



January - February 2025

£1 per printed copy

Win an Afternoon Tea for Two! And Hello from your new Chair

This is a long one. If you just want to win the Afternoon Tea skip to page 2... But I'm hoping you will persevere. You may even find it interesting!

Like many of you my main reason for joining the u3a was to "Learn, Laugh, Live" particularly learning new "stuff" to keep the brain cells from completely atrophying as I enter, somewhat reluctantly in all honesty, my third age. Since joining I have sampled German (a sobering experience in how we kid ourselves how good we are), Cycling and Conversation Groups as well as several coffee mornings and a great presentation on Isle of Wight gin.

I also was fortunate to attend the Christmas Social, where Jennifer as quiz master and Sally, supported ably by Sue, Dorothy, Judy, Dave, Angela, Sara and Tony, who put so much effort into creating the scene for an excellent and laughter, filled afternoon.

I'm not quite sure how but I am now also leading the newly formed Italian Conversation group, even though my Italian would embarrass any serious student of the language. In addition, I am trying to get a Debating Group off the ground (my debating skills are only outshone by my Italian) and somehow I also find myself, with no experience of the u3a, in the position of chairing your

committee. You might recognise a theme in terms of competence here, but I will skip lightly over this point. You are a wonderful group of people with so many active and diverse interests and anyone would be impressed by the vim, zeal and sense of community of the members, Group Leaders and Committee. I am delighted to have been asked to throw my hat in the ring and will strive to continue the great work and effort from all the Committee and Group Leaders that has brought us to 300 members on the Island today.

Your committee has done an outstanding job in developing the membership and groups over the last few years. We are always looking for new committee members to help share the load so that a few don't end up doing a lot. However, this is now more pressing than ever as we are just about to lose two of our committee in the next couple of months, which really starts to put the pressure on our ability to serve. Volunteering feeds the soul and the sense of community derived from working with others gives a common goal and increases emotional health and wellbeing (if you disagree, why not join the debating group and we can sort this out as well?)

We have several areas that either need extra support or are completely unsupported. We would absolutely love to hear from you.

...contd.

Would you enjoy joining our little group and could you spare a few hours a month to support us? We would particularly love to hear from anyone with skills (no matter how slight) or more importantly, the desire to learn any of the following:

Media; publishing; marketing; finance; administration; secretarial; social media, or any skill that they would like to share with us? Please do get in contact with me directly if you feel this is something you would enjoy chair@u3awight.uk

Finally, I would like to take a moment to express a heartfelt thank-you to those who have put so much time and effort into getting us to where we are today. In particular a word of thanks to Alison who chaired the committee with such energy, and Dave Vodden and Roger who stepped in to continue while a new Chair was found.

In summary - I'm here to serve. I'm new, I'm listening, and I need your help. Please contact me about any aspect of the u3a that you would like to see either improved or created.

I promise that future missives will be shorter!

Chris Ryan, Chair
chair@u3awight.uk



Christmas Social and Quiz

The social was a very enjoyable if tightly scheduled afternoon. The Quiz was provided by Jennifer Hinton.

The winners of the hard-fought Christmas Quiz were the 'Scrabblers' – pictured here proudly sporting their winning medals.

Many thanks to Jennifer. It was full of obscure, funny and interesting questions - the perfect quiz. The raffle prizes were an eclectic mix of upcycled goodies all now moved on to new homes and the bubbly, tea and cake were plentiful. Special thanks to Sue, Dorothy and Judy for their hard work.

Enter the IW u3a draw to win an Afternoon Tea for two just by completing the online survey below (10 minutes max!)

Click: [Survey link supplied by Chris](#)

Tell us more about your experience with the u3a and how you think we might improve.

Winner will be drawn and announced at the January Committee meeting on Thursday January 16th

Annual General Meeting

We are awaiting any members' resolutions to put forward for the AGM on **13th February** to debate and will be electing the committee and accepting the accounts. Printed copies can be requested through groups@u3awight.uk.

Your present committee - Chris, Dave, Tony, Sara, Sally, Angela, Peter, Julia, and Roger. Contact via committee@u3awight.uk



Web Site The u3aWight web site has moved across to WordPress, using a u3a created template. If you have WordPress web design skills or would like to develop them then you would be very welcome to become a u3aWight web-apprentice.

Our normal website is:
www.u3awight.uk



Please contact the web editor:

Peter Huckle
peterhuckle@gmail.com

Administrative Web Site It's easy to get confused here. The publicly accessible website is www.u3awight.uk, but the committee uses an administrative web site provided by the Third Age Trust (TAT). This is called "Beacon" and it records memberships, groups, group leaders, events, and bookkeeping entries. Eventually some data will be shared between these two sites.

Ordinary members can access their data via the [Members Portal](#) and it is possible to join or leave some of the u3a Groups (password required if not already set up).

Facebook

We also have a public Facebook page: www.facebook.com/u3aWight but most information is updated on our normal website.



More on our Web Site



Our web site is more than a pretty picture. It contains four sets of data:

- 1 [All our Groups](#)
- 2 [Venues for our Groups](#)
- 3 [Groups Events](#)
- 4 [Group Leaders](#)

Speaking techie, these things are related, or linked. They don't exist in isolation.

