

As I write this introduction it is already meteorological Autumn! Grandchildren are back in school, the hot weather has passed, and the garden is starting to shut down for the winter. Life for many of us takes on a less hectic pace.

I hope you all had a wonderful Summer and are looking forward to taking part in all that the u3a has to offer. This edition of the newsletter has details of what some of our Groups have been up to and also some upcoming social events. So why not try a new activity, or come along to one of our social events and meet new people. A special thank you to our members who took the time to write an article.

The Committee recently decided that we should do a survey of our membership to see whether we should do anything differently. Your input is valuable as it helps us decide where to focus our attention – as an example, that could be more social activity or more Groups support. I would encourage you to take a few minutes to complete the survey – details of how to do this are included in this newsletter. Your opinions do matter!

Lastly, I would ask you to consider whether you could give some of your time to help make our u3a a success. No amount of time is too small – you could help out at monthly meetings, social events, or volunteer to join the committee. As the old saying goes 'many hands make light work'. Please contact myself or one of the other committee members if you would like to discuss how you could help. You can also indicate your willingness to help in the survey, and someone will then contact you. I have personally found that volunteering is a great way to meet people and make new friends.

I do hope that you enjoy this edition of our newsletter.

Ewan

Your Chair.

Members' Survey**Your opinion matters**

Three years ago, the committee conducted a survey to find out what our members felt about their u3a. As a result of that survey, changes were made, particularly adding several new u3a groups. Since then, many new members have joined our u3a, and the Committee have decided to once again do a survey. It is really important that the Committee know what members think. So we encourage all members to participate, since the greater the response, the better informed we will be. The survey can be completed on any PC, smartphone or tablet. Simply click on the following link:

[Link to Milford on Sea u3a Member Survey](#)

Paper copies of the survey will be mailed to members who do not have an email address. You will also be able to do the survey at the the monthly meeting on October 6th. We will have laptops and tablets available to use and paper copies as well.

The deadline for the survey is Friday, October 9th 2026. The results of the survey will be included in the next newsletter to all members.

As a thank you and incentive to complete the survey, one lucky respondent will be selected at random to win a £30 shopping voucher.

We do hope you will take a few moments to complete the survey.

What's on?

**The Monthly Meetings - First Tuesday of every month
2pm at The Bridge**

October 6th - Dylan Thomas

Speakers: Brian and Jacqueline Sutton

Jacqueline and Brian Sutton are a stand-up duo who entertain and inform their audience with quirky facts and humour. This time it's about Dylan Thomas – a famous and infamous Welshman who will always be remembered for his ground breaking work 'Under Milk Wood'. However, his life became one long drink at the bar encouraged by his exhibitionist wife, Caitlin, and his friend and fellow drinking companion, Augustus John. Dylan died aged 39 in 1953 leaving behind him a dysfunctional family, a pile of debts and lyrical writing that has become part of our heritage.

Jacqueline is a retired English teacher, and Brian has long been engaged in Amateur Dramatics.

**November 3rd - The Rillington Place Murders and the case of serial killer John Christie**

Speaker: Paul Stickler



Paul Stickler is a former Hampshire Constabulary police officer who retired with the rank of chief superintendent. During his career he specialised in murder investigations and was seconded to the FBI in Quantico, Virginia where he studied forensic and behavioural science. His passion for history developed when he studied nineteenth and twentieth century British history before obtaining his Masters Degree in criminology.

Paul has previously given two fascinating talks to our u3a. It's definitely not cosy crime!

Dates for your Diary - everyone welcome!

All at The Bridge in Sea Road MoS

Coffee Morning Sept 24th 10.30 in the Youth Room

Monthly Meeting Tues Oct 6th 2pm

Kurling Evening Wed Oct 28th

Monthly Meeting Tues Nov 3rd 2pm

Christmas Party Fri Dec 11th 2 - 4 pm

**It's never too early to start planning for
 Christmas **

Your Committee invite all members to

 **The u3a Christmas Party - Save the Date!** 

Friday December 11th 2 - 4 pm at The Bridge

Magic Show, Raffle, Quiz, Prizes

Food and Drink included

All members invited

Tickets available from October

Kurling

All u3a members are invited to special Kurling evening to raise money for charity on Wednesday October 28th at 6.00 for 6.15. See the last page of the Newsletter for details. If you've been to one before you'll know what great fun they are - excitement, food quizzes and of course, prizes!

Theatre Trips for 2027

The Mayflower Theatre, Southampton

We now have Group Executive Membership with The Mayflower Theatre. The main advantage of this is that we have much longer to commit numbers and pay for the tickets. As a result, at this stage I am not asking for payment but a firm expression of interest. I will let you have the late 2026/ 2027 payment dates later this year. You can change your mind before the payment date. Ian Fulton

Mrs Doubtfire The Musical on Thursday 25th February at 2pm Tickets £49 each

Cats on Thursday 8 April at 2pm. Tickets £45 each

Grease on Thursday 15 July at 2pm. Tickets £39 each

Jesus Christ Superstar 2 September at 2pm. Tickets £55 each

Just for One Day on Thursday 30 September at 2pm. Tickets £42 each

If you are interested in any of these performances, and would like to be kept up to date, you can join the Theatre Group and you will receive regular emails from Ian Fulton, the Group Contact. Please see the website for details: [Theatre Group](#)

Many thanks to Ian for all the work that he puts in to making the arrangements for members. The theatre trips have become a very popular feature of our u3a.

