

### July - August 2023

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#### Message from our Chair

Hello all and welcome to what looks like being a couple of months of hosepipe bans, hot sunny days and many opportunities to relax at home while the tourists do their thing!

I have my serious hat on today . . . on behalf of our committee I am asking for HELP in several different ways.

Because u3as are run BY the members FOR the members, the sad reality is that if we don't get a positive response then this u3a will cease to function. It is that stark.

We need you, we need all sorts of skills, experience and expertise. It can even be fun!

Please contact me if you think you are willing to help take this u3a on to thrive further.

We have nearly 260 members and it would be lovely if more of you could

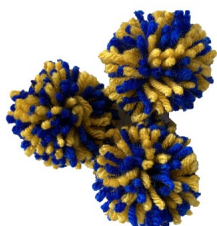
become more personally involved as we develop and grow. We do understand that for a variety of reasons some of you are unable to do more than attend the monthly speaker meetings, or belong to just one group – which is absolutely fine of course.

However for those of you who wouldn't mind taking on a bit more of an active role – then this message is aimed at you!

PLEASE HAVE A LOOK AT [PAGE 2](#) where you will find further details of this heartfelt plea. *THANK YOU.*

**Alison Botha**

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



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**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 11:00 (but not August)**

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



# Urgent message from the Chair!

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## WE NEED YOU !

### 1 We need people to volunteer to run new groups that interest them.

There is plenty of support available but you have to step forward and contact Sally. Groups are the lifeblood of the u3a. Some might go on for years, some might run for just a few sessions.

As group leader you suggest the focus of the group, whether it is learning to play poker, reading Chekov or cooking on a budget. You don't need to be an expert in the subject! You can also decide where, when and how often the group meets. You can decide to limit the membership or open it to everyone.

2 Sally Forster is our current Groups Coordinator, a role she has fulfilled with enthusiasm, energy and passion for over 3 years. However it will soon be time for her to step back and take some well-deserved rest.

We need HELP finding a new Groups Coordinator. It is a job that would profit from being shared between 2, 3 or even more people - could you be one of those people? The groups coordinators are not responsible for initiating or leading new groups - that is down to members.

A description of the coordinator's role can be found at the bottom [page 18](#) It is a pivotal role, ensuring that our groups run smoothly and effectively. Sally will be standing down at the next AGM.

3 We need more committee members to share their expertise.  
We meet monthly (not July/August).

- 4 We are looking for someone to be our Social Media Coordinator. You would need to be comfortable managing websites and have good communication skills.
- 5 Volunteers are needed for our publicity days at Wolverton Fair and St Thomas' Square, Newport in September.
- 6 And finally . . . some back-up support is required in the production of our Newsletter which comes out every couple of months. Roger Skidmore and Sally work together to get this valuable information out to members, so there will be a big gap when Sally steps down.

**PLEASE LET ME KNOW IF  
YOU ARE INTERESTED  
IN ANY OF THE ABOVE.**

*Alison Botha*, [chair@u3awight.uk](mailto:chair@u3awight.uk)



## New: Bridge at home Group

Sara Gilding is starting the new Bridge group. We have four interested players now and should have had our first game by the time you read this.

(Note - this group is not for beginners but rather those who have a good understanding of the game).

Please contact Sara ....if you would like to join us playing bridge at home.

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



## 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. However, a variety of obstacles prevented this group from taking shape.

Another exploratory group meeting also took place in Cowes on June 27th. A wine tasting group needs to take place in someone's home and have a reasonable number of attendees if it is not to become unreasonably expensive.

This group will now meet monthly on the last Tuesday of the month.

### Contact

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



## New: Bookies' Favourites - first report

A first meeting of this Ryde-based book group took place over coffee and biscuits. There was a lot of lively discussion around our likes and dislikes when choosing a book to read for ourselves. Whilst we had a lot in common, each of us had favourite authors that the others hadn't come across. We agreed that we would like to extend our experiences across a range of genres, cultures and time frames.

Our choice for discussion at the next meeting at Monkton Arts in six weeks' time, is "The Hare with Amber Eyes" by Edmund De Waal. At the following meeting we will be talking about "Never" by Ken Follett. If you think you would like to join us we would love to see you. We hope to meet in a variety of local cafes, pubs etc.

Please contact : [stephedwards2@gmail.com](mailto:stephedwards2@gmail.com) for dates and times.

## 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](mailto:fred.wp.dawson@gmail.com)



## 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?

Since the last newsletter we have been busy. Tai Chi taster, table tennis taster, a solstice sunrise, a dawn swim, two walks with Ray Braithewaite - both excellent. Ray's enthusiasm for local history and local wildlife coupled with his own history as a metal detectorist made both walks fascinating in addition to being beautiful walks in stunning weather.

