

## **Annual General Meeting 4th July 2025**

### **Chairman's Report:**

We started the year with 199 members and by June this had fallen slightly to 197. We have held social events which have included a Skittles Night at Merchistoun Hall, a Summer Party and Hat Competition, a Christmas Party featuring Tony Dudley's jazz band and a coach trip to Chatham Dockyard. Our thanks to Rosy Stone for organising the trip.

A meeting was held in March specifically for new members. This was to enable them to hear from Group Convenors and ask any questions which had arisen since joining.

Our Friday afternoon meetings continued with a good variety of speakers - our thanks to Braith Harris for organising. Subjects have included:

A concert featuring The Pompey Pluckers  
Travels in India (Richard Veitch)  
Judy Theobald - Christmas problems  
Stephen Herra- The theft of the Irish Crown Jewels  
Tim (Southern Water) - FOG and flushables  
Andy Thomas - The Crop Circle Mystery  
David Allport MBE - The Spirit of the 60s  
Andrew Neagus - To China by Train

In addition we had an interesting “Antiques Road Show” with Braith and Stephen’s daughter Penelope

Our thanks are due to Juliet Taylor, Jane Tull and everyone who assisted with catering, provided cakes etc.

I would also at this point like to thank all our group coordinators for providing the essential organisation for our activities, along with Suzy Gardiner who provides the essential link between them and the Committee.

## **Group Reports**

### **Beginners French Group 2024-2025**

This year the French Group reached its full complement of eight members! We have gained a new member in the past year but sadly we have had to turn down requests from three potential members. Meeting space where we meet in each other’s houses is limited, and our programme of relating our week’s news in French which we do in turn each session also limits the time available for other activities.

Over the last year we have enjoyed a Christmas Lunch, a number of us watched shows at the Spring and attended garden shows. These weren’t in French but each of these events was subsequently described by members, in French, and of course, together we learned the relevant vocabulary. Added to this we have discussed hobbies such as bowls and fencing tournaments, flying, gardening and opera. Currently we are reading and discussing two simple French books, and enjoying playing various word games, all of which provide us with plenty of scope for conversation which is the prime aim of our Group.

Jane Wighton  
Convenor

## **Canasta Group**

We are currently a group of eight friendly people who get together on the first and third Thursdays of each month. We are a new group having started in March 2025. I would like to thank Marie and Geoff Southgate for coming along to our first session to show us how to play, they say the journey of a thousand miles starts with one step – they both put us on this journey – thank you both so much!

We initially met at Bere Grove Care Home, but have now moved our meetings to Merchistoun Hall, who provide us with suitable tables and chairs and very reasonable refreshments at £1 per cup.

We are now officially a mixed ability enthusiastic group, some of us drawing on previous canasta experiences and some who are totally new to the game – whatever level, we all have a great time.

If you would like to join us, please get in touch with me.

Avril Adams-Baxter

## **Ten Pin Bowling Group**

We currently have 21 u3a members signed up for the group and regularly have eight to sixteen bowling on the last Friday morning in the month at the Ten Pin Alley in Chichester.

Although we are not really competitive, members are really pleased if they score better than their convener which has not been too difficult over the past year as my average has dropped to 89. High scores by the ladies have been 116 from Juliet Taylor, 100 from Chrissie Middleton and 90's from Christine Sowerby and Gill Kernan. Although we have very few men and would love to see more, they have done slightly better with Bob Beveridge having seven scores of more than 100 with the best being 127 twice. I have managed a 117 and Roger Brewer recently surprised himself with a score of 90.

We always have fun, even when the scoring is not so high and those with the lowest scores shall be nameless but we have had numerous scores in the 30's and 40's and even a couple of scores in the 20's so there are targets for anyone to beat

Why not come and join us where, for £7.25, you can have two hours fun and chat and after the January bowling, we have a post-Christmas meal which for the last four years we have been really well looked after at the Fox and Hounds Funtington.

