

Winchester
August 2026

u3a learn,
laugh,
live



WELCOME to the **Winchester u3a newsletter**

It's been hot, hasn't it? I've been getting up at dawn to make the most of the cooler hours before the sun gets to work, doing yesterday's washing up and watering the tomatoes in the greenhouse and the other potted plants around the garden, with a watering can, of course. The early morning is also the time when I can concentrate better on technical stuff like the u3a newsletter. I can spot a split infinitive much better when my brain isn't overheated.



I'd love to have air conditioning in my house but by the time I realised it would really help, everywhere was sold out. Maybe if I look around in January, I might stand a better chance of having something in place for next summer.

I could always have bought one of those cheap air conditioners advertised on the internet. Devised by ex-NASA engineers, they seemed too good to be true - and it turns out they were. Just a cheap fan in an even cheaper plastic case, and no cooling potential at all. I hope none of you were conned into buying one.

No deception at all here at the newsletter. To paraphrase Eric Morecambe, the same words in every edition, but not necessarily in the same order! *Vernon Tottle*

Charity number 1026342

Winchester u3a Committee
2026/7

Chairman Ann Edwards

chairman@winchesteru3a.co.uk

Vice-Chairman Jean Crispin
vicechair@winchesteru3a.co.uk

Secretary Marion Schiesser
secretary@winchesteru3a.co.uk

Treasurer David Wright
treasurer@winchesteru3a.co.uk

Members Secretary Marion Schiesser
membersec@winchesteru3a.co.uk

Groups Secretary John Craig
groupsec@winchesteru3a.co.uk

Webmaster Mike Holt
webmaster@winchesteru3a.co.uk

Speakers Secretary Nicola Giles
speakersec@winchesteru3a.co.uk

Newsletter Editor Vernon Tottle
u3aletter@gmail.com

Members without portfolio:
Wendy Broadbent,
Mark Brown, Chris Giles,
Myrtle Trumper

Newsletter proofreaders:
Marion Schiesser and
Wendy Broadbent

Cover photo - Mike Holt

Chairman's letter

I do hope you are all managing to cope with the hot weather and are keeping well hydrated and as cool as you can!

Many thanks to the fourteen groups who have already volunteered to contribute towards the Celebration of Winchester u3a that is due to take place at Littleton Hall on December 8th. It promises to be a most entertaining and enjoyable event, but if there are any other groups who would like to participate, please contact Jean at vicechair@winchesteru3a.co.uk.



As you all know, unlike other charities, every u3a is run by its members for its members. To a considerable degree, they each rely on the time and the endeavour of the individual men and women who work together as members of the committee – although most of this work is unseen. Four committee members will be standing down or reaching the end of their term at the AGM in March 2027, and we are particularly looking for anyone who would like to join the team either as Speakers Secretary or as Groups Secretary / Co-ordinator. If you think you might be interested or would like to contribute in another way you are very welcome to come along to a meeting to see what is involved and/or to shadow a member of the Committee.

At the committee meeting in June, we voted to adopt Beacon, which is the online management system that is used and recommended by National u3a. Beacon is available to all u3as in the UK at a cost of £1 per member per year, although there will be no increase to our membership fee for a few years at least, as we can dip into our reserves. It should provide a far more secure, efficient and effective means of managing our communications as well as our finances. I am delighted that David Wright, our Treasurer, has agreed to manage and oversee the transition and that Myrtle Trumper has volunteered to become the new Membership Secretary, once she has learnt how to use the system. Many thanks are also due to Marion for fulfilling two roles so willingly and so well in the interim period!

Some of you may be interested to hear about a new initiative from National u3a - u3a getaways – which is a programme of short holidays exclusively for members and their friends. You can find out more on the u3a getaways website. The first trip is to the South Coast - The Agatha Christie Story - from 14-18 September 2026 and there are five more that are advertised. Similar breaks may of course be available from other holiday operators.

