

u3a
learn, laugh, live



**Southsea Beach Shelters by Lynne Foord
Art for All**

Newsletter Summer 2025

Website: www.u3asites.org.uk/portsmouth

<https://portsmouth.u3asite.uk/>

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Chairs report for the Summer term 2025

I wonder if you, like me, look back on the three terms that have passed and are bemused where the time has gone? Is it just a function of getting older or did I always think about time passing?

Anyway, enough of this whimsy and on to the things you want to know about. By the time you read this the booking for our summer lunch will have closed. I hope lots of you are able to come and celebrate the passing of another successful u3a year. It was good to see so many of you at the Easter social and of course we have the Cream tea event in the Hub cafe to enjoy. These socials are a chance for us to relax in the cafe and chat about our future plans, especially at summer. As usual we will be providing a full summer programme to take advantage of, and you will find the details at the end of this always informative and comprehensive newsletter.

It was pleasing to see so many new members attending our appropriately named New Members meeting in June. Our u3a is consistently growing in numbers and this gives us access to new people, new friends and new stories which help to refresh our membership. Which is not to say that members who have been with us for a while are not appreciated. We are an organisation which cares for each other and works together to provide a fun and knowledgeable learning experience.

I would like to pay tribute to our group leaders without whom we could not run the number of classes we do (25 at last count). It is thanks to their tireless efforts we are all able to learn and share expertise and experience. I must also mention my fellow committee members and their work, largely behind the scenes, which keeps the whole of Portsmouth u3a afloat, please forgive the maritime allusion.

I want to remind members that the membership fee will increase to £45 from this summer. This is to cover rising room hire costs, paying for the production of the newsletters, an annual payment to the Third Age Trust and a myriad of other things. Also please note that Monthly meetings will start at 2:00pm and the Speaker will start promptly at 3:00pm.

Now for the big grey lumbering elephant in the room, our Fortieth Anniversary celebrations on Friday 19th September. I first mentioned this in January and haven't stopped since. I want to thank members who have organised themselves to produce work for display or who will dazzle us with their poetry/ dramatic readings and singing, their comic talent and timing in joke telling and their sincere recollections of past members and how the u3a used to be. Thanks also to everyone who is contributing food for our party, and a special mention to Ken Snell who has offered to provide and pay for a celebration cake. Notable guests on the day will include the Lord Mayor of Portsmouth (Gerald Vernon- Jackson), our two MP's Stephen Morgan and Amanda Martin and three visitors from France who were very much involved with our Caen twinning. In addition, our former Chairs and past and present committee members will be acknowledged.

We will produce a souvenir programme for us all to keep with timings of the day. Specific information will be emailed to members at the start of September so you will know what time to arrive, the arrangements for food and displays and the order of entertainment (stage managed by Di Wren).

In closing I would like to share news of the passing of Nicholas Whyley, who hadn't been a member for too long, but long enough to make friends and enjoy several classes at the u3a. Also one of our members, Annette Welfare, lost her husband whilst they were holidaying abroad. Condolences to their friends and families.

Have a happy and healthy summer break and I will see you in September.

All the best **Mandy Richards Chair 07496 009401**

Welcome to new members.

New: Lorraine Driver, David Rodman, Helen Piper, Rhona Glasgow, Tim Hoskin, Lorna Down, Ann Scott, Alan Spriggs, Trevor Treend and Kim Ruddock.



Architecture

The big centrepiece of this update is our annual architectural visit to London but before that expedition, the last meeting of the term at the Hub was in the form of another visit - in imagination, to the cathedral of my youthful roots. This was our last look at Norman architecture in my hometown of St Albans. The abbey/ cathedral is plausibly the oldest known site of Christian worship, commemorating the earliest Christian martyr, St Alban. He was executed in AD 304 by soldiers of the occupying Roman army of nearby Verulamium, now the site of the town of St Albans. Since that time, there have shrines and religious buildings on what became a place of pilgrimage and when the invading Normans came, it was one of the first abbey sites incorporated

in the Norman strategy to build big, tall and very visibly to be symbols of their arrival

and permanence. The new abbey and monastery were commissioned by the Bishop of Caen as early as 1077 and so the original structure that remains today is very plainly in that Norman style - and very plain it is too, with typically massive, rounded arches, little decoration and a central square tower at the crossing point, more like a castle keep, built of reclaimed/robbed narrow Roman bricks, from the ruins of Verulamium. The master mason was instructed to build a church longer than Canterbury (it's 278 feet) and although finished in an astonishing 11 years, it was built to last because the tower is the only 11th century tower still standing in England. There have been many additions since then, some beautiful, some not so pleasing but they all contribute to tell the history of a thousand-year-old building

Being a place of pilgrimage, it contains 3 rarities - the actual carved stone shrine of St Alban which held his relics (allegedly), the Watching Loft, a carved wooden construction where the monks would guard the relics and offerings (there was a thriving market for stolen bits and pieces of saints) and a tiny chantry chapel, paid for by a wealthy cleric, where masses would be celebrated daily to ensure a smooth passage to heaven. However, we have no way to find if this was an effective plan.

Early in April, like the Canterbury pilgrims, we set out for our annual journey of discovery to the shrine of culture, London. The Meteorological Office held out promises of perfect spring weather and this year they did not lie. We were blessed with a week of piercing spring sunlight, displaying London at its best, the trees in the parks and garden squares gradually unfurling their greenery with each day's warmth. Since the major cleaning programme of so many of London's major buildings, the city has been a revelation, emerging from the grime as if the sparkling Portland stone were freshly quarried.



Having registered our arrival at Passfield Hall, our almost monastic student accommodation facing Tavistock Square, ablaze with scarlet tulips, our first visit was to a building even whiter, more sparkling but brand new, the Aga Khan Centre, set within the Kings Cross development. Opened in 2018, designed by the Pritzker Prize winning Japanese architect, Fumihiko Maki, its purpose is to be a place of education, a storehouse of Islamic literature

and historical archives available for study and research and a cultural exchange for Islamic ideas and beliefs. It's an enormous cube of white limestone and a huge amount of glass which lightens the bulk of the building. Inside the walls, floors and surfaces are covered in a precious creamy marble streaked with grey. In the central atrium is a decorative, multi-coloured installation, rising up through the height of the 8-storey building using the repeated symbol of the Islamic 8-pointed star. At several levels throughout the building are a series of stylised Paradise gardens - one is solely represented by abstract, geometric symbols, one very simply with pierced, white stonework and eight white magnolia trees, and a roof garden with a waterfall, a central rivulet and pool and decorative marble paving, planted with nut and fruit trees and scarlet flowers. Below, at ground level is a scaled-up version of this last garden with many geometric beds and trees. A vision of peace.

On our second day, still sunny but much colder, we met our guide Jill Finch at the Monument, commemorating the start of the Great Fire in the heart of the City, where the destruction began that kickstarted the revolution in building and brought Christopher Wren to prominence and fame.



