



Time for Spring Cleaning!

From the Chair

Now we are in April it's time for a bit of spring cleaning!  

We have launched a new website. Do have a look. We hope you like the new version. Please give us feedback, so we can continue to improve it. There is a link to the new site on page three.

Great thanks to Angela Bunting whose amazing efforts have enabled a seamless transition to the new site. Of course, the usefulness of any web site depends on how relevant and current it is. So we need you to help make it fresh and vibrant by keeping information on your groups up-to-date and adding photos of your group activities. Not sure how to do it? Don't worry there is plenty of help available. We know that many new members have looked at the website before joining, and it is one of our best and most cost-effective ways of promoting our u3a.

I would also like to praise the efforts of the Groups Support Team. Their recent open event has resulted in us having a total of more than 60 groups with an increase of nearly a quarter coming from that one event. We even have the prospect of the theatre visits restarting for the first time since COVID. The Groups Support Team have worked hard to make starting and running new groups easy. New ideas come from members themselves but it's the central coordination that brings wishes into reality.



Monthly Meetings

Tuesday May 7th

Helen Matthews: A Writer's Journey

Researching Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery

Helen Matthews is an author of psychological suspense and domestic thrillers, and now has four published novels, two of which include themes of modern slavery. The first novel *After Leaving the Village* has a theme of human trafficking and has recently been republished under the title *Girl Out of Sight*. Her novel *The Girl in the Van* has a sub-plot around a different aspect of modern slavery known as 'county lines'. Her books are gripping pageturners that sometimes deal with important contemporary social issues.

Today's talk covers Helen's journey as an author, how she became interested in human trafficking, where victims discovered in the UK have come from, the country of Albania and the work of the anti-slavery charity, Unseen UK, for which she is an Ambassador, and donates her fee to that cause.

Tuesday 4th June

Kevin Patience: Treasures from the Deep

This is the story of man's endeavours to recover gold and silver bullion, from earliest times to the present day, including the recent recovery of 110 tons of silver coins from a shipwreck at a depth of 17,000ft off the west coast of Africa, the deepest salvage operation to date.

Kevin grew up in Kenya, and served in the Royal Air Force, where he learnt to dive. He has had 25 years' experience as a commercial diver and ship salvage specialist in East Africa and the Middle East, recovering vessels ranging from small tugs to large tankers.

He has written books and articles on the military and transport history of East Africa and an acclaimed study of the German cruiser *Königsberg* sunk in East Africa in 1915.

**Dates for your
Diary**

**Monthly
Meetings
2pm at
The Bridge**

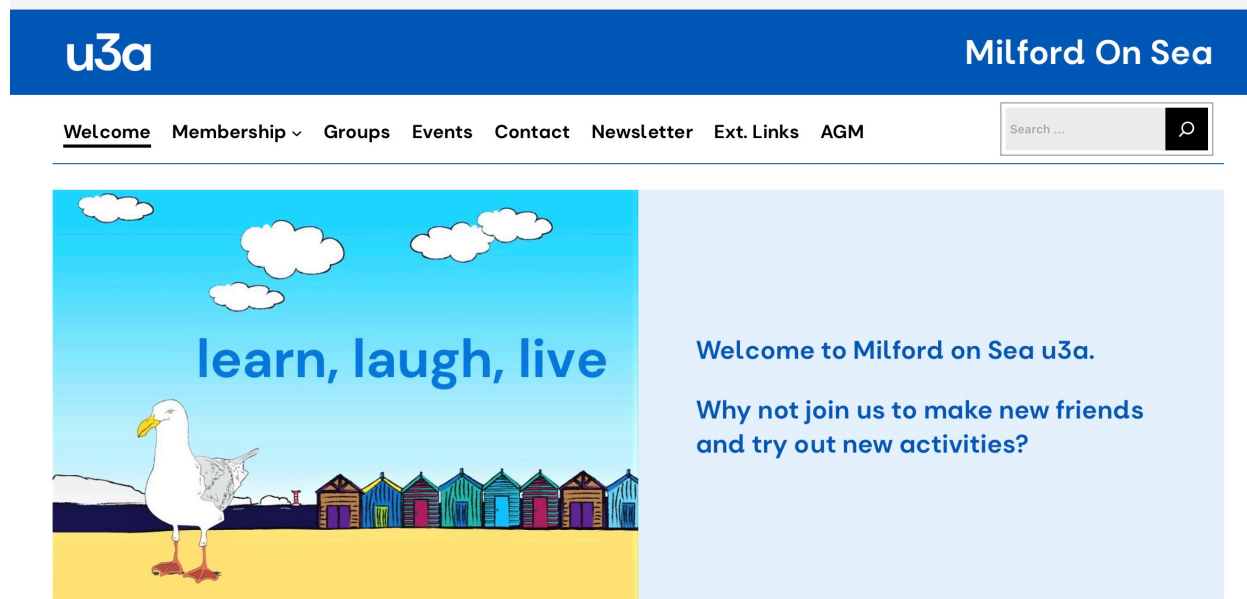
**Guest Speaker,
News and Group
information, tea,
coffee and chat!**

May 7th

June 4th AGM



Welcome to the new Milford on Sea u3a Website!



