

**November-December 2025**

**£1 per printed copy**

## **Notes from the Chair**



**This month** I'd like to spend a little time highlighting the depth and breadth of event, expertise and learning that is available to us via the u3a website:

<https://www.u3a.org.uk/>

The range of subjects and expertise available is quite simply breath-taking. I counted almost 100 different Subject Advisors and 150 online groups with around 100 of them having spaces immediately available; from Ad Hoc Art to the Zentangle Club (I didn't have a clue either!) there truly has to be something for everyone.

Reading through a different list on the u3a site of online events for this month I found our very own Paul Carter talking about the UK and US constitutions (23rd October), and it led me to pause and wonder what other gems might be hidden among our own membership, and how we might encourage them to share their knowledge.

I was lucky enough to attend the South East Summer School this year to try to brush up on my Italian. There are several regional Summer Schools running throughout the year and available to all members. This is capped by the u3a Festival in York in July next year. I was wondering if we might get a few of us from the Island to brace the northern air?

All this leads to one of the core topics of the committee at the moment, which is creating and growing new and interesting groups. We have lots of ideas and you can see the evidence of this in the Newsletter each month.

The major challenge we have with new groups is simply getting someone to lead them. Groups do not need experts (although they are very welcome!) just people with the glue (read enthusiasm) to keep the group together.

I speak from the experience of leading a couple of groups and they know that I am not the best or the brightest light in the room but it doesn't stop us from learning or laughing (a lot) and the living just gets better and better!

Do let me know if you might be interested in any of the above.

**Chris Ryan, [chair@u3awight.uk](mailto:chair@u3awight.uk)**

# News

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## Know your Committee:

**Andy Buckman** - Treasurer - since the early part of this year. We are now in our 10th year on the island after moving across from Suffolk

**Chris Ryan** - Chair - I keep committee (and members) happy bunnies; also keep us on track and pointed in some kind of direction, steering a clear path.

**Dave Vodden** - Vice-Chair - My role is to support the Chair and other members of the Committee.

**Peter Collinge** - Membership. Living in Newport for the last 34 years.

**Peter Huckle** - Webmaster - My role is to develop, manage and update the u3a IOW website and to be responsible for its safety and security.

**Roger Skidmore** - Newsletter - I also host the Committee meetings at my home in Newport.

**Sally Forster** - Groups Coordinator - I have been with this u3a since it started in 2019 and have done a bit of everything. I will be leaving the committee at the AGM.

**Sara Gilding** - Speaker Meetings - lived on the island for nearly four years and been a member of u3a for several years before then. My role is to arrange for someone to come and talk to us each month.

**Sharon Park** - Committee member

**Sherlie Burridge** - Group Secretary (Members). Been on the Island since 2015 moving from Cambridge.

**Val O'Reilly** - Marketing - I recently joined the committee to assist with marketing and help out at events as and when. I came to the Island four years ago from Wiltshire.



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## Administrative Data

Members can access their data via the [Members Portal](#) on the website and it is possible to join or leave some of the u3a Groups (password required if not already set up). Note: text [underlined](#) is usually a web link.

For any Groups queries please contact [groups@u3awight.uk](mailto:groups@u3awight.uk) or phone Sally 01983 740511.



[u3awight.uk](http://u3awight.uk)

**Contact Numbers:** We have set up a general contact number shown here and on simple “business” cards.



The number is **0300 102 1747** (standard rate) and is directed to a committee member.

The newsletter editor is always happy to answer questions or point you in the right direction for further advice.

Roger Skidmore, Newsletter Editor, **07732 480201** or **01983 822900**, Email [rogerskid@zen.co.uk](mailto:rogerskid@zen.co.uk)

## Advance notice of u3a AGM - Thursday 12th February 2026 + speaker

1. Minutes of the last meeting
2. Accept the minutes of the last meeting
3. Report from the Chair
4. Acceptance of Annual Report and Accounts
5. Elections to the board (en masse if no contest): Chair, Vice-Chair, Business Secretary, Treasurer, plus Peter H, Peter C, Sherlie, Roger, Sharon, Hillary, Val, vacant positions
6. Budget for next year
7. Proposal to keep membership £20 for next year
8. Appoint independent examiner for next year
9. Membership resolutions (if any)
10. Date of next meeting - tba
11. A.O.B

This is your opportunity to either join the committee or submit major ideas to the u3a. Despite the long list, the AGM does not usually take very long! We will also be having a talk (Alan Clark about Island erosion) and usual tea and biscuits and chat afterwards.



### General Games 'Night' - The Wheatsheaf Hotel, St Thomas' Square, Newport,

Entrance £2 per head, cash only.

A reminder that we have booked the upstairs room at the Wheatsheaf, in St Thomas' square, Newport, every Monday 2-4pm.

Bring a game, bring a friend, bring a pack of cards or a knit and natter if that is your preference.

There are 2 Mah-Jong sets behind the bar that can be used.