Our first stop on the day's tour of Southwark was actually one of Wren's churches, St Magnus the Martyr - and one of his most expensive, costing £9579 19s 10d. It's built hugging its original site (almost) right next to London Bridge, which in those times was the only crossing of the Thames. Appropriately the church houses an extraordinary model of the original bridge, when it was lined with houses and shops, with a chapel and a drawbridge in the centre. Despite the forest of City skyscrapers, its landmark tower is still tall enough to be seen as it was when it was a signpost for shipping up and down the river in the 17th century.

We learnt a great deal more from our wonderfully well-informed guide, Jill, about the history of the City and Southwark as we stood on London Bridge, despite shivering in the chill wind that blew up the river that day. We glimpsed the life of the historic traveller when we saw the galleried courtyard of the famous George Inn, just one of many staging inns that lined Southwark High Street and handled the travellers in an area that was outside the city limits, with its consequent lawless, rowdy inhabitants.



On our wanderings, Jill showed us an extraordinary little piece of social history. Nestled in between the 1950's council flats, was a totally different concept of social housing....., Octavia Hill's Southwark Cottages. Built between 1884 and 1887, they were an example how it was possible to provide housing for the poor in an attractive environment that could enhance their lives. There is a little row of cottages in a Tudor inspired style, each a little different, with its own community hall, set in a countryfied garden with trees, a pond, flowers and seating. Maybe it didn't change the world of social care but it was just a small illustration of what could be achieved with thought and imagination. On our third and last day, we were unable to call on the services of Handel's musicians to serenade us down the Thames, so we took the next best option, the Clipper that took us downriver to spend the day at one of Wren's major complexes, the Royal Naval College and the Royal Observatory at Greenwich.

Spaciously laid out with marvellous river views, this was an enormous project for Wren, comprising many public buildings as well as accommodation for staff and naval personnel in need of medical care. With so much on the site and with just a few hours available, we decided to concentrate on two particular buildings, Inigo Jones exquisitely proportioned, classically pure Queen's House designed for Queen Anne, now housing an amazing art collection, including Hogarth, Turner, Reynolds and several famous portraits of Queen Elizabeth 1.



The Painted Hall is famous worldwide and is always in documentaries about Greenwich, but the lesser-known gem is the twin building opposite the Hall. This is the Chapel, huge and grand enough to be a church rather than a chapel, complete with large dome, of course. The interior is breathtaking, flooded with light and with the ceiling, galleries and

In the class we continue to cover a wide range of topics and met the cast of “Les Intouchables” in short segments focusing on specific grammar and vocabulary. We don’t have a coursebook so are free to choose from a wide variety of sources. Jim Sweasey has some great videos about the different regions of France, and we are able to see what France has to offer. Angela entertains us with a game of Ooh la la Bingo which helps with numbers in French and also knowing horizontal, diagonal and vertical which it seems we don’t know in any language.



We had a virtual tour of Brittany with an excellent video provided by Jim and Maggie and Viv Wood entertained us with a talk about her house in Brittany and the interesting cast of characters who live in the village. The saddest tale seemed to be the English woman who lived there for years but refused to speak a word of French. Shame she hadn’t joined the U3a before she went.

We also looked at the attempt of the wine growers to reduce their ecological footprint by using bottles made of cardboard. But as these contain a plastic lining it was felt you would be much better off with glass bottles that could be recycled.

For more information contact: Susan Johnson 07711300407



Brush up your French Conversation

This U3A group meets on Mondays at 2pm – 4pm fortnightly. The aim is to practise speaking French, not to be anxious about lack of fluency but to verbalise what we know already, to listen and communicate. This is helpful to anyone at level A1 & A2 (Debutant) · We are learning from a textbook/CD ‘Fast French’ with Elizabeth Smith (25 years old but very helpful to learn simple conversation)

- Listening to Alexa, a French teacher on YouTube
- Preparing stories to tell each other/ asking questions
- Listening to simple French stories on YouTube.

If you’re interested in joining us it would be helpful if you’d assess your French level.

Go to:-

- Francais avec Nelly on YouTube ‘What’s your French Level? Take this test!’

(This is a good speaking/listening test- it gives you a 10 second response time. It doesn’t give you a level- you assess your own level by stopping when it gets too difficult. I came out A2. I tried B1, couldn’t answer quick enough but was able to translate if I paused it.

- Lingolia francais test. What’s your French level. Take the free test.

(I took the A2 test – 7/14 correct – they gave me level A1)

- ESL Free French Test

This takes 20 minutes – it’s reading with no time limit

I got 28/40 correct – they gave me Intermediate B1

- TEFL Oxford House Language courses

This is a reading test. I got 24/42 correct and they gave me B1.

(the group is not suitable for complete beginners or any fluent speakers sneaking in!!)

To register interest please email :- hilary@poley.co.uk

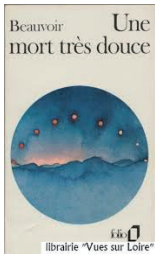


FRENCH READING GROUP, Mondays

“Après la pluie, le beau temps” (Well, we can live in hope – and without French accents, which I couldn’t get to work on my laptop!)

We are a small but friendly group interested in French language, culture and politics. In fact, we try to explore the French language in all its various guises, be they novels, plays, poetry and articles from “Le Monde”. We would welcome new members who enjoy speaking and reading French. We have interesting discussions, which as well as being informative and lively, improve our French speaking skills.

One of our continuing *betes noires* is that we can no longer, easily, buy French newspapers in this country since Brexit. Fortunately, one of us has access to articles online from “Le Monde”, which can be printed, enabling us to get some idea of French attitudes and opinions with which can agree or disagree en français.



Recently, we have been reading “Une Mort très Douce” (“A gentle death”) by Simone de Beauvoir. It could be described as a tough read, but we are reading something by a great writer – a wordsmith, so it is gripping. The book is about the death of her mother, and she writes with devastating candour. A very brave book.

We are currently looking at a book of short stories by various French writers. It is an annual publication, entitled “13 à table”. The stories are all very different, some with quite a sting in the tale. Next term we will choose a novel or a play. We are very democratic, and all suggestions are considered and discussed – in French!



Sometimes we play French Scrabble, which, as in English, can be quite competitive! We also try to answer French Trivial Pursuits questions.

Finally, I would like to finish with some observations from one of our group, Richard:

(NB (I must get him to tell me how he gets his French accents!) “The great thing about reading French is that you do not

need to know any. All you need is the greater or lesser ability to mimic a French accent. Unlike conversation you do not have to make anything up (what was that *mot-clé* whose unanticipated absence sank your witty *aperçu* without trace?). When reading, someone much better at French has done the heavy lifting already, such figures as Simone de Beauvoir, Georges Simenon (*chronicleur de Maigret*), Patrick Modiano (*nobéliste*), who have illuminated our progress over the last year. All those amazing words they know, *enchevêtrement*, *deboussolé*, *emmitouflé*, that you never meet outside the printed page. Then there is the indefatigable M. Lemonde, who on a daily basis covers the news angles you don’t get in *la presse anglo-saxonne*, the blackmail trial of Mimi Marchand (*reine de la presse people*), or the ex-president stripped of his *Legion d’honneur* on account of all those *Libyan suitcases* stuffed with banknotes, *dingue ou quoi?*

So, if you speak French, and you like the sound of our reading group, you are very welcome to join us in September.

