

### March 2022

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#### *Dear Members,*

I trust that you are well and have survived the fierce storms that we have just experienced without too much damage. Living on an island, as we do, we have become accustomed to windy weather but this last few days has not been helpful especially to our lovely spring flowers – one minute beautiful, the next minute flat. I hope that the plants on Peter's allotment fared well - (see Peter's report page 8). Why not join the allotment group meeting that Peter is proposing? It's good to learn and share ideas.

As I mentioned in February's Newsletter, the u3a is 40 this year. U3a day is the 21<sup>st</sup> September and we are being encouraged to celebrate throughout the week beginning the 19<sup>th</sup>. We have decided to dedicate four days to the celebration, the 21<sup>st</sup> to the 24<sup>th</sup> and to spread events into a number of venues around the Island. Please put the dates in your diary. See more details on page 2. We need your help.

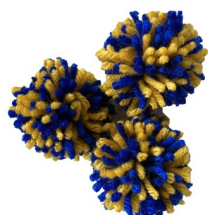
Did you know that the monthly Coffee Mornings, originally for new members only, are now open to all members? They are held in Newport at the Bargeman's

Rest at 10:30 on the first Wednesday of each month. Next one is March the 2<sup>nd</sup>. The coffee mornings are a good opportunity to chat about what you would like from your u3a. Fortunately, we have been able to meet outside every month during Covid restrictions. We plan to continue to meet outside (wear warm clothes), for the time being. Do come and say Hello, meet some new people and members of your committee for a coffee and a chat.

Don't forget this month's Speaker Meeting on Zoom on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> March at 14:00. The presenter Jennie Mallin, an experienced speaker, will give a talk called 'Great Aunt Constance: her wartime jungle trek'. It sounds like a truly extraordinary journey. See more details on page 20. I look forward to seeing you there.

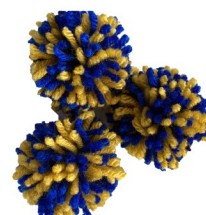
Thank you for your continuing support.

**Carol Bradshaw**  
[chair@u3awight.uk](mailto:chair@u3awight.uk)



**Coffee Morning**  
**Bargeman's Rest, Newport**  
**1st Wednesday of the month**  
**10.30 - 11.30 am**

Look out for the **blue** and **gold** pompoms



Carol Bradshaw	Chair	<a href="mailto:chair@u3awight.uk">chair@u3awight.uk</a>
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## u3a Day and 40<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebrations 21<sup>st</sup> - 24<sup>th</sup> September

So far we have decided that we will definitely organise something in the square in Newport on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> September and we plan to do beach and street litter picking in other venues on the other days. Tell us your ideas. Could you help with anything? Help setting up an event? Be the face of the u3a with leaflets and chat in town centres. Organise a coffee morning – all ideas and offers to volunteer welcome. We will provide the equipment all you have to do is offer to join the fun, be seen and spread the u3a word. Get your thinking hats on and contact me with your ideas. Thank you.

**Carol**  
[chair@u3awight.uk](mailto:chair@u3awight.uk)

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## Publicity

A copy of the poster for the April 14th meeting will be put up on our website.

If you can, please print it out and display it somewhere local to you. If you would like us to print you a few copies and post them to you - just let us know.

## Diversity and Accessibility Policy

We have now officially adopted the u3a diversity and accessibility policy. This formalises our commitment to inclusion and accessibility.

If you have thoughts about how we might improve our accessibility, please let us know. The contact in the first instance is through Carol, our Chair. We are looking for individuals who would be willing to work with the committee to raise the profile of this very important issue and ensure that we are doing all that we can to improve inclusion and access. The policy can be downloaded from our website or we can send you a copy in the post.

## **Speaker Meetings and April Social**

**March 10th  
On Zoom**

***Great Aunt  
Constance: her  
wartime jungle trek.***

**by Jenny Mallin**

Jenny is the author of  
'A Grandmother's Legacy. A  
memoir of five generations who  
lived through the Raj.'

**April 14th  
St John's Hall  
Newport**

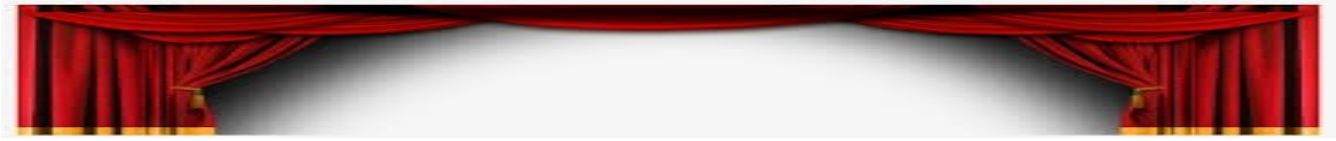
***Roman Festivals  
that we Celebrate  
today.***

**by Ann Evans**

Ann is a member of the Vectis  
Archaeological Society and will  
bring artifacts to demonstrate her  
talk

## **April Social**

After Ann's talk on [April 14th](#) there will be tea and biscuits and an opportunity to socialise. Come and meet the committee and talk to group leaders. Our first face to face speaker meeting in 2 years. Come and celebrate.



