

July - August 2022

From The Chair:

Greetings all. I hope you are well.

It's already July and today I am writing to you with a serious plea for help. In October (only three months away) our u3a will have been in existence for three years. We have moved from zero to a smallish but healthy u3a in a short space of time. It has taken a huge amount of effort from a small group of people to get this far. In October, at our AGM, I will be standing down as Chair as I have served my 3-year term. Dina, as Secretary will also be standing down. Our constitution requires that Officers stand down after three years. We believe that this is a healthy way to proceed as it brings new people, new ideas and new energy into the committee. It also reassures people who volunteer for an Officer position that it is not a life sentence but a maximum of three years.

We need you! – we need a new Chair (but only for three years). We need a new Secretary (but only for three years). Please contact me personally to find out more about either of the jobs. We have 170-ish members. There must be someone out there who will step up. Please. Without new Officers we will stagnate and fail.

The u3a movement is an amazing thing. It offers members opportunities to share

their passions, to learn, to do new things, to meet new people, to have fun, but it also relies on members to give something too. Can you give some of your time, energy and passion to the Isle of Wight u3a?

We are also organising teams of people to support those on the committee. So, if you are not able to take up a committee role please let us know what you can do to support those who do.

We need **you**.

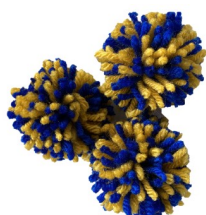
Carol Bradshaw

chair@u3awight.uk

07748 886246

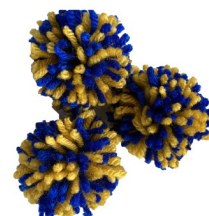
Summer Social See page 16

Thursday July 14th,
1pm Visit Newport's
Roman Villa
and
2pm Picnic in the Park
Rainy Day fall-back to
St John's Hall, Newport,
PO30 1LN



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



A September Celebration—Promoting the u3a

September will be, for us, a month of showcasing our u3a. The major lesson that we learnt from our u3a day activities last year was that people haven't heard of the u3a. We have been trying to spread the word and raise our profile ever since.

The month will begin with our stand at the **Wolverton Garden Fair on Saturday the 3rd and Sunday the 4th**. We will have our bright yellow gazebo staffed by volunteer members who will talk to the public about our u3a, hand out leaflets and generally be a cheerful presence at the Fair. Last year our Wolverton experience was very positive and resulted in a number of new members. I have some volunteers for both days for the Gazebo, but would be happy with a few more.

On Saturday the 24th September once again we will use our yellow gazebo as a focal point but this time have it in St Thomas's Square in Newport. We will be there in the square from about 10:00 until 16:00 doing the same job as at Wolverton, talking to the public, making our presence felt and encouraging people to join.

The highlight of Saturday for me will be when the Bloodstone Border Morris Group – including our very own Sally who is a member of the group- make some noise and dance. There should be a good footfall so hopefully we can spread the word widely.



Can you offer a couple of hours to help at the Gazebo on the 24th.

Do you belong to a group that could help us attract attention - flash mob, silent disco, wild knitting? Let us know.

What else are we doing to get our name out there?

Litter Picking

I have arranged to borrow some litter picking equipment and would really like some volunteers in different locations around the Island (Ryde, Ventnor, Newport, Yarmouth or anywhere else?) to form small groups and do some hi-vis litter picking. We can provide hi-vis jackets and leaflets for you to hand out. I would like these to take place on Saturdays during September (when there are the most people out and about to see you). I would be happy to accompany any groups that needed me.

Will you volunteer to do this, please?

There are u3a members all over the Island a group of 5 in each location should be easy to organise. Talk to me.

Open Groups to Non-members

We plan to open our September coffee morning at the Bargeman's Rest to non-members and I will invite non-members to the September Beach walk. Are you organising an event in September? Could you make it open to non-members for one meeting? It may not be possible but if you think it might be, let me know and we can advertise it and you can bring a friend.

