

NEWSLETTER

THE ARCHER

APRIL 2026



u3a
Romsey Archway

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN



Dear u3a Members,

Hello everyone! I really hope you'll join us for the AGM—it's a great chance to catch up on how things are going and show your support for the committee, especially for those folks who've kindly agreed to stick around for another year. Alongside my usual update, I'll also touch briefly on a resolution we'd like you to vote on. It's all about whether we should explore the benefits and drawbacks of the two Romsey u3as joining forces. Just to be clear, nothing's been decided yet! If it looks like a good idea, there'll be more chances for everyone to have their say before any final decisions are made.

Take a peek at the list of events we've included at the end of this newsletter—we've lined up speakers for our monthly meetings all the way through January! We've been putting in a lot of effort to find people who are not only engaging and fun but also bring a variety of topics to the table. If you were at last month's meeting, I'm sure you enjoyed the performance, our speaker truly brought Nursing Superintendent Shaw to life as the Ministering Angel, a close friend and colleague of Florence Nightingale. It was a real treat!

I'm also thinking about shaking up our newsletter format to help lighten the load on our hardworking team. The idea would be to have a short, two- or three-page news sheet or noticeboard each month, and then put out a fuller newsletter packed with updates about our groups, trips, and more. Let me know what you think—your feedback is always welcome!

Wishing you all a very happy Easter, and I'm looking forward to seeing you at the AGM!

Warm regards,

Dave Green - Chair



SPEAKER MEETINGS

THIS MONTHS SPEAKER MEETING

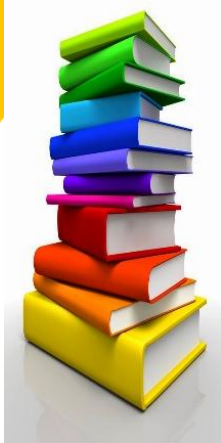
Monthly Meeting will be at 2.30 on Thursday April 9th at Crosfield Hall. Doors open at 2.00pm.

This month's presentation is **our Annual General Meeting**

Followed by Neil Nixon giving an entertaining, surprising and occasionally funny talk looking at ten of the world's best-known songs and sharing the amazing back stories of their creators, their true meanings and the often accidental routes they found to becoming best-sellers.



BOOK SWAP STALL



FROM RICHARD AND LUCY CROWDER

The book stall will be open at our next speaker meeting.

The organisers would like to remind everyone that it is a book swap – so one in – one out. This helps to stop the number of books held becoming excessive. Currently we have far more books available than can be displayed at an individual meeting.

CLUB WIDE SOCIAL EVENTS

FROM JANET ROBINSON SOCIAL SECRETARY

On Friday, 27 March 2026, thirty-one members participated in a guided tour of the Solent Sky museum, renowned as the Home of the Spitfire and Empire Flying Boats. The museum features an impressive collection of over twenty aircraft, including the "Supermarine Spitfire F24 PK683," the "Short Sandringham S.25/V-VH-BRC, Beachcomber" (with



Southampton historically hosting the largest flying boat operation globally), the “Supermarine S.6A-N248,” which competed in the 1929 Schneider Trophy, and the “Folland Gnat F-1 XK740 Auro 504J (replica)”. Additionally, the museum has a tram workshop housing two trams: one previously operated in Southampton and another originating from Lisbon, Portugal.

You can find tour photos on the Facebook page "Romsey Archway u3a". For additional details, visit the website Solent Sky Museum | Home of the Spitfire.

Lunch took place at the Maritimo Lounges, which were conveniently located nearby.

UPCOMING EVENTS



Spaces are available for the Memory Lane quiz on Friday, 17 April 2026 at 7.30 p.m., with fish and chips supper included (£15.00 each). If you'd like to join, email John Roe at johnroeu3a@outlook.com by Thursday, 2 April 2026.



The Romsey Local History Society is scheduled to conduct a guided walk around Romsey on the morning of Friday, 8 May 2026. Further details will be provided in due course.





GROUP NEWS

From Margaret and Marion, the Groups Coordinators



NEWS FROM AROUND THE GROUPS

THEATRE GOERS GROUP

Into the Woods



On Saturday 14th March a group of theatregoers went to the Plaza to see a RAODS production of "Into the Woods", a different take on some classic fairytales from a book written by James Lapine, with music by Stephen Sondheim. The story follows a baker and his wife, who wish to have a child; the virtuous Cinderella, who wants to attend the King's Festival and a rather dim Jack of "Jack and the

Beanstalk", who wishes his cow would give milk. The story also features a sulky and greedy Red Riding Hood, who eats most of the food she is taking to her sick grandmother and a drama queen of a Rapunzel, who spends the majority of her time screeching hysterically, especially when she can't get her own way.