## **THEATRE CLUB+**

Theatre Club+ is rearranging itself!  
We will now list any play that someone  
is willing to form an outing to! Are You?

**Doubt, at the Apollo, Newport**  
**Friday April 1st**

Suspicion. Certainty. Judgement. And  
Doubt.

There are dangerous consequences  
associated with being too certain about  
anything.

John Patrick Shanley is the author of  
numerous plays and has written  
extensively for TV and film. He was the  
winner of the 2005 Pulitzer Prize and  
Tony Award for 'Doubt', which later  
became an Oscar-nominated film.

**Contact: Sheila**  
[sheilaherrando@gmail.com](mailto:sheilaherrando@gmail.com)

## **Weekenders**

**Monday Garden Visit**  
**Mottistone Manor Gardens**  
**Monday March 7th 13:30**

The Monday Garden Group will resume  
visiting each other's gardens to walk, talk,  
plan and drink tea.  
Next meeting April 4th, at Yafford.

In the meantime you are welcome to join  
us for a meander through **Mottistone**  
**Manor Gardens.**  
Free with National Trust Membership.



**Dangerous Obsession, at the**  
**Apollo, Newport.**

**Tuesday May 24th.**

NJ Crisp's compulsive psychological  
thriller

Written by a master of the thriller genre,  
produced by Glenys Lloyd – Williams.

“So powerfully applies the tricks of  
suspense that the audience dared not to  
cough for fear of missing the next turn of the  
screw.”(The Times)

**Contact: Sally**  
[groups@u3awight.uk](mailto:groups@u3awight.uk)



**Contact: Sally**  
[groups@u3awight.uk](mailto:groups@u3awight.uk)

## Walk & Lunch

February's walk was a return to an old favourite around the Western Yar and lunch at the Red Lion. The walk was well attended, on a very blustery, misty morning. The chat was lively and the lunch was delicious. [Sally](#)

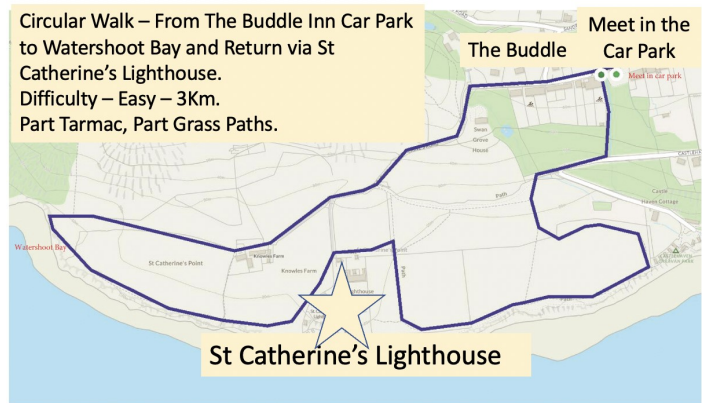
Next month's walk, organised by Alison and Carole (thank you) will be a loop around St Catherine's Lighthouse with lunch at the Buddle Inn. The walk is 2 miles, so we'll allow about 1.5 hours. Meet in the Buddle car park at 11.00am on March 16th. Good walking shoes needed – some muddy/rocky bits – but also some glorious coastal and sea views.

We will have a short synopsis of the lighthouse history to give out for anyone interested.

Anyone wanting to come just for lunch, tables are booked for 12.30.

## Beaches Report

The January Beach walk was at Yaverland on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup>. A dozen or so hardy souls gathered. We had a lovely walk along the shore. It was particularly nice to meet Sarah, a new member, with her 5 friendly dogs. Terri spotted a lovely fossil scallop shell embedded in the cliffs at the far end of the beach where others had obviously tried and failed to extract it. We were unlucky with our search for an open café but hopefully from March everything will be open again. The February beach walk was on Wednesday 23<sup>th</sup> in Ventnor. The March beach walk will be on the 30<sup>th</sup> March and will start at Ryde bus station and head along the seafront towards Seaview.



If people can give me an early heads-up for lunch numbers it would help the Buddle – they have a separate room available if we need it.

Character Inns (the Buddle plus six more) have a free downloadable app which gives decent discounts on meals. Just Google Character Inns and scan the QR code.

**Alison Botha**

[alisonbotha@hotmail.com](mailto:alisonbotha@hotmail.com)

Come along for a walk by the sea, bring your friends, family and dogs if you wish. The beach events are open to all. Let me know if you'd like to come.



**Carol**

[chair@u3awight.uk](mailto:chair@u3awight.uk)  
07748 886246

### Eat-Out and Review

**February's** Eat-Out was combined with weekenders at 1 Holyrood, and is reviewed below.

#### March

Also combined with Weekenders, Brunch, at The Terrace, Yarmouth on Saturday March 5th, 10:00.

Contact **Sally**: [groups@u3awight.uk](mailto:groups@u3awight.uk)

#### April

Lunch, at The Smoking Lobster, Cowes on Thursday April 7<sup>th</sup> at 13:00.