Winchester u3a has recently been asked to host a regional meeting at

Littleton Hall on Monday 21 September from 10am to 4pm so that the trustees of different Hampshire u3as have an opportunity to meet up and benefit from one another's experience. We will need to provide refreshments as well as a buffet lunch, so if any of you can spare a couple of hours in the morning or the afternoon to help, please contact Marion at secretary@winchesteru3a.co.uk.

With best wishes to you all for the rest of the summer,

Ann



Cover photo

On a scorching hot day in June, most of the committee gathered in the welcome cool of the Bell Inn for our annual Summer Social. As well as enjoying a delicious buffet lunch, it was a great opportunity to relax, catch up and reflect on all that has been achieved over the past year.

Jean Crispin



November 2026 edition of the newsletter

Any contributions please to u3aletter@gmail.com by Friday 16 October.

Photos to accompany the text are always welcome.



New members

We welcome the following new members from

Winchester: Gillian Coleman, Rachel Edwards, Tim Fell, Carolyn Lowdell, Linda Olivey, Angela Rabess, Jenny and Robert Reid, Sally Russell, Annette and Edward Torniainen.

Kings Worthy: Fran Williams. Sutton Scotney: Paula Harris-Allen.

Longparish: Susan Cartmell. Four Marks: Pat and Peter Wallis.

Ropley: Andrew Bonner. Chilcomb: Angela Fairchild.

Twyford: Susie James. Shawford: Patrick Morgan, Richard Sear.

Marion Schiesser



Our website can be found at “www.winchesteru3a.co.uk”

Almost all the information there is freely available, but in order to access the phone numbers of Group Leaders, the password is u3awin16

Have you visited the website recently? If not, you are missing out on a wealth of up-to-date information about our events and activities.

As well as details of the monthly meetings for the next few months, you can also find out what is happening in the national u3a through the recently introduced Latest Notices section on the home page. A new page has also been added in the Newsletters menu to give you the latest info on local community news. There is also a great deal of information to be found in the Interest Groups pages, which can be viewed in a number of ways: by category, by venue or by meeting day.

If you want to contact any of the groups, you can easily do this without even leaving the website as there is a contact form in-built so that you can send a message to the group leader. You don't have to bother about email addresses as these are known to, and protected from misuse by, the website. You just fill in the contact form and the website will send your message to the group leader. To access the contact form, you just need to click on the group leader's name (shown in blue) at the foot of each group page.

One planned feature is a calendar of u3a events. Would you find this useful? Some u3as allow members to update their own group pages. Should we do this in Winchester? Please let me have your feedback on these topics and anything else about the website. You can do this via the contact form by clicking on my name on the Committee page, which is located under the About Us menu. This is also the method to use if you ever want to contact any other member of the committee.

Volunteers to help me with the website are always welcome. If you have basic word processing skills you will find this easy, and help is readily available.

Please let me know if this would interest you.

Mike Holt



Forthcoming talks

Monthly talks at Littleton Memorial Hall, second Tuesday of each month.

Doors open at 1.40pm for 2.00pm start. We enjoy tea/coffee and biscuits after the talk.

Please note there is NO MEETING in August - Hall closed for maintenance/refurbishment.



Tuesday 8 September 2026 Stalking the Stalker by Hamish Brown MBE
Hamish is the recognized leading authority on the interpretation and application of stalking legislation in the United Kingdom. In 2004 Hamish retired from New Scotland Yard's Specialist Crime Directorate after over 30



years' service with the Metropolitan Police. He was awarded the MBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours List for his services to victims of harassment. Hamish now offers his services as a consultant, trainer and lecturer on stalking legislation, celebrity stalking and workplace violence as well as one-to-one advice for those in fear of being stalked.

He is the author of 'Stalking and other forms of harassment, an investigator's guide'. He was commended by the then Home Secretary, Rt. Hon. Jack Straw, for his research whilst compiling this booklet. This is the most requested Home Office publication with a print run of over 10,000 copies.