Contact Sally on [groups@u3awight.uk](mailto:groups@u3awight.uk)  
01983 740511

### New groups in the pipeline:

- ◆ Beginners' French
- ◆ Bridge Lessons
- ◆ Classics Culture & Music
- ◆ The Play's the Thing
- ◆ Poker
- ◆ Spanish Conversation
- ◆ Fossil Island
- ◆ Singing for Fun
- ◆ Sunday Lunch
- ◆ Cooperative Gardening
- ◆ ??? Your choice here ???

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

**01983 740511**

**How about Basket Weaving; Willow Weaving; Scottish Dancing; Fashion?**

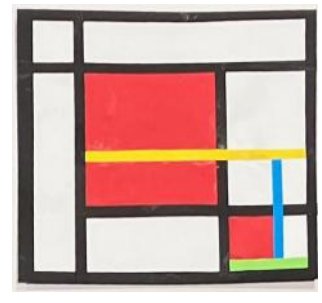
# News from the Groups

## I Can't do Art Group

We have been looking at the work of [Piet Mondrian](#) (1872-1944), particularly the 1920's and 30's.

[See what we could do!](#)

**Kay Evans**



*(click on [text](#) or [images](#) for more information or full size)*

**Eat Out and Review:** Taken over by Tom, a local farmer, and Teagan last April, the **Sun Inn, Calbourne**, is enjoying a renaissance.

The pub operates a “farm to fork” ethic with fresh, locally sourced produce. The Provenance Board in the bar shows exactly where the main components of the meals come from with many of the vegetables and herbs grown in the pub's own garden. 20 of us enjoyed a good Sunday lunch with the majority choosing the succulent roast lamb from Tom's farm with all the trimmings and proper gravy.



The restaurant was quite full and the staff were under some strain as they were short of one chef and two waitresses. However they managed to look after us all very well - a good time was had by all.

**Jennifer Hinton** [jgh.iow@gmail.com](mailto:jgh.iow@gmail.com)

If you would be interested in a *regular* 'Sunday Lunch' please contact [groups@u3awight.uk](mailto:groups@u3awight.uk).

# News from the Groups

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## Bamboo Pipes

Just the opportunity you have always wanted - the chance to play a musical instrument and to have made it yourself. No woodwork skill required. No musical knowledge required.



Email [junecfoster@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:junecfoster@hotmail.co.uk) for more details.

## *June Foster*

## The Play's the Thing!

To include play reading and other aspects of theatre - workshops, talks, discussion etc. Curtain up on Thursday January 22nd. If you are interested please contact **Kate Fysh** on 01983 717618, 07708 703677 or email [katefysh@gmail.com](mailto:katefysh@gmail.com)



## Recorder Group

Would you like to have fun playing in a recorder group? We meet on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month, 2-3.30pm in Newport. New members are very welcome. It is a friendly group with the emphasis on having a relaxing time. If you are not sure if it is for you, do drop into a session and meet us.

For further information, please contact me by email.

**Anne Baylis,**  
[annebaylis15@yahoo.com](mailto:annebaylis15@yahoo.com)

## Discussion Group

Do join our friendly group for lively discussions. Meetings are twice monthly on the first and third Fridays. For the next two months our meetings are on November 7th and 21st and December 5th and 19th, 10.15-11.45, at Utilita Hub, 121 Newport High Street.

Please email [paulinehunter12@gmail.com](mailto:paulinehunter12@gmail.com) if you'd like further details.

Usually a wide range of views emerge. Some recent questions discussed include:

**Why are Isle of Wight GCSEs and A level results so poor?** (They are the lowest of any County in England & Wales.) In an extensive discussion, we considered familial, cultural and economic causes for this underachievement; possible consequences; and what could be done to raise standards.

**Is it possible to have a successful relationship with a partner at the opposite end of the political spectrum?** Some responses were less optimistic than others!

**Should President Trump have been invited to make a second state visit to the UK?**

The advantages and disadvantages were aired.

**Pauline Hunter**  
[paulinehunter12@gmail.com](mailto:paulinehunter12@gmail.com)



# News from the Groups - Art etc.

## Poetry Group

The Poetry Group has looked at poems from different centuries. This is stimulating as it is the ethos of Learn, Laugh and Live. We have much knowledge and comment to share.

I am hoping it is encouraging some private writing. Humphrey the resident cat tends to ignore us having commandeered a vacant chair. We can accommodate more cat lovers and have space for other word lovers without disturbing him.

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

## Another short story Competition is here:

Just to let you know that if you missed our last short story competition then there is one to be found at Sight for Wight [here](#).

Please contact me for more details.  
**Helena Hewston**, [sybug@aol.com](mailto:sybug@aol.com)



## Creative Writers

The Creative Writers tackled a word challenge to use five words, not in common parlance, in a 250 word scenario with ingenuity and could even be like Shakespeare create their own.

Whether we use many of these words we will have to see in future challenges. There is also interest in the preparation of material for competition and publishing. It is great to be with such lively minds.

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

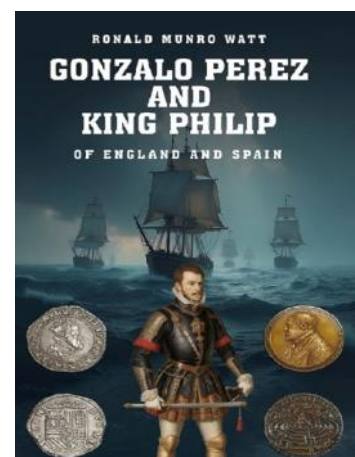
Examples our work can be found on our [web link](#).