Contact **Carol**:  
[chair@u3awight.uk](mailto:chair@u3awight.uk) 07748 886246

I've never been there and the food looks really interesting. The Price is Wight (TPIW) is doing a deal there for £20 for 2 courses plus a glass of Prosecco. I have booked a table for four at 13:00 and have bought the TPIW vouchers for 4. If you would like to come and join us let me know and I will book more tables. If you want to take advantage of the TPIW offer you will need to buy your own vouchers online or I can help you do that.

#### February Review

With hindsight Saturday February 5th was probably not the best day to review No 1 Holyrood - a cafe within a boutique hotel in Newport. We were greeted at the door by a sign saying it would be closing for a wedding at 2pm. Something staff had omitted to tell me either when I made or confirmed the booking.

Despite this the café was bustling. However staff appeared distracted and a couple of items were already off the menu shortly after lunch service began.

Nevertheless u3a members managed to enjoy lively conversation, and lunched variously on soup, quiche, chilli, jacket potato and garlic mushrooms on toast.

Coffee (with, for some, cake) was taken in an adjoining area as by now the restaurant was needed. If I were in Newport and looking for a light lunch or coffee in pleasant central surroundings I would definitely give No1 Holyrood another go as I believe it generally has a good reputation.

**Sheila Herrando**



**May** will be lunch at the Isle of Wight College, date tbc.

Contact **Glenys**: [enjoyaplay@outlook.com](mailto:enjoyaplay@outlook.com).

Are you the volunteer for **June**?

Contact Sally on [groups@u3awight.uk](mailto:groups@u3awight.uk) to volunteer. Whether it is your favourite place to eat or a place that you have always wanted to try. Just book a table and form a group to enjoy it with you and then write the review afterwards.

## **Little Angels Crafts**

**On the 1st Thursday of the Month  
Starting 3rd March 2022  
10:30 - 12:30  
Shanklin**

Make cards at your own pace and pleasure. All materials provided, Bring a pen and a notepad and have some fun.

Fee £5 per session to cover materials and refreshments.

Contact: 07903933292  
[teresareed@btopenworld.com](mailto:teresareed@btopenworld.com)  
(Max 5 people per session)



## **Anyone for Badminton?**

Hi all, I moved to the island 6 weeks ago and thought it would be fun to set up a U3A badminton group. I have been in contact with 1 Leisure in Newport but the only times they can offer us is weekend afternoons.

Would anyone want to play badminton at this time? Please let Sally know and if we have enough interest I will pursue the possibility.

**Sara Gilding**



We have also had an enquiry from a table tennis player—anyone interested in a table tennis group.

Contact [groups@u3awight.uk](mailto:groups@u3awight.uk)

## **Bucket Listers - Let's Go!**

**Do you have a wish that you would like to make happen in 2022?  
New Year, New Opportunities.**

Have you ever wanted to go to the Edinburgh festival but felt too overwhelmed by the planning involved - or did not want to go on your own. Well, maybe 2022 is your year - because you are not alone.

The festival in 2022 will run from 5th - 29th August. The Festival Timetable is beginning to take shape and listings of acts and events will start to become available in March. Come to the coffee morning at the Bargeman's Rest on April 6th if you think you might be interested in planning a trip with others.

Meanwhile, keep those ideas flowing, that moonlit swim is beckoning me, and the ocean canoe. Someone mentioned a Theatre trip to Chichester. Write to us with your wish list and let's see if we can make some of them happen in 2022.

Bucket Listers is changing its name to Let's Go, inspired by a sister u3a's group.

Contact [groups@u3awight.uk](mailto:groups@u3awight.uk)

## Allotment Gardening

During early January and February I have been raising some cauliflower and broccoli plants from seed. They are now about four inches high with a good root system so have planted them out in a raised bed on the allotment. While planting I've put some 6X concentrated fertiliser in the holes and round the plants. The current rain should ensure that they're well watered in.

In early November I planted broad beans in a raised bed they came up well but have been knocked back a bit by some cold and frosty nights. The rhubarb is just starting to show some movement so they've been given a good dusting of 6X.

We enjoyed our raspberries so much last year that I've bought and planted some summer fruiting plants to supplement the late crops. The green manure mustard plants are growing nicely and I'm watching for the flowers before digging them in. I've not tried this before so will monitor the results.

At home in the greenhouse I've planted onion, leek and cabbage seeds on a heated pad and they're already showing their heads. The onion are the large competition type so I hope that maybe next month we can share some and see who can grow the biggest!!

I'm hoping that members of the group will be able to meet up to discuss future activities. To that end I'm suggesting the Busy Bee garden centre café. This will mean we can talk and enjoy the plants and seeds on offer. I'm away until after the 16<sup>th</sup> March so perhaps midday on the 24<sup>th</sup> or 25<sup>th</sup> March.

**Peter Dorsett**

[ttesrodretep@yahoo.com](mailto:ttesrodretep@yahoo.com)

Please let Peter know by the 20<sup>th</sup> if you plan to attend.

