



### Learn – Laugh – Live!

Our u3a motto of Learn, Laugh, Live reminds us that we come together to join in, and learn from one another. We bring our own life experiences, talents and knowledge to share and make friends. The laughing bit and having fun is equally important! Through the u3a we have many opportunities for fun and social times and making new friends. In a world that is becoming increasingly fractured by unkindness and bullying, we have the power to start small changes within our own community. In this way, we can make the world better for those around us. By building friendships within our own small community and by showing one another kindness, we become stronger as a group.

Your Committee is very busy in the lead up to our AGM. We want to encourage all our members to get more involved in running and developing our u3a, and contributing their ideas, whether it is a social event, or a new group. Would you like to join our Executive Committee and see what goes on behind the scenes? Help make decisions and plan.

Have a real say in what goes on in your u3a. Or you could join our recently established Social Sub-Committee, to get more social events going. We are planning a busy year ahead of coffee mornings, afternoon teas, trips out, picnics etc, the list is endless - but we need members to come onboard with their ideas, and support. There are many other things you could do too, such as meeting and greeting members at our monthly meeting, handing out the biscuits, giving the thanks at the end of the speaker time, or just making sure that you talk to a member who looks a bit lonely, and welcoming them into our group. That member might be new and a bit nervous just like you might have been on your first visit. By showing kindness - you will have gained another u3a friend.

Hilary Harris Chairman, Milford on Sea u3a April 2026

*All members are invited to the AGM on Tuesday June 2nd 2026 at 2pm at The Bridge, Sea Road, Milford on Sea, prior to the Monthly Meeting.*

*On the website you will find the Nomination Form, and a proxy form if you would like to appoint another member to be your representative if you are unable to come.*

*The Agenda and Annual report will be in the next edition of the Newsletter. The AGM will be followed by the Guest Speaker and a cream tea.*



The new Social Sub Committee is getting organised! Dates are already booked for coffee mornings and afternoon teas to get us started:

**Coffee Mornings** in the Youth Room at The Bridge. 10.30 - 12.00

Thursday 28th May

Last Thursday in the month

Thursday 25th June

Last Thursday of the month

Booking essential - only 25 places. £1 per person. Pay at the door

**Afternoon Teas** In the Main Hall at The Bridge. 2.30 - 4.00

**Only £2 per person**

Tuesday 12th May

2nd Tuesday of the month

Tuesday 9th June

2nd Tuesday of the month

Booking essential - only 25 places. £2 per person. Pay at the door. To book follow the link to our website: [Events](#) and contact Social Committee.

**Have you renewed your membership?**

Follow this link to pay online: [Membership Renewal online](#) or pay at the monthly meeting.

**Monthly Meetings** are held at 2pm on the first Tuesday of the Month in the main hall at the Bridge. There's always an interesting Speaker, followed by announcements and then plenty of time to chat over tea and biscuits. Here are details of the talks at next the two meetings.

### **Tuesday May 5th 2pm The New Forest - History & Commoning**



The Speaker is Andrew Parry-Norton. Andrew runs Storm's Farm, a traditional family run commoning farm, with his wife Sarah.

Andrew is Chair of the New Forest Commoners Defence Organisation. He will tell us about history of the rights of Commoners and the various aspects of commoning.

### **Tuesday June 2nd (after the AGM)**

### **The D Day Story 6th June 1944 - A Personal Perspective**



u3a Members John and Anne Haigh, residents of Milford on Sea, also own a holiday home in Normandy, just inland from the D-Day landing beaches.

John has compiled his talk after years of exploring the entire area there in France where it took place, and also here in central southern England where much of the preparations happened, as a record of these experiences, and the momentous events that facilitated the freedoms we have enjoyed over our lifetime.

Our RNLI Speakers at the April Meeting gave a fascinating talk about what happens when a life boat is called out and how the Charity is run. They raised £205 for the RNLI thanks to our generous members.



## News from the Groups

### Theatre Trips

We are booking for 3 fabulous musicals. Booking and payment closes on 8 May. If you would like something to look forward to this Autumn/Winter please book now.

The 3 shows at The Mayflower Theatre, Southampton are as follows:

Moulin Rouge The Musical – 2pm on Thursday 22 October 2026. Tickets £65 each.

Operation Mincemeat The Musical – 2pm on Thursday 19 November 2026. Tickets £39.50 each.

Mrs Doubtfire The Musical – 2pm on Thursday 25 February 2027. Tickets £49 each

To secure your seats please pay to the following bank account.