For more information contact: Jane Helliwell 07778 484974



German Studies

As I think you know, this has always been a “member-led” group; all I really do is keep the register and try to make notes about the contributions! The sheer serendipity of the topics never ceases to amaze me. It is a problem when it comes to the termly Newsletter, to choose which items to include, and the constant anxiety about leaving a member disappointed that their topic was not included!

This term we (mostly) moved on from the cinema topic, although we did hear a very interesting poem by Alan Price about a 1947 Fritz Lang film (The Secret beyond the Door.) Some of our romantic childhood nostalgia about the film Bambi was shaken to learn that the original novel by Felix Salten on which the film was based was in fact an allegory of the Third Reich!

Once again, we came across everyday names/words which turn out to be relevant to our group. We learnt about Rudolph Diesel, Hugo Junkers, Julius Petri, and Hans Riege from Bonn – never heard of him? Neither had I, but I think we all are familiar with a certain brand of sweets HARIBO. (Look at the first two letters of those 3 words again.)



This year sees the 75th anniversary of the Twinning with Duisberg and one of the German group got in touch to say she was trying to prepare something for the event and could I ask my group WHY they were interested in a German Studies group. We took almost a whole session going round the group as they all explained and it was fascinating. Apart from myself, no-one had actually studied German at school, although one member had been taught in German at school in South America. (Yes, really!!) (And my first Primary School was run by German Nuns

in Hertfordshire.) Some had music in common - listening to, and/or singing - for example German Lieder, which had led to a growing wider interest in German culture and History. One member was given a book of German poetry translated by Michael Hamburger at the age of 19, which led to a wide interest in German Art, Design and Cinema. A chance invitation from a German neighbour led one member to visit the Black Forest years ago, which in turn led to discovery of German wines. One member’s father had been a POW in WW11 and after he died, began to look into his experiences. Another member became interested through involvement with the Twinning Association.

Rosy (from Duisberg) is collating and translating all the items, together with contributions from their English Conversation Group. They will be here in August, so keep an eye open for any information about their activities.

For more information contact: Hilary Nicklin 02392 297 867



Beginners Spanish

We are progressing well as a group. We each of us speak on a prepared topic in Spanish and try to converse in Spanish. We enjoy doing this and continue to support and encourage each other.

Our aim is to be able to converse in Spanish and slowly but surely we are getting there

For more information contact: Howard Parsons 07784 760947

Spanish

The numbers in the Spanish class seem to have grown recently and it is good to have such a mixture. Of course, we had a look at the terrible blackouts that Spain and Portugal suffered and realised how dependent we all are on electricity. We have been looking at jobs and interview techniques this term. So much easier to be relaxed when all this is behind us. The Spanish word for retired is “jubilado” which makes it sound a very positive experience.

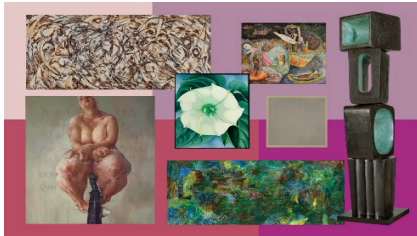


As well as our course book Pasos 2 we look at videos and current events. We are hoping the story that Rafa Nadal turned down 10 million dollars to teach Elon Musk’s son tennis is true.

The Spanish are getting cross about the effects mass tourism are having on them and there have been demonstrations in Barcelona and Tenerife. Maybe if you go armed with a reasonable level of Spanish you will be able to integrate better and still enjoy the sunshine.

We are rounding off our term with a visit to a tapas bar in Southsea.

For more information contact: Susan Johnson 07711 300 407



Art Appreciation

We started off the summer term by looking at women artists who have sold their paintings for over 1 million dollars. Some we thought were worth it, but some left us bewildered and thinking our grandchildren had produced something similar at nursery.

For an easier to understand group, we then looked at the Newlyn School in Cornwall. Many artists who had studied with the impressionists in France and Holland came to Cornwall. It was cheap to live there then, and locals were willing to model for paintings. These were mostly done outdoors (en plein air) and show a different pace of life and how important the fishing industry was to the area before tourism took off in such a big way.



We all have a piece of art in our purses, and we looked more closely at the design on the £5 note. Churchill had won the Nobel prize for literature as can be seen in the note, Big Ben is set at the exact time he made his famous speech about having nothing to offer but blood, sweat and tears. The circle spells out Blenheim where he was born.

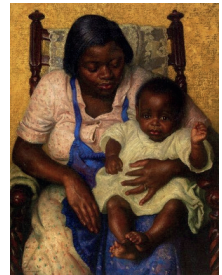
Lots to see on the note if we ever pause to look at it.

As the railways are celebrating 200 years we had a look at railway paintings over the years and some of the travel posters which are now viewed as works of art in their own right. Whatever happened to those frequent fast trains? Many famous artists have been involved in creating these posters as well as painting the trains themselves. Think of Turner’s famous Rain, Steam and Speed.





The theme of women artists continued with a closer look at Dame Laura Knight. Her breadth of work was astonishing. Only the third woman to become a full member of the Royal Academy after its inception. Although she had to wait 30 years to be able to attend their annual dinner party! Her range of work is astonishing from painting bucolic scenes in Cornwall to becoming a war artist and then later the circus, the ballet and Romanis. She even designed for Clarisse Cliff and Cadburys chocolate boxes. She travelled to the States with her husband and while he was commissioned to paint dignitaries she produced the very moving *Madonna of the Cotton Fields*. It is sad that she seems to have become largely forgotten as she produced so many paintings on such a wide variety of subjects.



As you can see, we look at an eclectic mix of artists and while you might not like all of them, perhaps you will discover somebody new that you enjoy looking at. All are welcome to join us. **For more information contact: Susan Johnson 07711 300 407**

Armchair travel



This July sees the completion of 2 years of virtual travelling with the Armchair Travel Group, since its revival in September 2023! I wonder how many miles we have covered? Surely, we are approaching the moon?

I am pleased to say that over fifty members have travelled with us during that time - almost one in four of our Portsmouth u3a membership. Many have come to every meeting, and we have heard tales from a good number of them. We have travelled near and far, by sea, air, rail and road.

