

May - June 2023

Message from our Chair

For those of you who might have skimmed (or maybe even not read!!) my last message in the Newsletter, may I politely repeat the u3a ethos? However many brilliant suggestions for new groups or events there are, none of them will get off the ground unless somebody steps forward to take the initiative and start the ball rolling.

Our membership numbers are increasing and we have seen the recent success of several new groups. However there is always room for more!

Our small committee of volunteers facilitates the smooth running of our u3a, producing the Newsletter and Diary, ensuring good communication,

generating publicity, looking after the finances, welcoming new members and generally keeping things ticking over. But we are not there to develop new groups or one-off activities. So please don't be shy about stepping forward and volunteering to do something. You will be very well supported!

A big thank you to Tony Williams who has joined the committee as membership secretary.

Meanwhile hopefully we will all enjoy a wonderful month of blossom, blue skies and birdsong as summer approaches.

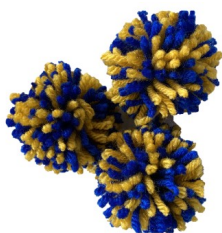
Happy May (and June)!

Alison Botha
chair@u3awight.uk



Speaker and Social Meetings

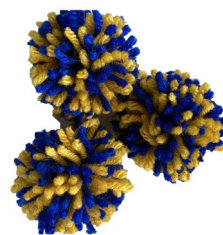
14:00, 2nd Thursday of the month
See details on back page.



Coffee Mornings around the Island:
1st Wednesday of the month at 10:30
at the Bargeman's Rest in Newport,
2nd Monday, Winter Gardens Ventnor, at 11:00
4th Tuesday, Ryde Castle, at 11:00

and Cowes, 10:30 May 17th; Yaverland 10:30 June 21st.

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



New Bookies' Favourites

A new book club will be starting in May. This will be centred around the Ryde/ Binstead area but anyone is welcome to join so long as we have room.

The group will meet every six weeks or so, on a flexible basis, as and when everyone can get together. Some sessions may be in the morning and others in the afternoon or even the evening.

The first meeting will be on Monday 15th May at 10.30 am in Ryde and will be a "getting to know you" session there we can chat about the kind of books/ genre that we enjoy and anything new that you think we could explore. Perhaps you could come along with a suggested title for future discussion?

As well as meeting in members' homes, we plan to also meet in local pubs and cafes out in the community. If a venue isn't on a bus route, maybe we could think about car sharing.

Contact Allison Rogers
davidallison36@hotmail.com

Please let Allison know if you are able to join us on May 15th. We are looking forward to meeting you soon.

New Wine Appreciation Groups

The first meeting of the Wootton wine tasting group was attended by a small group eager to appreciate wine and learn more. They will meet next in Wootton on May Monday 15th at 17:30 and have space for others to join them. There will be a planning meeting in Cowes on Tuesday May 9th to see if there is an appetite for a group in Cowes.

Contact
groups@u3awight.uk



U3a Card Making Group

£3.00 per session covers cost of materials and refreshments.
On the first Thursday of each month 10.30 am to 12.30 pm

Steephill Road, Shanklin, PO37 6AB

07903 933292

teresareed@btopenworld.com

Come and learn creative making your own pleasure. materials just bring pen and and have



join in to various ideas cards at pace and All provided, along a notepad some fun.

Refreshments included.
Please contact Teresa.
Max 5 persons per session.

The Third Age Matters magazine had an article on page 4 about [Pickleball](#). My interest was aroused so much so that I wondered if there were any others of like mind prepared to form a group? If so please contact me, Helena Hewston, at sybug@aol.com to discuss.

There is also a one day Pickleball festival in Yarmouth on June 24th - if you are interested Let's Go.

Thank you, Helena Hewston

New French Happy Hour - Are you interested in meeting for a casual natter in French, no home work, no grammar, just to chat? **First meeting - Bargeman's Rest, Newport, 16:00, Monday May 29th.**

Contact groups@u3awight.uk

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?

Tuesday, 9th May - Cycling with Dave – see page 14...

Monday, May 22nd Table tennis try-out! Taster session at Smallbrook stadium in Ryde 14:00-16:00 cost £4 per head. The club has kindly agreed to open up especially for u3a members on this afternoon. Come along and meet other u3a table tennis enthusiasts and find out more about table tennis on the Island.