Tuesday 13th October 2026 Rhyme and Reason - Nursery Rhyme History by Susan Ackroyd

Susan was brought up in Nowra, New South Wales, Australia. She gained a teaching scholarship to uni where she majored in history. After a varied career she retired to the Blue Mountains, and about 10 years ago decided to research the political satire we know as nursery rhymes. The first edition of Rhyme and Reason was published in 2023, with the second edition in 2025. Rhyme and Reason tells us the real reasons for 'nursery' rhymes. What can 'nursery' rhymes tell us about the politics, economy, society and religion of England from the 1200s to the 1700s? Who was the frog courting the mouse? What was Mother Hubbard looking for? When and why did subversive political satire morph into nursery fodder? Brush up on your nursery rhymes and be prepared to be amazed.

Nicola Giles, Speakers Secretary.



Monthly talk reports

All contributed by Chris Giles

Billy The Kid and Other Bad Eggs

Presented by Trevor Rutter on Tuesday 14 April

Trevor introduced his talk as being a personal rant and how he particularly hates the elevation of crimes of notoriety to the halls of fame; indeed, he regrets how perpetrators are sometimes perceived as celebrities.

His initial offering was Vincenzo Peruggia, an Italian handyman and former Louvre employee, who stole the Mona Lisa on August 21, 1911. He hid in a closet, removed the painting, and walked out with it under his smock.

Peruggia kept it for two years, aiming to return it to Italy, before being caught trying to sell it in Florence. Peruggia served only seven months in prison, with some Italians viewing him as a patriot. The heist turned the Mona Lisa into a

global icon.

We then encountered Ronnie Biggs, a small cog in The Great Train Robbery of 1963. Of the 15-16 involved only 12 were caught and imprisoned, Ronnie being the most famous. He escaped in 1965, taking his family to Australia and subsequently Brazil. In 2000 he becomes ill and returns to UK for surgery. Incarcerated again, he's released after eight years, being terminally ill; however, he lived on for a further four years.



Trevor's talk continued with gangsters from both sides of the Atlantic. These included Al Capone, who was one of the most famous American gangsters who rose to infamy as the leader of the Chicago Outfit during the Prohibition era.

From the "Wild West" we met so many legends, so many untruths, so many killers hidden under the term 'folk heroes'. The Wild Bunch, Kid Currie, Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid, Wyatt Earp, Buffalo Bill Cody and Wild Bill Hickock were depicted by Hollywood as having a romantic sounding life. In reality it was somewhat harsh for these cold-blooded killers; constantly watching their own back must have been extremely draining in both mind and spirit.



Richard "Dick" Turpin was an 18th-century English criminal, who operated as a butcher before becoming a poacher, burglar, horse thief, and eventually a violent highwayman. While romanticised as a dashing hero, the real Turpin was originally a brutal criminal in the "Gregory Gang". After his gang was arrested, he became a highwayman, but

was largely a fugitive after murdering a man who tried to apprehend him. He was arrested for horse theft in Yorkshire under the alias "John Palmer" and was hanged at York, on 7 April 1739. (As a side note, the last person to be hanged in England for horse stealing, in 1825, John Hughes, is buried in Itchen Abbas churchyard. Ed)

Via the Kray Twins, Ned Kelly and Billy the Kid, Trevor ended his talk with the strange tale of Ma Baker. Considered a ruthless matriarch, and described by the FBI as "the most vicious, dangerous, and resourceful criminal brain of the last decade", Ma Baker apparently couldn't even plan breakfast.



Music in Winchester

Presented by Jeremy Neville (MA Music Education) on Tuesday 12 May
Jeremy introduced his talk by reminding us that Winchester, as early as the 7th Century, had always been the ancient administrative heartland and religious hub of Wessex.

