

# LEARN, LAUGH & LIVE

## on the Isle of Wight

Welcome to the IoW U3A Newsletter  
No 9 - September 2020



The U3A is an educational and social charity which encourages people in their third age to carry on learning. It encourages social interaction and combats loneliness.

[www.iowu3a.uk](http://www.iowu3a.uk)

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

[www.facebook.com/groups/iowu3a](https://www.facebook.com/groups/iowu3a)

### *Dear Members,*

Thank you to those who came to the meeting at Church Litten in spite of the torrential downpour only an hour before the scheduled start. It was lovely to see friendly faces and to be able to have a chat with friends and to welcome, face to face two new members. Not surprisingly one of the topics was on-line 'Zooming' versus the real thing – in person meetings. No surprise to find that everyone is looking forward to being able to resume face to face speaker meetings and group meetings.

Continuing on this theme I am pleased to be able to report that our next steering group meeting will be held face to face (socially distanced of course) in the Stable Bar at the Castle Inn Newport. I have been to check out the venue and spoken to the owner. They have all of the Covid-19 health and safety protocols in place and the Stable Bar is a good space for a meeting. I have provisionally booked alternate Thursdays starting on the 17th September for anyone who needs a group meeting room. The cost of the room is £10 per meeting. Let me know through the usual channels [chair@iowu3a.uk](mailto:chair@iowu3a.uk) if you would like to use the room for a group or another meeting. If no-one does, that is not a problem, I can cancel them.

Our AGM is scheduled for Thursday 8th October and currently we are planning to hold the meeting in the same meeting room as above - The Stable Bar at the Castle Inn Newport at 14:00. The meeting will be by ticket only. The room safely holds 24 with plenty of room for social distancing. You should already have received instructions on how to apply for an entry ticket and how to nominate people for election onto the Board. See full details about the forthcoming AGM later on in the Newsletter and on the website.

Would you consider serving on the Board, or do you know some-one who would? Our current steering group is small, only seven people at the moment. Ideally we would like a few more, maybe increasing its size to 12. Could you do the job? Are you willing to have a go? We would welcome some new Board members with energy and ideas. I thought I was too busy to serve on the steering group but I find that I am not and that it can be fun. Come and join us.

Stay Safe and Well

***Carol Bradshaw***  
Chair



## Group Meetings

**All Groups are listed on the web site at [www.iowu3a.uk](http://www.iowu3a.uk).**

Because of the Coronavirus only a few of these groups are being held in person at the moment. We continue to consider ways for face to face meetings to resume with appropriate social distancing. Walk and Talk About Gardens has resumed outdoor meetings as has the writing group, although the writers are about to move indoors. Please check with the group leader through [groups@iowu3a.uk](mailto:groups@iowu3a.uk) for up to date information.

## Gardening Cooperative -

In response to the Covid 19 virus and the changes we have been forced to make in how we meet, I have decided to change the name of this group from Cooperative Gardening to Garden Appreciation. It seems to me that we have been unable to cooperatively garden as was first intended, and may not be able to in the near future, however I am sure that we will always be able to appreciate our gardens and others. The new description of the group on the website says Garden visits, sharing gardening skills, projects, seeds, cuttings and knowledge, also considering plant lists, eating cake and drinking tea. With that in mind I plan to contact Mottistone Manor to find out whether we could do a garden visit In October. I will keep you posted. Do come and join us.

In an ideal, pre-Covid world, the cooperative gardening group would have spent a session working with me on my allotment last month. I was looking forward to that. However, it was not to be, so this is my report from my plot in August.

This month it seems to me that apart from watering, watering and more watering my main job has been collecting and sharing crops. My plot is huge. I grow some flowers because I like them, and some fruit, namely blackcurrants, gooseberries, strawberries, raspberries and blackberries. The birds cooperate by sharing the fruit with me. The

rest is vegetables. Again, the wildlife does its best to have a share but actually, at this time of year, I don't mind. The amount and variety of produce is enormous. Additionally, my partner has a plot and a poly-tunnel, so between us we produce a lot of food. It's just as well that we are vegetarians!

