



Welcome to the beginning of our new year, membership has remained the same as last year, having some new members and again a few not rejoining. We are pleased that there are new people joining us and I hope they enjoy being part of our community.

The new committee for 2026-2027:

We have Tim Parsons rejoining after a number of years break, so we welcome Tim and his knowledge, as he was a founder member of our u3a in Hythe & Dibden. A brave man, the only male prepared to join all the women on the committee.

Mary Fenn - Chair, Angela Simmonds – Secretary & membership secretary, Lynn Melvin – treasurer, Vanessa Daley – group convener, Mo Broughton – speakers secretary, with Margaret Rowles, Penny Randerson and Tim Parsons members.

Group Convener Vanessa Daley has worked hard during the past year to introduce new interest groups, which are running successfully. The French conversation which Jill Tomlin, a member who joined in January, has taken on and it is doing really well. Like the French they are going to have a summer break in August, as for many of us it is the holiday period, with grandparent's duties. The discussion group has a new convener, Carol Blacker has taken over the role from Hugh Dickenson, who we thank for his commitment and we now wish Carol all the best for her group. The interest board is going to be put at the back of the hall and Vanessa and other conveners can chat to you whilst you are enjoying a of tea or coffee.

The members making the tea & coffee often need some help, so if you can please volunteer and help the group if they are short-handed.

Likewise, Brian Daley & Tim Barlow have holidays and are not always available for speaker meetings, we do need one or two members to come and help to learn how to use the system, so everyone can hear the speaker.

We are now looking forward to the summer months, although it is raining as I write this and more rain on the way before the temperatures begin to rise.

Lots of cruise ships coming in and out as people are preparing for their summer holidays. We thought at u3a, it would be good to have a summer event and our idea was for a garden party. The garden at the parish hall is now unavailable for groups to use, we could use the lawned area outside, where they have now put a pétanque court.

On reflection of using open spaces in Hythe chairs, tables etc would need to be brought, so the final decision is to hold an event in the parish hall. I hope you all received the poster and can join us.

U3a up Coming Speakers with dates:

13th July-Dr Greg Duncan

"Champagne in a Broken Teacup" (Greg is being asked to join us for lunch)

Summer Ploughman's Lunch
Parish Hall on 13th July at 12.30pm
Meal - Baguette, butter, cheese, ham, pickle & tomatoes.
If anyone has an allergy, please can you let me know.
Bring your own drinks & a glass – alcoholic or soft!



10th August-Mark Heighway "Noor Inayat. A Spy Descended from Royalty"

14th September-Denis Carlton "The Life of Henry Selfridge"

12th October- Gordon Lewis "7 Miles from Town-Imber Village"

9th November-Andy Skinner "Tudor Southampton"

14th December "A Christmas Celebration"

Hythe Tree News

The felling of the Scot's pine tree in Prospect Place, sparked a lot of interest locally. Unfortunately, the council had to remove it as it was revealed that it had 90% crown death. A new tree 'New Horizon' will be planted in its place, which is salt & flood tolerant and wind resistant.

The tree was a symbol of the Parish council and other local organisations, with no plans to replace it. The stump has now been carved for prosperity by Ella Fielding, much of the wood is being dried out and to be donated to organisations such as 'Hythe Shed'.



The tree before and after

We are nearly at the longest day of the year, 21st June, when the sun reaches the highest point in the sky and marks the beginning of summer in the northern hemisphere. Refer to as Midsummer or the summer Solstice.

Best wishes,

Mary 8th June 2026