It was the seat of King Alfred during his rule from 871 to 899, becoming ever more powerful as the capital city. As such, the royal chapel became a magnet for musicians and players.

Following the Norman Conquest, William the Conqueror decided that such an important city needed a cathedral. Work commenced in 1079, since when the cathedral has always been a focal point for musicians.

Queen Mary I of England married Philip II of Spain (who later became King of Spain) at Winchester Cathedral on July 25, 1554. The marriage was primarily a political alliance aimed at producing a Catholic heir and forging an alliance between England and the Spanish Empire.

Thomas Tallis specifically wrote 'Agnus Dei' from his 'Missa Puer Natus Est Nobis' for this occasion.

Haydn's 'Creation' appeared in both German and English during his lifetime; it is often sung in the vernacular in English-speaking countries. However, German is the language for which the music was originally composed and which fits the notes more convincingly. While the English can make the text feel more immediate to English speakers, the language is often awkward and stilted in places where it is not borrowing directly from Milton or the Bible. The 'Creation' had its first rendition in Winchester Cathedral in the year 1800; the conductor being George Chard who was Director of Music at that time.

George was succeeded by the organist Samuel Sebastian Wesley, whose own work 'Blessed be The God and Father' was written in 1834.

Following on was John Rutter's 'Winchester Te Deum', which he'd dedicated to the boy and girl choristers of Winchester Cathedral.

Other Winchester music, not necessarily connected to the cathedral, included local busker, Marvin Taylor, frequently to be heard playing the classic 'Albatross' on his guitar.

Then back in time to an anonymous 'Alleluia', an example from the eleventh century Winchester Troper book. Most music at the time had been based on a single plainchant; this was then embellished with a trope.

Overall, an unforgettable experience.



Living Independently

Presented by Nicky Watt on Tuesday 9 June

Nicky is a qualified personal trainer, post-natal, 50+ and menopause fitness coach. Also, a qualified health coach from the College of Naturopathic Medicine.

Nicky runs a fitness business for women, Invigor, with Jo Little and is based locally in Winchester.

Nicky introduced her talk by reminding us of mobility and why that is so important in order to maintain a healthy lifestyle at whatever age we might be. Reinforced by the need for us all, as individuals, to remain strong and independent.

We need to keep both mind and body active, such that we may:

- Stay in our own homes unsupported

- Be confident in all that we do

- Play with Grandchildren in both mental and physical games

- Venture out on holidays with not only strength, but vigour

So, how do we do this? The answer is through strength, balance and movement.

We need to train ourselves in order to live life better; walking is good, yet we need to strengthen our bodies to preserve muscles, protect bones and joints, improve our sleep, mood and energy levels, improve balance, co-ordination and posture and to stave off disease whilst boosting metabolism and fat loss.

Just a few extra movements each day will help boost everything. Small changes of a couple of minutes can make an immense difference; just remember "Little and Often". We could try flexing our heels by standing on tiptoe any time while standing still, pressing our shoulders against any wall that we happen to stand by, brushing our teeth while standing on one leg and doing some press-ups against the work surface while waiting for the kettle to boil.

Most importantly, for a whole lifestyle improvement, we must not forget our nutrition, where we need protein to build muscle and also fibre, whilst eating consistently, staying hydrated, with plenty of nuts and fruit.

There's no need to change everything at once, the important things are to **START** and **CONTINUE**.

Nicky's talk showed us brilliant, simple and repeatable mechanisms for pushing back against those aching limbs and becoming more mobile. Truly excellent!



News from groups

Local History 5

Did you know?

Lord Eversley, who lived in Kings Worthy, played a leading role in preserving our commons.

The writer, Nevil Shute, both proposed to and was rejected by Petersfield artist Flora Twort.

St Andrews Church in Tichborne is one of only three pre-reformation churches that retains a Roman Catholic chapel.

In 1689 Alresford was nearly completely destroyed in the Great Fire of Alresford.

