u3a Locks Heath

Charity Registration No 1170681

October 2026

CHAIR'S CHAT



This month I attended, on line, the national u3a AGM. It was very informative and thought-provoking. A report of the meeting will be available on the national u3a website.

Until the recent sad passing of the wonderful Dame Esther Rantzen I personally hadn't been aware of the existence of 'Silverline' which Dame Esther founded in 2013. In case others are not aware it's a 24hr telephone support service run by Age UK to help tackle the feelings of loneliness and isolation that older people might sometimes experience or for those just wanting a chat. The Silverline helpline is 0800 470 8090.

A reminder that this year on Friday December 18th at St Johns we will be having a seasonal get together with music, quiz, games, humour, refreshments etc.

Graham Chair@locksheathu3a.org.uk Also in person at Open Meetings.

THIS MONTH'S MEETING

This month's Open Meeting is on Friday 30th October. The Speaker will be Andy Thomas with a Talk entitled Lewes & Bonfire Night. Why does Lewes hold the biggest Bonfire Night in the world? Andy delves into the origins of Bonfire Night and its importance to the historical Sussex town of Lewes. **Les**

INTEREST GROUP NEWS

SKITTLES



We had a slightly lower number attending this month but with everybody agreeing to pay the higher sub of £5 we collected the full amount of the hire charge. Thank you all for doing that. We had 2 new members Anna and Terry come to join our merry band of Skittlers! Les (me!) won the John Trophy and Jean won the Mary Drew Cup.

The annual Lunch at the Black Dog takes place on 2nd November so the next meeting to play Skittles is December 7th at the usual venue, the Kings Head Wickham Square with doors opening at 1pm. **Les**

BOOK FRIENDS



We had a good discussion about our last book 'Girl A' at our last meeting. It's always interesting to hear about the author's life and how we think that has influenced their writing. Our next book is a thriller 'It Ends at Midnight' by Harriet Tyce . We meet at Dorothy's house on 3rd November to discuss this.

Maureen

COACH IT



The recent day trip to Battersea Power Station was a great success. An iconic building full of numerous restaurants, clothes and fancy goods shops. The highlight of the day was going up a lift inside one of the chimneys with 360° views over London.
We also enjoyed walking and having our lunch by the River Thames with plenty of time afterwards to stroll around the shops before heading back to our coach and home.
Next trips The British Legion Poppy Factory in Richmond on January 26th and Greenwich on February 16th.
Pick up at Locks Heath.
If you would like to join either outing, then please let Graham know. (see Chair's Chat).

Glenice

KNITTING YARNS



We are now looking forward to cosy afternoon sessions during the winter months with our next meeting to be held as usual on the first Wednesday, the 4th November from 2pm - 4 pm at my house.

Rosemary

LUNCHEON GROUP



Our next lunch is at The Talisman, 3, Bridge Road, Park Gate, SO31 7GD on Wednesday, 18th November 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, 30th October or if you are unable to get to the meeting contact me by email by 9th November. Thank you.

Rachel Blundell

CHRISTMAS LUNCH

There are only 4 places left for the Christmas lunch to be held at Avenue 141, Fareham College on Thursday, 10th December at 12pm.
If you would like to come, please see me at the Open Meeting on Friday 30th October.
Please note that the last day for booking the Christmas Lunch is 31st October.
Full details regarding the Christmas lunch were in the September Newsletter.
Thank you,

Rachel Blundell

HERITAGE AND CULTURES



Our final visit this summer was a guided walk around Fareham with Andrew Negus, who shared the town's history with his usual humour, grisly detail and expertise. We walked from Cams Hall, the Delme family's former home, through the ancient hamlet of Wallington to the High Street, with its Georgian architecture, and finally down to the once-busy Fareham Quays. Along the way, Andrew entertained us with tales of 'Fareham Past', highlighting interesting features most of us had overlooked for years. Our thanks go to Andrew and Les Hill for organising the walk.