Volunteer opportunity

"Want to help keep our website up to date? We need a volunteer for just a couple of hours a month to support our website manager, Angela Bunting. WordPress experience is a plus, but not required—training is provided and there is no coding involved. [Click here to message Angela for details.](#)"

News from the Groups

The Wildflower Appreciation Group was started by myself, Wendy Thomas, and Mary Wheatley back in 2018 and only missed one year - 2025 - when I broke my ankle.

This year of course the drought has had an effect and on our last walk, on Studland Common, it was quite a challenge to find anything with a flower! But we identified 20!

We are incredibly fortunate in Milford to have so many diverse areas - the Danestream, Studland Common, Studland Meadow, Hurst Spit and the Sea Wall. For anyone like me who is passionate about wild flowers - and interested in their historical uses - this is a lovely informal group.

Interestingly, in Shakespeare's Macbeth, in the scene where the three witches are round the cauldron, the items they are casting in to the pot - are all wild flowers!!

We have no set days for meeting - everyone has busy lives so I vary the days we meet and of course it's very weather dependent.

There is always room for new members. Come and see what is growing in your locality. Wendy Thomas



A lovely selfie of the group enjoying the sunshine. There is definitely no bubbling of cauldrons in the group!

The Lunch Group

The Lunch Group meets on the third Tuesday of the month for lunch at a local pub or venue. Regular members take it in turns to organise a lunch, which is not very onerous, but there is no obligation to do so. The group is an open group and welcomes any u3a member who would like to enjoy a lunch with fellow members. All you need to do is sign up on the lunch list which is normally available at the Monthly Meetings for the next one or

two lunches, and choose your menu. Most venues we go to require a pre-order about a week before, so once this has been sent in, there is an expectation that you will pay for what you have ordered, even if you can no longer attend. However, we find that many places are fairly relaxed about this! Don't worry if you forget what you have signed up for, as you will receive a reminder email before the pre-order goes in and you can cancel, if necessary, by letting the organiser know.

All welcome - the more the merrier

Sandra Allpress and Chris Chaundy (Joint Group Contacts)



Lunch at the Crown in Everton
in July

Local Explorers

The Group took a well earned rest from exploring in August and held a sumptuous BBQ instead, hosted by Liz and Derek Christian and featuring Martin Harris as the chef and Jim Bunting on the liquid refreshments. They were kind enough to invite your Newsletter Editor along to take a photo and of course join in the lovely event.



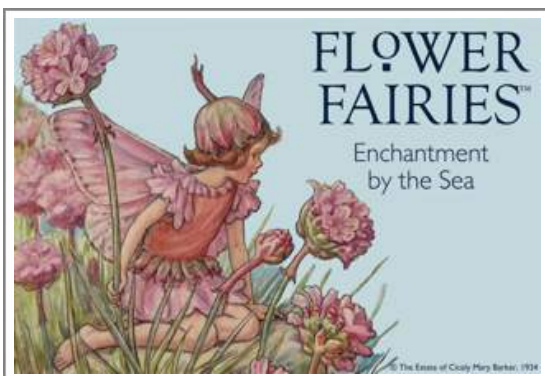
Should any other Groups like me to take a photo and join their festivities, I'd be delighted!!

Creative Writing 2

Our group takes a bit of a writing break in August, and has a day out instead. This year we had a wonderful day taking the open top bus to Bournemouth and visiting the Russell Coates Art Gallery and Museum. This museum has an amazing selection of artwork, from paintings to sculptures and more. It also has pleasant garden and a cafe. There was something for everyone.



The Russell Coates Art Gallery & Museum



The display of "Flower Fairies Enchantment by the Sea" of Cicely Mary Barker's original Flower Fairies artwork has inspired Art Appreciation Group One to make their next topic, "Illustrators"! Anne Kelly, Group Contact.

Questors 1

We have had a busy and varied year in the Questors 1 group. After a thoroughly wet day at Fort Nelson in January, we avoided the rain in February when we visited the SeaCity Museum in Southampton. We opted for an indoor visit again in March when we went to the New Forest Visitor Centre.

In April we travelled further afield, visiting the Hospital of St. Cross and Almshouses of Noble Poverty in Winchester. We were greeted by one of the Black Brothers who arrived on his tricycle. He then took us on a fascinating tour of the buildings and grounds.



