

**July-August 2026**

**£1 per printed copy**

***Summer Edition!***

## Notes from the Chair

Getting older, like life itself, is not something most of us are trained for. But perhaps it is something we can get better at with practice.

That is where u3a comes in. We are here for people who want to stay curious, active and connected; people who enjoy learning, laughing and spending time with others who share their interests.

At u3a, we believe that a lifetime of learning and experience is something to be treasured. Everyone has something to offer, and everyone has something new to discover. Our groups and activities are led by members themselves — enthusiasts with varying degrees of formal expertise, but with plenty of knowledge, experience and generosity to share.

Across the Island, we offer more than 50 different events and activities every month, ranging from the social and



creative to the active and cerebral. Whether you want to learn something new, revisit an old interest, meet new people or simply keep your mind buzzing, there is likely to be something for you.

So, if you think u3a might help you stay curious, connected and engaged, please get in touch. You may find that getting older is something you can become rather good at.

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

Look for our centrefold of groups welcoming more members and our Groups list sorted by category from page 12.

**View this newsletter online [www.u3awight.uk](http://www.u3awight.uk)**

## Know your Committee 2026:

Andy Buckman -	<a href="#">Treasurer</a>
Chris Ryan -	<a href="#">Chair</a>
Dave Vodden -	<a href="#">Business Secretary</a>
Miriam Weller -	<a href="#">Groups Secretary</a>
Roger Skidmore -	<a href="#">Newsletter</a>
Sara Gilding -	<a href="#">Speaker Meetings</a>
Sherlie Burrige -	<a href="#">Membership</a>
Sherlie Burrige -	<a href="#">Vice-Chair</a>
Vacant -	<a href="#">Minutes Secretary</a>

**Telephone: 0300 102 1747**

If you have queries about anything - membership, events, groups or coffee mornings or suggestions for the committee - you can call this number and either you will get your query answered or someone will call you back.



We meet monthly apart from July, August and December.



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

**Newport:** Bargeman's Rest, 1st Wednesday

**Yarmouth:** Norton Grange, 2nd Monday

**Niton:** White Lion, 2nd Wednesday

**Cowes:** Fountain Inn, 3rd Thursday

**Sandown:** Wildheart, Yaverland, 4th Thursday

**Ryde:** Appley Manor, 4th Tuesday

(check the [diary page](#) for August coffee mornings)

We look forward to seeing you there!

Look out for the **blue** and **gold**.

## Committee meeting summary 21st May 2026:

The committee approved plans to proceed with Charity Commission registration, recognising this as an important step in strengthening governance, improving credibility, and supporting future funding opportunities. Members also welcomed progress on new governance policies, financial reporting improvements, and venue risk assessments.

The Summer Social was planned to take place at Arreton, with entertainment confirmed and further details to follow. Preparations were also

underway for the New Members Social on 27 May, with encouraging early interest from members.

The committee reviewed ongoing improvements to newsletters, membership systems, and website support, with a continued focus on keeping communication clear and engaging. Members also expressed appreciation for the strong volunteer contribution across the organisation and reaffirmed the importance of maintaining a supportive and inclusive community as the branch continues to grow.

## Committee Meeting No. 18

Thursday 26 June 2026

### News from Your Committee

Your committee met on 26 June and has been busy on your behalf. We are making good progress towards registering as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), which will provide greater protection for our trustees. We expect to call an Extraordinary General Meeting later this year to seek your approval for a new constitution — further details will follow.

Our Summer Social was a great success, with 54 members enjoying the occasion. Feedback was overwhelmingly positive and we are already planning improvements for next year, including table hosts and a small per-head contribution.

We are also forming a small subcommittee to consider the best ways to invest some of our surplus funds directly in activities and benefits for our members. More to come on this soon.

We continue to welcome new members — 46 have joined since April. Thank you to everyone who helps make Isle of Wight u3a such a vibrant community.



Your Chair and Peter  
Love entertaining at  
the Summer Social  
on June 11th

## u3a matters

is published by the u3a trust five times a year.

It is posted direct to members' homes in an environmentally friendly paper wrapper. It is packed with stories about members' and u3a activities, plus celebrity interviews and features on technology, recipes, travel, competitions, and a lively and popular letters section.

*How to receive u3a matters:*

[u3a matters](#) is available to any u3a member. It is sent automatically for their first year and a bit. After that, every November each member needs actively to re-affirm that they still want to receive it.

You can read extracts from the magazine [here](#).



### Ways to find out more:

Go to our website: [www.u3awight.uk](http://www.u3awight.uk)


Email us here: [enquiries@u3awight.uk](mailto:enquiries@u3awight.uk)



or phone our general contact number 0300 102 1747

Printable application form is [here](#)



**The Independent Living Show** on the Isle of Wight is a well-established annual event showcasing local businesses, charities and services that help people live independently at home for longer.

