

# **Newsletter**

**September 2024**

## **Welcome from your Chair, Sue Derrick**

Welcome to the September Newsletter.

Many thanks to those who sent in items both written and photographic. Please keep them coming.

It is clear the activity groups continue to flourish. New groups are getting underway with more in the pipeline for the winter. The activity survey sent out recently will help the Committee furnish your interests. Please take a few moments to respond.

At the Christmas lunch it is hoped to have a record of our u3a year projected onto a screen. When editing your picture gallery please forward any u3a photographs you have via the usual members [email](#) address for us to include.

The AGM is looming. The format we adopted last year seemed speedy and fairly painless, so the agenda and reports will again be sent out beforehand, and on the day, the formal proceedings will be followed by the speaker from the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

Many of you probably read of BHE&D's trip to Southwick House which was included in the D-Day feature published in the summer edition of u3a Matters. Southwick and the trips to Chartwell, Savill Garden and Runnymede were well supported and I am delighted to say there are more visits planned for 2025.

Best wishes,

Sue Derrick

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## **Meeting speakers for this Summer**

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

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

- 11 September: James Bisson Vertex Osteopathy

- 9 October: John Scivier CWGC Archiving/Gardens
- 13 November: Gillian Taylor Great British Gardens
- 11 December David Burgess An Afternoon of Christmas Carols

Know of a speaker who would be interested in talking to us? Please send us their details and we will find a slot on our speakers schedule. Send any information to our group email address [bhedistrict.u3a@gmail.com](mailto:bhedistrict.u3a@gmail.com) or speak to Sharon Whiting at the monthly meeting.

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## News from your u3a Groups

There is an extensive range of groups available for you to take part in: you may be interested in learning something new or participating in a favourite activity. New activities that are now on offer include groups for Boules, Beer Tasting and Art Appreciation. Contact Geoff at [ga.bheadu@gmail.com](mailto:ga.bheadu@gmail.com) for full details.

This month we throw the spotlight on these three group activities:

### Garden Visits



The Garden Visit Group has been to a variety of gardens this year, from private houses to larger ones. We sometimes have a guide or home owner, who explains the variety of plants being grown. Refreshments are normally included. The group meet on the second Monday of the month. We hold a meeting at the beginning of the year, to decide which gardens we are visiting, and who is organising the day. This year's visits have included Deane House at Sparshot, The Manor House, Upton Grey, Sir Harold Hillier Gardens and Terstan Garden, Stockbridge.

### French Conversation



French Conversation has been running for well over a year now and has seven members.

We converse for an hour on a variety of subjects including film, music, holiday destinations, dates, numbers, the family, books and anything else we can think of! The subjects are decided jointly by group members.

To add a bit of variety, we sometimes play games. To date we have played adapted versions of Wordle, Taboo, Pass the Bomb and other word games (in French of course!)

The French Conversation Group runs on alternate Mondays, 10.30 at The Dolphin in Botley.

### Knit & Natter



The Knit and Natter group started meeting in March this year. The aim is to encourage people to knit/crochet for charity. My particular interest is PUMA (Plymouth Ukraine Medical Aid) and members of the group have been kind enough to knit/crochet adult blankets, baby blankets, jumpers, cardigans, hats, scarfs, twiddle muffs and granny squares to be made into blankets for Ukraine. At the moment ten members meet on the second Thursday of the month at Hedge End Village Hall and there is a willingness amongst members to help and encourage each other. There is room for more members if you would like to join us. Contact Maureen Greenham at

[maureen.greenham2023@gmail.com](mailto:maureen.greenham2023@gmail.com)

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## Blooming marvellous members

Congratulations go our BHE&D u3a members for their success in the 2024 Botley In Bloom competition. Jenny Ellis was awarded first place in the Back Garden category while Mike Toomey shared the joint bronze award for the same category. June Edwards received a bronze award in the environmental garden class.

If you have had success in an event that we can share with our members, please send the details to [carol.hussey@hotmail.com](mailto:carol.hussey@hotmail.com) and we'll include it in a future edition of the newsletter.



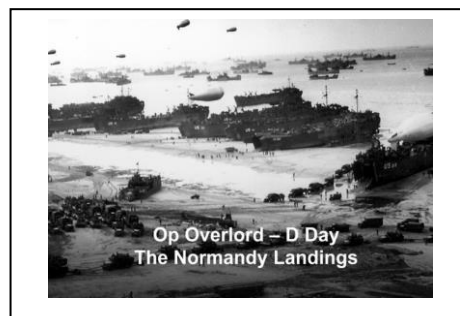
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## Our D-Day commemoration activities went national!!



