

February Activity

CHAIR'S CHAT



Following my request for volunteers to be Fire Marshalls 3 members have stepped forward and I will be arranging training for them shortly. A few more volunteers would be welcome.

Many members will have now picked up their Renewal Pack and hopefully read my letter about the AGM. At this year's AGM we need to elect new Committee members as they always bring fresh ideas and energy to the Committee. I must ask all of you to consider joining the Committee. Any interested member can find out more by talking to any Committee member. You are also welcome to attend a Committee meeting if that will help your decision. You would join as a general committee member which allows you to learn about how the Committee runs your u3a while helping your u3a to do this.

Have you seen the Locks Heath u3a member's contribution to an article in the u3a Matters Magazine about her early reading choice? If you haven't, why not find it and see if your early reading choice was the same or similar? I know mine was the male versions.

Les

MEET AND GREET



We are a small friendly Team stationed in the Grove Room ready to greet members and visitors.

We love to welcome new members to our Team, so if you are interested, please speak to one of us. Thank you. **Judy**

THIS MONTH'S MEETING

This month's meeting was on Friday, 28th February and our speaker was Jane Glennie whose talk in entitled "Time for Tea". Jane gave a very entertaining, informative and humorous presentation.

POSSIBLE NEW GROUP – BACKGAMMON AND MORE



There has been a request to form a backgammon group or a group where backgammon and other board/card games can be played. If you would be interested in either being part of such a group or perhaps helping to run this sort of group then please could you e mail me via the committee page on the website or chat to me at the groups table at the monthly meeting. **Graham**

NEW GROUP – LET’S GO TOGETHER



This new group will be open to all members.

The concept is to provide a familiar face to attend local events both during the week and at weekends.

Dates of some open-to-all events in the immediate locality of Locks Heath, Park Gate, Sarisbury Green, Titchfield, Titchfield Common and Warsash, will be provided in the newsletters, by email and on the website.

For each event, as well as the whole event times, a specific date and time will be stated when Stephanie and Graham will be at the door. If you would like to attend the event with u3a then all you need to do is to make your own way there for the designated time. Stephanie and Graham will wait for 10 minutes before joining the event. There will be no need to contact us in advance.

Examples of some of the events that will be included are Locks Heath Classic car meets at Locks Heath Centre, Craft Fairs, Art Exhibitions, Open Gardens, Christmas Tree light switch on at Locks Heath etc. **Graham – Groups Liaison**

SKITTLES



Attendance was lower than usual, so we had time to play 4 rounds of normal Skittles. We had first time winners this month for both trophies with Sheila winning the John Trophy and Margaret W winning the Mary Drew Cup. Margaret beat me so the conundrum of me presenting the trophy to myself did not arise!

Our next meeting to play Skittles is on Monday 3rd March at the Kings Head, Wickham,

1pm for 1:30pm start.

Judy & Les

GARDEN GROUP



On Friday February 14th we welcomed Bob and Sam from Wynton Gardens in Fareham, who delighted us with photos and stories showing us how the garden centre supports service users with special needs and how it has developed. We will be arranging a visit later in the year to see the centre in action.

At our next meeting on Friday March 14th, our focus will be ‘Herbs’. There will be a short presentation followed by a quiz and the opportunity to plant a small selection of herb seedlings to take home. Please bring a small container such as a supermarket fruit box or pottery bowl if you would like to make a herb planter.

We meet in The Grove Room at St John’s Church, 1:45 for a 2pm start. **Stephanie**

POLITICAL THOUGHT



This is a new group that will start meeting on 25th February. The purpose of the group is to consider and discuss what is essentially the history of political thought by looking at the foremost political thinkers, starting with the ancient Greeks and moving forward from there. However, the group will be flexible enough to accommodate discussions around any topics that members might want to raise that would lead to a greater understanding of the political world. The aim of the sessions will be to stimulate some thought-provoking discussions that

members find interesting and enjoyable. **Alan**

POETRY



The u3a Poetry Group start has had to be postponed to April, sorry about this. It will be on the fourth Thursday of the month in the afternoon, at my home in Locks Heath. We will be a small group probably four people so we do have space for a couple more people, so do come along.