If you look at a Group, the web will also show you the Group Leader, the Venue, any associated events, all knitted and linked together. Clever stuff. Try it.

Any one thing will lead you to related things. Even British Rail could learn a thing or two here.

Language Conversation

Could you host a language conversation group? You do not need to be fluent. Someone who is fluent might emerge if you offer to organise one! There is definitely interest in a Spanish conversation group. The Italian Conversation group has taken off into full flight see page xx for details.

Contact - Sally_groups@u3awight.uk

Debating Group

It's been a case of two steps forward and one step back since the last newsletter. The inaugural meeting went off with whimper, in that only one other person (thank you Lucie!) was able to attend.



However since that time we now have eight people signed up through the website and only two have so far withdrawn.

If you are interested in the debating group please join through the *membership portal* - see page 3.

So, as we enter 2025 it looks like we have a group of six to see if we can get things off the ground.

Our new "inaugural" meeting is 12:30 on Friday 3rd January, straight after the January Coffee Morning at the Bargeman's Rest in Newport.

My intention is to lock the doors to keep all the Coffee Morning members there for an extra hour to make sure we have some new blood! Is this ethical? Perhaps we should debate it?

Contact - Chris_chair@u3awight.uk

happy
New Year

**New Year
Photography Competition**

'Old Meets New'

**Closing Date 28th
February 2025**

Submissions to...

Sally on groups@u3awight.uk



Winner Winter 2021



Winner Winter 2022

Signature Dishes Eddie's Indian Lunch

On a beautiful October morning six gathered at Eddie's house and were welcomed with coffee and plates of biscuits.

After introductions, Eddie took us through the preparation, ingredients and cooking of three different curries. He started his demonstration with Chicken curry, which was then placed in the oven to continue cooking slowly as he moved on to the preparation of a Lamb Dhansak and finally Prawn Pathia.

To accompany these dishes he made stuffed Peshwari Naan bread from scratch, which also contained mango pulp and almonds at its centre. Delicious.

Eddie also made Dahl to accompany our curries and provided us with the knowledge to make wonderfully fluffy basmati rice which I will definitely be trying.

And finally, we were all able to taste these delights when Eddie laid out our feast. What's not to like!

What a wonderful way to spend a Thursday morning and many thanks to Eddie who made it all possible.

Kay Evans

Pear and Almond Tarte Thursday 16th January 10:30

Following Eddie's successful and enjoyable Indian Lunch, the next Signature Dish demonstration will be from Kay Evans, a Pear and Almond Tarte with coffee.

Cost £2. Booking essential and I would advise early booking!

Blinis with Savoury Toppings Thursday March 27th

Could you offer a signature dish?
A one-off demonstration of one of your favourite dishes?

Contact - Sally_groups@u3awight.uk



New Groups

Let's Go -

A Group to support saying Yes! to adventures large and small.

Paul Beatty has proposed a sociable visit to the Medina Theatre on Saturday 18th January to see the Isle of Wight Symphony Orchestra at 7:15pm.

If you are interested in meeting up with Paul for a sociable drink at the theatre or afterwards then contact him on:

phjbeatty@protonmail.com



Are there outings that you would like to share - something that you are itching to have a go at?

A place where you would like company to visit?

A place that you would like to eat out with a group of fellow eaters?

Send your ideas to:

Sally on groups@u3awight.uk

Eat Out and Review

Saturday 1st February:

A Taste of CYPRUS?

Staplehurst Grange, Staplers Rd,
Newport PO30 2LU

Sixteen dishes £34.99 pp Greek Meze

Let me know if the idea appeals.
Firm commitment by January 10th.

Sally on groups@u3awight.uk

Are there places that you would like to propose for eat out and review?

Give us a date and a time and we will find out who else is interested.

Photography Group

The photography group is still working to find its form or its feet! The next meeting will be in Sandown on January 20th with a focus on taking portraits.

The initial meetings attracted people with diverse goals and it remains to be seen how this will evolve. There may be enough interest to make it worth forming more than one group.

Contact:

Sally on groups@u3awight.uk

News from the Groups

Playing with Watercolour

(Wroxall - one place available)

Firstly a big thank you to the ladies who have come along to my Playing with Watercolour sessions in the last year. I have been able to share my love of messing about with paint and hopefully my boundless enthusiasm for this pastime, more a passion, that has rubbed off on them too.



Masterpieces are not our goal, but enjoying ourselves is. This ought to be our motto!



Our latest session was balm for the soul at this busy time of year. We had a 'paint something simple' session i.e. 'painting paint thyself' with little interference from us.

Using one colour, lots of water and very little help from a brush, we achieved some very effective results. To be continued when my Chinese brushes arrive.

January and February are going to require some strong colourful paint to cheer the grey days of winter and I will be doing extra sessions to keep us all happy and amused.



I've loads of ideas to try out on my willing companions in the coming year. In fact more ideas than time, but we will do our best! Very exciting trying out new things all the time.

I do have a spare seat at the table if anyone fancies joining us, just give me an e-mail.

Barbara Howard
barb.mill@yahoo.co.uk

Card Making

£3 contribution towards costs

We meet on the first Monday of the month 10.30—12.30 in Shanklin PO37 6AB and create some lovely card details together. Come and join us and learn various creative techniques/art ideas, making cards at your own pace and pleasure.