- Sort code: 30-99-50
- Account number: 47989968
- Account name: Milford on Sea U3A
- Reference: Performance and Name

Please also contact Ian Fulton through the website to confirm how many tickets and which performances you have paid for.

If you are unable to pay by bank transfer, please contact Ian to discuss alternative arrangements.

Tickets will be reserved on a “first paid first served” basis. *Ian Fulton*

**See the website for more information about these fabulous musicals.**

**To contact any of the Groups mentioned in the Newsletter or to find out more about all of our groups go to our website:**

**[Milford on Sea u3a](#)**

**Your Groups Support Team: Ewan Mc Gregor and John Haigh.**

To get in touch with John and Ewan please use the Groups’ Contact link on the website: [contact Groups’ Support Team](#) or feel free to chat to them at the Monthly Meeting.

### Classic Car Group.

I started this group just after COVID and have watched it grow from initially 4 or 5 members in the first few months to about a dozen by the end of that year. Now we are 21 strong and our average monthly attendance is between 10 and 14.



The upper end of this range means that I think the group is currently full because our numbers can take up a fair amount of room in a pub as one group and we can be quite noisy with talk very largely based on an automotive theme!

We meet at a cliff top car park on the first Monday of the month and then drive to a pub for a convivial lunch with suitable liquid refreshment.

I have a list of 10 pubs up to 25 miles away to ring the changes and offer other outings with a motoring theme. I have also arranged extra outings

suitable for our partners to join us such as to Stourhead Gardens. This year's national Drive It Day outing at the end of April is planned to visit Hinton Ampner gardens.



The group has a great variety of cars ranging from two 1920's Bentleys, two from the 30's and then predominately from the 60's to the 70's. *Jonathan Harvey*

### Playreading - Vacancies!

We meet at the Beach House Hotel on the 2nd Wednesday of each month from 2 p.m. to approx. 4.30 pm. We've had quite a few comedies or thrillers and pick a character from the table to read the part and we generally have a fun afternoon and lots of laughs. There is no acting, or dressing up! We sit around the table and read out parts and it is always enjoyable. *Celia Barker*

## **Creative Writing for Fun - What's it all about Alfie?**

I guess that's what I was wondering when I joined the class about two years ago. Would it just be two hours of wall-to-wall adult fairy stories? Well no, it proved to be much more than that. A smorgasbord of writing topics and styles - children's tales / ghost stories / encounters with aliens / crime & punishment / recollections of yesteryear and the way we were / poetic looks at life / raw reflections of the crazy world in which we live. Nothing off limits: something for everyone. I've listened to pieces that have made me laugh, brought a lump to my throat, reawakened personal memories, broadened my mind. You see, that's the way with words, they can transport you to all sorts of places without ever leaving the room.

How does it work? Each month we choose a topic for a short home assignment then share and discuss our efforts at the following meeting in a relaxed and encouraging atmosphere. There's a wide range of topics suggested by the group members to get the creative thoughts flowing.

At each session we also include a 10 minute off-the-cuff writing exercise for a bit of extra fun.

Where & when?

We meet at 1pm on the 4th Wednesday of each month at South Lawn Hotel, where you can be assured of a warm welcome to join us, and share your enjoyment of painting pictures with words with our small, friendly group of amateur scribes. We have room for 3 or 4 more members who would like to try their hand at being creative! *Pete Hopker*

**The Lunch Group.** We're a friendly bunch open to all members. We meet on the third Tuesday of the month from 12 noon and go to a different pub or restaurant every month. Recently we have been to The Smugglers in Milford, The Gun in Keyhaven, and this month to South Lawn in Milford, all of which we have been to before over the years. Next month, we will be at a new venue, Da Vito, an Italian restaurant in New Milton. It's always nice to try somewhere new, though the organiser did a thorough recce beforehand! She found it to be very good. We would welcome new members; you can sign up at the monthly meeting, after the talk. Our numbers vary between 18 and 25, so there is plenty of room for new members. You'll be most welcome! *Sandra Allpress*

