



Welcome to the u3a Newsletter for the Isle of Wight February 2021

The **u3a** is a UK-wide collection of locally-run interest groups that provides a wide range of opportunities to come together to learn for fun. We enjoy exploring new ideas, skills and activities together.

Web: www.iowu3a.uk

Email: info@iowu3a.uk

Follow us on Twitter [@u3aWight](https://twitter.com/u3aWight)

Dear Members

Well, here we are at the beginning of February enduring a lockdown worse than ever. In the first lockdown two significant things were different. The first, and most important factor was that there were very few cases of the virus on the Island and second was that we were blessed with beautiful weather. Now, in our third lockdown, our island has one of the highest rates of infections, we are at the coldest, wettest time of year and, other than for going out for essentials, we are instructed to stay at home. It's all a bit dreary. However, it is very important that we protect ourselves and our community by doing just that. Thank heavens for Zoom which is at least giving us all the opportunity to share time with each other, to chat and laugh and learn even though it is in a way that we could not have imagined this time last year. It is encouraging to see more and more of you

mastering the art of Zoom and engaging in group activities.

I was sorry to have to cancel the Garden Appreciation visit to Princess Beatrice's garden at Carisbrooke Castle. I will definitely try and organise a visit as soon as it is possible. Similarly with the beach walks, while I would love to organise a walk for this month, the current instruction is to 'stay local' so I am trying to do exactly that. In the absence of activities from the above two groups last month, I invited anyone who wanted to, to 'appreciate' their own garden and write a few words for the newsletter about it. Thank you to Jan and Valerie who have written about their own gardens – in very different ways. Thanks also to Maggie who wrote a few words about her 'stay local' beach walk. If anyone else would like to write something about their garden or their 'stay local' beach walk

Contd...

Please check for errors and omissions.

News, articles and updates always welcome.

Newsletter editor Roger Skidmore, rogerskid@zen.co.uk, 01983 822900

for the March newsletter, please email it to me at chair@iowu3a.uk. It is great to have entries for the Newsletter from you, the members.

Finally, I was shocked and saddened at the news of the untimely death of Louis Lawrence. I had not known Louis for very long but he joined us last summer and

National u3a Day June 2nd and our iowu3a Team Round the Island Walk

On Thursday 28th January we held our first planning meeting for our celebration of the National u3a Day and the team round the island walk. This initial meeting had two objectives,

The first was to draw from people with experience of organising walks, their thoughts on how to ensure that we organise a safe and enjoyable walk, with as many members walking part of our coastal path on the morning of June 2nd or the two days leading up to June 2nd. We have approximately 65 miles of coastline and the plan is to cover the whole route. More details will follow but below is a link to the sections of the walk with small maps. Have a look and see which walk or part of one you would like to walk and let me know. For safety reasons we suggest that no-one should walk on their own. If you are not sure and would like to rehearse your walk before the day we can arrange for a volunteer to walk the route with you beforehand. We will need other volunteers too on the day, such as walk marshals and drivers.

his marketing experience on the Board was invaluable. I also enjoyed his wit, humour and interesting tales as a member of the writing group. He will be missed.

Carol Bradshaw Chair

The second objective was to talk about our National u3a day celebrations. The outline plan is that there will be a big celebratory picnic in Newport in the afternoon of the 2nd June (Covid allowing) to which all members are invited. The walkers will gather there too after their walk. There will also be invited guests and hopefully the press. We need volunteers to help organise this too. There has also been a suggestion that we have an evening Zoom cocktail party to finish off the day. It sounds fun.

At the end of the meeting we all went away with tasks to complete and will meet again in a month. Please contact me on chair@iowu3a.uk with any suggestions you may have, and thoughts on how you are willing to help to make the day a success.

Carol

<https://www.visitisleofwight.co.uk/things-to-do/walking/coastal-path>

And **Internet Scrabble** anytime, anywhere, at www.isc.ro

Phone a friend and get a game going!



Groups

All Groups are listed at
www.iowu3a.uk

Please check with the group leader through groups@iowu3a.uk for up to date information.

Groups are now all operating remotely during the current lockdown. Organised beaches and Garden visits will resume as soon as the regulations allow.

Winter Photo Competition

- check out the IoWu3a website (see Welcome page) for contributions to the photo competition. Entries have now closed and it is up to the judges to decide. Winners will be announced at the Zoom talk on February 11th.



