

November-December 2022

Message from our new Chair

I'm humbled to find myself in this position and I am determined to do the best job I possibly can, following Carol's fine example. I shall try to replicate her light touch, steadying influence and attentive listening to members. Your comments, ideas, feedback and involvement make u3a Wight what it is.

I joined this group for two reasons. To have fun and to try out different things, learning as I go. These remain my primary goals and I'm happy to say I have already ticked quite a few boxes. I aim to tick several more in 2023!

So during the coming three years (yes that's how long this role lasts!) let's hope we can increase our membership further, start many different groups and develop new ideas about Group events which are open to all members.

Please introduce yourself when our paths cross, though my memory for names and faces is appalling (I have a degree of Prosopagnosia/face blindness) so you might have to remind me a few times!

Hope you manage to stay warm and well during the coming wintery months. The first primroses are out in my garden.

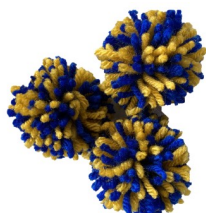
Finally sincere thanks to Carol and Sally for all their efforts and time spent ensuring that the rebirth of u3a Wight three years ago has been such a resounding success.



Alison Botha
chair@u3awight.uk

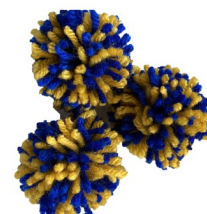
Speaker and Social Meeting

Joanna Bogle talking on "Courage and Conviction"
Thursday 10th November, St John's Church Hall, Newport
14.00 to 16.00 pm



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

Look out for the blue and gold pompoms



AGM report

This year's AGM was extremely well attended, with most people staying on for the meeting, having enjoyed an entertaining talk by Malcolm Wells on 'Things that could have gone better.' He spoke amusingly about his many years with Canine Partners, as well as serving in the Gulf War and the time he went to the Palace to receive his MBE.

Unfortunately, Carol Bradshaw, our outgoing chair, was unwell and unable to attend the AGM. Sally therefore acted as chair and thanked current committee members for all their time and efforts.

Carol Bradshaw also stood down after her three years as Chair, though she will remain an active committee member. To mark all the hard work both she and Sally have put into our u3a Alison Botha (newly elected Chair) presented them with plants for their gardens on behalf of the membership.

Following this there was a lively debate about new ideas for our u3a as it grows and develops. Suggestions included alternating speaker meetings with social gatherings; having a Group Leader training session; organising more days out (e.g. Kew Gardens); starting new groups such as dominoes or a discussion group.

Of course anything is possible – but volunteers are needed to enable these things to happen!

Your new committee is now :

Alison Botha	Chair
Dave Vodden	Vice chair
Alison Webb	Secretary
Angi Millard	Treasurer
Sally Forster	Groups Co-ordinator/ Membership secretary
Roger Skidmore	
Linda Christmas	
Carol Bradshaw	

All committee members stand down at each AGM and members may offer themselves for re-election within some constitutional limits.

A big thank you to our out-going committee members for all their work – namely Dina Jung (secretary), Fred Dawson and Sarah Innes (speaker co-ordinator).

And a big thank you to those who agreed to stand again for their willingness and all their hard work - namely Angi, Carol, Roger, Linda and Sally.

AGM minutes will be circulated in due course. Copies of the financial report were circulated prior to the AGM and will remain available on the website.



**Alison Webb, Secretary and
Dave Vodden, Vice-Chair**



Charity Quiz

We had a wonderful response to support this annual 4Ps Charity event run by Maggie and Kelvin Currie from Vectis Radio. We all turned up at the IW College restaurant at around 6.00pm, to be welcomed by Emanuel and his team. I had booked three tables of eight this year (nightmare to organise!) and we had a selection of u3a, Wight Writers, Apollo Theatre and Hobnobs brains. I did encourage everyone to mix and it seemed to work very well.

Alan Gregory was again Quiz Master extraordinaire and he kept us thinking with a wide range of topics - Which country is the largest wine producer in the world? What flag is that? Who attended his own lookalike contest and came third?



The Italian pasta dish was really delicious and there was plenty of bread, salad etc. as well.