When the baker and his wife learn that they cannot have a child because of a witch's curse, they set off on a journey to break the curse. After many adventures and hardships, which show the reality of life rather than the "happy ever after" of the conventional fairy tale, everyone's wish is granted, but the consequences of their actions return to haunt them later.

DINING OUT CLUB

Fourteen people from the Dining out Club enjoyed a delicious lunch at the Otter in Otterborne on Thursday March 20th.

Although we had not ordered beforehand the service was prompt and the food excellent. Certainly one to be visited again in the future.





FAMILY HISTORY GROUP

Thoughts of the coming summer have stirred our Family and Social History group into an outing to the pretty village of Kersey in Suffolk – even if it's only via the internet at this stage.

Members of the group have decided to undertake a shared research project looking at how the Kettle family of Kersey – ancestors of group member Teresa Harrild – fitted into the wider picture of village society over the ages.

Kersey is often described as Suffolk's prettiest village, and was already a well-established community when the Domesday Book was written in 1086. In medieval times it was known particularly for Kersey Cloth, a coarse twill broadcloth.



Teresa knows already that her family was linked to this lucrative trade – the 1841 census shows her great-great-grandfather Robert Kettle working as a tailor – but is sure there is much more to discover about her family and its place in Kersey life.

The project is likely to keep the Family & Social History Group busy for several months. It might even inspire some of them to visit this pretty part of England to see Kersey for themselves!

Peter Campion



NEW GROUPS FORMING AND GROUPS LOOKING FOR MEMBERS

ART GROUP

Would you like to develop your creative talents and try a new hobby? The Art Group is looking for new members and both beginner and experienced artists are welcome.

The group is a friendly and supportive space where you can explore a range of artistic media, including pencil, charcoal, pastels, and watercolours. You are welcome to bring your own materials, and the group leader will provide a helpful list of suggested items to get you started.



Watercolour still life MB

Together, we'll experiment with different techniques in drawing and painting, building skills in areas like composition, proportion, perspective, light and shade, and foreshortening, while enjoying the creative process and learning from our group leader, Dorothy, along the way. Come and give us a try!

https://romseyarchway.u3asite.uk/u3a_groups/art/

BUS PASS EXPLORERS

This new group had a successful outing by bus to Hursley where they enjoyed a lunch at the Dolphin pub and then explored All Saints Church which is full of historical interest. They are off to the Plaza next and then venturing into Southampton for a museum visit. If you would like to join them get in touch with the Groups Coordinators via the website.



https://romseyarchway.u3asite.uk/u3a_groups/bus-pass-explorers/



LIVE CLASSICAL MUSIC GROUP



The Live Classical Music Group had its first meeting late last year and is now endeavouring to settle on one production per month. We are only nine at present but would warmly welcome more of our u3a Archway members to join us.

Primarily, our aim, as our title infers, is to attend Classical Concerts, but not to the exclusion of other interesting musical events in our area.

Secondarily, we want all those participating to enjoy the social aspect of our visits.

We aim to book 6 to 8 weeks in advance of concerts to ensure the best seating selections.

Our first outing was to The Anvil, Basingstoke on Saturday 28 February. This proved to be a thoroughly enjoyable evening with works by Rossini, Beethoven and Mendelssohn.

The second outing was to Turner-Sims, Southampton for a 'A Symphonic Evening' with the City of Southampton Orchestra on 21st March. We very much enjoyed Carl Nielsen's First Symphony which premiered in 1894 and Beethoven's Symphony No 6 – affectionately known as the 'Pastoral Symphony'.

Our next planned trip is to Hanger Farm in April for "A Very British Night", styled along the lines of The last night of the Proms. This promises to be a fine social evening which has something for everyone.

If you would like to join our group please contact Lawrence via our web page;

https://romseyarchway.u3asite.uk/u3a_groups/live-classical-music/

Lawrence Lansdell



WALKING – TUESDAY 2 MILERS



We walk a distance of between two and three miles, avoiding stiles and big inclines, often on tracks and usually there's some tarmac and grass.

Afterwards we enjoy a well-earned coffee in a café or pub. This is optional of course.