All materials provided, just bring along a pen and note pad and have some fun and make new friendships. Tea/ coffee refreshments included.

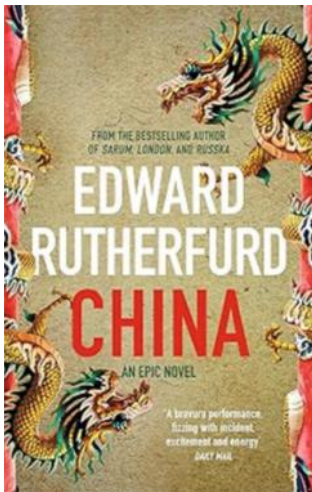
Teresa Reed
teresareed@btopenworld.com
07903 933292

News from the Groups

Bookies' Favourites (Still some places available)

Bookies Favourites met to discuss the epic novel "China" by Edward Rutherford.

It is a marathon read, covering a period of Chinese history from 1839 at the beginning of the first Opium War, all the way through to the Cultural Revolution and beyond.



Whilst one member of the group had a good knowledge of the country throughout this period, the majority of us admitted to our ignorance.

Undoubtedly well researched, we thought it was written from a very European point of view and maybe a Chinese writer would tell it in a different way. It's a story of greed, power and conflict, covering ancient traditions and upheaval in a struggle between cultures.

There was a general agreement that there were almost too many characters, some of whom frustratingly came and went, and that it was written in a very episodic style without fully linking the different occurrences - which was also frustrating.

We enjoyed learning more about aspects of Chinese society such as foot binding and the status of eunuchs.

We had a lively discussion as to whether a novel was there to accurately inform us at all times, or simply provide an entertaining and interesting read. Not everyone in the group was invested enough to finish the book and all of us felt it was very long indeed with more than 600 pages.

Final scoring from group members varied between less than 1 and a healthy 8!

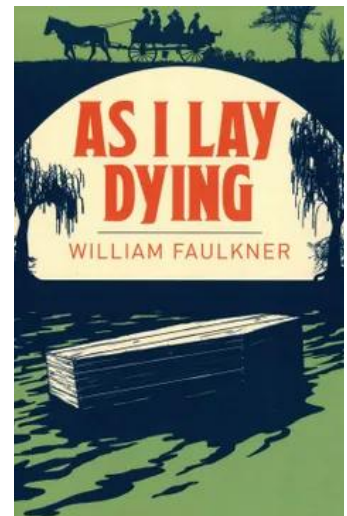
Our next meeting is on **Monday 13th January**, 14.30 at Monkton Arts in Ryde.

We will be discussing "As I Lay Dying" by William Faulkner.

We usually meet about every six weeks and have room for more group members if you fancy coming along to try it.

Please contact me beforehand.

Steph
stephedwards2@gmail.com



News from the Groups

Cinema group



We meet on the second Tuesday of the month for an afternoon showing at Cineworld in Newport. We meet by the ice-cream counter and to make it simple, we don't pre-book, we just pay and go in as a group.

We are hoping that some people will attend regularly to make it more like other u3a groups, but are happy for people to turn up for individual films that they particularly want to see.

After the film we usually go to a café or pub to chat about the film we have just seen.

Please contact either Julia or Graham if you would like to add your name to the group list.

Graham Hadfield 07432 654690
gjhadf@gmail.com

Julia Seabrook
Juliaseabrooku3a@gmail.com

Exploring Historic Churches

The Historic Church visiting group will resume late spring 2025. If you have ideas for churches we should visit and places where we should have tea - and would like to join the group, please let me know.

Hilary Ranger
[07876 560439](tel:07876560439)

Quizzing



We have 40 members in the quizzing group but there is always space for more! The idea is for group members to spot a forthcoming quiz in their locality and reserve one or two tables (or more if there is enough interest). This can then be advertised to the group and it's a case of those first to respond who get a place in one of the teams.

We started in February last year and in nine months we managed to get teams into 35 quizzes, mainly in pubs but also Trinity Theatre, Sandown Wildheart Animal Sanctuary, Caffè Isola, Osborne House and Newport Cricket Club, to name just a few. All of these quizzes take place in the evening.

We have also had some very enjoyable afternoon 'Social quizzes' in members' homes. Someone volunteers to be question master; we all bring some refreshments and a fun time is had by all!

Alison Botha
alisonbotha@hotmail.com

January & February Lunches

January's Lunch will be held at The Fighting Cocks at Hale Common on Wednesday 15th January at 12.45.

February's lunch will be held at The Yarbridge Inn on Wednesday 19th February.

Please contact Sally to reserve a place.

Sally
sally.u3awight@gmail.com

News from the Groups

St Lawrence Wine Tasting - end of year report



Festive greetings to all u3a members!

The group celebrated its now annual Xmas meeting, with a selection of the best wines from the year's tastings, and the wine still to emerge as favourite, was another Sauvignon Blanc from New Zealand, which, looking back, was the same result as the year before. This, despite my best efforts to try new grape varieties and interesting wines from around the world, the acres of research and hard graft, – another NZ Sauvignon Blanc.....