This term we made day trips to Cherbourg, Petersfield and Venice! Yes, really! A day trip to Venice to be a witness in court! Now you know what you are missing if you do not join us Armchair Travelling! We have sailed the Atlantic and the Pacific oceans, with visits to the islands of the Azores, and the Galapagos. The photos which we were shown of the wildlife on the Galapagos Islands were fantastic. We were reminded of Charles Darwin's visit to the island, where the wildlife, especially the finches, sowed the seeds of his future theories on evolution. Additionally, who knew that the islands were used as the location for the film "Master and Commander"! Our final session will reveal "Memories of Family Holidays, Then and Now", with hopefully some rail travel thrown in for good measure!

We look forward to showing all u3a members, at the 40th Anniversary celebrations, a selection of our postcards (in the form of a quiz - with a prize!). Also, we shall be offering a selection of guidebooks and leaflets FREE to take away. Look for the globe!

A new year now beckons with new destinations! Please join us. As always there are seats available, and no passports are required!

For more information contact: Jean Barrow 07746 233 496

History

The history of travelling from London to Portsmouth was the topic of our first meeting this term, it's relatively easy today, you can drive or catch the train either way, it should only take about two hours.



Two hundred years ago it was so different. The journey could take days, and your choice of travel was limited, you could travel by Stagecoach, on horseback or walk and the roads were treacherous and very dangerous. You would need to hide any valuables you were carrying about your person, and some people even wrote their Will in case the worst happened.

The road from London to Portsmouth nicknamed “The Sailors Highway” now the A3, is a historic road used from the Middle Ages and many famous people probably travelled along it, including Henry VIII, Elizabeth I , Lord Nelson, Queen Victoria and Elizabeth II.

If you were travelling by Stagecoach your journey would probably start in Southwick, just south of the River Thames over London Bridge and not far from The Monument commemorating The Great Fire of London in 1666 and the church St Magnus the Martyr, built by Wren. There were many Coaching Inns in Southwick with stagecoaches leaving for destinations all around the country,” The George Inn” is the only one remaining today.



Once you have boarded your coach, depending on the cost, you could choose to travel either inside or outside, either way it was an uncomfortable journey as the coach travelled over unmade roads and muddy tracks with ruts and potholes. Local villagers had to maintain the roads and Toll Booths were set up and Tolls charged in some areas.

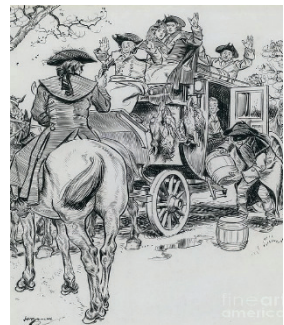


The coach would have to stop at Coaching Inns along the way to change and feed the horses and for the passengers to rest and eat. Coaching Inns were dotted along the route to Portsmouth at Kingston, Guildford, Liphook, Petersfield, Buriton and Portsdown Hill and many remain today. Also, along the route were Milestones giving the passengers information about how far they had come and how far they still had to go.

Some places en route were notoriously dangerous with Highway men and robbers waiting to intercept the travelers, for example The Devils Punchbowl at Hindhead and Butser Hill near Horndean both places where the coach had to slow down or passengers had to alight and walk up the hills.

Imagine the relief as you reached the top of Portsdown Hill after hours travelling you could see Portsmouth in the distance and knew there was only a few miles left to travel.

Our second meeting in June was about the work and industries that grew up in and around Portsmouth.



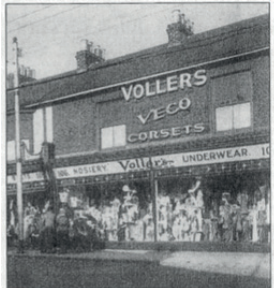


Until the end of the 19th century Portsea Island was mainly rural, the town of Portsmouth occupied just the small western corner near the dockyard and a lot of the work and industry in Portsmouth was linked to the dockyard and served the needs of the Navy. In the dockyard during 18th and 19th centuries men worked in the Rope House providing ropes for the many ships in the fleet, at that time all were wooden sailing ships. In the Block House, Marc Brunel set up the first mass production line in the country producing his invention the ships pulley blocks, "block and tackle"

The many breweries around Portsmouth provided beer and wine for the navy. Brew Houses existed in Tudor times and flourished during the wars of 18th and 19th century. Brickwoods, and United Breweries, Young & Sons and Long and Co were just some of the well-known names, several of which are still in business today. The navy Victualling Commission bought flour from the local Mills, there were five Mills dotted around Portsea Island. Other produce was available from local markets and farms on Portsea Island and provided food to the navy



The Salterns on the eastern side of the Island provided sea salt from medieval times, to preserve the meat for the Navy, which could be up to 5000 cattle a year. One of the owners of the Salterns built Saltern House, now a Grade II listed building and now a restaurant along the Eastern Road



Other Portsmouth firms included the Aerospace industries set up around the Portsmouth Airport which opened in the 1930s, providing flights to IOW and Channel Islands and providing work building planes for companies such as "Airspeed" owned by Neville Norway Shute. The Airport thrived for a while after WW2. However, after accidents on the grass runways it finally closed in 1973. The Aerospace industry does still flourish in Portsmouth today

providing parts and equipment for the Defense Industry.

In 1899 the Corset Industry was set up by Harry and Nelly Voller in their shop and factory in Kingston Road, their workforce made high quality corsets and girdles using "Madame Vollers" original patterns and designs. The shop has gone but their legacy remains and corsets are still being made, using their patterns, at the factory off Burrfields Road



Other small firms such as "Tremlett's" Chemist and "Timothy Whites" provided work for the growing Portsmouth population in the early 20th century. The hairdressing businesses in Portsmouth had a reputation for good service and innovation. Also, the coffee shops such as "The Mikado" in Palmerston Road in the 1930s, provided a service which we still enjoy from Coffee shops around the city today.

For more information contact: Rosemary Sirett 07540597804

POETRY and POETRY & DRAMA Groups, Wednesday & Thursday

“Now the hungry lion roars,
And the wolf behowls the moon.”
(A Midsummer Night’s Dream)

“O, it offends me to the soul, to hear a robustious,
periwig-pated fellow tear a passion to tatters.”
(Hamlet)

Thank you, Bill, on the nose again! And, as always, he figures strongly in our readings. Anyway, onward: our Thursday drama sessions are focusing more and more on drama, as the poetry-loving people congregate more on Wednesdays, and those more fond of just drama gather together on Thursdays. Poetry still figures, of course, for those regular occasions when there is time to spare after finishing a play.

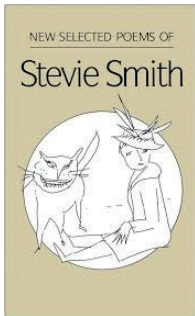


We started the newsletter period by finishing off Shaw’s “Pygmalion”. In Ovid’s version, he marries his beautiful statue, infused with life by Aphrodite, and he and Galatea, as she is named, have a child, Paphos, after whom the island is named. Shaw makes it quite clear, in an appendix, that that is not how he envisions the story ending: Eliza goes off with Freddy, a mutual friend, and opens a shop!