M Nicol

https://romseyarchway.u3asite.uk/u3a_groups/walking-short-walks/

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & SOCIETY GROUP

If you would like to see some form of science-based group within Archway u3a please get in touch and hopefully we can get one set up.

SUGGESTIONS FOR NEW GROUPS

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.

MEMBERSHIP

FROM HEATHER TRIM BUSINESS SECRETARY AND
MEMBERSHIP



A warm welcome to 14 new members this month. We hope that Averil and John K, John Ke, Simon N, Yvonne W, Ian F, John W, Jo G, Alison L, Diane K, Hugh W, Peter S and Stella and Andrew G will enjoy all that Archway has to offer.



Thank you to everyone who has renewed their membership. A reminder that remaining membership fees are due by 31st March. Payment may be made by:

- bank transfer to sort code 08-92-99 Account number: 65886667 Account name: Archway u3a
- or by sending a cheque payable to Romsey Archway u3a to Treasurer to Romsey Archway u3a, 10 Millstream Rise, Romsey, SO51 8HA.

If you have decided not to renew your membership it is very helpful if you email me to let me know so I don't send you renewal reminders.

Heather

Membership Secretary Email: memarchwayu3a@gmail.com

COMMITTEE MATTERS

COMMITTEE ROLES THAT ARE CURRENTLY VACANT

We are still very keen to get members to volunteer for the following roles:-

- Chair
- Groups Co-ordinator/s
- Business Secretary
- Committee Members generally



OTHER VACANT VOLUNTEER POSITIONS

- Content Creator—To work on creating web and social media content.
- Facebook Admin—Non committee role
- Newsletter Editor—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.





DATES FOR THE DIARY



2026	
Thursday 9th April	<p>Monthly Meeting Crosfield Hall 2.00pm for 2.30pm</p> <p>Annual General Meeting</p> <p>Followed by Neil Nixon giving an entertaining, surprising and occasionally funny talk looking at ten of the world's best-known songs and sharing the amazing back stories of their creators, their true meanings and the often accidental routes they found to becoming best-sellers. Including the kindergarten teachers who wrote the most valuable song in history, the wheelchair bound lyricist who wrote a classic song about dancing and the unique promotional campaign that turned Bohemian Rhapsody into chart gold.</p>
Friday 17th April	<p>Quiz Night at Crosfield Hall at 7.30 p.m.,</p> <p>Spaces are available for the Memory Lane quiz on Friday, 17 April 2026 with fish and chips supper included (£15.00 each). If you'd like to join, email John Roe at johnroeu3a@outlook.com by Thursday, 2 April 2026.</p>
Thursday 14th May	<p>Monthly Meeting Crosfield Hall 2.00pm for 2.30pm</p> <p>"Knocking on Shackleton's Door". It's about a recent Expedition Cruise to the Ross Sea, Antarctica to visit Scott's and Shackleton's Huts.</p>
Thursday 11th June	<p>Monthly Meeting Crosfield Hall 2.00pm for 2.30pm</p> <p>The work, animals and photographic activity of the wildlife and bird of prey sanctuary in Winchester. Including live owls.</p>
Thursday 9th July	<p>Monthly Meeting Crosfield Hall 2.00pm for 2.30pm</p> <p>Billy the Kid and Other Bad Eggs. Stories of villains and anti-heroes from the American West</p>



Thursday 13th August	Monthly Meeting Crosfield Hall 2.00pm for 2.30pm The Good the Bad and the downright Funny. Life of a policewoman told through tapestries
Thursday 10th September	Monthly Meeting Crosfield Hall 2.00pm for 2.30pm It was the best of times it was the worst of times. The private life of Charles Dickens
Thursday 8th October	Monthly Meeting Crosfield Hall 2.00pm for 2.30pm A "radio play" style play reading from the Archway U3A play reading group
Thursday 12th November	Monthly Meeting Crosfield Hall 2.00pm for 2.30pm "The Body Through the Porthole" recounts a 1947 incident when a young actress died during an affair with a steward aboard the Durban Castle. He disposed of her body through a porthole while the ship was far from land. The audience acts as jury to determine his guilt.
Thursday 10th December	Christmas Event
Thursday 14th January 2027	Monthly Meeting Crosfield Hall 2.00pm for 2.30pm Re-booking of the Mary Rose talk previously scheduled for November 2025 and cancelled owing to speaker ill health

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>