Finally, I would like to thank Gill for standing in for me recently and Bob for standing in for me on two occasions although the added responsibility does not seem to have affected his scores as mentioned above!

Geoff Southgate



## **Wine Appreciation**

This has been another successful year as always, since the Group was formed by Margaret Mathison many “moons” ago. Format is still the same, 6 wines to taste, 3 white and 3 red.

More wine flows accompanied with tasty snacks at our Summer and Christmas Parties. As Convenor, the only difficulty I have is finding suitable wine topic for each month, apart from that it’s a pleasure to be one of this great group of people. So, what sort of topics did the group enjoy this past year? Last May we tasted a Pinot Grigio and a Cabernet Sauvignon from different countries to see if they were similar? Really didn’t get a definitive answer so, go on to June when we tried Wine with peculiar names to see if the taste were peculiar?

Not easy, depends on what you mean by “peculiar”!! I was on holiday in July, so jump to August with our Summer Party, so no Topic. Everyone gets a Menu showing the wine and the accompanying food. This is to let everyone know what they are getting. Apart from that we all just have a great time drinking favourite wine.



In September the group had the 'left-over wine' We are frugal! In, October the topic was All French Wine except One? In fact a couple of our group brought bottles from France which they donated to this topic. Pass swiftly on to November when it was Supermarkets choice of

Christmas Wine? Only a suggestion? Well!! December was of course our Christmas Party, were before the drinking and eating began I gave everyone a "Wine Quiz" All excelled!!!!. No recovery until February where we indulged in finishing the December wine -with a couple of new ones?. Nothing is wasted? March came when the group had to find the "cuckoo's" in the "white and red nests" There were some bright "cuckoos" in the group! Then in April the group had to think hard when the topic was – which of the white or the red wine made from the same grape did they prefer? As you know everyone's palate is different. So many answers. Every month a suitable wine related newspaper article is read and that gets people talking. After every monthly gathering all get given

information on the wines they have tasted. To close, the Wine appreciation is a lively enjoyable group of people. If you feel this is for you, don't hesitate. Join us???



## **Food Appreciation**

This year the food group has expanded beyond the capacity of most sitting rooms so that we now meet on the second Friday of the month in St James Church Hall in Clanfield. We have a lively group of cooks who happily embrace the topic of the month. We ensure the educational aspect of the meeting is covered with a group of researchers. We start our meetings at 10.30 with a beverage and recently a quiz. Members who have researched tell us about the topic- usually providing the answers to the quiz and then those who have cooked describe what they have bought or made themselves and the method of preparation. Then we all dig in and try all the delicious goodies. We finish at 12.30 and no one goes home hungry. Recent meetings include Easter food from around the world, Welsh food (celebrating St

David's Day and including Penderyn whisky); Greek food and a Valentine's Day meal at Southdowns college training kitchen. Last year sample recipes were collated into an excellent group cookery book produced by Ann Herbert and Maggie Chester's. New members are welcome whether you can cook or not.

Nicky Pendleton  
Convenor

### **Photography Group**

The Photography Group has 29 members and primarily concentrates on visits around the local area where we can explore, take photographs and generally enjoy ourselves. There is not too much emphasis on technical matters though we have some members who are always willing to give advice if asked.

We have a photoshoot meeting on the second Thursday of each month and in the last year have been to Alresford, Hamble, Stedham, Winchester Xmas Fair, Salisbury, Romsey and Christchurch Priory. A typical day will see members going off to take photos and then meeting up later for refreshments.

We also have a theme each month where we can submit images to our dedicated Facebook site "Horndean U3A Photography Group" Themes have included Sport, Leading Lines, Bark, Shadows, Patterns, Stairs, Joints, Worn and Red.

We aim to have four evening meetings during the summer and so far we have been to Langstone and Bosham with visits to Old Portsmouth and Portchester planned.

Clive Midson



Suzy Gardiner

Photography Group in Romsey

### **Science and Technology Group Report**

Following Mike Gledhill's well deserved 'retirement' as Convenor for the U3A Science and Technology Horndean, we should like to take the opportunity to thank him publicly for his dedication and hard work ensuring the smooth running of the group.

