

LEARN, LAUGH & LIVE

on the Isle of Wight

Welcome to the IoW U3A Newsletter
No 10 - October 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

info@iowu3a.uk

www.facebook.com/groups/iowu3a

Dear Members,

How things have changed in just a month! This time last month we were planning our October AGM to a face to face meeting for the first time since March. Now, due to the latest restrictions we have had to revert to a Zoom AGM. I know that some of you are still reluctant to embrace online platforms like Zoom. I think we all dreamt that things would get back to normal with face to face meetings and didn't want to be bothered to get involved. Unfortunately, I think that this is the 'new normal' for the foreseeable future and our u3a strap line of 'learn, laugh, live', will, to a greater or lesser extent, have to involve online interaction, online meetings and online learning opportunities.

I took part in the U3A National AGM this week and even though the meeting went on for 3 hours, it was interesting and informative and it was online. I would not have attended had it been face to face because the travel time would have been too much to make it worth it. As it was, I attended the meeting from my own home and felt involved in the huge, active nationwide, indeed worldwide organisation that is the U3A, and was pleased to have done so.

Our AGM is scheduled for Thursday 8th October and although last month we had hoped that we would be able to hold it face to face, that has proved to be impossible. I hope that if you have not registered with Sally to take part yet, please do. I can promise you that it will not last for 3 hours! I look forward to seeing your faces on the Zoom screen. See more details about the forthcoming AGM later on in the Newsletter and on the website.

Finally, I have been thinking hard about what group events we could have that are accessible to all members and that could take place outside, whatever the weather. I thought of the natural resources that we have on the IW and decided to offer to coordinate a group called Beaches. See page 3 for more details.

Stay Safe and Well

Carol Bradshaw
Chair

Please check for errors and omissions.
News, articles and updates always welcome.
Newsletter editor Roger Skidmore, rogerskid@zen.co.uk, 01983 822900

Group Meetings

All Groups are listed on the web site at www.iowu3a.uk.

Or email: groups@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 continue with appropriate social distancing. "Walk and Talk About Gardens" has been meeting in person but has now returned to winter mode and email only. The writing group and the games group meet inside, in groups of 6 or fewer, all suitably physically distanced and in an airy and maintained environment. The new Beach group will also be in person, again in groups of 6 or fewer and outside - at the beach!. Please check with the group leader through groups@iowu3a.uk for up to date information.

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.

Rummikub -

Contact Sally by email - groups@iowu3a.uk

Scrabble -

Contact Sally by email - groups@iowu3a.uk



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

Contact by email - groups@iowu3a.uk

The group is still continuing and has reverted to winter mode with a flourishing email and photo-swapping system which is motivating, informative and supportive.

Writing Group - Christine

The writers group continue to meet face to face on the first Thursday of the month. We commit to write a short piece each month. Last month's challenge was to revision a fairytale. This produced some very fine contemporary tales albeit some were incomplete and some were very short - it was a busy month all round.

Planned:

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

DIY & Tool Knowledge;
French; Mah Jong;
Photography;
Posh Dining/ Theatre;
Spanish; Using Technology;
Walking;
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>

Garden Appreciation - Mottistone Gardens Planned Visit

Would anyone like to go on a visit to Mottistone Gardens this month? Mottistone Gardens and Estate is a National Trust property on our doorstep. Sally and I plan to visit on Wednesday 21st October aiming for the 10:30 slot. Booking has to be done in advance, and can be done by phone (I think) or online. The date of the 21st is not yet advertised so booking will have to be done a few days before. A garden visit is free for National Trust members (but still has to be booked and members must show their card on entry) or costs £5.00 per adult which you pay online. Anyone who needs assistance with booking, contact me through the group's contact page

The invitation to come along on that date is open to all U3A members. The National Trust has staggered entrance times but takes about 20 (approx.) people per time slot. I cannot guarantee that we will all get the same time slot but once in there we can stay as long as we like. The gardens are beautiful and sufficiently spacious to enjoy a walk, a socially distance chat and to see some familiar faces too. The café and toilets are open.

Do email me if you decide to come along and then we can look out for each other.

Happy Gardening

Carol

NEW GROUP starting – BEACHES

*Do you like walking on beaches?
or swimming in the sea?
looking for pebbles, or fossils or
taking photographs
or sketching,
or sitting,
or playing
or simply breathing in the sea air
on one of our island beaches?*



If the answer is yes to any of the above, do join this group. We plan to meet on island beaches that are accessible by public transport to allow like-minded people to meet together but socially distanced in our beautiful, large open spaces by the sea. Contact me through the group page on Beaches.

Carol



IoW U3A Film Studies Group

Film Studies Meetings - Virtual

Discussions at 5pm on 14th and 28th October. The films are yet to be decided. Members can contact Jim Moody for further info - groups@iowu3a.uk

After a most interesting discussion at the last meeting those present put together a list of 12 possible films for future meetings. All are currently available on Netflix:

A Beautiful Mind (2001)
Donnie Brasco (1997)
Enola Holmes (2020)
Manto (2018) Juliet, Naked (2018)
The Handmaiden (2016)
Saawan (2016)
Operation Finale (2018)
The Lion Woman (2017)
The Laundromat (2019)
The Peanut Butter Falcon (2019)
Wuthering Heights (2011)



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

See you there!
Jim Moody



Man, all these doctors, nurses, microbiologists, immunologists, epidemiologists, and other researchers keep saying COVID-19 is dangerous, but all these people who barely passed science in high school keep saying it's not. It's so hard to know who to believe anymore.