## Weekenders

The first meeting of this group for u3a members looking for shared activities at the weekends was a combined one with the new Eat Out and Review group, as will be the second one at The Terrace in Yarmouth on Saturday March 5<sup>th</sup> at 10:00.

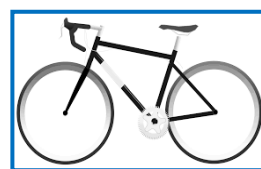
Future outings include a choral Concert in which a member is taking part. Newport Minster 2nd April at 7:30pm. Tickets £10 on the door or online at [www.ticketsource.co.uk/rydechorus](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/rydechorus).

Also planned is a trip to the Apollo Theatre to see Doubt April 1<sup>st</sup>, an early evening meal at a new restaurant in Ryde and a walk round part of the Hooke Trail (Yarmouth/Freshwater area) with refreshments before, after - or both.

Please contact Sheila Herrando [sheilaherrando@gmail.com](mailto:sheilaherrando@gmail.com) If you would like to join any of the above, or have any suggestions for future shared outings.

## Save the Day Cyclists

Would you like join us and get out and explore the Island by bike?



Rides planned for Monday April 25<sup>th</sup> and Friday May 5<sup>th</sup>. The rides will be easy and tailored to people's experience so don't be shy. The aim is to have fun. And tea and cake, obviously!

Let us know if you have a bike carrier .

Contact [groups@u3awight.uk](mailto:groups@u3awight.uk)



## Spanish Improvers'

**Now full, but we do keep a waiting list.**

Talk to Keith if you are interested. 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.

**Keith Pritchard** 01983 407942  
[keithswonderfulworld@gmail.com](mailto:keithswonderfulworld@gmail.com)

At the end of the Spanish zoom on 31st January, Maestro Keith asked for a volunteer to teach a point of grammar to the rest of the group for the following week; as a former teacher of visually impaired young people, I thought what the heck, the blind leading the blind! So I volunteered! I decided to tackle the tricky problem of the verb 'to be' - en espanol there are two, and they're used in different circumstances! I set to and prepared the lesson, and found to my delight that the work I'd put in preparing the material really helped me sort out those pesky differences; estupendo as they say en espana!

**Angi**

## Mah-Jong +

**First Friday of the Month**

**Next - March 4th 14:00 Newport.**

There will be tables of Mah-Jong, but if Mah-Jong is not your thing then why not come along and play the game of your choice - Scrabble, Cribbage, etc.

If you have not played Mah-Jong before and would be interested in attending a one day starter session then let us know.

## French Conversation:

**Friday am:** Bembridge

**Tuesday pm:** Brading

**Wednesday pm:**

Newport

Both the **Tuesday and Friday** groups are now full.

Please contact [groups@u3awight.uk](mailto:groups@u3awight.uk) if you are interested in a French group.



## German:

**Two groups, alternate Friday mornings at Brading, Improvers and Intermediate/Advanced.**

The Improvers group is now full. The intermediate/advanced group is small and would welcome new members.

It is very informal, and we aim to have fun, make new friends, and learn a thing or two at the same time.

**Mary**

[melongley1@gmail.com](mailto:melongley1@gmail.com)



**Contact Sally** [groups@u3awight.uk](mailto:groups@u3awight.uk)

## Film Studies



I chose two short films, both documentaries, for Film Studies in February. The first was called *The Trader* and showed the simple lifestyle of people in the Republic of Georgia where the currency is not money but potatoes. The Trader buys second-hand clothing, toilet rolls and cheap toys and takes his van to different villages and barter for potatoes that he sells when he gets back to the City. A second-hand scarf for example costs 5 kilos of potatoes. The photography and music really conveyed the poverty, squashed dreams and stunted ambition of some of the villagers and it was easy to see why it won a Sundance Award.

The second film was *John was trying to contact Aliens*: a film about a man who had had a difficult childhood and became obsessed with trying to contact aliens via a radio system that became so large he had to build another building to house it in. Underlying this story was the fact that he was gay and felt different to others. When he was about 60 he fell in love with someone with similar physical characteristics, i.e., long hair and bushy beard who had the qualities he desired, gentleness, kindness, loyalty, etc., and they lived happily ever after. Was his search for aliens a subliminal desire to find a partner? How much influence did his grandparents have on his life. Their wedding photo, two grizzly old men in top hats kissing so happily is memorable, an unusual and charming little film with very significant facial shots that emphasised the eyes.

Both films are recommended and are still on Netflix.

**[Dina Jung](mailto:groups@u3awight.uk)**  
[groups@u3awight.uk](mailto:groups@u3awight.uk)

We discussed *Power of the Dog* on 14<sup>th</sup> February. A western set in 1920s Montana, directed by Jane Campion and starring Benedict Cumberbatch. It is based on a 1967 novel by Thomas Savage and has been nominated for numerous awards. Benedict Cumberbatch plays Phil, a ranch-owner with rough ways. His odd relationship with his brother George changes after George marries a local widow Rose, who has a son Peter.

