



June 2025 EDITION

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

The newly formed and streamlined committee has convened twice since our Annual General Meeting. We are gradually settling into our roles and beginning to develop plans for the upcoming year.

The committee meets on the first Monday of every month at Crossfield Hall. We would like to encourage members to attend these meetings to observe how we operate and importantly to share any thoughts or comments that you may have to help make U3A more attractive for both existing and new members. If you are interested in attending, please contact me directly so we can arrange a suitable meeting time.



*“Cracked record” theme this year will be the need for
Volunteers!*

It was challenging this year to find enough volunteers to take up key roles on the committee and to ensure Romsey Archway continues into 2025/26. To avoid similar difficulties next year, we are providing early notice of the potential need for more key members in a year's time. Please consider whether serving on the committee in some capacity and supporting Romsey Archway is something that interests you.

On a positive note we have had a number of people volunteer to join the Social Events working party that Janet Robinson our Social Secretary is leading and that's a really excellent outcome.

If you look at the “Dates for the Diary” table at the end of this newsletter, you'll see some placeholders inserted for events that are being planned already for the coming year.



My thanks to the volunteers and to Janet for such an enthusiastic and positive start to this important part of our offering for our membership.

Great North Run

One of our members, Nigel Hemsted, has been selected to run in the Great North Run in September on behalf of the u3a National team. Please do have a look at his item in the newsletter and support him if you can. Thank you.

Dave Green - Chair

SPEAKER MEETINGS

FROM DAVE GREEN - CHAIR

THIS MONTHS SPEAKER MEETING

Monthly Meeting at Crosfield Hall Doors open at 2.00pm speaker starts at 2.30pm.

This month's presentation is "**Captain Robert FitzRoy, Charles Darwin and the Voyage of HMS Beagle**" which will be provided by James Taylor

Monthly Meeting Crosfield Hall 2.00 for 2.30pm

2026 is the 200th anniversary of the first voyage of HMS Beagle when Fitzroy became Captain. This led to the second and famous expedition in 1831. This was the global voyage on which Charles Darwin sailed as naturalist and began collecting evidence for his publication 'The Origin of Species'. Also on board were two artists Earle and Martens who painted the people and places encountered.

FUTURE SPEAKER MEETINGS

You will see from the "Dates for the Diary Section" at the end of the newsletter that we now have booked speakers for the rest of the year that I hope will provide a wide variation of subject matter and presentation style with a mix of entertainment and learning.



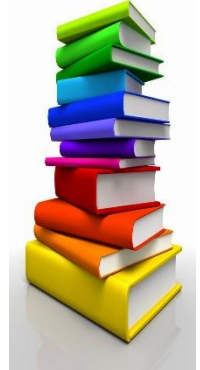


I am sure that you, like me, recognise that whilst we try to, it is simply not possible to please all the people all the time!

BOOK SWAP STALL

FROM RICHARD AND LUCY CROWDER

As usual the book swap stall will be open for business at the next speaker meeting. The organisers would like to emphasize that it is a book swap – so one in – one out. This will stop the number of books held becoming excessive. Currently we have far more books available than can be displayed at an individual meeting. While initially we appreciated members bringing more books that they took away, this situation is becoming unsustainable due to the space taken to store them.



CLUB WIDE SOCIAL EVENTS

FROM JANET ROBINSON SOCIAL SECRETARY

Janet Robinson and her team of social event volunteers have been giving some thought to a number of events that we will be looking to run over the coming year. The detail of some of these is still being worked on but for your information they're all now listed in the date for the diary section at the end of these notes.



QUIZ NIGHT

We have a quiz night being planned for the **12th of November** so please put a marker in your Diaries for what will if, previous quizzes are anything to go by prove to be a popular event. Apologies if there has been any confusion with the actual date for this event but we've had to change things to suit room bookings at Crosfield hall.





GROUP NEWS

FROM MARGARET AND MARION, THE GROUPS COORDINATORS

We are always looking for fresh ideas for new groups.

Do you have an idea? Then why not consider starting your own group? It's a lot easier than you think!

Please contact us and we will be happy to help you to collect names and set up a new group.



GROUPS LOOKING FOR NEW MEMBERS

GARDEN VISITS GROUP

Several members have shown an interest in starting a Garden Visits group. This could be a small, informal group of members who take it in turns to arrange a meetup at a garden.