As a result, I realise there is more work to do in my quest to refresh the taste buds of our group, as we embark on the third year of our very convivial monthly gatherings. We have a couple of spaces available this year, so if anybody would like to join us, please let me or Sally know.

In November we focused on the Rhone Valley region in France, with the clear winner being a very special bottle of Chateau Neuf du Pape (a name some of us might drop while pretending to know what we are talking about). Although more expensive than most of us would normally budget for, it is worth it for that special occasion or gift.

While the focus of the group is on the wines, the real benefit is from the social interaction, and I would like to thank all the group members for their contribution to making all our meetings so enjoyable, and easy to run!

Happy New Year!

Frank

Random RAMBLES

Random Rambles are walks organised by members, for members. The success of the group is dependent on a few people being willing to lead walks. If you are interested in leading, or joining us please email. *If leading a walk is something that you might consider please contact groups@u3awight.uk*

[Charles Dickens Trail](#) [Friday 26th January](#)

Our next walk will follow the new Charles Dickens Trail which starts in Shanklin. This is probably a walk for more seasoned rambles, so please contact me for further details regarding the route and obstacles!

This walk is a little over 5½ miles and quite strenuous, it was also very muddy in early December and likely to be so still at the end of January. Please contact Eddie for more information:

eddiegeorge@sky.com

For this venture to be a success we need volunteers to lead the walks.

Support and encouragement will be given if you have not led a walk before, or do not know the island well.

News from the Groups



Discussion Group

Do join our lively and friendly group for discussions of a wide range of topics.

We've recently discussed:

What on earth is ChatGPT? And is this form of Artificial Intelligence of any use to us?

We could answer Yes to its usefulness, once Tony, an AI clued-up group member, demonstrated his talking and listening ChatGPT App to us.

Do we need better use of our housing stock and/or more new houses?

Discussion focused on the need for more genuinely affordable homes.

What are our views about assisted dying?

There was almost unanimous support for the Bill.

We meet twice a month, every second and fourth **Thursday**, at Utilita Hub, 121 High Street, Newport, between 10.30 and 12.00. Our meeting dates in January 2025 are January 9th and 23rd.

From February to July 2025, we may need to change the times of our meetings
We meet in February on 13th and 27th, 2025

New members very welcome.
Contact **Pauline Hunter**
paulinehunter12@gmail.com

Poetry Group

We are now going into our third meeting as a Poetry Group, meeting on the second Friday of the month from 2pm.

We are currently a group of seven and if anyone is interested we have places for three more.

We meet in Shanklin, PO37 6AB

Our aim is to enjoy sharing poems. We take it in turns to choose a theme and a poet for the month. We then bring two or three poems each, one on the theme, one by the nominated poet and one optional free choice.

We enjoy discussing the meaning of the pieces and their interpretations. It's a fun group reading and poets can range from 'Keats' to 'Spike Milligan'.



Tea and coffee refreshments included.

Anyone interested in joining our group, please contact

Teresa Reed
[07903933292](tel:07903933292)
teresareed@btopenworld.com

News from the Groups

Cowes Wine Appreciation

We had a very interesting meeting in November, where we sampled wines from South Africa. They were a little difficult to get hold of, as the supermarkets don't stock a very wide range. We are fortunate in Cowes to have Wine Therapy, an independent wine shop which has a good variety of wines from all round the world. With perseverance we managed to end up with eight different choices, four white and four red, with various price tags.

We were also lucky that one of our members, John, had lived in South Africa and he shared his knowledge of the history of wine growing regions. We decided that out of the four white wines that we sampled our favourite was the Franschoek cellar, Chemin Blanc, which was purchased from Wine Therapy.

The favourite red was a Fairtrade Pinotage, 2022 purchased from Sainsbury's. A classic South African wine.

The cheaper bottles from Aldi were also very good and showed once again that some of the cheaper wines are good value for money.

I think we were all surprised how good the South African wines are and will give them another try in the future.

Our December choice was 'whatever we like'.

Jenny Hale

jennylodc@yahoo.co.uk



GREEN ISSUES

Remember CLIMATE CRISIS MEETING on the 4th Wednesday of the month

A really good way of keeping up to date with developments in Green Technology. Things are really moving forward and many people are using out-of-date information on Green Issues.



For joining details - contact climate@u3acommunities.org

and ask Rien to join.

Keep Greening!

Dina

dinajung@gmail.com

Bookworms (Formerly Wootton Book Group)

Although many of our members are from the Wootton area, we now meet in East Cowes. We meet on the first Friday of the month and had our last meeting in East Cowes.

Our November book, 'This must be the Place' by Maggie O'Farrell generally received positive feedback. Our main criticism was the timeline which jumped back and forth to places, events and characters which some readers found confusing.