**Since** moving to the Island last year, Ronald Munro Watt has joined the u3a Writers Group in Newport. Before that he was member of u3a for fifteen years in Sevenoaks Kent.

In October he published his new book *Gonzalo Perez and King Philip of England and Spain*.

Ronald also attended the IoW Literary Festival and presented his new book along with other Island writers at the Friday evening session. See: [www.ronaldmunrowatt.com](http://www.ronaldmunrowatt.com)



# News from the Groups - Art etc.

## Psychology Group

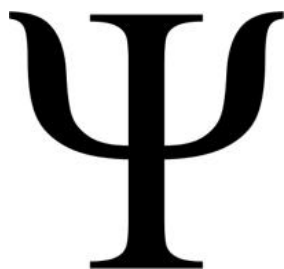
It is unbelievable that our Psychology Group has been running for over a year now. Around ten of us have met monthly at the Newport Congregational Church and have covered a range of topics including developmental psychology, Freud and his theories, behaviourism, intelligence and IQ, and most recently some cognitive considerations.

I am hoping that during the forthcoming year attendees will feel able to present material they have prepared on any psychology related topic. This will be entirely voluntary and as ever I shall be prepared to bring along some material of my own if needed.

I am keeping the attendance numbers at ten, so as to allow for general relaxed discussion. This means that currently the group is full, though I am more than happy to place people's names on a waiting list, as some individuals do leave the group over time.

**Jeremy Turk**

[jeremy.turk@icloud.com](mailto:jeremy.turk@icloud.com)  
07814 004456



## French Film at Ventnor Arts

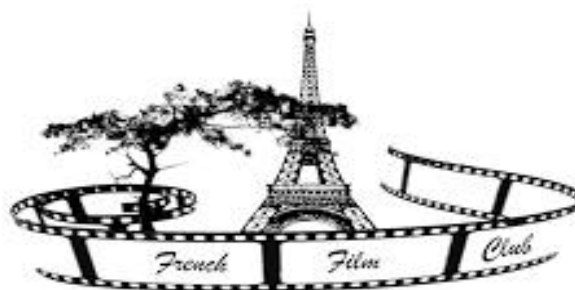
**3:00 pm – 5:10 pm**  
**3 November, 2025 (first Monday)**

Elle, is a 2016 psychological thriller, based on a true story, directed by Paul Verhoeven and starring Isabelle Huppert and Laurent Lafitte. Elle chronicles the ordeals and adventures of a young French woman marooned on the desolate Isle of Demons during Jacques Cartier's ill-fated and last attempt to colonise Canada.



Contact [wendy@ventnorartsclub.com](mailto:wendy@ventnorartsclub.com)

**Admission £6**  
**2.30 pm Matinée**



And next, will be:  
[Monday 8th December](#)

## K-drama group

We meet on the 4th Monday evening in Newport for a first episode viewing of a choice of Korean dramas. We always have a good "K-drama" discussion afterwards over nibbles and a drink.

*Roger Skidmore*, Contact [rogerskid@zen.co.uk](mailto:rogerskid@zen.co.uk)

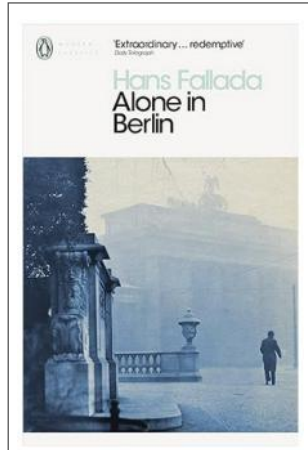


# News from the Groups - Books

## Bookies' Favourites

Bookies' Favourites met to discuss "Alone in Berlin" by Hans Fallada which was written in 1947. The book is set in Berlin in the early 30's and focuses on the lives of very ordinary folk as they navigate living under the rule of Hitler.

It prompted some impassioned discussion with views that were both in agreement and divergence from each other. Nevertheless, we all agreed that it was a deeply detailed read, hugely uncomfortable at times and disturbingly easy to draw some parallels with today's global political situations.



It made us question as to how we might react if we were forced to endure similar circumstances.

Whilst some felt there were too many characters in it, and others found the prose to be a bit "clunky" (maybe the fault of the translation?), we all agreed that it was a worthwhile read, even if we didn't always enjoy it.

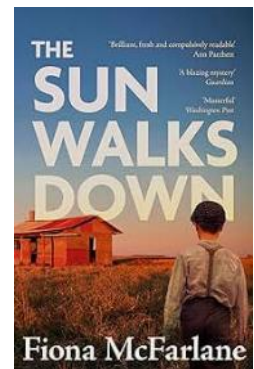
Whilst the group is full at the moment, if you wish to join a waiting list, please contact...

