

August 2026

CHAIR'S CHAT



The 'Coach It' Group is now up and running with six members so far signed up to join the Lucketts day trip to the amazing, redeveloped Battersea Power Station. More info below in groups section and on the website.

We are working with St Johns to set up a Chess Group. Please let me know if you might be interested. Meeting day / time yet to be confirmed.

Any thoughts on new groups? The more obscure the better! A Rain Discussion group?

National u3a week runs from September 19th to 27th. We will be having a membership drive with increased publicity and leaflets.

Thinking ahead, this year on Friday December 18th at St Johns we will have a seasonal get together with music, quiz, drama, poetry, etc. If there are any individuals out there who could perform a short piece of entertainment, then please don't hesitate to get in touch.

The Open Meeting advertised on Friday March 26th 2027, has been moved to Friday April 2nd due to it being Good Friday on the original date.

Do take a look at our website with the monthly calendar and lots of information and photos.

Easy to do, just go to locksheath.u3asite.uk

Graham Chair@locksheathu3a.org.uk

THIS MONTH'S MEETING

This month's meeting is on Friday, 28th August.

The Speaker this month is Tom Swales with his talk entitled 'The Falkland Islands - a second home'. Tom lived in the Falklands in the late 1980's with his daughter being born there. Since then Tom has been MD of a UK based Falklands company travelling there at least 3 times a year.

TEA TEAM

Following some 'retirements' from our Team, we are looking to recruit 2 or 3 more members for this team who provide the tea and biscuits at our monthly meetings. Joining the Team will mean you will spend an hour or so helping to provide these refreshments at about 3 monthly meetings in a year. If you are interested or want more information, please speak to me or members of the Team at this month's meeting or send me an email via our website. **Les**

INTEREST GROUP NEWS

SKITTLES



We had a reduced number this month, so we played 4 rounds of standard Skittles. While this made some of us struggle, this produced a first time win of the John Trophy for Pam. Lives were being lost quite quickly in Killer with only 1 or 2 skittles being left to aim at. Colin kept his lives longer than the rest of us so won the Mary Drew Trophy. Why not come and find out what this is all about! Talk to me at the monthly meeting or send me a message via our website.

In April, we limited the increase in subs to £4. We were going to use our large bank account credit to top up your monthly subs payments when paying the hire charge. Unfortunately, the members attending each month were lower than expected so the credit has reduced quicker than we anticipated. The credit now left should top up your September and October subs payments. This means that from December we have to increase the subs. We will increase the subs to £5 which is a viable amount provided we have an average attendance of 20 or more. Our next meeting is on 7th September at the Kings Head Wickham Square 1pm for 1:30 start. **Les**

BOOK FRIENDS



Book Friends met last week to discuss 'Lie with Me' by Sabine Durrant. We mostly enjoyed the book but didn't like the main character.

Our next book is 'The Sea' by John Banville which we will discuss on 1st September at our next meeting. **Maureen**

COACH IT



The first 'Coach It' trip will be a day visit to Battersea Power Station on Tuesday October 6th with the pick up at Locks Heath shopping centre.

The cost is £29 and the link to book is <https://lucketts.co.uk/tour/BeatterseaPower-StationDay->

To date there are 6 members who are going.

Glenice & Graham

KNITTING YARNS



Not the best climate lately for knitting, crochet etc unless you have Air Con!

Our group will meet again on Wednesday, 2nd September.

We are up to our max membership at the moment, but numbers are up/down all the time.

Rosemary

HERITAGE AND CULTURES



Visit to the Diving Museum at Stokes Bay

On 21st July on another hot and sunny day, eighteen of our members paid a visit to the Diving Museum for a guided tour.

We were met by Mike who explained that the Museum is housed in a former military bunker, which was part of the strategic defences situated around Gosport for the protection of Portsmouth

Harbour against enemy attack. He went on to explain in detail about the many items on display associated with diving used for defence, attack, exploration and leisure activities.

