



Welcome to the u3a Newsletter for the Isle of Wight April 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, it looks as if we are about to regain a little of our freedom, thank goodness. Hopefully most of us will have had a least one dose of the vaccine and some will have had both. Bit by bit we hope to restart outdoor activities. The Beach walks and Garden visits should be able to go ahead this month. Some of the groups may be able to begin meeting face to face, in sixes or fewer, providing that we have some decent weather and can meet outside. It all feels quite optimistic to me but we must continue to be on our guard.

What have you missed or disliked most about this last lockdown? Were there any positives? If you would like to write about it, a list, a limerick, a poem or prose, pop it on an email to me on chair@iowu3a.co.uk and we will try and include some of your thoughts in the next Newsletter.

I hope that you enjoyed the March speaker meeting from the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Trust on 'Wilding the Isle of Wight'. Once again the event was very well attended with more than 35 of you Zooming in and judging from the comments afterwards, was inspiring to many of us. Thanks to Sally for organising it and to you for attending. If you have an idea for a speaker or a subject for a meeting (on Zoom or, dare I say, face to face), do let us know. See the poster on the last page of this newsletter for details of April's speaker meeting 'Family History Alternative Sources'.

Thank you to all of you who have kept in touch via Zoom or email during this long winter. Spring is now officially here - reasons to be cheerful part one!

Stay safe and see you soon!

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

URGENT APPEAL FOR SAFETY PINS

We have had some printing done to identify us, initially for the Round the Island Walk but also for use afterwards. These are fabric labels which can be pinned onto jackets, etc., both front and back. There is a need for small (up to about 25mm long) safety pins and I wondered if anyone has a secret stash they no longer need? If so, could they let me know via our website - using the Secretary link - so that I can arrange pick-up please.

Many thanks,

Dina

**Coming soon!
Summer
photographic
competition!**



A big thank you to Raven, Print and Design, Cowes, PO31 7AD, who did such a great and generous job in printing our bunting flags and high viz ID labels (not shown). Highly recommended.

GDPR - General Data Protection Regulation

This is a gentle reminder to all members that we may not share contact details of other members without their express permission.



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

Phone a friend and get a game going!



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 possible.

Writing Group

We met successfully on Zoom for our March get together: it was really lovely to see each other even if we couldn't be together. Who knows, maybe soon we can meet outdoors!

We seem to have been running two themes side by side for February and March challenges, as time and inspiration have been short at times, and not everyone could do both.

Several of us completed a text inspired by a picture from the 'Winter' photo competition, and with an eye on April's Fool day (the date of our next meeting) the theme for April is a funny story or incident. Maggie and Alison both had fun

with this idea and their stories were much enjoyed. Carol combined two themes into 'an amusing conversation' - an intriguing encounter on the beach... You could write an amusing story for the Newsletter! We can certainly all do with a bit of a laugh at the moment.

A suggestion to enrich our discussions is to bring to the group an example of skilful writing from an author we enjoy or admire. Helena got the ball rolling with two extracts from 'Hornblower' by CS Forrester.

What would your selection be?

Christine



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 01983 407942
keithswonderfulworld@gmail.com

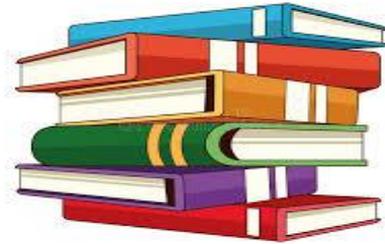


Reading Group

The Readers met virtually once more to discuss what had been keeping them company over the past month.

And the list was long:

The Salt Path (Raynor Winn)
Where the crowlads sing (Delia Owens)
When I go home again (Caroline Scott)
Invisible Women (Caroline Criado Perez)
Educated (Tara Westover)
Guns, Germs, and Steel: The Fates of Human Societies (Jared Diamond)
Bad science (Ben Goldacre)
Maisie Dobbs Mysteries (Jacqueline Winspear) - again
The history of love (Nicole Krauss)
I am an Island (Tamsin Calidas) - again
Prisoners of geography (Tim Marshall)



And the illustration comparing the reach of famous pianists was prompted by the discussion of Invisible Women which considers the impact on women of a world measured to provide for a 'standard' body - that is a 'male' standard body. Of course, the disadvantages apply equally to smaller people of all genders.