Alan Ayckbourn’s “A Chorus of Disapproval” started well, but Jane and I were not there for the end, so I really cannot comment further. Ibsen’s “Ghosts” was the last play we tackled. I have seen it performed very dourly, but it is often treated as a black comedy, and our reading, infused with this knowledge, very much tended in that direction! (Compare Mark Rylance’s “Richard II”). It is a rich tale of marital abuse, misogyny, scandal and inherited syphilis – full of laughs!



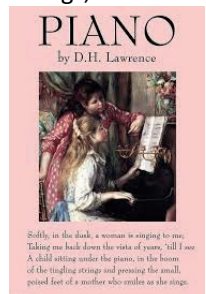
Wednesday’s poetry group had the usual Free Choice sessions, which are always full of surprises and new discoveries (we don’t stand still!), and, of course, old favourites. Stevie Smith’s “Major Macrao” is one of my old favourites, with its riveting, and profoundly affecting tale of a put-upon woman. Sometimes song lyrics creep in, and we all enjoyed “Ain’t it grand to be blooming well dead!” by Leslie Sarony.



One of our poetry themes was Families, which provided a vast reservoir of choice, from black humour, tragedy, drama and grief to quiet reflection. Under this aegis, Kipling told us about “My Boy Jack”, echoing the grief of all parents who lost family in WWI. Kipling’s son, John, was lost during the battle of Loos, in 1915. However, he was never called Jack. Other themes were the poet Elizabeth Jennings, who went

down a treat, and sonnets – not only Shakespeare wrote them. They are still very much a popular form.

Another theme was “Imagism”. The Imagists were an eclectic collection of poets, who emphasised clear, precise and concrete imagery to convey ideas and emotion. They used free verse and direct, economical language, rejecting tradition and poetic forms. Among their number were Pound, H.D., Amy Lowell and William Carlos Williams. As you can imagine, they disagreed a lot and eventually went their own ways!



Another theme was Memories, for which many of the choices were to do with childhood: Dylan Thomas's "Fern Hill", D.

D.H. Lawrence's "The Piano", and one of my favourites, Eleanor Farjeon's delightful "It was long ago". Not all the memories were so happy, of course.

And so, we continue on our literary voyage! Floyd Pattison

For more information contact: J.M. Floyd Pattison 07778 484968

Writing Group

We have developed different ways to conjure up the Muses over the years. Since last Autumn we have settled into a pattern of choosing a title to focus on for the following month. These have included Taking a Break, Memorable Church or Place of Worship, and Outlook. We also ventured into the wild world of fiction with some opening paragraphs to start with. "Wild" included a dog walker who happened to have secretly murdered her husband, an urgent gecko request, and a terrible horror lurking behind a locked door - from different writers, not combined! Some of us are following up these ideas in subsequent sessions. Sometimes we read out previous diaries or letters from the past. It has all been stimulating fun. Do join us monthly on a Thursday afternoon.



For more information contact: Barbara Spiegelhalter 07966 219764



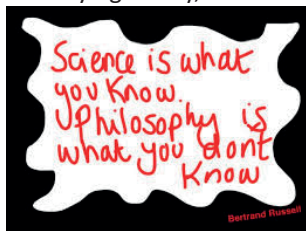
Philosophy

There have been several moments in history when Philosophy has splintered and parted ways with itself. The first schism was when the PreSocratics' renunciation of myth as a way to explain the world was spurned by the followers of Plato. The Enlightenment generated another. Despite the best efforts of Immanuel Kant to pull the Idealists and

Empiricists together the experimental movement eventually broke free from all religious encumbrances and Natural Philosophy or Science was born.

It is my opinion that Philosophy has been gravely pared down in the course of this journey. The fixation on words and the resultant retreat to the ivory tower instead of tackling the problems of the wide world has severely limited its value and utility.

Unfortunately, the underlying essentialism, the conviction that words capture an underlying reality, has also infected a major component of its momentous offspring,



Science, in the form of reductionism. Even Science's reliance upon number instead of words does not leave it unblemished.

Major areas of enquiry are impaired as a result of this course of events. A new course needs to be plotted which avoids the questionable choice between taking either a subjective or an objective viewpoint. There are more complex and comprehensive alternatives. Do they lie within the purview of Philosophy as we know it? Does a more thermodynamically tilted perspective allow one to break free of essentialist imposed? (Answers on the back of a postcard?) 😊

For more information contact: Tony Stutters 07739 832 774

World of Books

The first book of our new term was *Days Without End* by Sebastian Barry what a brilliant read, if you have any romantic ideation about the wild west and how glamorous it might have been then don't read this book because those illusions will be trampled in the dust.

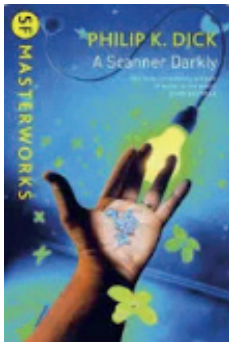
The story outlines the experiences of two very young men who find themselves basically starving vagrants in America. They strike up a life lasting friendship and actually manage to survive in some of the harshest conditions possible.

They start out when very young masquerading as women in a saloon for miners, when they are too old and tall for that they join the army and fight in the Indian wars, enduring some of the most challenging circumstances possible, from hunger, freezing weather and the general harshness of army life.

Then they are called up to the Civil War which they both survive more by good luck than good judgement.

There are many twists and turns to this story which while emphasising the futility of war and the general harshness of not only the country but of life in general at that time, also shows just how the human spirit can survive and how important lasting relationships are.

Our second book was something completely different and not well received by the group.

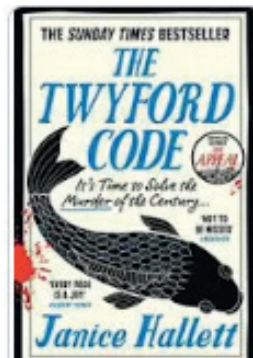


The book was called *A Scanner Darkly* by Philip K. Dick a writer I had never heard of before. It appears he was a drug addict and died very young only in his fifties. The outline of the story was quite a common one. Police officer going undercover to infiltrate a drugs gang, which could have proved to be quite a good read, but the way it was written made it very hard not only to read but to actually understand.

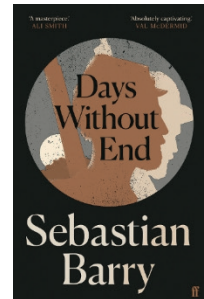
Philip Dick writes in the future not actual Sci Fi but just futuristic enough to take the writing away from our normal point of reference, and into some unknown realm of fantasy. The story did not flow it just seemed to exist of many small chapters written as a drug induced experiences which did not gel together and on their own were even more confusing. The ending of the book is very sad but

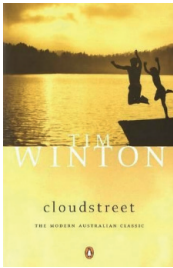
still leaves the reader wondering what ever happened there as I still don't understand what that was all about.