In May we stayed closer to home when we enjoyed one of the Lymington Town Trails, the Sea Salt and Smugglers Walk, and in June we had a great day out on the Four Rivers Blue



Funnel Cruise. It was a lovely day as we set off along the River Itchen to Southampton Water. We cruised along the River Hamble and Beaulieu River, enjoying a ploughman's lunch on the way. On the return trip we cruised along the River Test viewing the huge cruise ships that were docked there. We did not have an outing in July, but planned to go on one of the New Forest bus tours in August. The day arrived and so did the rain. Reluctantly our day touring the forest was abandoned. Our next visit in September will be to FONFA Aviation Heritage Centre in Bransgore and in October we have booked a guided tour of the Regent Theatre in Christchurch. We will be planning for 2027 when we meet up in November. Our group is currently full with fifteen members. Anne Rustomji, Group Contact.

There are similar groups which have vacancies.

Questors 2



We are a new Group, set up because Questors 1 was oversubscribed. We have had three trips so far. In August we had a wonderful guided tour around Christchurch Priory. 11 of our members attended; we had a great trip followed by tea in the gardens afterwards.

We visited Braemore House near Fordingbridge in September



If anyone is interested in our group we currently have a few spaces.

Italian for Fun

The level of the Italian spoken in the group has gone up in the last few months. We have started to work through some short stories while continuing to practise the language that is required in everyday situations. Italian for Fun is now full. Jonathan Ruddle, Group Contact.

Any budding linguists out there?

Language Groups are very popular. It would be good if we could start a few more. Members can learn together so it just needs one or two people to take a lead. There are lots of books that beginner groups can follow and online and recorded materials. Our existing language group contacts could give you some guidance. Let us know if you'd like to give it a try.

Groups with vacancies

Happy Wanderers has a few vacancies. Our aim is to investigate places of interest and visit them, with a lunch locally. We generally meet on the third Friday of the month with occasional research meetings.

The Book Group could squeeze in a few more.

Creative Writing for Fun could take two more people - but no more!

French for Fun & Spanish Beginners will both happily take a few more.

Mahjong is happy to welcome both beginners and experienced players.

Wildflower Appreciation and Birdwatching are both occasional Groups. You can sign up to go on the email list and go along when you are able. You'll learn a lot about the area we live in!

From our records the following groups also have vacancies:

Backgammon, Board Games, Cycling, Family History, Golf, Music Appreciation, Play Reading, Stock Market Investing, Villages Plus.

If there is a group that you would really like to join, but it is full, it's always worth emailing the Group Contact, just in case someone has recently left. Or maybe you could start up a new one? Please contact us as there are always Committee members who are ready to help set up new groups.

Visit the website

For information on all our groups, look at the Groups pages on the website:

Groups information

Read on for Community Information:

Community Information

New Age Kurling is back!

Frances & Terry invite you to a fun evening on Wednesday 28th October 2026, at 6.00 for 6.15 at The Bridge, Milford on Sea. For those who don't know, this is curling with a twist – no ice, and indoors! There will be quizzes and prizes, and we'll throw in a pizza too.

The difference is that this is a charity event, to raise much-needed funds for Counselling Together in the New Forest.



See www.counsellingtogether.co.uk

But it will be just like old times! Do support us and buy a ticket, available now from The Bridge (£15) box office, or online.

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### All the Queens Men

#### **A New Local History of Milford, connecting Hampshire and Oxford, by historian, writer and u3a member Chris Sanders.**

Chris's forthcoming book, *All The Queen's Men*, will be published by the Milford-on-Sea Historical Record Society in November 2026.

The book is a beautifully illustrated history of the ancient parish of Milford during the period in which Queen's College, Oxford, appointed its vicars, from 1626 to 1871. The ancient parish extended far beyond the modern village of Milford-on-Sea, encompassing Hordle, Milton, Keyhaven, Pennington and many smaller settlements.

Beginning with the grant by Charles I of the advowson to Queen's College, the book follows the parish through nearly 250 years of profound change. It describes the effects of the Civil War, the Restoration and religious dissent; the workings of the parish, vestry and poor relief system; and the everyday lives of local landowners, farmers, labourers, tradespeople and the poor.

The sea and the New Forest are recurring influences. The story encompasses coastal trade, salt-making, smuggling, naval warfare and coastal erosion, alongside common rights, agriculture and enclosure. It also examines the growth of Baptists, Methodists and other forms of Nonconformity, the rebuilding of local churches, the development of education, the coming of the railways and the eventual division of the ancient parish.

Although the succession of vicars provides the framework, the book is principally about the changing community they served and the ways in which national events were experienced within one Hampshire parish.

(A pre-publication subscription is currently available at a 25% discount, reducing the price from £20 to £15, with £8 postage if the book cannot be collected locally. Subscribers may have their name recorded in the List of Subscribers in the book. This, of course, is optional.)

For more information and for details on how to purchase Chris's book, follow this link to the MoS Historical Records Society:

[MoSHRS All the Queens Men](#)

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Please send articles for the Newsletter to jenny@whitleyonseanet.net

The next edition will be published in November. Please send photos too! We particularly like to hear from groups who have spaces for more members.

For more information visit the website [Milford on Sea u3a website](#)

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

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