We will meet again on April 6th - out of doors if the weather permits.

Sally

IoW U3A Film Studies Group

We are seeing a slow but sure increase in U3A IoW members joining discussions in the Film Studies group. At our second fortnightly meeting in March, where we discussed the apposite film *Contagion* (2010), there were nine of us present at a very engaged session. Since then, another person has joined us. The group's Zoom-based meetings online usually last about an hour; sometimes members' enthusiasm for the topic in hand does push us a little beyond 6pm. All U3A IoW members are of course eligible to join our discussions: just send in a request to be placed on the group's email list.

In coming weeks and months, we are continuing our now tried and true method: individually watching a film on Netflix (the subscription service of arguably greatest availability) whenever we can, then meeting together every fortnight on a Wednesday at 5pm to discuss the set film.

Here is a partial list of forthcoming attractions to be discussed at future Wednesday meetings (dates given):

14 April

The Notebook (2004, USA) Director: Nick Cassavetes. With Gena Rowlands, James Garner, Rachel McAdams, Ryan Gosling. Storyline: A poor yet passionate young man falls in love with a rich young woman, giving her a sense of freedom, soon separated due to social differences. Jim Garner's penultimate film.

28 April

Seventeen [Diecisiete] (2019, Spain) Director: Daniel Sánchez Arévalo. With Comedy-drama amid the landscapes of Cantabria, northern Spain. Storyline: A 17-year-old boy escapes a juvenile detention centre to find a shelter dog he befriended and is joined by his older brother.

12 May

The Truman Show (1998, USA) Director: Peter Weir. With Jim Carrey, Ed Harris, Laura Linney. Storyline: An insurance salesman discovers his whole life is actually a reality TV show.

Jim Moody, group convenor

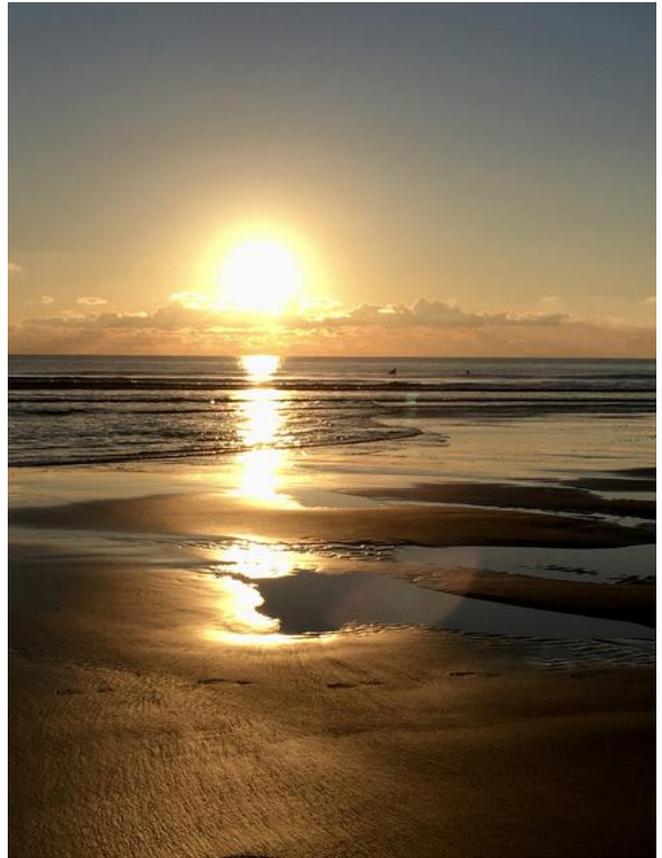


BEACHES

At the time of writing we have not yet enjoyed the Beach walk at Yaverland on the 31st. We are promised good weather so, fingers crossed. I am so looking forward to seeing you all soon. I will report on this walk in the May Newsletter.