 Sunday 12 July 2026

 Isle of Wight Steam Railway, Havenstreet.  Free entry

## u3a Friends Extra



The u3a is an organisation which exists under the umbrella of the [Third Age Trust](#). U3a members can sign in [here](#). The u3a also has a membership oriented marketing web site called "u3a Friends Extra" which offers many commercial discounts if you sign up for it.

Check it out at "[u3a Friends Extra](#)".



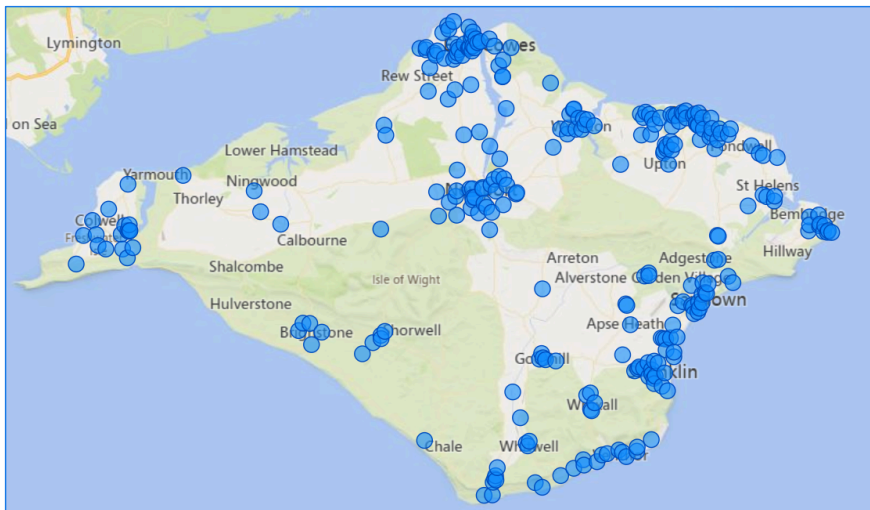
## More about Isle of Wight u3a

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**We have been** running on the Island since 2019 and currently have about 370+ members, ranging between ages 50 and 90. The members run the Groups and are supported by a committee of eight people - and always room for more!

We have listed the groups in our directory (end pages) but if you don't see anything which interests you then do talk to us and we will see what we can do to make it happen.

When you join you will be able to meet the Groups Leaders and learn more. We can find you a "buddy" to help you along so you won't be out on your own.



Distribution of members at June 2026

Image - thanks to Chris Ryan

If you have an interest that is not represented, we'd love to hear from you. Contact a member of the committee or come to a coffee morning and we will help you set up a group.

[Click to join IW u3a online](#)

Join in person at a coffee morning or monthly meeting (See the Diary page for details of these)

Join by post by downloading printing and posting the [membership application form](#), which has the details you will need

**Age UK Isle of Wight** has been a vital cornerstone of support for the Island's older residents for over 50 years. Founded in 1973, the charity is dedicated to helping those aged 50 and above navigate the challenges and opportunities of ageing, ensuring they can lead joyful, fulfilling, and independent lives. Yet, despite our widespread impact, a common misconception remains about who we truly are and how we operate.

### **A Local Charity with a National Name**

While we carry a widely recognised brand name, Age UK Isle of Wight is a fully independent, local charity. Every single penny raised, donated, or earned by the charity stays right here on the Isle of Wight to directly benefit residents.

Operating in a community with a significantly older-than-average population, the charity relies entirely on its own fundraising efforts, generous community donations, and revenue-generating services to keep its doors open. We work closely with a large number of stakeholders including other Island charities and organisations who support our older Island population. We also enjoy the active support of both our Island MPs who help us advocate for sustainable social care funding and highlight the unique pressures facing the Island's ageing demographic.

### **A Lifeline of Services**

At the heart of our work is a lifeline of practical and emotional support for older Islanders, helping people remain independent, connected, and safe in their



own homes. Through our free services — including Dementia Care Navigation, Information and Signposting, Digital Support, Hospital Discharge Support, Social Groups such as our Chatty Brew gatherings, and Befriending — we provide vital help to thousands each year.

Alongside this, our “Just About You” (JAY) home help service offers trusted, DBS-checked support with everyday tasks such as housework, shopping, gardening, meal preparation, companionship, and transport, enabling older people to continue living well at home with confidence and dignity.

### **Making an Impact, Together**

In the last five years, we have proudly supported nearly 27,000 individuals on the Isle of Wight. As a charity, we rely on the generosity of our community through volunteering, fundraising, or leaving a gift in a will to sustain this essential work. We believe that together, we can create a brighter future for those who need it most.

**If you would like to know more** or if you have a family member, friend or neighbour who might benefit from the services that we offer then you can learn more from our website <https://www.ageuk.org.uk/isleofwight/> or you can ring **01983 525282** or email [info@ageukiw.org.uk](mailto:info@ageukiw.org.uk)

# More about u3a Groups

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## Groups

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If you are reading this online then please do look at our [website](#), especially the section on [Groups](#). You will see that the Groups can be viewed in different ways. (This may vary slightly from the list here on page 12.)

