

April 2022

The Newsletter

We have decided to experiment with our newsletter format and pattern. Some of the feedback about the newsletter was that people did not have time to read it, it was sometimes a bit long. The newsletter certainly requires a considerable number of person hours to produce - effort contributed by group leaders, news writers, editors, proof readers etc. We may switch to a monthly 'Diary and News in Brief', with a full newsletter every two or three months. Watch this space and let us know what you think.

April's newsletter is shorter and sharper than usual and also had an earlier copy deadline so some group reports may be missing from this month. They will catch you up with their news in May.

Goodbye to Anne Dearle

Much to our regret Anne Dearle has decided to relocate to the mainland for family reasons and has resigned as our vice-chair. Thank you to Anne for her efforts. We are now once more and always in need of new committee members. Please consider joining us. You do not have to apply for a particular post just come along and give us a try. We meet monthly on Zoom.

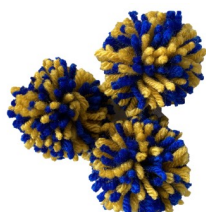
**The Speaker Meeting -
Thursday April 14th,
St John's Hall, Newport**
***Roman Festivals that
We Celebrate Today***
Real Tea & Cake
14:00 - 17:00

**Please download the poster for the
Speaker Meeting from the website
and display a copy somewhere.**

Our Creative Writers have compiled an anthology of their work for us to enjoy. A link to the [April Anthology](#) is on the front page of our website www.u3awight.uk

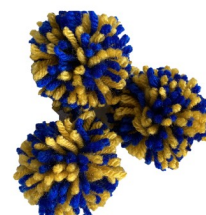
Contents

New Groups	3
Events	4
Groups	6
Diary	11
April Speaker	12



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

Look out for the **blue** and **gold** pom-poms



Carol Bradshaw	Chair	chair@u3awight.uk
Vacant	Vice-Chair	vice.chair@u3awight.uk
Dina Jung	Secretary	info@u3awight.uk
Angela Millard	Treasurer	accounts@u3awight.uk
Linda Christmas	Membership Secretary	membership@u3awight.uk
Sally Forster	Groups Coordinator	groups@u3awight.uk
Roger Skidmore	Editor & Webmaster	editor@u3awight.uk
Fred Dawson	Photography	fred@u3awight.uk
Sarah Innes	Speaker Coordinator	speakers@u3awight.uk

u3a Day and 40th Birthday Celebrations 21st - 24th September

So far we have decided that we will definitely organise something in St Thomas's square in Newport on Saturday 24th 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 have a preliminary planning meeting at the end of the April 14th speaker meeting. Let me know if you are willing to participate and if you can come to that meeting.

Thank you.

Carol
chair@u3awight.uk

Definition of a Healthy u3a

We are pleased to report that against a national u3a assessment tool we rate as 'healthy'. To maintain this we need to retain our members, encourage new members, work to budget, use our funds wisely and have lots of groups - more than 10 groups per member, and enough volunteers participating in the running of the organisation. We passed on all the benchmarks last year, although membership retention is still an unknown quantity for this year. Have you renewed?

The u3a benchmark for participation is more than 20% of membership being active volunteers. This includes people who run groups, write for the newsletter, work on the committee, lead walks, spread the word and generally keep the show on the road. It also includes all those who took part on **u3a day** and at Wolverton last year. These two events will be running again this year; please step forward with your time, energy and bright ideas.

u3a Networking

u3a South Central Network

Spring Gathering - April 7th.

This is an opportunity to network with members of other u3as. A celebration of the last 40 years - in honour of the u3a's 40th Birthday.

Networks Together Better Together

Virtual Afternoon Tea Party

20th April 2022 between 2.00 and 3.30

A conversation with neighbouring u3a members about u3a regional networks and the benefits of belonging - among other things.

Groups looking for Members

Radios / Radio Electronics

My name is Pete. I am a new u3a member. I am at the Intermediate level of ham radio and keen to network with others. I am happy to host at home a small group of like minded people who are interested in radio and radio electronics.

Due to OFCOM licencing conditions, I am not permitted to allow others to use my own personal radio equipment unless the user is licenced themself. As a group we could work toward people gaining the foundation licence which can be done online. I have the books and material to facilitate this. I am also a member of the IoW Radio Society group and happy to share information and introduce people to the radio group so they can gain further knowledge and skills outside our own group.

peterpercival@outlook.com

Badminton / Table Tennis

Thank you to those who expressed an interest in Badminton and table tennis. These are both being researched and we will circulate more information when we have it.