The April Beaches event will be on the 28th of April and the venue will be Bembridge, tides and weather permitting. For those who don't want to walk there is a very fine seafood café with outside seating and car parking opposite the Pilot Boat Inn, so some of us could walk and the others could meet us and drink coffee or have lunch. Do let me know if you would like to join us on chair@iowu3a.uk or by phone 07748 886246.

Carol



Early Morning

The beach, in the quarter-light was beautiful and the tide was low. She breathed in slowly, savouring the morning air, the silver sand and her solitude. Dark shapes leaned into the cliff. Round mounds slumbered in the dark at its base. Forward, the sea chuckled and shushed, whispered and sighed as the light grew. Day break, her favourite time.

There was no-one at all on her part of the beach. The dark smudge at the far end could be a lone dog walker but that was a long way away. She had time. Slowly, raising her arms, she breathed in, allowing the cold air to fill her lungs and then blew her breath, along with all her anxieties, out with the tide and away, allowing her arms

to fall. Again, she thought, but this time more slowly. The sea breathed with her. It inhaled, quietly chattering in retreat as she let go of her breath, then exhaled, pressing towards her as it filled her body with fresh salty air. They breathed together, perfect harmony. Nothing else mattered.

Eventually she heard a click of pebbles being dislodged. The dog walker, she thought, time to go. Thank you, she murmured to the sea. Just at that moment a ray of the rising sun winked in the distance. She smiled, and waved, then turned towards home, ready to face the day.

Carol Bradshaw
November 2020

Walk and Talk about Gardens

Like the plants we are slowly emerging from our winter sleep and are looking forward to a good spring and summer. March is a good month as all the better weather is in front of us. As a group we have not yet tempted fate by organising garden visits, but perhaps in a month's time

Garden Appreciation

Unfortunately, the virtual seed swap planned for March did not happen. I suspect it was too early in the year to get people excited about swapping seeds when the sowing season had barely begun. I will suggest it again in a month or so when we could include cuttings and seedling swap along with the seeds.

This month, unless anything untoward happens with regard to Covid, our visit to Princess Beatrice's garden should be able to go ahead as planned on 21st April. This is what English Heritage has to say about the history of the garden:

'Princess Beatrice was the youngest daughter of Queen Victoria and held the position of Governor of the Isle of Wight from 1896 until her death in 1944. Beatrice was resident at Carisbrooke Castle during her governorship and from 1913 the walled garden became her private or 'privy' garden which she enjoyed during her regular visits to the island. The creation of the Princess Beatrice Garden in 2009 celebrates this period in the castle's history and serves as a colourful reminder of a woman who dedicated significant time during her life

If and when we can get together it may have to be smaller groups and visiting gardens in our locality. Hopefully we will continue to exchange e mails and photos. Until we meet again I hope you are all enjoying your gardens.

Beryl Tillman

on the Isle of Wight, in particular, Carisbrooke Castle.'

The castle 'outdoor areas' will be opening on 29th March. Takeaway catering will be available but indoor areas will remain closed. (This may change before the 21st April!) You will need to book your ticket, in advance, online on the English Heritage website. The concession price without gift aid is £8.48. Obviously, it is free to EH members but you will still need to book your timed ticket. I have purchased tickets for 11:30. I hope to see some of you there.

Let me know if you are interested on chair@iowu3a.uk. This visit is, of course, open to all members.

Carol Bradshaw



**New Group –
Walk & Lunch Group
First Meeting
Wednesday May 19th**

Western Yar Estuary Walk

Western Yar Estuary makes a delightful walk. There are a number of convenient lunch spots which we could choose according to the weather, the Covid restrictions and where is open. Possibilities might be The Red Lion in Freshwater, the Gossip café by Yarmouth Pier or Off the Rails in Station Road, Yarmouth.

The walk is easy along on the right bank where it follows the old railway line and slightly more undulating and uneven underfoot along the left bank where the path passes through both farmland and woodland.

Possible variations are to go there and back along the right bank, to walk the full circuit or to take a bus or car to the selected eatery and join the walkers for lunch.