After the bombing of the Spitfire works in Woolston in 1940, the manufacture of Spitfires was moved to many small workshops over Hampshire – including Chesil Street in Winchester.

These are just some of the interesting and unexpected things our History

Group has discovered during our research into the fascinating history of Hampshire.

Our current quest is: What is a Calendar House and is there one in Hampshire?

We are a friendly group that meets monthly in each other's homes. This year we have decided to go back to the Bronze Age and trace how Winchester and Hampshire developed from pre-history times. We are looking for one or two members to join us in our research. It is amazing what you can discover on the web.

If you would like to find out more about us, please contact me

John Craig



French University Level Literature group

One of our recent reads, *Watching Over Her* by Jean-Baptiste Andrea, has been translated into English and widely admired worldwide. It is a wide-ranging novel about sculpture, tradition, the education of women, Mussolini and changes in Italy, friendship, the politics of gaining a foothold in the Vatican, and much more.

Another book that I hope our group will read, also translated, is *The Propagandist* by Cécile Desprairies. Part biographical, it concerns Nazi sympathisers and collaborators, from a somewhat different viewpoint than

many wartime French stories.

Enid Pollock

Art Appreciation

In 1882 Monet painted a series of views of the English Channel at the Normandy village of Pourville. An example of these canvases was considered in which Monet's mastery of light, reflection and shadows on the surface of the sea, and its movement, is so well illustrated by his rapid brush strokes.

Boat and Sea by Wilhelmina Barns-Graham (1912-2004) shows how this artist created the form and magnitude of waves by an abstract device of lines.

Joan Eardley (1921-1963) painted the power of stormy seas by racing to the cliff tops of north east Scotland by train and motor scooter, with large boards and canvases, when bad weather was imminent.



We entered calmer waters with the other two works considered. Alfred Wallace (1855-1942) the so-called "Naïve" painter, was championed by Ben Nicholson and other artists who lived and worked in St Ives. Beginning to paint at the age of 70 using household paint on odd pieces of cardboard, Alfred depicted what he remembered. The boats, and the bay in which they are set, are accurately detailed but bear little relationship to each other or the landscape.

Boating Party by the American-born impressionist Mary Cassatt was painted in 1892 and is an unusual view of a woman holding a baby, and a man in a rowing boat. The viewpoint is from the stern with the man, in blue seafarer's clothes, occupying a large part of the picture and the woman facing us. The boat's bow almost forms a frame for the mother and child, although the dress and facial expressions leave us guessing the relationship between the boat's

occupants. The rendition of the woman's clothing shows that magenta and blue pigments have been applied when wet and allowed to mix on the canvas. The overall composition is geometrically abstract, with the pure forms of the sail and the outline of the boat emphasised by the use of single colours.



It was with sorrow that we heard of the death, on the first of May, of former group member Shirley Reid, for whom a memorial service was held at St Lawrence Church Winchester on 15 June.

Shirley was an artist and teacher whose insights and experiences greatly enriched our discussions. As a student she spent time in Church Cookham while researching a thesis on Stanley Spencer. She stayed in William Lott's cottage (the house in Constable's Haywain), and in the famous house, in Highgate Cemetery, designed in 1969 by John Winter. She spoke about the Bleau Globes acquired for Winchester Cathedral by Bishop Morley in the 17th century, which she knew from her time as a guide in the Kings and Scribes exhibition. When visiting an exhibition featuring Picasso's famous Guernica, Shirley managed to look at the back of this large painting and see how sections were fitted together. Shirley's own skill was exemplified when she showed us an ink sketch of a Maasai Warrior made when she was in the Rift Valley. Her love of gardening and her religious faith inspired her as an artist and teacher who believed the act of drawing is an active process, like drawing water, and not merely recording what is in front of you.

