

July 2026

CHAIR'S CHAT



A reminder that the July Open Meeting will be one week earlier than normal on Friday July 24th.

Do please check out our website for lots of information and pictures. Go to locksheath.u3asite.uk

Any thoughts on new groups.. niche to mainstream ... do please let me know.

u3a Getaway holidays has just been launched. Go to <https://www.justforgroups.com/u3a-getaways>

MEMBER BEREAVEMENTS

John Lillywhite. Dilys has asked for members to know that John's funeral will be held on July 27th at 2pm at St Paul's Church Sarisbury Green and afterwards at The Solent Hotel. Our thoughts are with Dilys, their family and friends.

Nora Wright. Our love reaches out to her family and friends.

Graham

Chair@locksheathu3a.org.uk

THIS MONTH'S MEETING

This month's meeting is on **Friday, 24th July. One week earlier than usual!**

The Speaker is Dr. Lyndon Palmer with a talk entitled Anglo-Saxon Detectives. Lyndon became interested in Anglo Saxon history after he retired as a GP. His talk explains how archaeologists interpret their findings with some amusing examples.

INTEREST GROUP NEWS

DOMINOES



Dominoes are set up in the Grove Room about 3.15pm following each monthly open meeting.

Just join a table, chat, relax and enjoy. The room is booked through till 4:30pm. So fine for a 6 - or 60-minute stay.

Graham Chair@locksheathu3a.org.uk

WORDLE



Wordle is a free daily game which can be accessed on PC, tablet or phone.

Players have six attempts to guess a five-letter word.

Green correct, yellow correct but in the wrong place and grey incorrect. See example above.

In a very light hearted way we share our daily results on a LHu3a WhatsApp group.

To join the group just email me your mobile number or ask me for more help and

information.

Graham Chair@locksheathu3a.org.uk

FRENCH CONVERSATION



Here is a little update on our first French conversation gathering.

This was a first for Locks Heath u3a and was attended by 6 people, many of whom had not spoken French in a while. Everyone did extremely well as we introduced ourselves, discussed French patisserie (and sampled some), Quatorze Juliet (Bastille Day) and a little on where we learnt French and why. We are all looking forward to the next session. **Sue**

SKITTLES



I was not at our July meeting. I have not received any comments good or bad about it so I can only assume it was the usual friendly noisy event.

Editors Comment: It was a well-run event by me, but you were missed, Les ! !

My thanks to John for printing the documents and Stephen for running the meeting. I see from the photos on our u3a website that a smiling Mike won the John Trophy for the second month running. I am not sure if David's photo is showing surprise or satisfaction at winning the Mary Drew Cup! Our next meeting will be on 3rd August at the Kings Head, Wickham Square, 1pm for 1:30 pm start. If you are interested in coming along to see what goes on, please let me know in advance by emailing me via the Locks Heath u3a. Just visit the Skittles page and click on **Les**.

BOOK FRIENDS



Book Friends met this month to discuss 'Nostromo' by Joseph Conrad. A really difficult book to read but it was interesting to hear about Joseph Conrad's life, particularly his childhood and how that influenced his writing.

We meet again in July to talk about our next book 'Lie with me' by Sabine Durrant. **Maureen**

HERITAGE AND CULTURES



This month we are off to the Diving Museum on the 21st and information has been sent out to those who are attending.

The next event is the Old Fareham Walk with a guide on 22nd September.

CANASTA



Even though both afternoons were very warm this month, we still had a good turnout of members to play Canasta. We meet at the Victory Hall in Warsash on the second and fourth Thursday of the month. If you would like to join us as a beginner or with some experience, you will be very welcome. We will be more than happy to teach you at your own pace. **Liz and Pauline**

LUNCHEON GROUP



The next lunch will be at The Hook, Warsash on Wednesday, 19th August at 12 for 12:30pm. A pre-ordered menu is required so if you would like to come, please see me at the Open Meeting on Friday, 24th July or contact me by email

by 10th August at the latest.

Thank you, **Rachel**

PLAY READING



At the Playreading group meeting in June, we had a full house to read a quick witted, surreal play 'Laying the Ghost' by Simon Williams. The performance takes place in a home for retired actors and involves one character apparently

suffering from dementia and the former wife, current wife and mistress of a famous actor.

As the story develops the dialogue between the characters

becomes sharp, sometimes cruel and very funny. It all ends well or does it? That depends on which part you are playing!

This month we meet on Monday July 27th to read a play many we be familiar with. 'Blythe Spirit' by Noel Coward. **Pat**

CINEMA GROUP - Contact: Kathy Kanji, Solent u3a.



Our July film was "The Christophers", with superb acting from Ian McKellan and Michaela Coel as the main characters.