Despite the wet weather we had a very good turnout to our meeting this month. Members brought along items to 'show and tell' on the theme of Education. There were some excellent contributions, including one person reading out their report, a school medal, a scarf, a bible given to all pupils on their last day at school, and lots of photos. In addition, we were able to look at a school brochure from 1910, a Christmas card with an old photo on the front of two girls pumping water in 1906, and a copy of a recent photo showing a huge assembly hall which forms part of the fabric of Worcester Cathedral, where the school is within the confines of the building. Other members brought their memories of school lunches, free milk, and boarding school experiences. The 11 Plus exams were also mentioned, with one person passing and going on to Grammar school, whilst the other failed and went to a Secondary Modern. During coffee, everyone chatted about their memories and admired the items left on display. It was a marvellous session which we will repeat next year with a different theme.

Next month, I will be showing a film about Saturday Morning Pictures at the cinema, with some examples of what were shown, and we will be discussing next year's programme using ideas from our members.
Dilys Lillywhite and David Lee

CANASTA



Once again we had a good turnout to both our meetings this month with several new members joining who had never played Canasta before. We meet on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month at the Victory Hall in Warsash 2pm - 4pm. There is a small charge of £2 per person to cover the hire charge of the hall. If you would like more details of our group please contact us via the U3A website and then we will contact you.
Liz and Pauline

POLITICAL THOUGHT



The Group has recently considered the political thought of Thomas Hobbes who, in 1651, published a book called "Leviathan" that argued for an all-powerful sovereign to protect citizens from each other and to provide stability. The book is written in old English, but we were able to 'navigate' our way around that. At our next meeting we will be considering how another English philosopher, John Locke, responds to Hobbes and the model of government that *he* proposes. Locke had an enormous impact on the American Constitution, but all is not what you think when looking at his arguments. Meetings are held on the fourth Tuesday of each month at our usual location in Hunts Pond Road.
Alan

PLAY READING

At our September meeting we welcomed a new member to the group and we read 'Death of the Maiden' by Georgina Reid. It was certainly a play of its time with some vocabulary that elicited interesting discussion; however the plot was enjoyable.

At the meeting on October 26th we will be performing 'Geranium' by Arnold Ridley who is famed for his performance as Private Godfrey in the TV production of Dad's Army. He also wrote numerous plays including The Ghost Train.

Pat

CINEMA GROUP - Contact: Kathy Solent u3a.



Our October film, "Pressure", was both well attended and enjoyed. November's offering, on the 12th, is the latest remake of Jane Austen's "Sense and Sensibility" and should prove equally popular. As ever, Kathy will email group members with booking details .

Celia

WALKING GROUP



Thank you to all who joined us for the walks in September and early October, including Swanwick Lakes, Hillhead/Lee-on-Solent, Warsash and Lakeside Country Park. We have now to be mindful about inclement weather and adjust walks accordingly.

In late October and November, we have planned the following walks starting at 10:30am. Dates, place to meet and walk leader are below with details for the walks:

28th October: We will meet at Bayside Cabin, Stokes Bay and walk along the shore to the Lifeboat Station and return for refreshments at Pebbles or Bayside Cabin (to be decided on the day). Parking at Bayside Cabin is payable for 2 or 4 hours. This will be a 3 mile walk and Marion and Sheila are the walk leaders.

11th November: We will meet at Mount Pleasant Recreation Ground beside Hamble Primary School, Hamble Lane, SO31 4ND and walk along the northern part of the Rail Trail to Royal Victoria Country Park where we will stop for refreshments. We will take a walk around the perimeter before returning to the recreation ground. Maureen is the walk leader.

25th November: This is a short walk from Titchfield Community Centre to Stewarts Garden Centre via the footpath uphill to the Holiday inn roundabout and then downhill to the tithe barn.
Refreshments will be at Stewarts before returning via a shorter route. John is the walk leader.