The fossil walk led to some interesting finds - including fossilised poo and a shark's tooth.



## Dates for July & August::

### 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.

### Pétanque, Pickle-Ball, Tennis or Croquet anyone?

Saturday July 8th, Open Day, Ryde Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club, Playstreet Lane, Ryde, PO33 3LJ

Alison Botha [chair@u3awight.uk](mailto:chair@u3awight.uk)

### Moonlight Swim

**Tuesday, August 1st**

And another swim - this time an evening one on the full moon of August the 1st. Meet on Ventnor Beach, at 9:15 pm.

## Dates for September:

### Walk The Wight

**Sandown to Shide eight miles.**

Would an eight mile flat walk be an achievement for you? Would you like to be part of the Walk The Wight fun?

Come and train with us and build your stamina and your confidence. Training walks, starting in September with the aim of building up to 8 miles in time for Walk The Wight in May 2024! Challenge yourself gently and safely in good company.

### Ventnor Art Experience

Ventnor Artist Collective are currently providing monthly 3 hour workshops based at Trinity Church Hall Ventnor.

An invitation to U3A members is proposed for an Art Experience in September 2023. To help develop artistic interests in a friendly group environment. Exploring painting skills using prepared images in a medium of your own choice, all abilities are welcome. More information and dates to follow.

### Newport Jazz Festival September 14th - 17th

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

## u3a 'Let's Go!' Summer Solstice Sunrise 21 June 2023

On a chilly but glorious summer morning about a dozen bleary eyed u3a members, together with about the same number of non-u3a watchers, got up bright and early to watch the 4.52am sunrise from the monument at Culver Down. The weather was good with generally clear skies but some cloud in the east which initially masked the sun but later provided a more interesting skyline.

The event was further enhanced by birthday girl Carole Anderson bringing along homemade cake for us all to share!

Six hardy souls then went for a dawn swim.

*Dave Vodden*



## St Lawrence Wine Group July/August

We thoroughly enjoyed our May and June meetings recently, and there were shock winners on both occasions. In May it was 'Sparkling Wine', and a good quality Prosecco (DOCG) beat a Champagne at twice the price, and at the June 'Pinot Noir' gathering, a £6.50 Romanian bottle came top against pricier others up to £26.99! I think this shows it is worth trying wines from less fashionable places!

**Frank**

[frankj.kelly@icloud.com](mailto:frankj.kelly@icloud.com)



## Humanist Philosophy

Tuesday 11th July, 7.00 pm, Riverside Centre, Newport, joint meeting with IW Humanists -

**Avril Lucas on "Funeral Planning"**

(August - no meeting)

[rogerskid@zen.co.uk](mailto:rogerskid@zen.co.uk)



# News from the Groups

## Scrabble Group

Our next games session will be in Shanklin, 2.00 pm on Thursday, July 27th.

Numbers limited to 10, so please contact Corinne [corinnewhite@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:corinnewhite@hotmail.co.uk) as soon as possible if you would like to take part.



## Signs of the Times: A Dance through History, 3

Come and join us for a "dance through history", At our second meeting we talked of Red Lions, White Horses and Mythical Beasts. We related these to both the Island and mainland locations and chatted about their associated histories.

The theme for the next meeting will be saints and sinners: not many of the first but plenty of the second!

Monday 3rd of July, 2pm at **The Traveller's Joy**, 85 Pallance Road, Northwood, PO31 8LS. Local and national history with a different twist. New members welcome.



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

**Ray Scarfe**

Contact [rayscarfe@hotmail.co.uk](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:exploringpoemseastcowes@gmail.com)

## Sunday Cookery Club

In May we explored vegetarian, gluten free Lasagna and made Tiramisu,

And Sunday July 2nd we will have Thai salmon fish cakes with Asian slaw and summer pudding.

We will then recess until September. We have space for a couple more members.

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

# News from the Groups

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## Walk & Lunch

**Held on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at various locations.**

Thank you to Carole who has held this group for the last year. We are putting together a new structure for the autumn where we will ask different people to volunteer to lead a well researched route. We have volunteers to organise the lunch, volunteer- to research the walks, a volunteer to be 'Tail-end-Charlie', volunteers to plan the slow-walk, and a volunteer to coordinate the volunteers. All we need now are the walks and volunteers to lead them.

In the meantime the July walk on the 19th will be in Parkhurst Forest with lunch at the Blacksmiths Arms at 12:45. Full details will be sent nearer the time. There will be no walk in August.

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

The May walk was simplified, we walked the sea front from Cowes to Gurnard and lunched at the Woodvale which was enjoyed by all at the beginning of the glorious sunny weather.