Saturday, May 27th
Fossil hunting at Hampstead, 10.30

Friday, June 2nd
Squirrel hide walk, Newchurch, 10.30

These are both guided walks kindly offered by Ray Braithwaite. Unfortunately both walks can only accommodate limited numbers, include styles and are not suitable for dogs.

Solstice Sunrise
Tuesday, June 21st
Come and celebrate the sun rise at 4:43 on the longest day of the year. Welcome the sun, in your own way, in solitude, with a prayer, a chant or a little jig, according to taste.

Meet at Culver Down Car park by 4:35am. Bring a picnic breakfast. Bring a swimming costume for an early morning dip if you can not resist!

Round the Island Race
Saturday July 1st

Another breakfast picnic - but this time on Tennyson Down for the Round the Island yacht race followed by a swim at Freshwater Bay for those who cannot resist.

Discover Bonchurch
Monday July 3rd - £3 pp, plus possible lunch afterwards.
This walk is kindly offered by David Wight. David is a local historian and will share with us some of the historical and literary connections to Bonchurch. Numbers.

Eat-Out & Review
Wednesday July 5th, No 7, Niton - (sneak pre-review, truly delicious Pizzas).

Have you eaten out somewhere wonderful recently, is there somewhere that you are longing to try, or do you just fancy a meal out with some congenial company?

Then book a table and invite us to join you! A bit like eat out to help out - give your local hostelry a bit of a boost by sharing them with us.

Full Moon Swim
Tuesday, August 1st
And another swim - this time an evening one on the full moon of August the 1st - beach & time to be advised! Where would you recommend?

Over to you!

What would you like to do, go, eat, see? What are your ideas for future Let's Go activities. The committee will support you to make an event happen but the ideas need to come from you.

Sally
groups@u3awight.uk

Scrabble Group

The Scrabble group continues to enjoy friendly, competitive games (yes they can be both!) at each other's homes. We are learning many new words that even the most seasoned players haven't come across before . . . Xebec for example! There are spaces for one or two more if you are interested. The next sessions are on Friday May 19th at 2pm in St Lawrence, and Friday June 23rd, 2pm, venue to be arranged.

Contact **Alison Botha** for details:
alisonbotha@hotmail.com



Signs of the Times: A dance through History 2

The second meeting of our new group which explores history through pubs and their signs will take place on Monday 5th June 2023, 14:00 at **The Traveller's Joy**, 85 Pallance Road, Northwood, PO31 8LS.

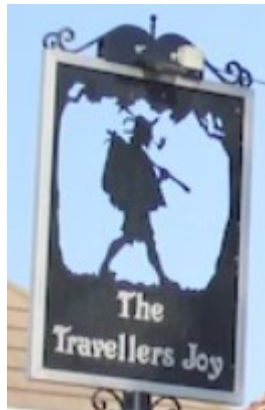
The theme of this June's meeting will be exotic animals: Lions, Horses and Mythological creatures.

New members welcome. Come along and join the fun, local and national history with a different twist.

Meets 1st Monday of the month, 14:00.

Ray Scarfe

Contact rayscarfe@hotmail.co.uk



Cribbage Group

Enjoyable games were played in March and April. If you would like to be in an email group that gets notified when Cribbage games are being played contact groups@u3awight.uk or contact Christine on 01983 811562 and leave a message.

Exploring Poems

Anne Timoney of East Cowes is inviting u3a members to join a small group exploring poems that meets 13:30 - 15:30 on the first Tuesday of each month at the East Side Curve (new building beside the Town Hall in East Cowes.)

"For those who might enjoy spending time with a poem: an opportunity to sit with, investigate, discuss a poem or two each month."

Members suggest poems for the following month's meeting.

To receive poems for the next meeting, please email exploringpoemseastcowes@gmail.com

Sunday Cookery Club

In April we explored Indian spices and made, and enjoyed, a vegetable curry followed by a treacle tart. Our first experiment in collective cooking!

On May 21st gluten free lasagne will be the star of the show.

We have space for a couple more members.

Contact groups@u3awight.uk

News from the Groups

Walk & Lunch

Held on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at various locations. May 17th walk will be Newchurch with lunch at The Pointer Inn, 12.30 pm (full details to be sent out on May 10th)

You can walk and dine, or just walk, or just dine if you wish – all are welcome – including well behaved dogs!