Milford on Sea u3a

Remember to come back and read the rest of the newsletter!

New Groups

Many members came along to our event in March to find out about new groups. We are now delighted that these groups have been established. For all groups information go to [Milford on Sea u3a Groups](#)

Backgammon. A group of enthusiastic members who just need to decide when and where they are meeting. We have a group contact who will be contacting members very soon. The group is open to new members.

Badminton. Agreed to meet late every Monday afternoon but we have still to decide on where to meet and get started. The group is currently at 15 so we will wait to see what happens before taking new members but can start a waiting list.

Board Games. The Group is now active and meets on the list Monday of every month at 7pm at members homes. It is open to new members.

German Intermediate. This group is now active and have had their first meeting. They meet fortnightly on Friday mornings from 10.30am - 12pm at members homes. They are open to new members.



Historical Topics 3. A group of enthusiastic members who just need to decide when and where they are meeting. The group needs a group contact and is open to new members.

Italian for fun. The group is now active and meets on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month from 10am - 12pm at South Lawn Hotel. The group is open to new members.

Rummikub 2. The group is active and are meeting at members homes on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7pm. It is quite full, so we can add your name to a waiting list if you are interested.

Sewing & Craft. This is now an active group, meeting at the Milford on Sea Primary School on the 1st Wednesday of each month from 3.45 pm - 5.45pm. The group has a group contact and is open to new members.

Strollers. A group of enthusiastic members who just need to decide when and where they are meeting. We have a member willing to be group contact so fingers crossed they will get started soon.

Theatre Trips. We now have 32 members interested in this group and someone has stepped forward to be the group contact. It will be down to members to organise trips and not just one person so please be prepared to get involved if you'd like to join this group.

Wine Appreciation 3. A group of enthusiastic members who just need to decide when and where they are meeting. The group needs a group contact and is open to new members.

We also have **Canasta 3 and Psychology 2** which need more members to be viable, have a group contact and start meeting.

Cribbage. We have had a request for a cribbage group, so if anyone else is interested please let us know.

Please do let us know if you are interested in joining any of these groups or visit the website and make contact with the group directly. Also, if you have any other ideas for a new group, get in touch.

Thanks, Lynn, Hilary & Liz, Groups Support Team

PS. if anyone would like to join our fabulous Groups Support Team then please do get in touch with either Lynn Peck, Hilary Harris or Liz Miller for a chat. groupscoordinator@mos@gmail.com

From the Committee:

Notice of the Annual General Meeting 2024

All members are invited to the AGM on Tuesday June 4th 2023 at 2pm at The Bridge (Community Centre), Sea Road, Milford on Sea. On the website you will find the Nomination Form, and a proxy form to appoint a representative if you are unable to come. The Agenda and Annual report will be in the next edition of the Newsletter. The AGM is usually quite brief, and will be followed by the Guest Speaker and a cream tea, and if we are lucky, something bubbly to go with it!



 **Events Team** 

We have a new group forming as an Events Team

If you are looking to meet more members and have fun helping setting up and running our various events, then this is the list you want to put your name on!

Whether it's coming up with ideas, helping to arrange fun events, sorting out the refreshments, sampling the food and drink, calling the raffles, making social events go with a swing or ... the list is endless. Whatever it is you would like to help with, please let Hilary know and get the party going.





Membership

The new membership year started on 1st April 2024. We are delighted that over 70% of our members have already renewed!

The membership fee for the year 2024/5 is:

Without Third Age Trust magazine

£17 for single member

£34 for joint / family membership

With Third Age Trust Magazine

£20.80 for single member

£37.80 for joint / family membership

If you are paying for joint / family membership our u3a can claim Gift Aid on the whole payment if the payer is eligible.

There are a number of ways to renew your membership. In each case, please go to our website, select "Membership", then "Membership Renewal" and you will find links to each of the options below:

1. On-Line by Debit / Credit Card using our u3a PayPal Account (our preferred method). You do not need to have a PayPal account to pay by this method. Simply login as a guest.
2. By Direct Bank Transfer / Bacs, i.e. direct bank payment to: Sort Code 30-99-50, Account Number 47989968, Account name "Milford on Sea u3a", using your membership number(s) and your name as the reference.
3. By Cheque. Please make the cheque payable to "Milford on Sea u3a" and ensure that you print your name and membership number on the back. You can bring the cheque to our monthly meeting or post to: Membership Secretary (u3a), 2 Clearwaters, Ravens Way, Milford on Sea SO41 0XL

We would prefer not to receive cash payments this year. However, if this is a problem, please contact our Treasurer from the [Contact Page on our website](#) to arrange receipt.

Please note that there is no arrangement with the Community Centre to accept payments for us and therefore no guarantee that your renewal will be successful. If for some reason you decide not to renew your membership it would help me enormously if you let me know.

Tom Gateley, memsecmosu3a@gmail.com



News from the Groups

Where shall we go?

