



July 2025 EDITION

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

First and foremost, I am delighted by the spirit of camaraderie that continues to define our u3a. It's a joy to see new faces at our gatherings and to witness lasting friendships take root. Thank you for extending such a warm welcome to all newcomers; your kindness makes all the difference and makes our u3a special.



Looking ahead, we have plenty more to look forward to. Our activity groups are as vibrant as ever. Whether you're into literature, walking, painting, or bridge, there's a corner of our community waiting for you. Please do check the calendar and get involved—if you've been thinking about trying something new, now's the perfect time!

As always, our committee is here to listen to your ideas and suggestions. Let us know what you'd like to see more of—be it speakers, outings, or new interest groups. Remember, this is your u3a, shaped by your enthusiasm and imagination.

More group leaders required!

We have had a number of suggestions for groups and have put these suggestions forward to the membership. Unfortunately, unless there is one or two of you willing to step forward to become group leaders it is difficult to get the suggestions off the ground and create more active interest groups. We will continue to publicise these new group ideas and hopefully along the way we will get the volunteers we need help to create even more groups and make our u3a even more fulfilling.

If you've ever wondered how our u3a is organised or would simply like to share your own ideas directly, why not come along to one of our committee meetings? We warmly invite all members to join us, observe how we work behind the scenes, ask questions, and offer



suggestions. It's a fantastic opportunity to see our decision-making in action and to discover ways you might like to get more involved. Your perspective is invaluable, and we'd love to welcome you.

If you have taken photographs of recent group activities, outings, or special events, please consider sharing them with us. By submitting your photos, you help us showcase the wonderful diversity of our community in the newsletter and on our website, inspiring others to get involved and highlighting the fun and friendship at the heart of our u3a. Your snapshots could capture memories for everyone and encourage even more members to join in!

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 **"A SOLO WALK ACROSS AFRICA"** which will be provided by Fran Sandham Critically acclaimed author and public speaker Fran Sandham 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: no backup, no support team, no one to carry his gear, no sponsors, no film crew, no journalists, no fuss, no cheering crowds, and no strings attached. Above all, it had to be on a one-way ticket: no safety nets, no get-out clauses and nothing to fall back on...!

FUTURE SPEAKER MEETINGS

You will see from the "Dates for the Diary Section" that we have had to make some changes to the September 2025 and March 2026 speakers.



The September speaker meeting is now **BEATLES MYTHS AND LEGENDS.**

Probably the one Beatles story you don't know well. A, by-turns; amazing, chilling and hilarious account of stories told about the Fab Four that beggar belief but are – occasionally – true! Put a placeholder in diary now!



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

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES



Picnic in the park on Sunday 31 August 2025 (from 2.30 p.m. to 4.30 p.m.), will be held in Romsey War Memorial Park – (Michelmersh Silver Band will be playing on the bandstand}; Please arrive at 2.00 p.m., to reserve a space.





Skittles evening on Friday 10 October 2025 (from 7.00 p.m. to 10.00 p.m.), will be held at Wellow Golf Club. There are 5 spaces left, so if you are interested in attending, please contact Janet Robinson, via email socialesecretaryarchway@hotmail.com



Quiz night on Wednesday 12 November 2025 (from 7.30 p.m. to 10.30 p.m.) will be held at Crosfield Hall, Romsey. Details to follow.

Christmas event on Thursday 11 December 2025 (from 2.00 p.m. to 4.00 p.m.) will be held at Crosfield Hall, Romsey. Details to follow.



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.



POTENTIAL NEW GROUPS

PORTUGUESE BEGINNERS

We have a member who is looking to share the process of learning Portuguese with other u3a members. The idea of the group would be to work either together or separately from the same book/online course but meeting in a cafe to share progress and practice.

If you are interested, please let the Groups Coordinators know.



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 4-6 MILES? (BUT NOT ON A THURSDAY!)

We are in the process of forming a second mid distance walking group for those who are unable make our existing group on a Thursday.

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/



GROUPS LOOKING FOR MEMBERS

TUESDAY TWO MILERS

Our newest walking group has space for more members.

'The Tuesday Two Milers' plan to walk locally on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month at 10am. Pace will not be fast.

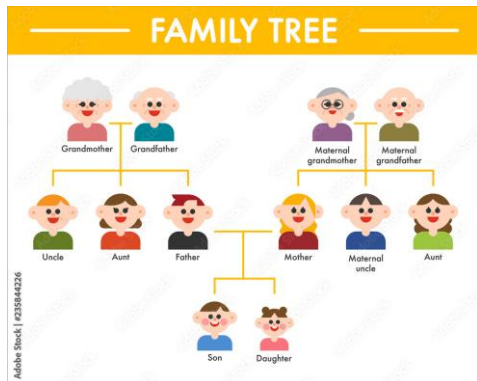
Full details will be given by email by the Sunday evening beforehand.

IF you are interested in joining this group please message Mary via the group's webpage.