**Steph**  
[stephedwards2@gmail.com](mailto:stephedwards2@gmail.com)

Bookies Favourites also met to discuss "The Sun Walks Down" by Fiona McFarlane.

Most of us were entranced by the poetic quality of this novel which is built around the event of a small boy going missing in the remote outback of Australia in the 1800s. However, the novel isn't just about this mishap, but also the stories of the local inhabitants of the town of Fairly are skilfully woven around this event. The use of language is outstanding, with humour and issues of race, equality, prejudice and morality threaded through the different accounts. Set over a short time span, it gripped the majority of us. However, some members of the group felt it wasn't pacy enough, involving too many characters with an implausible storyline.

For most of us, it was a book we would highly recommend.

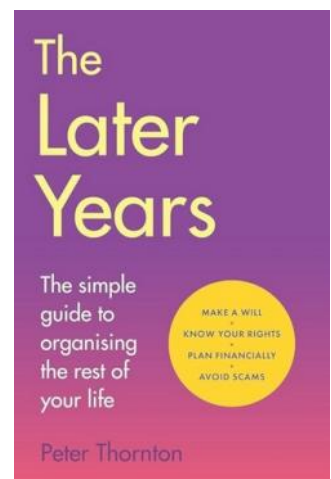


## Editor's Choice - "The Later Years"

If anyone knows anyone who is approaching "later years" then this book by Peter Thornton is a tremendous resource of information and guidance. Also contains suggestions for keeping a log book.

Peter Thornton KC is actually a retired high profile distinguished judge and lawmaker but his style is friendly and affable "on your level". An easy but valuable read.

Previous editor's choices are taken from this list [here](#).



# News from the Groups - Books

## Bookworms

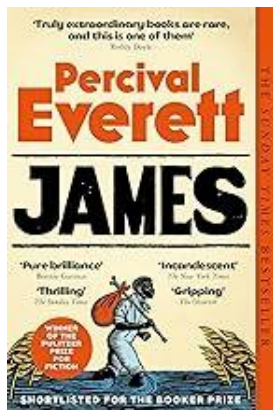
formerly Wootton Book Group

We have recently welcomed new members to our group. Previously, we met in someone's home and we were limited to 8 members. However, at our new venue in East Cowes, we have a much larger space, which means we can now take up to 12 people.

September's book, 'The Italian Girl' by Iris Murdoch, had mixed reviews from the group. We all agreed Murdoch is an excellent writer, but only two of us actually enjoyed the book. It tells the story of middle-aged Edmund who returns to his mother Lydia's home after her death, having been somewhat estranged from his family for some years. It is a weird story, full of dysfunctional characters, none of whom are likeable.

However, October's book, 'James' by Percival Everett was enjoyed by all but one in the group.

The novel is a re-imagining of 'Adventures of Huckleberry Finn' by Mark Twain, but narrated by Huckleberry's friend, the fugitive slave Jim, rather than by Huck.



Our next two books are: 'The Dictionary of Lost Words' by Pip Williams and 'The Children Act' by Ian McEwan.

**Allison Rogers**

01983 616634

[davidallison36@hotmail.com](mailto:davidallison36@hotmail.com)

Merry  
Christmas

## Random Reads

Random Readers usually meet on the first Tuesday of the month at the Bargeman's Rest in Newport.

At our September meet seven members brought recent reads to discuss and swap. Books included 'Hillbilly Elegy' by JD Vance, 'The Dry' by Jane Harper, 'Diary of a Bookseller' by Shaun Bythell and Donna Leon's 'Brunetti' series.

Members are passionate about books they love and it's a great way to discover new writers in a friendly and supportive group.

New members

are always welcome.

Come for a try-out; the next meeting is Tuesday 4th

November, 2.30pm at the Bargeman's Rest.



**Kate Rickman**

07984 892023

[katerickman@aol.com](mailto:katerickman@aol.com)

## Monthly Lunches

The monthly lunches are open to everyone. We meet at various pubs around the Island. if you have a favourite let us know!

We meet at 12:45. A call will go out by email at the beginning of the month or you can sign up by logging into the Members Portal.

**November** lunch will be Friday 21st at the White Mouse, Chale.

**December** lunch will be Friday December 12th at The Woodman's Arms in Wootton.

Contact Sally on

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

# News from the Groups - Games & More

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## Quizzing



Our autumn/winter season has kicked off with a bang, with a team at the

Crab in Shanklin doing particularly well recently to come second and win a £20 drinks voucher! Sadly that level of achievement wasn't matched the following week, but at least we now have something to aspire to!

Other quizzes some of our group members have attended include one at the Prince of Wales in East Cowes (deemed too loud and too fast by some), several at Newclose Cricket Club in Newport (probably the most popular venue), a trial run at the DepARTment in Ryde and also one at Osborne House. The Mountbatten Hospice quizzes are up and running again too.

We are always happy to welcome new people to our group - particularly if you don't take things too seriously and just enjoy giving your grey matter a bit of a work-out. It's the taking part which is the most important thing - even if you feel your general knowledge is a bit rusty you might just have the answer to one question during the evening which makes all the difference.

**Alison Botha**

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

## Scrabble Group

Our band of enthusiastic Scrabblers continues to enjoy a few well-contested games every month.

