands, while the losers get negative scores. An important feature of the game is that players can work with the tiles that have already been played.

## Scrabble - Still Planning

Contact Sally by email - [groups@iowu3a.uk](mailto:groups@iowu3a.uk)



## Walk and Talk about Gardens - Wednesday p.m.

Walk and Talk about Gardens Group - Beryl. This group was formed by a few friends with a mutual love of gardens, gardening and plants and who wished to share their enjoyment and enthusiasm with others. We meet twice a month, from April to October on a Wednesday afternoon to visit one of our gardens, exchange plants, cuttings, seeds ideas and occasionally knowledge. These visits always finish with tea, cake and more talk.

## Planned:

(these are listed on the web site but some are awaiting "adoption")

DIY & Tool Knowledge

French

Mah Jong

Medical Matters

Photography

Posh Dining/ Theatre

Spanish

Using Technology

Walking

Genealogy - starting November - Alison;

IoW History - in the Autumn - Sally

All queries re Groups to [groups@iowu3a.uk](mailto:groups@iowu3a.uk) please.

**Starting a Group** - if your group isn't listed here then it probably could be!

Contact Sally or Dina (usual email address) and we could get one started.

You don't have to be an expert to start a group - just show an interest.

There is a network of over 70 national subject advisers, whose role is to provide advice on both the setting up of a group in their particular speciality and the sustainability of ones already in existence, which may benefit from new ideas or a different approach.

Some subject advisers keep in touch with group convenors through newsletters or blogs which is a useful way of sharing suggestions and good practice and some also organise study days.

They cover a wide range of subjects from American Archaeology to Yoga, with a real mix of academic, practical and leisure activities in between.

<https://u3a.org.uk/resources/subjects>



---

*The following message was sent via the Isle of Wight U3A Web Site.*

*If interested please contact Sally : [membership@iowu3a.uk](mailto:membership@iowu3a.uk)*

I am chairman of the Britten-Norman Aircraft Preservation Society (BNAPS) based on the Isle of Wight. Our main project is restoration of the oldest Britten-Norman Islander in existence, number 3 built, reg G-AVCN.

The work has been ongoing over the past 10 years and is now nearing completion. BNAPS welcomes visits to our workshop to see the work done and take a look at the restored Islander and I wondered if your group would be interested in paying a visit. BNAPS makes no charge but would welcome a donation. Tea coffee and biscuits are usually available.

The best day for a visit is on a Thursday from 1400 - 1600 although a visit at another time or on another days can be arranged. In the past we feel that numbers attending of around 15-20 is a manageable size. As well as viewing the Islander we have a video running about the project as well as an Islander desktop flight simulator. Please let me know if there is any interest,

Best regards,  
Bob Wealthy  
**Chairman, BNAPS**  
[www.britten-norman.com](http://www.britten-norman.com)



---

## **Fire Service Talk (February):**

The speaker's presentation provoked a good discussion. He illustrated the impact of fire hazards in the home - like overloaded extension cables and junctions, failing to own a fire extinguisher - or even better for the kitchen a fire blanket. He reminded us all of common fire safety failings like taking batteries out of fire alarms when they die and then forgetting to replace them! And not having enough fire alarms - is there one near your dryer? Is your toaster under the kitchen cupboard? Do you switch your kettle off at the mains when you are not using it? Do you switch your dryer etc. off when you go out or go to bed? Apparently the majority of house fires these days are caused by white goods - dryers, fridges etc. Have you got a niggly feeling that your fridge was on a recall list somewhere - check it out!

And think about escape paths. Do you live surrounded by clutter that you are about to clear out? Could a fire officer actually reach you quickly and safely or are you surrounded by trip hazards? If any of these questions are alarming you - then call the fire service and ask if they will come and give you a 'Safe and Well' check up!

I know that I went home with a list of jobs to do. For me the most important were to put a fire alarm in the cupboard where my clothes dryer is and to buy a fire blanket for my kitchen.

**Sally Forster.**