To round off the evening the raffle was drawn and most people ended up with at least one prize. I won a donkey adoption and a bottle of Chateau Neuf du Pape.

Pop it in your diaries for next year, particularly those who applied too late this year or got Covid.

On a sad note, Emanuel (maître d') announced that he was leaving. What a loss he will be...

Glenys x

**New Coffee Morning
Ryde Castle, Monday
December 19th**

We will be holding coffee mornings all around the Island. Could you be a host at a venue near you?

Look Good for Christmas!



Our plan in this group is to lose weight week by week whilst trying to avoid the words 'fat', 'diet' and 'naughty'.

We are learning to challenge the idea that trying to lose weight is a miserable process and we're having a lot of laughs every week doing this.

Everyone is following their own route and the group offers support and encouragement when required.

So far the nine of us have lost a total of 39lbs!

This is now a closed group until January 2023 when we will open it again to new members.

Currently we meet in St Lawrence but if there is enough interest next year we could move to Newport.

Happy eating!

Alison Botha

Contact: Alisonbotha@hotmail.com

Creative Writers

The creative writing group continues to meet on the first Thursday of the month in Newport.

This month they have offered us an anthology of their work. It can be accessed on our website through this link: <https://u3asites.org.uk/isle-of-wight/page/120094>

Winter Photography Competition

“Winter Warmers”

Deadline for submissions - noon 15th February 2023

Winning announcement - Mar-April newsletter 2023

The judges will be Fred Dawson LRCP and Elizabeth Fox.



Cooking with Yeast

Eddie George delighted the five participants in his cooking with yeast course. In the comfort of his beautiful home and kitchen, he shared with us the techniques that he had garnered from years of research on the best ways with yeast and flour. The goal? The perfect French baguette - or at least one that is better than can be bought on this side of the channel.

Eddie's secret is to use a two-step fermentation process over 48 hours. He demonstrated each stage in the process with a Fanny Craddock style 'Here is one that I prepared earlier' so we saw the 'poolish' (the first stage created) and then used for the second stage which followed the 'autolising' of the flour.

He then used a dough 'created yesterday' for the final stage of forming and raising the baguettes, which were then cooked and eaten with a delicious

lunch - stage 4. The lunch closed with a delicious Savarin - also prepared earlier!

Interspersed among the various stages of the baguette process we were also treated to a comparison between Eddie's yeast and soda flat breads, and in spare moments - a quick wholemeal loaf.

Eddie's recipe for soda flat bread is given below. A masterclass in multi-tasking. Eddie' preformed all this in a mere two hours in his extremely efficiently organised, compact galley kitchen - all the while chatting and being a relaxed and careful host.

Many thanks Eddie. There is surely the foundation for a cookery group here, although it would be an extremely tough act to follow.

Eddie is willing to repeat the workshop in the New Year so register your interest now!

Soda Flat Bread

Ingredients:

150g Flour
Half teaspoon bicarb.
Half teaspoon baking powder
Tablespoon oil
Yoghurt 75g
Water to make dough
Salt to taste

Directions:

Mix ingredients to a dough and knead 5 minutes
Dry fry on griddle or frying pan

N.B.

Add nuts, seed, herbs

Let's Go!

A group to support members doing whatever takes their fancy - hands up those in favour of saying YES.

What would you like to "Say Yes" to?

- The Mary Rose Exhibition in Portsmouth, 28th November 2022
- Mottisfont Garden, June 2023 for the Roses?
- Horse Racing?
- A Strictly Dance Lesson?
- Your wildest dreams?

Share your ideas and Let's Go!

Sally

groups@u3awight.uk



French Film Matinée

The French Film Matinée, in conjunction with Ventnor Arts Club, has moved to 15:00 on the 3rd Monday.

November's film on Monday 21st will be Le Mepris - Jean-Luc Godard.

December's film on Monday 19th will be La Gloire de Mon Père - Yves Robert
Film from the novel by Marcel Pagnol

Contact groups@u3awight.uk if you are not already on the circulation list.

Craft & Games Afternoon Tuesday November 22nd Newport

There will be Rummikub, Mah-Jong, Scabble and cards. Bring along your favourite game or craft and see who wants to play.

