



August 2025 EDITION

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## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Dear Members,

We are always on the lookout for fresh ideas and engaging speakers for our meetings. If you've recently attended an event or know someone who would inspire our members—whether through a talk, demonstration, or sharing a unique skill—please get in touch. Your suggestions help us keep our speaker programme vibrant and varied.



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### *More group leaders required!*

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With the growth of our activities, we're eager to launch new interest groups. However, to do so, we need more group leaders. If you're passionate about a topic and want to bring fellow members together, consider stepping forward. Your leadership can make a real difference and help create opportunities for others to learn and connect. Take a look at the Groups Section of this newsletter for more information.

Remember, all members are welcome to sit in on our next committee meeting, taking place on 1st September. This is an open invitation for anyone curious about how we run things behind the scenes—no strings attached! If you're interested, simply reach out to me so we can arrange your visit.

Our newsletter is not just a bulletin—it's a space to celebrate our community. If you have stories, experiences, or photographs from recent u3a activities, I encourage you to share them with us. Let's continue to make this newsletter a lively reflection of all the wonderful things happening in our u3a.



Wishing you all a fantastic month ahead.

*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.

Our speaker for this month is Peter Power who will be talking on the subject of :-



### **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”. However, from the outset SOE faced considerable opposition from the allies, well before the enemy had ever heard from them. Yet SOE agents demonstrated remarkable courage and resourcefulness in their guerrilla war, resulting in General D Eisenhower saying “...they played a very considerable part in our complete and final victory”. This talk will bring back to life the organisation, its Obstacles, Triumphs, Tricks & Tragedies.

### **FUTURE SPEAKER MEETINGS**

As a reminder 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 no spaces left, this is now fully booked. Thanks to all those that showed interest in this event.



**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.





## GROUPS LOOKING FOR MEMBERS

### WALKING GROUP – TUESDAY TWO MILERS

'The Tuesday Two Milers' plan to walk locally on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month. If you would like to join us, please contact Mary via the groups page on the website.



### PLANNED WALKS;

Tuesday August 12th Eling

Tuesday August 26th Fishlake

Tuesday September 9th Wellow church

Tuesday September 23rd Tadburn Meadows



### BOOK CLUB 1

This group now has a space for a new member. It meets on the third Wednesday of month at 14:00. For more information contact the group leader via the Archway website..

## IDEAS FOR 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



## **BUS PASS EXPLORERS GROUP**

Are you looking for a new way to get involved and meet fellow members? We're looking for someone to lead an exciting new interest group—the Bus Pass Explorers! The idea is simple and sociable: group members will hop on a local bus (using their passes), travel together to a chosen destination,



enjoy a relaxed stroll, perhaps a drink or a meal, and then return home together. If you're enthusiastic, organised, and keen to help others explore, we'd love to hear from you. Please let the Groups Coordinators know if you're interested in taking on this friendly and rewarding role!

## **GROUPS REPORT / GROUP NEWS**

### **FAMILY & SOCIAL HISTORY GROUP**

Our well-attended July meeting was an object lesson in family and social history –literally so, as each member showed and talked about one or more objects that held some special meaning for them.

There were family bibles and books, jewellery, coins, a gorgeous silver jug, a flat iron, a shoe last, a monocular, flint axe-heads and even a 114-year-old, tissue-thin placenta!

Most had little financial worth but enormous sentimental value through their link back to our personal family histories, and some told stories about social history too.

The axe heads, for example, illustrated how the livelihoods of flint knappers fluctuated with the tides of war. A family-printed book described the trials and tribulations of early immigrants to Canada.

The most desirable objects of all, though, are recorded family histories.

Most of us regret that we didn't get our parents and grandparents to write down their memories and life stories. We also recognised that we should now write down or otherwise record our own stories, so that our children can understand that part of their history.



All in all, it was a fascinating lesson in the power, importance and meaning of objects. I suspect we'll return to this theme in the future because there's more for all of us to learn and tell.

*Peter Champion, Family & Social History Group coordinator.*

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## MEMBERSHIP

### FROM HEATHER TRIM BUSINESS SECRETARY AND MEMBERSHIP

A warm welcome to 4 new members this month: Philip M, Patricia and David W and Terence M.

Thank you to everyone that attended the recent coffee morning to welcome our new members..



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## COMMITTEE MATTERS

Committee Roles that are currently vacant

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
- 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

After 18 months, it is time to update our front page. To help move forward I am looking for a number of photographs that represent our groups. So photographs of members enjoying one of the following would be most helpful: Arts and Craft, Food and Drink, Games, History, Languages, Literature, Music, Natural History, Sport and Walking would be most helpful. If your pictures have members in fram, please ensure you have informed them that the images are for the Website and they agree to the use of the image online.



We encourage you to take photographs of the our u3a events and activities that you get up to so that we can publish them on the website and also in this newsletter. This will promote us and share what we do and what we are about.

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



## DATES FOR THE DIARY



<b>Thursday 14th August</b>	Monthly Meeting Crosfield Hall 2.00 for 2.30pm <b>The Secret Saboteurs of WW2.</b> The amazing role of Special Operations Executive in WW2. A fascinating and secret unit tasked by Winston Churchill to "Set Europe Ablaze"
<b>Thursday 11th September</b>	Monthly Meeting Crosfield Hall 2.00 for 2.30pm <b>BEATLES MYTHS AND LEGENDS</b> 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!
<b>Thursday 9th October</b>	Monthly Meeting Crosfield Hall 2.00 for 2.30pm Presentation on <b>Op Overlord</b> Jeremy Prescott
<b>Friday 10th October</b>	<b>Skittles evening</b> to be held at West Wellow golf club. More details will follow
<b>Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> November</b>	<b>Quiz Night</b> Crosfield Hall 7.00pm
<b>Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> November</b>	Monthly Meeting United Reform Church 2.00 for 2.30pm <b>The Mary Rose.</b> A presentation by Dawn Perrier , one of the divers on the Mary Rose from the Mary Rose Trust.



Thursday 11th December	<b>Christmas Event</b> 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 <b>Good, Bad and Downright Funny</b> . Her story is told with the aid of Tapestries!
January (Date TBC)	<b>Solent Sky Museum</b> More details to follow
Thursday 12th February	Monthly Meeting Crosfield Hall 2.00 for 2.30pm <b>Beyond Beliefs: One Family's Incredible Story (Part 2)</b> 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 <b>Ministering Angel</b> . 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	<b>See Southampton Guided Tour</b> – 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>