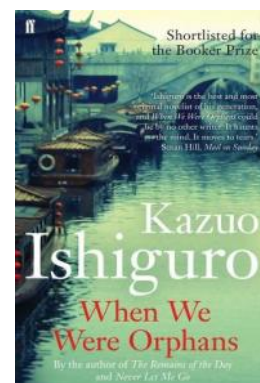
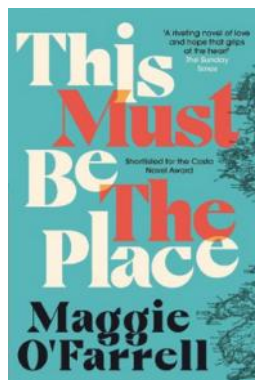
Maggie O'Farrell took several stylistic risks when writing this book. One chapter is written as an auction catalogue and in another the character adds footnotes to his telling of the story. However, we all agreed her portrayal of relationships and her descriptions are excellent and I would really recommend this book.

Our December choice divided the group. Some loved Kazuo Ishiguro's novel, 'When we were Orphans' and felt the descriptions and writing transported them to China, others found the plot ludicrous and the characters unrealistic. This is of course part of the joy of reading authors and novels who are chosen by members of the group. We have the opportunity to read books we would probably never pick up and it certainly results in lots of discussion.

Allison Rogers

01983 616634

davidallison36@hotmail.com



Cribbage Group

We are a small friendly group. With some new enthusiastic members recently joining us we now meet most Wednesday evenings at the Man In The Moon Newport at 18.00 as this is the most convenient time for all of us.

Anyone interested in cribbage and possibly joining our group, please let me know: 01983 811562 or 07887 525424 and leave a message.

Christine Priest

cm.priest1@yahoo.co.uk



Non-Fiction Books

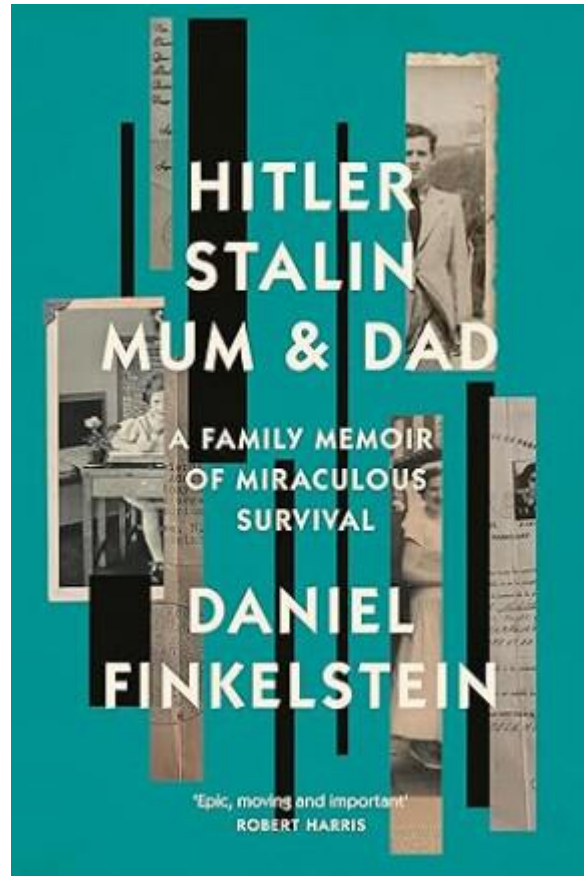
The non-fiction book group does what it says on the tin - we read and discuss non-fiction books, although in truth they occasionally stray into other media too. We meet monthly on Zoom.

As we Zoom- meet on the last Tuesday of the month, which fell on Christmas Eve for December, we opted to skip a month and select a book which will keep most occupied through December and January.

Daniel Finkelstein's book 'Hitler, Stalin, Mum & Dad' is an outstanding and moving account of how two strands of his family survived the horrors of the twentieth century. Winner of the Book of the Year from the Guardian, the F.T., Economist, New Statesman, Spectator, Daily Express, T.L.S and several others, this promises to be a book not to be rushed.

If you are interested in joining our Non-Fiction reading group, contact:

Nigel Hastings 07967 371635
hastingsnigel01@gmail.com



Beach Walks

The January beach walk will be on Wednesday the 29th at Yaverland. Start time will be tide dependent. An email will be sent out one week before with the start time. If you fancy a blast of fresh air and a brisk walk along the beach followed by a coffee or similar, do let me know

The February beach walk on Wednesday 26th will be a flat walk from Cowes to Gurnard starting at 10:30 at Cowes M&S. We will walk through the town and along the promenade to The Woodvale at

Gurnard where we will stop for coffee or similar and then return.

Beach walks are open to all members and are held on the last Wednesday of each month. The location varies and is sometimes actually on the beach and other times along paths or promenades by the sea. Everyone is welcome, including well-behaved dogs. Come and have a walk by the sea, a bit of a chat and perhaps a hot drink (or cold) at the end of it.

Carol Bradshaw 07748 886246
carolbradshaw@u3awight.uk

News from the Groups

Cycling Group

I was away on holiday for the November 5th ride for the less experienced but Adrian Tavill, an experienced cyclist, kindly agreed to lead the ride. Only Andrew joined Adrian on the day, riding his new (to him) bicycle: the weather was clear, overcast but very cold so the coffee was very welcome.

After they had finished, Adrian cycled over to Blackwater to look at the upgraded section of cycle path. The surface is excellent and the section that flooded has been raised and resurfaced also - so a great improvement.