Alison Botha has agreed to be co-opted onto the Committee for a short while to help us with Publicity and Marketing. Our big push will be maximum advance publicity for our September activities.

How can you help? Do let me know.

Email me on chair@u3awight.uk

Call me on 07748 886246 for a chat, or we could meet for coffee somewhere. I look forward to hearing from you.

Carol

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

On the subject of Volunteers!

Just in case you haven't heard, we need some more volunteers.

We understand that offering to commit to a job with ongoing responsibilities is hard, whether that is because you feel foot-loose and fancy free for the first time in your life and want the freedom to enjoy it or because you are busy volunteering elsewhere, caring for others or perhaps not confident in your own health.

With that in mind we are developing the idea of teams. Teams will be anything from 4 to 20 people who have loosely agreed to be available as and when needed, on the understanding that when the time comes they may not in fact be available.

We would like teams to support the various committee roles - Chair, Treasurer, Membership Secretary, Groups coordinator as well as to support various broader functions - Social meetings, Speaker Meetings, Publicity, Walks, Newsletter, Recruitment, and managing the teams themselves ... you name it. Please let us know if you could add your name to a list of people who would be willing to meet from time to time and tackle a job that needs doing.

Embryonic Teams

Membership -

- running the membership database
- welcoming new members
- accompany to the coffee morning
- encouraging new members to join an activity

Recruitment & Events -

- Steering Wolverton & County Show
- u3a day celebrations
- Posters in libraries/notice boards/online
- Social media
- Publicity
 - placing and monitoring ads
 - press coverage of events
 - management of the website

Membership Services -

- Social meetings (summer)
- Speaker meetings - Zoom winter months
- Supporting the start up of new groups
- supporting group leaders
- Newsletter, proof reading, news collating
- Diary
- Recruit and manage teams

Finance -

Support the Treasurer

Chair -

Sounding Board for the Chair

By Special Arrangement - Visit to the Royal Mail Museum in Newport.

A visit to the Isle of Wight Postal Museum has been arranged for u3a members on Saturday 30th July starting at 10.30am.

The address is Isle of Wight Postal Museum, 408 Fairlee Rd, Newport, PO30 2JX. (It is opposite the entrance to the Island Harbour access road.)

The visit is free but a donation would be appreciated by the owner. I suggest each person coming makes a donation of £5? The museum is not generally open to the public and is cared for by a couple who work and show people around it in their spare time, by prior booking only, so this is not one to miss!

Tea, coffee and cake will be available to purchase.

If you would like to join me on the visit, please email to let me know. Places are limited to 20 so don't delay!

Email: Valerie Graham
hellovalerieg@gmail.com

French Film Matinee

Held on the 3rd Wednesday of the month in conjunction with the Ventnor Arts Club - are, so far, a great success! Coordinated by the French conversation groups, films are chosen from a shortlist of those available for hire. We plan to continue in the autumn, although not on a Wednesday. Contact Sally groups@u3awight.uk if you are interested and are not already on the circulation list.

French Bread & Yeast Cookery - New workshop in the Autumn.

New Groups Live Jazz.

There are a number of good venues around the Island where we could gather to listen to live Jazz, including Café Isola, and Garlic Farm. There is also the Isle of Wight Jazz festival in September. Are you interested in gathering as a group to go and listen?

Come to the coffee morning at the Bargeman's Rest on 6th July if you are interested. Or email groups@u3awight.uk

Knitting with Jane Bowskill in Binstead. Would you like to learn to knit, to read a pattern, or develop a more ambitious project? All levels welcome. Enquiries through groups@u3awight.uk

Card Making with Teresa Reed - regrouping for a new start on Thursday September 15th.

teresareed@btopenworld.com

Cycling

The new cycling group enjoyed their ride along the old railway from Merston Station to Sandown along the old railway. We will meet there again at 11:00 on Friday July 22nd. There is plenty of parking. We will cycle towards Newport. The track is traffic free (apart from cyclists) and relatively level. Come and Join us.