Card Making - Also still looking for members. Contact Teresa Reed through groups@u3awight.uk.

Other groups that are looking for members to get started include: Modern Greek, Painting, Music Appreciation, Play Reading, Ukulele Beginners, Latin, a fourth French Conversation group and Amblers.

Email groups@u3awight.uk or call **Sally** on 740511 with your ideas.

Walk Leaders' Group

We reported last month that u3a was setting up a collaborative venture to support walking groups visiting from another u3a. We have agreed that we will host two walking visits during the pilot phase which lasts one year.

I would like to set up a walk leaders' group to support the venture. We could explore some of the longer walks on the Island, perhaps learn from our members who are also walk leaders from other organisations about safety, risk assessments etc. and prepare a short catalogue of walks that we could offer to a visiting group.

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

Allotment Gardening

The first meeting of this group had to be postponed as Peter contracted Covid while away on holiday. He returned home to leggy tomato seedlings and developing cabbage plants and will report more in the next newsletter. In the meantime there will be an opportunity to meet Peter and make plans for the group following the Speaker on April 14th.

Peter
ttesrodretep@yahoo.com



THEATRE CLUB+

We will now list any play or entertainment that someone is willing to form an outing to! Are You?

Doubt, at the Apollo, Newport, Saturday April 1st.

Contact: sheilaherrando@gmail.com

Dangerous Obsession, at the Apollo, Newport. Tuesday May 24th.

A compulsive psychological thriller, written by NJ Crisp and 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: groups@u3awight.uk

Monthly Eat-Out and Review

April

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

Contact: **Carol**
chair@u3awight.uk 07748 886246

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

Contact: **Glenys**
enjoyaplay@outlook.com.

Are you the volunteer for **June**?

Contact Sally on 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.

Beach Activities - Come along and enjoy a stroll by the Sea.

February's beach walk was along the revetment from Ventnor to Bonchurch in bright sunshine. It was a lovely walk in good company. It was good to see you all.



Photo by Carol Walker

The March walk was from Ryde to Seaview. In April we will go back to Totland with a stroll along the seawall to Colwell and back. Maybe by then we will be eating ice creams rather than drinking hot chocolate after our walk. The beach walks are usually on the last Wednesday of the month and details will be circulated the week before each walk. All welcome. Bring friends, family and dogs if you wish. Let me know if you'd like to come.

Carol
chair@u3awight.uk
0774 888 6246

Chichester u3a Summer School 2023

Looking for volunteers to help with the organisation. If you would like more information contact David Ashton

<https://u3asites.org.uk/southeastu3aforum/home> via the Contact page

Monday Gardeners' Visit to Mottistone

A group of us met at Mottistone Gardens on Monday March the 7th . We were all wrapped up well against the cold but the sun shone and it was beautiful. The last time I visited Mottistone Gardens was in October last year in the rain. The gardens then were an absolute riot of autumnal colour with flower borders full to bursting as a last hurrah before the winter. This time the daffodils, camellias and magnolias were glorious but it was the flower beds that struck me.

There had obviously been many hands working on cutting back last year's growth, mulching around plants and cutting borders. It was so tidy and so very beautiful in its own way.



To finish the visit we checked out various offerings from the café and, although it was cold and early in the gardening season, it was a worthwhile and enjoyable visit.

Carol
chair@u3awight.uk

Monday Gardeners will resume Monday afternoon visits to each other's gardens on April 4th. Please contact groups@u3awight.uk if you are interested in joining us.

March Walk & Lunch

Wet, very wet and exhilarating! This just about sums up the 1.8 mile March walk which started at the Buddle in Niton, progressed to Watershoot Bay, skirted St Catherine's lighthouse and continued to Castlehaven, complete with fabulous

views. The subsequent meal in the Buddle was enjoyed by 16 members, some of whom were gently steaming as they ate – regretting the fact they had failed to wear waterproof trousers!