Please let Carole know - especially if you are a slow walker carolea48@gmail.com

Indoor Bowls

Towards the end of April, sixteen of us spent a very enjoyable morning at the Isle of Wight Indoor Bowls Club on the outskirts of Ryde. Most of us had no idea this fantastic sports facility exists (including a café) and were surprised to learn they have over 400 members.

We were lucky enough to receive tuition from some very experienced coaches and it gave us the opportunity to think about whether or not to become more involved in the game.

There is an opportunity to sign up for a beginners' course in Sept/October – and maybe some of us might even join the club and become league players!



Radio Enthusiasts

There is a small group of radio enthusiasts on the island. If you would like to make contact with them contact Fred: fred.wp.dawson@gmail.com

Beach Walks

The **May** beach walk will be along Compton Beach on Wednesday 31st.

Access to the beach is via steps which have handrails. The start time is tide dependent so I will email the start time the week before.

The **June** Beach walk will be between Cowes and Gurnard along the promenade on Wednesday 28th.

10:30 start from Cowes

Beach walks are open to all members and are held on the last Wednesday of each month. The location varies and is sometimes actually on the beach and other times on the paths or promenades by the sea. Everyone is welcome, including well-behaved dogs.

Come and have a walk by the sea, a bit of a chat and perhaps a hot drink (or cold) at the end of it. Let me know if you would like to come.

Carol Bradshaw

carolbradshaw@u3awight.uk
077488 86246

Mah-Jong +

The Mah-Jong group is growing steadily. Arrangements are made for beginners as needed. There is a game every Friday afternoon at the Cowes Community Centre.

In addition we have a Craft & Games group that meets in Newport on the last Tuesday of the month and we meet in people's homes from time to time.

Contact:

Sally
groups@u3awight.uk



News from the Groups

Film Studies

Reviews of recent films (mostly on Netflix) we have seen and discussed:

“[The Viceroy’s House](#)” (2017) Based on the story of Partition, Chaddah's film illustrates clearly the factual series of sequences which evolved when the Mountbatten's arrived to oversee the concluding part of the transition. Chaddah addresses the tragedy of a million people, Gandhi's fruitless journey to Downing Street meeting Churchill, the intense discussions between key Indian and Pakistan Leaders, the emotional heartbreak of friends and families and finally discussing the question of oil. Chaddah manages to successfully document all of this with splendid film scenes, a dynamic music score and an excellent cast. A film not to be missed.

Patricia Price

“[Bank of Dave](#)” (2023) What a lovely film based on a true story, set in Burnley in the North of England. Dave is a local lad who has done well for himself. It all started when a local lady needed help to pay for her husband's funeral. He then decided to help local businesses by setting up a community bank. This is the story of the trials and tribulations he went through to enable this to happen. The film also incorporates a bit of romance and comedy.

Jan Tavill

“[All Quiet On The Western Front](#)” (2022) In 1914 Paul Baumer and his classmates enlist in the German Army to fight for their country. They are readily dispatched to the Western Front and soon face the realities of war. The film is a difficult watch as it is unrelenting in its portrayal of life in the trenches and the trauma experienced by the new recruits. The sound track - an electronic score adds to the dehumanisation felt by the soldiers as they are reduced to being the weapons of their own destruction. Our group was divided on this choice of film due to the

violence shown but we thought it quite timely to view as war is once again on European shores.

Fern Present

“[Victoria and Abdul](#)” (2017) A historical drama with Judi Dench, excellent as the elderly Queen Victoria, scandalising the court with her affection for a good-looking Indian servant, rather like her earlier relationship with John Brown at Balmoral. Unfortunately, most letters and gifts were destroyed by Edward VII after Victoria's death, making it difficult to know how deep their relationship really was. Perhaps the plot is a bit predictable, but the filming is sumptuous and the location at Osbourne adds interest. A good family film.

Paul Bowskill

Our future films for discussion are:

Monday 1st May "[Four Good Days](#)" (2020) Addiction and family relationships.

Monday 15th May "[Life of Brian](#)" (1979) (*I didn't realise it was that old!*)

Monday 29th May "[The Courier](#)" (2020) A businessman recruited as a British spy involved with the 1960's Cuban missile crisis. Based on true events.

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



News from the Groups

Wine Tasting

We enjoyed the third meeting of the Wine Appreciation group in St Lawrence on the 20th April, with a theme of «Off the Beaten Track», sampling wines from places rarely considered, such as Georgia and Romania.

The winner this time was a delicious medium-bodied red, Thymiopoulos Xinomavro, from Greece.

