November 2026 Update

Message from the Chair



At this time of year, as the weather deteriorates, my choice of wine seems to change from something light to enjoy sitting outside in the sunshine, to a fuller-bodied red to sip alongside a warming casserole (whilst looking back fondly on those long, sunny summer evenings!).

We are very lucky to have two wine appreciation groups, so my thanks this month go to their leaders, Janet Moody and Nigel Hemsted, who ably coordinate their programmes. Members take it in turns to introduce the group to new wines based on a theme, so I thought I would share two recommendations from the Thursday group meeting last week, where Ros and Terry shared “A Bargain Hunt at Waitrose”:

- Crémant d’Alsace A.O.P. Cave de Turckheim — £10 (was £15) From a leading Alsace Crémant specialist, this organic wine features notes of honey and delicate florals. An ideal apéritif, it also pairs well with seafood or a fruity dessert.
- Little Giant Coonawarra Cabernet Sauvignon 2024 — £10 (was £13) (The one in the funny, dumpy bottle with a wombat on the label!) Crafted from premium South Australian grapes picked at optimal ripeness. It displays dark berry fruit flavours upfront with hints of nutmeg, alongside subtle herb and red florals on the finish.

Interest Groups Update

Suggestions for new groups

- Building/Upgrading your own computer
- Italian Beginners
- Jazz Guitar
- Lives of the Poets
- Matinee Theatre Group
- Pickleball

If you are interested in any of these potential new groups please get in touch with the groups coordinators https://romseyarchway.u3asite.uk/contact/

Groups looking for more members

- Bus Pass Explorers
- Photography In Focus
- Photography: Beginners
- French-Intermediate 2

Please message the group contacts via the individual group page by clicking the link above, if you would like to join any of these groups.

Social Activities

Tuesday 17 November 2026: Tour of Winchester College – from 11.00 am.

Thursday 10 December 2026: Christmas event held at Crosfield Hall – from 2.30 pm. Archway u3a Ukulele group performing.

Tuesday 15 December 2026: Christmas Tree Festival at Highcliffe Castle – 11.00 am.

Friday 26 February 2027: Quiz held at the Crosfield Hall – from 7.00 pm.

Visit to Southampton City Art Gallery

22 members enjoyed this guided tour of Southampton's beautiful Art Gallery. The guide, a very knowledgeable young man, showed us only a few works of art, but he helped us to look at them in great detail.

We started with the Nuzi, the gallery's oldest masterpiece. We found out about symbolism and storytelling in this fourteenth century altar piece.

We concluded with the twentieth century Diving Figure by Anthony Gormley and learned that it is projecting into the future as the diver stands poised on the edge of the diving board.

We enjoyed our visit very much. It certainly lived up to the U3A's motto, Learn, Laugh, Live.

November 2026 Speaker Meeting

Our speaker at the monthly meeting on 12th November will be:
"The Body Through the Porthole" – a true story from 1947 when a young actress sailing from Cape Town to Southampton aboard the Durban Castle had a liaison with a deck steward. During one such liaison, she died and he pushed her body through

the porthole! The ship was 90 miles from the nearest land and in shark infested waters. The audience act as jury and decide if the accused was guilty or not guilty of murder.

Crosfield Hall. Doors open at 2.00 pm. Refreshments will be available.

Membership News

A warm welcome to Sheila F, emma G, Anne Y, Ann Marilyn S, Roger K, MikeT and Janine R.

Dates for Your Diary

12 November 2026 2.30 pm	Speaker meeting: The Body Through the Porthole. Crosfield Hall: Main Hall
17 November 2026 11.00 am	Tour of Winchester College. Booking required
10 December 2026 2.00 - 4 .00 pm	Christmas event. Crosfield Hall: Main Hall
15 December 2026 11.00 am	Christmas Tree Festival at Highcliffe Castle.
14 January 2027 2.30 pm	The Sinking and Recovery of the Mary Rose. Crosfield Hall: Main Hall
25 January 2027	Hilliers Gardens in Winter. Details to follow

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For further information please see: https://romseyarchway.u3asite.uk/

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