More details will be circulated by email nearer the time but let me know if the idea appeals.

We walked the circuit last month and it was delightful, full of primroses, nesting swans and emerging signs of spring.



Technology and Communications Group

The first meeting of the Technology and Communications Group (TCG) was held on Monday 8th March. 14 members joined the zoom meeting. This first meeting was about getting to know each other and what members wanted from the TCG. Help was wanted on issues such as how to download photographs from a camera to a computer, getting printers connected and internet security.

A brief presentation was given about podcasts. The BBC Sounds app was explained and how this could be accessed using apps downloaded on phone, iPad or using a web browser.

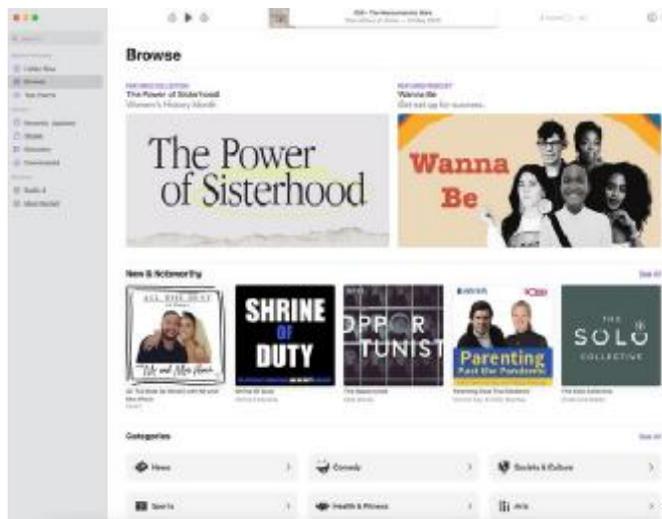
A good explanation of podcasts can be found at:

<https://www.thepodcasthost.com/listening/what-is-a-podcast/>

A good starting point for exploring podcasts is BBC Sounds:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds>

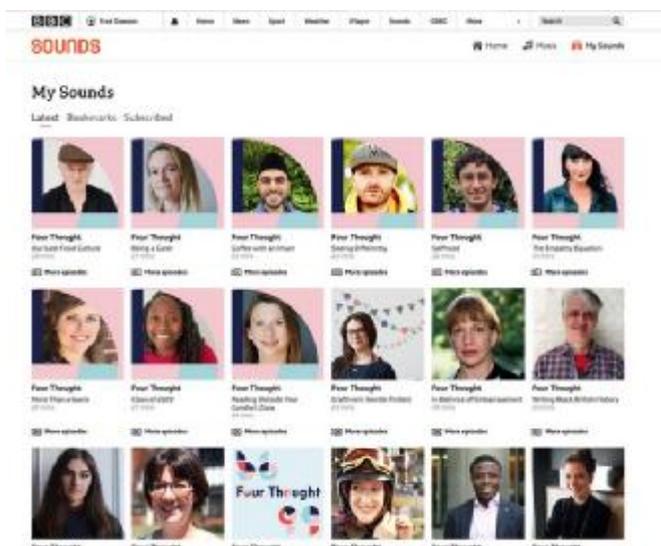
or Apple podcasts:



Podcasts cover a multitude of subjects and interests. They allow you listen to what you want when and where you want. You can access podcasts on your phone, tablet, desktop or even smart TV. You can stream them or download for listening off line.

The next meeting of the TCG is scheduled for Monday 12th April at 14:00. The meeting will be discussing online security, including passwords, scams and how to keep up to date on security.

Fred Dawson



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.

New Group

Oral History on the Isle of Wight – still taking shape

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?

I am still not sure how this group will work, I am hoping that those who have expressed an interest will meet up when time and space allow and bash it into shape.

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

Sally



Green Issues

Thank you Julie for giving us insight into the wonders of the deep and sink holes at the last meeting, new information I had never heard of before.

I thought it would be more convenient for everyone if we had our next meeting on the second Friday in April, the 9th April, as the first Friday is Good Friday and people could be busy eating their hot cross buns and doing other Eastery things.