Alphabetical

By category

By meeting day

By venue

(Click on the above links)

- [Alphabetical](#) - you can view the groups in order with associated information.
- [By Category](#) - there are various categories to help you choose the sort of group you might like.
- [By Meeting Day](#) - you know which days are best for you!
- [By Venue](#) - you might like to favour groups in your locality

By further clicking on the individual listed Groups you can then get all the up-to-date information and contact details about that group.

u3a members meet regularly in these small groups or on Zoom to follow their interests. These meetings can be in members' homes, meeting rooms or village halls, etc, and online. For general enquiries about groups please email Groups [groups@u3awight.uk](mailto:groups@u3awight.uk).

If you are interested in joining a group that isn't listed at all, email the Groups contact - there may be others who are also interested and we can plan a new group with you.

## Regular Events (from latest Diary)

Mon		Spanish Improvers, Zoom, weekly
		Creative Writers, 1st Monday
		Poetry Group, 2nd Monday
		Games Afternoon, Newport, weekly
Tue		Cycle Out, usually 1st & 3rd Tuesday – not January/February
		West Wight Random Reads
		Cowes Wine Appreciation, 2nd Tuesday
		Italian Conversation, 2nd and 4th Tuesday
Wed		Ten Pin Bowling
		Playing with Water Colours, 2nd Wednesday
		Absolute Beginners Italian, 2nd & 4th
		French Conversation 3, Newport, weekly
		Recorder Playing, 1st and 3rd Wednesday,
		Walk & Talk Gardens, summer time only
		Psychology, Newport, 3rd Thursday
Thu		St Lawrence Wine Group, St Lawrence, 3rd Thursday
		The Play's the Thing, 4th Thursday
		Singing for Fun
Fri		Discussion Group, Newport,
		German Improvers/Advanced
		French Conversation 1, Lake, weekly
		French Conversation 2, Newport, weekly
		The Bookworms, 1st Friday
		Scrabble, 2nd Friday
		Not Such Beginners' Spanish, Newport, weekly
		Italian: Step up, Newport, weekly
Sat		The Not Golf Group, variable dates. Contact Phil
Sun		Sunday Lunch, random Sundays

Please note we are omitting all personal email addresses for GDPR reasons - but any emails sent to [groups@u3awight.uk](mailto:groups@u3awight.uk) will be dealt with or forwarded promptly.

**These are mostly groups looking for new members. Make contact by emailing**

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

Your message will be forwarded to the appropriate group leader.

**Wine of the Month** - check out your taste buds - groups in Cowes or St Lawrence, Ventnor!

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

Cycle Ride for the More Experienced this month is on **Thursday** July 23rd. Jubilee Car Park (near Brighstone) to Freshwater.

**Classical Music Appreciation** Leader: Geoffrey Simmons Venue: Newport

Meets: Various Fridays

Freshwater Random Reads has vacancies for more members. We are relatively new. Please contact me for any further information - Jane Stevenson

**Poems to explore and enjoy at Wolverton Manor - come join us!** Helena Hewston

**Mahjong** - regular meetings in people's homes, and introductory lessons offered periodically.

**... French groups both ii and iii could use more members.**

**(Group ii are taking an extended summer break and re-grouping in September by the look of it.)**

**Walk and Talk about Gardens** - continuing to visit various gardens and as always, we finish each visit with tea, cake and chat. Contact Beryl Tillman

**TNGG** We keep playing Crazy Golf and Pitch and Putt and hope to play croquet by special invite in July! Contact Phil!

**BRIDGE Learning** members keep changing as they go on to play so find out what's going on if you're interested.. Contact Sue:

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



We still have several spaces available for the Chair Yoga at Porchfield & Newton Village Hall.

It is completely free of charge as the branch is stumping up for the fees.

Please reply to Chris

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



German - always room for new members - different levels - meet in Brading; some on Fridays some on Wednesdays. (Mornings)

Contact Mary

Full moon dips - always at full moon!

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



New members are welcome to get in touch regarding the **discussion** group.

Best wishes, Pauline

Padel and Pickleball training followed by coffee and chat. [groups@u3awight.uk](mailto:groups@u3awight.uk)

or

[Click here to sign up](#)

Random Rambles "irregularly"!  
Contact: Sally

**Monthly lunch** - open to all, next lunches July 15th at the Yarbridge and September 25th at the Blacksmiths. No lunch in August.  
[sally@u3awight.uk](mailto:sally@u3awight.uk)

Singing is FUN!  
Sessions are open to all.

## Holidays for Single Travellers

Get together in this group for coffee and chat about what to do, where to go, what to wear and how to get there (and back). Initial ideas please to [groups@u3awight.uk](mailto:groups@u3awight.uk)

Bookies' Favourites - discuss a variety of books on Wednesday afternoons in Ryde.



## Isle of Wight u3a Directory of Groups with Categories (from the "Beacon" official web site)

View Groups on our open website at [www.u3awight.uk](http://www.u3awight.uk)

(Note - Groups on the website can vary from the list here, and "spaces remaining" quoted below are only a guide. Please request to be on waiting list if necessary.)