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. 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 and John

THEATRE GROUP



The musical production of Moulin Rouge at the Mayflower was wonderful and greatly enjoyed by all who went.
Three future shows have been booked: The Drifters and Nashville Country Music at Fareham Live and Jesus Christ Superstar at The Mayflower.
Graham

DOMINOES



Dominoes are available in the Grove Room at about 3:15pm following each monthly open meeting.
Just join a table, play, relax and enjoy. Last Domino to be laid by 4:15pm
John

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 find a five-letter word. A green letter is correct in right place, a yellow correct but in the wrong place and grey incorrect.
Then, in a very easy going way, we share our daily results on the LHu3a Wordle WhatsApp group.
To join the group just let me know using any of my contacts in Chair's Chat.
Graham

FRENCH CONVERSATION



We continue to thrive as a small group and are enjoying a variety of topics to discuss. We have also started to practice our French song for the Christmas programme- and having fun doing so. If you would like to join us and speak beginner to intermediate French we would love you to come along; we meet on Monday or Friday afternoons twice a month.
Sue

GARDEN GROUP



At our October meeting we focussed on hyacinths and planted some to force for blooming in the new year.
At our next meeting, on Friday 13th November, we will be considering ways that we can adapt what we do in the garden in response to our changing climate.
Do take a look at the website to see our plans for the next few months, 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**

TABLE TENNIS



The next ping pong gathering will be on Thursday November 26th, 10:30 at Fareham Shopping Centre near Waterstones. Bats and balls are available to borrow.
Please let me know if you would like to give it a go. (See Chair's Chat)
Graham

BIRD WATCHING



On our monthly expedition in October to Titchfield Haven Nature Reserve we spotted the following:
Journey to the Haven: guillemot (seen over the Solent) **Waiting at the office:** little grebe , robin, marsh harrier.
First Hide: cormorant, jay, long tailed tit, magpie, blue tits, gadwall duck, mallard duck, swallows**.**
Second hide: grey heron, little egret, stone chat, win chat, crow**.**
At the coffee shop: mute swan, black headed gull.
Walking to cars: red shank, turn stone, black headed gull, oyster catcher, great black backed gull, little egret.
The next outing will be on Monday November 9th 2pm at the Titchfield Haven Nature Reserve office.
£5 entry.
If you would like to give it a go then contact Graham (see Chair's Chat) so we can add you to the list.
Mark

UNTRADITIONAL BOOK GROUP



The summer has ended but the sun never goes down on the Untraditional Book Group. Here are our latest recommendations:

All the Broken Places - John Boyne - the adult sequel to The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas written from the perspective of the sister.

A Novel Murder - E C Nevin - a wickedly funny murder mystery set at the Killer Lines Crime Festival.

Just Kill - Remi Kone - a suspenseful procedural detective story set in London during a blistering heatwave.

The Light Years - Elizabeth Jane Howard - the first in the Cazalet Chronicles; a beautifully written modern classic of twentieth-century English life.

The Secret of the Bees - Jane Johnson - a sumptuous Cornish tale packed with heart, relationships and mysteries from the past.

The Killer in Room 5 - Sam Holland - a dark and twisty thriller about an impossible crime which takes place in a mental hospital.

Five French Hens - Judy Leigh - a feel-good novel about a hen party with a difference ...

The End of the Affair - Graham Greene - the infinitely atmospheric story of forbidden passion and its aftermath in wartime London.

The Boleyn Traitor - Philippa Gregory - a brilliant fictional reimagination of the life of Jane Boleyn

Desert Star - Michael Connelly - a new Harry Bosch book from the crime writing supremo Further details of all of the above titles can be found on our webpage https://locksheath.u3asite.uk/u3a_groups/the-untraditional-book-group/
Nichola

ALL THAT JAZZ



Our meeting on 19th October was attended by nine members.
The theme was "water" and we were able to play eighteen various tracks within that theme.
One of the tracks was "Wade in the Water by Ramsey Lewis.
This was the basis of the quiz question:-
(a) Which decade was this tune composed? Answer correctly answered 1960's
(b) What was the origin of the title? No correct answer
Answer This phrase was used by captive slaves advising those escaping to wade in the water to avoid their scent being picked up by pursuers.
Next meeting:- Monday 16th November at 2pm at the usual venue when the theme will be "bass".
David

ART AND ARCHITECTURE



For our October meeting David Lee showed a DVD about Frank Gehry the world-famous architect. The film explored his creative process - moving from rough hand drawn sketches and cardboard and tape models to massive iconic structures like the Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao and the Walt Disney Concert Hall in Los Angeles. Not without controversy, nevertheless his buildings can be seen worldwide to much acclaim.

