



**Happy New Year** if I didn't see you at the January meeting, the Christmas event went really well and the committee worked hard making and serving the food, with Andrew & Jackie doing the quiz. Thank you for all your generous comments, saying that you enjoyed the event. Ideas for future events would be appreciated, please speak to any member of the committee.

Christmas was quite busy and unfortunately, I didn't get to visit many of our groups, so my new year's resolution is to complete my visits to all of the interest groups that we run.

Vanessa is still working hard and trying to come up with new ideas to keep you all interested and busy - **u3a is run by the members for members**. We draw upon your knowledge, skills and experience to teach and learn from each other, it is for pleasure and it is all voluntary. Topics or interest groups from A-Z for you to enjoy, so we would welcome any your ideas!

### The Curry Club

At the end of January, we met at the Indian Kitchen again, to try their buffet meal. It is only served on the last Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday of the month and very good value at £22.95 per person or £40.00 per couple for 3 course meal. We certainly had plenty to eat, as you can see by all the main course dishes on the table.



### Pickle Ball at Gang Warily

Pickle Ball is played on a badminton sized court, with specific rules for serving, scoring and gameplay, making it accessible and fun for all ages. The members were energetic and having fun. As there were 9 members present on Monday afternoon, they took it in turns for one player to have a rest, as there were 4 on a court at a time. The paddle was quite light and the ball was a light plastic with holes in it; it was surprising the speed that the ball would travel but no injuries sustained, whilst I was watching.



## Pétanque (The classic French game)

Pétanque can be played on almost any flat surface, in an open space – even on grass or on the beach. Fortunately, 'The Old Mill' in Holbury has 2 courts available for play. It's surprisingly easy if you are good at judging the distance and it can become a very competitive game. Played with metal balls and a small wooden ball, called a jack. It can be played in teams of 1, 2, or 3 people. You can have a mat to stand on and the object of the game is to get your ball nearest to the jack, often aiming to get the opponents ball out of the way. The group have been fortunate with the weather, having a dry window on most Monday afternoons and appropriately dressed with hats and gloves for our chilly weather. They were all enjoying their time and had an equal number of players to form teams.



Apologies as I'm not that good at cropping the pictures to fit into the report.

## The Book Club



I spent a very enjoyable afternoon with the Book Group. They discussed the book they had all just read and I listened to their recollections of all the facts about the Ship's Captain and his travels around Australia, I felt that I learnt a lot about what they had read. Captain Matthew Flinders statue is outside Euston Station in London, a navigator and cartographer, who developed the compass.



We also had tea, coffee and birthday cake for a member and then they talked about books they had been recommended, for the next 6 months. A great variety of topics crime, light-hearted, historical and science fiction. A really friendly group and if I had more time I would join this group, hopefully in the not-too-distant future.

**Do contact Jacqueline Brown if you are interested email: [mrsjbrown@hotmail.com](mailto:mrsjbrown@hotmail.com)**

**SPEAKERS for The Next 6 Months**

**9<sup>th</sup> February: - Jane Glennie 'A ministering Handl' Jane Austin**

**9<sup>th</sup> March: - John Pitman 'The role of the Dame in Pantomime'**

**13<sup>th</sup> April: - '1338 and All That/Tudor So't'on'**

**11<sup>th</sup> May: - John Sherbourne 'The Life & Music of Cole Porter'**

**8<sup>th</sup> June: - Jill Bascombe 'The Realm of the Polar Bear'**

**13<sup>th</sup> July: - Dr. Greg Duncan 'Champagne in a Broken Teacup'**

Thank you to Mo for all the work and time it takes to organise speakers.

**I do have a plea for volunteers to work and set up the sound system.**

Tim Barlow and Brian Daley are very good at attending most of our meetings but like most of us when we retire or working part time, holidays are part of our lives. The equipment isn't easy for Lynn and I to lift the speakers onto the stands but we can get most of it into the hall. Tim and or Brian are not always available and it comes with a cost to ask for outside help.

**Please consider helping in this role and we could possibly arrange a rota if sufficient members come forward.**

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It's amazing how time flies and in March, our secretary, will be sending out the information to vote for our committee for the coming year 2026-2027. So, start thinking about how you can help. As I wrote earlier, we do need members to stand and help run the committee and all the interest groups that we have on offer to you. The AGM will take place on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May.

I would also like to thank you with the help with the parking, as the spaces are now limited, as New Forest Care has been allocated most of the parking spaces.

We are able to meet in the hall in March before it closes for 2 weeks to be refurbished. We will look forward when we return in April to the new look! Perhaps I need to do a before and then after photograph. Perhaps it would be better to find a good photographer amongst our membership.

Best wishes,

Mary 4<sup>th</sup> February 2026