Contact: *Sally*
groups@u3awight.uk

Bridge, Rummikub, Mah-jong, Backgammon and other Games

With new members joining all the time groups are continually evolving. If you would like to find partners for games or learn to play or to teach others, please come to the coffee mornings on the first Wednesday to chat about what interests you.

Summer Photography Competition

Shades of Summer

Closing date: August 15th at Noon.

The Summer Photo Competition is open to all Wight u3a members. The theme is *Shades of Summer*. This is an opportunity to get out in the sunshine and capture those special summer moments.



Entries should be sent to Fred Dawson at fred.wp.dawson@googlemail.com

Photographs should be titled with your chosen name for the image. File size guidance will be published on the website. Should you need any help please get in touch with Fred. The prize is a year's free membership of Isle of Wight u3a which can be given as a gift.

Laptops for Ukrainian Guests Can you help by donating a laptop or tablet?



The Isle of Wight Computer Club has been helping supply Laptops for Ukrainians for the last few months. So far we have 48 guests on our list. We take in and refurbish old laptops and through our network supply them to Ukrainians who, far from home, then have a better way of staying in contact, continuing lessons, Zooming their husbands than just the mobile phone they came with.

Typically, usually mothers, have left Ukraine with just a back pack and a mobile phone (and their children). Ours have trekked across other countries to arrive here on the Isle of Wight.

For Laptops for Ukrainians, donations by area, or to supply to your Ukrainian guest:

Newport, West Wight and Cowes - Roger, phone 07732 480201
Ryde and East Wight - Fred, phone 07885 634518

Full details at <https://laptops-for-ukrainians.weebly.com>

Monthly Eat-Out and Review

The **May** event was lunch at the Isle of Wight College.

"We enjoyed a lovely lunch at the college hosted by Glenys. I was particularly smitten with the cold pea and mint soup, which had a fresh, intense flavour. Also worthy of note were the glazed apple fritters with cinnamon sabayon and caramelised banana – delightful and unusual. Attentive service as ever and without doubt one of the best value places to eat on the IW."

Alison Botha

June - 11th The Highdown Inn with Weekenders, was delightful. A good range of local produce over and above the normal 'pub fare', good service and pleasant atmosphere.

24th Castlehaven Retreat - too late for a review here but, based on past experience, will have been delightful.

July 31st Sunday 10:30
An open invitation to a relaxed Brunch at Fort Victoria, no booking required, just come if you are in the mood on the day.

Then we will take a break until September.

Contact groups@u3awight.uk to volunteer for September. Whether it is your favourite place to eat or a place that you have always wanted to try, just book a table and send me details for the newsletter to gather a group to enjoy it with you - and then write the review afterwards.

Sally
groups@u3awight.uk

Enjoy the Beach - Come along and join us.

The May beach walk was at Yaverland on a blustery, chilly day. A dozen or so hardy souls braced themselves and enjoyed the walk from the café along the beach.

Some walked all the way to the end, others turned around and headed back as they felt inclined. The wind was behind us on the way out and on occasions the sun almost shone.

The walk back into the wind with the sand blasting at us was a strenuous affair. It was a lovely walk. We felt exhilarated if a little exhausted!

On June 29th, we will walk on the beach at Brook, start time to be advised, meeting at the National Trust car park.

There will be no organized beach walks in July and August during the main holiday season. Beach walks will resume in September. Beach walks are on the last Wednesday of the month and the dates and venues will be in the monthly Diary and News in Brief that you all receive. Start times will be circulated by individual email the week before each walk. Some walks are actually on the beach, in which case the start time is tide dependent, and others are on promenades or sea walls in which case the start time is usually 10:30. All welcome. Let me know if you'd like to come.

Carol
chair@u3awight.uk

07748 886246

Weekenders

Several Weekenders and others enjoyed lunch at The Highdown Inn and a visit to the house and/or gardens at Tennyson's home Farringford.



I tried and completely failed to take a picture that captured the spirit of the walled garden which is not very old and has some interesting willow work in it. I am also curious that deep in the middle of some of the beds there were plants that will have 'gone over' by July - such as poppies and umbellifers. I for one will be going back in July to see how they fill the gaps.