Writing Group

Our first theme of the year was suggested by Maggie: 'An unusual journey, real or imaginary for a human or animal'. It yielded very varied interpretations as is usually the case - ranging from a virtual journey to a lost cat.

There was no group meeting this month, and it looks very much like we won't be meeting in person in February either. It is very likely that many people are jotting down, thoughts, observations and wishes at this time, and they can be put into a chosen shape to communicate your feelings to others. A short story, a poem. We had a bit of a debate on poetry during our December meeting: did it always have to rhyme? did it have to be a given shape like a sonnet? Louis said 'yes, and yes': always a clear opinion.

It is with great sadness therefore that we learnt of Louis' death on the 19th of

January. He had joined our group in the Summer of 2020, bringing to it stories of his life and ideas on how to develop and publicise the group. We will miss him and we send our thoughts to his family and friends.

Our next writing theme was proposed by Alison :

The challenge would be to write a short piece of interesting, conclusive dialogue (approx 500-800 words) of a discussion between two people over a challenging situation. Possible ideas:

- * Returning a damaged item to a store
- * Mother and child over a controversial topic
- Neighbours across the garden fence
- Any other challenging situation

A small amount of narrative is permitted but you cannot use "he said" or "she said" .

Christine

**Tea, Chat & Tech - suspended - (usually Forest Road Nursery Café).
We will resume when cafés are allowed to reopen.**

**In the meantime please call Sally on 740511 if you would like Tech support,
particularly if you are having difficulties with Zoom or emails.**

Groups

Spanish Beginners' Group

We continue to meet on a Monday afternoon and anybody interested in joining us would be most welcome. These are early days so it would be easy to catch up and there is plenty of help at hand. The group is friendly and welcoming – there is no pressure and we are here to enjoy ourselves and get the satisfaction of learning a new language. If you are interested, please make contact with.....

Keith Pritchard 407942 keithswonderfulworld@gmail.com

New Group

Oral History on the Isle of Wight

I have been pondering on a theme for a new history group and have been struggling to find one that satisfied me. And then I started to think about who we are, partly prompted by Alison's fascinating and very personal insights into the history behind Ventnor Botanic Gardens. I realised that actually we are the resource – at least those of us who have lived on the Island for a long time or were born here, left and then came back. I confess myself to being an

'overner'; enjoying the Island as a visitor for many years but only recently having moved here in anticipation of retiring.

Do you have old memories of the Island, big or small? Old photos? Would you be willing to share them? Would you be willing to help collect and organise them?

Reply to me on groups@iowu3a.uk or 740511 if you would be interested in being part of an Oral History Group.

Sally

IoW U3A Film Studies Group

Grass does not grow beneath the feet of film studies group members. Early in the New Year we got down to discussing *A Beautiful Mind* (2001) and two weeks later tackled *The Trial of the Chicago 7* (2020), which was prescient and topical, what with recent events in the USA. Online discussion attendance varies, but we started 2021 with nine and hope to keep and perhaps exceed that level of engagement through the year.

In February we have agreed to discuss two more films, a fortnight apart. On 3 February the study group will deal with *Hope Gap* (2019), featuring the ever-delightful Annette Bening and Bill Nighy as

a couple suddenly confronted with marital difficulties. And two weeks later, on 17 February, it will be the turn of *The Life Ahead* (2020): Sophia Loren plays a day care centre owner who takes on a lost 12-year-old street boy.

As usual, both February films are available on Netflix; members will view them online at their convenience in readiness for the subsequent Zoom discussions.

All IoW U3A members are eligible to join the film studies group. Just let us know beforehand so you can be sent details of how to connect to Zoom for the discussions.

Jim Moody

Groups

Walk and Talk about Gardens - Wednesday p.m.

The only thing that has been walking about our garden is a male pheasant. A creature of habit who arrives at 8.30 in the morning. He walks around looking to see which room we are in and then parades up and down outside that window until we feed him. One day he arrived with a friend, another male unfortunately, so we will not be hearing the patter of tiny feet.

I have recently been decorating and threw out a mirror which I thought could go in the garden somewhere and left it leaning against the fence. The pheasant came across it in his wanderings and spent about twenty minutes looking at himself, vain creature.

To return to gardening, the Hellebores are looking good, but most things that were in flower I have now cut back, to encourage them to put on new growth from the base. All the bulbs planted in the autumn are showing signs of life and the hyacinths will soon be in flower. Our new season usually starts in April, which I hope will be possible, we shall see.