Frank

frankj.kelly@icloud.com



Info, copy, errors and omissions etc. to the editor:

rogerskid@zen.co.uk 07732 480201

Humanist Philosophy

Joint meeting with IW Humanists -

“How Jesus the Myth, became Jesus the Man”

How early Christian writers failed to fit Christ into history.

Peter Marchant is a historian and researcher of the origins of Christianity. He is the author of ‘3 Peter: a Sceptic’s Guide to the Origins of Christianity’.

Tuesday 9th May, 7.00 pm, Riverside Centre, Newport, IW.

U3a Humanist Group meets on the second Tuesday of the month alongside the [IW Humanist group](#) to discuss a neutral ethical approach to life.

Contact Roger for more details
rogerskid@zen.co.uk
or... just turn up!

K-dramas Zoom discussion

K-dramas (Netflix) has not yet developed a great following (second Monday) but the more engaging dramas (mostly complex romantic) are listed on the [u3a website](#).

Your editor has discovered that the beautiful and engaging theme music accompanying some of the series is available on Spotify as ready-made “playlists”.

Monday May 8th, 7.00 pm discuss:
[Extraordinary Attorney Woo Young-Woo](#)

Monday June 12th 7.00 pm discuss “[Chocolate](#)” and join the caring revolution - it’s never as straight-forward as you think.

Other titles:
[Start-Up](#); (A.I.)
[Encounter](#);
[Forecasting Love and Weather](#);
[Itaewon Class](#);
[The King’s Affection](#)



Zoom link for all meetings is [here](#).

News from the Groups

Spanish Improvers

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.



Thank you to Keith who got this group - our first language group - up and running. Keith is now busy again as his cruise work has resumed post-covid. His friend Lola, from Spain will continue to coach the group and there is probably space for one or two new people with a foundation in Spanish.

Contact groups@u3awight.uk

Spanish and Italian with Isabelle, at Utilita in Newport...

Spanish Beginners

On Saturdays, (13.00 pm) the Spanish beginner group is going well.

We go at our own pace, and I am always ready to spend time again on things we have already studied. It is one of the advantages of u3a: plenty of time!

Italian Beginners

Saturday 14:00

and

Italian Conversation

Saturday 15:00



Contact Isabelle Schloesing

Isabelle.schloesing@btinternet.com

Isabelle also teaches French, Italian, Spanish and Turkish privately.

French Conversation



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

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

Contact groups@u3awight.uk if you are interested in French conversation.

French Film Club

In conjunction with Ventnor Arts
3rd Monday of the month 15:00

May 15th : La Grande Vadrouille

June 19th Les Diaboliques

Anthea

anthealangelaan@yahoo.co.uk

German

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



The Beginners/Improvers' Group has a couple of vacancies now, so if you'd like to refresh vague memories of school-days' 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

News from the Groups

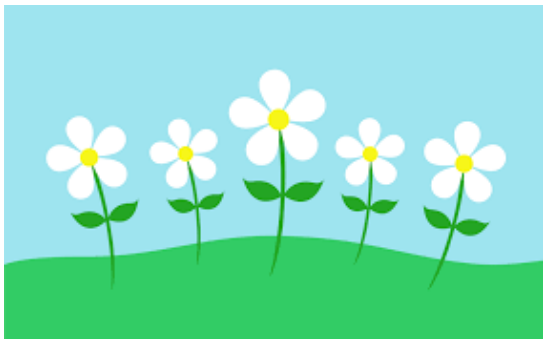
Feel Good for Spring!

Feel Good for Spring: We shall continue our support/chat/share sessions until early June. After that we will relaunch as simply the 'Feel Good' group, which will be open to members new and old. The group meets fortnightly on Friday mornings at 10.30 am, alternating between St. Lawrence and Godshill.

We all agree that being part of this group provides us with encouragement and motivation to eat sensibly and hopefully lose some of those extra pounds. Watch this space for news of the relaunch. Meanwhile, Happy Eating!

Alison Botha

Contact: alisonbotha@hotmail.com



Discussion group

Do contact us if you'd like to hear more about our lively and enjoyable discussions. These are wide ranging. At our last meeting, for example, we discussed

- The advantages and disadvantages of genetically modified food
- Artificial Intelligence and the emergence of generative AI
- Issues around transgender identity
- Whether there should be a maximum age at which US presidential candidates can stand for re-election

There are lots to talk about and lots of views to be heard and responded to. Group members tell us about issues they'd like to discuss and what they regard as the main points.

