

September Newsletter 2025



Chair's Welcome to the Newsletter for September

Many thanks to those whose writings and photographs are featured.

We are fortunate to live in an area bursting with industrial heritage, civil and military history, and a beautiful and diverse countryside and coastline. In the coming months, a bustling programme of events and activities is underway to make the most of these resources on our doorstep. Thank you to those enterprising members who have planned river trips, treasure hunts and visits to castles, churches, museums, galleries and gardens. Many thanks, too, to those energetic and spirited facilitators, both seasoned and recent, who have set up and support the activity groups. All of you ensure our u3a continues to thrive.

We are continuing to engage with the local community. Our coffee drinkers, lunch, language, card and board games groups frequent local hostelrys and garden centres and new links are being pursued with existing sport focussed clubs.

Mike Toomey has set up a photographic archive. The slide show at last years Christmas Lunch was well received. As a result, our adventures from this year will be a key feature for the Christmas celebrations! Please send your snaps to Mike, (bheu3a.photographicarchive@gmail.com). As a result our adventures from this year will be a key feature for the Christmas celebrations! Please send your snaps to Mike, (bheu3a.photographicarchive@gmail.com).

The AGM will soon to be upon us, Wednesday 8th October. The format used for the last two years seemed fairly swift and straightforward. The agenda and the main reports will be sent out to members beforehand. On the day, the formal proceedings will be followed by a presentation on Bomber Command by Jeremy Prescott. Many of you will remember Jeremy's last visit when he spoke on the events leading to D-Day.

Details and dates for outings and visits, plans for interest groups and the Christmas Lunch are all in this newsletter, assembled and edited by Carol Hussey. Thank you Carol!

Enjoy the read!

Best wishes,

Sue Derrick

Meeting speakers for this Autumn

Members 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 next three members meetings:

- 10th September: Jo-Anne Udy Nature, helping us to heal
- 8th October: Jeremy Prescott Bomber Command
- 12th November: David Bailey Good Hare Days

Jeremy and David are return speakers who provided fabulous presentations on their initial visits so we are sure we will not be disappointed with these new presentations.

News from your u3a Interest Groups

Many activities took over the summer months, despite the extreme hot weather. Thanks, as always, go to the facilitators and members who organise and support these activities. What did we do before u3a!

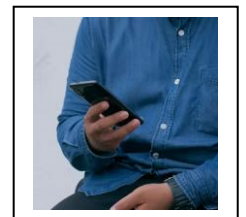
Mike Toomey has arranged another boat voyage on the Hamble River. This trip will coincide with the high tide so will head upstream (two of three earlier trips were downstream to accommodate the low tides). The new date is Thursday 11th September at 3 pm. The cost is £10 per person, please let me know ASAP if you are interested.



The Cribbage Group has had its first meeting, taking place in conjunction with the usual monthly boardgame meetings held at 2pm in The Bugle Inn, Botley High Street on the third Wednesday in the month. Please see the sign up board at the monthly members meeting.

I am in contact with Ali Stubbs, secretary at Cobbetts Boules Club, who is keen to help us find a way forward with our Boules sessions. The slight problem is that their club rules only allow a couple of taster sessions for potential new members, rather like our own rules here, before we can hold regular sessions. We are on the case to get something organised for future meetings. Watch this space for more information!

On a similar note I am making contact with the committee of Hedge End Bowling Club with a view to having some sessions with them. Again, more details will follow.



Plans are underway for the Smart Phone Photography Group. Bob Hignett and I need to home in on a suitable date, time and venue. I will email those of you who have signed up as soon as we have something definite. Hopefully the first meeting should be in September. Anyone interested in this please contact me.

Geoff Warden (Interest Groups Co-ordinator) ga.bheadu3a@gmail.com

Continuing our focus on existing groups, here are two more of our recently formed ones:

Scientific Interest



Some months ago, it struck me that whilst our u3A area is well served with art and language groups, we had little to offer those who would enjoy some more science-based knowledge. In my rather naïve way, I mentioned this to our Chair, whose immediate response was, “Well there you go. I’ll put you down as group facilitator then!” Not quite what I had in mind. From there has grown a small group which meets once a month to look at a range of topics, from physics based, e.g. power supply in the UK, and composite materials, to more medically based topics, e.g. control of imported diseases in pets. So far, we have used the knowledge of those of our current members who are happy to give us a short presentation, which we can then discuss. This month we are each looking at an “accidental discovery” to start us off.

