

September 2026 Newsletter



Welcome from our Chair, Sue Derrick

Welcome

In the seemingly endless sweltering days this summer, trips and group activities have continued. Savill Garden and the Thames River cruise spring to mind, as do the boat trips upstream, and down, on the River Hamble.

Our larger groups, walking, strolling, gardens, church exploration and archaeology have engaged in the rich history and beautiful coast and countryside where we live.

Venues visited further afield have whetted the appetite for developing a programme of one-off events from ideas initiated by you, the members. Thank you in advance for suggesting and arranging such events as a day at the races, visits to the RNLI training school, to a gin distillery and to Highclere for a Downton Abbey experience. Please do not be daunted by taking on an event, guidance is on hand to steer you through the process. Thank you to Geoff Warden, for overseeing the start of this new venture.

Bluebird Care, specialists in the welfare and care of dementia sufferers, gave an excellent, informative and insightful presentation on how best to recognise and support those with the disease. On a less serious note, evening engagements have recently made an appearance in our calendar. The quizzing group has entered competitions locally, with varying levels of success, and quite a few members enthusiastically showed off their dancing prowess at the Itchen Country Park concert, 'Queen by Moonlight'.

Looking forward, booking is underway for the coach trips to Waddesdon Manor and the Christmas 'house dressing' at Polesdon Lacey. Available at the September Meeting will be the list for the Christmas Lunch at Brook House Masonic Centre in Botley on Thursday 3rd December. The AGM will soon be upon us, Wednesday, 14th October. The formal proceedings will be followed by a presentation on the History of Furzey Gardens. Further details of the format and procedures are in this Newsletter.

Thank you for your contributions throughout the summer, along with your submissions for this Newsletter, both written and photographic items, the proof-readers and the compiler, Carol Hussey, thus making sure this u3a continues to thrive and develop so we can all have fun, living and learning together.

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 topics are lined up for the next three members meetings:

- 9th September: A Beginning, a Muddle and an End
- 14th October: The History of Furzey Gardens
- 11th November: Tales of a Roving Reporter

News from your u3a Interest Groups

Full details on all our group activities can be found on our website or by contacting Geoff Warden, the Interest Groups Co-ordinator. Email ga.bheadu3a@gmail.com

Below is a selection of pictures and reports from our interest groups. Please send your group updates for the December newsletter:

Church Exploration Group



The Church Exploration Group enjoyed an interesting visit to Avenue St Andrew's Church in Southampton on 24th June and a fascinating tour with a very knowledgeable local historian, Andrew Negus, of St Peter's and St Paul's, Hambledon on 22nd July.

Garden Visits

On 10th August the group spent a lovely day at the Court House Garden in East Meon where the owners had managed to keep their Arts and Crafts garden looking fresh.



The Quizzing Group



On 12th June, the Quizzers had a fun night at the quiz held by West End's New Life After Domestic Abuse charity. Well done to Richard, Jean, Sue, Di and Leigh whose team took second place while the second team managed to hit middle ground!

Here are the answers to the quiz questions posted in June's Newsletter:

1. When did Vesuvius erupt and bury Pompeii? Vesuvius buried Pompeii on 24th August, 79 CE.
2. Why has Eric Spears' name appeared on our television screens nearly 12,000 times? Eric Spears composed the theme tune for Coronation Street

The September brain teasers are:

1. What would you be calculating using the mathematical formula π ?
2. How many bones are there in the human foot and ankle?

Answers will be in the December Newsletter

Richard Smith – richard.smith1947@ntlworld.com

Alfresco wine tasting in July



We had another fantastic afternoon with very unexpected perfect alfresco weather. It was great fun and highly educational with many happy and relaxed wine tasters enjoying the company of those they knew and those they didn't.

We have four wine tastings each year, with the first held in the Diamond Jubilee Hall in April 2023. The wine tasting coordinator of Southampton u3A was also invited and was surprised to find so many present. The Jubilee Hall attendance is normally around 36 to 38 members while the alfresco wine tasting has grown from 25 to 39 this year. We think we have the largest turnout at wine tastings of all the local u3A's.

A lot of thought goes into choosing the wines. Geoff normally has an idea for his choices and sometimes uses a theme such as football, New World wines or selects from a specific country, such as France. Apart from the great fun and chatter, we are educated to the various locations where the grapes are grown, how different wines are made and their alternative production methods. We learn of aromatic flavours via the interesting information sheets describing each wine. For each event we taste six different wines, usually two white, two rosé and two reds and sometimes champagne.