Cribbage is also played at the Cowes Community Centre. Anyone is welcome to attend. We have between 12 -20 players turn up for a 6.30 start every Thursday evening. We are a mixed ability group, friendly and helpful. We play by picking a concealed number and therefore it could be a game with 4, 3 or 2 people; normally 6 games ending about 9.00pm.

It is not necessary to join the club; there is plenty of parking; it is only £1 per session. There is a subsidised bar or tea/coffee/chocolate are available.

For more info anyone can phone me on 01983 717759.

Jane Dixon

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.
teresareed@btopenworld.com

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. Please do let me know.

November 16th - We will be lunching and parking at The Culver Haven Inn (on the way to Bembridge) as there is a suitable walk from there. They have good reviews and an extensive menu with many smaller plate options too. There are lovely views and hopefully it won't be too hilly. Might be windy but fingers crossed? But will be nice. It's a 2.7 mile walk so I will stay with 10.30 or 10.45 - to be confirmed.

December 21st - will be Totland to Colwell and back, along the seafront starting at 11am, slow walkers could set off earlier, and then a Christmas lunch at the Waterfront at £19.95 for two courses or £24.95 for three. I am checking to see if the normal menu is available too. The Christmas menu is on their website. It will be necessary to pre-book and pay a deposit well in advance so I will send out an early request once it's settled.

Carole Anderson

carolea48@gmail.com

Beach Walks

Beach walks are open to all members. The dates and venues are advertised in the monthly diary. The walks are usually on the last Wednesday of the

month but the start time depends on the location and tide times. Those walks that are by the sea but on paved walkways start at 10:30 but the start of those that are actually along sandy beaches are tide dependant. Each month, one week before the walks I email all members to remind them of the walk, the meeting point and the start time. All you have to do is let me know if you are coming so that we can wait for everyone before we set off. Do come along. Well-behaved dogs are welcome.

The November beach walk on the 30th will be from Cowes to Gurnard and back - maybe taking in a hot chocolate or similar on the way. You can choose whether to walk the whole way or just part of it.

The December beach walk on the 28th will be at Compton Bay. The beach is accessed by steps. Start time to be advised nearer the time.

Carol

carolbradshaw@u3awight.uk

Eat Out and Review - Nov/Dec

Attention all food Lovers - the November meal at the Isle of Wight College November 10th is now full and we will report back in the next newsletter.

The December event will be Brunch at the Lifeboat in East Cowes on Monday December 12th at 10:00.

Please let me know in good time if you would like to join us. Also let me know if you have an idea for a January meal - whether it is an old favourite or somewhere that you are keen to try - just book a table for 10 at your chosen date and time and let us know.

Sally

groups@u3awight.uk

Film Studies



Reviews of films we have seen:

Toscana (2022) - Review by Dina Jung
Toscana is a Danish Rom-Com about a Chef in Tuscany. This was not the type of film we would normally choose and found it rather lightweight and non thought-provoking. The photography was OK but the story line was so predictable you could work out the whole plot in the first scene. It was a bit like a fairy-tale and we thought it was a waste of time watching and would not recommend it. However, we all learnt how to thoroughly clean a kitchen.

Bohemian Rhapsody (2018) - Review by Jan Tavill
Bohemian Rhapsody a must see film particularly for fans of Queen and Freddy Mercury. It takes you through the trials and tribulations that made Freddy the legend he is today even after his passing. Starts with Live Aid and ends with Live Aid. Beautifully put together, great acting, superb music, what more can you ask for. Enjoyed by us all....highly recommended.

Benediction (2021) - Review by Paul Bowskill

Benediction is a biopic about Siegfried Sassoon, a WWI poet, who was a war hero. He became disillusioned with war and was admitted to a mental hospital as an alternative to court martial, which he would have preferred as he wanted to be a martyr. He then spent the rest of his life looking for a purpose that he never found. Definitely a thoughtful film, but probably best appreciated if you know some of the history first.

Forthcoming Films:

14/11/22 "**The Father**" A film about dementia starring Anthony Hopkins and Olivia Coleman.

28/11/22 "**The Talented Mr Ripley**" A thriller directed by the Isle of Wight's own Anthony Minghella and featuring Matt Damon, Jude Law and Gwyneth Paltrow

12/12/22 "**The Good Nurse**" Crime/ Drama. It is based upon a true story about a nurse who murdered her patients.