Peter appears weak and is mocked by Phil, but appearances are deceptive and the film has a surprising ending. The cinematography (it was filmed in New Zealand), acting and film direction are all most impressive and Cumberbatch make a convincing cowboy. Some members of the group felt the film was rather "Arty" and deliberately misleading, whilst others, including myself, were engrossed. It is a film about relationships and may divide opinion, but it will make you think.

## **[Paul Bowskill](#)**

### **Forthcoming Films**

**28th February 14 Peaks:** Documentary of a Nepali mountaineer attempting to summit all 8000M mountains.

**14th March Fracture;** Anthony Hopkins in a legal battle after shooting his unfaithful wife.

**28th March Munich - The Edge of War:** Robert Harris's fictionalised account of events leading to WWII.

The Film Studies Group would welcome new members. We take it in turns to choose a film from Netflix and watch it before the meeting. We "Zoom up" the second and fourth Mondays of the month at 5.30 pm in winter and spring and then only once a month in the summer and autumn.

**[Dina](#)**

## Family History Group

We seemed to squeeze a lot into our 40 minute Zoom meeting this month but the outcome was very positive. The suggestion to move away from Zoom meetings in order to trial a hands-on workshop for March, was met with an enthusiastic response. If this proves successful, it will be the new template for our future gatherings post covid. Researching Family History is a very interactive process and this fresh approach will benefit all members to a greater extent than can be done currently.

We are looking forward to meeting up properly, trying it out and hopefully achieving some successful online research.

The next meeting will be in Brighstone on 17<sup>th</sup> March and further details will be emailed in a couple of weeks time.



**Alison Webb**  
[rhawebb@gmail.com](mailto:rhawebb@gmail.com)

## Creative Writing Group

Four of us met in person at Brighstone on 3rd *February* and we welcomed a new member to our group. One member joined us by Zoom. This was our second Hybrid Zoom meeting and the Tech is working well. It pleases us to be able to share our group gatherings, to chat and offer some virtual tea and cake, to those who are unable to come in person! We discussed plans for the coming months. We are looking towards an online anthology of our stories and poems, which u3aWight members will soon be able to view and read via a link in the newsletter.

Helena chose our writing prompt for this month: An exercise using a maximum 250 words with the title 'feelings' - chosen to see if we could commit an emotion to paper in a limited number of words.

The internet can also provide inspiration, so a downloaded list of interesting ideas was distributed with one topic selected for possible extra homework! We meet again on March 3rd.

**Alison Webb**  
[rhawebb@gmail.com](mailto:rhawebb@gmail.com)

A popular and lively part of our meeting is always the analysis and discussion of our own stories. Last month's prompt was 'mirrors'. Four superb intriguing and often darkly mysterious interpretations were produced which attracted plenty of keenly felt observations.



## Photographic Group

We gathered by the River in Newport on February 17<sup>th</sup>. Fortunately we were blessed with fine weather rather than rain and gales.

We started our walk by the Riverside Centre taking photographs of the old warehouses and Quay Arts. There were opportunities on the walk for some landscape, urban photography and also to talk. Because of the bright sky and dark shadows there were challenges in having to correct the exposure.

Our photographs were then reviewed and discussed at our subsequent Zoom meeting. In particular how to balance bright areas against the dark areas of an image using software or bracketing shots. Our next meeting will include how to take bracketing shots and how these are combined to create a high dynamic range image.

We also focused on portrait photography and Beryl is to be congratulated on her self-portraits, showing that quality results can be taken using a phone.

The technique of “quick draw” photography was discussed, group members exchanging hints and tips.

The photographic group welcomes all with an interest in photography.

If you would like to know more contact Fred.

**Fred Dawson LRPS**

[fred.wp.dawson@googlemail.com](mailto:fred.wp.dawson@googlemail.com)

Next Meet up Cowes March 17th 14:00

Next Zoom March 21st 14:00

Members photographs can be viewed on the Group Flickr page.

<https://www.flickr.com/groups/14827860@N22/pool/with/51891818243/>



## Technology and Communications

Unfortunately February's meeting had to be postponed.

The next meeting of the Technology and Communications Group will be on Zoom, Monday 7th March at 14:00

I will be inviting members to talk about issues they would like to help with and hopefully providing some answers. Also talk about data storage and backing up data.

**Fred Dawson**

[fred.wp.dawson@googlemail.com](mailto:fred.wp.dawson@googlemail.com)

## Non-Fiction Book Group

The 3rd Tuesday of the month seems to come around more quickly than other Tuesdays, this time on 15 February when we gathered on screen to review our progress and enjoyment of *'Who am I? And if so, how many?' by Richard David Precht.*

It was an oddly titled book, apparently the inebriated utterance of a philosophising friend of the author, which bore little relationship to the pages that followed other than to indicate that this was to be no ordinary book about philosophy. It is not. Structured in three sections around the questions - *What Can I know?, What should I do? and What can I hope for?* - the author leads a journey through time and place meeting philosophers who, in one way or another, have engaged with these questions. We all thoroughly enjoyed it, and learned a good deal. One bit that we will all remember is the writer's first encounter with the dialectic of Socrates' thesis of "To be is to do", Sartre's antithesis "To do is to be" and Sinatra's synthesis "Do be do be do". An engaging and easy read with a light touch!