The June walk was on the day of the solstice, following the sunrise on Culver Down and an early swim at Yaverland, we walked from Yaverland beach up and over Culver Down and on to the Propellor Inn where we had a delightful lunch once again in glorious sunshine

**Sally**

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

## Beach Walks

The May beach walk was along Compton Beach on Wednesday 31st. It was a beautiful morning and not only did we walk almost all of the way along to the Freshwater steps, on the return we also walked round the corner back towards Brook and saw several of the dinosaur footprint fossils - always a thrill.

I had a change of heart about the June beach walk on the 28th and rather than walk along the promenade from Cowes to Gurnard which at this time of year is quite busy, we walked on the beach at Yaverland. It is just so lovely there that, in this case, I feel repetition is a good thing.

There will be no organised beach walks in July and August so the next one will be in September on Wednesday 27th between Cowes and Gurnard and back along the promenade. 10:30 start from Cowes. Meet in front of M&S.

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](mailto:carolbradshaw@u3awight.uk)  
077488 86246

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## Mah-Jong +

The Mah-Jong group is growing steadily. A small group meets in Cowes weekly. We also meet in peoples' homes.

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



## Film Studies

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



**“As Good as it Gets”** Well, you couldn’t do this 1997 film today but this film’s harmless poking at cultural silliness provided a couple of hours of entertainment and self-probing. Jack Nicholson and Helen Hunt cross swords with Greg Kinnear giving an excellent performance as the gay go-between on their tortuous path to mutual understanding. A five star film. James L Brook’s genius strikes at some cultural quirks again when we discuss [“Spanglish”](#) on Monday July 10th.

### ***Roger Skidmore***

**“Four Good Days”** We all found the film harrowing, but certainly worthwhile. Molly the daughter became addicted after being prescribed OxyContin, a slow release form of Oxycodone, an opiate similar to Morphine, for a knee injury. It was marketed to doctors in the USA as being non-addictive (which it definitely wasn’t) by Purdue Pharma controlled by the Sackler family.

### **“Life of Brian” 1979**

The Python’s most successful film and considered one of the best comedies of all time. About Brian, a man who is mistaken for the Messiah. We all enjoyed it, although its theme of religious satire was controversial at the time. This resulted in it being banned in several countries, including Ireland, Norway and Italy. The film was then promoted with posters reading “So funny it was banned in Norway” Funding was provided by George Harrison after EMI pulled out due to concerns about content. We thought the film had aged well and did not consider it blasphemous, although it does poke fun at religious and cultural practices. It is certainly not “Woke” but definitely recommended.

### **“The Courier” 2020**

Benedict Cumberbatch as Greville Wynne, a real British businessman, who was

recruited in 1960 by MI5 and the CIA to bring back information from Oleg Penkovsky, a Russian official who wanted to de-escalate the threat of nuclear war. It is initially unclear if Wynne’s motives are patriotic, or monetary, but a genuine friendship develops between the two men and Wynne volunteers to return to Russia, even though his cover is probably compromised. Wynne is imprisoned, but subsequently released in a spy exchange, Penkovsky is shot. The information obtained was useful to America and helped avert nuclear war during the Cuban Missile Crisis. We considered it to be a competent, well acted, spy thriller, but perhaps a little slow at times. However it is based on a true story and deserves to be seen.

### **“45 Years” 2015**

Our opinions were definitely divided on this one. It is the story of how a couple’s 45 year marriage is tested when the body of the husband’s old girlfriend emerges from a glacier where she had died 50 years ago. It features Charlotte Rampling and Tom Courtenay as the couple and we all considered the acting was excellent. However, although some thought 45 Years was an engaging film, examining how past events can shape the present, others could not get involved with the plot or thought it mundane. If you like a traditional theatrical drama, watch it, but if not, perhaps give it a miss.

### ***Paul Bowskill***

All meetings are via Zoom and start at 5.30pm on alternate Mondays. Anyone interested in the group can contact Paul at this address: [bowskill.paul@gmail.com](mailto:bowskill.paul@gmail.com)

### **Future Film Discussions:**

10th July **“Spanglish”** 2004  
American comedy-drama about culture clash

24th July **“The Circle”** 2017  
Techno-thriller about social media and surveillance



## May Cycle Ride

Our first ride of the year attracted six riders and started at Island Harbour on the Medina River, and from there alongside the river on the cycle path to Newport Town Quay. We then took the road for a few metres past the Quay Arts Centre before turning right, cycling past the Bargemen's Rest and on to the West Cowes cycleway via Little London, the cycleway being the old disused Newport to Cowes railway line.

Once in Cowes we rode up quiet roads towards the town centre, stopping at the Duke of York for a coffee and natter. Once refreshed we retraced our tracks back to Island harbour via Newport to end a very successful first ride!