Keith Hatter

Science and Technology Discussion Group

Our meetings are held on the second Monday of each month in the afternoon at Shawford Springs Care Home, Otterbourne Road, SO21 2RT. As the average attendance is about eight members, we would welcome up to three new members joining the group. We take turns in presenting an item of interest that may have appeared in the news or magazines, or a research topic. Occasionally we have a meeting involving short talks on miscellaneous subjects, which are easy to develop, usually generate lots of

discussion, and provide members with confidence in presenting talks.

Talks later this year include:

Monday 14 September "The Philosophy of Science"

Monday 12 October "A Pulsar Ship Navigation System"

Monday 9 November "Early Communication Technology & related topics"

Monday 14 December Four short talks on Metabolic Rates v Age, Salinity and the Impact of Solubility (we sit on a mound of salt), Ferranti Series computers and Asteroid Deflection, an update on NASA's DART Mission to deflect Earth-bound asteroid impacts.

Recent talks covered:

Waves and Coastal Defence. Waves are essentially fluctuations of water levels from millimetres to tens of meters high and range from short waves to tidal periods measured in hours. Initially wind will create ripples, while subsequent strengthening wind will create a confused sea. As the wind persists it will propagate waves in the direction of the wind. On large bodies of water, waves can journey large distances from their area of origin. Waves generated more locally are known as sea or storm waves, while waves generated some distance away are known as swell waves. Local storms can erode beaches, causing sand to be dragged offshore to settle and create a raised hump. Prevailing currents may also transport sand along the coastline. As waves approach softer coastlines, they erode the soft sediments and build a beach which is the natural form of coastal defence. Wind-blown sand can create dunes behind the beach, forming a reservoir of sand which can restore the beach after a damaging storm. With developed coasts such as Bournemouth, artificial restoration is required. Most coasts include self-regulating erosion sections. Advancing waves will continue to erode the softer coastline and initiate a bay formation. This process increases the overall length of the wave and reduces the energy per unit length, so the wave becomes less erosive.



We also looked at detecting illegal migrants inside heavy goods vehicles (HGVs). Increasing security breaches and terrorist activity necessitate improved security surveillance and detection techniques. These include (i) detecting migrants, drugs, alcohol, weapons and explosives hidden in trucks, trailers and containers, (ii) preventing threats from concealed weapons and explosives at airports and seaports, (iii) safeguarding industrial complexes and

buildings from threats, and (iv) preventing threats from suicide bombers and gun attacks at public events. Eurotunnel became the first ever company to install a millimetre wave system (MMW) to detect migrants inside HGVs, thus avoiding potential £2,000 fines imposed by UK Government. With a throughput of about four HGVs per minute, the system can scan over 3,200 HGVs in a day. MMW Systems were also tested at Dover, Calais and other European ports. Next generation systems (whole body MMW scanners) were tested at airports such as Gatwick and Bonn, and at train/underground stations. Spin-offs from this technology include car collision avoidance sensors, facial recognition, and helping customers decide which clothes to buy at Debenhams in Oxford Street, London!

For further information please contact me

Janusz Adamson



MOTO Group

The Members On Their Own Group continues to meet monthly for a coffee and chat on the third Thursday of each month at 11am at the Wessex Hotel (near the cathedral). No need to book; your decision to come along can be made on the day! All other MOTO events such as meals out or day trips must be booked in advance with the organiser of each particular event. We have three day trips planned for July and August. The first was a wonderful Boat Trip with Blue Funnel taking in four local rivers (Beaulieu, Test, Itchen and Hamble) as well as Southampton Water and the Solent on 17 July. The weather was perfect, albeit a bit hot inside the cabin, but plenty of shade and a cool wind at times. Twelve MOTO ladies thoroughly enjoyed the cruise, which included a Ploughman's lunch, and hot drinks with delicious cake



in the afternoon. Ten of us even managed to get there and back by bus using our bus passes and we arrived on time, despite the re-routing of the BlueStar Number 1 bus due to road works!