I was back for the November ride for the more experienced. Unfortunately, it was the day the temperature really dropped and, again, only one rider, Jenny, joined me on the ride from Quarr Abbey along the cycle path through Binstead, down to Ryde seafront and along the coast to Seaview, by which time our hands were freezing!

There we stopped at Lily's Café only to find it closing in two minutes. Fortunately the staff took pity on us and provided hot tea whilst they cleared up the café for the day – a very welcome refuge! The ride back was along the same route and was uneventful – the end of a chilly but very enjoyable ride.

The December ride for the 'less experienced' was again from Merstone but turned out to be more of an 'adventure' than previous rides. Only Myriam joined me this time.

Unfortunately, workmen were cutting the verges and hedges along the cycle path, so we could not get very far before having to turn back. We thought of other routes to Newchurch, and decided to head up to the Wight Bike at Merstone where Myriam thought they sold coffee

and could provide us with passable routes, many of the paths and bridleways being wet and muddy. We were told that the coffee machine had been taken away and the only 'safe' route to Newchurch was along the main road which neither of us fancied much.

Whilst chatting at Wight Bike we noticed Myriam's front tyre was completely flat – but at least we were in the right place and the staff were able quickly to replace the inner tube, the punctured one having three large thorns in it.

Once repaired, we headed back to the Merstone cycle track and then took the lane and backroads to Godshill from where Myriam had started. There we had hot refreshment and I returned to my car at Merstone. A relatively short ride with an unplanned twist this time, but, as always, most enjoyable.

With the cold weather upon us I am putting a hold on future rides until the weather improves, at which time I will email the Cycling Group. I will also be sending out a short survey on how we might improve the Cycle Group activities in 2025.

If you wish to join our cycle group, can't remember if you have or not, or require further information about our rides etc, please contact me at:
dave.vodden@tiscali.co.uk

In the meantime, have a very Happy, Healthy, and Safe New Year.

Happy cycling!
Dave Vodden



News from the Groups

Walk and Talk about Gardens

This group will now take a rest over the winter months and resume again in April. We will all keep in touch during winter and the next year's programme will eventually get sorted. We will still keep to the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month next year.

Carry on gardening!

Beryl Tillman

tillmanberyl@gmail.com

The Garden Group with Robin & Patricia

Now in hibernation for the winter.

The Garden Group meets twice a month in summer, alternating Mondays and Tuesdays. We visit each others' gardens, drink tea, eat cake and discuss all things horticultural and much else besides.

If you would like to join us for a visit please contact Robin and Patricia.

robintyler60@gmail.com

Psychology Group

The Psychology Group is progressing well, with twelve or so members. We meet on the third Thursday of each month in the Newport Congregational Church Hall.

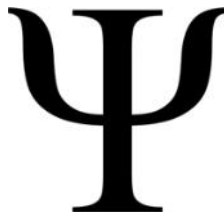
Each session commences with a brief introduction from me followed by group discussion. There are suggested non-obligatory reading materials.

We are currently at full capacity, but I'm happy to be contacted by anybody who is interested, so they can go on the waiting list for if somebody drops out.

Jeremy Turk

jeremy.turk@icloud.com

07814004456



K-drama group meets 2nd Monday evening for a first episode viewing of a choice of K-dramas.

Four of us enjoyed nibbles and beverages at Roger's house on Monday 11th November. .

We watched the first episode of the Korean drama 'Itaewon Class' which Roger recommended. It was a series that Ed and I had not previously seen and we have watched quite a few over the last four years.

The episode was a good example of a K-drama with a strong story line, engaging characters and a cliff-hanger ending. Following the viewing we had a discussion about Korean drama, language, and culture.

Ed and I watched half the next episode when we came home, we couldn't wait to find out what happens next. It promises to be an excellent watch and over the next month we plan to watch all 16 episodes and report back to the group.

Many Korean dramas are 16 episodes in total, sometimes more, and each are about an hour long. That's a lot of storytelling time! If you are a fan of period pieces then I can recommend the series 'Rookie Historian' which is available on Netflix. It was the first one I watched, is a good story and the scenes and costumes are stunning to watch.

Marianne Hulse

Contact **Roger**
rogerskid@zen.co.uk



News from the Groups

French Conversation

Friday am: Lake
Friday pm: Newport
Wednesday pm: Newport



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

French 1 - with **Ally de Trey** - is held in a lovely room at Co-op Funeralcare in Lake on Fridays at 10 am. There are 10 group members and we generally have six to eight present at each meeting. Some of us are more fluent than others, with one a fluent speaker who can correct our French. We start each meeting with each person relating their news since they were last present, then we have coffee. The second half is a mixture of games, listening exercises and reading and translating French articles.

French 2 - with **Robert Carter** - meets at Utilita's room in Newport on Friday 2pm. We are currently full. Meetings are very informal with no preparation and an unstructured conversation so as to achieve as natural and loose a flow as possible - as in real life in France. We have a qualified French teacher who corrects. Some members have made extraordinary progress in French conversation in this liberal environment with a concomitant improvement in writing skills.

French 3 - with **Angela Forman** - meets at Utilita's room in Newport on Wednesday 2pm. We have 12 members with varying levels of French, although all members have greatly improved. Each week one person volunteers to email members to prepare a chosen subject which usually becomes very nostalgic, interesting and humorous. This group is currently full.