Alternatively, there could be a group leader and helpers arranging a list of visits spread over the season for a larger group of people to attend.

Are there any of you who would like to get together and work out how this group could run?

Let us know if you would like to get involved and how you see the group evolving.



WALKING GROUP – TUESDAY TWO MILERS

'The Tuesday Two Milers' will walk locally on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month at 10am. Pace will not be fast. Full details will be given by email by the Sunday evening beforehand.

First two walks are :



June 10th From Cromwell Arms 2.3 miles, flat mainly pavements, some tracks, optional coffee at Cromwell Arms.

June 24th From Canada Common, West Wellow, 2.0 miles, flat, mainly gravel/stone tracks, some smooth grass. optional coffee at Rockingham Arms.

We are looking for more members so if you would like to join us please contact Mary via the groups page on the website.

WALKING GROUP - NEW 4-6 MILES GROUP? (But Not On A Thursday!)



Our existing 3–6–mile walking group is a very successful and popular group. Thank you to Lesley Hagger for all her hard work in making it so.

We are in the process of forming a second mid distance walking group for those who cannot make a Thursday or you could join both if you have the time!

If you are interested in meeting other members and getting some exercise whilst exploring the Hampshire countryside, please let Margaret know via the new groups page on the website.

https://romseyarchway.u3asite.uk/u3a_groups/walking-new-4-6-miles-not-thursdays/

PHOTOGRAPHY BEGINNERS

This is a group that runs intermittently when there is demand. There has been recent interest in this group and so Dave Green, the group leader, is proposing to run another series of meetings where he will help explain how to "drive" a digital camera, improve general knowledge of the kit and technology and the benefits that this knowledge can bring to the hobby of photography. If this is something that you would be





interested in, please do feel free to contact him direct through our web page and he will include you in the next series of meetings.

GROUPS REPORT

2-3 MILES WALKING GROUP

2nd June 2025 Walk around Romsey.

11 members of the group, led by Hazel and Carole, met at The Cromwell Arms and did a walk of two miles. The walk took us to



the Salmon Leap and on round to Millstream Rise, taking in the wildflowers on the Abbey Green. At the end of the walk, we stopped for coffee at The Cromwell Arms.

One member spotted this Victorian-era post box (no longer taking collections!)



Admiring wildflowers in the Abbey grounds

MEMBERSHIP

FROM HEATHER TRIM BUSINESS SECRETARY AND MEMBERSHIP

A warm welcome to 2 new members this month: Colleen I and Claire B.

We do not always hear if our members are sadly no longer with us or have moved into a nursing home and can no longer play an active role so please do let the membership secretary know if there are any changes you think we should be aware of during the year..





MEMBERS NEWS

PLEASE SUPPORT ME!

Earlier this year an email was sent out to all u3a members in the UK asking for volunteers to run the Great North run as part of a u3a team. I'm a keen runner but have never run the Great North run - it's a half marathon (13.1 miles) from Newcastle to South Shields, and is the largest half marathon in the UK. I applied expecting that there would be lots of applicants and that I'd be disappointed.

At the end of March, I heard that I'd been selected as part of the u3a team for this year's race on 7th September. So now all I need to do is keep fit for the race - and also raise some sponsorship funds!

If you'd like to help me raise money for u3a - and I'm sure you'd agree it's a great cause - my fundraising page is at

<https://ajbellgreatnorthrun2025.enthuse.com/pf/nigel-hemsted>

Many thanks – Nigel Hemsted



COMMITTEE MATTERS

Committee Roles that are currently vacant

Whilst we are able to operate as a committee, just! We are still very keen to get members to volunteer for the following roles:-

- Groups Co-ordinator
- Business Secretary
- Committee Members generally





OTHER VACANT VOLUNTEER POSITIONS

- Speaker Co-ordinator. –Non committee role
- Speaker Meetings Working Party. We are still happy to look at alternative styles of monthly meetings and if a small group of you wanted to get together to explore alternatives for consideration you would be more than welcome. Please contact our Chair if it's something you'd like to take part in.
- Content Creator—To work on creating web and social media content.
- Facebook Admin—Non committee role
- Newsletter Editor—Non committee role
- Beacon Admin—Non committee role

Please contact Dave Green or any committee member if you would like any more information about any of the above.