Weekender events are open to the whole membership.

Weekenders Day Out in Sandown Sunday July 10

Meet 11am at Browns Golf, Yaverland
<https://www.facebook.com/Browns-Golf-and-Blue-Tiki-Cafe-Sandown-112988534365294/>

for a round of pitch and putt with the picturesque background of Brading Down, before lunch at the Blue Tiki café, which has excellent reviews. Then after lunch visit the Wildheart Animal Sanctuary next door.

Contact Sheila:

sheilaherrando@gmail.com

if you would like to come. Open to all.

Let's Go

New umbrella for organising one-off events or trips. This group will now incorporate the Theatre Club and the On-Location Island History Group and will join the Weekenders on their trip to Farringford on Saturday June 11th.

Isle of Wight Jazz festival September 16th - 18th.

Any Jazz enthusiasts out there?

A Trip to the Races



Goodwood for the last Racing Day of the Season - Sunday October 9th 2022. By hover, train & taxi depending on numbers.

History Visit

Visit to the **Mary Rose Exhibition** in Portsmouth, November 2022, date to be confirmed. The Mary Rose, built in 1511, was sunk just north of the Isle of Wight in a battle with the French in 1545. She was recovered in 1982 and is in permanent exhibition in Portsmouth with many artifacts that were recovered with her.

Mottisfont Garden

Too late for the rose garden this year but I will go next June. Anyone else up for a joint trip?

Where would you like to go?

Sally

groups@u3awight.uk

Walk & Lunch

Held on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at various locations around the island - please let me know if you would like to come - particularly if you are a slow walker. Non-walkers are welcome to join for lunch, again, please let me know.

The **May** walk was around the bird sanctuary on the Western Yar estuary where seals basking on the river bank entertained the walkers. A satisfactory lunch followed at the Horse and Groom.

The **June** Walk was from Godshill followed by lunch at the Taverners on a glorious sunny day.



The walk was hot and was followed by a very convivial meal.

The **July** walk will be up on the downs above Brighstone, (meet at the car park near the top of Strawberry Hill) followed by lunch at the Sun Inn, Hulverstone.

Please let me know that you are coming in good time. Both for the sake of the restaurant booking but also it is important to know how many walkers there will be.

Also, If you have a favourite walk and pub combination, let me know. There are still many corners of the Island that I have not explored.

Carole Anderson

carolea48@gmail.com

There will be no walk in August - back in **September** for a walk on Tennyson Down. The walk in September will be part of our celebration of 40 years of u3a - so bring a friend or two and spread the word.

If you would like extra copies of the newsletter or the u3a leaflet to give to friends do let us know.

Volunteers Walking Marshals Required

One aspect of coordinating the walks with lunch that is tricky is the wide variation in walking speeds. To make life simpler for Carole and less stressful for everyone else, we are asking for a slow-walk volunteer each month to either organise a shorter route or an earlier start time according to what is practical, meeting at the pub for lunch at 12:30 with the faster walkers and the non-walkers.

Film Studies



The Film Studies Group continues to meet on alternate Mondays at 5.30pm via Zoom. We welcome new members and will be meeting during August.

Recently Watched Films

Boiling Point (2021): Set in a fashionable restaurant and appears to be filmed as one take. We thought that Stephen Graham excelled as a chef under extreme pressure. The film is gritty and realistic and has an open ending.

The Constant Gardener (2005): From the John Le Carré novel. An intelligent thriller about government and corporate corruption. It reminded us of Graham Greene, but we felt the ending was rather melodramatic.

Don't Look Up (2021): Leonardo Di Caprio and others star in a movie about an asteroid set to destroy the world. Supposedly a comment on government indifference to climate change. It is amusing, but we considered it rather heavy-handed.

Our current discussion programme is on the right. The films are discussed every fortnight on Mondays at 5.30 pm via Zoom. We try to include a wide variety of subjects both serious and light-hearted.