## June Cycle Ride

For our second ride of the year we chose a longer route, but still relatively flat for most of the way, again following the Red Squirrel Trail for much of the ride, this following disused railway lines and quiet country roads.

Our journey started at Merston, heading east along the cycle way through Horringford, Langbridge and Alverstone and on to Sandown. A short ride along Perone Way, then under the current railway line and on to Sandown sea front, only part of which is open to cyclists. Carefully passing morning walkers we stopped at the Tradewinds Café for a hot beverage and natter in the sunshine.

Refreshed we continued along the seafront to Shanklin, up Hope Hill (a steep hill which is easy on an e-bike!) and on to Shanklin station where we walked down the steps and across the road to Lower Hyde and the start of the cycleway to Wroxall. This is a delightful section with trees overhanging the track, and popular with walkers and cyclists of all ages. Once in Wroxall we proceeded along the main road to the Appuldurcombe Road turning, We then departed from the Red Squirrel route, which now follows a very bumpy track, and followed the National Cycle Network route along Redhill Lane which is a quiet, scenic country road, taking us to Sandford. Crossing the main road we then followed Lessland Lane taking us to Hale Common.

Crossing the main Newport to Lake road, we passed Thompson's Garden Centre and on to Newchurch where we rejoined the cycleway to Newport, stopping at Pedlar's Café for a delightful lunch outside in the sunshine, before heading back to Merston.

Altogether a most enjoyable ride in convivial company, and recommended to riders of all abilities in whole or part.

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**The Red Squirrel Trail** is a network of 32 miles on the Island, much of which follows the Island's disused railway routes. Route maps and descriptions are available for free download at [redsquirreltrail.org.uk](http://redsquirreltrail.org.uk).

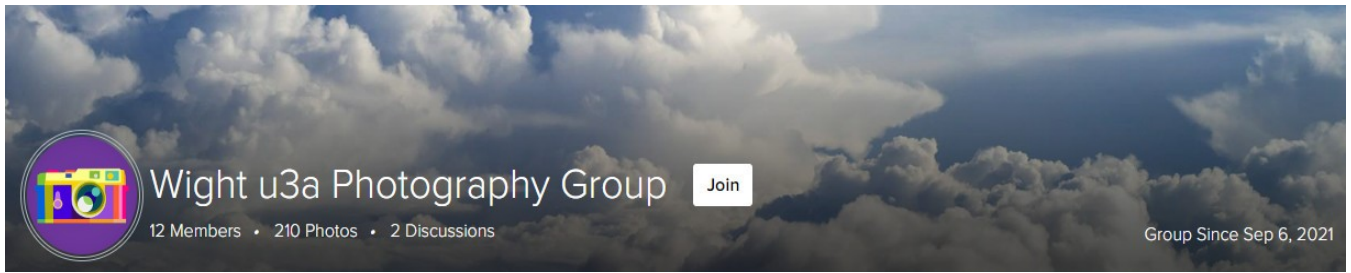
We plan to do a cycle ride once a month whilst the weather is favourable, except for August. The next rides will be on **July 4th**, then **September 5th**. To be kept informed of cycle rides please email [dave.vodden@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:dave.vodden@tiscali.co.uk).

Or maybe you would like to suggest a new route for a future ride!

**Dave Vodden**



# News from the Groups



## Photography

Examples of members' work can be found at: <https://www.flickr.com/groups/14827860@N22/pool/>

**At the meeting held on 19 June**, there was a lively discussion about the recent assignment to produce a panel of 3 to 4 images. These can be viewed on the Flickr Wight u3a group page: <https://www.flickr.com/groups/14827860@N22/pool/with/52985052762/>

The pros and cons of mirrorless cameras were discussed together with some aspects of exposure metering.

The assignment for presentation and discussion at the next meeting is "Photographing an Event", e.g. the County Show. This is limited to four images to be uploaded to the Flickr Wight u3a group page. Ian will explain how he goes about photographing staged events and the difficulties caused by stage lighting.

The next meeting is July 17 at 14:00  
If dropping in, just let me know and I will send you a zoom link.

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

**Forthcoming dates:** Zoom- Monday 17th July at 14:00

Physical meet-up Thursday 27 July 14:00, when the emphasis will be on landscape photography. Meet at the Jubilee car park, Lynch Lane, Brighstone, PO30 4JH.

At the May meeting we discussed how to develop your personal photographic style these are a couple of links that may be of help:

<https://carlacoulson.com/how-to-find-your-photographic-style/>

<https://www.kevinlj.com/how-to-develop-your-personal-photography-style/>



St Helens, by  
Ian Johnston.

# News from the Groups

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## 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.