Twelve of us met at St Lawrence in September, a few less at Sandown in October. We always try to match people with similar level skills, and when this isn't possible the more experienced players are happy to share a few tips (and two letter words!) with newer players.

We are happy to welcome new players to our group. We tend to meet on the second Friday of each month in members' homes, although the November session will be in St Lawrence on Friday 21st at 2pm.

**Contact:**

**Alison Botha**

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



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## NEW MODEL RAILWAYS GROUP



If you are interested in a model railway group and developing this small layout please do get in touch.

I am away from the end of November till early January so the plan will be to have an exploratory meeting in January.

Please get in touch if you're interested. Contact: 07831 347346 or [Richard.hance19@outlook.com](mailto:Richard.hance19@outlook.com)

**Richard Hance**

# News from the Groups - Games and Language

## Mah-Jong +

A small group meets in Cowes weekly and a growing group play at the games night at the Wheatsheaf in Newport on a Monday. We also meet in people's homes.

Contact: **Sally**  
[sally.u3awight@gmail.com](mailto:sally.u3awight@gmail.com)



## Bridge Players

Great news for The Bridge Group. We are growing again with more people joining.

We meet in people's homes and we usually hold one or two regular games every month. So if you are a casual player or even a regular club player you would be welcome to join us.

Contact **Tony Williams:**  
[shidehouse@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:shidehouse@yahoo.co.uk)  
07796 183087.



## Bridge Learners

**Bridge lessons** will be offered at home soon in Niton.

Please contact:

**Sue**  
[bridgelessons3a@gmail.com](mailto:bridgelessons3a@gmail.com)



## 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.

French 2 - with Robert Carter - meets at Utilita's room in Newport on Friday 2pm. Meetings are very informal with no preparation and an unstructured conversation so as to achieve as natural and loose a flow as possible.

French 3 - with Kay Evans and Corinne White - 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.

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

## Beginners' French -

While the French conversation groups all require a reasonable degree of French somewhere in your past there is also a wish for beginners' French.

We have no 'teacher' although we have now had two offers of help, including someone willing to help with our pronunciation. Would you be interested in a self-help beginners' French group using material from the radio, the internet, perhaps even Duolingo?

Or would you be willing to help support such a group on an occasional basis? Please contact [french@u3awight.uk](mailto:french@u3awight.uk).

# News from the Groups - Languages

## German I & II

**Alternate Fridays,  
Brading Roman Villa  
or Utilita, Newport**

Mary runs two German groups, Intermediate and Advanced, and there is still room in both for new people.

Newcomers are welcome to try both and see where they feel their level lies and they are welcome to move between.

We meet every Friday morning (Intermediate and Advanced groups alternate) at 10.30am and finish at 12.30pm.

For further details contact:

**Mary Longley**  
[melongley1@gmail.com](mailto:melongley1@gmail.com)  
07815 901252



## Spanish Beginners "Plus"

**Brett Clark:**

[brett\\_iow@hotmail.com](mailto:brett_iow@hotmail.com)

**Saturday Newport 1pm - 2pm**

Spanish "*Not so much Beginners*" are alternating between their meeting in Utilitas and the Library because of events being booked into the Utilitas shop which seems to be getting more popular.

But we continue to meet and practise talking and listening to authentic Spanish. Everyone gets a turn around the table to contribute and exercise those little grey cells. *Si queréis uniros a nosotros, contacta con*

## Spanish Improvers

**Brett Clark:**

[brett\\_iow@hotmail.com](mailto:brett_iow@hotmail.com)

**Zoom on Mondays from  
4pm - 5pm:**

Spanish on Zoom, likewise doing the same as the "not so much beginners" but a bit "faster" dare I say!

Attendance is low so we have space for those who may "dare to have a go".

**Brett.**



# News from the Groups - Languages

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## [Absolute Beginners' Italian](#)

Forget what I said last month about coming for the coffee and the cannoli. The coffee was lousy and no-one bought the cannoli this month. Hopefully normal service will be resumed as we return back to the wonderful Mary Anne's hospitality.



We did get some Italian under our belt this month, together with a test!! You can imagine how popular that was!! Personally I think that's why people complained about the coffee.

Everyone has promised to actually learn the verbs for next month, but who cares when we are having so much fun.

<https://chat.whatsapp.com/FqUfnpXPXdjBU1rxrYGEPE>

If you are interested, please also join the [Absolute Beginners](#) Italian group on our Beacon Database through the membership portal. (Membership portal is [here](#).)

**Chris Ryan** - [chair@u3awight.uk](mailto:chair@u3awight.uk)

## [Italian Conversation](#)

The Summer vacations seem to have spilled into the Autumn special deals. The smaller numbers have allowed us to spend more time in conversation and reading.

We have been fortunate to have a couple of new members join the ranks, and bring more experience into the group. It has become clear that even those members who are reasonably comfortable chatting away have at least a few holes in the fabric of their grammar and therefore the re-introduction of a grammar section is on the cards.