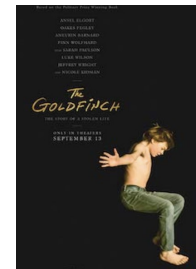
If you would like to join the Film Studies group or would like technical help getting up and running on Zoom or Netflix please contact Paul on bowskill.paul@gmail.com

July 4th - *Taxi Driver* (1976)



Directed by Martin Scorsese and featuring Robert De Niro who plays a taxi driver in a decaying New York City after the Vietnam war. It won numerous awards and is often considered one of the best films ever made.

July 18th - *The Goldfinch* (2019)



A complicated film based on the Pulitzer winning novel by Donna Tartt about random events and how they shape us. It received mixed reviews with debate about whether something that works in one medium (a book) will work in another (a film).

August 1st - *Falling for Figaro* (2021)



Millie (Danielle Macdonald), a successful fund manager, leaves her boyfriend to follow her dream of becoming an opera singer. She heads to a small town in the Scottish Highlands to take lessons. An uplifting romantic comedy.

August 15th - *The Good Liar* (2019)



A British mystery thriller with Ian McKellan and Hellen Mirren where nothing is as it seems. Well received by both critics and public.

August 29th - *Toscana* (2022)



A new Danish film about a chef who travels to Tuscany and becomes involved with the local cuisine and other things. Will be interesting to compare with "Boiling Point" and "Falling for Figaro" which have some similar themes.

Spanish Improvers

Space available for someone with a basic foundation in Spanish.



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. Spanish will be taking a break over the summer.

Keith Pritchard 01983 407942
keithswonderfulworld@gmail.com

French Conversation:



Friday am: Bembridge
Tuesday pm: Brading
Wednesday pm: Newport

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. The Beginners/Improvers' Group has a couple of vacancies now, so if you'd like to refresh vague memories of schooldays' German, now is the moment to join. 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

Mah-Jong



Mah-Jong is played every Friday afternoon at the Cowes Community Centre. In addition we have games in people's homes from time to time.

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

Sally
groups@u3awight.uk

Family History

We meet at 2pm on the third Thursday in the month for 5 sessions from October through to March.

From October, meetings will be workshop based. In order to benefit fully from the sessions, members should bring their own laptop, tablet or iPad (although use of a laptop is available) and preferably be prepared to sign up to a basic subscription account with either Ancestry or FindmyPast.

The aim is to share successes and pitfalls and help each other to make accurate progress. Online Tree-building forms the basis of interest but we also look more widely at many other topics to help you compile a complete story. You could research your own family, a friend's or even the story of a famous person. The information is out there, just waiting to be found.

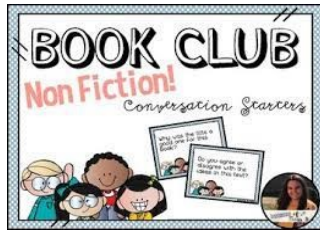
Members new to tracing their roots and others who are more experienced are very welcome to join the Family History Group.

Alison
rhawebb@gmail.com



Non-Fiction Book Group

Meeting on
Zoom, third
Tuesday at
17:00



Some borrow, some buy: some read a hard copy, others a digital version on Kindle, and one or two opt for the audio-book. It doesn't matter which, the result is always interest, enjoyment and a good discussion at our monthly Zoom meeting.

Now, we are not only dealing with non-fiction books but also presentations and talks from TED Talks and YouTube.

We have room for a few more members.

Nigel Hastings

hastingsnigel01@gmail.co

Reading Group

The Reading group is in recess for the summer - we will focus on catching up with our reading.



We will reconvene on September 6th in Yafford. We sit and natter about the books we have read, those we loved and those we struggled with or abandoned. If you love reading - and like to talk about what you have read, come and join us.

Sally groups@u3awight.uk

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.

Forthcoming Books:

July - Just Like You
by Nick Hornsby.

August - The Outside Boy
by Janine Cummings.

September - Where the Crawdads Sing
by Delia Owens.