Groups in the New Normal

What would you like from your U3A in this new normal? Please let us know.

I would like to experiment with hybrid groups...

One possibility is to use Internet material to provide a platform for learning and add local interaction either by telephone, by internet or in-person.

I am signed up to study an online, free, Future Learn Course entitled 'Literature of the English Country House'

"For over 450 years, country houses have attracted the attention of celebrated writers like Jane Austen and Charles Dickens. On this course we'll trace this history with experts from the [University of Sheffield's School of English](#) who will share with us the approaches that they take in their own research.

Through the course you will investigate and discuss the role and representation of the English country house in literature, and learn how to build your own authoritative interpretation of these texts."

Would you like to sign up to the course, study independently, and

meet weekly over tea and cake (or more remotely) for a conversation?

I would also like to set up a games group. We have a venue in Newport where there is easily space for two groups of 4 or 6 players. We could play cribbage or scrabble, Monopoly or Rummikub – whatever the attendees on a particular week desired.

Also a local history group – I believe that it needs a focus, Are you interested in local history - What focus would you choose? Has anyone read "A history of women's lives on the Isle of Wight"? Could that be a starting point?

We know that there is enough interest for a Spanish group. No one feels sufficiently skilled to be a facilitator. Is there a way to use the internet to provide the course while creating a group to support the study?

Let's get creative – all ideas/responses to groups@iowu3a.uk

Sally

Facebook page

Check out our Facebook page www.facebook.com/groups/iowu3a



FALLING IN LOVE AT 78 - the end of the affair

They've gone and I miss them terribly. No more getting up at 7am to open the coop for their breakfast and wing and leg stretching workout. No more outbursts of cheeping with the expectation of "FOOOD" when I open my patio windows. No more feeling their eyes on the back of my head when I am cleaning the windows willing me to bring them "MORE FOOOD" (they have the most enormous appetites) and no more seeing them race up and down at 5pm waiting for their extra special treat of Mature Cheddar Cheese (Morrison's best) which they eagerly peck from my hands.

They have grown at an incredibly rapid rate, in 8 weeks some of them are nearly full size and ready to join the other chickens on my son's land. That was the arrangement when I volunteered to hatch out chicks for him when the fox killed some of his chickens to feed her cubs at the beginning of the year. I just did not think I would become so attached to these busy, feisty bundles of feathers but the missing does not last long as I have plenty of memories to fill the gap. How quickly they all learnt to go to bed by themselves at sunset, how the Barred Plymouth Rock chickens were the only ones who could use the swing successfully and the others kept falling off. How I nearly pulled the head off the biggest chicken with my litter picker when he attacked the little Rhode Island Red..... and more.

Knowing that newcomers to an existing flock will be picked on and pecked they have been kept separate from the other chickens in their new home. I have also told my son that I have given **my** chickens (there is an ongoing debate between us over the word "my") special training in Kung fu should the others cut up rough so he should expect some fancy footwork and unusual grunts should this happen. Hopefully they will not need to use this skill.

I have learnt such a lot in the last three months and lockdown has flown by (please excuse the pun) so fox or no fox I have everything ready to hatch out another clutch next year and if I start earlier enough in the year there could even be two clutches..... I am left with a niggling thought though, how long can a chicken remember a face - will they come running when I visit them or should I go suitably armed with cheese to jog their memory?

Dina Jung



AGM – October 8th at 14:00 – to be held remotely

With regret – and as a consequence of the recent change to government guidelines - we are reverting to hold the AGM remotely.

Detailed joining instructions will be sent by email alongside offers of help for those who would like to join but struggle with the technology. The meeting will also be accessible by phone if you would like to dial in.



The essential business of the meeting is to accept the constitution, accept the accounts and elect the new board of trustees.

It is also an opportunity for members to hear from the chair and the treasurer, to ask questions and to make suggestions about how the U3A should be run, what you would like it to provide and what you can offer to help it grow.

As mentioned elsewhere in this newsletter, the indications are the current constraints on meetings might last into the spring. So this is the new normal, we need to consider how we want to live now, what we wish to enjoy now, and what we need to allow that to happen.

A full report of the AGM will be in the next newsletter together with questions, comments and responses including those submitted remotely.

So please, send questions and suggestions to membership@iowu3a.uk or to IOWU3A C/o Yafford Mill, Yafford, P30 3LH.





CHALLENGE AGE

<https://challengeage.com/>

Challenge Age is a personal development programme for the over 50's. It has been inspired by the Duke of Edinburgh scheme for young people but has been adapted to respond to the needs of adults facing retirement, redundancy, unemployment, social isolation, and marginalisation. The aim of the programme is to enable adults to age positively and learn new digital skills and personal development strategies for working as an individual (Bronze Award); as a member of a team (Silver Award) and as a leader and mentor (Gold Award).

Challenge Age is supported by Isle of Wight Council through its Active Innovation Grant and through its Adult and Community Learning Grant

