

NEWSLETTER

THE ARCHER



u3a
Romsey Archway

September 2025 EDITION

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Dear Members,

A number of things to raise this month....

We'd love to see your recent group activity photos—please send them along so we can share them on our website!

A quick note: Lucy and Richard are away this month, so there won't be a Book Stall at the September Speaker Meeting.

Exciting news: the regional u3a is hosting an inter-u3a Network Quiz, and we're forming a team of six to represent our club. If you're interested, check out the details inside and let us know—we'd be thrilled to have you join in!

Thank you to everyone who made it to our picnic in the park. It was wonderful to see such a turnout given the very variable weather we've been having lately! and good to hear that everyone had a great time together.

Our recent newcomers coffee morning was also a big success, with new members joining and lots of interest in our groups. A special thank you to all the helpers and Group Leaders for their enthusiasm and for helping members discover new opportunities.

Curious about what's next? Be sure to read about our new groups—there's something for everyone!





Remember, all members are welcome to sit in on our next committee meeting, taking place on 1st Monday of the month. 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.

Wishing you all a fantastic month ahead.

Dave Green - Chair

SPEAKER MEETINGS

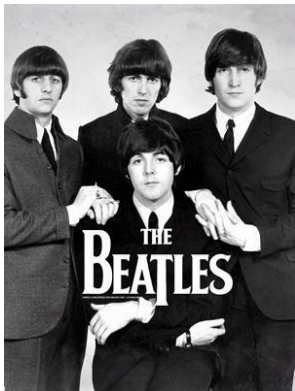
FROM DAVE GREEN – CHAIR

THIS MONTHS SPEAKER MEETING

Monthly Meeting will be on September 11th at Crosfield Hall. Doors open at 2.00pm speaker starts at 2.30pm.

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

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!





BOOK SWAP STALL

FROM RICHARD AND LUCY CROWDER



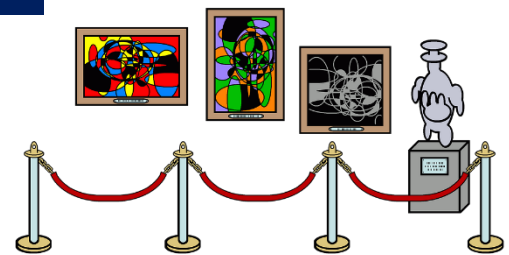
Richard and Lucy will not be open for business at this month's Speaker Meeting but will be back again for the October meeting



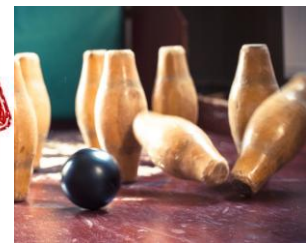
CLUB WIDE SOCIAL EVENTS

FROM JANET ROBINSON SOCIAL SECRETARY

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES



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.



REGIONAL U3A QUIZ EVENT



Following on from last year's successful event the Regional u3a team are organising an inter u3a quiz event. It would be great if we could submit a team to compete against the likes of Winchester, New Milton, Eastleigh etc



The quiz is being held at Wells Place Centre, Wells Place, Eastleigh, SO50 5LJ on Tuesday 21st October at 2-4pm and costs £5 per person to cover teas etc.



We are looking for teams of six u3a members so if it's something for you please let Dave Green have your names and he will pass them on to the organisers

<https://swhampshirenetwork.u3asite.uk/>



Romsey Archway u3a 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.



PICNIC IN THE PARK



It took place at Romsey Memorial Park on 31 August, bringing together members for an enjoyable afternoon.

The Michelmersh Silver Band entertained attendees with a lively selection of well-known tunes. Their repertoire included favourites like "Baggy Trousers," "I

Would Walk 500 Miles," "Barbie," "Sweet Caroline," "New York," and a variety of other popular songs.

The afternoon was graced with mostly pleasant weather, aside from a brief shower.



If you would like to help with social events or join the social group, please contact socialsecretaryarchway@hotmail.com.

GROUP NEWS

FROM MARGARET AND MARION, THE GROUPS COORDINATORS

The development of new groups depends entirely on the talents and creativity of Romsey Archway u3a members. We welcome ideas for new groups and will help you research them to see if there is a core of interest amongst our members.

We have recently received a few suggestions, and these can be found below.



SUGGESTIONS FOR NEW GROUPS

CURRY CLUB

One of our members, Kathy, has offered to lead a monthly Curry Club. For those of you who love Indian food, here is your chance to dine out with a group of like-minded friends.

The group will probably meet on a Wednesday evening, with members taking it in turns to choose and book somewhere: a chance to introduce members to your favourite restaurant and style of cooking! It could be Romsey, Eastleigh, Chandlers Ford, Southampton or even further afield. Members could share lifts if needed.



Let the Groups Coordinators know via the website if you are interested in joining the group.

LIVE CLASSICAL MUSIC



Fancy going to some classical music concerts/ recitals together? 🎵

We're hoping to put together a group of people who'd enjoy some company while going along to live performances. Local



ideas include the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra, Turner Sims Hall, or the Welsh National Opera at the Mayflower.