We share our surplus vegetables and fruit with our close neighbours, sending messages on WhatsApp about what is available and putting baskets of produce on adjoining hedges or doorsteps. We also have a basket on the drive with a big FREE notice attached. We refill it each day. Everything gets taken, even the unusual squashes and wonky veg. Some people thank us personally, others occasionally put thank-you notes into the empty basket. It's our pleasure.

Below is a photo of the produce we picked on one day this month from our allotments. We had to take it to the car in a wheelbarrow! Our neighbours cooperate by helping us eat it.



***All welcome. - from Carol***

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



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

## Writing Group

*Hello writers,*

T'is nearly the end of August, but it seems not so long ago that we held our last meeting outside, in glorious weather in beautiful Yafford. Louis joined us for the first time and we had an interesting discussion.

If the past few days are anything to go by, we shall need to shelter from the great outdoors for our forthcoming meetings. It is proposed that we use the "Stable Bar" at the Castle Inn in Newport. If all participants pay £10, it will book the room for us over the winter months. Our next meeting will take place there on Thursday 3rd of September at 3 pm.

This month, we had a couple of prompts to get us writing: 'Clearing' and 'Jane', they produced very varied responses, which is what we have come to expect and enjoy. Carol wrote a sestina which we all enjoyed very much: an interesting and challenging form !

Two 'enjoy' in two lines! yes, that sums us up!  
How about having a go at a sestina yourself?

See you on the 3rd.

**Christine**

## Cycling Group

Lockdown has encouraged more people to venture out on their bikes as there is far less traffic about. We have started to become the "Green Island" which we regularly promote . I wondered if anyone would be interested in starting up an Isle of Wight U3A Cycling Group?

This is an interesting website to have a look at <https://bikemunk.com/cycling-ageing/>



**Dina Jung**

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

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

This Group is still continuing and a flourishing email and photo-swapping system has sprung up which is motivating, informative and supportive. Sorry no cake at the moment but we have moved to socially distanced garden visits.

We have now had three garden visits since lockdown has eased and we were so pleased to meet up again. We had not been together since last October but throughout this time we have kept in touch by e mail and by sending photographs of plants in the garden at different seasons.

We first met up in July in my garden, which was not looking its best due to the intense heat and lack of rain, the plants were holding their breath and the lawn looked like straw.. The two gardens visited in August had benefited from some heavy rain and looked much more lush and healthy with green lawns! Both gardens had very productive vegetable plots and the owners were congratulated on all the work they had put in to them. The most recent visit was to a garden which had only been started two years ago and had an amazingly well established pond, which was the envy of many of us.

As usual the visit ended with tea, cake and chat and for a couple of hours we were able to forget the outside world and just talk plants.

**Beryl Tillman**

## 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; Cycling; Genealogy - starting  
November - Alison; Local History - in the  
Autumn - Sally

Starting a Group - if your group isn't listed  
here then it probably could be! U3A subject  
advisers cover a wide range of subjects.

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

## POLITICAL DIY -

You too, can be a Parish Councillor, County  
Councillor, Mayor, Member of Parliament,  
Cabinet Minister, even Prime Minister....  
Just follow these simple instructions. Even  
if you just want to stay an ordinary voter,  
you could join the group and explore all the  
procedures of political life up to and  
including interviews with leading Councillors  
and our MP; a visit to Westminster, observe  
the working process for the next local  
elections or even a general election if it  
occurs. This is not about political credos,  
just the nuts and bolts of our democracy .

**Louis invites you at least to join a new  
group to pursue this noble aspiration  
apply through the usual Groups email  
address.**

## Call for Papers!

This is your monthly newsletter and we try to keep you up to date  
on everything that is happening - well not much at the moment -  
but there is always space for anything you would like to contribute.  
Well, certainly in the months when we publish it electronically.

Do you have a bee in your bonnet? A poem you would like to air?  
Suggestions to share? Please send content to [editor@iowu3a.uk](mailto:editor@iowu3a.uk)  
- no prizes but you may achieve limited fame.