We are also starting to consider how we might celebrate Christmas Italian Style. We are currently pencilling in December 19th. In the meantime I'm practicing on a few early "Tortine Natalizia"

<https://chat.whatsapp.com/EwCBPDBhWMN2EMfoHFP5xG>

*A la prossima !!*

**Chris Ryan** - [chair@u3awight.uk](mailto:chair@u3awight.uk)

## [Italian: Step Up](#)

**Saturday Newport 2pm - 3pm**

Our group continues with a consistent group of 8. There have been no real changes in our weekly activities since we started with our new teacher since Isobelle left us.

We have a textbook which we are proceeding through and for which we are set regular homework. We meet in Newport library which is convenient for parking which suits our teacher who has mobility issues.

We can't accommodate any more students as we're limited for space at the library and we're too far into the text for anyone new to join us. I intend to talk to Chris Ryan about the best way forward for existing and new students as there are currently 3 Italian groups with no planned pathway to proceed from one group to the next.

We have planned a Christmas lunch at Michelangelos at Ryde in December where Italian is encouraged to be used with the staff which should be interesting. I hope we all end up being served with what we thought we had ordered.

**John Mittelheuser**

[john.mittelheuser@gmail.com](mailto:john.mittelheuser@gmail.com)



# Random RAMBLES

Random Rambles, as the name suggests, are walks organised wherever and whenever someone feels moved to organise a walk. They are dependent on members offering to lead walks - help is available for the planning, advertising and the pre-walk where required. Do you have a favourite walk that you could offer to share with your fellow members?

Why not think about offering a walk? The more varied, the better - short, long, flat, accessible, challenging, dog-friendly, picnic-lunch, fossil-hunting, sun-downing or just for the ice-cream. Whatever you fancy, there will be probably be someone else that it appeals to. Let us put you in touch with them.

If you are interested in offering a walk or participating in a walk email Sally on [groups@u3awight.uk](mailto:groups@u3awight.uk)

## Yoga/Chair Yoga

We are in the very early stages of seeing how much interest there may be in yoga/ chair yoga. There are a few options and potential hoops to jump through to make this work so if you have not already registered your interest please contact:

[Chris Ryan.](mailto:chrisryan@gmx.com)  
[chrisryan@gmx.com](mailto:chrisryan@gmx.com)

**Dave** and **Chris** would like to express recognition and gratitude to all those helping with the Yellow Gazebo:

### Gazebo Volunteers

Adrian Tavill  
Andy Buckman  
Anna Cherkas  
Barbara Hatton  
Beryl Wells  
Brian Wilson  
Carole Batchelor  
Chris Champness  
Dave Vodden  
Glenda Hance  
Helena Hewston  
Hilary Corrick  
Jan Tavill  
Jane Davidson  
Jeremy Turk  
Liz Little  
Lucie Croft  
Matt Dodge  
Mollie Martin  
Pat Arlette  
Ray Batchelor  
Richard Hance

Sheila Herrando  
Sue Vodden  
Thelma Bell  
Tony Williams

### Gazebo Assembly Party

Sally Forster  
Steve Greenwald

Chris Ryan  
Mick Brooker  
Adrian Tavill

Dave Vodden



## Spams and scams

**Note from Editor - don't get complacent about fraud.**

It will get you when you least expect it. Fraudsters specialise in not appearing as fraudsters.

In the UK, fraud is the most prevalent crime against individuals. To protect yourself, learn about common fraud types, report suspicious activity to official channels like [Action Fraud](#), and take steps to secure your personal information online.



**Warning: "WhatsApp Gold" is a scam.**

# News from the Groups - Walks, etc.

## Beach Walks

The **November** beach walk will be on Wednesday the 26th in Ryde. We will meet at the Ryde Bus Station near the Hovercraft steps at 10:30 and walk by the sea, to Seaview, have a coffee or similar and then walk back. Those who would prefer a shorter walk may choose to catch a bus back from Seaview to Ryde. (You would need to check the bus timetable.) An email will be sent out as a reminder one week before. 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 **December** beach walk will be on Wednesday 31st. It is a shortish, flat walk starting at 10:30 at the Waterfront Café at Totland Bay along the shore path to Colwell and return, maybe stopping for coffee at the Colwell Bay Café if it's open,

otherwise at the Waterfront at Totland when we get back.

Beach walks are open to all u3a 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. If you have a favourite beach walk that you would like to share, let me know.

Let me know if you would like to come.

**Carol**

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

07748 886246

## Exploring Historic Churches

Between April and September this year we visited six wonderful Isle of Wight churches.

First was **Quarr Abbey** last April, seeing the ruins of the original Abbey built in 1132 by Cistercian monks from France, destroyed in the Reformation of Henry VIII, and then the quiet peace of the early 20th century Abbey, home to a group of Benedictine monks.

Our last visit was to **All Saints Church**, Calbourne. The parish dates back to 827, and the church is mentioned in the Domesday Book, although very little of the early church remains. It is a beautiful and fascinating church.

Between these two visits we have been to churches in Shanklin, where the Vicar, Father Tony, made us tea and cake himself, then **Chale**, Brook, and Whippingham (an extra visit because we heard that a cream tea was on offer!)

