



Newsletter

March 2024

Welcome from your Chair, Sue Derrick

Welcome to the first quarterly newsletter of the Botley, Hedge End & District u3a.

I hope the information will keep everybody up to date with current and future happenings.

Contributions will be welcome from everyone. Please get out your computer, or your pen and paper and write a short paragraph, a couple of phrases, or a send photograph from the many activities and gatherings which allow us to learn, live and laugh so readily.

Carol Hussey has been instrumental in creating this Newsletter and, as members, we too must play a part! Carol will be delighted to receive your contributions.

My best wishes for happy reading and writing,

Sue Derrick



Member meetings take place on the second Wednesday in the month at 1.30pm in the Market Hall, Botley, SO30 2EA.

Meeting speakers for this Spring

A wide and interesting range of speakers are lined up for the group meetings including:

- 13 March: Stephen Hayes Care of skin as we age
- 10 April: Jeremy Prescott D-Day
- 8 May: John Connell Hampshire Folk Songs
- 12 June: David Russell Royal Yacht Britannia



News from your u3a Groups

There is a wide range of groups available for you to take part in: you may be interested in learning something new or participating in a favourite activity.

Details from a selection of our groups will be featured in each newsletter.

This month it is:

The Walking group



The Walking group meet once a month on Tuesday mornings with a wide range of interesting walks. Places visited so far have included Brockenhurst, Emsworth & Langstone and Warsash. Details and maps of many of these walks can be found on the Walking Group memories [website page](#). Future walks planned include the Meon Valley Trail, Botley to Durley Mill and a trek along the Wickham disused railway line. If you have a favourite walk that you would like to share, please email Tony at bhedistrict.u3a@gmail.com

The Strollers group



Do you enjoy walking and talking but don't want to amble too far? If so come and join the Strollers! The maximum distance is 2 miles, often less, and there is a coffee stop at the start, middle or end of every stroll. We meet on the first Friday of each month. The next stroll in March is around Crowd Hill and the fringes of Stoke Wood, meeting 10.45 at The Fox and Hounds in Fair Oak. Future strolling venues will include Droxford, Hamble Point, Wickham and the seafront at Southsea.

The Wine Tasting Group

One of the more successful interest activities set up over the first year has been our wine tasting group. We regularly have between 20 and 30 members joining in. A typical session would have six wines for people to taste, with a range of red, white and rosé wines on offer. There is no commercial interest, so members are not expected to buy any wines. We run the sessions ourselves, using tasting notes provided by the wine suppliers. One of our meetings last summer was held "al fresco" in a member's garden, but we usually meet in The Jubilee Room at The Botley Centre. Our summer event had a variety of lighter wines, suitable for



summer outdoor drinking. Another theme was New World Wines, where we tasted six different wines from six different countries. Our latest meeting concentrated on Eastern European wines.

Do you have a skill or talent you would like to share with other members? If so, please contact our Groups Co-ordinator Geoff at ga.bheadu3a@gmail.com

How much do you know about the u3a?

Here is a quick teaser question for you: When was the UK u3a movement founded? Was it:

- A) 1972
- B) 1982
- C) 1992

Answer at the end of the newsletter.



Trips

Trips on offer this year include:



Wednesday 22 May 2024: Visit to Chartwell, home of Winston Churchill. Book your ticket asap as places are going quickly. The cost is £27.50 for National Trust Members and £45.50 for non-members. Click on this [link](#) for full details.

A second trip available is to Savill Garden with a river boat trip, including a cream tea, on Monday 22 July 2024. The cost is £58. Tickets will be available at the next General Meeting on 13 March.

If you are interested in either of these events please talk to David Morris, contactable by email at davidmorris22@ntlworld.com or by phoning 07495 525 707.

D-Day Commemorations



This year sees the 80th anniversary of the D-Day landings. We are arranging a variety of events to commemorate the occasion.