In July we started with a crémant rosé, a dry sparkling wine from France, followed by a French rosé from Provence, a South African Chenin Blanc from the Stellenbosch area, an Albarino from Spain's Galicia area, a Tuscan Chianti and finished with a French Burgundy Pinot Noir. We often discuss the wines and are informed as to the best foods they accompany.

The July wines were bought from Marks & Spencer's Classic collection. A variety of nibbles is regularly served at the wine tastings and July's were very well received. We are conscious of non-gluten eaters,

vegetarians and other food needs of our members. Two regular members of the group have led tastings, and anyone is welcome to share their own favourites with the group.

I suspect few of us are real connoisseurs in choosing wine, but we are all very practised at drinking it and every event is thoroughly enjoyed with lovely thanks and comments.

Jill Gaterell

Walking Group Update

The 25 walkers who joined the Bucklers Hard/Beaulieu walk on 18th August experienced an unexpected but refreshingly heavy shower, quite a rarity this summer!

If you would like to join one of Tony's walks, contact him either at the Members Meeting or by email at tluetchford@gmail.com.

For Sue's shorter walking groups, strollers and 'Walk 20', the contact email is derricksj3a@outlook.com.



We continue to have a wide range of group activities but remember to let us know what events your group is planning and send pictures when they take place so we can include them in future editions of the Newsletter. You can send them to carol.hussey@hotmail.com

Coach Outings and Trips



The return trip to Savill Garden took place on Tuesday 30th June. Members enjoyed a second chance to see the beautiful scenery while cruising along the River Thames for their cream teas.



The trip to Waddesdon Manor scheduled for Wednesday 30th September has one place available. A reserve list will be created if necessary. The cost is £32.00 for National Trust Members and £56.00 for non-National Trust Members. Here's a reminder that the coach will be leaving Mortimer Road Car Park (bus layby) at 9am, then picking up outside the Barleycorn Pub, Hedge End at 9.05am. If you have any enquires, I will be at the September Members Meeting.

The Trip to Polesdon Lacy on Monday 30th November is now on sale. The cost for National Trust Members is £27.00 and £45.00 for non-NT Members. The main house at Polesdon Lacy will be decorated for Christmas and will be very festive.

Payments can be made by cash or cheque at the Members Meetings or by BACs payment. I will be at the Members Meeting. if you have any enquires or I can be contacted at dm.bheadu3a@gmail.com



David Morris (Day Trip Dave)

River Hamble boat trips



The last of the boat trips on the River Hamble for 2026 took place on 5th August. Nine group members were last seen heading out to sea! Fingers crossed they made it back before dark.

Halloween Ghost Walk, 1st November 2026.

Dave Martin has found this intriguing Halloween Ghost Walk, starting from Holyrood Church at 6pm on Sunday 1st November.

Join the Sarah Siddons Fan Club as they share true stories from 500 years of Southampton's past of those who have been hung, drawn and quartered! Experience tales of evil, terror and ne'er-do-well crimes of which the perpetrators were given the ultimate sentence.

Tickets are limited and are available at <https://wegottickets.com/f/24734>. If you have a problem requesting a ticket or need transport, please contact Carol Hussey at carol.hussey@hotmail.com.



Coffee anyone?



Autumn dates:

Coffee mornings continue to take place through the autumn.

The dates are:

The Hillier Garden Centre Café, 10.30am:

- Thursday 3rd September
- Thursday 17th September
- Thursday 1st October
- Thursday 15th October
- Thursday 5th November
- Thursday 19th November



Haskins Garden Centre Café, 10.30am:

- Monday 7th September
- Monday 5th October
- Monday 2nd November

The afternoon Tea and Talk meetings that take place at the Pinkmead Bistro and Tea rooms are on hold at the moment.

Please see the group webpage for information updates on when it will return

Meet our members!

Continuing with the introductions from your fellow members, please meet Carol Hussey



My name is Carol,

You will know me as your u3a Publicity Officer, organiser of the Boardgames Group, Art Appreciation Group and editor of the Newsletter. I will often be found in the kitchen pouring tea and coffee at the monthly Members Meeting.

I moved to Botley 40 years ago with my husband and family. We like it so much we stayed. I joined the u3a after taking early retirement from my role with Winchester City Council, and as the group message says, I found myself with unused time on my hands so thought what better way to spend it than by joining our group. Talking of spare time, I now have a little more. For the last six years I have been studying with the Open University. This July I was awarded a BA with Honours in History! What's that they say about old dogs and new tricks!!!

Carol

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.