We would welcome new members.

Allison Rogers

01983 616634.

davidallison36@hotmail.com

Technology and Communications

This Group meets on the first Monday of the month to help people develop their IT knowledge. The group will be resting in August. If you are interested please contact Fred.

Photography

The photographic group will meet as usual in July and August. The group welcomes all with an interest in photography.

If you would like to know more contact:

Fred Dawson LRPS

fred.wp.dawson@goglermail.com

Walk and Talk Gardens

This seems to be a good year for our gardens and the roses have been, and still are, a picture and everything has grown so quickly, with a rapid transition from spring to summer.

So far this year we have had four garden visits and how amazingly different they have been. We have seen these gardens change/develop over the years and we are still greatly enjoying and impressed by them and the enthusiasm of their owners. What is also noticeable is how knowledgeable these people have become about their plants and the conditions they like.

I am sure this has been partly due to talking to each other and seeing one another's successes and failures (we all have them!)

The weather for the visits has been 'interesting', rather changeable!



We have had it all, apart from snow, but we are undeterred and hopefully we will continue to enjoy the company, gardens and of course tea, cakes and chat.

Is this the biggest golden fuschia?

Can't wait to see it in flower.

Beryl



Monday Garden Group

The Monday Gardeners are enjoying meeting in each other's gardens, chatting having tea and even, sometimes, remembering to talk about gardening!

What's really amazing is how very different each garden is from another.



There's so much to learn and benefit from: shared knowledge from peat-free compost to Nettle tea - and plant and seed swaps.

It's very informal with everyone so congenial and supportive. Happy gardening.

Patricia and Robin
Robintyler60@gmail.com

Allotment Gardening

In May, we met on Zoom and during the course of the hour-long chat we exchanged pictures of our plots and discussed the benefits of various forms of cultivation. Sarah has a particular problem with horsetail weeds and we were able to determine that the only course of action was weed killer. We have set up a WhatsApp group which will enable us to exchange pictures and information easily.

May has been a good growing month and we have been enjoying the young broad beans which were sown in October last year. I have added a polytunnel but am now restricted having had a knee replacement operation.

June has been quite eventful. On Wednesday the 8th Sarah, Patricia, Robin and I held our first face-to-face meeting at Sarah's home. Unfortunately the weather was unkind so we were unable to inspect her garden/allotment. We were, however, able to view the plot and talk about the challenges, particularly overcoming the creeping weed, horsetail.

We decided that our future meetings would be held on the first Wednesday of each month: the next to be at Patricia and Robin's home.

On the same evening we received a desperate telephone call from our grandson informing us that our new polytunnel had been blown to an adjoining plot. We joined him to find he had removed and folded the cover. As I'm still on crutches it was down to Irene and the grandson to bring the frame back. We now have to work out how to prevent it happening again.

We had a disappointment with the

broccoli as the lovely heads had turned into flowers. Unfortunately these are the challenges of allotment gardening

If you are growing vegetables, whether in your garden or on an allotment and would like to join us, please get in touch.

Peter

ttesrodretep@yahoo.com



Green Issues

The topic for the Climate Crisis meeting in May was the disruption of the meat and dairy industries which covered food generation from insects, microalgae protein, biomass & precision fermentation, lab-grown meat, plant based meat, dairy and eggs. It was absolutely fascinating and an insight of things that are happening at the moment. Fuller explanations are given in the links below.

Dina

How Impossible Foods Created the Perfect Meatless Burger

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6fGEggkj02gPrecision>

Fermentation: Things are Starting to Get Real!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZlqftzuClw>

Dining at The World's Largest Synthetic Meat Factory

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KSS9Em4a_qs

u3a Climate Change Network
www.u3asites.org.uk/climate-change/events



The Creative Writing group meets to share their writing and support each others' development with friendly critique and monthly challenges. The overriding wonder in all our meetings is just how varied the interpretations of the topic can be. This month they have offered us two of their pieces to enjoy.