We meet on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of every month between 10.30 and 12.00 at Utilita Hub, 121 High Street, Newport. **Our next two meetings are May 11th and 25th.**

Please contact Pauline
paulinehunter12@gmail.com
if you'd like to come along.

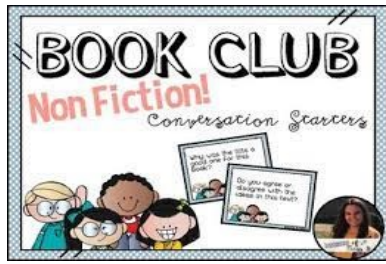
Pauline

If you would like to explore what the Internet could do for you, speak to a committee member at a coffee morning or speaker meeting or else call **Sally on 740511** and we will see what we can do to help. Age UK also runs courses -

AgeUK: call 01983 525282
digital@ageuk.org.uk
www.ageuk.org.uk



News from the Groups



Non-Fiction Book Group

Zoom, 3rd Tuesday, at 17:00

We've gone 'a bit philosophical' of late. Stephen Greenblatt's book 'The Swerve: How the Renaissance Began' is largely about the discovery by one Poggio Bracciolini in the early 15th Century of possibly the sole remaining copy of Lucretius' poem 'On the Nature of Things'. Drawing on the earlier writing of Epicurus, Lucretius' poem explains how everything is composed of atoms, there is no creator, day of judgement or after-life and that life should be for pleasure and avoidance of pain - a view that did not prosper in post-Roman, Christian Europe but, Greenblatt argues, was a root of the Renaissance.

In Travels with Epicurus: Meditations from a Greek Island on the Pleasures of Old Age, septuagenarian Daniel Klien uses Epicurus as a guide to growing old gracefully, abandoning all efforts to be younger than we are, like botox, cosmetic dentistry and extreme exercise. Epicurus proves to be, as Lucretius felt, a wonderful mentor for living simply and happily, perhaps especially in our dilapidating years.

Nigel Hastings

hastingsnigel01@gmail.com

Reading Group

We meet monthly and discuss what ever we are reading - sometimes with a question about why, sometimes just with delight. We are now going to take a summer recess and take our reading to the beach. To resume in September.

Sally groups@u3awight.uk

Wootton Book Group

We continue to enjoy lively discussions about the books that we have chosen to discuss.

Our book in March, 'The Switch' by Beth O'Leary, divided the group between those who enjoyed the storyline and humour and those that were not convinced about the characters nor their antics!

We did not meet in April due to ill health and commitments but at our next meeting on Friday May 5th we plan to all bring along some party food so we can celebrate the coronation as well as talking about 'Marriage Portrait' by Maggie O'Farrell.

After one of the group introduced us to Maggie O'Farrell in January, we enjoyed her style of writing so much, that one of us picked another of her novels for her book choice this month. We meet 1st Friday of the month at 14:00.

As our group is full and we have had many enquiries about joining two of us have decided to set up another group. It is called 'Bookies Favourites' and details are in this newsletter (page 2).

Allison Rogers

01983 616634

davidallison36@hotmail.com

Walk and Talk about Gardens

Our garden group held its first garden visit at the end of April. It was great to meet up again and talk about gardens, plants we have lost and those we intend to buy or propagate to replace them and also to exchange ideas.

The garden we visited is a delightful small garden, in fact a very small garden, but absolutely packed with treasures. The back garden has a white theme with dashes of pale pink or blue, but we sadly missed the large evergreen clematis which sadly died during our very difficult winter, with its extremes of cold and wet. Room has been made for a small pond and surprisingly enough, two chickens! The front garden is quite different with strong primary colours and again some interesting plants. A really lovely garden and one that shows how much interest can be crammed into a small space.

The strawberry pavlova and coffee and walnut cake were delicious. I do hope the standard has not been set too high as we are not all such talented cooks.

The people who belong to the group have many interests and are busy people and sometimes in spring and summer find that they are unable to attend all the visits. We set the limit at 13 people, which would have been far too many if everyone had turned up at the last garden, but we have decided that we could take another two people, if anyone is interested. We meet on a Wednesday at 2.00 pm, usually on the second and fourth Wednesday of the month from April until October.