All meetings are via Zoom and start at 5.30pm on Mondays. Anyone interested in the group can contact me at this address:

bowskill.paul@gmail.com

Mah-Jong +

The introduction to Mah-Jong on November 21st is now full. There will be another one in the New Year so register your interest now.

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.

Contact:

Sally
groups@u3awight.uk



Spanish Improvers



Space available for someone with a basic foundation in Spanish.

The group is friendly and welcoming. There is no pressure: 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

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

Mary
melongley1@gmail.com

French Conversation



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

These three conversation groups are all aimed at having fun while endeavouring to speak French. There is no teacher, we share the responsibility for supporting each other to improve or at least not lose what French we have.

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.

New language groups

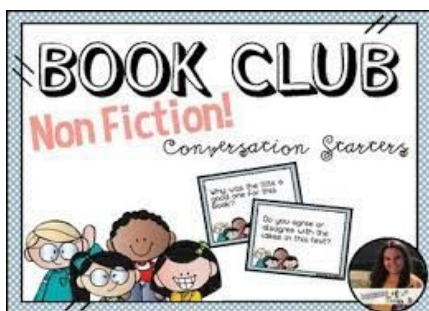
Beginners' Spanish (10am) and Beginners' Italian (11am)



Starting Saturday November 12th in Newport.

Led by Isabelle Schloesing. Isabelle speaks Italian, Spanish, French and Turkish and in addition to being willing to teach beginners' groups for us, Isabelle can offer private small group lessons in these languages.

Contact groups@u3awight.uk



Non-Fiction Book Group

Meeting on Zoom, third Tuesday
at 16:45

As a small but friendly and welcoming group we have read, chewed, enjoyed and learned from a good variety of books and, more recently, also related talks, on TED Talks and YouTube. Topics have ranged across the biography of a ship, ancestors of Darwin's thinking, addressing the environmental crisis, the genesis of the Oxford English Dictionary, the 'self' in philosophy, physical geography and its consequences, and private education in UK.

Lined up for the start of our second year are books on human nature, the rise and fall of a Yorkshire mining dynasty, lessons from research on the long-lived, and the good fortune and responsibilities of we 'Baby Boomers'. Interested? Get in touch and join us...

We have room for a few more members.

Nigel Hastings

hastingsnigel01@gmail.com

Reading Group

We meet on the first Tuesday of the month to talk about what we are reading.

The next meeting will be in Newport 6th December at 15:00 at Utilita, in Newport High Street.

We sit and natter about the books we are reading, 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

A new member has just joined our group which brings our numbers up to eight, so we are now full; but if anyone is interested, we can put their name on a waiting list.

We usually meet on the first Friday of each month in Wootton and have already chosen titles up to December. These include 'Tidelands' by Phillipa Gregory and 'Bel Canto' by Ann Patchett.

Allison Rogers

01983 616634

davidallison36@hotmail.com

Walk and Talk Gardens

Mid-October saw our last garden visit of the year. Amazingly enough, after our summer drought the plants have come back to life with salvias, asters and dahlias predominating and the nerines being the star of the show. This summer has shown us the resilience of many plants and some, given up for lost, have re-emerged in the cooler and damper conditions. Some plants which were in full sun have died while the same plant in a different, perhaps more shady situation, has survived. Cuttings taken later than usual because of the excessive heat have already rooted, so there will be replacements for lost plants.

We had some excitement during the visit when someone said "I did not know you had a stream in your garden". I don't! Within minutes the corner of the garden and greenhouse were flooded and the, by now, river, continued its journey to flood the lawn

next door, much to the consternation of our elderly neighbour. The water board were soon on the job and the flood subsided.

It was so mild that we had tea and cake in the garden followed by the usual exchange of plants and seeds.

Beryl

Monday Garden Group

The Monday Gardeners' Group have hung up their trowels and are taking a well-earned rest till next year. We hope to meet up in a garden or two before resuming our programme of visiting each other's gardens in the Spring.

Thanks for all your support.
Happy gardening.