Contact by email - groups@iowu3a.uk
Enjoy your gardening,

Beryl Tillman



Garden Appreciation

My Winter Garden

My garden is a soggy mess,
although the cats don't seem to mind,
no matter my efforts to put them off,
they leave me gifts behind.

The plants I want to do the best,
struggle and don't survive.
The weeds that I don't care about,
never fail to thrive.

I have a giant oak tree,
it dominates my land,

its leaves and acorns proliferate,
I wish they could be banned.

Holding hope within my heart,
I gaze in the tubs and beds,
I search amongst the fallen leaves,
for the flowers that poke their heads.

The gardening chore I hate the most
is watering, oh the stress,
but in the winter, there nothing to do,
as my garden's a soggy mess!

Valerie Graham

Groups

My Garden

In 2020, with so much time on our hands, we decided to make some changes to our garden .

We both love woodland themes, and we realised that with minimum effort we could create a mini woodland area by creating a pathway at the back of the garden. To do this we divided up a large bed. We already had a sort of backdrop of rhododendrons, pieris, a holly tree, an acer and a very tall cordyline! This area is also well established with bluebells (Spanish), too many crocosmia (they will be coming out this year) and ferns!

We created a woodland pathway using bark chipping...this means now we can walk right round the whole back of the garden. In the new area we have planted many foxgloves, wallflower and hollyhocks....all grown from seed so 2021 is their first year. In addition there are geraniums and, in pride of place, a hydrangea paniculata Silver Dollar.

To carry through the woodland theme in a nearby bed we have planted lots of hellebores...so exciting...they are now all starting to flower...giving us a feeling of great joy and a promise of what is to come.

Jan Tavill



PLANT SWAP

We had a good start to the Plant swap last month but have some plants left over which I am growing on for the next. I thought we could wait until March and then hopefully the lockdown would have eased off and the weather would have improved so if anyone has any spare plants (this is open to all members of our U3A not just the Gardening Groups) just pot them up (cardboard cups would be fine) and as soon as there is a suitable time we can have another Plant Swap at Wootton. Keep safe and growing.



Dina Jung

BEACHES

A WALK TO FRESHWATER BAY IN LOCKDOWN

It's the 14th January and looks like another rainy day. There's a break in the clouds so I go for a local walk to Freshwater Bay. On route I cross a meadow called Granny's Mead dedicated to a community midwife in Freshwater for 50 years. A large skeletal oak tree stands in the middle.

Further on I spot a yellow primrose in flower and green shoots of daffodils pushing up on the bank. A sign of the Spring to come. There's a shop at a road intersection which displays a notice stating it has been a grocer's shop since 1865. The road continues past a little café called The Piano. It's closed in lockdown with tables and chairs upside down on top. A few yards down on the other side of the road is a small church. Built in 1908 it's quite unusual as it has a thatched roof with a wooden bell turret.

I pass Dimbola House, a museum which features Margaret Cameron, a Victorian photographer. I hear a robin singing loudly, he's sitting close by on a branch. The road widens out and there before me is Freshwater Bay. The sea looks grey and uninviting today but I decided to take a photograph.



I failed to notice a large wave coming in and was taken by surprise when spray enveloped me and I tasted the salty water on my face. Still, I had a good photo! I retrace my steps home.

Maggie Brown

Green Issues

We had a really good start to the first Green Issues Group meeting this month and 5 people attended via Zoom, with two more left in the "waiting room" by mistake. I'm really sorry to those who couldn't get in but I'm new to this lark, got carried away with the introductions at the meeting and didn't look at the "Admit" button, it won't happen again.

Lots of suggestions were made as to what the content should be and it was decided for starters to air our bugbears, research them as much as possible and then present this information to the Group at the next meeting which was a great idea as it would give all members accurate information on topics that they may not have thought about. It would also help us feel better by getting it off our chest and maybe we could do something constructive about it as well.

Other suggestions were calculating our personal carbon footprint, visits to places showing sustainable industry, e.g. solar farms, and Recycling plant on the Isle of

Family History and Genealogy

The Family History and Genealogy Group held its first meeting by Zoom on 21st January at 2pm. 13 members were present. We introduced ourselves and chatted about our own interest in the subject for the first half hour. At 2.30pm U3A's subject advisor Steve Dyer, gave us an interesting talk on the various resources available for research plus suggestions about the best websites for us to use to create our family histories.

