

June 2026

CHAIR'S CHAT



See below for information about two new groups for Dominoes and Wordle and also the possibility of a French conversation group.

A community information board will be set up in the Grove Room at every Open Meeting with contacts etc about useful publicly available services.

Please note that the July meeting is one week earlier than normal on Friday July 24th.

There is a list of upcoming Open Meeting talks listed below and for those members without a printer who would like a paper list then there will be a few available on the Groups table.

Graham Chair@locksheathu3a.org.uk

THIS MONTH'S MEETING

This month's meeting is on Friday, 26th June. The Speaker is Jean Legg with a talk entitled "Titanic's Last Hand". Jean's father was Sidney Daniels who became a member of Titanic's crew. Jean's talk charts the story of her father's life from when he went to sea, aged 14 until he passed away, aged 89.

FUTURE MONTHLY MEETINGS

Here ranging from history to travel with a touch of learning and ending with two winter seasonal events is the Speaker Programme for the remainder of this year.

Speaker Programme – July to November 2026

July 24 th	Anglo-Saxon detectives – What was Saxon Life really like? Speaker - Lyndon Palmer - Please note the date change to a week earlier
August 28 th	The Falkland Islands, a second home – My time living in the Falklands – Speaker - Tom Swales
September 25 th	Can you say that again please? – 'Spilling the beans' on the English language - Speaker - Alan Jones
October 30 th	Lewes & Bonfire Night – Why does Lewes hold the biggest November 5 th event? - Speaker - Andy Thomas
November 27 th	Christmas & Other Problems – Happenings in an extraordinary Life – Speaker - Judy Theobald

INTEREST GROUP NEWS

NEW GROUPS

DOMINOES



A new Dominoes group will be running in the Grove Room starting at about 3:15pm after the monthly open meeting and tea. Just join a table and enjoy. We always have the room booked through till 4:30pm. So a 6-minute stay or a 60 minute stay ... whatever you choose...

Graham Chair@locksheathu3a.org.uk

WORDLE



You may or may not be familiar with the daily on line word game Wordle. Wordle is a free web-based game. Look up Wordle on Google / Safari and add it to your home screen.

Players have six attempts to guess a five-letter word, receiving feedback through coloured tiles that indicate correct letters and their placement. There is one puzzle per day.

A group has been set up on WhatsApp where you can share your daily results with other Locks Heath u3a 'wordlers'. If you would like to join the group you

need to first have WhatsApp installed on your phone, tablet or computer. Next email me your mobile number and I'll add you to the group. You will then receive a message about the group, see other results and be able to share your results.

Graham Chair@locksheathu3a.org.uk

FRENCH CONVERSATION



It has been suggested that it would be good to have a small group where we can meet to converse in beginner / intermediate French. It is envisaged that this group would meet in a members' home or a local café. If you would be interested in joining this group, please send me an email and I will set up an initial gathering with coffee and croissants. **Graham** Chair@locksheathu3a.org.uk

SKITTLES



For once my lists of playing order and sticking order worked well with only the addition of Carol B who has rejoined us. We were a few members short of the numbers we need to cover the hire charge, so we have dipped into our credit amount. Mike won the John Trophy and Jean the Mary Drew Cup. Their photos for the website were taken without me as I had decided that me appearing every month did not enhance the website. **Les**

BOOK FRIENDS



Book Friends meet again at Mo's house on July 7th. We shall be discussing Nostromo by Joseph Conrad. **Maureen**

CANASTA



Once again we had two good meetings this month although some people were away on holiday. We are a friendly group of people who enjoy playing cards and socialising with other members. If you would like to join our group you will be made very welcome. If you are a complete beginner we will be happy to teach you at your own pace - in fact most of the current players were

beginners when they started. We meet on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month at the Victory Hall in Warsash between 2pm and 4pm. **Liz and Pauline**

HERITAGE AND CULTURES



On Tuesday, 16th June, sixteen members of the group visited the Old Cemetery on Southampton Common. The cemetery is one of the country's oldest municipal cemeteries, with its first burial, a five-week-old baby, taking place on 8th May 1846. It is historically significant as a record of Southampton's people, and our guides shared illuminating details about some of their lives, and often sad endings, as we stood beside their final resting places.

The cemetery covers 27 acres and contains over 118, 000 burials. Today it is quite overgrown and the volunteer workers (Friends of Southampton Old Cemetery) work tirelessly to keep the more historically important graves cleaned and free from vegetation. It is also a wonderful haven for wildlife an important consideration when clearing around the graves.

It was an interesting, if somewhat macabre, way to spend a sunny Tuesday morning.

Dilys

ALL THAT JAZZ



Our meeting on 15th June was attended by eight members and there was an apology from one member.

The theme was "rag" the tune must be a rag and the word rag must be in the title. Although rag is a common term in jazz some of us had difficulty in finding material for the theme.

Nevertheless, we were able to play 19 tracks which satisfied the criteria.

Our quizmaster asked us to say which was the first jazz record to score a hit in the UK.

Unfortunately, this was not correctly answered.

Answer:- Liberty Street Blues by The Original Dixieland Jazz Band in 1922

We noted the passing of saxophonist Sonny Rollins last week aged 95.