A poem for the senses

by Allison Rogers Isle of Wight u3a Creative Writing Group

Smells are evocative

Sounds are too
Bringing back fond memories
Here are a few.

The birds' chorus to welcome the day
Bees laden with pollen droning away
The shrill chirp of cicadas bring delight
Filling the warm spice scented night.

Sea crashing on rocks, the power and the roar
Hissing, murmuring and sucking before
The lacy filigree licks the sand
Along the misty windswept strand

Leaves rustling in the autumn breeze
Whispering through the swaying trees
Whoops of delight as children shout
Laughter and giggles that echo about

Water gurgles, tumbling along the leat
Bubbling and running over the peat
Waterfalls thunder as they crash to the ground
Splashing, swirling spray all around.

As for sounds close to home, that deserve attention
These are a few I really must mention
The shrill toot, toot of the local steam train
The clip clop of horses out in the rain
The hovercraft's roar that floats on the air
Quarr's distant bells calling monks to prayer
At night the eerie sound of a distant owl
A rustle in the garden of a fox on the prowl
The reassuring tick of the grandfather clock
The alarm signalling a run around the block
Undoing my laces and opening the door
The sizzle of bacon is what is called for!



Changes of fortune, Eavesdropping Pauline, u3a Creative Writing, Group, May 2022

As the bus flew round the corner, my attention was drawn to the conversation of the couple in front of me.

'It was certainly lucky for you, Clive,' the woman was saying. 'And unlucky for someone else'.

'But perhaps they never knew what they'd missed out on,' the man said. 'Not everyone picks the same numbers. They mightn't have remembered theirs.'

'Mmm,' the woman replied, doubtfully. 'My lottery numbers are always the same - family birthdays. And, of course, 7, my lucky number'.

'Finding that ticket has changed my life for the better,' said the man, 'including Clare leaving me just because I wouldn't let her get her hands on my winnings. I know she was your friend, Gemma, but after 32 years, she just walked out on me.

It was time I moved on anyway,' he added. 'Now, Patrice. What a wonderful woman. I'm happy having a joint account with her.'

I felt I knew the type of man Clive seemed to be. Men like him were as tight as they come, mean with the housekeeping, and he also mean with winnings from a found lottery ticket.

The woman said, 'I remember Patrice, or Patricia as her name was then. She was in our youngest's school year. Always keen to take advantage of opportunities,' the woman added somewhat nastily, I thought.

'Anyway, what are you doing on the bus, Clive? I'd have thought you'd be travelling round in a chauffeur driven limo.'

'It's good for me, isn't it? Patrice looks up interesting journeys. Takes such a lot of trouble.' Clive seemed proud. 'Anyway Patrice likes to have the house to herself, gets the girls round by the pool, cocktails and a chat that sort of thing. To see the house too.'

'Patrice is so clever with design and decor,' he added. 'She gets advice from Anton de Beauville. Great reputation. You've heard of him, haven't you? Been on the telly.'

'Oh, yes. I think I've heard of his reputation,' Gemma added ambiguously.

I might have this wrong, I thought, but probably not. He's one of a sort that Clive. Short changes his long suffering wife, and makes an unsuitable second marriage - in this case a younger woman out to get what she can. Bet 'Anton' will be helping that new wife with more than her design.

As Gemma stood up to get off, I winked at her and caught the faintest of smiles and a wink back, as she passed. We both seemed to understand where that new marriage was headed. Together with Clive's lottery millions.

Meeting and Social

Thursday 14th July 2022 14:00 – 17:00

**Visit Newport's Roman Villa and
Picnic in the Park (Church Litten)
Learn some interesting things about Newport**

**Back-up in case of rain
St John's Church Hall,
St John's Road, Newport, PO30 1LN**



The Newport Roman Villa is thought to date from the late 270s. We have arranged a guided tour at 13:00 for a maximum of 30 participants – so book early groups@u3awight.uk

Afterwards we will picnic in the park at Church Litten, everyone welcome – bring a chair and a picnic!

We will share some other interesting facts about the history of Newport.

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