Patricia and Robin
Robintyler60@gmail.com

The Photography Group had a meet-up on 31st October at Yarmouth, including myself, Beryl and Derek. The weather was on the change with light rain blowing in the wind. This made for an interesting challenge to capture the mood of the weather. I experimented with some bracketed shots and merging them using software as an example of high dynamic range photography. We finished by having coffee at Gossips Cafe by the pier.

The next meeting is scheduled for November 21st but may change, as this is my birthday. Members will be notified of any changes in advance.

The assignment for the next meeting is "Autumn Colours."

At the November meeting members will be discussing their photographs followed by short talk about high dynamic range photography.

Fred Dawson LRPS
fred.wp.dawson@gmail.com



Green Issues

The format of the Climate Crisis Meeting has changed slightly and we now start with a Question/Information session which is really useful. The topic last month was different types of low-energy heating with videos on heat pumps and infrared panels. An interesting discussion followed.

The talk will be on the Trust website www.u3a.org.uk if you would like to see it.

Dina

Dina.jung@gmail.com



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

Technology and Communications

The future form of technology and communications group is currently under review. Your thoughts on what you would like to get from the group and how the group should function would be welcomed.



Fred Dawson LRPS

fred.wp.dawson@gmail.com

Allotment Gardening

Allotment Gardeners have retired to their sofas with tea and seed catalogues to plan their next growing season. 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

Family History

The Family History Group holds five Workshops between October and March. We currently meet on the third Thursday of the month at 2.00pm in Brighstone.

To benefit, members ideally need to bring their own laptop, iPad/device and a have a paid subscription to either Ancestry.co.uk or FindmyPast but this is not essential.



We also hold a Christmas Get-Together and a Summer Lunch. During April, we hope to arrange a half-day visit to a place of interest for family historians. There is a summer recess from May to October.

Alison

rhawebb@gmail.com

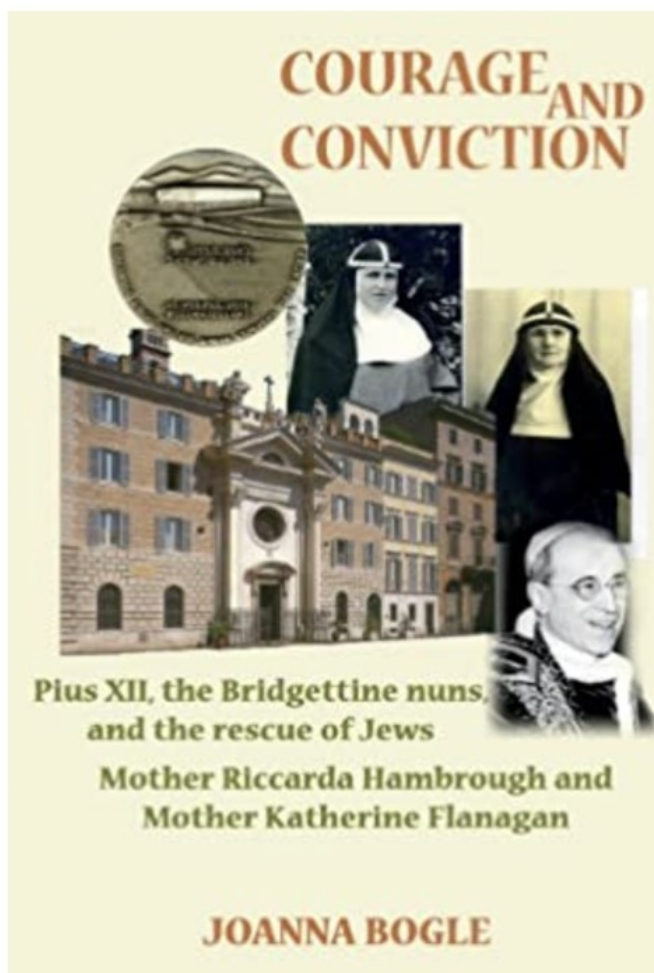
Speaker and Social

Thursday 10th November 2022

14:00 – 16:00

St John's Church Hall,
St John's Road, Newport, PO30 1LN

"Courage and Conviction" by Joanna Bogle



Joanna Bogle will tell us the remarkable story of Mother Riccarda Hambrough (of the Ventnor Hambrough's) who hid Italian Jews from the Nazis in her convent Casa di Santa Brigida in Rome.