To contact any group - email [groups@u3awight.uk](mailto:groups@u3awight.uk) and request your email be forwarded to the Group Leader.

### Art

**Can't Do Art** Various, monthly; irregular intervals - **Kay Evans** 'I CAN'T DO ART' is a group for anyone who has been told they were not 'good at art', or believes they have no artistic ability. This is a design-based art group which has used various topics for inspiration e.g Celtic Art, skeletons, aerial views and collage. We use mixed media such as acrylics, inks, paper, watercolour pencils, printing etc to interpret the different themes. There is no figurative work at all. This group has shown that 'They Really Can Do Art' and to an astonishing level. Spaces Remaining: **1**

#### Experimenting with Art

Ventnor, Tuesday October 22nd - November 24th - **Sally Forster** For those who enjoy working with art materials and feel that some foundational knowledge is missing.

Marilyn Mittelheuser has enjoyed a career across a range of Visual Art & Design applications as a practitioner & educator in UK & Australia and is a founder member of Ventnor Artists Collective, now in its 10th year. Spaces Remaining: **9**

### Playing with Water Colours

Various, 2nd Wednesday - **Barbara Howard** Our 2nd session required squiggles, i.e. a loose use of a fineliner to create very loose tulips, time taken less than a minute! These were then painted in the same way as the previous session. The results were amazing and everyone went away with a piece they were really quite pleased with. Spaces Remaining: **2**

### Culture

**Discussion Group** Newport, First and Third Friday - **Pauline Hunter** Our friendly group enjoys lively discussions of a wide range of topics. Meetings are on the first and third Fridays of the month and are at Utilita Hub, Newport. Members introduce topics they wish to discuss and one of the pleasures of the group is to listen to and respond to others' interests and ideas.

Usually opinions are mixed, though in a recent discussion about whether dogs should be muzzled outdoors, there were strong pro-dog voices! Spaces Remaining: **2**

**K-dramas** Members Home, 4th Monday eveing - **Roger Skidmore**

Will resume full activity when members show more interest! Spaces Remaining: **4**

**The Play's The Thing** Various, Thursday 22nd January - **Kate Fysh** To include reading and other aspects of theatre - workshops, talks, discussion etc. If you are interested please contact Kate Fysh. Spaces Remaining: **6**

### Exercise

**Beach Walk** All Around the Island, Last Wednesday - tide dependent - **Julia Seabrook** A hardy group of beach walkers meet on the last Wednesday of the month. Anywhere weather and tide permit and open to all members. Details are emailed to all members nearer the time. For details of our next beach walk please contact Julia Seabrook. Spaces Remaining: **14**

**Chair Yoga** Various, Every Monday - **Chris Ryan, John Cranwell** Chair yoga is perfect for those who are not as flexible as they would wish or restricted by age or mobility. We mix the yoga with a cuppa and a chat after. For those who are comfortable with their flexibility we also have a full Yoga group.

We meet every week at Porchfield and Newtown Village Hall and then meet for coffee and a chat at the Sportsmans Rest just over the road.

The £60 cost for the hour including hall and instructor is kept low for all members by paying in six week blocks. Currently at £5 per week. There are no refunds. Payment needs to be two weeks in advance of each new block start. Spaces Remaining: **1**

**Cycling Out** All Around the Island, Tuesday mornings - **Dave Vodden** We organise two rides per month between March and December:-

1) For less experienced riders, along Island cycle tracks, stopping for coffee along the way. Held on the first Tuesday of the month, the rides are about 5 miles total. Whilst aimed at less experienced riders, or those getting back on their bikes after an extended break, all are welcome to join us.

2) For more experienced riders, exploring the Island via quieter minor roads and cycle tracks, but might include short stretches of main roads. We have rides starting from all over the Island on a circular route 10-20 miles. Generally held on the third Tuesday each month. Spaces Remaining: **8**

### **Moonlight Swimmers**

Yaverland, During the Summer - **Sally Forster** WhatsApp for moonlight swimming: First Full moon swim of the year June 29th/30th 2026 Yaverland. Followed by July 29, August 28 and September 26.

If you are interested in swimming in the summer moonlight then join

our whatsapp group. Spaces Remaining: **30**

**The Not Golf Group** All Around the Island, Various times - Mainly for fun but you will get some exercise! Spaces Remaining: **30**

**Yoga and Chair Yoga** All Around the Island, To be decided - **Miriam Weller** Initial reach out to members to gauge interest and options. Still some way to go before establishing first meeting. Currently reaching out to u3a yoga leader. Spaces Remaining: **7**

### **Food and Drink**

**Eat Out and Review** All Around the Island, Sunday Lunch - **Sally Forster** For those of us who love to eat out. Looking for organisers - just name a day, a venue and a group size and we will offer it to the membership. The host just has to book the table and write a review (or persuade someone else to).