We've been lucky enough to book a speaker called John Halladay from Greenpeace. Greenpeace have been campaigning since 1971 and have a formidable record of success as well as some rather nasty experiences when their boat Rainbow Warrior was blown up by the French Government in Auckland Harbour when it was leading a protest against their Nuclear testing.

John Halladay has been a Greenpeace volunteer for over a decade, taking part

in non-violent actions to preserve our forests, oceans and our climate. His talk will be about how we can all take action, individually and collectively to make climate change a thing of history. The picture shows John after delivering a 3 ton polar bear to Shell's HQ in London.

Looking forward to seeing everyone on Friday 9th April. (This event is open to ALL members, please let me know so that I can send you the Zoom link).

Regards,

Dina



Family History and Genealogy Group meets on the third Thursday in the month at 2pm. (on Zoom for the time being).

Family History Group - review of March Meeting

Seven members of the Family History Group met on Zoom for the March 18th meeting. The topic was genealogical 'Brick walls' and everyone shared their research issues. We talked about how we might be able to overcome some of the problems with missing records for our ancestors and agreed to try and help each other out where we can.

Maggie gave an illustrated talk about her husband's family The Browns of Sandown and explained how she had widened her research to try and solve a long-standing anecdotal story. We discussed various aspects of our own research and had a quick look at the

General Register Office website for Family Historians.

We agreed that as 2021 is Census year, the theme for our next Zoom meeting on April 15th would be a discussion on the History of Census returns and the vital information that each one contains.

We would be pleased to welcome any new members, so if you are interested, please join us.

Our main focus is currently based on the use of online tree builders especially Ancestry, which most of us are using, with access to FindMyPast and the free to use websites.

Just to remind you that the Speaker meeting on April 8th will be given by the Isle of Wight Family History Society.

Alison



Brown family and sons



WANTED - near Ryde. Member seeks walking companion for slow short walks - walking stick user. If you are interested please contact membership@iowu3a.uk

WANTED - German Group facilitator. Do you speak German? Share your skills? If you are interested please contact membership@iowu3a.uk

- Wanted** - walkers for u3a day team walk the Coastal Path
- Wanted** - Spanish Speakers to form a Walk & Talk Spanish Group
- Wanted** - members to host New Member Coffee mornings in their Gardens when conditions allow
- Wanted** - walkers to help coordinate the new Walk & Lunch Group
- Wanted** - Someone techi to help keep the website up to date
- Wanted** - Community Writers to write to local Newspapers and tell them what we are up to.

...YOU are very much wanted!
(please call Sally on 01983 740511)

Slow Ways

The brainchild of geographer and explorer Dan Raven-Ellison, and supported by Ordnance Survey, Slow Ways is a project designed to open up new networks of walking paths connecting settlements around the country.

The idea is to support and promote walking for purpose as well as for pleasure, to get people walking between locations they might otherwise drive or take public transport to – via existing off-road paths and bridleways – and to promote slower types of travel.

If you would like to get involved in the local effort please contact Sally on groups@iowu3a.uk.

Sally

<https://slowways.uk/>



Membership Renewals - Reminder

Thank you to all who have renewed already. I hope that we have a great year ahead with lots to celebrate.

For those of you who have been sent reminders but have not yet got round to it – do it now! This will be your last edition of the Newsletter.

Please call me on 01983 740511 if you are having difficulties or second thoughts about renewing.

We really want you to stay on board! And bring your friends along too. This year has been so bizarre. Let's hope that the vaccine delivers the freedom that we are all looking forward to and that we will be able to celebrate in style on June 2nd – with a Picnic in the Park and resume face to face meetings soon. I suspect however that Zoom will be here to stay for some groups and for some people.