**Happy Gardening,
Beryl Tillman**



Monday Gardeners

The Garden Group meets every 2nd Monday and 4th Tuesday, Spring to Autumn, in each other's gardens.

We love gardens, looking at gardens, talking about gardens, admiring each other's gardens, sharing knowledge, relaxing in gardens, just love well, just love gardens!

Gardeners are supportive and generous, sharing cuttings, seeds and excesses, knowledge and enthusiasm. Mostly though we enjoy tea and a cake, each other's company and our lovely surroundings here on the Island.

We are now looking forward to the growing season ahead, each other's company and would welcome new members to join us.

Robin and Patricia
robintyler60@gmail.com

Allotment Gardeners

This month we held a brief meeting after the monthly speaker meeting at St John's church hall. We had already decided that a competition would be held to determine who could grow the largest onion and the biggest sunflower head. To this end I had grown exhibition seedlings and Rachael produced the sunflower seedlings. These were shared between the members present and will be judged in September when they should be fully matured.

Our next meeting will be on the 11th May at Morrison's cafeteria at 2.00 pm

Peter Dorsett
peterdorsett4@gmail.com

Green Issues - Climate Crisis

u3a Climate Change Network

GREEN ISSUES taps into the nationwide Climate Crisis Group and takes advantage of the expertise of u3a members from across the country,

We have monthly meetings on the 4th Wednesday of the month at 10.30 am starting with a question time, which is very useful for specific things you need answers to. This is followed by a video or talk on up-to-date, worldwide information, covering a wide range of environmental problems and solutions which is then followed by a discussion and comments time.

If you would like to join the Zoom meetings then contact Rien at <http://u3acommunities.org/climate> to let him know and he will send you the Zoom link every month. It's well worth joining, with much to learn about the latest developments in environmental matters, debunking information and saving money in some cases.

Hope to "see" you there.
Dina Jung

www.u3asites.org.uk/climate-change/events



Family History

The Family History group continues to evolve and meet the needs of our members through small 'hands on' workshops. These are held on the 3rd Thursdays and focus on research skills to help make the most of online websites such as Ancestry and FindmyPast.

Workshops are full at present but additional ones will be held from next October according to demand.

All members ideally need to bring their own laptop, iPad/device and have a paid subscription to either Ancestry or FindmyPast but this is not essential. Just be enthusiastic!

Alison
rhawebb@gmail.com



Creative Writers

We have some enthusiastic writers completing monthly challenges at home and exercises in the session. Recent creativity has included looking at journalistic styles, report writing and personification. Two members are determined on writing a novel while the remainder enjoy being creative with words. Next month's challenge is to write an obituary in 250 words and a crime situation in 1,000 words.

Read the latest essay by Jeremy [here](#).

Regards to all,

Helena Hewston
sybug@aol.com

Walk the Wight - May 14th

Walk the Wight is on Sunday, May 14 this year, raising funds for the Mountbatten Hospice on the Isle of Wight. Have you considered taking part?

Full details are available on their website www.mountbatten.org.uk

Why not join other u3a members to form one or more walking groups to share the experience?

Contact Dave Vodden to be matched up with other walkers. Also contact Dave if you would like to sponsor a u3a walker.

Email: vice.chair@u3awight.uk or seek us out at a coffee morning.



Car Sharing

It makes perfect sense for members travelling to the same venue to share transport, but we know that some find it awkward to ask for a lift without offering payment.



To get round any embarrassment the committee is suggesting that there is a mileage rate of 33p for car sharing.

This involves the driver making a note of the miles covered, multiplying by 33 then dividing by the number of people in the car (including driver.)

Any parking charges should be included in the total. This is a voluntary arrangement and this is just a guideline to make the negotiation easier.

According to the Association of British Insurers your car insurance should be OK with this but it is worth checking with your own insurance company if you have any concerns.

Editor's Book of the Month:

***The Killer in the Kremlin (2022)* - a very contemporary account of Vladimir Putin's tyranny, by John Sweeney. [Kindle Edition 99p](#) for limited time.**

In the midst of one of the darkest acts of aggression in modern history - Russia's invasion of Ukraine - this book shines a light on Putin's rule and poses urgent questions about how the world must respond. John Sweeney was in Bakhmut when he finished the book as recently as November 2022.

Note - these 99p introductory offers are time limited.



Spotlight on....