Could you host an Eat-Out? Or even an Eat-In? If you are feeling creative? Spaces Remaining: **28**

**Lunch July - The Yarbridge** The Propellor, Friday - July 17th - **Sally Forster** Monthly lunch and Sunday lunches are still going! Venue may vary by month. Spaces Remaining: **11**

**Wine Appreciation Cowes** Cowes, 2nd Tuesday - **Jennifer Hale** We meet to sample wines. We select a theme and then each bring a bottle to taste (and take the rest of the bottle away with us). Spaces Remaining: **0**

**Wine Appreciation St Lawrence** St Lawrence, Usually 3rd

Thursday of month - **Frank Kelly** These meetings are fun - and not overly nerdy! They are hosted by Frank Kelly. Meetings are either at his home in St. Lawrence or at another group member's home. Group size is limited to 10, and at the moment there are no vacancies. He will keep a waiting list. There is some modest cost involved in belonging to this group. Spaces Remaining: **0**

### **Games Indoor**

**Bridge** Newport, Two games a month - **Tony Williams** 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. Spaces Remaining: **14**

**Bridge Lessons** Niton, Weekly - **Philip Tarling, Sue Tarling** Structured 'limited knowledge bridge lessons' part learning, part practicing with information to take away. Usually two people at a time at weekly 2 hour lessons for up to 12 weeks. Individuals will be twinned with another when possible. We teach the ACOL bidding system which is the basis for playing rubber/social bridge and a great introduction to joining the Bridge Playing Group. We offer lessons Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday afternoons.

Contact the group coordinator Sue using the above link for more details ... Spaces Remaining: **2**

**Quizzing** All Around the Island, Irregular - **Tony Williams, Beryl Wells** Random opportunities to

enter pub (and other) fund-raising quizzes across the Island, chosen by group members. This is a great group if you like racking your brains to remember things you should know! It helps if you like going to pubs in the evenings with a team of people who are also trying to rack their brains. Happily, we've got some lovely pubs on the island that put on weekly or monthly quizzes, run by very inventive quizmasters. We also go to charity quizzes and have an occasional quiz at someone's home. Join this group and go to as many or as few quizzes as you want. Spaces Remaining: **10**

**Scrabble** Various, 3rd Friday - **Alison Botha** We are a very friendly and welcoming bunch of aspiring wordsmiths who enjoy our games of Scrabble with each other. Someone volunteers to host once a month (no pressure), but we are flexible. We cater for all levels of play. There is usually a dictionary to hand to check any doubtful words/spellings and we always make sure we have time for refreshments during the afternoon! There are spaces for one or two more if you are interested. New group members are very welcome, please contact Alison to be added to the group list. Spaces Remaining: **2**

**Ten Pin Bowling** Ryde, Monthly Wednesday am - **Neil Guy** There has been a great deal of interest expressed in Ten Pin Bowling. Meetings will be monthly on the third Wednesday of the month except where that clashes with school holidays. Spaces Remaining: **4**

## Games Outdoor

**Not Golf Group (The)** All Around the Island, Different days Different venues Different times - **Philip Tarling** Leader: Phil Tarling Venues: About 15 around the Island. We play on all Pitch and Putt and Crazy Golf type venues on the Island. Join the group.

Find out where and when we are playing and let me know if you want to join us at that venue.

The venues, days and times change from week to week and we play about four times a month. Spaces Remaining: **14**

**Padel & Pickleball** Ryde Tennis and Padel Club, To be agreed - **Chris Ryan, John Cranwell, Terry Webb** The Padel and Pickleball group Taster/Training sessions are now underway.

We also have a WhatsApp channel to book and arrange Round Robin sessions to meet regularly at Tapnell Farm and/or Ryde Tennis and Croquet Club. If you are interested please email me (Chris) to add your name to the Group and also complete the online form at: <https://forms.office.com/e/FDWJqMMVDV> Spaces Remaining: **8**

## Garden

**Garden Group** Members gardens or allotments, Twice a month (summer) - **Sally Forster** The Gardeners Group is a happy band of amateur gardeners who enjoy visiting each others' gardens/allotments/patios in the warmer months of the year. At our

meetings we share seeds, cuttings, ideas and advice – and of course we find time for tea and cake! Our members come from all parts of the Island and their gardens are all very different. One of the pleasures is seeing how gardens develop over the years. Spaces Remaining: **5**

## Walk & Talk About Gardens

Various, Wednesdays twice a month - **Beryl Tillman** This group was formed by a few friends with a mutual love of gardens, gardening and plants and who wished to share their enjoyment and enthusiasm with others. We meet twice a month through the Summer. Wednesday afternoon to visit one of our gardens, exchange plants, cuttings, seeds ideas and occasionally knowledge. These visits always finish with tea, cake and more talk. Spaces Remaining: **2**

