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## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN



Hello everyone,

I'd like to start by thanking all of you who joined us for our combined April speaker session and Annual General Meeting last month. Your involvement and enthusiasm are what make our community so vibrant! At the meeting, we covered some important business, and I'm delighted to share the results with you.

First, we unanimously appointed our committee for the upcoming year.

- Chair: Dave Green
- Vice-Chair: John Roe
- Treasurer: Andrew Nicol
- Secretary: Vacant (If you are interested, please reach out!)
- Website Administrator: Richard Crowder
- Social Secretary: Janet Robinson
- Groups Coordinators: Margaret Bealing and Marion Slattery
- Membership Secretary: Heather Trim
- Committee Member: Diana Craven

My heartfelt thanks to everyone who has agreed to stand and support our u3a for another year. Your commitment is truly appreciated!

We are still searching for a Committee Secretary. If you feel you could lend a hand, please do not hesitate to contact me. Your help would be invaluable.



Secondly, the meeting also gave a majority vote of support to a resolution recommending that we explore the possibility of combining with Romsey District in some way. The Romsey District members will hold their AGM at the end of May and vote on the same resolution. Should it pass, we'll sit down with their team to discuss how best to move forward together, keeping everyone informed and involved along the way. Remember, this unification is just an option at this stage—we will bring any final proposal back to you for a member vote.

Thank you for being such an engaged and supportive group. Together, we'll continue to learn, laugh, and live—making our community stronger than ever.

*Dave Green - Chair*

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## SPEAKER MEETINGS

### THIS MONTHS SPEAKER MEETING

Monthly Meeting will be at 2.30 on Thursday May 14th at Crosfield Hall. Doors open at 2.00pm.

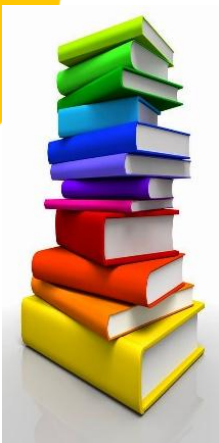
This month's presentation is by **Roger Clark**

**"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.



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## 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.



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## CLUB WIDE SOCIAL EVENTS

FROM JANET ROBINSON SOCIAL SECRETARY

### MEMORY LANE QUIZ



On Friday, 17 April, at Crosfield Hall, fifty participants attended an evening event featuring nine teams competing in six rounds of Memory Lane questions. The topics covered included the 1950s through the 1980s, as well as sport, television, and table quiz.

The team "All Sorts" secured first place with a total score of 68 points, and each member received a bottle of wine as a prize. "DENSA" achieved second place with 66 points, while the teams "Fueled by Wine" and "Last but not Least" tied for third position.

Midway through the evening, guests were served fish and chips, and a raffle was conducted.

### UPCOMING EVENTS



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.



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## GROUP NEWS

From Margaret and Marion, the Groups Coordinators

### SUGGESTIONS FOR NEW GROUPS

The development of new groups depends entirely on the talents and creativity of our Romsey Archway u3a members.





We always welcome ideas for new groups and will help you research them to see if there is a core of interest amongst our members.

Please come and share your ideas with us.

Margaret and Marion

## **NEWS FROM AROUND THE GROUPS**

### **GROUPS LOOKING FOR NEW MEMBERS**

#### **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/](https://romseyarchway.u3asite.uk/u3a_groups/walking-short-walks/)

### **NEWS FROM THE GROUPS**

#### **BIG WALK GROUP**

Our walk on Tuesday 07 April, ably led by Nigel Hemsted. started and finished in Sherfield English. and covered about 7.5 miles. We walked up to Dean Hill and back, mostly on footpaths and farm tracks with a small amount of metalled lane at the start and end of the walk.

Conditions underfoot were almost entirely dry after a spell with little





rain. The walk was notable for having 11 participants, equalling our largest ever attendance. Our outward route took us through some attractive woods full of bluebells with a sprinkling of wood anemones and celandines. After the first few miles of gentle ascent, we paused on the top of the ridge for a well-earned snack before returning to Sherfield English by a different route. Several of the party then visited the tearoom at Gilbert's Dahlias for lunch.

## **INTERMEDIATE FRENCH GROUP**

One of our talented group members has been writing poetry in French. This poem is about the war in Ukraine.

### *Que se passe-t-il dans le monde ? par Sylvia Croxall*

Que se passe-t-il dans le monde ?

Tout a changé en une seconde.

Nous avons une autre guerre,

Cette nouvelle me met en colère.

Cela a commencé le même jour

Que nous, sans humour,

Avons rencontré nos amis

À l'abbaye, pour réfléchir

Après quatre années de guerre.

Un jour, j'espère

Que nous trouverons

Une meilleure solution

Pour résoudre nos désaccords.



Peut-être, au lieu de compter les morts,

Nous pouvons négocier

La vie et la paix ?

Ou peut-être pas.

The group is currently full but if you are interested in joining a French group please contact the Groups Coordinator who will help to start another group when there is sufficient interest.

### KNITTERS AND STITCHERS



Knitters and Stitchers tackle a different practical project each week introduced by one of our talented group members.

Recent topics have been 'Christmas decorations', knitting mittens and needle felting.