Watershoot Bay by Carole Anderson

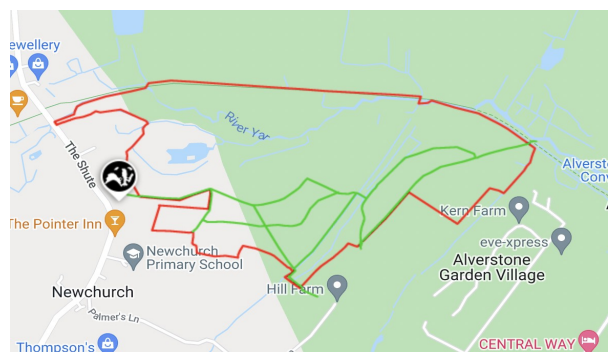
April Walk and Lunch

Wednesday 20th, Newchurch Moors Nature Reserve. Lunch at The Pointer Inn.

The walk will start at 10:30 from the carpark behind the school in Newchurch and lunch will be at 12:30. Non-walkers welcome. The walk is fairly easy although probably wet underfoot.

This is the area where the new beaver habitat is being proposed. The Hampshire and Isle of Wight Trust are currently doing a consultation on the proposal.

The Pointer Inn would like us to pre-select our main courses, so please confirm if you wish to attend by April 5th.



Spanish Improvers

Now full, but we do keep a waiting list.



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

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 if you are interested in French conversation.

German:



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

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

Weekenders

Several Weekenders enjoyed the Eat-Out and Review brunch organised by Sally in Yarmouth on March 5th.

Our next outing will be a lunch hosted by Teresa Marshall at 12:30pm on Saturday April 9th at the Ryde Castle, Esplanade, Ryde which not only has a varied menu but also free parking.

Alternatively, Ryde bus station is opposite.

Please let me know if you intend coming, advising any dietary requirements as the restaurant would like to know these in advance.

Stop press: The choral concert on April 2nd has been moved to All Saints' Church Queens Road, Ryde.

Tickets £10 on the door or online at www.ticketsource.co.uk/rydechorus.

Sheila
sheilaherrando@gmail.com

Mah-Jong + Next - April 8th 14:00 Newport.

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

Contact Sally groups@u3awight.uk



Non-Fiction Book Group

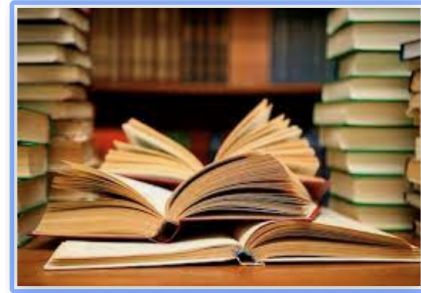
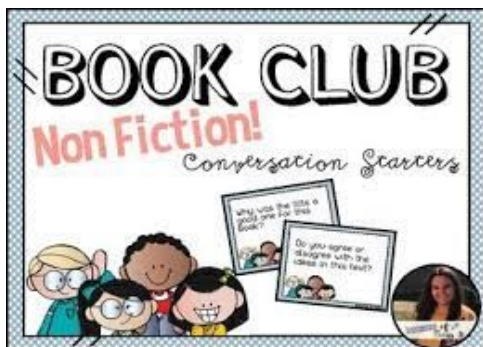
Everyone knows of the disaster of the Titanic. Feature films, documentaries and books-a-plenty recount its tragic story of arrogance, incompetence, commercial greed, heroism and loss. But our selected book for March was different. *'And the Band Played On'* by Christopher Ward, grandson of a young violinist of the Titanic's band. The book pieces together the lives of members of young Jock Hume's family before and after the Titanic's loss, Jock being one among the many who drowned. And what remarkable stories emerge. This was a book enjoyed by all - unexpectedly so for some of us.

Next up will be *'Regeneration: Ending the Climate Crisis in one Generation'* by Paul Hawken and, as an innovative development, a yet-to-be-selected *TED Talk* for discussion. Non-fiction does not have to be in book form!

We have room for a few more members.

Nigel Hastings

hastingsnigel01@gmail.com



Traditional Book Group

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

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

We met on March 4th and it was good to welcome new members to the group: we are now seven. We discussed *'Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine'* by Gail Honeyman. We all loved the book and gave it ten out of ten. This is a first: usually there is at least one member who is not so keen on the book choice that month. It tells the story of Eleanor's transformational journey towards a fuller understanding of herself and life. It is about isolation, loneliness and control. It is incredibly funny and we all said it is a book which we will keep to reread in the future. Our next meeting is on Friday 1st April and the book is *'Girl, Woman, Other'* by Bernadine Evaristo.