GROUPS REPORT

FAMILY & SOCIAL HISTORY GROUP



Many of us will have sons, daughters, grandchildren and other relatives all over the UK, or even further afield – but such geographical migration certainly wasn't the case for most of our ancestors.

Visiting family historian Laurie Page told last month's meeting of the Family & Social History Group that until the 1930s, more than 50 per cent of those swapping area moved less than six miles.

He went on to reveal that over the course of five generations, members of his own family had travelled a whopping five miles between them!

Laurie took us through the eleven 'principles of migration' proposed by Ernst Ravenstein in 1885 following his research into late 19th century census returns.

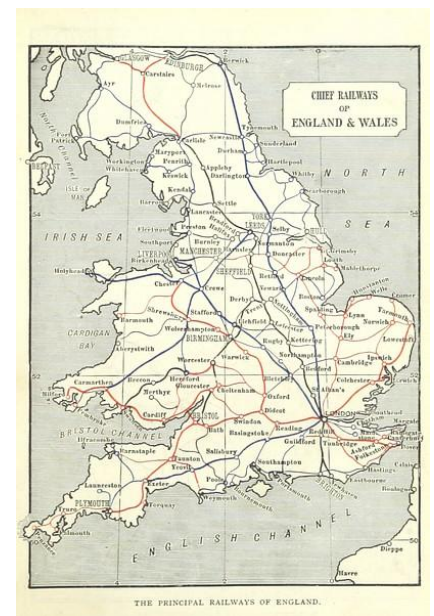
Ravenstein showed that most migrants travelled short distances, were adults without children, were more likely to move from rural areas to urban areas rather than vice versa, and (unsurprisingly) were usually motivated to move by economic factors.

The biggest change since then has been to modes of transport.

Before the arrival of the railway, most people had neither the means nor the money to travel far. Migration tended to be from one parish to the next because it could be accomplished on foot.

The growth of the UK rail network from 1830 to the early 20th century is extraordinary, and gradually allowed people to move further and further away in search of work (if you want to have a look, the Cambridge Group for the History of Population and Social Structure has a great animation).

The growth in personal car ownership has simply amplified and extended this trend.





Of course, such movement can make it even harder to follow families through the records, but Laurie was able to share a number of tips and tricks that have helped him solve seemingly intractable mysteries.

If you're interested in tracking your family's moves through space and time, why not join our group?

We're friendly, supportive, not in the least bit nerdy and meet at Braishfield Village Hall where the Pantry does wonderful home-made cakes! Find us on the Archway U3A website.

Peter Champion, Family & Social History Group coordinator.

THEATRE GOERS REPORT

On 12th June eight members of the Theatregoers group made another visit to the Theatre Royal Winchester, this time to see Sherlock Holmes and the Thief of Antiquity. None of us knew anything about it, but we were all expecting a typical Conan Doyle mystery. Usually, the solving of a crime is the basic premise, but in this case the plot focused on the prevention of one. There were a number of red herrings and plenty of clues to exercise the brain. The atmosphere of Victorian London was beautifully evoked by costumes and sets, while the use of subtitles made it easy to follow the action.

What was surprising about this production was that the actors all belonged to Blue Apple, a disability group. They performed their roles very effectively, from Holmes and Watson, who both had a great many challenging lines, to the scary red clad masked women who sang their conundrums to us.

We all agreed that the most striking feature of the show was the obvious enjoyment of all the participants. It was a new and fun experience for us and we were very impressed by the high production values.



MEMBERSHIP

FROM HEATHER TRIM BUSINESS SECRETARY AND MEMBERSHIP

We welcome 3 new members this month: Joan E, Lawrence L and Andrew S bringing our membership to 465.



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.

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 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>
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Tuesday 5th August	Newcomers Coffee morning. 10.30 Annex Room at Crosfield Hall
Thursday 14th August	Monthly Meeting Crosfield Hall 2.00 for 2.30pm 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"
Thursday 11th September	Monthly Meeting Crosfield Hall 2.00 for 2.30pm BEATLES MYTHS AND LEGENDS Probably the one Beatles story you don't know well. A, by-turns, amazing, chilling and hilarious account of stories told about the Fab Four that beggar belief but are – occasionally – true. The imaginative genius and terrifying reality of Beatle fandom is here exposed in a range of tales from the fairly well known (John was assassinated to order/Paul died in 1966 and was replaced by an impostor) to the lesser known story of George's similar replacement in the mid-seventies and the widely held belief among some that the band recorded under assumed names well into the late 1970's. Somewhere along the line we'll also attack the myth that there is very little that's interesting about Ringo Starr!
Early autumn – Date (TBC)	
Thursday 9th October	Monthly Meeting Crosfield Hall 2.00 for 2.30pm Presentation on Op Overlord Jeremy Prescott
Friday 10th October	Skittles evening to be held at West Wellow golf club. More details will follow
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 Ministering Angel . Meet Nursing Superintendent Shaw, good friend and colleague of Florence Nightingale and discover why she left Netley Hospital in disgrace. Speaker is an actress who dresses and acts the part
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>