*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](mailto:groups@u3awight.uk)

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

### Spanish Beginners



On Saturdays, (13.00 pm) the Spanish beginner group is going well with 6 to 9 people.

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!

## Allotment Gardeners

On the 22nd June our group visited my allotment at Carisbrooke. I showed them the range of vegetables and fruit that I grow and gave them a conducted tour of the Carisbrooke allotments.

On the Thursday 13th of July we will visit Rebecca's allotment in Ryde where she has promised, weather permitting, a barbecue to which we will add the sausages and burgers.

*Peter Dorsett*

[peterdorsett4@gmail.com](mailto:peterdorsett4@gmail.com)

## Italian Beginners

**Saturday 14:00**

and

**Italian Conversation**

**Saturday 15:00**



- Italian has 3 to 4 members

-Italian conversation, though with enthusiastic people at the beginning, seems to have gone down, not to say simply died. The 2 last Saturdays, I found myself alone there. But the participants apologised by mail - they are on holiday. Same case for the other groups actually.

It was better having no one for Italian conversation as last Saturday, I suddenly saw a large group of women entering the room, I immediately started to marvel at all those "amateurs" but then quickly stopped dreaming: it was Women of the Labour Party! There was an error in the schedule concerning the occupation of the place. Problem now solved.

**Contact Isabelle Schloesing**

[Isabelle.schloesing@btinternet.com](mailto:Isabelle.schloesing@btinternet.com)

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

# News from the Groups

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## French Conversation

Friday am: Lake

Friday pm: Newport

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](mailto:groups@u3awight.uk)

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## French Film Club

In conjunction with Ventnor Arts Club. To resume in September

Contact [anthealangelan@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:anthealangelan@yahoo.co.uk)

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## French Happy Hour

The first meeting was a definite success and this will now be a regular monthly event, held in the last week of the month. Watch the Diary for dates.

**Bargeman's Rest, Newport, 16:00**

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

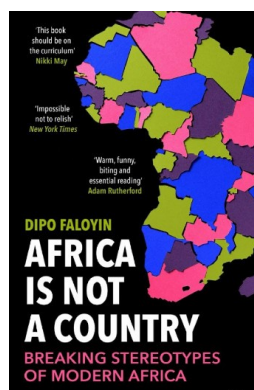
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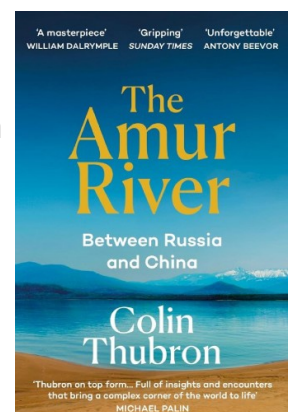
## Editor's books of the month:

**"Africa Is Not A Country: Breaking Stereotypes of Modern Africa"** by Dipo Faloyin.

A bright portrait of modern Africa that pushes back against harmful stereotypes to tell a more comprehensive story, together with a history of how Africa got chopped up the way it is.



And **"The Amur River: Between Russia and China"** by Colin Thubron. In his eightieth year, Colin Thubron takes a dramatic and often treacherous journey from the Amur's secret source to its giant mouth, covering almost 3,000 miles.



# News from the Groups

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## Feel Good for Summer!

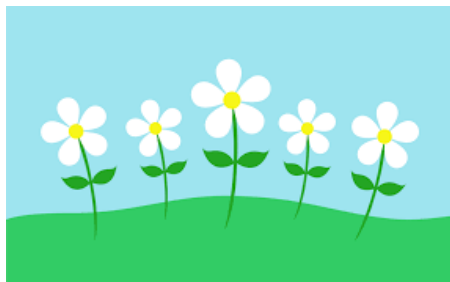
We have come to the end of our third 'term' and are thrilled with our latest results. Between us (9 members) we have managed to lose a total of 4 stone 13 lbs which is brilliant (though I have to mention that one of our group surpassed herself and reached her target weight by losing just over 2 stones!) However weight loss is just one of aims – we meet primarily to discuss healthy eating and how to break unhealthy habits, along with 101 other subjects associated with food . . .

One of our members has volunteered to start the next 'term' right away, so please contact Glenda if you are interested, and agree a time/date that would suit you [glenda.w@talktalk.net](mailto:glenda.w@talktalk.net).

If there is not much interest we plan to relaunch in September. Happy eating!

## Alison Botha

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



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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](mailto:digital@ageuk.org.uk)  
[www.ageuk.org.uk](http://www.ageuk.org.uk)

## Discussion Group

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

- *Aspects of health, e.g. obesity, vaping and herbal medicine.*
- *Artificial Intelligence - Self-driving vehicles. AI companion chatbots.*
- *The working population and sickness levels.*
- *The USA - Impact of imports from China. Reasons for Donald Trump's continuing popularity.*

There's 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 the main discussion points arising from these.