If we're up for a bigger adventure, we could even head further afield—maybe a trip to London by train.

If this sounds like your thing, come along and share your ideas too—we'd love to hear your suggestions for other concerts and venues.

If you are interested, initially please contact the Groups Co-ordinator via the webpage.

WOODWIND

Would you like to learn/re-learn the Clarinet, Saxophone, Flute or other Woodwind instrument?

Following the success of our various ability u3a guitar groups, we are presently exploring other musical opportunities for group 'popular music' learning with a current focus on Woodwind.



Many members will likely have an unused musical treasure stored away or the opportunity to obtain a first-time instrument but may presently lack opportunity to learn with likeminded others.

With this in mind, we are seeking members who may be interested in joining an early-learner mixed Woodwind Group. Musically we plan to focus on the playing of popular modern standards rather than classical or jazz. Perhaps you are already a Van Morrison or Gerry Rafferty 'air saxophonist'. Or maybe the next *Stranger on the Shore*?

Making use of our current guitar groups approach we are additionally seeking a Group Facilitator volunteer with existing playing abilities on either sax or clarinet to initially act as leader thereby helping us to sign up players and fix a first series of playing sessions.

Ideally, we are hoping for regular, fortnightly or weekly meetings commencing early Autumn for players to come together and begin learning a range of popular tunes using eye, ear and musical score songbooks.



Music note sight reading is not a requirement to join the group and to begin playing. Enthusiasm and a willingness to practice are the key to this new learning opportunity.

If you are interested in joining our Woodwind group, either as a new learner or as an intermediate player with a willingness to share musical knowledge then please do contact the Groups Coordinator via the webpage.

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!

PÉTANQUE 2

Thank you to David Doulton who has agreed to be the contact and leader for our new Tuesday Pétanque group. To find out more details or to join the group please contact David via groups website page.



GROUPS LOOKING FOR NEW MEMBERS

THE TUESDAY TWO MILERS WALKING GROUP

'The Tuesday Two Milers' walk locally on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month.

If you would like to join them, please contact Mary via the groups page on the website.

Planned walks;

Tuesday September 9th Wellow church

Tuesday September 23rd Tadburn Meadows



NEWS UPDATES FROM YOUR GROUPS

FISHLAKE MEADOWS BIRDWATCHING



The group met as usual on the first Wednesday of the month for a walk around the Meadows.

It's a quiet time of year bird wise but we did manage to spot 21 species of birds. The highlights being Willow Warblers and flying Great White Egrets

We also spotted a Robin's Pincushion.



This distinctive growth lives up to its common name and appears as red round and hairy or mosslike structure. They are typically found on wild roses. It is caused by the larvae of a tiny gall wasp *Diplolepis Rosae*.

WALKING 2-3 MILE GROUP

WEST WELLOW WALK AUGUST 2025



In August 14 members of the group, led by Ann Waters met for a 3.5K walk round West Wellow, which included crossing the ford via the bridge and then on to St Margaret's church (where Florence Nightingale is buried), passing a vineyard and through woods.

The walk ended at Headlands Farm Coffee Shop for welcome refreshments.



BIG WALK GROUP

Our August outing was an eight-mile circuit, largely through woods and with little hill-climbing, ably led by Kathy Taylor. The weather was dry and a pleasant temperature for our walk.



Seven of us started outside the Cuckoo Inn at Hamptworth and, skirting Hamptworth Golf Course, made our way through Langley Wood Nature Reserve, Loosehanger Copse and Burnt Ground Wood to Bramshaw Telegraph. On the way we encountered a fine specimen of sulphur polyphore fungus (chicken of the woods, pictured) and discovered that there is an RSPB reserve under development in Franchises Wood next to Bramshaw Telegraph.



We then returned through Franchises Wood and past Lyburn Farm to the Cuckoo, where three of us enjoyed lunch.

MEMBERSHIP

FROM HEATHER TRIM BUSINESS SECRETARY AND MEMBERSHIP

A warm welcome to 9 new members: Denise B, Debbie V, Lizanne H, Ros B, Stella J, Andrew H, Sharon and Graham B and Michael N.



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



COMMITTEE MATTERS

RISK ASSESSMENTS

Just a gentle reminder to ensure that group leaders keep members, particularly any new members of their groups, updated with regard to any specific risk assessments that have been carried out for their particular group activities. Also a reminder that we all have an obligation to check the personal risk assessment that reminds us all of our personal responsibility re activities we undertake.



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 frame, 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



Thursday 11th September	<p>Monthly Meeting Crosfield Hall 2.00pm for 2.30pm</p> <p>BEATLES MYTHS AND LEGENDS</p> <p>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!</p>
Thursday 9th October	<p>Monthly Meeting Crosfield Hall 2.00pm for 2.30pm</p> <p>Presentation on Op Overlord</p> <p>Jeremy Prescott</p>
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	<p>Monthly Meeting United Reform Church 2.00pm for 2.30pm</p> <p>The Mary Rose. A presentation by Dawn Perrier , one of the divers on the Mary Rose from the Mary Rose Trust.</p>
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 2.00pm 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 2.00pm 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 2.00pm 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 2.30pm

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>