Please talk to Leigh Elford if you are interested in joining this group.

Archaeology



This is the first year that the archaeology group has been running. So far, we have visited Fishbourne Roman Villa, built around 75AD. Over the years, extensive alterations were made, until it was burnt down in 270AD and abandoned. However, a number of wonderful mosaics survive. Other trips have included April: Salisbury Museum. May: Stonehenge with a detailed guided tour. June: Downs Farm near Salisbury. This was an amazing place, only open by appointment or private groups. We were able to see the present owner’s collection of flint tools and weapons found in the Bronze age and Iron Age Barrows discovered on his land. July: Silchester Roman City and amphitheatre. August: Bignor Roman Villa. Planned visits include Chichester, Winchester College Treasury and in November we will be having a talk at the Jubilee Hall, Botley, by Professor Tony King. Planning is underway for 2026.

Walking Group Update:



We are regularly having over 20 of us on our walks. The photos above include our May walk along the Itchen Navigation Canal, June walk through Holly Hill and Lower Hamble with lunch at the Bold Forester and July walk through the New Forest around Brockenhurst with lunch at the Foresters Arms. Our latest

walk was between Langstone and Emsworth along northern edge of Chichester Harbour. Looking ahead we will probably go to: New Alresford, Vinyards and River Itchen in September, and Autumn colours in the Forest of Bere and along the Meon Valley disused railway followed by Indian lunch at Roebuck Inn in October.

If you would like to join one or all of these walks please contact Tony Luetchford, either at the members meeting or by email at tluetchford@gmail.com.

Coach Outings and Visits



HAMBLE RIVER BOAT TRIP

Mike Toomey has arranged another boat voyage on the Hamble River. This trip will coincide with the high tide so will head upstream (two of the three earlier trips were downstream to accommodate the low tides). The new date is Thursday 11th September at 3 pm. The cost is £10 per person, please let Geoff know ASAP if you are interested.



HEVER CASTLE

On the 15th September we are going to Hever Castle in Kent. This was the home of Anne Boleyn, and is very well preserved. The gardens are exceptional, with something to see all year round. There are a few last-minute seats available, at £48 each. If you are interested in going, please contact David Morris on dm.bheadu3a@gmail.com.



BROOKLANDS MUSEUM

On Friday 24th October there will be a trip to Brooklands Museum. This is a self-drive visit with car sharing. If you would like to go and require a lift, this can be arranged. The entry cost is £32.00 each and includes admission, an hour guided tour, pointing out the main exhibits and the full Concorde Experience (including a boarding pass, presentation about Concorde plus you get to sit in the original Concorde seats!).



THE HOVERCRAFT MUSEUM

A visit to The Hovercraft Museum at Lee on the Solent has been arranged for Friday 10th October (timing to be confirmed). This is an excellent opportunity to visit a unique museum with strong local connections and right in the heart of where commercial hovercraft development took place. Tickets are £7.50 to be paid on

the day. This outing is being organised by Lin (jeanslinda@hotmail.com) and Tony (tlutchford@gmail.com). Please email them for full details or catch them at the next members meeting.



BOURNEMOUTH CHRISTMAS MARKET

We are planning a visit to Bournemouth Christmas Market and Tree Lights at the end of November. More details will be available at the September Members Meeting: watch this space!



2026 TRIPS

I am in the process of planning the outings for 2026. If you have any ideas of places you would like to visit, please let me know. The criterion for trips is that they should, where possible, be no more than two hours away and they must be venues that have somewhere indoors for people to shelter in if there is bad weather. Please let me have your suggestions.

Day Trip Dave Morris

Trips Co-ordinator dm.bheadu3a@gmail.com

Up for a cuppa?



Autumn dates:

Our coffee mornings continue to be very popular, but don't forget, you do need to buy your own drink!

The Autumn dates are:

The Hillier Garden Centre Café, 10.30am:

- Thursday 4th September
- Thursday 18th September
- Thursday 2nd October
- Thursday 16th October
- Thursday 6th November
- Thursday 20th November





Haskins Garden Centre Café, 10.30am:

- Monday 1st September
- Monday 6th October
- Monday 3rd November
- Monday 1st December

Tea and Talk Group

Held on the first Thursday of each month from 2pm to 4pm at Pinkmead Café, Kings Corner Curdridge SO30 2HA.

Contact Maria White directly on 07597 731 046 if you would like more information about Tea and Talk.