For our first meeting I will be inviting people to bring four or five poems from their favourite poets. We can choose traditional or contemporary poems. Towards the end of the meeting, we can choose a couple of poets or a theme for the next few meetings.

There will be time for tea and biscuits, a donation towards costs would be good. **Jenny**

BOOK FRIENDS



Book Friends meet again on Tuesday, 4th March at 2:00pm as usual when we will be discussing our present book "The Queen's Fool" by Philippa Gregory. I will confirm via e-mail the venue for our meeting nearer the time. I look forward to seeing everyone then. **Margaret**

CANASTA



We had an enjoyable afternoon playing Canasta with a new member joining us. She'd never played before but by the end of the afternoon had picked up the rudiments and even, with her partner, won the game. So if you are contemplating a new interest why not come and join us for an enjoyable and laid back afternoon. We meet at the Victory Hall every 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month between 2pm and 4pm. You will be most welcome. **Liz and Pauline**

CREATIVE WRITING



There are a couple of places available in the creative writing group. We meet twice a month on the first and third Thursdays from 10 till 12. We choose a title, write a piece of about 500 words and then read it out at the following gathering. Its good fun and very light hearted. Take a look at some of our past stories by going to the Locks Heath u3a website, click on groups and go to Creative Writing. **Graham**

LUNCHEON GROUP



Our next lunch will be at Avenue 141, Fareham College, Bishopsfield Road, Fareham, PO14 1NH on Tuesday, 18th March 2025 at 12 for 12:30pm when there will be a 3 course Mexican Inspired lunch for £22.00 per person, which includes arrival drink, canapes, 3 course lunch, coffee and petit fours.

If you would like to join us please see me at the Open meeting on Friday, 28th February or contact me by March 10th via the website.

ART AND ARCHITECTURE



Our February meeting featured two Victorian artists. Mike Cresswell presented Ford Madox Brown, a British painter of moral and historical subjects. His most notable painting was "Work". He attempted to depict the totality of the mid-Victorian social experience showing navvies digging up the road whilst "toffs" were standing by watching. It was a popular point of discussion for our group.

Andrew Kennedy presented George Frederic Watts prior to our group visit to the Watts Gallery in May. Watts was a prolific painter and sculptor. His allegorical compositions led to symbolism not always popular at the time but now acknowledged as great paintings. These can be seen during the May visit.

We have only two more meetings before our summer visits, so it is vital that all arrangements are finalised during these meetings. Payments should be by BACS (preferred) or cheque. Sorry no cash.

May 13th to Watts Gallery at Compton near Guildford

Guided tour of gallery (approx. 1 hour), tea or fresh filtered coffee and biscuits on arrival £23.95. Includes entrance fee to the whole site (visitor centre and shop, Limnerlease artists' home and studio, sculptor gallery). There is a comprehensive teashop (light meals), parking and toilet facilities.

June 10th visit to Whitchurch Silk Mill

Cost £9.00 entry per person includes guided tour. Tea or coffee on arrival £3.75 and possible lunch £9.00.

July 8th visit to St Cross Hospital Winchester

Details TBA

Don't miss our meeting on March 11th and enjoy a detailed presentation about George William Macintosh by Matt Dolan. Also, a presentation about English Parish Church Architecture by Nick Stanley. Come and join us in the Grove Room, at St John's Church 10:10 a.m. Admission £2.00 to include tea or coffee and biscuits. All are welcome. **Andrew and Ray**

HERITAGE AND CULTURES



This month we had an excellent set of poems read by 10 of our members, with information about the poets and what they meant to the readers. Dilys started with a projected image of a famous painting by Brueghel showing Icarus falling from the sky, and a poem about it by W H Auden called "Musee des Beaux Arts". This was followed by poetry about Botswana, and from Gerard Manley Hopkins, Thomas Hardy, Tennyson, Betjeman, Wordsworth, Wendy Cope, A A Milne and Spike Milligan. An eclectic mix much enjoyed by all!

Next month we are having a talk about Arthur Conan Doyle by Ann Gardner, and you are very welcome to attend. In the warmer months, there will be walks in Winchester and Portsmouth, plus visits to Peartree Church in Southampton and the Aviation Museum.