Wight. We also included ecologically sound investment of savings, joining other forums on sustainability or similar, swapping tips to reduce our CO2 and checking out "Greenwash" publicity to see how valid it was. Obviously these are dependent on the Covid restrictions at the moment but they will be something to look forward to in the future.

We decided that meetings once a month would give us enough time to do our research and we will be trying out the second Friday in the month to see how it fits in with everyone's arrangements. We still have room for a couple more members and if you are interested please let me know at dinajung@gmail.com.

Looking forward to seeing everyone on the 12th February at 2pm. I will send the Zoom details nearer the time.

Keep safe,

Dina



There were plenty of questions for Steve afterwards and he provided some good

advice, followed by an active discussion on the pros and cons of DNA testing. The meeting lasted nearly two hours with some enthusiastic participation.

Our next meeting will be on 18th February at 2pm and we have all agreed to try and bring along a small item of interest that we have inherited which has a story to tell or perhaps - one yet to be discovered!

The New Reading Group...

met (virtually) on Tuesday 5th Jan - a good start to 2021. We had a wide ranging discussion on what we were reading, had just read, or indeed had read at any time; what we had loved or hated or just got bored with - as advertised.

As it happened, the books that we discussed today were all fiction.

We agreed that on the whole we preferred to read books where the story was not overshadowed by the style. We also agree that as we had got older we were less inclined to persevere and finish a book that we were finding not worthwhile - life is too short, whereas we would once have stuck at it. And that a good dose of humour has its place.

The books that we mentioned, for better or for worse, included:

Captain Correllis' Mandolin
Goremanghast
The Mighty Waltzer
The Sisters Grimm
Red Sisters
Maisey Dobbs
Time's Arrow
Ridley Walker
We Are All Completely Beside Ourselves
The Lesser Bohemians.

Next date Tue February 2nd 15:00

Sally

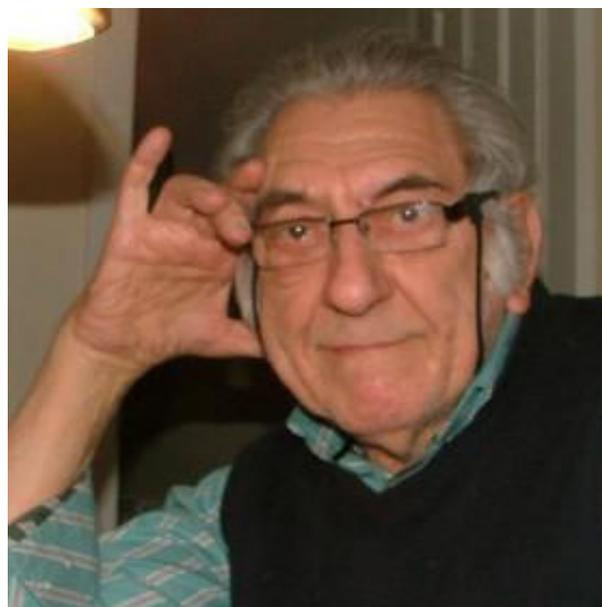
Louis Lawrence

We are sad to report the passing of Louis Lawrence, a recent recruit to the Board of the Isle of Wight u3a and a very long standing member of the original U3A on the Island.

Louis had a very long association with the town of Ventnor and always harboured aspirations to create and manage "Ventnor TV". A short personal nostalgia from his life follows on page 10.

Louis stood for the Green Party in Ventnor East in the 2005 Isle of Wight Council election: he came fourth with a creditable 251 votes (the winning candidate got 554).

Louis was chair of the old Island U3A between 2014 and 2016 and he joined the board of the new Isle of Wight u3a in



2020 picking up the remit of marketing and PR. Louis was very keen that the u3a should re-establish itself and thrive on the Island. He certainly believed in Life Long Learning and had a fund of amusing anecdotes that could bring laughter to any group.

Louis Lawrence said:

Celebrity Cult

In the 1970's I was working for Argos and at the time they used various celebrities to open new shops. Possibly because of my membership of an amateur drama group or even my Royal connections (Later !) I was given the task of escorting various celebrities to do the honours. We would exit the back of the shop and walk the street to attract attention and arrive at the shop front to cut the tape with a few words from the celeb. But it didn't always work out as planned !