SUGGESTION BOX

A reminder that we have a “suggestion box” on our website that is there for you to give us any feedback on events and speakers etc. and also any thoughts or ideas you might have about how we may develop our u3a or better support you as members.

<https://romseyarchway.u3asite.uk/contact/>

SOCIAL MEDIA

FROM RICHARD CROWDER – WEB ADMIN

Just a reminder to encourage you to take some photographs of the various u3a events and activities that you get up to so that we can publish them on the website and also in this newsletter. This is just to promote and share what we do and what we are about.



facebook

Also, and on a similar vein it would be good if people could use our members Facebook page more to publicise and promote to other members information on activities, events and group information.



DATES FOR THE DIARY

Thursday 12th June	<p>Monthly Meeting Crosfield Hall 2.00 for 2.30pm</p> <p>Captain Robert FitzRoy, Charles Darwin and the Voyage of HMS Beagle by James Taylor. 2026 is the 200th anniversary of the first voyage of HMS Beagle when Fitzroy became Captain. This led to the second and famous expedition in 1831. This was the global voyage on which Charles Darwin sailed as naturalist and began collecting evidence for his publication 'The Origin of Species'. Also on board were two artists Earle and Martens who painted the people and places encountered.</p>
Thursday 10th July	<p>Monthly Meeting Crosfield Hall 2.00 for 2.30pm</p> <p>A SOLO WALK ACROSS AFRICA by critically acclaimed author and public speaker Fran Sandham who took on the challenge of a lifetime, by walking across Africa from Namibia's Skeleton Coast on the Atlantic to the Indian Ocean near Zanzibar – completely alone!</p>
12th August	<p>Newcomers Coffee morning. 10.30 Annex Room at Crosfield Hall</p>
Thursday 14th August	<p>Monthly Meeting Crosfield Hall 2.00 for 2.30pm</p> <p>The Secret Saboteurs of WW2. The amazing role of Special Operations Executive in WW2. A fascinating and secret unit tasked by Winston Churchill to "Set Europe Ablaze"</p>
Sunday 31st August 2025.	<p>Picnic in the Park (Times to be advised, and also weather permitting). The Michelmersh silver band will be playing on the bandstand, in the Romsey Memorial Park.</p>
Thursday 11th September	<p>Monthly Meeting Crosfield Hall 2.00 for 2.30pm</p> <p>A special performance by members of one of our groups. More details will follow</p>
Early autumn – Date (TBC)	<p>Skittles evening to be held at West Wellow golf club. More details will follow</p>



Thursday 9th October	Monthly Meeting Crosfield Hall 2.00 for 2.30pm Presentation on Op Overlord Jeremy Prescott
Wednesday 12th November	Quiz Night Crosfield Hall 7.00pm
Thursday 13th November	Monthly Meeting Crosfield Hall 2.00 for 2.30pm The Mary Rose. A presentation by Dawn Perrier , one of the divers on the Mary Rose from the Mary Rose Trust.
Thursday 11th December	Christmas Event and Monthly Meeting Crosfield Hall 2.00 for 2.30pm Details to be confirmed
2026	
Thursday 8th January	Monthly Meeting Crosfield Hall 2.00 for 2.30pm Jackie Dimmock, an ex policewoman, will tell the story of a life as a police woman that was Good, Bad and Downright Funny . Her story is told with the aid of Tapestries!
January (Date TBC)	Solent Sky Museum More details to follow
Thursday 12th February	Monthly Meeting Crosfield Hall 2.00 for 2.30pm Beyond Beliefs: One Family's Incredible Story (Part 2) Dr Sohail Husain, a return visit for this speaker whose first presentation was extremely well received, and this is Part 2 of that Story
Thursday 12th March	Monthly Meeting Crosfield Hall 2.00 for 2.30pm Details to be confirmed
March / April 2026	See Southampton Guided Tour – More details to follow

NB

**For Regular Monthly Speaker Meetings: Doors Open 2.00pm for Tea and Coffee,
Speaker Commences 2.30m**



USEFUL INFORMATION

There is a lot of useful information about u3a that can be found on the National U3A Website at <https://www.u3a.org.uk>

Our Romsey and Archway u3a Website is <https://romseyarchway.u3asite.uk>

You can contact us at <https://romseyarchway.u3asite.uk/contact/>

Please join our Romsey Archway Facebook at –
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/443593039767427>