Contact: french@u3awight.uk

German

Alternate Fridays,
Brading Roman Villa
or Utilita, Newport



There are two German groups that meet on alternate Friday mornings 10.30 - 12.30, either at the Brading Roman Villa or at Utilita in Newport. Anyone interested in joining is welcome to try in both, so that they can gauge the level they feel most comfortable at. Some members choose to participate in both. Zoom is available for anyone unable to be present in person.

“Improvers’ Group”

There are a few spaces available if anyone is looking to improve the German they learnt at school, or while living or working in Germany. We can't take beginners at this stage, but anyone who already has some knowledge should feel comfortable. We practise three basic skills, speaking, listening and understanding written texts.

“Advanced Group”

There are spaces in this group for people with a more advanced knowledge of the language, for example, people who may have studied to “A” level in their youth, or anyone who has lived and worked in Germany for some years. The main skills we practise are speaking, listening and written comprehension.

Please phone or email for further details. New members welcome in both groups.

Mary Longley

melongley1@gmail.com

07815 901252

News from the Groups

Spanish Improvers

Brett Clark:

brett_iow@hotmail.com



Zoom on Mondays from 4pm - 5pm

Sadly we still have too many members to allow more to join, but if you are prepared to go onto a waiting list please make contact.

Not such Beginners Spanish

Brett Clark:

brett_iow@hotmail.com

Saturday Newport 1pm - 2pm

This group is still in need of someone willing to give guidance (not to frighten anyone with the word "teach"!)

If you have any experience with conversational Spanish, please get in touch.

Beginners Italian

**Saturday Newport
2pm - 3pm**



Our textbook is Qui Italia, which gives us material to develop (mainly) reading, listening and speaking skills. John, our guide, generally sets a small amount of homework to encourage us to study 'a little and often'.

Although our lessons are based primarily on the text, group members are set a task of preparing a talk on their choice of facets of Italian life, from cuisine and art to history and culture which always goes down well.

The group is always well attended and we usually are close to filling the meeting room at Utilita. Sadly we cannot accept any new members at present, but please make contact if you're happy to go onto a waiting list.



John Mittelheuser

john.mittelheuser@gmail.com

Italian Conversation

Chris Ryan - chair@u3awight.uk

December has seen us go from strength to strength in terms of numbers. We now have 10 active members on our WhatsApp group, and happy to take a few more. Our ability varies from beginner to intermediate and everyone seems to enjoy it, no matter their ability. Thanks to the sterling endeavours of Patti Urry it looks as if our permanent home will be East Cowes library.

We are currently concentrating on the everyday language of eating and drinking, as well as the odd excursion into the subtleties (or not) of Italian hand language and card games. Some of us are reading 'In Other Words' by Jumpha Lahiri, possibly one of the most beautiful books written about leaning a language, which also has the added benefit of being written in both languages.

January sees us meeting on 14th and 28th at 2:30 pm, as well as a field trip to Michelangelo's in Ryde on 30th at 3pm to put our fledgling language skills into practice over afternoon tea or perhaps even a "bel rosso".

A la prossima

News from the Groups

Scrabble Group

We play on the 4th Friday of the month in various homes.



We are able to accept a few more people on our list of players, since obviously not all of us can turn up to every game.

Contact Alison if you would like to join.

Alison

alisonbotha@hotmail.com

Bridge

The Bridge group meet in people's homes. They will be holding one or two regular games every month, so if you are a beginner, casual player or even a regular club player and want to join them, contact:

Tony Williams

shidehouse@yahoo.co.uk

Creative Writers

The Creative writing group continues to entertain and stretch the skills we need.

Readers of the newsletter may be interested to read this month's Creative Writing examples by the same person. They show differences in style - prose v dialogue. They do keep the reader's attention and are enjoyable.

Other examples of the creative writers' work can be found on the [web link](#).

Regards, **Helena Hewston**

Group Leader

sybug@aol.com



Mah-Jong +

A small group meets in Cowes weekly. We also meet in people's homes.

Beginners' Mah-Jong

Would you like to Learn to play Mah-Jong? Sign up for new beginners' sessions.

Date, time and venue to be agreed with participants.

Contact: **Sally**

sally.u3awight@gmail.com



Random Reads

We now meet approximately every 4-6 weeks as and when most of us can get together in a variety of venues. New members welcome.

Jenny Hastings

Jennyhastingsiow@gmail.com





“ICE”

Of course we hope it never happens to us, but, should we have an accident or have a medical incident rendering us unconscious without anyone we know being with us, how would **First Responders** or the **Emergency Services** know anything about us, and who they might contact?

One solution is to always **carry key information** about ourselves where that information can be readily accessible to those services, thus saving valuable time. Here are a few suggestions:

Carry a Card

This is the simplest method as it only involves printing the relevant information on a card which you keep in an ‘obvious’ place e.g. wallet, purse, phone case etc. Some options are:

- You could make one yourself from a blank card.
- Buy ICE card ‘blanks’ online with the basic headings preprinted.
- Buy a card online with all your information preprinted on it. This involves sending your personal data to a third party so it can be transferred to the card. These cards are generally plastic or plastic coated so are more robust than plain card, but are more expensive.