Our next literary journey was a book called 'The Twyford Code' by Janice Hallett. This book is written as a series of transcripts from audio recordings made on the story teller's phone. It very much has the overtones of an Enid Blyton famous five. It is clear to see how the author is making the circumstances fit their narrative and are seeing what they want to believe is clues to this code, i.e. fish drawings on walls and in windows, and tunnels all over the place, it is not until you get to the end of the book that you are allowed to see just how much of a fantasy the whole journey has been. The book is also written in local dialect which can make it quite hard to understand in places, but if you are looking for a light read but one with some hidden subtle depths you could do worse than this one.



For more information contact : Christine Courtney-Wells 02392 297723





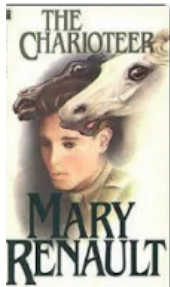
Pelham Book Group

Three books to share with you this season. I hope you might find one or two or their authors worth following up.

In April we read 'Cloudstreet', by Tim Winton, published 1991, his sixth novel and we all agreed such an enjoyable read. This Australian epic family saga covers twenty years (1943-1963) of two poor, contrasting, working-class families as they overcome past tragedies and living in 1 Cloudstreet. The characters are haunted by past events as is the house itself. These colourful, unique characters live messy, flawed lives but reach a contentment at the very end. There is much to say about "Australia's most iconic novel" to quote a critic, why not read it yourself and make your own judgements? Tim Winton is a much-admired Australian author with a long list of novels, many on my own book shelves. If you have any interest in Australia, its landscape, sense of place, people, you might like to sample more.



May's novel had a very positive response from most of the group's members. 'Dark Fire' by C J Sansom, published 2004 is the second of his seven historical novels with Shardlake as the central character. Shardlake is a Tudor lawyer based in Lincoln's Inn suffering from a back deformity and the burden of integrity. With the interests of Thomas Cromwell and Henry VIII to serve, conflicts arise to threaten his position and life. In this novel he is involved in two investigations against his will: the brutal murder of a young boy, supposedly by his girl cousin, and seeking the formula for the legendary dark fire. The reader is drawn into all the well-researched intricacies of Tudor London. This is Tudor historical crime at its accessible best according to most of us. There are six other Shardlake mysteries to enjoy with one, 'Heartstone', set in Portsmouth and even on the Mary Rose so worth investigating. By chance, ITV 1 are now serialising a Shardlake novel on Monday evenings, but we were there before!



For June, yet to be discussed by us all in the group, was 'The Charioteer' by Mary Renault, published 1953, an important date. She is best known for her historical fiction, especially the Alexander trilogy. 'The Charioteer' is a romantic novel and a cult classic in the gay community as it was the first book published 1953 in English to feature gay protagonists with a happy ending. It is set mainly in a hospital as a young serviceman painfully recovers from injuries suffered at Dunkirk and begins to accept his sexual orientation with all the consequences. It is a fascinating description of gay characters and their hidden life. I can only give my own views in that I fully appreciated the plot, characters, bleak situations and suffering undergone but could not penetrate the style. I muddled characters and could not follow the characters' philosophical soul-searchings. This will be on the list to re-read when I feel more studious and alert. Mary Renault (her pen name) is obviously a highly intelligent woman and author but rather beyond me at the moment. Perhaps her historical fiction is more accessible?

Quite a variety for you to explore? There is a group book list, but it depends on availability at Havant and Maggie so conscientious in collecting what is available. We are never quite sure of the next novel, but it is always worth discussing. Again, thank you to Maggie MacBeth and Havant Library for maintaining our supply of novels. Enjoy the summer, especially with a good read on the go.

For more information contact: Judith Wise tel: 07530854969. judewise1@googlemail.com

Art for All - Tuesday mornings

This is a practical, self-led, group where members bring their own work to focus on during our fortnightly meeting. We are a friendly bunch, interested in each other's projects and as required, happy to offer help and encouragement.

You will see from images in this newsletter that we produce a diverse selection of artwork using various mediums including black inks, watercolour paints and pencils, charcoal and pencils. Our efforts in drawing, calligraphy, crystal work and iris folding, plus amiable conversation, create an enjoyable two- hour session.

We welcome, and can accommodate, a few new members so please do contact me if you would like to attend.

For more information please contact: Lynn Timms 07851 069146



**Lyn Schofield
Sheep**



**Jean McQuoid
café at Arles**



**Lyn Timms
Valentine card**

**Maggie McBeth
Lighthouse**



**Maggie McBeth
Western Tanager**



**Lynn Timms
Window**



Needles and Pins Group



Fiona Brown
Mobile



Rhona Gladgow
Rainbow Bear



Oly Quinn
Pram blanket



Jeanette Beveridge
Two teddies for a naval charity



Jean Banthorpe
Patchwork Bag



Fiona Brown
Cardigan

For more information contact: Penny Scipio 02392 832 500

Science and Technology

The group looked at a varied lot of subjects during the winter. Clothes moths being the one that exposed more mythology than other subjects. We discovered that there were only two types in the UK and carpet and clothes were in fact the same species. the larvae prefer eating natural fibres although they are voracious feeders and will chew their way through rayon to get to natural fibres. We also investigated Excalibur a



underwater vessel just launched to protect infrastructure connecting UK to the outside world Undersea cables, copper and fibre join us for power and intel and they have both been disturbed recently. We have no plans for future studies and will as usual go where the excitement is.

For more information contact:

Brian Greener 02392863381

Religion, Spirituality and Life

Discussion by group members about the US Trump Presidency provoked us to examine the role of religion in American society and politics. We explored the religious and spiritual history of America with maps of the different groups who joined the indigenous people of the Americas who once roamed freely from what is now Canada, across the mid-west of the what is the USA and further south into what, at different times, became Mexico, not that the first nations people had much concept of a nation.

But everything changed in 1492 with Columbus, enabling Spanish Catholics to move into what is now California, Florida and other southern states. The following century saw colonial Anglican Protestants, loyal to the British crown, settling in Carolina and Virginia. That same century saw anti-royalist Puritans settling in Massachusetts. The eighteenth century saw the new British colony of Georgia and the conflict with Great Britain that came to define the United States of America. The nineteenth century witnessed widespread immigration by Catholics from Ireland and elsewhere, into the Northern industrialising states of Illinois and Wisconsin. Of far greater significance was the American Civil War of 1861-64 which brought God fearing colonial slave-owners in the South into conflict with freedom conscious industrialists of the North. The conflict was ended under Donald Trump's Republican predecessor, President Abraham Lincoln, proclaiming that "this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom—and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth." George Santayana a Hispanic American said that "those who ignore the lessons of history are doomed to repeat them." But what's that got to do with this got to do with religion? **For more information contact: John Strain 07834 637 744**



Mahjong is a tile-based game that was developed in the 19th century in China and has spread throughout the world since the early 20th century. It is played by four players. The game is played with a set of 144 tiles based on Chinese characters and symbols. Help will be given to beginners. **Mah Jong** still takes place Friday mornings. Come along and give it a go.