Our November meeting will be the last for 2026. Members are invited to bring pictures or artifacts of their choice to represent Art of the 21st century. We will also preview next year's programme, and a popular feature is for members to enhance the coffee break with such niceties as mince pies, sausage rolls, cheese straws etc.

Come and join us in the Grove Room at St. John's Church on Tuesday 10th November at 10:10am. Admission £2. No coins under 50p please. All are welcome.
Andrew and Ray

CRAFT



In October we cut out shapes using air-drying clay to use to make bunting and small bowls. We will be painting these at our next meeting in November as well as making decorative houses from card.

Jenny and Stephanie

RUMMI-CRIBBAGE



At the September meeting, the eleven members present each played at least 3 games. As there would be a clash of functions at Victory Hall, we agreed that the December meeting could be played in the rear room on December 17th. Our next meeting will be on October 15th when there should be enough players to make up a Cribbage table. New players for both games are always welcome. **Mari**

SOCIAL BRIDGE



We continue to play at my house most Monday mornings. Recently attendance has been low and therefore some sessions have had to be cancelled. Prior to Christmas our last play will be December 8th, with the aim being to restart January 11th. **Lesley**

LET'S GO TOGETHER

Attendance was good for our recent meet-ups, particularly for the Table-top Sale and the Jumble Sale which was just as it should be – a wonderful opportunity for a good rummage!
Events that we will be going to in November are:

Saturday 7th November	MacMillan Coffee Morning, St Margaret's Nursery	Meet at the entrance at 10.00am
Sunday 22nd November	People's Emergency film, Titchfield Parish Rooms. Buy your ticket on-line and let Graham know if you will be attending. https://www.ticketsource.com/ecotitchfield	7.15pm for 7.30pm start
Wednesday 25th November	Titchfield Christmas Barn	Meet at the entrance at 2.00pm

If you would like to come along make a note of these dates and meet at the times given at the entrances. There is no need to let us know if you are coming unless otherwise stated.
Stephanie and Graham

GEOLOGY



A starting point for any study of Geological Fossils can begin with the ten most important people in geological discovery. This list starts with Mary Anning, followed by; Georges Cuvier; Richard Owen; Othniel Marsh & Edward Dinker; Charles Darwin; George Simpson; John Ostrom; Stephen Gould; Jack Horner; Luis & Walter Alvarez.

Until recently it was not known what fossils were and they were called 'Curiosities' Fossils are, in fact, the preserved remains of forms of past life that are at least 10,000 years old.
The sheer scale of the fossil record covers ten orders of magnitude with everything from microscopic life to the largest creatures that have ever walked the earth. To be continued
Michael

POETRY READING



Our November Poetry Reading group will be on Thursday 19th 2 p.m. We will be reading poems by Dylan Thomas and Jenny Joseph and learning a little about them. Mostly we have a theme for our meetings, from time to time we look at particular poets. We would welcome new members, just let me know. **Jenny Leslie**

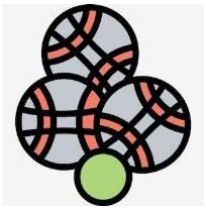
CRAFTS REVISITED



Our first meeting at the beginning of October was an enjoyable and relaxed time for the 4 members who came along. We all made progress with crafts that we hadn't touched for weeks, months and even decades! So, if you've got an abandoned or deferred project that you'd like to pick up again, whether cross stitch, knitting, crochet, embroidery or anything else, join us for coffee, conversation and craft at the Orange Grove Hotel on the first Tuesday of the month, from 10:30am to 12noon.

Linda

PETANQUE



We have continued to enjoy playing Petanque in the sun and some showers here and there. If you would like to try Petanque for free for a few sessions, then please contact me.

Richard