We meet on the second and fourth **Thursday** of every month between 10.30 and 12.00 at **Utilita Hub**, 121 High Street, Newport.

Our meeting dates from July are on July 13th and 27th; August 10th and 24th, and September 14th and 28th.

Please contact Pauline [paulinehunter12@gmail.com](mailto:paulinehunter12@gmail.com) if you'd like to come along.

## Pauline

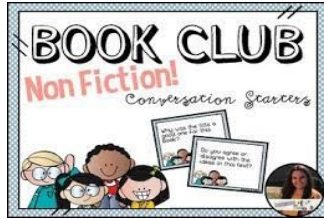


# News from the Groups

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## Non-Fiction Book Group

Zoom, 3rd  
Tuesday, at 17:00



We are a small but welcoming group of folk interested in extending our knowledge and understanding by reading non-fiction and/or sometimes listening to on-line talks and, of course, chewing things over together.

We try to choose books that are readily available in audio and/or digital form as well as 'used' condition.

Forthcoming reads are:

**Being Wrong** by Kathryn Schultz  
**Why We Sleep** by Matthew Walker  
**Do No Harm** by Henry Marsh

**Nigel Hastings** 07967 371635  
[hastingsnigel01@gmail.com](mailto:hastingsnigel01@gmail.com)

## Creative Writers

The Creative Writing Group meeting in the Utility Hub on the first Thursday of each month has had moments of inspiration resulting in a couple of downloads for readers of the newsletter to enjoy.

For those interested in writing a novel, examples of structure and grammar have been discussed as well as looking at our own particular style of writing. We do comment of the variety of angles we come up with and all give us enjoyment. We like the venue. It is comfortably conducive to sharing ideas and putting pen to paper.

Also thanks to Sally for her support.

Regards to all,  
**Helena Hewston** [sybug@aol.com](mailto:sybug@aol.com)

Past essays are available via the Writing Group page on the web site.

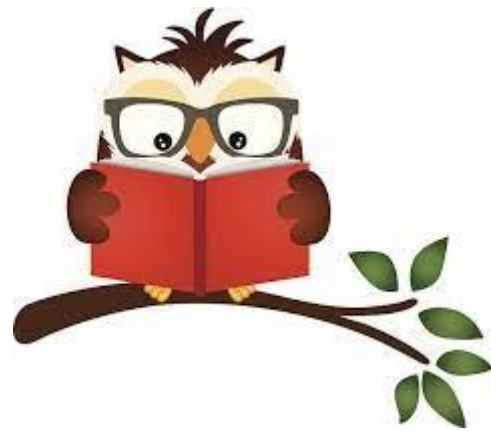
## Reading Group

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](mailto:groups@u3awight.uk)



## Wootton Book Group

We had a great session in May when we enjoyed a Coronation Picnic and discussed 'The Marriage Portrait' which we all agreed was beautifully written.

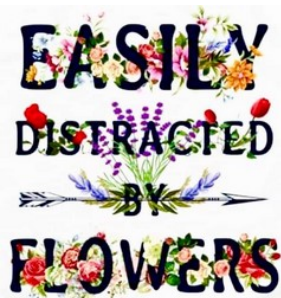
Our next two titles for July and August are, 'Before I Go To Sleep' by S.J.Watson and 'Longbourn' by Jo Baker, which is a reimagining of 'Pride and Prejudice' from the point of view of the servants.

We meet in Wootton on the first Friday of the month except this month when we are meeting on the 14th July (second Friday).

**Allison Rogers**  
01983 616634  
[davidallison36@hotmail.com](mailto:davidallison36@hotmail.com)

## News from the Groups

### The Garden Group



The Garden Group have been enjoying their Summer visits to each others gardens.

After an early group visit to Ventnor Botanic Gardens, we went to Yafford to visit Sally's garden, followed by a trip to St Lawrence to see Alison's. May saw us visiting Glenda in Niton before coming to us in Winford later. In June we were in Ryde in Debbie's garden and later in the month we will be in Godshill at Michelle's. We are all looking forward to visiting Allison in Binstead in July and Angela's garden in Shanklin in August.

Thank you so much to everyone who has opened their garden to us and given us tea. It's really surprising how different our gardens are, one from another, but all flourishing after a slow wet & cold start to a hot dry summer! Our problems have been aired, from a soil that is muddy in Winter and rock hard in Summer, to gardening on chalk or sandy soil. There's usually someone with good ideas and useful tips to try out. We're always learning and planning ahead with optimism. We have plenty "free" slots left this summer so it's not too late to invite us into your garden if you can, just email us to let us know & arrange a date. Thank you again everybody, and see you all soon.