As its defence role reduced, the bunker became unused and deteriorated. In 1982 the Government turned it into a nuclear bunker, fortunately it was never used for that purpose, falling into disrepair once again. In 2011 it was acquired by the Historical Diving Museum and was opened for a while as a museum. Unfortunately, it was unsuitable due to dampness, disrepair and cramped. In 2024 it was closed for a major refurbishment into what we see today. The Museum was reopened in May this year and is now able to display many items, from helmets, to diving bells, suits, compressors, generators and lighting equipment. Mike took care to explain the many uses of the equipment as well as the part played by various personnel in their use. I think we all enjoyed this unusual experience! **David**

The group will not be meeting in August and our next meeting will be a guided walk around Old Fareham on Tuesday 22nd September. **Dilys & David**

CANASTA



We had another good month with up to 21 people attending. If you enjoy playing cards but have never played Canasta we can guarantee you will enjoy the game and will teach you at your own pace. Most of our group had never played before but are now hooked on Canasta! We meet every 2nd and 4th Thursday at the Victory Hall in Warsash between 2pm and 4pm. You will be made very welcome. **Liz and Pauline**

LUNCHEON GROUP



Our next lunch is at The Bold Forester, 120, Bridge Road, Sarisbury Green, SO31 7EL on Wednesday, 16th September 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, 28th August or contact me by 7th September at the latest. Thank you, **Rachel**

PLAY READING



The playreading group met in July to enact 'Blythe Spirit' by Noel Coward. As we were a couple of members short due to summer holidays, we had to double up some of the parts and it was a much longer play than usual, but eventually we got there, enjoying the escapades of Madam Arcarti.

Our next meeting is on Monday August 24th where we will tackle a Mike Leigh play - 'Grief'. Which was described by the Daily Telegraph review as ".....a meticulous production potentially captures the pain that lurked behind stiff upper lips in the England of the fifties ...". **Pat**

CINEMA GROUP - Contact: Kathy, Solent u3a.



Celia

Following our usual break in August the next film will be on Thursday, 10th September. Although we have yet to receive confirmation from the cinema it is likely to be "Sunny Dancer", described as "A British coming of age comedy". Kathy will be emailing group members very shortly and anyone not on email and wishing to attend should telephone me

WALKING GROUP



Thank you to all who joined us for the walks in July and early August, including Hamble Country Park, Titchfield Canal, The Otter Trail and the Heritage trail in Bishops Waltham. We have had to be mindful about the very hot weather recently and shortened or adjusted walks accordingly.

In late August and September, we have planned the following walks starting at 10:30am.

Dates, place to meet and walk leader are below with details for the walks.

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 of about 4 miles and David has kindly offered to lead.

9th September: This is a short walk around the three lakes in Swanwick Nature Reserve beside NATS, off Swanwick Lane SO31 7AY. The tracks around the lakes are wooded and may be uneven in places due to tree roots, etc, so walking boots are essential. Please meet in the car park of the Nature Reserve. Our refreshments will be a short drive away at Burseldon Brickworks. Maureen is the walk leader.

23rd September: We will meet at Salterns Car park in Hillhead and walk along the coast to Lee-on-the-Solent stopping for refreshments at On the Water or Café Zero by Daedalus Airfield. This is a long walk, but level solid paths along the promenade. Maureen is the walk leader.

30th September: This is a long walk taking in the fields and common south and east of Warsash. We will meet by St Mary's Church in Church Road, Warsash and walk to Hook Park Road and Workman's Lane. We will cross the fields back to Hook Park Road (sometimes there are horses in the fields) and return via a short section of Fleet End Road and Warsash Common. Walking boots are essential for this walk. We will have refreshments at the Silver Fern at the end of the walk. The walk leader is John.

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



The second outing will be to see the flamboyant musical Moulin Rouge at the Mayflower Theatre.

Also, if you come across any productions or performances, Shakespeare to

Elvis, that you would like to go to then let me know and we can put together a group outing. **Graham**

GENTLE EXERCISE



At our last meeting, as well as the Gentle Exercise class with stretching, bands and weights, we celebrated one of our member's birthday. One of our members baked a cake and we all contributed to 'picky bits' too. It was a great success and we all enjoyed ourselves. As our next class would be on a Bank Holiday, it is now being held on 2nd September at 2pm.

Glenice

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 until 4:30pm.

Graham

WORDLE



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

<https://www.nytimes.com/games/wordle/index.html> Six attempts to guess a five-letter word.