Our two other planned day trips are firstly to the Isle of Wight via the Lymington ferry to Yarmouth and secondly, just as we have done for the last two years, a day on the New Forest Hop On/Hop Off Tour Bus starting from Brockenhurst. There are three circular routes to choose from (Blue, Green and Red) and, if time allows, it is possible to swap from one to another depending on how many times you hop on and off.

Sheila Ayling



Walkers from two u3as join up

The u3a Walking Group 3 had a rather interesting event on 13 May.

14 members of the Arundel u3a walkers group had chosen their annual springtime three-day holiday to be based in Winchester, and had asked us to guide their first walk.



Sian Fletcher was the leader of their energetic group and I led them around a circular four mile walk past Winchester College (photo opportunity outside Jane Austen's house), along the flat paths alongside the River Itchen, through the water meadows, and down to St Cross Church. Progress was somewhat slowed by walkers stopping to admire the unfamiliar buildings!

We returned to town via the railway path at Hockley and around the foot of St. Catherine's Hill. Unfortunately, none of our new Arundel u3a friends chose to climb to the summit; it looked so much higher than the books had suggested! Finally, on to the Black Boy for an amicable lunch together.

This was a marvellous example of groups from different u3as meeting to take part in joint activities. Think about the possibilities, not just for the walkers, but for other groups as well. Perhaps other group leaders might contact

similar groups, and arrange an enjoyable afternoon together. You could discuss the same novel, have presentations by history groups of their own towns and even compare your efforts at knitting. Who knows

Mark Brown



Film Criticism

We are a group of eight members who have been meeting for a while and since Covid we have included films or series we have been watching on TV or streaming as not everyone is able to get to the cinema every month. Also discussed is our favourite film in the different genres: comedies, westerns etc. We are friendly, quite vocal and we enjoy a cake or two and twice a year we meet at a pub or restaurant for lunch. If there is anything else you'd like to know, do email me

Carol Dale



Proposals for new groups

British Sign Language

Is anyone interested in learning British Sign Language with me? I had a stroke in 2022 that has affected my vocal cords and my voice - which is stronger on some days than it is on others. In looking to the future, I decided to learn BSL, which I began to do in September last year. Although I have progressed somewhat, I have not found anyone to practise with and would love to be able to communicate with others in BSL.

Learning BSL can be stimulating for the brain as well as improving personal and social connections. If you think you may be interested in joining this group, please email me at

Angela Rabess



Creative Commons Licence



Creative Commons Licence

Can you crack this?

Srvleoh qhz x3d frgh jurxs

L'p qrw sursrvlqj wkdw zh wub wr vroyh dqb
Hqljpd pdfklqh phvvdjhw exw, vwduwlqj zlwk
vlpsoh uhsodfhphqw frghv, zh frxog zrun xs wr
pruh dgydqfhg sxccohv. Wkh jurxs zrxog uhob
rq vrph phpehuv zlwk d olwwoh frglqj nqrzohgjh
zkr frxog whdfk hyhubrqh hovh krz wr pdnh d
vwduw. Vrph klwvrub ri frglqj pljkw eh
lqwuhvwlqj dqg zh frxog hyhqwxdoob zrun

rxuvhoyhv xs wrzdugv d ylvw wr Eohwfkohb Sdun. Li brx'uh lqwuhvwhg lq
wklv srvleoh qhz jurxs, hpdlo ph xvlqj
Yhuqrq Wrwwoh

News from outside Winchester u3a

Free online nationwide talks, workshops and courses

Did you know that all u3a members can access a wide range of free online talks, workshops and courses organised by the National u3a office?

Most sessions are led by fellow members, sharing their expertise, with additional talks from notable speakers and organisations. Even a single talk for an interesting subject can be satisfying.

These events are exclusively for u3a members. Visit the national u3a website at u3a.org.uk, hover over the down arrow next to “What we do” and select Events, then Online learning events.