Next up....something completely different:

**March: *And the Band Played On: The enthralling account of what happened after the Titanic sank.* By Christopher Ward. 2011.**

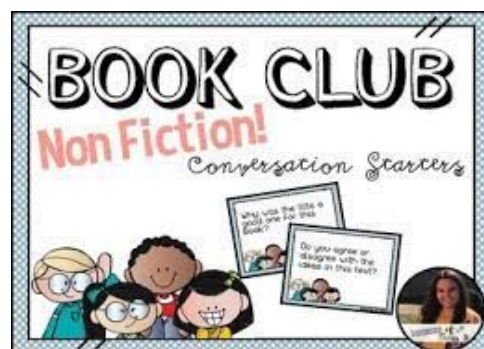
"A gripping and moving account not just of the sinking of the *Titanic*, and the wretched class system which bedevilled the aftermath, but of the long-term impact on survivors and dependants. What started out as a story for the author's children and grandchildren has turned into a terrific read for everyone" — *Alastair Campbell.*

**April: *Regeneration: Ending the climate crisis in one generation.* By Paul Hawken (2021).** This is a physically big book; A4, thick and glossy.

"This is an incredibly thought-provoking book and one that I will be coming back to time and again. Paul Hawken, a highly experienced and respected writer and thinker and talker on how we can survive the impending climate crises in front of us, has given us a more practical way to see to the future - how we make it work for us. I am not qualified to question his approach but it seems to me at least worthy of trying it out if we can. I must add too that everyone who has seen the book on my desk and has simply picked it up to flip through was blown away by the images."

In addition to discussing the books at our Zoom meetings, held on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 5pm (Note New Time), we are setting up a WhatsApp group for each book to support the exchange of experiences, thoughts and maybe even retrospective reflections. We will see how it goes.

We have room for a few more members if this selection of books interests you. Do get in touch.



**Nigel Hastings**  
[hastingsnigel01@gmail.com](mailto:hastingsnigel01@gmail.com)

## **Military History Group: Schneider Trophy**

Many people will have heard of the Schneider Trophy. On Friday 18<sup>th</sup> March the Military History Group will hear details of the sea plane contests which were run between 1913 and 1931 when the UK won it outright.

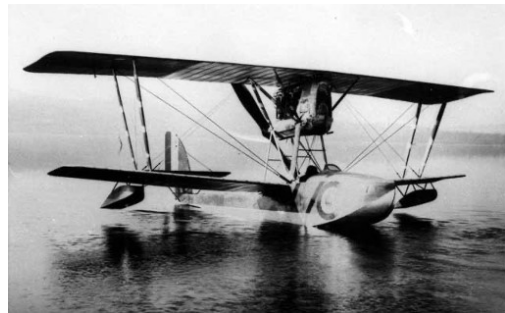


1931 UK

They will also learn that perhaps it should have been won outright much earlier.

Had that happened the S.6 and S.6b would not have been developed and Britain may not have had the Spitfire in 1940 or won the Battle of Britain.

So who could have won it instead?



1921 Italy



1925 USA

If you wish to know more, join the Military History Group.  
Please e-mail me.

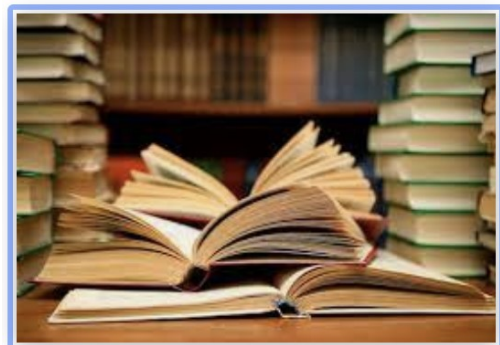
***Robin Tyler***  
[robintyler60@gmail.com](mailto:robintyler60@gmail.com)

## ***Reading Group***

The Reading group that is simply an opportunity to talk about what you are reading and why.

Any Book, Any Reason.  
Next meeting: March 1st.

***Sally***  
[groups@u3awight.uk](mailto:groups@u3awight.uk)



## Green Issues

The Climate Crisis meeting in January was one of the best so far and raised so many questions we could not complete the agenda in the time set.

The first video  
**“EV or Gas, What Pollutes More?”**

debunked the misinformation that is going around about electric car use and is well worth watching if you missed it. I had no idea that just getting oil out of the ground and into the tank of a car could create so much pollution.

The second video highlighted how far behind we are in this country with regard to electrifying public transport by showing what has happened in a city in China. The third video (which we didn't have time to discuss) showed a simple but very effective solar car charging system in the Netherlands, something we could install over here on the Isle of Wight to everyone's benefit (see last month's Newsletter for all the relevant links).

As these Zoom meetings are nationwide it is interesting to hear the views of people from other areas of the country and the different degrees of “Green Living” that are occurring elsewhere in comparison to our own.

The next Climate Crisis meeting will be on March 23rd .The topic will be:

### **Energy Grids and Collectives for Renewable Energy Generation.**

You can access the group by following the link below.