Allison Rogers

01983 616634.

davidallison36@hotmail.com

Reading Group

The Reading group that is simply an opportunity to talk about what you are reading and why. Any Book, Any Reason. One book that many of us have read recently is *'Still Life'* by Sarah Winman. A delightfully told tale of love and loss, of laughter, pain and resilience.

Next meeting: Yafford, Tuesday April 5th

Sally groups@u3awight.uk

Walk and Talk Gardens

As the new green shoots emerge on the plants we too are coming out of our dormancy period and beginning to be active in the garden, especially when the sun is shining. As a group we now have our programme for the coming year. We will be meeting once or twice a month until October and hope to visit everyone's garden. It will be good to meet up again. At the moment the primroses and the anemone blanda are putting on their spring show and the primroses in the early evening sunshine really light up the garden.



They have also spread themselves around and seem to have found their way into the fruit garden, and why not, as they brighten an otherwise dull area at this time of year. Anemone blanda, once established, also spreads quite freely and pops up in unexpected places. They are not a problem and disappear during the summer and do not interfere with other planting. Seed sowing is now under way and some have already germinated, so spring has definitely sprung! Things are changing so quickly in the garden at the moment, which means that there is something new to see every day.

Enjoy your gardening.

Beryl Tillman

Film Studies

Review of *Fracture* (2007) produced by Gregory Hoblit

I thought this was an excellent film: it kept you in suspense from beginning to end. The two main characters were played by Anthony Hopkins and Ryan Gosling. However, there were a lot of other well known actors in it with small parts. We knew Ted (Anthony Hopkins) had killed his wife as she had been having an affair but there appeared to be no evidence and it looked as if he was going to get away with it. Ted was an arrogant, unlikable character.

The prosecutor Willy, was young and full of himself. He believed this would be an open and shut case but soon realised how wrong he was and saw this case as a challenge. The twist at the end of the film when Willy finally figures out how Ted did it was clever.

The group all enjoyed this film and it was a great film to discuss as parts were open to different interpretation. I would definitely recommend this film but don't mix it up with another film called *Fractured*!

Jan Tavill

The Film Studies Group is open to new members. Films are viewed on Netflix and then discussed on Zoom.

Contact dinajung@gmail.com



Creative Writing



As we gain confidence with our writing we are offering a small collection of our stories and poems to be read via the link [April Anthology](#) on the front of the website, www.u3awight.uk.

Arrangements for the next few meetings were discussed, and we enjoyed tea with tasty cake brought by Pauline. The second half of the meeting was spent discussing and analysing the merits of our efforts with last month's two prompts, "*Out of the Blue....*" (which none of us fulfilled entirely) and a short 250 word exercise on "*Feelings*". A lively and amiable critique took place with our usual diverse points of view and always very helpful observations.

In view of the success with the limited word exercise, Helena suggested another for next month with the title of "*Taste*" along with a second chance to try and fulfil "*Out of the Blue, I heard footsteps in the dark empty street*".

We wished Emily well, as she is leaving and concluded that the next meeting on April 7th would be the last one to be held in Brighstone until later in the year.

Alison

Family History

We held a workshop late March. This will be reported on in the May newsletter.

The Family History Group will be having a lunch in June and then reconvening for the winter season in October.

Alison
rhawebb@gmail.com



Technology and Communications

March Meeting - members were welcomed and discussed their tech news and any problems they had encountered. Fred gave an overview of his new computer and the way in which data was transferred from the old to the new computer.

The next meeting will be on Monday 4th April, and will be about house-keeping on computers and word processing.

Fred Dawson
fred.wp.dawson@googlemail.com

On-Location History will visit the Needles Old Battery on Tuesday April 26th. This group visits areas of historical significance on the Island. We share responsibility for both the pre-visit research and then the answer to the question - "Where Next?"



Green Issues

In the February Climate Crisis meeting we watched and discussed the video “We’ve got climate change under control.... apparently!” How willing are we, really, to change our lifestyle to fight climate change in relation to food production?



Another video explained the benefits of Veganism and this stimulated a vigorous discussion especially when it was explained how damaging animal agriculture was to Climate Change, the moral implications and the advantages of a Vegan diet to our health.