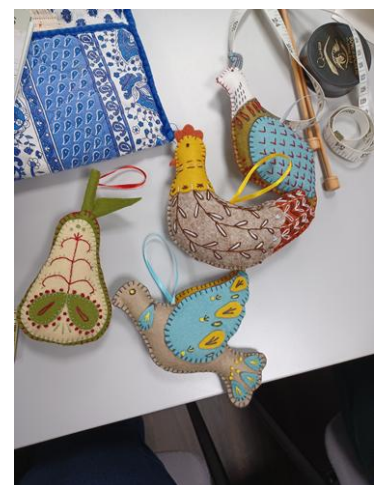
Members also bring in their own projects to work on and to discuss with others.



Beginners are made very welcome and can get help and advice from those with more experience.

Jenny, our group leader, provides us with a hot drink and a wonderful chocolate biscuit selection!

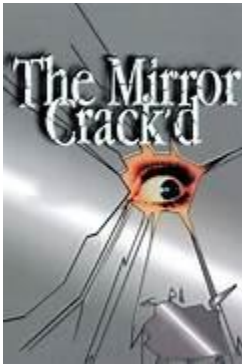
If you would like to give the group a try contact Jenny via the group page on the Archway website.





## THE THEATRER GOERS

### The Mirror Crack'd by Rachel Wagstaff



On Saturday 11th April the Archway Theatregoers Group went to see the Mirror Crack'd at the Plaza Theatre.

The play is set in the 1960s and is based on the book of the same name by Agatha Christie. It stars Miss Jane Marple, who is solving her latest mystery from her living room because she has had an accident. A vicious murder happens during a party at the Manor House. Miss Marple is visited by various interested people, including the police inspector she

knew as a boy. Much of the comedy arises from her being one step ahead of him in every enquiry, telling him what to do and always being right, to his great frustration. The plot centres around Marina Gregg, a glamorous Hollywood star who has moved into the Manor House and has dazzled the locals with her charm and poise. She is, however, not entirely what she seems, and this is also true of some of the other characters. Many congratulations to the actors, especially Miss Marple who is on stage for almost the whole play, and to the rest of the cast also in their handling of a complicated plot where one scene is played several times in different ways at various points in the story. The members of the Theatregoers Group really enjoyed this production.

**Susan Tripp**

## FAMILY HISTORY GROUP

Wouldn't life be dull if everything turned out exactly as we'd thought it would?

Readers might recall that the Family & Social History Group decided to undertake a shared research project into the Suffolk village of Kersey, often linked to the coarse twill fabric known as Kersey Cloth.

We expected our investigation to reveal the presence of weavers and associated trades, but it has actually shown nothing of the sort.



Members have found the occasional seamstress or tailor, but it's clear that any link between the village and Kersey Cloth must predate the national censuses that began in the first half of the 1800s.

Instead Kersey since 1841 is dominated by farming and agriculture, supplemented by a range of small enterprises (often one-man bands) that enabled the village to survive as a community.

The other aspect of our research – looking at how the Kettle family (ancestors of group member Teresa Harrild) fitted into village life – has also revealed that the family had left Kersey by 1891 at the latest.

It's these twists and turns that make family and social history such a fascinating field for research. Watch this space for further developments....

**Peter Campion, group convener**

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## MEMBERSHIP

**FROM HEATHER TRIM BUSINESS SECRETARY AND  
MEMBERSHIP**



A warm welcome to 10 new members this month: David C, Sally W, Gareth J, Anne B, Julie F, Barry H, Michael S, Ian S, Sonia and David K.

Heather

**Membership Secretary Email: [memarchwayu3a@gmail.com](mailto:memarchwayu3a@gmail.com)**

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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: –



- Chair
- 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.

Please feel free to use this if you have any comments on the potential coming together with Romsey District u3a

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

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## 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



<b>2026</b>	
<b>Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May</b>	Morning - Walking tour of Romsey
<b>Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> May</b>	Monthly Meeting Crosfield Hall 2.00pm for 2.30pm <b>"Knocking on Shackleton's Door"</b> . It's about a recent Expedition Cruise to the Ross Sea, Antarctica to visit Scott's and Shackleton's Huts.
<b>Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> June</b>	Monthly Meeting Crosfield Hall 2.00pm for 2.30pm The work, animals and photographic activity of the wildlife and bird of prey sanctuary in Winchester. Including live owls.
<b>Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> July</b>	Monthly Meeting Crosfield Hall 2.00pm for 2.30pm Billy the Kid and Other Bad Eggs. Stories of villains and anti-heroes from the American West
<b>Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> August</b>	Monthly Meeting Crosfield Hall 2.00pm for 2.30pm The Good the Bad and the downright Funny. Life of a policewoman told through tapestries
<b>Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> September</b>	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
<b>Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> October</b>	Monthly Meeting Crosfield Hall 2.00pm for 2.30pm A "radio play" style play reading from the Archway U3A play reading group
<b>Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> November</b>	Monthly Meeting Crosfield Hall 2.00pm for 2.30pm <b>"The Body Through the Porthole"</b> 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.



<b>Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> December</b>	Christmas Event
<b>Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2027</b>	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**

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## 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>