Botley in Bloom success for our members

The annual Botley in Bloom competition took place this July. Mike Toomey was the winner of the Back Garden category, with Jenny Ellis taking the joint runner up award. June Edwards took the winning award for the Cottage Garden category and was third in the Vegetable Garden section. We are pleased to send congratulations to our BHED u3a members who were successful.



Mike's back garden



June's cottage garden

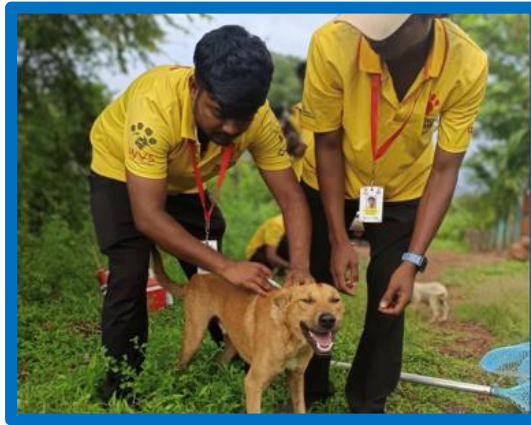
Support for Ukraine



Following a request from u3a member June Burden for donations of soap, toilet rolls, soup and candles for the refugees caught up in the Ukraine conflict. Our members responded with this outstanding collection of items which were sent on to Ukraine.

Thanks go to everyone who donated goods.

Mission Rabies



This article has been submitted by our BHED u3a member Leigh Elford:

Some of you will already know me and know that in a previous life I worked as a Veterinary Surgeon. Although I haven't picked up either a syringe or scalpel in earnest for almost two years now, I still feel that I would like to use my skills to contribute to something that I really believe is a worthwhile cause, so, when I met up with some of my old university friends last year and the topic of Mission Rabies came up, I was all attention.

- Every 9 minutes, someone in the world dies from rabies.
- 99% of human rabies cases are caused by dog bites.
- 40-60% of the resulting deaths are of children.

Mission Rabies was set up by a young vet from Dorset with the aim to eradicate worldwide human cases of rabies. Luke Gamble started the World Veterinary Organisation that works closely with the World Health Organisation.

India has the highest level of human rabies in the world, with over 5,700 deaths annually. Mission Rabies wanted to see if their methods could really make a difference where it mattered and began work in Goa in 2013.

The programme is spreading to more areas around the world, co-ordinating with other charities and governments. Goa has been declared rabies free, with no human cases in well over a year. Levels of human rabies around the world are starting to come down more rapidly.

The vaccinations must continue if we want to achieve eradication. Rabid dogs may migrate to a 'cleared' area, so vigilance must be maintained. Only when an isolated area is completely clear can vaccination stop.

I will be in Goa in February to help keep the momentum going. As volunteers, the team pay for their own vaccines, flights and accommodation which means that the charity's money is reserved for the purchase of Canine Rabies Vaccine and education. In addition to these personal costs, we are each asked to raise some funds to help their mission further. If anyone feels that they would like to help with this, I have set up a [GoFundMe](#) page, through which you can donate. If you do use this method, watch out, the page is inclined to add a "tip". This is optional, and you can decline it. If you would like to donate, but do not want to use this method, please speak to me directly, or contact me via my email, leigh.elford@gmail.com.

Thank you for taking the time to read this and thank you again if you feel you would like to donate to this project.



Leigh Elford

The mission has three main aims in each area they work in:

- To vaccinate at least 70% of all dogs, owned and strays. This will establish herd immunity, so that if an infected dog does come into the area, the rabies virus has nowhere to go.
- To educate as many people as possible on how to avoid bites, what to do if you are bitten to reduce the chance of infection, and where to find the important medical treatments to prevent the virus taking hold.
- To maintain surveillance and keep up with revaccination as needed.

Christmas is coming!!



This year's Christmas Lunch takes place at Brook House Masonic Centre in Botley on Thursday 3rd December. Sign up will be available at the September Members Meeting.

If you are unable to attend the meeting, don't worry, an email will go out to all members telling you everything you need to know.

It's AGM time again



The 2026 AGM will be held at 1.30pm on 14th October at the regular Members Meeting. All members will receive on 12th September an email giving formal notice of the AGM.

Nominations and proposals should be sent by 6th October in readiness for the agenda to be published on Wednesday 7th October.

The AGM will be followed by a presentation from Julia Baker on the history of Furzey Gardens.

Missing out? Check our Facebook page

You can find details of our u3a events on the Botley, Hedge End & District u3a Facebook page. You will find a wonderful range of photographs. This group is only accessible to our members, so images are not available to the public users of Facebook. It is a superb way of seeing what is going on in our u3a group.

Botley, Hedge End & District u3a



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