## Facebook page

Check out our Facebook page  
[www.facebook.com/groups/iowu3a](http://www.facebook.com/groups/iowu3a)



## Film Studies Group

Nothing daunted, those of us in the film studies group continued with our series of film discussions during August.

The two films we dealt with then were **12 Years a Slave** and **The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind**; Brit actor Chiwetel Ejiofor was adult male lead in both (he directed the second one). Thankfully, everyone has become well used to the online Zoom approach. And have no doubt: whatever someone needs to say gets said!

In September and October, we will discuss the following films:

**One Day** (2011, with Anne Hathaway and Jim Sturgess) on Wednesday 2 September.

**The American President** (1995, with Michael Douglas and Annette Bening) on Wednesday 16 September.

**K-19: The Widowmaker** (2002, with Harrison Ford and Liam Neeson) on Wednesday 30 September.

**Julie & Julia** (2009, with Meryl Streep and Amy Adams) on Wednesday 14 October.

All films we discuss are available to view on Netflix. Discussions are held online on Zoom (details provided to group participants beforehand) from 5.00-6.00pm.

New group members are very welcome.

Members can contact Jim for further details:

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

*Jim Moody*



**For more films check out**

<https://uk.newonnetflix.info/>

## Video Making/Filming Group

I offer to have a group which would make films on video about the Isle of Wight. It might be called 'U3ATV' I have previously made videos under the title of Ventnor TV (\*VTV) and have all the equipment needed.

Anyone interested can see examples on

Facebook under VentnorTV This would mainly be outdoors or on locations with a few occasional meetings to set things up. Opportunities for Internet Designer/Manager; Producer / Director; Editor; Camera/ Photographer; Front of camera Interviewer.

Make contact with Louis through the usual email at [groups@iowu3a.uk](mailto:groups@iowu3a.uk)

## Spanish Group

We have had a number of requests for a Spanish language group. Have you had a passion to learn Spanish? Now's your chance! Make contact through the usual email at [groups@iowu3a.uk](mailto:groups@iowu3a.uk)



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

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

## Isle of Wight U3A - AGM

**To be held 8th October 2020, at the  
Castle Inn, Newport, 2.00 pm**

This Annual General Meeting, the first for the IOW U3A, is an opportunity for members to find out more about how the IOW U3A works, agree its constitution, choose officers to run it, examine the last year financial statement and, agree the membership fees for next year.

Come along and have your say!

As a consequence of Covid safety restrictions we would like you to let us know that you are coming - email [membership@iowu3a.uk](mailto:membership@iowu3a.uk) or email to Sally at the address below. It is just possible that we will need to make alternative arrangements if the Covid status changes.

### **First a big thank you:**

Thank you to the outgoing Steering Committee for having brought IOW U3A safely through to its first AGM.

Carol Bradshaw, Chair; Jim Moody, Vice Chair; Dina Jung, General Secretary; Sally Forster, Treasurer; Roger Skidmore, Newsletter Editor and Gloria Layton and Peter Neeves, Monthly Speaker Meeting Coordinators. Thanks also to Jane Bowskill who was the inaugural chair.

The committee is pleased to announce that Carol, Jim, Dina, Sally, Roger and Gloria are all willing to stand for election to the board of trustees to take IOW U3A into its second year. Any one else wishing to stand should complete a proposal form (attached to the email )

and return it to [info@iowu3a.uk](mailto:info@iowu3a.uk) by 21st September 2020, or post to Sally at Yafford Mill, Mill Lane, PO30 3LH

All manner of skills would be welcome on the committee. We have two particular needs, we would need to increase our membership so someone with an interest in marketing would be welcome, or someone who would like to take over the role of membership secretary and help increase membership in other ways.

We would also like to increase the groups available to IOWU3A members for which we really need a new Groups Coordinator. This role is currently shared between Sally & Dina and it really deserves someone to give it their undivided attention.