Coincidentally, at **St Mildred's Church**, Whippingham, an a capella choir was singing, which included several u3a members.

We coincided our visit to All Saints Church, Calbourne, with a u3a lunch at the Sun. We have seen some lovely, memorable churches and had some excellent teas and cakes - Chessel Pottery particularly springs to mind. We did have an early failed visit to a church in Sandown where I had sent out details of the church but asked the vicar of the Shanklin church if we might visit, so the Sandown church was firmly closed as we were not expected, and the Vicar of **St Saviour's** on the Cliff in Shanklin waited in vain for us. A forgiving man (I think it's on his job description!) he made us tea when we visited the following month.

It's been an interesting six months and I look forward to more interesting churches in 2026: *Watch this space!*

**Hilary Ranger**

[hilary@hilarycorricks.co.uk](mailto:hilary@hilarycorricks.co.uk), 07876 560439



# News from the Groups - Cycling

## Cycling Groups Less Experienced and More Experienced

Unfortunately, the September ride for less experienced had to be rescheduled due to inclement weather on the Tuesday, and so, on the following Friday, eight of us set off on our regular route from Merstone to Newchurch, this time stopping at Pedlars Café, located alongside the cycle track in Newchurch. Pedlars is a delightful little café with a sheltered garden with ample seating both inside and out, and a good selection of snacks, cakes and basic lunches. Refreshed we continued on our way back to Merstone.

The September ride for the more experienced saw seven of us setting off along the cycleway passing Binstead Church, up Ladies Walk past Ryde Golf Club, then on down Spencer Road and along the seafront cycle way, passing Ryde Harbour and on to Appley and the newly refurbished Appley Tower.



After a brief photo stop we continued on through Appley Park and along the seafront at Springvale to Seaview and our favourite café, Lily's, where we stopped for coffee and some delicious cake.



Refreshed we then retraced our route back to Quarr – a delightful ride, good company and in perfect cycling conditions!

The October ride for the less experienced went as planned, with six of us starting off from Merstone and heading for Newchurch and the Garlic Farm before returning to Merstone.

The ride for the more experienced was one of my favourite routes, and follows the Red Squirrel trail for much of the ride. The basic route took the cycleway from Merstone to Sandown, then along the revetment to Shanklin, stopping for sustenance at the Tradewinds Café, a popular stop with excellent coffee, cakes and light meals. We then continued to Shanklin seafront, climbing the steep Hope Hill and heading towards Shanklin Rail Station before rejoining the Red Squirrel Trail at Lower Hyde.

This route takes us along the old railway line to Wroxall, then heading for Appuldurcome and continuing along quiet country roads to the Arreton Road opposite Amazon World.

We decided to explore the newly opened track from Harvey Brown's Farm Shop to the Merstone cycle track, but got sidetracked by the lure of the café so had to stop for refreshment!



Suitably re-energised we set off to find the new

track and were soon on our way back to Merstone – somewhat later than planned but satisfied we had experienced a most enjoyable ride - some useful exercise, a lovely route, excellent company and lively chatter – just what our u3a Cycling Group is all about, and looking forward to our November rides.

If you wish to join us, whether on the ride for the less experienced, for the more experienced, or both please contact me via email, as below.

**Happy Cycling!**

**Dave Vodden**  
[dave.vodden@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:dave.vodden@tiscali.co.uk)



# News from the Groups - Gardening

## Walk and Talk about Gardens

We have now come to the end of our garden visits for the year, but we are not hanging up our boots just yet as there is still plenty to do in the garden, preparing for next year and making sure special plants are safe for the winter.

In late September we visited the garden of our newest member. The garden had won a prize for best front garden of the area and although some of the plants had finished flowering it was easy to see why. It was a garden full of little hidden areas, which you came upon unexpectedly. The back garden was surrounded by a tall wall, with trees behind, which gave the feeling of a secret garden, completely hidden away. The birds loved it.



Our final meeting was for a lunch of soup and desserts, which was very enjoyable. We all know one another so well there is rarely a lull in the conversation. We had a quick tour of the garden which is amazingly colourful at this time of the year. Personally it is one of my favourite times with asters, chrysanthemums, Rudbeckias, salvias, parahebes and quite a few roses flowering well.

We all look forward to meeting up in the spring and if anyone wishes to join us we do have a couple of places available. Enjoy your garden.



**Beryl Tillman**

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

## The Garden Group

The Garden Group finished the year with a plant swap and cream tea in Yafford. We look forward to some time on the couch planning for next year. Particularly looking at the plants that did well under the new and unpredictable weather patterns. The Dahlias that have put on a late and splendid display following the rain in September. The weeds that are still growing apace.

We will have an open meeting in the spring to which everyone with an interest in gardens will be invited. Watch the newsletter for date and time. We operate via a WhatsApp group which makes it easy to respond to the weather and limit attendance at small gardens. We also have the occasional meet-ups out in the world.

See you in the Spring!

If you enjoy talking gardens contact Sally on [groups@u3awight.uk](mailto:groups@u3awight.uk)

## Family History/Genealogy

We have had enormous interest in this group, so much so that we may well have enough for at least two groups. This is great because it means that we should be able to meet at different times/locations which is often an issue where we lost potential members at the first hurdle. The inaugural meeting to discuss how/where/when it might take place is on Monday 17th November at 2pm.

