

Dear Fellow Members,

I have only met approximately a third of the membership, since taking over the chair in June, so I'm going to introduce myself.

Mary Fenn born in a small village, Gilfach, in the Rhymney Valley in South Wales.

After finishing at the local grammar school, I ventured from home to Yorkshire, to study domestic science for a career in teaching. My first post was in Kettering, Northamptonshire, then to Reigate in Surrey before my husband and I then went to live in The Netherlands, Switzerland & USA, before returning to the UK. We kept moving, East Grinstead in Sussex, Haverfordwest in Pembrokeshire before finally settling down in Hythe and now I'm here to stay!

I think all that moving gave us the travelling bug and we had many holidays both home and abroad.

I have a son & daughter and 4 grandchildren, the son living in Southampton and the daughter in Nova Scotia, so I still have regular visits to Canada.

My husband and I joined u3a in Hythe when it first began but after Covid and my commitments in Inner Wheel culminating as district chairman, I took a few years off.

I'm pleased that I have rejoined and attend the speaker meetings regularly and I rejoined the wine tasting group and board games. I hope when time allows, to visit all the interest and activity groups that our u3a run and possibly try to join a few more groups especially as I enjoy eating out and socialising.

I hope to produce a bimonthly newsletter and over the time and to ask all members of the committee to tell you all about themselves.

If any member would like to share their interests, hobbies, adventures or travels, with photographs, I would be happy to include articles that you send me. We probably have many members who can give me some cartoons or jokes (I enjoy listening to them but can rarely remember how to tell them afterwards). Crossword compilers, dingbats etc. I will appreciate any items that you can help me to fill a few pages to share with everyone. I enjoy Sudoku and the Panagram, so have included these today.

Sudoku - 14

8	9		7	3		4	6	
	4		2		8	3	5	7
7		3				8	9	2
4	6	9	3	5	7	2		8
			9	8				5
5	1		4				3	9
6	8				9		7	
	7	1	8	4	3			6
	3	5	1				8	4

PANAGRAM

Create words of four letters or more, always using the centre letter. Proper nouns and plurals are not allowed, and you can only use each letter once per word.

Can you find the nine-letter Panagram?
Solution tomorrow.

O P
 R E
 E D W
 M E

Up to 8 words - Word Finder,
 9 - Wordsmith, 19 - Word Wizard,
 28 - Word Master, 38 - Word Genius,
 48 - Word Perfect

I was fortunate during Covid to win the sentence where each word starts with the letters of the alphabet in order. Prize was a bottle of Fizz, but I can't remember the sentence now, although it was food related.

The committee work hard to ensure our organisation will continue to thrive.

Our Interest Group convener, Vanessa Daley has some very good ideas to help expand our interest groups and would welcome ideas and hopefully members, who will be willing to become group leaders. The u3a is for members and for you to enjoy whilst keeping busy and learning new skills.

Our monthly meeting dates for the coming year are held on the second Monday of the month at the Parish Hall in Hythe, 1.45pm for a 2pm start, with tea/coffee and biscuits served at the end of each meeting and a small charge of £1.00 is made towards the refreshments, thanks to Maggie and Ruth who ensure there is always a supply of biscuit to enjoy. Maureen with the help of Penny are the speaker secretaries and much time is spent researching interesting speakers.

Calendar 2025-2026

Dates	Speaker	Topic
11 th August	Sally Cadec	SSAFA the oldest military charity
8 th September	Jane Glennie	Jane Austin in Southampton
13 th October	Barbara Inkson	A Quick Tour of The Criminal Justice System
10 th November	Brian & Jacqueline Sutton	Dickens - the best & the worst
8 th December	TBA	Christmas event
12 th January	Dr Sohail Hussain	Beyond Belief - Part Two
9 th February	TBA	
9 th March	"	
13 th April	"	
11 th May	To include the AGM	

I hope you think the newsletter is a good idea and please, if you feel you can contribute, I will look forward to receiving your articles

The u3a national website (u3a.org.uk) has lots of information for learning and interest groups online. You will need to register on the website, if you are interested in having a look.

Mary Fenn

7th August 2025