If you would like to get involved but don't know in what capacity, talk to Carol, [chair@iowu3a.uk](mailto:chair@iowu3a.uk). There are lots of possibilities.

In addition to the four officers, the following people are standing for election to the board:  
Roger Newsletter Editor  
Gloria Monthly Speaker Meeting Coordinator.

In an ideal world we would like a Board with 10-12 people so please think about whether you could get involved. There are lots of ways that you could help and it can be fun!

## Members of Committee

### Chair - Carol Bradshaw

I moved to the Isle of Wight in 1978 for a teaching job and have never seriously thought about living anywhere else since. I taught English and P.E. at Medina High School then made a huge leap from teaching to industry and moved to Plessey Radar (now BAE Systems). After 6 years, I was offered an opportunity to work in Italy, which I jumped at, having always been very keen on learning languages. I worked as a freelance Management Consultant mostly in a training role in Defence Companies in Italy and the UK for the next 5 years, coming back to my home in Northwood as often as I could. I also learned to speak passable Italian in the process. In 1993 I returned to the UK full time and worked on the south coast commuting daily from the IW. I am now retired and as busy as I have ever been. I love my house in Northwood. I like gardening and growing vegetables and have a garden and an allotment. I play golf and am also a beekeeper. All of these keep me very busy!

I saw a poster about the new IoWU3A being formed last Autumn and was curious although did not have time to go to the first meeting and did not think I would have time to take part anyway. However, I went to a later meeting to learn some more and decided to join. In no time at all I found myself volunteering to be Newsletter Editor! In February, when the previous Chair resigned, I was asked if I would step into the breach as temporary Chair until the AGM in June. I agreed and subsequently asked Roger if he would take on the Newsletter. Fortunately, he agreed. I must say

that he has done a much better job of Newsletter Editor than I would have done. As we all know now, then the pandemic hit and our AGM, due in June was deferred until October. I am happy to stand for election as Chair to serve on the Board unless there is anyone out there who would really like to do the job.

I really like the 'Group' idea as it works in the U3A. I joined the writing group and have, in the short time that I have been a member, met some interesting people and, finally, after years of wanting to, started to write and to share what I write with others. There are so many opportunities within the U3A to learn from and with others that we should encourage everyone we know, (even the very busy ones) to join.



### Vice Chair - Jim Moody

Vice chair is a support position on the local committee, its office-holder stepping in to chair meetings when the chair is absent. My experience chairing meetings of various kinds in the past, including in local government and voluntary organisations, provides qualification for the role. For me, joining IoW U3A has been an opportunity to help re-establish U3A on the Island, whose

age demographic suggests a larger potential membership than many areas of the country.

We now have several active groups within the local body of U3A, and I am pleased to have been able to provide expertise useful in establishing a film studies group, which to date has been functioning well online during the Covid-19 lockdown.

## **Treasurer, also Membership Secretary and Joint Groups Coordinator - Sally Forster**

I have loved the Isle of Wight since my sister moved here more than forty years ago! I have always wanted to live by the sea. I finally made it here fulltime in March – just in time for lockdown. In previous incarnations I have been a computer programmer, a software engineer, a university lecturer and a Psychotherapist, all based in London. I had heard of the U3A over the years and always considered it to be a wonderful organization, one that I would join when I had more time. When I went to the launch meeting last October, I was anticipating having that free time soon. Little did I know what was ahead. I found that a new U3A needed to be created for the Isle of Wight. Predictably, I volunteered to be Treasurer and Membership Secretary reasoning that these are tasks that could be done in the background with relatively little time committed to someone else's timetable.

As I imagined approaching semi-retirement in July 2020 the one thing that I wanted to end as far as possible was having other people's diaries dictating mine. It was a good plan on paper... What it did not account for was of course Covid-19 which not only demanded a

little extra from the committee in terms of creativity but also scuppered my plans to be semi-retired by the end of July. In practice I had simply transferred nearly all my work on-line and have still not yet found that elusive free time. In addition, working with such a small steering committee ensures that there is always a lot more that could be done - if only!