Mark Brown

Disquiet in the ranks

Several u3as have begun to be concerned about the activities of the Third Age Trust, and the question of whether a formal consultation is now required will be voted on at the AGM of the Trust in October. The following statement was written by Haxby and Wigginton u3a:

'In 2003–04 the Trust described its role as “not that of a Head Office directing its branches but rather a National Office supporting and advising independent and autonomous u3as.”

Over recent years the Trust has increasingly moved beyond that role into advocacy, campaigning and wider public policy discussions concerning issues such as ageing, wellbeing, loneliness and community resilience.

Promoting lifelong learning and the value of u3a is clearly part of the Trust's

role. What concerns us is the shift beyond education and learning into wider social policy activity carried out in the movement's name without any formal consultation with member u3as.

u3as are independent organisations and the members of the Trust itself. The consultation would ensure that the national body remains accountable to the member u3as it exists to support and does not assume authority to speak for the movement on wider social policy issues without first asking the movement.

This resolution asks the Trust to consult member u3as before moving further into campaigning and social policy activity outside the shared purpose of the Trust and u3a.'

If you have any views on this, either way, please contact me at chairman@winchesteru3a.co.uk.

Ann Edwards



Introducing the committee

Speakers Secretary

About two and a half years ago our present Chair suggested I would be the right person to take over from the retiring Speakers Secretary. Who was she kidding? At first I was horrified, but then thought it was time to get out of my comfort zone and take up a challenge. All was set for me to be mentored for the role by Nick Vernon, the retiring Speakers Secretary, but sadly he unexpectedly passed away before we could get together. I was flying blind and solo, quite terrifying.



It has all been quite a learning curve and took a while to get to where I am today. I took over with four talks already arranged by Nick, which gave me breathing space. At first I was groping about to find sites with lists of speakers; there are several sites out there. As time progressed, I have been approached by our own members with suggestions and get frequent emails from speakers offering their services. This is more than enough; the difficulty is whom to choose. I try to get as much variety as possible whilst booking for a year in advance.

I am not a person to be in the limelight, so right at the beginning it was

agreed there would be a speakers team. My husband Chris, who is no shrinking violet, does the speaker introductions and vote of thanks; he also usually does the write-up about the talk for the newsletter. The setting up of the technical side of the presentation is by him and David Wright, who also produces the information screens before each talk.

As time has gone by, I have learned a lot and gained confidence; just talking to the Speaker was a challenge for me at first. I designed a booking form that certainly makes life easier. All the Speaker's details are on the form and there is a box for them to fill in saying how they would like to be introduced. Once completed, the Chair and Treasurer get copies so we are covered should Chris and I not be available on the day.

A VERY important lesson was learned before I created the booking form. The Speaker I had arranged got muddled on his timings and was half an hour late. Horror, what to do? I was so lucky that our very own Judith Elson valiantly stepped in and gave a talk, spontaneously and without notes, on Jane Austen's Christmas. The audience was captivated and actually somewhat disappointed when the Speaker turned up! We now have an excellent pre-recorded talk by Mike Holt saved to a computer memory stick just in case!

In March next year I will have been in this role for 3 years and due to family commitments Chris and I will be standing down. Please give thought to putting yourself forward for this very interesting role of Speakers Secretary. I am happy to meet up for a chat and a talk through. Meanwhile, I will continue to do my best to find you interesting and diverse Speakers.

Nicola Giles



A Dear Sir page

Winchester u3a newsletter has never, to my knowledge, had a "Letters to the Editor" page. If you have something to get off your chest, why not put pen to paper, or more likely, finger to keyboard, and write to complain about something that your u3a is or isn't doing that you think it shouldn't or should do. Or conversely, to congratulate the organisation for something you consider well done.

Just send your thoughts to

u3aletter@gmail.com

Vernon Tottle



Creative Commons Licence