Next meeting will be on Monday 20th July when the theme will be the trumpet,

There will be no meeting in August. **David**

LUNCHEON GROUP



Our next lunch is at The Plough, Portsmouth Road, Bursledon on Wednesday, July 15th at 12 for 12:30pm.

The X4 and X5 bus stops nearby.

A Pre-ordered menu is required so if you would like to join us, please see me at the Open Meeting on Friday, 26th June.

Thank you, **Rachel**

PLAY READING



At our May meeting the play took a 'Trip down the Strand' - an interesting play, set in the 1950's which told of the impending divorce of one character and the

'support and encouragement' she received from 'friends'. It culminated with a

twist that in modern day law would be completely unacceptable, and so we did see quite

graphically how some things in life have changed and yet how human

behaviours seem to be pretty constant.

This month's play which we will read on Monday 22nd June is 'Laying The Ghost' by Simon Williams. It's a witty tale set in a home for retired actors and revolves around an actress who is trying to forget her seventieth birthday.

Pat

WALKING GROUP



Thank you to all who joined us for the walks in May and early June.

In June and July, 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.

24th June: This is a change for the walk published in the May Newsletter. We will meet at Bridge Street car park in Titchfield at 10:30 to walk to Meon Shore. As I cannot do the whole length, I will have refreshments in my car. It is a long walk and John is the leader .

8th July: Marion is leading a short walk from Norman Rodaway Playing Field in Hedge End to Manor Farm.

22nd July: We will meet at Bassingwell Street car park in Bishops Waltham (SO32 1PA) and walk out of the town to the hills along the northern edge. We will then skirt the eastern edge coming down to the water meadow and one of the sources of the River Hamble. We will return to the town for refreshments at No 60 Coffee and Wine Bar. This walk is a long walk of 4-5 miles and John is the walk leader .

29th July: We meet at The Otter in Otterbourne and walk the Otter Trail between the River Itchen and the Itchen Navigation. We will stop for coffee at Brambridge garden Centre and return to The Otter for lunch. John will lead the walk.

We look forward to catching up with you on one or more of these walks. Bassingwell Street car park is chargeable. 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 Marion 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**

THEATRE GROUP



The curtain rises on the newly formed Theatre Group when next month 10 members will be going along to a performance of Abigails Party at Fareham Live. If you know of any particular up and coming productions (professional or amateur) that you would like to suggest the group attend, then please do let me know. **Graham**

Chair@locksheathu3a.org.uk

GENTLE EXERCISE



Bringing the date of the Class forward because of the Bank Holiday worked very well. We had a new Member joining our Class for the first time and she was most welcome.

Usually, the Class starts off with exercise for about 45 minutes then we have a short break but on this occasion we had longer as we worked with the bands and weights. It was a good atmosphere, yet again, and we all enjoyed the time.

Afterwards, we were able to relax with tea/coffee and biscuits.

The next Class is on Monday, 29th June and the following one on Monday 27th July, both at 2 pm. **Glenice**

CINEMA GROUP - Contact: Kathy Kanji, Solent u3a.



Following this month's cosy comedy, "The Sheep Detectives", we have "The Christophers" on 9th July. This is a black comedy starring Ian McKellan as an acerbic elderly, once famous, artist. As usual, Kathy will email group members once her booking office is open. **Celia**

RECORDERS



Warsash u3a are looking for a few recorder players who can read music and may have learned at school and not played since. We are a very friendly group. Any Locks Heath member is welcome to join us. There are a few instruments available. We play at a very leisurely pace in a member's home in Warsash every Monday between 2-4pm.

Hazel

BIRD WATCHING



This group has now launched, and our first gathering is at 2pm on Monday July 13th meeting opposite the Rising Sun in Warsash. If you would like to be added to the list, then please fly over an e-mail.

Graham Chair@locksheathu3a.org.uk

GEOLOGY



The British love talking about the weather and as our next meeting in June is about Volcanoes. I've looked into ... "Volcanoes and the weather."

Geology has its own language and, as an example, I refer to the term VEI. This stands for "Volcanic Explosivity Index" which is a logarithmic scale 1-8 where every step is 1000 fold greater than the previous.

A VEI 8 volcanic eruption took place 74,000 years ago in Indonesia when 679 cubic miles of magma erupted. This caused a severe ice age that almost caused the extinction of modern humans. The experts say they do not expect another super volcano in the next twenty years!!!! **Michael**

UNTRADITIONAL BOOK GROUP



A great book chat as always at the Talisman this month. Our 5* recommends included 'Brighton Rock' by Graeme Greene, the modern classic set in the malevolent atmosphere of the 1930s Brighton underworld, 'Before I Saw You' by Emily Houghton, a charming, heart-warming romance about two people who fall in love as they recover from traumatic injuries in the same hospital

ward, without ever having seen each other, 'Whale Fall' by Elizabeth O'Connor, which follows 18-yearold Manod and her quest to break free from her suffocating life on an island off the Welsh coast in 1938, 'The God of the Woods' by Liz Moore, a page-turning thriller which centres on the secretive Van Laar family and the disappearance of two of their children, and 'Self-Help From the Middle Ages' by Peter Jones, a non-fiction book which takes the reader on a fascinating journey through the Middle Ages in order to find self-help advice for the many anxieties of the twenty-first century. There were a few 1* reviews but, as we are a positive group, we'll keep those to ourselves.