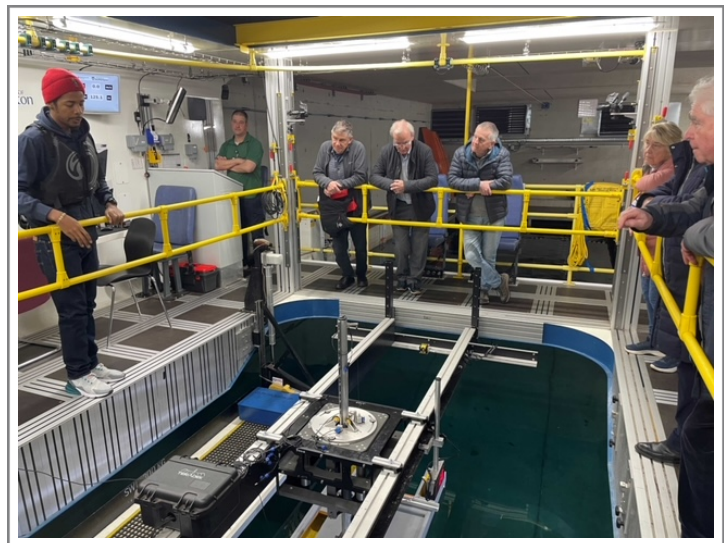
We have a number of groups who do research and go on visits. It usually involves eating too!

Portsmouth Historic Dockyard

Local Explorers thoroughly recommend a guided tour of the Mary Rose, in the Portsmouth Historic Dockyard, available to groups of 12 or more members. Our guides greatly enhanced the experience for a couple of really entertaining and informative hours. HMS Victory is alongside – beware steep steps to traverse between its decks. We also saw HMS Queen Elizabeth anchored in the distance. It was an interesting juxtaposition of old and new fighting ships. Nigel Swann

The Engineering School of Southampton University, Boldrewood Innovation Campus. The How Things work Group

were impressed by the tremendous range of equipment for teaching and research which many of the staff and students gave up time to demonstrate enthusiastically to us. Work included fracture testing of huge girders to designing seats for mobility scooters, propulsion of Solent ferries to reducing noise from airliners. Our primary aim was to see the largest Wave and Towing tank of any UK University, a vast 138 m in length used to study the movement through water of different hull designs, propellers, swim suits and more. We rode along the tank on the control bridge while all was explained to us. However on a contrasting note to all this massive man-made equipment, we were told that nine years ago the tank was designed to be 140m but lost 2 meters because a tree with a preservation order was in the way. Our thanks to our guide Dr Roberto Olvera and his colleagues. John Turner.



Downton. The Happy Wanderers used the Downton trail (available on the internet) as our starting point for this visit. We had a tour of St Lawrence's Church. There was a church there from the seventh century but only three arches remain from the Norman rebuild. We heard about influential families and the building of the Moot Castle and saw a number of cottages with names associated with Nelson & Trafalgar (apparently pronounced in Spanish as 'Trafflegar'). We saw the site of the Moot Castle, and other places of interest including the corn mill with granary close by, the iron bridge and memorial hall.

Downton is a village that can easily be missed when driving to Salisbury & beyond but is well worth a visit, preferably in dry weather!

Joan and Colin Burgess.

Tyneham Village and Etches Museum, Kimmeridge.

Local Explorers. In April, the Local Explorers went on perhaps one of their most interesting visits. Tyneham near Wareham is a village frozen in time. In 1941 the villagers were told to leave at very short notice and never allowed to return. It is now only accessible when the Lulworth Ranges are open to the public. The military firing ranges are owned by the Ministry of Defence



(MoD) and are part of the Armoured Fighting Vehicles Gunnery School.

To complete a fascinating day, members then visited the The Etches Collection, Museum of Jurassic Marine Life.

A wonderful place to take the younger members of your family when they visit. Jenny Whitley.



Exploring the theatre (and sheltering from the wind and rain!)

Community Information

Do you fancy some fun volunteering on a Friday? The

Seahorses Stay and Play Group, for babies and preschool children and their parents and grandparents parents meets in the hall at the Bridge between 9 and 11.30 every Friday in term time. The volunteers organise putting out the toys and clearing them away, making tea and coffee, playing with the children And chatting to parents. It's a very enjoyable morning. Interested? Reply to the u3a email address **milfordonseau3a@gmail.com** and we'll get in touch.





First Friday Lunch

EVERYONE WELCOME
NO NEED TO BOOK
from 1pm | Lunch £8

Profits donated to local good cause running lunch

Friday 3 May In aid of RNLI

If you would like to support your own good cause by running a lunch please contact:
Chris: 01590 644561 cm952@hotmail.com
Julie: 07590 675011 juliedawnjames@yahoo.co.uk

Please send articles for the Newsletter to the [Newsletter Editor](#)

The next edition will be published in June, featuring the AGM Reports.

July is the Groups Special, so please send in your photos of what you get up to in your groups!

For information see: www.u3asites.org.uk/milfordonseau3a

To contact us with comments please email: milfordonseau3a@gmail.com

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