For more information contact: John Hall on 02392 732980

Board Games and Rummikub

So what goes on at the Board games and Rummikub group's meetings? Well it is exactly as the name suggests, we usually play a 'board game' and a few games of Rummikub or Scrabble each meeting, or rather one part of the group plays a 'board game,' which can be either a game with a board, or an individual board for each player or a proprietary card game consisting of a deck of non-standard cards, usually dedicated to only one specific game. The other part of the group usually elects to play several games of either Rummikub or Scrabble for the whole of the session, most recently Rummikub has the game of choice.

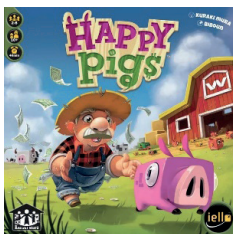


The 'board games' played are mostly those published in the last 30 years or so, the modern era of 'board games' and provide the players with a choice of options as to how they play the game and achieve their objectives, therefore requiring the player to think their way through the game., the same applies equally to both Rummikub and Scrabble.

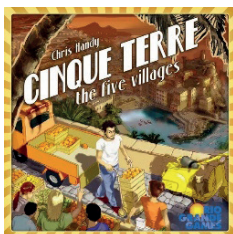


The 'board games' played since the Spring Term Newsletter went to press were Medici, which concentrated upon the trading aspect of the Italian Renaissance indirectly creating much of the wealth which funded the cultural advances of the era.

This term we played Happy Pigs in which the players became pig farmers engaged in the breeding and raising of the animals and subsequently selling them on, hopefully at the right time, in order to maximise the farmers profits in their bid to become the richest pig farmer.



The last 'board game' played took the players back to Italy, playing Cinque Terre set in Liguria some 50 years ago, when the area was not quite the tourist destination it has since developed into. This game is about harvesting produce and timeously selling it in the five communities for the best price available, again the objective being to be the wealthiest farmer at the end of the game.



If you are toying with the idea of joining the group, but cannot make the Wednesday afternoon time slot, why not come to The Games Afternoon being held on Tuesday 5th August at 2.00pm in Room 4 of The Hub, as part of Portsmouth U3A's Summer Programme? There will be a small library of games available to borrow or bring one of your own to share with other members.

For more information contact Tony Valvona 02392 822641

Film Club Starts at 1:45



Wednesday 24th September

Brassed Off is a 1996 British comedy-drama film written and directed by Mark Herman and starring Pete Postlethwaite, Tara Fitzgerald and Ewan McGregor. The coal mine in a northern English village may be closing, which would also mean the end of the miners' brass band.

Wednesday October 22nd

The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry 2023

Starring Jim Broadbent and Penelope Wilton. Retired pensioner Harold Fry lives in Kingsbridge in south Devon with his wife Maureen, where he lives a sedentary life. A letter from an old colleague, Queenie Hennessy, reveals she is dying from cancer and is living in a hospice in Berwick-upon-Tweed. Harold is inspired, he calls the hospice and asks them to tell Queenie that he intends to walk to Berwick - some 500 miles - and she must hold onto her life until he arrives.





Wednesday 26th November

The Great Beauty 2013

Jep Gambardella has seduced his way through the lavish nightlife of Rome for decades, but after his 65th birthday and a shock from the past, Jep looks past the nightclubs and parties to find a timeless landscape of absurd, exquisite beauty.

For more information contact:

Barbara Spiegelhalter 07966 219764

The Walking Group

Well, what can I say. We have had a glorious spring, and a hot summer seems to be following it. Following on from the previous newsletter we have been on some lovely walks. We managed to fit in a walk at Chidham before Easter. It was a glorious sunny day but with a strong breeze. We started off with a coffee at The Old House At Home when they opened at 10.30 and then set off on this lovely walk. After crossing a few fields, we followed the **coast path** looking for a bird hide at Cobnor Point. We must have taken a wrong path as we couldn't find it, and this made the walk an hour longer than the last time we did it. Made our way back along the coast opposite Bosham, this path is much quieter than the Bosham side. Arrived back at the pub for a lovely lunch. Our next trip was to Fishbourne and to walk across the meadows to Dell Quay. Once again a lovely sunny warm day. Our walk across the meadows was accompanied by the call of a cuckoo, i hadn't heard one in a few years, not something you hear too frequently in the city! We arrived at The Crown and Anchor in dire need of refreshments. We sat outside in the shade, and I must tell you that they serve the best lattes. We trundled back to Fishbourne but the pub was full and so we drove to Hillyers Garden Centre for lunch. In May we returned to West Dean Gardens as has become a regular event for us during Mental Health Week. The old Gardeners Cottage has now become a cafe at weekends and is a lovely place to sit in the garden with a drink. Seven of us did the circuit walk and were rewarded with glorious Rhododendrons in bloom. A few more walked around the gardens which they very much enjoyed. I had to cancel the next walk as I had been unwell. I suggested that the group go along the seafront instead but the weather forecast was not good so they cancelled. We are hoping to get out next Saturday the 28th of June, either back to Compton or a new destination. Meanwhile I hope you all manage to visit some exciting places and events this summer, looks as if it might be a scorcher!!

West Dean For more information contact: Jackie Forsyth 02392 666 680



Speakers' Programme

20th May

Police Sergeant Alan Robertson and PCSO Sam Cole in uniform & full police gear spoke to about 30 U3A members on 20th May revealing their work with the Blue Lamp Trust & other local organisations to promote community safety in Portsmouth. Being 60+ years old, or a vulnerable person, those disabled, or those already a victim of crime, can be eligible for help with home security. This includes fireproof letterboxes, personal alarms, better door locks & chains, window alarms, door wedges, doorbells & other security systems. A visit to Portsmouth Central Police Station was recommended to obtain many of these items for free. Incidents can be reported directly to 999 or 101 depending on severity. They mentioned a few problems at Control Centre in determining the seriousness of incidents, but his Team reviews all calls to determine any necessary action. Handouts & contact information were provided, and they mentioned 'Hampshire Alerts' as an email scheme to be notified of local crimes & scam activity -- all very helpful and informative.