Sally

As we emerge slowly and cautiously from a third lockdown, I can't help having mixed feelings about returning to some sort of normality. My home has been a real sanctuary from the turmoil and uncertainties of the past year, that I can't help feeling some trepidation about facing the world again. It's rather like coming out of a dark cave into bright sunlight. At first it hurts your eyes and you're dazzled by the glare until your eyes have had time to adjust. Don't get me wrong. I really long for the day when it's safe enough to take the train to visit friends again. Or to wander anywhere my heart desires, free from fear or anxiety of contracting a virus. Except I know the world we retreated from a year ago when the first lockdown began, will be a changed place. And, let's face it, change and the unknown can be a little daunting. We can only hope that most of the changes we encounter, will be for the common good.

The following account about coping with isolation during lockdown was intended for inclusion in an earlier edition of the newsletter. Hopefully, it still resonates... .

REFLECTIONS OF AN EXTRAORDINARY YEAR

It's 7.30 am on the 5th November 2020 and I'm taking an early morning stroll along the sea front to try and clear my head and mull over the events of the past few months. Today is the start of a second lock down in England. Which wasn't exactly unexpected as the numbers of those infected with the virus has been rising at a worrying pace, and something needed to be done. I walk at a brisk pace towards Gurnard. It's a bitterly cold, frosty morning and apart from one or two dog walkers and the occasional jogger, the sea front is almost deserted. Which makes the obligatory social distancing easy, and I'm delighted to have the sea front almost to myself. When I left home earlier a dense fog hung over the sea and visibility was poor. Now I notice it starting to lift and give

way to an emerging sun, which casts a hazy, mystical glow over the water and the few sailing vessels barely visible on it. It's a work of pure art, provided courtesy of Mother Nature. I feel my heart smile and my flagging spirits rise as I take in the magnificence of the tableau before me. And I realise, not for the first time during this challenging and bewildering year, that it's moments such as these that's made the unbearable, bearable. And the world is still a beautiful place.

Yet there have been times this year, when the world seemed a bleak and foreboding place, and it's felt rather like being in a horror movie whereby mankind is threatened by a deadly disease unless a cure can be found. Except this was no movie but disturbingly close to real life. Suddenly, even a routine trip to the shops to buy a pint of milk felt like a risky business. You worry that someone infected with the virus might have touched the packaging before you picked it up. Or that even the coins in your purse could be contaminated. Suddenly a new sanitised world became the norm and there was little room for complacency.

Has man's greed finally caught up with us? Have we done too much damage to the planet and failed to heed the warning signs? Are we being punished? These are some of the thoughts that have gone through my mind, as like the rest of the world, I struggle to make sense of this extraordinary year. For much of the country, it's been a time of financial uncertainty. For others the shock and heartbreak of losing a loved one prematurely to this terrible virus. And for some it's meant excruciating loneliness and isolation. Yet amidst all the chaos and uncertainty, it's offered a rare opportunity to pause, take stock, and reflect on the way we live our daily lives, particularly to those forced to self-isolate at home. Or possibly even to consider a complete change of direction.

Contd...

As a sixty something woman living on her own, there have been moments this year when I've felt incredibly alone. Suddenly the various groups and clubs I belonged to pre-pandemic just dried up during lock down. It made me aware of just how much I'd relied on these activities to stop me from becoming a total hermit or recluse. There were also times when I found myself harbouring dark thoughts and wondering, if I was to die suddenly whilst self-isolating at home, how long it would be before anyone noticed I was missing. What's more I'm convinced I'm not alone in feeling this way if like me, you've never been a parent, and family and friends are distant or spread out around the world. Or you're fairly new to the neighbourhood and don't know many people, then there's a very real possibility it could happen.

It was my love of reading, keeping a journal and working on my allotment that sustained me throughout this difficult year. In the play by William Nicholson "Shadowlands", the character of C.S. Lewis says, "We read to know we're not alone", for books have the ability to connect us instantly to other worlds of colourful images and unforgettable characters. It can be truly liberating to know our thoughts, hopes and dreams are shared by others, and we're not alone in feeling as we do...

For most of my adult life I've kept a journal. Which certainly came into its own this year in terms of helping me to cope with feelings of isolation and loneliness during the lockdown. I found that when I confronted my fears by writing about them, they became less overwhelming and more manageable. Furthermore, it felt important to record events as they unfolded during this momentous year.