As usual, there will not be a film in August and Kathy will email members once she has details of September's showing. In the meantime, enjoy the rest of the summer.

Celia

GENTLE EXERCISE



The last Class had the usual members attending. We all enjoyed the stretching exercises and then had various exercises with weights together with 60/70s music in the background. Afterwards we had refreshments. A very pleasant time was had.

The Gentle Exercise Class is on the last Monday of the month, and our next class will be on Monday, 27th July at 2pm. I look forward to seeing you. **Glenice:**

WALKING GROUP



Thank you to all who joined us for the walks in June and early July including Porchester Castle, Garsons Coffee Shop and Hamble Country Park. We have had to be mindful about the very hot weather recently and shorten walks accordingly

In late July and August, we have planned the following walks starting at 10.30am. Dates, place to meet and walk leader are below with full details for the walks.

22nd July: We have decided to revert to the original walk planned for today. We will meet in the Bridge Street Car Park, Titchfield, and walk beside the canal to Meon Shore. This is a long walk of about 5 miles. John is the walk leader and Maureen will provide refreshments at Meon Shore. If you want a short walk, you can join Maureen and do part of the walk from the shore inland.

29th July: This extra walk will include refreshment break at Brambridge Garden Centre and lunch at The Otter. We will arrange to park at The Otter, Boyatt Lane, Otterbourne, SO21 2HW and walk downhill to join the Itchen Navigation. We will stop off at the garden centre for refreshments. Depending on the state of the footpath will determine our return route, but we will come via the site of the old church. The return through the woods will be uphill to Otterbourne. Please let us know if you are joining the walk and also if you are staying for lunch. John is the walk leader

12th August: We will meet in Bassingwell Street Car Park in Bishops Waltham SO32 1PA and do a short walk on the old railway line. We were going to do this last year when we had very, very heavy rain (do you remember those days!!!) and we had to run for cover to No 60 where the kind owner opened the cellar room for us and put on the heater!!! We will return to No 60 for refreshments. Hope we can do the walk on this occasion. Maureen will be the walk leader

26th August: We will meet at Mount Pleasant Recreation Ground beside Hamble Primary School, Hamble Lane, SO31 4ND and walk along the Rail Trail to the shore where we will turn left towards Hamble Point. We will stop in Hamble for refreshments and return via the Rail Trail. This is a long walk and David Badcock has kindly offered to lead

We look forward to catching up with you on one or more of these walks. Please be aware of weather conditions and bring appropriate clothing, boots, water. Please be aware that when we recce a walk and find adverse conditions, we may have to change the route. Please let John, Maureen or David know if you are joining any of the walks so that we know who to expect and avoid leaving anyone behind. Also, please let us know if you need to change your booking. Please try to share transport to the start of each walk to save parking spaces, parking charges and the environment. **Maureen and John**

THEATRE GROUP



Our opening night took place with a trip to Fareham Live to see Abigails Party. Next up we are booked to go to the musical Moulin Rouge at the Mayflower Theatre.

Graham Chair@locksheathu3a.org.uk

BIRD WATCHING



The group's inaugural flight took place earlier this month. We walked along the Hamble at Warsash and observed a surprising variety of birdlife. Next month we are planning to visit Titchfield Haven.

To make contact or for more information please go to our website

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Graham Chair@locksheathu3a.org.uk

UNTRADITIONAL BOOK GROUP



A good book is as essential to summer as sunscreen and ice cream, so here are the latest 5* recommends from The Untraditional Book Group:

Hide and Seek - Soren Sveistrup (fiction) A chilling slice of Nordic Noir crime.

Before I Saw You - Emily Houghton (fiction)

A page-turning, heartwarming romance about two strangers thrown together by circumstance.

The Lost Letters of William Woolf - Helen Cullen (fiction) Uplifting story about a Lost Letter Detective!

This Book Made Me Think of You - Libby Page (fiction) A moving novel of grief and learning to live again. *The English Masterpiece*

- Katherine Reay (fiction)

A fast-paced thriller set in the art world of 1970s London. *A Family*

Matter - Claire Lynch (fiction)

An emotional, dual time-line novel spanning forty years. *Secrets of the*

Bees - Jane Johnson (fiction)

An engrossing tale of family relationships set in the beautiful Cornish countryside. *This Allotment*

- Sarah Rigby (non-fiction/biography)

Thirteen contemporary writers celebrate the wonder of the humble allotment. *All the*

Broken Places- John Boyd (fiction)

The sequel to the global bestselling "The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas." Further details about all of the above can be found on The Untraditional Book Group page of the website

https://locksheath.u3asite.uk/u3a_groups/the-untraditional-book-group/ Nichola

TABLE TENNIS



The next gathering will not be until Thursday September 24th, 10:30 at Fareham Shopping Centre.