Keep going greener,

**Dina**

[dinajung@gmail.com](mailto:dinajung@gmail.com)

**u3a Climate Change Network**  
<https://u3acommunities.org/climate>

## Traditional Book Group

Meeting on the first Friday of each month at 2.00 pm in Wootton.

We will each choose a book that we think the group will enjoy reading over the next sessions. Each month the person who chooses the book will start the discussion and everyone in the group will give their views and opinions.

Sometimes the books may not be to our taste but generate lively discussion. The beauty is that we are often introduced to a title or author and get real pleasure reading a book that we would never have chosen ourselves.

The person whose book choice it is that month brings a cake and this helps make the meeting a sociable, enjoyable event.

**Allison Rogers**

01983 616634.

[davidallison36@hotmail.com](mailto:davidallison36@hotmail.com)



## u3a news - Our Umbrella Organisation

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### u3a Chichester Summer School June 20-23rd



For more than 15 years the South East Area Forum of the u3a has been running a very successful Summer School at the University of Chichester, which all u3a members are eligible to attend.

This is a residential course, but if you prefer to “commute” from home, you can book the courses, evening activities and meals, thereby enabling you to participate fully and to socialise. The non-residential cost (without evening meal) is £180. Booking is now open and see the links below for more information.

**This year the subjects are:**

**Cycling**  
**Earth Matters**  
**Family History**  
**Four 19th & 20th Century British Poets**  
**Fun with French**  
**Hatha Yoga**  
**Mah-Jong**  
**Maths: Power & Patterns**  
**Music: Blues and Folk Music USA**  
**Ukulele for Beginners**

<https://u3asites.org.uk/southeastu3aforum/home>

### ***New Project - u3a Walking Group Collaborations***

A new scheme is being piloted within the u3a which involves u3as volunteering to lead walks for a group of walkers from another u3a.

We have, tentatively, agreed to be part of the scheme. We have offered to host two walking visits during the pilot period. Our responsibilities in the pilot will involve: preparing a short catalogue of walks that we would be prepared to lead, together with information about accessibility, local transport and refreshment stops; holding a pool of walkers willing to lead the walks if the timing is convenient for them when a request is received.

The visiting group will be responsible for arranging their own accommodation and transport. We could also participate by organising a group of walkers to visit an area covered by another u3a pilot group.

Please let us know if you are interested, either willing to catalogue walks, lead walks or organise a group to visit another u3a's walking patch. Change of scene anyone?

[groups@u3awight.uk](mailto:groups@u3awight.uk)





Your editor runs a small computer charity for those not doing so well. If you could benefit from a computer but dare not risk the cost of buying one then maybe we could lend you one?

**Computability  
IW**



No cost involved and all PC's are set up with clean installation.

This is the page where you can submit something of benefit or interest to your fellow members. Maybe off-wall-events or freebie give-aways. Contact [editor@u3awight.uk](mailto:editor@u3awight.uk)

### Shopping Warning!

Never, ever, walk with two full shopping bags. If you trip you have no chance of stabilising yourself as you pitch forward.

Get a "shopper" or a back-pack or even better do your shopping on-line.

A tip from one who knows!



**Spring** is springing day by day,  
I've a spring in my step thanks to U3A.  
Listening to talks,  
going for walks,  
Lunches to enjoy along the way:  
Always something to fill my day.

Friendships revived and new ones made  
At our time of life they will not fade.  
Crafts to share and others to learn,  
Mutual respect we shall soon earn.  
Thank you Committee, you do us proud  
I want to sing your praises out loud!  
Sometimes organising can be a  
thankless task  
But please keep going is all we ask.

The pleasure to others you bring  
Makes us want to laugh and sing.  
Whether to write a story or paint a  
masterpiece for fun  
You bring out the best in everyone.

**Jackie Hamblin**

If you've had an accident and you really could benefit from some temporary help then you are not alone!

Have a word with the editor  
[editor@u3awight.uk](mailto:editor@u3awight.uk)  
and he will see if he has any ideas.  
07732 480201



## Membership Renewals

It is that time of year again! Our membership year ends on March 31st 2022. That means that if you have been a member since before December 2021 it is time to renew.

You can renew online using the [Membership Portal](#). If you use the Membership Portal you will need to use the details that we have on file for you to match your identity. These will have been included in the email sent with the link to this newsletter.

The screenshot shows a web form titled "Isle of Wight U3A Members Portal". Below the title is a blue bar with the text "Please identify yourself". The form has several input fields: "Membership number" (with a note "All fields must be completed"), "Forename", "Surname", "Postcode", and "E-mail". A "Confirm Identity" button is located below the fields. At the bottom, there is a link for enquiries: "membership@u3awight.uk or contact the Membership Secretary".

You do not need a PayPal account. You can proceed to PayPal and then pay by credit or debit card.

If you receive your newsletter by post, a hard copy renewal form will have been included. Please return the form to the address provided and pay by BACS or by cheque as indicated on the form.