'Sea Fencibles' Tuesday 17th June



About 25 U3A members attended visiting speaker Michael William's presentation on 'Sea Fencibles' Tuesday 17th June to answer the question 'What exactly were they?' Well, they were an obscure group of sailors, often fishermen, primarily intended to defend England's coastal borders, now replaced by the coastguard. Williams described the long tradition of methods intended to stop land invasion which included fixed defences like forts & towers, castles, brick walls, and sea-going vessels (known as the 'wooden walls') to defend England. This tradition dates back to the Roman invasion AD43 when Britannia was unready to withstand any sea or land invasion. Gradually, after the Anglo-Saxon incursions (183 AD), King Alfred's attempts to repel Viking raids from 789 AD, and when the Normans settled in after 1066, more organised coastal defence became established. Critically, defences were established against French invasion (from 1545) and the Spanish (1580s). The Napoleonic Wars (1799-1815) and out-at-sea danger from pirates & privateers, all added to the necessity for maritime protection. Small boats armed with cannon and 'the need for sailors not soldiers' led to a patrolling seafaring force armed with pikes & muskets & cannon. They surveyed & manned coastal stations & monitored for invasion--a Dad's Army of the Sea. 'The 1793 Act for Fencible Enlistment' protected these sailors from pressgangs, more

formalised uniforms were created in 1798, and Popham's 3-flag coding system in 1803, along with hulks and barracks for housing by 1864, eventually led to the navy we know today. The 'Fencibles' were officially disbanded by the Admiralty by 1810. Who knew!

Speakers for Members' Meetings 2025

23rd September Julian Le Good A Portrait of the Architect as a Young Man

21st October Peter Rann A Brief History of Punch and Judy

18th November Fi Rosen Dicken Walks After Dark

Speaker Secretary Carol-Anne Turner



What is on offer in the Hub café served by Brendon, Molly and Jo **Breakfast**

2 Bacon, 1 Sausage, 1 Egg, Hash Brown, Beans or Tomatoes, & Toast.

Served with Tea, or Filter Coffee £5.30

Bacon, Sausage or Egg Bap £2.30

Cheese on Toast £3.00

Scrambled Egg on Toast £2.90

Beans on Toast £2.65

Toast & Jam/Marmite £1.15

Plain Omelette £2.50 Add Fillings Cheese & Onion, Ham, Bacon, Tomato, Mushroom, Onion

Main Meals

Chilli Con Carne, Chicken Curry, Thai Vegetable Curry, Spaghetti Bolognese & Garlic Bread,

Macaroni Cheese & Garlic Bread

Ham, Egg & Chips, Omelette & Chips served with a side salad.

All main meals are served with a Tea or Filter Coffee **£6.25**

Light Bites

Sandwiches -£3.10

Toasties -£3.20

Baguettes -£3.25

Paninis -£3.35

Pasta Bowl - £3.85

Salad Bowl - £3.50

Fillings; Cheese, Ham, Egg Mayo, Tuna, Prawn Mayo Extra Fillings 0.60p

Jacket Potatoes

Plain Jacket Potato £2.50

Fillings; Cheese 0.60p, Beans 0.60p,

Tuna £1.80, Prawn £2.00

Salad Garnish £1.25

Homemade Soups

Please ask a member of staff for which options we have available.

Served with Bread & Butter **£3.75**

HOT LUNCH EVERY WEDNESDAY

Served with a Tea or Filter Coffee **£6.25**

Please speak to a member of staff for any Allergen or Dietary requirements.

Brandon, Molly and Jo in the café.



Chichester Summer School

U3a Summer School will take part 1st – 4th Sept at Chichester University. All u3a members are invited to attend, but please hurry as now only six courses have spaces. Click on this link for more information <https://southeastu3aforum.u3asite.uk/2025-2/>

u3a Summer Programme 2025

Tuesday 22nd July Cream Tea in the Hub 1:00 start

Cost £5:50 purchase ticket from the café

This includes sandwiches cake and scones as well as tea or coffee



Tuesday 29th July

Summer Lunch in the
Royal Maritime Hotel

1:00 for 1:30

Tuesday 5th August

Board Games Room 4 2:00 start

Contact Tony Valvona on 02392 822641 so he has an idea of numbers coming



Thursday 14th August

Film The Taste of Things 2023

2:00 start

Starring Juliette Binoche and Benoit Maginel

The story of Eugenie, an esteemed cook, and Dodin - the fine gourmet chef she has been working for over the last 20 years. It won the Palme d'Or at Cannes



**Tuesday 19th August Picnic
on the Common near the Jolly
Sailor 1:00 start**

Bring own food and drink and
a chair or blanket to sit on (and
maybe some food to share)

**For more information contact:
Mandy Richards**

07496 009401

Social Secretary report

The Easter social feels like a long time ago but as usual it was well attended, and the Hot Crossed Buns went down like hot cakes! These socials are always a chance for us to relax, chatter, find out more about each other and meet new potential friends. It is always a good forum to encounter recent joiners to our collective group and show them how welcoming we are.

Now our focus turns to the Summer Programme. By the time you read this booking for the lunch at the Maritime Hotel will have closed. Oly and I will be busily compiling lists and checking that payments received match the food that members have chosen! This process is always complicated, more so this year because there is no set menu, but all will be right in the end.

The first event of the summer programme is the cream tea in the Hub cafe which will come with sandwiches and scones this will incur a small cost, and booking will be required at the Hub cafe. If any members require Gluten free, please let me know so we can ensure that we cater for your dietary needs. This event will be followed by the summer lunch, Board games, the picnic on Southsea Common and a film. You will find the exact dates and times for these events elsewhere in the newsletter and they will be posted on the notice board, which is located as you come out of the lift.

I hope to see you at some point during the summer at one of our events but if not have an enjoyable and healthy time.

All the best **Mandy Richards 07496 009401**

Just for fun

I TOLD MY GRANDKIDS I WAS READING A BOOK ON ANTI-GRAVITY. THEY ASKED IF IT WAS ANY GOOD. I SAID, "IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO PUT DOWN!"

Sr

THE GOOD THING ABOUT HAVING A BAD MEMORY IS THAT JOKES CAN BE FUNNY MORE THAN ONCE.

Sr

How many retirees does it take to change a light bulb?

One, but it'll take all day.



RD



I am old enough to make my own decisions...
Just not young enough to remember what I decided ! ...

www.facebook.com/grandmaquotes



Principles of the u3a Movement

- The u3a Movement is non-religious and non-political and has three main principles:

The Third Age Principle

- Membership of a u3a is open to all in their third age, which is defined not by a particular age but by a period in life in which full-time employment has ceased.
- Members promote the values of lifelong learning and the positive attributes of belonging to a u3a.
- Members should do all they can to ensure that people wanting to join a u3a can do so.

The Self-help Learning Principle

- Members form interest groups covering as wide a range of topics and activities as they desire, by the members, for the members.
- No qualifications are sought or offered. Learning is for its own sake, with enjoyment being the prime motive, not qualifications or awards.
- There is no distinction between the learners and the teachers; they are all u3a members.

The Mutual Aid Principle

- Each u3a is a mutual aid organisation, operationally independent but a member of The Third Age Trust, which requires adherence to the guiding principles of the u3a movement.
- No payments are made to members for services rendered to any u3a.
- Each u3a is self-funded with membership subscriptions and costs kept as low as possible.
- Outside financial assistance should only be sought if it does not imperil the integrity of the u3a movement.