Nichola

WELLBEING



The June meeting for our group was a supportive and informative one. Jenny gave us an interesting presentation about the vagus nerve which we all found fascinating and are looking forward to finding out more about this subject. We also made a group decision to change the name of the group to Wellbeing. Simple to remember and reflects the direction the group would like to take. I would like to arrange a chair yoga session and the consensus was September would be a good month to book this event. Several members will be away in July and August, so we decided to revisit some previous topics like Reiki and Aromatherapy. If any members would like to cover a different subject, please let me know. **Grania**

TABLE TENNIS



The group's next gathering will be on Thursday June 25th, 10:30 – 12:00 at Fareham Shopping Centre's table tennis space with bats & balls provided. We play games up to 11 points then swap around. No cost, just gentle ping pong and coffee in a café afterwards if you want to.

Helpful hint - park in Tesco spend £5 when you leave, get a parking slip, enter details into the machine and you can have 3 hours free parking. **Graham** Chair@locksheathu3a.org.uk

ART AND ARCHITECTURE



Our June visit to West Sussex was very enjoyable. 20 of our members met outside Lancing College Chapel for a guided tour. In the morning sunlight we gazed up at the French style buttress pinnacles, towering above us at over 100 feet high. There was the promise of a spectacular interior and sure enough we were not disappointed.

Our guide was both informative and entertaining. He explained that the College School and Chapel were the vision of one man Nathaniel Woodward. Although the foundation stone was laid in 1868, due to financial straits its completion was only achieved in 2022, 154 years later. The high ceiling with its Gothic style arches, the huge high altar tapestries and the beautiful wood carvings lining the nave create an interior of spectacular beauty. We were also privileged to visit the crypt which consists of no less than three separate chapels. Being relatively new, the crispness of the stone carving was particularly impressive. Altogether a very rewarding visit.

In the afternoon we visited another religious building that was completely different. Goring Catholic Church of the English Martyrs has a unique remarkable secret interior. The semi-circular ceiling which is like that of a second world war aircraft hangar has a painting which is an accurate two thirds scale copy of the Sistine Chapel ceiling in Rome. The work of one man Gary Bevans, it took five and a half years and was finished in 1993. The quality of his painting is consistent across the whole 3,500 square feet of images. When you stand at one end and gaze at the overall scene you can only marvel at such a spectacular achievement. For those who were viewing it for the first time it was a wonderful surprise and a grand finale to a very enjoyable day.

Our next meeting is on 7th July to Salisbury where there will be a 1.5 hour guided tour around scenes of architectural interest. For those that have booked this tour we meet outside the Cathedral west front at 11:00 am.

Meanwhile happy holidays! **Andrew and Ray**

GARDEN GROUP



During May several of us visited a member's garden where we admired the huge variety of trees and shrubs as well as the fish in the pond. We then enjoyed lots of chat over afternoon tea and showed our appreciation with donations to the Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust.

At our June meeting we learnt about pelargoniums and had a table with plants to swap or take for a small donation to charity.

In July members will give short presentations about three famous historical gardeners: Gertrude Jekyll, Fanny Wilkinson and Lancelot 'Capability' Brown.

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**

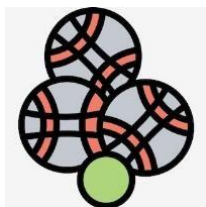
CRAFT



In May we started to make coasters or bowls by circular weaving which we will finish off at the start of the next meeting. The craft group are collecting materials ready for collage work at our session on July 17th.

Jenny and Stephanie

PETANQUE



We have had quite a few people visit Corbetts Boules Club who have now joined as members. The fee to be a member is £35 per annum

You can attend on any Monday throughout the year between 2 pm and 4 pm and also you can attend on Tuesdays between 7.30 pm and 9.30 pm. Just turn up and play. They will provide you with Petanque balls.

It is an excellent facility and they play whatever the weather is like. The members are very welcoming.

Let us hope the summer arrives anytime soon for our Petanque games.

If you would like more information please contact me.

Richard

LET'S GO TOGETHER

Titchfield Open Gardens was a popular event with eleven of us meeting up to view 13 beautiful gardens around Titchfield. We didn't always go around as a complete group, as different gardens were of more interest to some than others, but we did all gather for refreshments in St Peter's Church where we had a lot to talk about.

Our next meet-up will be:

Saturday 25th July, 10:30am	Fareham & District Society of <u>Model Engineers</u> open weekend	Park your car then meet at the entrance
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A small group of us spent a wonderful couple of hours at the above event last year, admiring the trains circulating the extensive narrow gauge train model, watching experts and novices using remote control boats and jeeps, perusing the various stalls, taking refreshments AND enjoying a train ride around the site.

If any of that interests you for this year, please do make a note of the date and come along with us – more details to follow in an email.

Stephanie