## Fun with languages!

I joined the **French for Fun** group a couple of years ago. French was on my curriculum at school - I was amazed how some of it came flooding back. I have learned so much from being in the group. I was nervous about speaking the little French that I knew, but it is all so friendly that I soon got over that. There is of course a serious side to it. Homework is set and it will not all come together without one's own efforts. I really enjoy it all and find John Whitley's guidance is just right. Sometimes we write something; it's fun working out what everyone else has written. Other weeks a story is read and we translate it. Then of course there are greetings and how to order tea, coffee! Because of the success of the French Group, I decided to join the **Spanish for Beginners** group again led by John Whitley. I had tuition some years ago, so not an absolute beginner. I realised quickly how much I did not know. I love it all and I do put the time and effort in. I spotted a friend recently at a concert in Milford. In between acts and at the interval she was deeply engrossed in a book. I had to find out what it was - "Spanish for Beginners". Now there's dedication! It's certainly paying off for me, and I have made some lovely friends at both groups. *Maggie Buchi*

## German Intermediate Group Guten Tag!

We are a small group, meeting fortnightly on Thursday afternoons in a member's home. Our approach is informal, I am not a teacher - it's not a structured approach and we don't follow a course. My background is that I studied German at school and university, and a couple of years ago decided to refresh and improve my German.



We listen to podcasts in slow German with the English translation to hand, and read and translate short stories at A2/B1 level German (which are sent in advance). We also cover a bit of grammar. In addition we prepare a paragraph in German in advance on what we have been doing recently or a subject of our choice, to read to the group. We are trying to introduce some conversation. There are one or two spaces in the group. If you are interested please contact me via the Milford u3a website. Ich freue mich darauf! *Ingrid Brocklesby*

On Thursday, 26th February a select group of **Happy Wanderers** paid a visit to the Royal National Lifeboat Institution College at Poole. We travelled by train, which worked well, as the College is less than 10 minutes walk from Poole station. The tour was scheduled to last 90 minutes but our very informative guide stretched it out to 2 hours, by which time we were ready for an excellent lunch in the College restaurant.



It was fascinating to hear the long history of the RNLI and to learn that it has helped to set up similar ventures all over the world. We visited the engineering workshop and saw examples of the engines installed in the boats, and the water tank where capsizing drills are carried out. Apparently, due to the RNLI reputation, there is always a queue of prospective purchasers whenever an RNLI boat is offered for sale.



Possibly the highlight of the tour was the visit to the simulator which provided an incredibly realistic presentation of a rescue in a heavy storm. We were all allocated "jobs" within the cabin, including that of helmsman. When faced with massive waves approaching from the beam it was hard to believe that we would not capsize, and everybody hung on tight even though the simulator itself was not actually moving! *Stephen Self*



## Birdwatching Group

On March 17th a group of eight of us gathered at the Blashford Lakes Nature Reserve near Ringwood. These former gravel pits have been converted into an interesting reserve, with well-maintained paths, hides and a Visitors' Centre. In mid-March many of the wintering ducks are still present on the lakes, whilst some early spring migrants have just arrived from Africa. There is an excellent woodland hide where close-up views of



Siskin

attractive birds like siskins and goldfinches are provided. From the large hide near the car park, we could see goldeneye and pochard actively diving for food, and on the edge of the lake a large flock of black-tailed godwits in handsome chestnut breeding plumage were resting.



Black tailed Godwit



White tailed Eagle

However, that rest was abruptly interrupted when a distant white-tailed eagle came into view. Nearly every bird in sight responded to the alarm signal and even the geese took to the air!

It proved to be an enjoyable visit with enthusiastic spotters. We recently welcomed Chris Lisher to our group with his considerable expertise. We reckon we saw an encouraging total of approximately 40 different species. Our next trip is planned for early May to the New Forest to sample birdsong at its height.

*Douglas Marcuse*

### A Wildflower Quiz

How well do you know our local wildflowers? Wendy Thomas, our local u3a expert challenged us to name these plants. How many did you know?

1 Green Alkernet



2 Wood Anemone



3 Hairy Bittercress



4 Comfret



5 Marsh Marigold



6 Helliborine



7 Lords & Ladies



8 Herb Robert



9 Queen Anne Lace



10 Cuckoo Flower



Why not join the Wildflower Group? Wildflower walks are held in various areas in Milford - on random days from late March as long as there are flowers around. Walks are rarely more than a mile. *Wendy Thomas*

To contact any of the Groups mentioned in the Newsletter or to find out more about all of our groups go to our website: [Milford on Sea u3a](http://www.milfordonsea.co.uk)

Members gathered for a Royal Event Tea on April 21st to celebrate what would have been the late queen’s 100th birthday. A jolly time was had by all!



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Please send articles for the Newsletter to Jenny Whitley Newsletter Editor  
We also welcome community items of interest to u3a members.  
To contact us with comments please email: [milfordonseau3a@gmail.com](mailto:milfordonseau3a@gmail.com)

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