Also my allotment proved to be a source of absolute joy this year, for not only did it provide a refuge from the confines of my flat during lockdown, but I

rediscovered a childlike awe and wonder at the pure magic to be found in a humble packet of seeds. In previous years, as a novice gardener, I bought many of my vegetable plants from garden centres, lacking the confidence to grow them myself from seed. This year, however, during lockdown gardeners were forced to improvise and I grew crops from seed that I've never attempted before. Nothing can quite describe the moment I bit into the very first tomato I'd ever nurtured from seed. It tasted of warm summer sunshine and so much more. Every last tomato was harvested, savoured and enjoyed. Even the green ones were sliced and added to fish curries and chutneys.

At the start of this year, like so many people I was busy planning my next holiday. Having just returned from an enjoyable Christmas break in Yorkshire, I was suffering from the January blues and desperately needed something to look forward to. So, I decided on a walking holiday in Snowdonia during the autumn, never once guessing what the future had in store for us. Needless to say, the holiday was cancelled and I've rarely ventured far from home since the start of the Pandemic.

This year has been like no other. It's as though Mother Nature decided it was time to take back control and remind us humans who the real boss actually is. For a time we were forced to look on helplessly as this deadly virus rampaged through the world and money and power became irrelevant. If I've learnt anything this year, it's how precious and fragile life is. How brief our time on this wonderful planet is, and how important it is to take good care of it and each other while we're here.

Annie Mathura

Banking Scam - Notice sent round from Third Age Trust

In the last fortnight - two u3as have been scammed by phone calls purporting to be from their bank's Fraud Department. A number of other u3as have reported similar attempted scams.

What do they say?

The fraudsters have extensive knowledge of Committee names and the bank details. They say that a number of large, suspicious transactions are pending and due to take place from your account and that action must be taken – that they will talk you through – to prevent them. They may also encourage you to make a transfer of your funds to a “safe” account. They may quote a bank contact number which is genuine but they are masking the number they are actually calling from.

What should I do?

The first action you should take is Hang Up! Banks do not make calls of this nature.

If you follow their instructions you are likely to lose all your savings. The fraudsters are very convincing and well organised, they pressure you that time is of essence. They know exactly what to say to allay any misgivings you have and to distract you.

Should I call the bank?

If you try to call your bank to check if the call was genuine the fraudsters can intercept your call and convince you to continue. If you do call your bank on a number you know to be genuine use a different phone or leave making the call for some time.

One more scam...

One scam doing the rounds starts with a text asking you to pay £2.99 for excess postage for an item waiting to be delivered to you by Royal Mail. This is followed by a phone call explaining that that was a scam - now you need to move your funds to safety. Hang up if you hear the words “move your funds to safety”.

Marketing and Recruitment

Your committee would like to reach out to the Island Community to get more people to join our u3a.



Probably difficult under present circumstances but things will change and we will move forward. There are an awful lot of people who could join Isle of Wight u3a if they knew about us and the potential we offer for a fuller life.

But most of all... it is word of mouth! Most members join because they know someone who is enjoying being a member. **Tell your friends!**

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

Plans are taking shape for our team coastal path around the island walk on June 2nd, National u3a Day. We are hoping to make a splash with the publicity we generate from our activities and our presence around the island and at Church Litten park in Newport on that day.

I don't expect any other u3a has walked around the Isle of Wight in one day. We hope that the press will get involved in our walk, our picnic in the park and our Zoom Cocktail party in the evening.

Why are we doing this? Well one reason is simply – for fun. Let's celebrate having survived a ghastly year. The second and more serious reason is to raise the profile of the u3a on the Isle of Wight. I have lived on the island for over 40 years and know a lot of people but when I ask them whether they have heard of the u3a several of them said – the u3 who? So, let's spread the word and work towards a successful u3a day. Who knows we may even recruit a few more members along the way.