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

Then in a very relaxed way we share our daily results on the LHu3a WhatsApp group

Do give it a go. It exercises the brain and most importantly it's fun.

Email me your mobile number to join the group. **Graham**

FRENCH CONVERSATION



This group is continuing to flourish with our conversations becoming more fluent. If you are a beginner to intermediate French speaker and would like to join us, we do have a couple of spaces. We meet approximately every two weeks on either a Friday or Monday afternoon. **Sue**

TABLE TENNIS



The next ping pong will be on Thursday September 24th, 10:30 at Fareham Shopping Centre near Waterstones bookshop. Bats and balls are available to borrow.

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

locksheath.u3asite.uk **Graham**

BIRD WATCHING



We went to Titchfield Haven nature reserve and from the hides we were able to see common tern, sandwich tern, black headed gull, herring gull, coot, moorhen, Canada goose, shelduck, turnstone, common sandpiper, redshank, oystercatcher, black tailed godwit, avocet, spoonbill, grey plover, lapwing, grey heron, little egret, cormorant, reed warbler, starling, mallard, gadwall and an incredibly rare sighting of a rotary washing line.

The next gathering will again be at Titchfield Haven (£4.81) on Monday Sept 14th 2pm (free parking in Cliff Road) followed by refreshments at the lovely Titchfield Haven café. Beginners to seasoned twitterers ...all welcome. To make contact or for more information please go to our website -

locksheath.u3asite.uk

Graham & Celia

UNTRADITIONAL BOOK GROUP



In a heatwave, reading is the only activity where you won't work up a sweat and be able to hold a cold drink at the same time! Here are our latest recommends for those hot, summer days:

The One Day You Were My Husband - Rosie Walsh - a thriller based, tearjerker of a love story where a woman tries to discover what has happened to her missing husband.

The Wind in the Willows - Kenneth Grahame - the classic animal story that reads differently for adults and children.

The Star Society - Gabriella Saab - a thrilling, historical novel inspired by the life of Audrey Hepburn.

The Barbecue at No 9 - Jennie Godfrey - Uncover the secrets of the residents of Delmont Close as they come together for a neighbourhood barbecue to celebrate the 1985 Live Aid Concert.

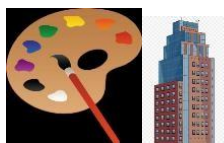
Poor Girls - Claire Whitfield - a page-turning, 1920s adventure based on the all-female crime gang, The Forty Elephants.

Shrink Solves Murder - Philippa Perry - a witty crime caper introducing psychotherapist turned sleuth Patricia Phillips.....

Our author of the month is Nicci French - ideal if you love psychological thrillers. More details of this month's reads are on the Untraditional Book Group page on the website

https://locksheath.u3asite.uka_groups/the-untraditional-book-group/ **Nichola**

ART AND ARCHITECTURE



There is no meeting in August due to holidays. However, we will meet again in September in the Grove Room in St. John's Church.

Matt Dolan will give an illustrated talk about the Spinnaker Tower in Portsmouth. Then after the coffee break, Colin House will present the Civic Centre in

Southampton. Both talks are about local items of interest.

Come and join us on Tuesday 8th September. We will meet again in the Grove Room at 10:10 am. Admission £2 to include tea/coffee and biscuits. All welcome.

Andrew and Ray

GARDEN GROUP



Many of the group visited our garden this month, dodging the ill-timed but so welcome misty rain that fell as we gathered and later sitting in the shade of the apple trees to enjoy home-baked cakes. Those attending kindly donated money to Wynton Gardens, a non-profit making project in Fareham run by service users with special needs.

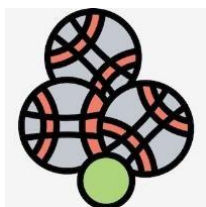
In August Jenny, Maureen and Graham delighted us with presentations about the lives of Gertrude Jekyll, Fanny Wilkinson and Lancelot 'Capability' Brown.

At our September meeting we will be considering how we can help wildlife and birds 'Beyond the birdfeeder'.

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



We now have about 15 members who have played Petanque at Cobbetts Boules Club. We meet at 2 pm to 4 pm on every Monday. It costs £1 and you can have a coffee or a cup of tea with a biscuit. We also meet at 7:30 pm to 9:30 pm on Tuesdays. With the weather being so hot it is really lovely to play in the evening when it is cooler.