This meeting pricked a few members' consciences and there could be quite a few changes in eating habits in the future. Once again, a really interesting meeting and we are now going to include a “Tips and Advice” session every month so that members can distribute any useful information they may have to other people, such as the free solar panels that are on offer.

The next Climate Crisis meeting will be on Wednesday April 27th.

Keep going greener,

Dina

dinajung@gmail.com



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

Photography meets late in the month and so will report in next month's newsletter.

The photographic group welcomes all with an interest in photography. If you would like to know more contact

Fred Dawson LRPS

fred.wp.dawson@googlemail.com

Eat Out & Review -The Terrace, Yarmouth

The restaurant sits behind the Ferry Terminal with a terrace and a spectacular view of the Solent looking out towards Lymington and Hurst Castle. We sat in booths which were effective at protecting us from the wind although not from the noise - both of the wind, which was significant, and also the periodic loading and unloading of the ferry. We ate brunch. The service was good and welcoming, the food was tasty. The menu was limited to poached or baked eggs in all the savoury dishes - with no exchanges possible to the disappointment of two of our party. Everyone enjoyed their food although there were niggles about the shakshuka being bland and too tomatoey, the focaccia was tough and generally the food under the poached eggs was not hot enough: delivering 8 sets of poached eggs on to dishes simultaneously ready to go didn't quite produce the hoped for result.

These were all niggles though. Everyone had a good time and I for one would definitely go back.

Sally

April Diary- groups@u3awight.uk

Regular Group Meetings

14:00	1 st Monday	Zoom	Technology and Communications
14:00	3 rd Monday	Zoom	Photography
14:00	Monday, various	Varied	Monday Gardeners
16:00	Every Monday	Zoom	Spanish Improvers
17:30	Alternate Mondays	Zoom	Film Studies
13:30	Every Tuesday	Brading	Conversational French
15:00	1 st Tuesday	Yafford	Reading
17:00	3 rd Tuesday	Zoom	Non-Fiction Book Club
14:00	Wednesday, various	Varied	Walk & Talk about Gardens
14:00	1 st , 2 nd & 4 th Wednesday	Newport	Conversational French
10:30	4 th Wednesday	Zoom	Green Issues – Climate Crisis Talks
14:00	1 st Thursday	Brightstone/Hybrid	Writers
10:00	Every Friday	Bembridge	Conversational French
10:30	Alternate Fridays	Brading	Improvers German
10:30	Alternate Fridays	Brading	Intermediate/Advanced German
14:00	2 nd Friday (this month only)	Newport	Mah-Jong & other games
14:00	1 st Friday	Wootton	Traditional Book Group

Events this month

April 1 st	19:30 Friday	Doubt at the Apollo	Weekenders
April 6 th	10:30 Wednesday	Coffee Morning	Bargeman's Rest Newport
April 7 th	13:00 Thursday	The Smoking Lobster, Cowes	Eat Out and Review
April 9 th	12:30 Saturday	The Ryde Castle – Lunch	Weekenders
April 12 th	11:00 Tuesday	Group Leaders' Lunch	
April 14 th	14:00 Thursday	St John's Hall, Newport	Speaker Meeting & Social
April 20 th	Wednesday	Newchurch & The Pointer Inn	Walk & Lunch
April 25 th	Monday	tbc	New Cycle
April 26 th	14:00 Tuesday	Visit the Needles Batteries	On-Location History Group
April 27 th	14:00 Wednesday	Beach Walk – Totland	

Future Events

May 5 th	11:00 Thursday	Group Leaders' Lunch
May 12 th	14:00 Thursday	Speaker Meeting
May 13 th	Friday	Cycle – tbc

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: Badminton, Table Tennis, Modern Greek, Painting, Music Appreciation and Play Reading, Amateur Radio.

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

Speaker Meeting and Social

Thursday 14th April 2022 14:00 – 17:00

St John's Church Hall,
St John's Road, Newport, PO30 1LN
Free, Non-Members Welcome.

Roman Festivals that We Celebrate Today

by

Ann Evans

Vectis Archaeological Society



One of the similarities between then and now is the amount of wine that accompanied the festivities. Ann will bring some interesting artifacts for us to examine. After the talk we will serve refreshments of a more mundane kind—tea & cakes—and there will be time to socialise and discover more.