I walked the High Rd. at Wood Green with Richard Baker, then appearing nightly on the BBC TV news at nearby Alexandra Palace. Nobody recognised him and when he stopped a lady and said "Hello, I am Richard Baker" she just looked startled and scurried away.

In Leeds it was Don Arrol who was MC for Sunday Night at the Palladium. We toured the city but when we finally came back to the shop there was no crowd. On that day Leeds were in the Rugby league final at Wembley so anyone who was not at the match was glued to their television. With Barry John the Wales Rugby player in Cardiff there was a long line outside the shop but nobody would gather round to hear him as he cut the tape, saying "Oh no, we don't want to lose our place in the queue !"

On our walk at Barnstaple, Angela Rippon insisted on stopping to buy some fish. In Maidstone, Roy Castle was waylaid by some girls in a hairdresser's and they wouldn't let him go till he played 'the Saints' on his trumpet. At Coventry I almost lost Dicky Davis to a local Snooker

Hall. They stopped us as we passed and tried to get him to play a game with them.

At Bristol, Stuart Hall was long overdue till he arrived blue lighted by Police car. He had been delayed on the M4 and had called for Police assistance to get him to the shop. At another opening when I walked round with Michael Aspell there was a huge crowd waiting. Even though I asked people to let us past with Michael in tow, nobody believed me and we could not get through, so we had to retrace our steps to the back of the store.



At Nottingham we had stretched a paper screen across the entrance and a local disc jockey was supposed to burst through, but when he hit the paper he bounced off !

Ah yes, the Royal connection - I was a voluntary worker at a youth club when the Duke of Edinburgh visited and we had a room kitted out as a film studio. He came in at the point where I had a lad in army uniform with his feet up on a table which made the Duke laugh and made a good picture for the following day's newspapers. I still have the photo in which I look anxious because one of the boys up on a ladder looked as if he was about to drop a spotlight on the Duke's head. On another occasion, Princess Margaret congratulated me on my set design for a club show while offering her white gloved hand. I know it was between me and Armstrong-Jones. We both had bad legs, but he had the money.

An Unusual Journey Travels by Laptop

For a committed traveller, who is thwarted from planning this year's favourite activity because of lockdown, one of the most satisfying but otherwise quite idle things to do is to plan for future trips into a Covid-free world. Holidays can take on a whole new meaning with modern technology.

The holiday adverts have arrived in the papers, magazines and on TV as they usually do during January, but can we really afford to take the risk of making a booking when the future of the hospitality industry is so uncertain? We all long to get away, relax and unwind, see new places, meet new people or tick a few more items off the 'bucket list'

As caravanners, we plan our trips comprehensively with the journey itself being an important part of our holiday. However, when driving with a combined length of 13 metres, it is of paramount importance for advance route planning to be the rule of thumb. This is essential for us as islanders in order to travel stress free on the busy mainland roads. To be able to turn off at the correct junction without any hesitation needs a good map, an accurate SatNav, some handwritten memos and several packets of Haribo Jelly Babies. The results will then be (hopefully) no navigation errors.

We like to 'bunny hop' up to North Wales via the Malverns or to Scotland via The Lake District or to the North East via the Derbyshire Dales. The 'getting there' then becomes enjoyable, taking time en route to stop off to enjoy things for a few days before moving on. Our choice of sites to stay is usually dictated by the ease of the routes which access them. Unlike a campervan it is always necessary for a touring caravan to be booked in advance. Travelling on the motorway network is

straightforward but more minor roads usually need some preliminary investigation. We hate towing on single tracks or narrow twisting roads. We don't like meeting tractors in country lanes, and we try to avoid big town and city centres. If we happen to be in the mountains we need to know in advance if a route is suitable for us to drive its full length without encountering problems, as there is often no turning back.

This is where Google Earth comes in. An overview of the terrain enables the best route choices to be made. Once that's decided it's time to look at Google Street Plan, make notes about junctions, check the overhead gantries and check which lanes we need to be in. Up to the roundabout then follow the route for a while before stopping to indulge in some sightseeing from a viewpoint car park via the 360 degrees vista whilst deciding if it would be a good spot to stop for lunch. In the real world we are just having coffee in the kitchen. We are virtual travellers right now but when we actually get there in person - it all seems so familiar; we've been here before!