## History

### Family History - Group 1

Newport, 2nd Thursday of the Month - **Amy Brading, Anne Baylis, Gillian Fortune** This is a group supported activity where members gather each month to learn about different aspects of researching Family History and support each other in their respective journeys. The current location is Newport Library. This is very limited in terms of size which is why we are currently split into two groups. Spaces Remaining: **1**

### Family History - Group 2

Newport, 3rd Tuesday of the month - **Peter Fedden, Jacqui Phillips** This is a group

supported activity where members gather each month to learn about different aspects of researching Family History and support each other in their respective journeys. The current location is Newport Library. This is very limited in terms of size which is why we are currently split into two groups, and may even need to create a third group in the near future. Spaces Remaining: 0

## Languages

**French Conversation I** Lake, every Friday morning - **Alexandra de Trey** We run an intermediate conversational French group. The aim of the group is to enjoy ourselves whilst speaking French, to ensure that we all at the very least retain our spoken French and improve as much as we can. We start each get-together with a news round of what we have all been doing. Then we have a cup of coffee and move on to activities. For example we might play "Call My Bluff" or "Would I Lie to You", translate an article from a French magazine, or listen to and translate some spoken French. This is a very sociable group, quite a few of the members have lived in France, we all enjoy visiting France and speaking French. Spaces Remaining: 0

**French Conversation II** Newport, every Friday afternoon - **Tom Finnegan** Intermediate conversational French. The aim of the group is to enjoy ourselves whilst speaking French, to ensure that we all at the very least retain our spoken French and improve as much as we can. We generally start each get-together with a

news round of what we have all been doing. This is a very sociable group, quite a few of the members have lived in France, we all enjoy visiting France and speaking French. Spaces Remaining: 4

**French Conversation III** Newport, Wednesday - **Corinne White, Kay Evans** Every Wednesday at Utilita in Newport. We are a small, supportive group for intermediate to good French speakers. We take turns 'hosting' at Utilita, which means that we provide a subject or subjects to discuss or explain at each session, so there is always something new for us to chat about. Sometimes we have articles to translate and recently a French podcast was introduced and enjoyed by the group. We hope these various approaches improve our French. We have space available for newcomers, so do please give us a try! Spaces Remaining: 6

**German 0 Beginners** Various, To be agreed - **Mary Longley** A new group for those wanting to start learning German. No experience is required or expected. It will be starting from complete fundamentals, slowly building knowledge over time.

Currently we are establishing interest. The first course will be due to run mid-September 2026. There are currently no details as to time or location. Spaces Remaining: 0

**German I improvers** Roman Villa, Brading, Alternate Friday mornings - **Mary Longley** Two German groups meet on alternate Friday mornings in Brading: a beginners/improvers group and an intermediate/advanced group.

The beginners/improvers group has a couple of vacancies now, so if you'd like to refresh vague memories of schooldays' German, now is the moment to join! It is very informal, and we aim to have fun, make new friends and learn a thing or two at the same time. Spaces Remaining: 1

**German II Inter/Advanced** Roman Villa, Brading, Alternate Friday mornings - **Mary Longley** Intermediate/Advanced. Two German groups meet on alternate Friday mornings in Brading: a beginners/improvers group and an advanced group. The advanced group is small and would welcome new members. The format of both sessions aims to focus on the key skills of speaking, written, and listening comprehension. It is very informal, and we aim to have fun, make new friends and learn a thing or two at the same time. Spaces Remaining: 3

**Italian Conversation** Group Leaders Home, 2nd and 4th Tuesday pm - **Chris Ryan** A very informal group of beginners to intermediate Italian language enthusiasts launched in November 2024. We actively practise speaking and listening to the Italian Language as much as possible and have some fun along the way. We don't worry too much about mistakes: repetition, deviation and hesitation are all expected and supported. We use WhatsApp to keep up to date and confirm meetings etc. Meetings are in the Porchfield area. Contact Chris for details of location and WhatsApp. Spaces Remaining: 7

## Italian for Absolute Beginners

Various, Second and Fourth Tuesdays - **Chris Ryan** A course for absolute beginners with a desire to learn a little Italian in a fun and friendly way. As the title suggests, absolutely no previous knowledge required. The pace of learning is very leisurely and new members are always welcome. We will be concentrating on "Holiday Italian". Our goal is that within a year of starting we will be comfortable enough in all the classic holiday situations to ask the appropriate questions and perhaps even understand the answers! We usually meet either at Mary Anne's in Newport or my house in Porchfield. Spaces Remaining: **5**

**Italian: Step Up** Newport Library, Saturday 2pm to 3pm - **John Mittelheuser** Italian Step Up (used to be called Italian Beginners) is a group for anyone with a basic grasp of Italian. You need to be fairly comfortable using the present tense and possibly the past perfect and simple future. You would most probably have a vocabulary of around 500 words or more. Spaces Remaining: **2**

**Spanish - Step Up** Newport Utilita, Saturday 1pm Utilita - **Brett Clark** Spanish Beginners Meeting at 1pm Saturday Afternoons in Newport. Concentrating on listening and speaking from recorded authentic Spanish speakers. Spaces Remaining: **4**

**Spanish for Absolute Beginners** Newport Utilita, 2nd and 4th Mondays - **Margaret Armstrong** The group meets at Utilita in Newport High Street

every second and fourth Monday at 2pm.