If you would like to try to play Petanque then they provide some boules to play with and give you tuition without cost for two attendances.

If you want to become a member then the annual fee is £35 per person up to November 2026.

They are a friendly bunch, and we always have fun playing Petanque.

Please contact me if you would like to know more or wish to attend.

Richard

CRAFT



We were delighted that our entry into the Sarisbury Green Community Show won 1st prize.

There is a photo of our display on the website and you will be able to see it in person, along with our cup, at the next Open Meeting on Friday 28th August.

At our meeting in August, we made gift boxes from card and paper cups. In September we will be using macramé techniques to decorate jam jars which can then be filled

with sparkly lights or used for storing precious small items.

Jenny and Stephanie

SCRABBLE



Our next monthly meeting is Monday, 14th September, starting at the new time of 10:00a.m. We are a friendly group and can now accommodate a few more members, so please contact me for details if you think you might be interested.

Rosemary

LET'S GO TOGETHER

Several of us enjoyed the Fareham & District Society of Model Engineers open weekend at the end of July, delighting in a ride on a model train around the site (photo on the group page on the website), chatting over refreshments and ambling leisurely around the various displays of models, vintage vehicles and stalls.

A large group of us met up in early August for the Sarisbury Green Community Show where we admired the hard work of the participants to grow, arrange, photograph, bake and create.

If you would like to join us for our next visits make a note of these dates, look out for the emails with more details and come along.

Saturday 29 th August	Hampshire Open Studios – Great Abshot Barn	Meet at 2pm
Sunday 30 th August	Hampshire Open Studios – Warsash Art group at Victory Hall	Meet at 2pm

Saturday 5 th September	Titchfield Gardeners Club Autumn show at Titchfield Parish Rooms	Meet at 2pm
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Stephanie

POLITICAL THOUGHT



The Political Thought Group will not be meeting on 25th August and therefore will meet on the fourth Tuesday in September between 10:00 and 12:00 at Hunts Pond Rd. We are halfway through our consideration of Thomas Hobbes, one of England's great philosophers, who thought that the best form of government was an absolute monarchy which would protect us from each other and avoid lives that would be 'solitary, nasty, brutish and short' - they knew how to live in the 16th century! If anyone is interested in a group that is both interesting and a bit 'stretching' (for all of us including me), please feel free to get in touch. **Alan**

CREATIVE WRITING



There was a tall lady whose feet
Poked out from under the sheet
When her toes turned blue
From the hue she knew
It was time to turn up the heat

Give it a go! Play around with rhyming words, you'll be surprised what you come up with!

Rosemary

RUMMIKUB /CRIBBAGE GROUP



July was a quiet month for the Rummikub/ cribbage group with eleven members attending. We welcomed two new visitors and at each of the 3 tables four games were played. **MariG**

ALL THAT JAZZ



Our meeting on 20th July was attended by six members and there were apologies from three members.

We were pleased to welcome two prospective members who joined our session today.

The theme was "the trumpet" and we played sixteen tracks featuring various

artists and styles of which there are very many.

Quiz Question:- Who composed Blue in Green from the album Kind of Blue by Miles Davis?

Answer, correctly given :- Bill.

It was reported that three members had visited the Concorde Club to hear the Black Cat Big Band, featuring young singer Lauren Abrahart, who sang some excellent renditions made famous by Ella Fitzgerald and others.

The next meeting will be on Monday 21st September at 2 pm when the chosen theme will be the piano.

Please note there will be no meeting in August.

David

GEOLOGY



THE DOOR TO HELL

The door to hell, officially The Davaza Crater is located in the Karakam desert of Turkmenistan.

It is seventy metres wide and thirty metres deep. In 1971 Soviet geologists punctured a large underground gas cavern. The ground collapsed, swallowing the piling rig releasing dangerous methane gas. To prevent the gas escaping the Soviets set fire to it.

This gas has been burning, continuously, for fifty-four years. The photos of this pit alight, at night, are spectacular. My humour.

A sign beside the pit, signed by the devil, reads: "Visitors welcome."

Michael