To make contact or for more information please go to our website

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Graham Chair@locksheathu3a.org.uk

ART AND ARCHITECTURE



Fifteen of our members enjoyed a guided walk around the centre of Salisbury looking at the city's architecture.

Whilst the cathedral is the star, the city centre is a fascinating timeline of British history featuring timber framed medieval buildings, distinct Georgian

townhouses and carefully restored Victorian architecture.

Salisbury streets reflect a classic medieval urban layout. Notable landmarks we saw were the timber framed Red Lion Hotel cited as the oldest continuously operated hotel in the country, the Odeon Cinema in a building dating back to 1470 the Poultry Cross and many other unique buildings. St Thomas's Church toward the end of our tour was interesting because of the 15th Century huge "doom" painting. There was so much to see in unspoilt Salisbury in our 1.5 hours we barely scratched the surface and for some a return visit will be essential.

There is no meeting in August but on the 8th September we return to the Grove Room at St John's Church at 10:10 a.m. where there will be two presentations: Matt Dolan will talk about the Spinnaker Tower and Colin House will present the Southampton Civic Centre. Admission £2 to include tea/coffee and biscuits.

Andrew and Ray

GARDEN GROUP



Several of us have visited the garden of two of our members this month. They have recently moved house, so they enjoyed showing us their new garden. We enjoyed a cream tea and good company. We donated money to a children's education charity in south Asia.

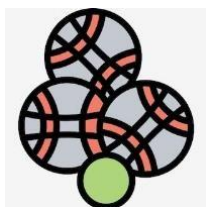
Due to the exceptionally hot temperatures and red weather warning on our date in July it was decided to cancel our meeting. Members will now make their short presentations about Gertrude Jekyll, Fanny Wilkinson and Lancelot 'Capability' Brown at our meeting on 14th August.

Do take a look at the website to see photos of our activities and contact me if you are interested in joining us.

Our regular meetings are held on the 2nd Friday of each month in The Grove Room at St John's Church, 1:45pm for a 2pm start.

Stephanie

PETANQUE



Playing Petanque at Cobbetts Boules Club, Botley Road, Burridge, Southampton, SO31 1BS. We now have a steady number from Locks Heath u3a people enjoying games on each Monday between 2 pm and 4 pm at Cobbetts
We have also attended games on Tuesday night between 7:30 pm and 9:30 pm
They have a Social Club where you can get tea/coffee or a drink.
The weather has been very good to us.
If you would like to try playing Petanque please contact me. **Richard**

CRAFT



At our recent meeting we finished our circular weaving projects and started work on collages.
Some of our group and individual craft work will be on display at the Sarisbury Green Community Show on 8th August so do pop along there to take a look.
Jenny and Stephanie

LET'S GO TOGETHER

Saturday 25 th July, 10:30am	Fareham & District Society of <u>Model Engineers</u> open weekend, £4	Park your car then meet at the entrance
Saturday 8 th August, 3pm	Sarisbury Green Community Show at the Community Centre	Meet at the entrance
22-31 August Precise dates and times will be sent by email	Hampshire Open Studios – artists and crafters show and sell their work in their homes and local venues	Information not yet available

Please make a note of these dates and come along with us – more details to follow in emails.
Stephanie

POLITICAL THOUGHT



The Group has recently considered the political thought of that arch villain Niccolo Machiavelli, and found that he is not quite the 'arch villain' many people think. Shocking he may be, but he says what he saw in 16th century Italy, which was not a united country, and draws conclusions from observation. Mind you, I wouldn't do exactly what he recommends, it is a bit brutal. However, at our next get together we will consider what Thomas Hobbes had to say in the late 16th century. and early 17th centuries. He was born just 'up the road' in Malmesbury, but his writing is in Old English, so that will be an extra challenge that I am sure the group will rise to. Having considered Greek and Italian political philosophers we now move to the great English Philosophers. Meetings last Tuesday of the month in Hunts Pond Road.

Alan Shepherd

CREATIVE WRITING



We have had a sudden surge of members. It's only a couple of months ago that we were looking for a couple of new members, but three people joined recently, so now we are now full. The recent themes "My Place" & "Where I grew up" lend themselves to finding out about one another and chatting about our past. It is an informal group. Even with

seven of us, it is mostly chat, interspersed reading our pieces.

Ian

KNITTING YARNS



If you have survived the long heatwave, the next meeting will be held, as usual, at my house on Wednesday, 5th August from. 2:00pm – 4:00pm.

Rosemary

SCRABBLE



We now have space for a few more players at our friendly monthly Scrabble Group. We meet on the second Monday of each month starting at 10:0am. The venue is my house. If you are interested in coming along to try us out please contact me, no obligation or cost!

Rosemary