It is for anyone who has absolutely no or very little knowledge of Spanish.

It is intended for those who are keen to learn Spanish following a structured framework. There is a course book that you will be expected to purchase once you have established that this is for you. Spaces Remaining: **21**

**Spanish for Fun** Group Leaders Home, 2nd and 4th Tuesday - **Chris Ryan** This is an alternative to the Absolute Beginners group.

We follow roughly the same book so that members can transfer, but are a bit more relaxed in our goals and commitment to learning.

We are always looking for someone to take on the role of co-ordinator or even leading the group. Spaces Remaining: **3**

**Spanish Improvers** Online, Monday 4pm Zoom - **Brett Clark** Spanish Improvers, Have been meeting weekly now for going on 4 years. Meeting on Zoom at 4pm on Mondays. Update for 2026, Lola in Barcelona will be returning on a fortnightly schedule to help after this summer. (2026) Spaces Remaining: **4**

## Literature

**Bookies' Favourites** Ryde, Various - **Stephanie Edwards** This book group meets about every six weeks, on various days and times by agreement, around Ryde, at cafes, pubs and other venues for lively discussions

about a chosen book. Spaces Remaining: **1**

**Bookworms** East Cowes, 1st Friday - **Allison Rogers** We take it in turns to choose a book that we think the group will enjoy reading over the next month for the next session. The person who chose the book starts the discussion off and everyone in the group will give their views and opinions. Sometimes the books may not be to our taste but generate lively discussion. The beauty is that we are often introduced to a title or author and get real pleasure reading a book that we would never have chosen ourselves. The person whose book choice it is that month brings a cake and this helps make the meeting a sociable, enjoyable event. Spaces Remaining: **0**

**Creative Writing** Newport, Monthly - 1st Monday pm - **Helena Hewston** Originality is bedded in imagination. The truth can be couched in words to become an example of creative writing. It is how we marry experience and observation that is a skill in creative writing. Most of the group do not have published words. We just feel a need to write and be supported in doing so. It is the sharing that is so important and the crux of this group. There is flexibility of style and angle of approach to topic challenges each month that keeps our interest going. We meet once a month on a Monday afternoon for about two hours. Spaces Remaining: **2**

**Poetry** Members Home, 2nd Monday - **Helena Hewston** This is a group, meeting monthly, for appreciating poetry in its written form. It is a discussion event

where pre chosen pieces on a particular topic are enjoyed and considered for their place in communication. The context of the poems play a part in conversations giving prompts for understandings of people, history, time and place. Humphry, the cat, is a non participating member in the surroundings of Wolverton Manor. Spaces Remaining: **1**

**Random Reads** Newport, Occasional Tuesdays - **Kate Rickman** We will not all read the same book at the same time - who does that? This is just a 'Reading' group - share what you love to read, what you are reading - articles, papers, research, short stories, History - whatever inspires you or brings your pleasure. Spaces Remaining: **3**

**Random Reads - Freshwater** Freshwater, Every 2nd Tuesday - **Jane Stevenson** A unique twist on a book club. No fixed books to read. Just bring any book that you have enjoyed and be prepared to chat about it and answer questions for 10 minutes. Spaces Remaining: **2**

## Music

**Classical Music Appreciation** Members Home, Various Fridays -

**Geoffrey Simmons** Our current approach is to select a topic for a forthcoming meeting. We listen to extracts of recorded music, relevant to the topic, and then discuss those pieces. If time allows, the discussion might broaden and encompass other pieces of music, and other composers. Spaces Remaining: **3**

### Playing the Saxophone

Various, Varied - **Nikki Mannix** Our new saxophone ensemble is up and running. We have decided to hold our numbers steady at this point. If you are interested then please register your interest with Mim on [groups@u3awight.uk](mailto:groups@u3awight.uk) and we can let you know when that changes - or there are enough people interested to start a second group. Spaces Remaining: **4**

**Recorder Playing** Newport, 1st and 3rd Wednesday - **Anne Baylis** We enjoy playing a variety of recorder music. New members are very welcome. It is a friendly group with the emphasis on having a fun, relaxing time. If you are interested but not sure if the group is for you, please do drop into a session and see what we do. For further information, please contact me by email. Spaces Remaining: **2**

**Singing for Fun** St John's Church Hall, 1st Thursday - **Dave**

**Vodden, Sally Forster** Held regularly with about 20 attending. Spaces Remaining: **8**

### Vinyl Tracks and Chats

Newport Utilita, Every third Tuesday - **Lee Simmonds, Raymond Batchelor, Paul Beatty, Matthew Dodge, Kay Evans, Loraine Poyser, Jane Stevenson** A group that meets and chats about all things Vinyl (and the odd CD) from our youth (50s 60s and 70s) run by a music industry veteran and enthusiast.