Carry a Card with a link to a Third Party Information Service

This is generally a subscription service (i.e. monthly payment) whereby you are

provided with a card with a QR code on it which is unique to you. The emergency services can then scan the QR code to access your personal information.

One advantage of this system is that more detailed information can be made available than can be fitted on a card, and can be easily updated without changing the card itself.

Mobile Phones/Smartphones

Unbeknown to many of us, Smartphones (iPhones and Android etc.) have a feature generally termed **ICE, In Case of Emergency, Emergency Contacts** or similar, depending on the manufacturer.

Unlike most apps on your phone this app does not need a password and the Emergency Services will know how to quickly access this information, saving valuable time.

The information stored is generally as follows:

Who to contact

Your medical condition (e.g. blood group, allergies, diabetic, heart etc.)

Your medication

It is also possible to use the **Emergency SOS** feature to send your location to your emergency contacts and alert emergency services.

Whilst the basic setting-up is fairly simple, there are a number of useful guides and videos online. Different for different phones. It is best to search for **ICE** for your specific phone.



Dave Vodden

dave.vodden@tiscali.co.uk



National u3a Web Site

u3a is a national organisation with over 1,000 local u3a's similar to ours here on the Isle of Wight. We are not alone!

Go to <https://www.u3a.org.uk/> and spend a little while exploring other groups and see what our national organisation has to offer.

Your committee has interest and links with the national "Third Age Trust" (TAT) so do talk to Chris Ryan, our Chair, to find out where we are in the bigger picture.

chair@u3awight.uk

u3a Matters

If you have not received a copy of u3a matters recently and you miss it then you may not be on our list of people who would like it. u3a matters is available and free to you as a member. Copies of the magazine will be available at speaker meetings in case you need reminding of what you are missing.

Please let us know if you would like a copy sent to you.

Sally
groups@u3awight.uk



Laptops for Ukrainians



Ever since the Ukrainian crisis started, [Laptops for Ukrainians](#) here on the Island has been receiving and providing refurbished laptops to Ukrainian families - over 100 to date.

Activity has settled somewhat but we are still supplying a handful even now. Our own stock is almost depleted so this is an appeal for more.

If you have a laptop stored away you do not require, please get in touch. (All/any data is securely removed.)

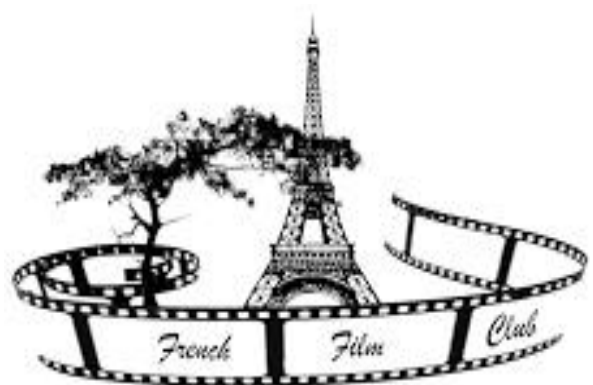
Roger Skidmore 07732 480201
rogerskid@zen.co.uk

French Film at Ventnor Arts

French Film is taking a break for January but will be back first Monday in February. Film to be advised by email.

Admission £8.
3pm Matinee

Contact wendy@ventnorartsclub.com



Forthcoming speaker topics



The Red Cross (Thursday 9th January) is a charity whose primary objective is to offer emotional and practical support to people in the aftermath of a crisis or emergency by offering vital needs like shelter, food, water and medicine.

They do First Aid training; Mental Health training; Health and Safety Training and First Aid Supplies.



Guide Dogs are excited to be joining the Thursday 13th February meeting and hope to give a brief overview of the charity and the services they provide to support people with sight loss live the life they choose.

They will also be covering how volunteers support the charity and the different ways people can help. This may include a talk by a Guide Dog Owner about their lived experience and how a guide dog has helped them.



Ideas for talks are always welcome.

We prefer to support Island speakers because we are loyal and there are lower travelling costs.

Please send ideas to Sara, our speaker meetings organiser, at rykastopdog@gmail.com

Speaker Meetings!

**Second Thursday of the month
2.00 pm St John's Hall, Newport, PO30 1LN**

Speaker Meetings are open to all: new members, old members
and prospective members.

The presentation starts at 2.00 pm and is followed by
refreshments and a chance to chat.

Thursday 9th January

The Red Cross

Thursday 13th February

Guide Dogs.

Followed by our AGM



Friendly guide dog



Coffee Mornings around the Island (all start at 11.00 am)

Newport: Bargeman's Rest, Friday 3rd Jan

Niton: MJ's Tea Room, Wednesday 8th Jan

Cowes: New Holmwood, Thursday 16th Jan (3rd Thu)

Ryde: Castle Hotel, Tuesday 28th Jan (4th Tue)

Newport: Bargeman's, Wednesday 5th Feb (1st Wed)

Ventnor/Niton tba

Cowes: New Holmwood, Thursday 20th Feb (3rd Thu)

Ryde: Ryde Castle, Tuesday 25th Feb (4th Tue)

We look forward to seeing you there!

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