**Robin and Patricia**

[robintyler60@gmail.com](mailto:robintyler60@gmail.com)

### Walk and Talk about Gardens

What a glorious year this has been for roses, just masses and masses of blooms. As they are deep rooted they were able to tap into the water deep in the soil which fell earlier in the year. Unfortunately with the high temperatures the blooms did not last quite as long as we could have wished. We look forward to the second flowering.

We have had seen some lovely gardens this year with some exceptional plants. One garden has a large Eucalyptus, which could be a nuisance, but every two years the owners have it cut back to its main branches and all greenery stripped off lower down, which leaves the beautiful bark exposed. It looks like a giant cloud tree. Another garden has a Callistemon pallidus, a pale lemon bottle brush. This comes out before the normal red one and this year was absolutely covered in blooms.

I do not know whether you had a no-mow May but one gardener found something unexpected in their lawn, spotted by their gardener:



**Happy Gardening,  
Beryl Tillman**  
[tillmanberyl@gmail.com](mailto:tillmanberyl@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](http://www.u3asites.org.uk/climate-change/events)



## Family History

In May, the Family History Group visited the Isle of Wight Military Heritage Museum. We enjoyed the tasty café food and several members tried out the shooting range.

Our annual summer lunch was held at The Blacksmith's in mid June. The food, the views and excellent company, all combined to make a very successful get-together which rounded off our latest year of family history research.

The group is now on recess for the summer and will reconvene in October for the 2023/24 session.

Six workshops for new members and beginners will be held monthly on the first Thursday afternoons. Existing members will continue to meet on the third Thursday afternoons.

We focus on research skills to help make the most of online websites such as Ancestry and FindmyPast.

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](mailto:rhawebb@gmail.com)







## Spotlight on....

### Our newest committee member, Tony Williams

Born in Portsmouth and first moved to the Isle of Wight in the early 1980's when I joined a local engineering company having previously lived in London and Stafford.

I met my future wife a couple of years later and we eventually got married in 1989. During my business career I worked for a number of IT and engineering companies both in the UK and Europe finally ending up at the National Air Traffic Service (NATS) before retiring in 2022.

I used to play a lot of cricket and golf in my younger days but now my hobbies include chess, bridge and walking. I joined the u3a last autumn and recently took on the role of membership secretary as well as helping out in the Walking and Lunch group. During the winter I played in the national u3a chess leagues.

(Membership Secretary [shidehouse@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:shidehouse@yahoo.co.uk))



## Please be aware that...

this is a scam; I fell for it and potentially lost £530, which isn't a huge amount of money, but the effect it has had on me has been monumental. I couldn't eat for two days as I felt so sick with apprehension, worry and feelings of stupidity. The above telephone number is not anything to do with Microsoft; do not call; even if the notice on your device is saying it's blocked and to unblock you need to call - DON'T; it's a scam.



Even though part of me knew I should have put the phone down I still carried on; they're very clever, continuously reassuring you; it was only when I checked my bank balance on my mobile that I came to my senses; there was a £400 M&S voucher which I certainly hadn't ordered.

The only good thing about this experience is that I'll never let this happen again. Please please be careful; it's been one of the worst experiences of my life.

*Angi Millard*

*P.S. Google "Trading Standards IW" for more advice. Ed.*

## Group Coordinators' Role

We need new people to take on the role of coordinating groups. A job easily shared by many. The essence of the role is to support members who want to create and run a new group. It is a role that is supported by the whole committee and by The Third Age Trust.

Groups are the heart of the u3a.

### Main responsibilities:

- \* Gather suggestions from members for new interest groups
- \* Provide encouragement and support for groups, help them organise where and how often they will meet, how they will gather 'knowledge', who will be the main contact point for the membership.
- \* Help to publicise the new group via the website, newsletter, diary, monthly meetings etc.
- \* Provide support with any challenges (with the support of the committee).
- \* Monitor group numbers and where there are waiting lists encourage members to start new groups.

- \* Inform group facilitators about support, policies, and resources available from the Trust
- \* Work as a team with other group coordinators and send a representative to committee meetings. The committee meets once a month (not July or August)

### Why would you want to do this?

I may have worked hard in the last 3 years but I have also enjoyed meeting so many new people. I have chatted to over 300 new and prospective members. It is so much easier to chat to a stranger when you have a job to do!

I also enjoy seeing people having fun, doing something new, and feeling satisfied.

I know that you are a busy person but it doesn't need to be a big time commitment. If you would like to see what part you might like to play come and chat to the committee about what is involved.