We meet in the Grove Room at 10:30am on the third Tuesday of the month. **David**

CINEMA GROUP



Despite the inconvenience of a strike by bus drivers around 200 members attended this month's film, "A Complete Unknown". Unfortunately, there was a breakdown of the projector in screen 1 which meant that some members had to move to screen 4, so I hope that didn't affect too much anyone's enjoyment of the film. Our next film, on 13th March, is about Maria Callas and has had excellent reviews. As usual, Kathy will send out full details by email and anyone not on email wishing to attend should contact me. **Celia**

ALL THAT JAZZ



At our meeting on 17th February the theme was "Sydney Bechet" and a CD was played illustrating his life and times, with commentary and music recorded in 2012 from the Riverwalk Jazz Club, in San Antonio. The music was provided by Bob Wilbur and the Jim Cullum Jazz Band.

We listened attentively for almost an hour and found it to be informative, and an interesting change from our usual routine. Afterwards we played several more tracks which featured him. The Quiz track was "Blues in the Night", and the question was who the singer was. Unfortunately, no one was able to answer, but it was Katie Melua.

Reference was made to the demise of local reed player Tony Carter, whose funeral was on 24th January. Three of our members had donated a total of £50 to the Musicians Union Benevolent Fund/Pancreatic Cancer Research Fund in his memory.

Thanks were expressed to Gillian Hinde, who had donated six CDs to our group.

Next Meeting: - Monday 17th March 2pm at the usual venue, when the theme will be "Streets & Highways" (no roads permitted). **David**

SHEPPERD SINGERS

After a very busy Christmas the Shepperd Singers are now learning some new songs, including a very beautiful one called Laudamus Te written in Latin. We are also learning to read the music for it. A big step up for some singers. It is taught with such patience and humour it is actually great fun, albeit a bit daunting at the moment.

Our group is all about enjoyment of music. Inclusivity is key to our group whilst upholding the learning aspects of what u3a stands for. We are all definitely of the 3rd age. Some members being in their 90's.

We are quite a big group now and some of our former Care Homes are too small to accommodate us all, so I am exploring two new ones, not too far away this week, and hope we are able to sing to them.

There is nothing quite like seeing these people react, some smiling, some singing along as much as they can. Our strapline is:-"Singing for joy in the community". Very apt, I think.

You can see a photo of our sing out to the Crofton Club at our group page on the website. **Carol**

WALKING GROUP –



Thank you to all who joined us for the walks in January including Stokes Bay, Fareham Quay and Locks Heath and our early February walk in Warsash.

In late February and March we have planned the following walks starting at 10:30am:

26th February: We will meet at The Crofton pub / restaurant in Hillhead and walk as far as you want towards Lee-on-the-Solent or beyond. There are numerous cafes along the seafront where you can linger over a hot drink before returning to The Crofton for lunch. Maureen is the walk leader.

12th March: We will meet in the main car park at Holly Hill, Woodland Park and walk to Mermaids in Universal Boatyard. This walk will be on tracks through the woodland park and then roads to the boatyard. Walking boots are the best footwear. John is the walk leader.

26th March: We will meet in the car park at Wicor Recreation Ground (PO16 9BY). Turn right at first roundabout on A27 towards Porchester). We will walk along the shore to Porchester Castle for refreshments at St Mary's Church. You will need walking boots for this walk and money for the car park. Maureen is the walk leader.

We look forward to catching up with you on one or more of these walks. Please let Marion, John or Maureen know if you are joining any of the walks so that we know who to expect and avoid leaving anyone behind. This is important if we need to change or amend the walks due to inclement weather or ground conditions. Also, please let us know if you need to change your booking. Please be aware of weather conditions and bring appropriate clothing / boots / water. Please try to share transport to the start of each walk to save parking spaces, parking charges and the environment. **Maureen and Marion**

WEBSITE <https://locksheath.u3asite.uk/>

If you haven't yet managed to take a look at the Locks Heath u3a website then why not give it a whirl. Just search for Locks Heath u3a and it will be there at the top of the list. Then click on the Menu in the top left-hand corner to choose an area and to find more information and photos click on the blue titles.

Graham - webmanager@locksheathu3a.org.uk