At present we cannot book any trips for 2021 because of the ongoing uncertainty. So we will build on our annual armchair holiday planning and today we'll enjoy a scenic virtual journey into the mountains of Argyll and Bute. Tomorrow perhaps we could really splash out and travel somewhere exotic with hot sun, soft sand, palm trees and turtles. I wonder if Google Earth has visited the South Pacific yet. Perhaps a few more Jelly Babies would help.



Alison

The Heritage of Gilbert and Sullivan 14th January 2021

In an interesting and informative presentation Bernard Lockett, a lifelong devotee and a Trustee of the annual International G&S Festival, provided fascinating insights, especially into the relationship between Gilbert and Sullivan and the independence of their individual creativity.

While few will fail to recognize the music of G&S operettas and many will have seen professional or amateur productions, some will also have taken part. They are amongst the most popular particularly with local theatre groups. Less may be known of the two men, however, who came from very different backgrounds.



Gilbert, an unsuccessful barrister from a relatively privileged family, was an acute, satirical observer of the foibles and corruption of late Victorian society. With a fine understanding of discrimination against the underprivileged and a humorous style he could please an audience without offending. He wrote complete productions: sans music but with dialogue, lyrics and stage direction. Sullivan, the talented and musically experienced son of an Irish immigrant labourer, had won a Royal Academy of

Music Scholarship and studied in Germany. He would then, on receipt of the libretto, compose the music, writing the memorable melodies we know so well. With narrative, words and music perfectly blended the whole becomes a seamless blend of their talent and skill. 'Thespis', their first joint endeavour in 1871, had been unsuccessful but fortunately impresario Richard D'Oyly Carte saw their potential and asked them to write a short piece for his light opera company. 'Trial by Jury' was the first of 14 G&S operettas, marking the beginning of a 25 year long partnership.

While creative harmony prevailed Gilbert and Sullivan had their differences. They, with D'Oyly Carte, became successful entrepreneurs and while Sullivan could see the added value of investing to enhance the quality of a production, Gilbert was always reluctant to commit to expenditure. Both received knighthoods, Sullivan in 1883 and Gilbert in 1907.

Although their work reflects 19th century mores, the performances still mirror many of the traits of today's society and retain a freshness which guarantees their continuing popularity.

When in 1960 their works were no longer the subject of copyright the appeal of the operettas increased as amateur theatre groups could more easily include them in their repertoires. The Island is no exception with G&S productions by the Savoyards at Shanklin Theatre and COADS at Trinity Theatre, Cowes attracting large audiences as well as being popular choices for performances in senior schools.

A most enjoyable Isle of Wight u3a Zoom meeting.

DLM 21/01/2021

Membership

One year on and we missed the opportunity to celebrate Isle of Wight u3a's first birthday! And who could have predicted, one year ago, that we would all now be on Zoom, however reluctantly.

At the beginning of 2020 we had just 16 members. We started with just 6, our brand-new committee, in November 2019. Ten people then joined at the inaugural meeting on the 12th December 2019. On the 9th January 2020 we had our first Speaker meeting when Mary Case gave us her fascinating talk on honeybees. And another 5 people joined. Then on the 13th February we listened to the fire brigade warn us of the perils of over packed sockets, trip hazards and the absence of smoke alarms. (I confess I still have not installed a smoke alarm in the cupboard that houses my laundry dryer!) And then on the 13th March we heard about the Donkey Sanctuary, and the amazing work that they do with all manner of disadvantaged sections of the community. And then CoronaVirus caught up with us.

By 23rd March, the day that the first lockdown was announced, we had 38 Members.

We now have 63. Amazing as that is, we need many, many more. We need more to remain viable; we need more to

Laptops for Kids

Computability (www.cfd-iw.org.uk) is trying to link up members of groups with schools to donate unused laptops. IoWU3A could link

support the committee and we need more because the u3a is about members working for members. The more members we have the more we, collectively, have to give. At the moment one in 10 of us are on the committee and we need more volunteers, people willing to talk to the press and the radio, people who can use social media, people to organise groups, whatever your skills we have a place for you, and your friends.

As you have heard elsewhere, we are building up to a big splash on June 2nd, for u3a Day. Let's hope that we can drink tea and eat cake together by then, even if we still have to stand two metres apart and bring our own cups.