Our Vice-Chair, Dave Vodden



Born in Swansea, South Wales, I moved to the Isle of Wight in 1969 via Birmingham University and retired 10 years ago. Married to Sue for nearly fifty years, we have lived in the same house in Ryde for fifty years as well! In my professional career I worked for three Island engineering companies, and travelled the world in that role. Hobbies include DIY, classic cars, walking, cycling and acapella singing.

I have been a u3a member for about 2 years, and Vice Chair since last autumn. My u3a 'group' activities are mainly walking (walk and dine, beach walks etc.), cycling, and social functions.

Cycling with Dave

Cycling – Spring is here, so it is time to dust off that bike, pump up those tyres, check the brakes and mechanicals and join us for a leisurely ride on one of the Island's quiet cycleways. Not been on a bike for a while? – no problem – all abilities and cycle types welcome!

First ride is on Tuesday 9 May, starting 10.30 from outside The Breeze at Island Harbour (plenty of free parking) A leisurely ride via the riverside cycle ways to Newport and then on to Cowes. There we can stop for coffee/ice cream etc. as riders wish when we also plan to discuss future rides before returning via the same route.

Anyone interested please contact...

Dave Vodden

dave.vodden@tiscali.co.uk



Tai Chi Taster

A small group of us joined Sylvia for an enlightening and for some enjoyable introduction to Tai Chi & Qigong - once we had found the right scout hut! Those of you who expressed an interest but were unable to attend would be welcome at the next session on May 15th. For some aged joints, work on ankles and knees felt too much, for others there is still hope that Tai Chi, slow but sure, will help to maintain joint strength and flexibility. An interesting and meditative practice.

Speaker Meetings

As you know the Committee organises a speaker meeting each month for members. It is both a social occasion and a chance to be entertained and/ or to learn something new about a multitude of topics. Thank you to those of you who come along.

Although we have this year's programme planned, we would really like some suggestions from you for what you would like to hear talks about or, more importantly, perhaps, who you would like to hear as a speaker.

If you have heard or know of any good speakers on the Island, or further afield that you can recommend do let us know. Thank you to *Dale Godfrey* who has helped out by recommending a number of speakers that she has heard. Can you do the same?

Contact me to help us make the ongoing programme as rich and varied as we would like it to be.

carolbradshaw@u3awight.uk

Speaker Meeting Programme 2023-24:

2023

Jan - Planets by Stokey

Feb - Pon my Puff by Dr Charles Lansley

Mar - Invasions Of the Wight by Mark Earp

Apr - Sue Ryder by Jo Bogle

May - Social

Jun - "The Latter Days of King Charles I from Carisbrooke Castle to Chopping Block"
by Kevin Shaw

Jul - No speaker meeting (as last year)

Aug - No speaker meeting (as last year)

Sep - David Fairlamb 'Wight Wildlife through the Seasons' - [possible guided walk](#)

Oct - Beaver Recovery Programme

Nov- Sarah Lang or Princess Beatrix as Governor of IW or Christmas traditions?

Dec - Social

2024

Jan -

Feb - Donkey Sanctuary

Mar - Mark Earp History of Film and TV?

Apr - to be confirmed

Speaker Meetings

Thursday 11th May at 14:00

Spring Social-Arreton Community Centre

For a change, this month's Thursday meeting will be a Social.

For those of you who enjoyed the Christmas Social, we will be repeating the Daisy Wheel form of socialising which enables us to meet as many people as possible for a short (5 minute) chat before moving on.

Tea, coffee, cake and biscuits will be available both at the start and the end so we don't have to disrupt the circle. We will have access to small tables which will make setting up much easier.

The social will be held at **Arreton Community Centre**, on the main Arreton to Sandown Road A3056.

There is car parking and it is on the Number 8 bus route from Ryde (stops right outside) and Newport (Dairyman's Daughter).



Looking forward to seeing you all there on **Thursday May 11th at 14.00**

Thursday 8th June at 14:00

St John's Hall, Newport, PO30 1LN

The Latter Days of Charles I: from Carisbrooke to Chopping Block
by Kevin Shaw

This talk regales the remarkable and emotive story of this famous monarch. It explains how his self-belief and royal high-handedness, combined with a clumsy stubbornness, led Charles successively but tragically into Civil War and defeat, captivity, flight to the

Isle of Wight, imprisonment in Carisbrooke Castle, and ultimately (after endless plotting and many intriguing escape attempts) to his 'trial' and execution in London - bringing an end to the monarchy he so adored.