If you are considering not renewing then please call Sally on 740511 to talk through the ways that you can get more out of your u3a membership.

**Sally**

## **Save The Day !**

**Thursday April 14th 14:00 - 17:30**  
**St John's Hall Newport**

*Come and meet the new committee and some of our group leaders face to face. The meeting will start at 14:00 with an introduction to some of the people who have joined the committee since the last time we were able to meet face-to-face. It feels like a very long time ago! There will then be a speaker followed by light refreshments and plenty of time to chat.*

*The talk looks as though it will be fascinating.*

**A Big Thank You** to those of you who have offered to be identified as **Really Useful** - willing to step forward and help when needed. There is plenty of room for more!

As the number of new groups keeps growing it would be great to hear from people specifically interested in helping with groups as well as people interested in marketing, copy writing ... You name it.

## **Also** **A Big Thank You to Roger**

Our Newsletter Editor, Roger has had to step aside for this edition following an injury to his mouse wielding shoulder. Thank you Roger for all your efforts on our behalf and get well soon. Sending you healing wishes from your readers.

## March Diary

### Regular Group Meetings

14:00	1 <sup>st</sup> Monday	Zoom	Technology and Communications
14:00	3 <sup>rd</sup> Monday	Zoom	Photography
16:00	Every Monday	Zoom	Spanish Improvers
17:30	Alternate Mondays	Zoom	Film Studies
13:30	Every Tuesday	Brading	Conversational French
15:00	1 <sup>st</sup> Tuesday	Yafford	Reading
17:00	3 <sup>rd</sup> Tuesday	Zoom	Non-Fiction Book Club
10:30	1 <sup>st</sup> Wednesday	Bargeman's Rest, Newport	<b>New</b> – Coffee Morning – <b>Now open to all</b>
14:00	1 <sup>st</sup> , 2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Wednesday	Newport	Conversational French
10:30	4 <sup>th</sup> Wednesday	Zoom	Climate Crisis Talks
10:30	1 <sup>st</sup> Thursday	Shanklin	<b>New</b> – Little Angels Cards
14:00	1 <sup>st</sup> Thursday	Brighstone/Hybrid	Writers
14:00	3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursday	Brighstone	Family History
10:00	Every Friday	Bembridge	Conversational French
10:30	Alternate Fridays	Brading	Improvers German
10:30	Alternate Fridays	Brading	Intermediate/Advanced German
14:00	1 <sup>st</sup> Friday	Newport	Mah-Jong & other games
14:00	1 <sup>st</sup> Friday	Wootton	Traditional Book Group
14:00	3 <sup>rd</sup> Friday	Zoom	Military History

### Events this month

Mar 5 <sup>th</sup>	Saturday – Brunch	The Terrace, Yarmouth	Eat Out and Review & New Weekenders
Mar 7 <sup>th</sup>	Monday	Garden Visit	Mottistone
Mar 10 <sup>th</sup>	Thursday	Speaker Meeting on Zoom	Jenny Mallin – see page 20
Mar 16 <sup>th</sup>	Wednesday	Niton & The Buddle Inn	Walk & Lunch
tbc	Wednesday	Climate Crisis Meeting	
Mar 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Wednesday	Beach Walk – Ryde	

### Future Events

April 1 <sup>st</sup>	Friday	Doubt at the Apollo	Weekenders
April 7 <sup>th</sup>	Thursday – Lunch	The Smoking Lobster, Cowes	Eat Out and Review
April 14 <sup>th</sup>	Thursday	St John's Hall, Newport	<b>Speaker Meeting &amp; Social</b>
April 20 <sup>th</sup>	Wednesday	Newchurch & The Pointers	Walk & Lunch
April 25 <sup>th</sup>	Monday	tbc	<b>New</b> – Cycle
April 26 <sup>th</sup>	Tuesday	The Needles	On-Location History Group

Still nothing catches your fancy - or the groups that you fancy are not at the right time for you? Let us know on 740511. We are keen to support the start up of new groups.

Groups that are looking for members to get started include: Allotment Gardening, Badminton, Table Tennis, Modern Greek, Painting, Music Appreciation and Play Reading.

Check with the group leader for up-to-date info on diary events.  
The above diary is only correct at time of going to press.

**For more information go to**  
[www.u3awight.uk/events](http://www.u3awight.uk/events)

[www.facebook.com/groups/iowu3a](http://www.facebook.com/groups/iowu3a) closed group for members  
[www.facebook.com/u3aWight](http://www.facebook.com/u3aWight) open page for the public

## March Speaker Thursday March 10th 14:00 On Zoom

*Great Aunt Constance: her wartime jungle trek.*

By Jenny Mallin



Jenny Mallin is an experienced speaker.  
She is also the author of  
'A Grandmother's Legacy. A memoir of five  
generations who lived through the Raj.'



This talk will be a true account of a civilian trek that occurred in 1942 in Burma. Little is known about it (since journalists were unable to reach that part of the country), however we do discover how a middle class memsahib living in the heydays of 1930s Burma was tested to the limit, alongside thousands of others, when the only option was to walk almost 1,000 miles to the safety of India.