



Hythe & Dibden

Newsletter No.7

Are you enjoying the heatwave?

We are certainly experiencing a very hot and dry summer and all the gardens are parched and would benefit from some rain, as the hose pipe ban is currently in place with my water butt empty! I certainly need to find some drought loving plants, perhaps buy some cacti, sand and pebbles it may improve the look of my garden at present.



The holiday season is upon us with many of you going off abroad, hopefully not visiting parts of France and Spain where the fires are causing so many problems for residents. There have also been fires in some areas of the UK, so care needs to be taken especially when using BBQs, with these exceptionally dry and hot conditions.

SERN – South East Region Network

I recently went to Romsey to an area meeting for u3a and how the region can help every u3a. As the 2 members, Joy & Ann have been running the network since it's inauguration in 2022 and for various reasons cannot continue beyond September. They are proposing that u3a take turns in hosting meetings, this could be alphabetical or 2 other u3a's working together. This would need the help of either other committee members or any of our membership assisting.

On September 21st at Littleton near Winchester, there is a South East Region Workshop, which members have to register to attend. It is from 10-4 o'clock with lunch provided. Sally our regional council representative will be planning the meeting and more information will follow. Is anyone interested? I know most of us join to belong to interest groups in our own area but we do have to remember it is a large national organisation.

'We all have a role to play and good communication keeps the movement relevant to members' needs.'

Sally is building a support team with expertise in newsletters, AI, websites and social media.

<https://u3acommunities.org/interest-groups/computing/ai-for-everyone/>

If you click on the above link, you can then select the icon that best matches your needs. Click on the house icon to return to the home menu.

Perhaps we should investigate a computer group with an interest in using AI, which is now becoming more relevant for everyday use. There is also a 10-minute video available for those new to AI – like me!

July meeting with a Ploughman's Lunch



Similar but with a slight difference.

We should have taken a photograph of everyone enjoying their lunch!

The hall looked good with white tablecloths, flowery napkins, flowers in jam jars, water jugs and glasses to help keep everyone hydrated.

Thank you to Margaret, Susan, Penny and Angela for helping with laying the tables, plating the food and serving. We also had help from the members with clearing up and serving the teas and coffees, whilst the speaker was preparing for his talk.

It was a very hot day and despite all the fans around the room, the room was rather warm with no fresh air.

Members enjoyed the lunch with some hoping we could repeat the occasion in the future.

The Treasurer's Profile

I'm Lynn Melvin, and it's probably a little late to introduce myself to most of you, as I have been Treasurer for about 4 years and so see many of you each month when you pay your entry money for the speaker meeting. I'm also Beacon administrator and so have fairly regular contact with group leaders when Beacon, which is prone to the odd funny turn, is causing them problems.

I grew up in Leicester and lived there until 1990. I then spent a few years in Sheffield until my husband's redundancy in 1994 led to a need to move away from that area, and the obvious choice was Southampton where my employer had a large centre, and where there was also more work available for my husband. I stayed until I retired in 2019 having just clocked up 40 years with HSBC. At the point I wanted to get to know more people locally, so I immediately joined Waterside Tennis Club in Holbury and in January 2020, just before lock down, I wandered down to a u3a meeting with a friend, just to see what it was all about.

Strangely, it was lockdown that really got me involved with the people in the u3a when there was a call from a group on the Marina for people to help make PPE for

UHS, and for local causes. While I should never be allowed near a sewing machine because of sheer lack of ability, I wanted to help, offered my services for collections and deliveries, and through that I got to know a lot of lovely people. There are always consequences though, and the fact that I appeared to be reasonably organised led to me being asked to be on the committee and then a couple of years later taking over from Lucy Barlow as Treasurer.

I'm a very keen member of the Canasta and Wine Appreciation groups and the Curry Club and never miss those if I can help it. I love the Pickleball group; sadly I haven't been able to play much recently but I'm really hoping to get back to it properly in the autumn. I'm a member of the Smilers walking group although I rarely get to go to that because I'm usually busy elsewhere, but I stay in the hope that once in a while there'll be a date I can manage (apologies to Maggie Moore, the group leader, for being 'one of those' members who never actually turns up!)

Outside the u3a I play tennis regularly, plus the odd match for Waterside Tennis Club, and am also Treasurer, Membership Secretary and a Director there, so that keeps me very busy. For something different I do a bit of glass fusing, and am just starting to think about some new ideas for the Christmas fairs that I'll be attending later this year. Full scale production may have to wait a while though, as the house is quite warm enough at the moment without a kiln generating 800 degrees under our bedroom on too many nights!

Sad News of Our Deceased Member – Rita Welsh

An email from Rita's son-in-law

We're letting you know the sad news that Rita Welsh, our Mum, has died after a short illness.

Apologies if this comes as a shock - it was all quite sudden.

She didn't want a funeral but had clear wishes that she wanted to be buried under a beech tree so she could rejoin and nurture the earth so perhaps, if you see a beech tree, you could say goodbye.

And so, we muddle on without the force of nature that was our Mum - the world is a sadder place.

Sending love

Rebecca and John (daughter and son)

The reply to my email

Many thanks for your kind words.

If any members would like to send cards, our home address is:

c/o Rebecca Case, The Grove North Road, Dibden Purlieu, SO45 4PF

It is very reassuring to hear how Rita was well liked among the U3A community, I know that the group became very important to her life after her move to the area from Sheffield and she found a strong sense of community and friendship there. She always loved to tell us about her walks, meetings and other events and how much she enjoyed them.

THE THIRD AGE TRUST

I received today:

False alarm: Beacon CRM data breach

You may have seen on the news that there has been a data hack of Beacon CRM. To avoid any confusion, this is not the same Beacon as the membership management system used by u3as. Rest assured, there is no data risk to the information stored in the u3a Beacon system.

Every month there are new online events and you can opt to receive updates monthly via your email and I read the above false alarm about Beacon in my August email.

The Free online talks, workshops & courses are on the website: events@u3a.org.uk and many are free online via Zoom.

Enjoy the rest of the summer and I hope to see many of you at our next meeting next week on Monday 10th August with our speaker Mark Heigway. The subject of his talk 'Noor Inayat' who had links to the SOE in Beaulieu.

Best Wishes,

Mary 6th August