



The time is flying by and we now have longer days and lighter evenings. It was so good to see all the Daffodils in spring especially, as they were ready for me being Welsh, to celebrate St. David’s Day. We certainly have had a little less rain lately and the grass is continually growing after such a wet winter.



**ELECTIONS and AGM**

We are coming up to the time of year when we will be voting for the committee members and holding the AGM on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May. Voting slips are available online and at the meetings and need to be received at the latest by the 13<sup>th</sup> April.

**Canasta**

I have been rather lax with my group visits this month and have only managed to visit and play for a short while Canasta. It was good fun and very enjoyable, although as a beginner, I didn’t do very well playing the hand that I was dealt. The group was friendly and having a great time, so happy for more members to join, they meet twice a month from 2-4 o’clock on 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday at the Community Centre in Hythe.



I attend the **Board Games** and the **Wine Appreciation** groups most months, the wine group is run by the members who take it in turn to supply the wines from countries all over the world. It is a good experience tasting and learning about wines that you would not usually buy, some are excellent and good value whilst the occasional one is good to try but not necessarily one you want again. We all have good time imbibing and having cheese & nibbles, which can affect the taste of some of the wines. It is a low cost evening, learning while having fun!

The **Board Games**, we meet at the Boathouse on the Hythe Marina on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month from 2-4 pm. We play a variety of games that are brought by the members e.g. Sequence, Quirkle, Rummikub, Uno are always popular and we treat ourselves to a drink before we start.

A good afternoons entertainment whilst using our brain!

**Angela Simmonds Profile – Membership Secretary and Secretary:** In her first newsletter our chair, Mary, wrote a short item to introduce herself. At the end of that article she mentioned asking other committee members to do the same. It has taken a while for this to happen, but here is the first (and hopefully not the last)

**Introduction.**

My name is Angela Simmonds. I am new to the u3a, having joined in December 2024 as I wanted to play canasta, a card game I had enjoyed in my teens. Jumpforward 15 months and I am on the committee as

your membership secretary. Those of you who come to the monthly meetings will have seen me on the welcome desk with Lynn. I am still in the canasta group and have also recently joined the board games group.

I'm not a local, having been born in a village called Ash, just outside Aldershot. After completing my education, I continued to live there until moving to Hemel Hempstead when I married my husband. I had met him in London on my first day at work for Midland Bank Trust Company. I remained with Midland/HSBC in London until 1995 when I was made redundant, but found another role within the same company but based in Southampton. I made the move and have been here ever since. It's not until you stop commuting into London that you discover a thing called "spare time". I decided to use this time to get involved with Girlguiding and started as a brownie leader. I then went on to work with older girls and joined a guide unit. A short while later I gave up my brownie leader position and opened a second Hythe based guide unit and later a ranger group for girls aged 14 to 18 years as there was no provision for this age group in the area. Although I no longer run a unit, I continue to support Girlguiding by putting my office skills to good use. I am currently treasurer for four local units and the County Secretary for Girlguiding Hampshire West, which covers from Hedge End to Fordingbridge and north to Winchester. I also used this "spare time" to complete my education by studying for a natural sciences degree with the Open University. Although I am on my own now and do not have children, I do have a lot of nieces and nephews, who have children of their own. Most of them still live in Hemel Hempstead so I spend most high days and holidays with them and visiting friends in that area. I can't see me moving back though as the quality of life here is so much better, away from the rush of being close to London.

### **Update – Annual membership**

Membership of Hythe & Dibden u3a is due for renewal by **1st June each year** and you will receive notification to renew your membership for **2025-26 during April. This year you will not be asked to complete a new form. Instead, you will receive an email showing the information we hold about you. You will be asked to check this information and to reply, either confirming that it is correct or letting us know what changes are needed. As before, payment of the annual membership subscription can be made online (details will be included in the email) or by cheque or cash at one of our regular monthly meetings.** Members who do not use email will be provided with a paper membership form. We hope this change will make the process easier for members by removing the need to print a form and complete it with information that has already been provided whilst, at the same time, enabling the u3a to ensure its information is up to date. Please get in touch with me at [hdu3amembership3@gmail.com](mailto:hdu3amembership3@gmail.com) if you have any questions.

Angela Simmonds, Membership Secretary

### **Trivia**

February 2026 had 4 Sunday, 4 Mondays, 4 Tuesdays, 4 Wednesdays, 4 Thursdays, 4 Fridays, and 4 Saturdays this won't happen again for 823 years.

### **Interest Groups**

Chess was invented in India – do we have a number of chess players who may like to start up a group?

**Website: Third Age Trust or u3a will take you to the website pages.**

[events@u3a.org.uk](mailto:events@u3a.org.uk) will take you to the monthly online talks, workshops and courses. Many are free on zoom, which you need to book. There are also monthly radio series on YouTube and podcast platforms. You can sign up to the monthly events email.

I am also attaching the flyer about the Summer School that is held annually at Chichester University, as some of you may be interested.

Hope you enjoy the Easter Bank Holidays

Mary Fenn 2/4/26