However, I do believe that we have done a pretty good job under the circumstances. I am very happy to stand for election to serve on the board. I fully intend to be three quarters retired by Christmas and I hope that some of you will step forward to expand the board and help us to create a vibrant and successful U3A. There is so much potential for more learning and laughter.

## **Business Secretary - Dina Jung**

I was born and raised in East London and started work in the Bank of England at 16 years old. I got married, had two children, got divorced and started Teacher Training College during the next 12 years. After teaching Textiles, Home Economics and Art in Secondary School for seven years I retrained as a CDT teacher and then taught Wood, Metal, Plastics, Graphics, Technology for another seven years. Needing a change, I returned to College and completed my City and Guilds Cabinet making and then went on to do a MSc. in Forest Product Technology along with my Chain Saw 1 & 2. By this time I had moved to Kent and had got married again. I returned to teaching in Kent as well as completing another Teaching Certificate in Post Compulsory Education to enable me to teach students up to the age of 80 years old. Meanwhile my children had grown up, my daughter was living in Brunei with her husband and my son had moved to the Isle of Wight. My second husband and I split up and I moved back to London where I taught for another two years until my "official retirement" age.



## Dina contd...

I then started my own business doing something I had wanted to do for a long while and went into Secondary Schools and designed, built and taught organic gardening projects to older students sustainability and self reliance, along with other connected things. I have done this for 18 years during which time I moved to the Isle of Wight continuing to travel to work in London until Covid-19 started when I decided to retire properly and close my business.

I have travelled extensively and have always done voluntary work in some form or another. I was one of the Directors of Green and Away (an Environmental Conference Centre Group) for 22 years, the Chair of our local Scouts Group and on the Isle of Wight I have joined the Environmental and Recycling Forum run by the Council Also the Local Access Forum, the Bus and Rail Users Group, the Spinners and Weavers Guild and was one of the group of people who started the IoW U3A last November of which I am now the Secretary.

I believe wholeheartedly in the benefits of people keeping active into old age and really value the stimulation and excitement this brings, which is why I think the IoW U3A is so important. It is also a waste of the accumulated knowledge that older people have if this is not passed on in some way. When the Launch Meeting was announced last year I knew I would become involved and volunteered to be joint Groups Secretary and Business Secretary (a new role for me and where I had to brush up on the typing skills from the Bank of England days). I would love to continue as Secretary on the Board and feel that our Steering Committee has made a good start in creating an adventurous and interesting U3A Group. This will hopefully continue to expand and enable more Islanders to give and take of their vast experience as well as having a really sociable and fun time.

## Other Members

### Editor - Roger Skidmore

Roger Skidmore is 74 years old, a retired optometrist, and has lived and worked on the Island most of his working life. Born in Wolverhampton, graduated at Aston University in 1968, MSc in 1972, started his own practice in Freshwater in 1974, got married, divorced (no kids), and whiled his time away until retiring 10 years ago partly due to health reasons. He has always been involved in social things - West Wight Thespians (backstage), WW Swimming Pool, Quay Arts Centre, DIAL, Dimbola Lodge, Computer Club, etc. He helped start the "Island Professionals" singles club and latterly was part of the old original IW U3A. Professionally he has been the mainstay of the opticians' continuing education project on the Island, leading the IW Optical Society. He has lived in Freshwater, East Cowes and now in Quay Street in the centre of Newport.



## LOVE AT 78 continued

Seven weeks later the fluffy balls of down have become stropy teenagers. Their newly emerging feathers make them look like stubbly old men who haven't shaved for a few days and they have tripled in size.

Their energy is phenomenal and a fly who strays into their view sends them wild with excitement and starts Olympic paced running up and down the chicken run. Also, like teenagers, they do not want to go to bed at night so have to be lured into their coop with finely chopped pieces of cheese and coaxing noises which do not sound anything like the Mummy hen chirping I am trying to imitate.

As with all relationships change happens, power and control rear their ugly heads, a hierarchy is being established. The fighting starts .....

## Dina Jung