National u3a week 20th to 28th September



u3a week is taking place between Saturday 20th and Sunday 28th September 2025 with a celebration programme of online events focussing on positive ageing. These events are all exclusively open to u3a members and their friends, to help us spread the word about the benefits of being in the u3a movement. Here are the events taking place throughout the week:

- Age Without Limits: Celebrate Ageing with the Centre for Ageing Better
- Eating Well for Health and Vitality in Later Life
- What do official statistics reveal about positive ageing? With the Office of National Statistics
- My gardening life: decades on the plot, page, screen and airwaves with Barbara Segall
- Still Got It: Positive Ageing photography with photographer Mike Longhurst

Book your place on the [u3a week page](#).

Full details of all aspects of the u3a are available on the website www.u3a.org.uk. Everything from the latest news, on-line interest groups, events, national newsletters, u3a radio podcasts. It will be there!

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 Shirley Horseman.



My name is Shirley Horseman,

The photo is of me with husband Robin and our great grandchildren on a visit to the Pallant Gallery in Chichester. We had enjoyed an earlier visit there with the u3a Art Appreciation group and subsequently became Gallery members. (Children are given a welcome pack stacked with goodies to ensure their interest).

I was born in Yorkshire, near Rievaulx Abbey and came to live 'down South' in 1966, living in Winchester from 1976. Robin and I have lived in Botley for 16 years.

Since joining the u3a (Robin needed an initial push!) we really look forward to visiting beautiful ancient and not so ancient churches with histories so graphically brought to life by knowledgeable guides. We enjoy the walking groups which lend the opportunity to meet and chat with other members.

So much to do! - I never thought I would find myself writing a poem in Romsey Abbey!

Our thanks are due to our energetic and imaginative leaders - gosh, they put in so many hours on our behalf.

Shirley Horseman.

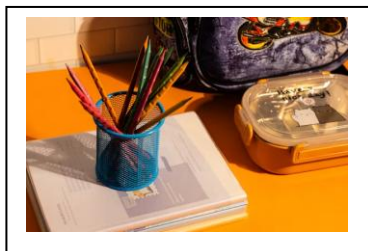
If you would like to tell us about yourself and your experience of the Botley, Hedge End & District u3a please send your feature, around 100-150 words long, and a photo to carol.hussey@hotmail.com and we'll include it in a future newsletter

2025 AGM



This year's AGM will be held at the members meeting on Wednesday 8th October in the Botley Market Hall.

u3a Learning Page Maths Challenge



Andrew, Brenda and Catherine will be attending the same primary school this September. In preparation, their aunt spent £90 between them last Christmas to spend on fun stationery, so that each received an amount proportional to their age. Andrew received £10 less than Brenda who received £10 less than Catherine.

How old are they?

More puzzles like this one can be found at www.u3a.org.uk/learning/learning-activities/maths-challenge where you can find the weekly question and answer sheets.

Talking of Christmas.....



Richard Whiting has arranged a second Christmas Lunch to be held at Brook House Masonic Centre on Thursday 4th December. The cost will be no more than £25 for a three-course festive menu, coffee and an excellent free raffle. Drinks can be bought at very competitive prices from the bar on the day.

The list to sign up for this event will be available at the September Members meeting. Spaces are limited to one hundred, so you are advised to book early. This was so successful last year we hope just as many, if not more of you will be able to join us this year.

Need to get in touch?



If you need to contact us direct, you can always leave a message using our mobile number: **07865 825 380**.
Someone will get back to you ASAP.

Can you help?

We are a happy band of committee members, all bringing individual skills to keep our u3a group alive and kicking, but please remember that there is a limit of time that we can remain on the team.

There will come a time when we will need members to step up and volunteer to join us. If you think you would be interested in joining us, please speak to any of us. We can give you the low down on what's involved. We've survived the last three years so it can't be too bad!

Maths challenge answer:

If Brenda received B pounds, then Andrew received $B - 10$ pounds, and Catherine received $B + 10$ pounds

$(B - 10) + B + (B + 10) = 3B = 90$ so, Brenda received £30, Andrew received £30 - £10 = £20, and Catherine received £30 + £10 = £40.

So, their ages are in the ratio 20:30:40 i.e., 2:3:4, and given that they are all about primary school age, they are 4, 6 and 8.

Andrew is 4, Brenda is 6 and Catherine is 8.

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 or see our Facebook page for more news.



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