We were more than delighted when the copies of the summer edition of the national *u3a Matters* magazine were issued to find that our activities to commemorate the 80th anniversary of D-Day were featured.

Thanks go once again to all the people involved in preparing and facilitating the events which were enjoyed by everyone who took part.



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## Trips



On 22 July 2024 members enjoyed a fabulous trip to Savill Garden. The rain experienced as the coach made its way to Windsor finally stopped as we arrived, giving us the chance to enjoy a beautifully refreshed garden.

After the morning visit, we then proceeded to Runnymede where we picked up a boat for a trip along the Thames. The sun finally came out, a perfect accompaniment for our afternoon cream tea.

A truly spectacular summer outing!

## **Coach Outings 2025**



On Friday 14 February 2025, we have arranged a trip to the National Trust property, Kingston Lacy, to visit the House and Garden and see their wonderful display of snowdrops. The cost is £22.00 for National Trust Members, and £40.00 for Non-Members. This is a wonderful day out. Booking will be available at our September General Meeting.

Monday 14 April 2025: we are looking to visit the National Trust property, Stourhead, to see the house and the wonderful, extensive estate. Further details to be announced.

Tuesday 10 June 2025: by popular request, we will be visiting Jane Austen's House. Depending on availability, there may be an option for an afternoon return trip on the Watercress Line from Alton to Alresford. We are waiting for the 2025 timetable to be issued. Further details to be announced.

If you are interested in any day trips on offer, please talk to David Morris, contactable by email at [davidmorris22@ntlworld.com](mailto:davidmorris22@ntlworld.com) or by phoning 07495 525 707.

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## **Coffee Mornings**

### **Autumn dates:**

The Hillier Garden Centre Café, 10.30am:

- Thursday 5 September
- Thursday 19 September
- Thursday 3 October
- Thursday 17 October
- Thursday 7 November
- Thursday 21 November



Haskins Garden Centre Café, 10.30am:

- Monday 2 September
- Monday 7 October
- Monday 4 November



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## Meet our members

There is an opportunity in the Newsletter for you, as a member, to tell us more about yourself. The featured member this edition is Terry Everett



I am Terry Everett and although I have lived in Botley for over 20 years I was born and brought up in Kent. Following school in Canterbury and college in Woolwich I embarked on a career in Quality Assurance. I married Sharon in 1974 and we lived in various parts of Kent never expecting to leave. In 2003 my employer at the time offered us the chance to move to the Southampton area and we chose Botley - a very good choice - we have made so many friends here.

When I retired in 2013 Sharon encouraged me to take up a hobby and our mutual love of miniature model making began. Unfortunately Sharon died in 2022, by which time we had produced almost thirty models, all inspired by Sharon and made by me. Sharon used to say "Could we ... ?," "Is it possible to ... ?", "What if ... ?" and I just had to make it!

Last year I was invited to attend a U3A meeting which I found to be very welcoming. I joined up on the spot. Apart from the interesting speakers each month I have also discovered the joys of single travelling through an advert in the U3A magazine.

I am still making models now and if anyone is interested, I have been asked to give a presentation at the June 2025 U3A meeting.

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](mailto:carol.hussey@hotmail.com) and we'll include it in a future newsletter.

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## Christmas is on the way



This year we are organising a Christmas Lunch get together to be held at 12.30pm on Wednesday 4 December. Please note, you must be a member to attend this event so sadly we cannot accommodate non-members.

The lunch will be taking place at:

Brook House Masonic Centre  
Brook Lane  
Botley  
SO30 2ER

The price will be confirmed just as soon as we hear from the Masonic Centre but to make sure you have a place, please let Richard know you would like to attend.

See Richard Whiting at the group meetings or email him at [richwbheu3a@gmail.com](mailto:richwbheu3a@gmail.com) to book your place.

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## Membership update



We continue to pick up new members all the time meaning that your group membership remains strong. If you have family or a friend whom you think may be interested in joining us, please forward our contact details to them as we will be delighted to say hello and tell them what activities are on offer.

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## Promoting our u3a



On Sunday 9 June members of your committee spent a lovely day in Greta Park, promoting our u3a group at the Hedge End Town Council's *Hedge End Unwrapped* community event. We talked to many people and handed out copies of our new threefold information leaflet.



We are a fully inclusive group, happy to offer events and friendship to all.

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