The planning is going well but now I need to concentrate on persuading you to

WALK the WALK

I do have a small but growing list of walkers who have offered to walk but we need more of you to say 'I will do it and this the bit that I will do'. If you want to walk but are on your own and/or don't know the coastal paths, let me know and we can arrange for a walking buddy to rehearse the path with you and offer you a companion walker in your area. Please let me know as soon as you can.

Click on the link below and it will take you to the file that shows the coastal path divided into 6 routes. If you click 'download walk' you will then see a map of the walk with details about how long it will take and how far it is. It is not expected that anyone will walk the whole of these routes, (although someone might), but if you look at the map you will see that each route could be divided into many parts, short or long. Choose a section, let me know and I will put your name on it. A limited number of lifts could be available if you need dropping off somewhere to start your walk.

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

As an example, below is a picture of the map from the above link of the Sandown to Ryde Walk. Chris Priest has offered to walk the section from Ryde to St Helens. Thank-you Chris. As you can see from the map, it would easy enough to divide the rest into 2 or 3 more sections.

Please, please choose your walk and let me know, then we can make sure we cover all 65 miles. You may walk your section either clockwise or anti-clockwise.

I will send you all an email with all the parts of the path that people have already signed up for, in the next week or so get your offer in soon.

Please contact me on chair@iowu3a.uk with any suggestions you may have, and thoughts on how you are willing and able to help to make the day a success.

Carol

Team Walk the Coastal Path in a Day Wednesday June 2nd, 2021



Walk map Ryde to Sandown, or Sandown to Ryde.

Save the Day – July 9th

Guided walk specially for Isle of Wight u3a members around the nature reserve on the Eastern Yar lead by Jamie Marsh (Senior Reserves Manager) of Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust.



Reddish Buff Moth



Chalk Hill Blue

Jamie gave a fascinating talk on the Wilding of the Isle of Wight at our Speaker meeting in March. He was so enthusiastic about his subject, from moths to butterflies, bugs to beavers and the benefits that reintroducing beavers can bring for rewilding habitat and managing water ways. He was also passionate about the island's potential for Nature.



Beavers create habitats that allow hundreds of other species to return and flourish. They slow the flow of rivers, reducing the danger of flooding

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

April 2021				
1 st	Thursday	3:00	April Fool Writers	Zoom
6 th	Tuesday	3:00	Reading	Zoom
8 th	Thursday	2:00	<i>Leaves on the Family Tree</i> (see p20)	Zoom
9 th	Friday	2:00	Greenpeace Speaker – open to all	Zoom
10 th	Monday	2:00 4:00	Technology & Communications Spanish	Zoom Zoom
13 th	Tuesday	10:30	Zoom Coffee Morning	Zoom
14 th	Wednesday	1:30 5:00	Tea, Chat & Tech Film Studies: <i>The Notebook</i> (2004)	tbc Zoom
15 th	Thursday	2:00	Family History Group	Zoom
19 th	Monday	4:00	Spanish	Zoom
21 st	Wednesday	11:30	Garden Visit: Princess Beatrice Garden	
26 th	Monday	4:00	Spanish	Zoom
28 th	Wednesday	11:30 5:00	Beach Walk - Bembridge Film Studies: <i>Seventeen</i> (2019)	Zoom

May 2021				
6 th	Thursday	3:30	Writers	tbc
7 th	Friday	2:00	Green Issues	Zoom
10 th	Monday	2:00 4:00	Technology & Communications Spanish	Zoom Zoom
11 th	Tuesday	3:00	Reading	tbc
12 th	Wednesday	10:30 5:00	Garden Appreciation Film Studies: <i>The Truman Show</i>	tbc Zoom
13 th	Thursday	2:00	Speaker: Small Holding	Zoom
17 th	Monday	4:00	Spanish	Zoom
18 th	Tuesday	10:30	Zoom Coffee Morning	tbc
19 th	Wednesday	11:00	Walk & Lunch Group – Western Yar	Live
20 th	Thursday	2:00	Family History	Zoom
24 th	Monday	4:00	Spanish	Zoom
26 th	Wednesday	11:30 5:00	Beach Walk Film Studies: <i>The King's Speech</i>	tbc Zoom

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

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