If you would like to join and have not already registered your interest please contact Chris Ryan.

[chrisryan@gmx.com](mailto:chrisryan@gmx.com)

# News from the Groups - Wine

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## Cowes Wine Appreciation

The group's belated October meeting took place at the cosy Cowes residence of Jenny, the group leader, who kindly hosted the meeting, and provided a nice table spread, including some fascinating 'navigation of the Island' napkins as well. Disappointingly, some of the group members were unable to attend because of temporary health issues, and thereby missed a convivial evening and assembly.

With a Mediterranean located wine being the choice of the evening, it resulted in predominantly white wines having been purchased, which included a Vina Sol from Spain, a Gavi from Italy, and with the singular red wine a blended grapes Languedoc from France. With tongue in cheek, one member brought along a white Portuguese Vinho Verde, explaining that it must somehow qualify as the country is attached to Spain, which itself has coastal shores that are lapped by the Mediterranean waves. Some humorous discussion about geography then ensued, as well as further conversation about a wide range of topics, whilst the wines were being leisurely sampled and enjoyed.

In finalising the meeting the group contemplated upon maybe sampling some English wine sometime, as well as possibly arranging a group visit to a functional English vineyard, likely somewhere within the southern England mainland. Something for the future perhaps.

All attendees voiced their agreement that it had proved a jovial and worthwhile meeting, and then dispersed homewards in affectionate and good spirit, maybe clutching the 'special napkins' to guide them on their way.

***Maurice Fairall***

Contact Jenny Hale  
[jennylodc@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:jennylodc@yahoo.co.uk)

## St Lawrence Wine Tasting

### **Hello wine lovers**

Our autumn sessions challenged some prejudices (mostly mine), and assumptions, (again mostly mine).

In September, a chance visit to ASDA on my part led me to the wine aisle out of curiosity, and I was pleasantly surprised to find (separated from the ubiquitous brands you find everywhere), was a rack labelled 'Wine Atlas', where there were wines and grapes from lesser known regions of the world, making for an interesting selection.

Among these was a delightful sparkling white from Lake Garda to rival the best Proseccos, and an Albarino (white Spanish grape) from New Zealand which came first and second respectively in our tasting. Other wines in the range scored well and were all outstanding value in the £7-8 range. Well worth trying out in our humble opinion!

In fact, Asda became the most awarded supermarket at the International Wine Challenge 2025 beating Sainsbury, Tesco and Waitrose by a distance. So much for expectations.....!

In October it was LIDL's turn to be sampled and while we found two or three enjoyable wines, the best of which were a textured red Valpolicella Ripasso Superiore, and 'Breath of Paradise' (as in what can we call our Provence pink to compete with Whispering Angel\*.....), overall our sample was disappointing, and not a patch on Asda's offering.

We still managed to have fun though.....

***Happy drinking! Cheers!***

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

\*also see Asda's  
'Screaming Devil' .....



## Forthcoming events



### Coffee Mornings around the Island All start at 11.00 am

**Newport:** Bargeman's Rest, Wednesday 5th November (1st Wed)

**Yarmouth:** Norton Grange, Monday 10th November (2nd Mon)

**Niton:** White Lion, Wednesday 12th November (2nd Wed)

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

**Ryde:** Castle Hotel, Tuesday 25th November (4th Tue)

**Sandown:** Wildheart Animal Sanctuary, Yaverland,  
Thursday 27th November (4th Thu)

(check the December diary for December coffee mornings)

We look forward to seeing you there!

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

For details contact Chris, [chair@u3awight.uk](mailto:chair@u3awight.uk)



### People need people! Who's Lonely at Christmas? Join us for our Christmas "Sociable"

Hi to all those who live alone and find the festive season difficult. Please make yourself known to me so we can arrange to do something like a dog walk on the beach followed by a food delivery.

I will be at the u3a Christmas social on 15th December.

Sara: [rykastopdog@gmail.com](mailto: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.  
The presentation is followed by refreshments and chat.

Thursday November 13th will be a talk from our own member  
Keith Pritchard on...

### “Laughter is the Best medicine”



Keith is a scientist specializing in psychology and human behaviour. He has worked in a variety of capacities especially with young people.



Since retirement from full time work, he spends considerable periods of time entertaining cruise ship passengers. He specializes in talks on Fun Psychology but also on the history of the Silk Road and the Period of the Discoveries.

Winter **Social and Quiz** is on Monday December 15th  
at

**Arreton Community  
Centre.**

Contact

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



January- talk on “Artificial Intelligence”  
February - Alan Clark on Island erosion + AGM  
March - speaker t.b.a.



IoW u3a has a public [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/u3aWight) page [www.facebook.com/u3aWight](https://www.facebook.com/u3aWight)

**Footnote** for those wishing to print out the newsletter themselves - possibly choose to set your printer to “A5 Booklet” (unless you want large print).

[www.u3awight.uk](http://www.u3awight.uk)