In the meantime, for the majority of members, 31st March is renewal time. That is next month. Renewal reminders will be sent shortly. My plea to you is to renew your membership and bring a friend with you. If everyone recruits a friend, we will have made a big step towards viability. And if you cannot persuade a friend to join, then let us know what more we could be doing to make your membership of u3a as good as it could be.

Sally
Membership Secretary

with a local school to help make up the government shortfall.

**Please contact the editor -
phone 822900**

Dates for your Diary – all queries to groups@iowu3a.uk

February 2021				
1 st	Monday	4:00	Spanish	Zoom
2 nd	Tuesday	3:00	Reading	Zoom
3 rd	Wednesday	5:00	Film Studies – Hope Gap	Zoom
4 th	Thursday	2:00	Writers	tbc
8 th	Monday	4:00	Spanish	Zoom
10 th	Wednesday	11:00	Ventnor Botanic Gardens	Exercise in twos?
11 th	Thursday	2:00	Speaker – Roger Browne and “Not Father O’Malley”	Zoom – See back Page
12 th	Friday	2:00	Green Issues	Zoom
15 th	Monday	4:00	Spanish	Zoom
17 th	Wednesday	1:30	Tea, Chat & Tech	tbc
		5:00	Film Studies – Life Ahead	Zoom
18 th	Thursday	2:00	Family History	tbc
22 nd	Monday	4:00	Spanish	Zoom
24 th	Wednesday	12:00	Beach Walk	Fingers crossed

March 2021				
1 st	Monday	4:00	Spanish	Zoom
2 nd	Tuesday	3:00	Reading	Zoom
3 rd	Wednesday	5:00	Film Studies	Zoom
4 th	Thursday	2:00	Writers	tbc
8 th	Monday	4:00	Spanish	Zoom
10 th	Wednesday	2:00	Seed Swap	tbc
11 th	Thursday	2:00	Speaker - Wilding The Isle of Wight,	Zoom – See page 15
15 th	Monday	4:00	Spanish	Zoom
17 th	Wednesday	1:30	Tea, Chat & Tech	tbc
		5:00	Film Studies	Zoom
18 th	Thursday	2:00	Family History	tbc
22 nd	Monday	4:00	Spanish	Zoom
		12:00	Beach Walk	tbc

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/iowu3a> closed group for members

<https://www.facebook.com/u3aWight> open page for the public



ADVANCE NOTICE!

A Wilder Isle of Wight

Thursday

March 11th
14:00-15:00

Zoom room open
from 13:00
Join for a chat

Zoom room open
until 16:00
Stay for a chat

Join us for a talk from the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust on the Wilding of the Wight.

At this talk Jamie Marsh (Senior Reserves Manager) will be sharing the Trusts plans for wilding areas of the Island, including the reintroduction of some lost species.



CREATING A

WILDER

HAMPSHIRE AND ISLE OF WIGHT

“Not Father O’Malley”

Talk on Thursday 11th February 2.00pm Zoom

Zoom details to be sent out soon -
you can join early and stay late if you wish

Unlike Roger’s other talks, “Not Father O’Malley” is not directly about music, but nevertheless, as it traces his childhood in wartime and post war Salford, it inevitably, features the music that he heard and enjoyed, in his beloved home city from a very early age. Music, which lead to him singing in public from the age of three, recording “Come back to Sorrento” at the age of four and teaching himself to play the piano at the age of five.



Not Father O’Malley takes an hilarious look at what it was like to be brought up in a city, blitzed in the war, ravaged by poverty and floods, and strangled by overcrowded and inadequate housing.

He talks with great warmth, how, in spite of what post war Salfordians had to cope with, his greatest memories are of love, kindness, compassion, humanity and, above all, humour. Lots and lots of humour.

He relates the consequences of being brought up as a Roman Catholic, in Catholic Schools, attending Catholic Mass, but falling short of what was expected of him, by his teachers and his parish priest, by, horror of horror, becoming a Manchester City fan.

As with all of his talks, Roger illustrates “Not Father O’Malley” with live piano playing, singing and any number of crazy, hilarious stories.

U3A Isle of Wight holds a Zoom talk every second Thursday and this usually attracts over half the membership. We hope to get back to meetings in person eventually but at least you can enjoy our own personal talks in the comfort of your own home.

Our speakers are drawn not only from the Island but also across a wider base, and while they can charge a small fee we don’t have to pay for room hire or insurance.

By all means check out Roger Browne’s web site at www.storiesbyroger.com and find out more about this fascinating speaker.