Come and see The Map Room where the D-Day Landings were controlled, stroll to the railway sidings where Churchill, De Gaulle and Eisenhower met to plan the invasion, take in too the Church of St. James, so proud of its own history and its place during Operation Overlord.

Join the Strollers for their amble from Old Portsmouth to the D-Day Museum in Southsea and walk around the last surviving landing craft before viewing The Overlord Tapestry, the ordnance and the stories of those who took part.

Visit Chartwell, the home of Winston Churchill.

Dates and contact details:

- Friday 5 April (morning) - Strollers to Droxford Railway Sidings. (Sue Derrick – derricksju3a@outlook.com)
- Wednesday 10 April (afternoon) - Monthly Group Meeting, D-Day Presentation, Speaker Jeremy Prescott.
- Wednesday 17 April (morning) - St. James Without the Priory Gate Church, Southwick. (Robin Horseman - robinhn@btopenworld.com)
- Wednesday 17 April (afternoon) - Map Room Southwick House (cost £9). The closing date for this trip is 5 April 5 due to security checks being carried out. (David Morris - davidmorris22@ntlworld.com)
- Friday 3 May (morning) - Strollers to Southsea and the D-Day Museum (cost tbc). Sue Derrick - derricksju3a@outlook.com)
- Wednesday 22 May (all day) - Visit to Chartwell (cost £27). (David Morris - davidmorris22@ntlworld.com)

The events above are open to all members. We hope you will find something to enjoy from these plans.

Timings and meeting places will be confirmed nearer the dates.

Coffee Mornings

The informal coffee mornings will continue throughout 2024. They have proved to be extremely popular, so we have now introduced get togethers in Haskins Garden Centre too.

Come along to meet up with friends or and/or find out what's new!

Spring dates:

Hilliers Garden Centre Café, 10.30am:

- Thursday 14 March 2024
- Thursday 28 March 2024
- Thursday 11 April 2024
- Thursday 25 April 2024



Haskins Garden Centre Café, 10.30am:

- Monday 4 March
- Monday 8 April
- Monday 13 May



Meet our members

There is an opportunity in the Newsletter for you, as our members, to tell us more about yourselves. For this first edition we are delighted that Sue Vine has provided details on how and why she got involved with the u3a:



I have been a U3A member for 22 years. First in the Swansea U3A where I was on the committee. I quickly made friends and became very involved. In 2006 I left Swansea moving to Hampshire.

I first lived in Park Gate, the nearest U3A was in Titchfield, then Fareham. I joined and again made friends. I served for years on the committee and started several groups.

Then in 2022 or 2023 I was delighted that a new U3A was setting up and meeting within walking distance of my home in Church Lane, Botley. This time I just wanted to enjoy without responsibility.

As an aside back in the early 2000s I went to stay with relatives in Cyprus. They live in Paphos and are u3a members. I went on several wonderful walks with them. At the time their U3A was the only one known to have a group dedicated to caring for goats!

I hope Botley and Hedge End U3A will continue to thrive and that I continue to enjoy what it has to offer.

Sue Vine-Brumfitt

If you would like to tell us about yourself and your experience of the Botley, Hedge End & District u3a please send your feature, around 150 words long, and a photo to carol.hussey@hotmail.com and we'll include it in a future newsletter.

Subscriptions for 2024/25

We hope you are enjoying your membership and will want to stay with us for another year. The membership fee for the year to 31 March 2025 is £25 for full members and £21 for associate members who are already a full member of another u3a. This fee covers all monthly meetings, including refreshments, and membership of as many available activity groups as you wish.

Full details on how to renew your membership have been issued.

If you know that you are not intending to renew your membership, please email bhe.districtu3a@gmail.com to let us know, so we do not send you unwanted reminders.

Teaser Answer

The UK u3a movement was founded in 1982. Congratulations if you got the correct answer.

Full details of all activities taking place with the Botley, Hedge End & District u3a can be found on the [website](#) or by emailing bhedistrict.u3a@gmail.com or see our Facebook page for more news.