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

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## Facebook

We have both a Facebook members private **group** and a Facebook open **page**:



The Facebook Members **Group** - is for members to share ideas, meeting plans, pictures and thank-yous and can be found at:

[www.facebook.com/groups/iowu3a](http://www.facebook.com/groups/iowu3a)

Only members of the Isle of Wight u3a can be members of the Facebook group and you need to 'join' the group by pressing the 'join' button.

The Facebook **Page** is a public page viewable at:

[www.facebook.com/u3aWight](http://www.facebook.com/u3aWight)

We use it to spread the word about the Isle of Wight u3a. We publish the diary of events and occasional photographs of our activities there. If you think something is a good advertisement for the u3a then let us know and we will publish it. If you are a facebook user you can help us spread the word by liking the page and setting up links to it.



Our normal website is: [www.u3awight.uk](http://www.u3awight.uk)



## Speaker Meeting Programme 2023-24

(just to keep an overview)

### 2023

**Jul - No speaker meeting**

**Aug - No speaker meeting**

Sep - David Fairlamb - Wight Wildlife through the Seasons

Oct - Sarah Lang - Princess Beatrix as Governor of IW

Nov - Beaver Recovery Programme

Dec - Social (on Monday 11th)

### 2024 - planned...

Jan - Jeremy Thomas - National Coastwatch, Needles, about their work on the Island.

Feb - Donkey Sanctuary

Mar - Mark Earp - Every Pond Counts

Apr - Kevin Shaw- Lord Palmerston:

Britain's Most Outrageous Prime

Minister tbc

May- Social

## K-dramas Zoom discussion

The Netflix K-dramas we discuss are mostly engaging, complex and romantic (with happy endings). With subtitles, so ideal for everyone including hard of hearing. Discussion is second Monday in the month, 7.00 pm.

**July 10th** will be "[Do you like Brahms?](#)" widely agreed as the best in our series. A romance against a musical background with many twists and turns. Find out the answer!

**August 14th** will be "[Would you like a cup of coffee?](#)"

A series of charming barista tales.

Do you wish you'd learned ballet? Well, *never give up*. Watch "[Navillera](#)" - when a distracted ballet student is assigned the training of a 70 year old ballet aspirant.

***Love ballet at any age.***



Zoom link for all discussion meetings click [here](#) if viewing in PDF. For those not able to get out so much this is a confectionary box of engagement.

[rogerskid@zen.co.uk](mailto:rogerskid@zen.co.uk)

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

[rogerskid@zen.co.uk](mailto:rogerskid@zen.co.uk) 07732 480201



... and contact the editor if you would like to be part of a volunteer crew at the Quay Arts Centre.

## Speaker Meeting - Thursday September 14<sup>th</sup> 2023 at 14:00 St. John's Hall PO30 1LN

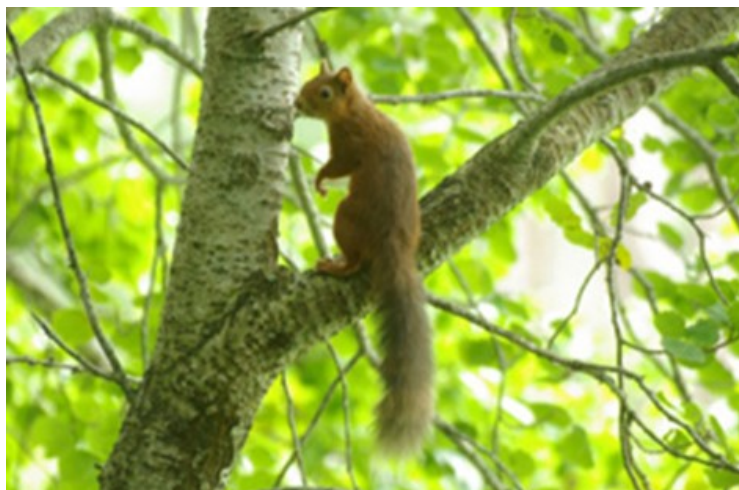
By David Fairlamb of Natural-Links

### “Wight Wildlife through the Seasons”

From the spectacular coastlines to the chalkland downs and the wetlands and woodlands, the Isle of Wight is rich in wildlife habitats. With one of the only populations of red squirrels in southern England and home to the rare glanville fritillary butterfly and starlet sea anemone, it is quite unique.

It is a bird-watchers paradise, with thousands of wildfowl and waders overwintering, nightingales, nightjars and bitterns breeding and a hotspot for spring and autumn migration, with regular rarities. With seabirds and cetaceans in the surrounding seas, it truly is a Wild-Isle.

I heard David give a talk to the Isle of Wight Beekeepers in February. I really enjoyed it and thought that you would too. I look forward to seeing you there.



**Carol.**

N.B. Diary note - the December Social will now be on a Monday, the 11th December.