Many members were not able to make it to our first meeting so please come along to any future meetings. Email reminders will be sent out. Spaces Remaining: **0**

## Science etc

**Psychology** Congregational Church, Third Thursday afternoon - **Jeremy Turk** The Psychology Interest Group continues to thrive, and continues to meet monthly. We are currently studying cognitive psychology, including its therapeutic applications. We then plan to focus on biological psychology. I'm happy for anybody interested to email me so I can add their name to it. Spaces Remaining: **0**

## Omnibus newsletter edited by Roger Skidmore

Always happy to answer questions or point you in the right direction for further advice.

Call 07732 480201 or 01983 822900 or email [rogerskid@zen.co.uk](mailto:rogerskid@zen.co.uk)



**Note - almost all underlined words are actually web links (for those reading this online).**

**Footnote** - for those wishing to print out the newsletter themselves - possibly choose to set your printer to "Booklet", else print direct in full A4 size (20 pages).

## ***Some Past Speaker Meetings***

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

Speaker Meetings are open to all.  
Presentations are followed by refreshments and chat.

<p>February 2025 talk on <b>Guide Dogs</b></p>	<p>March 2025 Kevin Shaw on <b>Ernest Shackleton</b></p>
<p>April 2025 <b>Orchids on the IoW</b> - plus a competition! Stephen Oakes-Monger</p>	<p>May 2025 Mark Earp on <b>"Pond"</b></p>
<p>June 2025 Vera Lynn <b>The life of Dame Vera Lynn</b> - a personal memory</p>	<p>September 2025 Dr Paul Bingham on <b>Dr Arthur Hassall</b></p>
<p>October 2025 Sophie Bluestone: <b>SOS Humanity</b> is a civilian sea rescue in the Mediterranean.</p>	<p>November 2025 from our own member Keith Pritchard on...<b>"Laughter is the Best Medicine"</b></p>
<p>January 2026 Colm Watling on <b>"Artificial Intelligence"</b></p>	<p>February 2026 Dr Alan Clark talks about <b>Island Erosion</b></p>

For future meetings please contact [speakers@u3awight.uk](mailto:speakers@u3awight.uk)

# Isle of Wight u3a

## Membership Application Form

Title	Forename	Last Name
Address & Postcode		
Telephone Number and Email Address		

### Skills, Interests and Group Participation

Please indicate any areas in which you have experience and would be willing to contribute to the u3a Isle of Wight. Additionally, list your interests and any groups you wish to join. If you require more space, you may continue on a separate page.

### Membership Details and Payment

Membership is £20 and covers the period from April through to 31 March 2027. On joining now, your membership will extend until 31 March 2027.

We host regular face-to-face meetings with speakers or socials, typically held in Newport on the second Thursday of each month. There are also coffee mornings and a variety of groups meeting across the Island, with some groups continuing to meet via Zoom.

Payment options include cheque, made payable to IoW U3A, or online banking direct to IOWU3A (Sort code: 52-30-04, Account number: 30622034).

Please return your completed application form either by post to: [IOWu3a, c/o 59 Greenlydd Close, Niton, PO38 2BJ](#), or as an email attachment to [membership@u3awight.uk](mailto:membership@u3awight.uk). Alternatively, you may join online at [www.u3awight.uk](http://www.u3awight.uk).

### Membership Benefits

The membership fee includes a £4.00 contribution to the national body, the Third Age Trust, which provides members with a range of services and benefits, including liability insurance cover. It also covers postage for five editions of the magazine Third Age Matters.

### Data Protection

By signing below, you agree that your data may be used solely for the administration of the [u3a Isle of Wight only](#)

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### Contact Information

If you have any questions regarding your application, please contact the Membership Secretary, Sherlie Burridge, on 07790 655874 or visit [www.u3awight.uk](http://www.u3awight.uk).

## ***Speaker Meetings - upcoming***

**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.

**July/August is a holiday break from speaker meetings  
but normal events and activities continue unabated.**

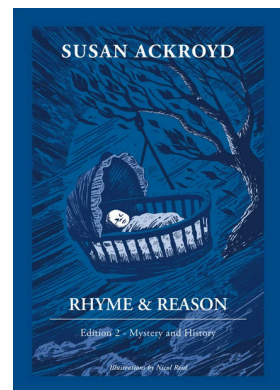
For more information contact Sara at [speakers@u3awight.uk](mailto:speakers@u3awight.uk)

**Thursday 10th September 2026**

**Susan Ackroyd - "Rhyme and Reason, a look at English  
History through Nursery Rhymes."**



Why was a baby in a treetop?  
Who was Georgie Porgie, the  
little boy blue, Mary Mary? Little  
Jack Horner's family continued to  
enjoy the plum property he took  
from those intended for Henry  
VIII, until the 20th century.



**Colm Watling** has worked in technology from long before it was fashionable. He talked to us in February about Artificial Intelligence for Beginners and will be returning to tell us more on **Thursday 8th October**.



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