Core members now work together to generate and organise the meetings and share the responsibility of the programme. This has proved most successful so far, with diverse topics ranging from the Astronomy, Engineering, Genetics and soft science. The combined expertise and enthusiasm of existing members provides a strong base but we would welcome newcomers to carry us forward.

Penny Knowler

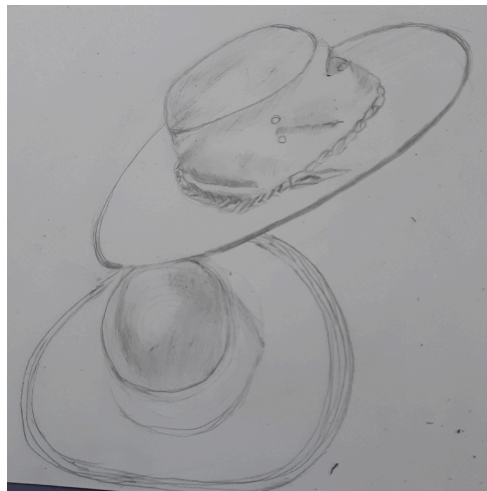
## Drawing and Painting Group

This year has seen the group happily established in the wonderful facilities of the Merchistoun Hall.

Topics have been deliberately selected so that all levels of drawing and painting can be enjoyed –

and demonstrated by the results – for example in last months meeting with the theme of ‘Hats’

Penny Knowler



## Discovering History

We restarted the group August 23, and we are still receiving lots of support from our members. We send out notices to 84 people and are getting attendances between 20 – 44 Our meeting day is now the third Thursday of the month, and we

alternate talks and visits. For the talks we meet at Jubilee Hall and start at 12.00 noon and our visits we tend to meet at about 10.30. A big thank you to all who help, and we must mention Andy, Clive, Sandra, Ingrid, Bernadette and Maggie and of course to all members who have attended the events. Visits this year have included The Brickworks Museum, Watts Gallery and Chapel, Salisbury Cathedral, Portsmouth Football Club, Milestones Museum and Chichester historic Walk. Talks have included Canals, Wealden Iron Industry, Chichester Harbour, Swing Riots. Most events have run smoothly but we had a memorable problem with the snow in November which led to a re-run of the Pompey trip. (This was good for me as I thoroughly enjoyed the tour and talk in January) A cancellation in July but rectified by an excellent talk in January about Chichester Harbour. Do our members have a favourite? We like to think they have all been enjoyable, but Salisbury is a beautiful place and cathedral. The Watts Gallery and chapel is a stunning arts and crafts venue, and Pompey was so much part of Portsmouth's history even if not a football follower. Many events have been memorable by the speakers or guides and the pride in their subject .



## Needlecraft Group

We are still enjoying the complimentary hospitality provided by Beregrove nursing home. For our meetings on the 1st Monday of the month.

With 14 members, we have lost two of our founder, stalwart members Wendy Harrison, who has moved away, and Mena McMahon who hasn't renewed her membership.

Two new members joined up at the last meeting.

A few residents from the home join us at most of our meetings.

We have started a new project for Linus, which is making syringe pump, driver bags, mostly for the oncology team at Southampton hospital. We are still making the quilts and knitted prem baby clothes for hospitals too.

I have included a few pictures taken at our meetings. One from the Linus Facebook page of 2 nurses modelling the pump bags, and a selection of the bags we have made.

We are always grateful to receive donations of spare fabrics you no longer need, for these projects.

If you would like to join us, you would be most welcome. We are not professionals, but have many years experience of all things needlecraft! And lots of chatting and laughs 😊





## **Card and Board Games**

This group meets at 10.00 every 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month at Bere Grove Care Home in Horndean.

We play a wide selection of games, including Scrabble, Rummikub, Triominoes, Gin Rummy and Yahtze. Members are encouraged to bring new games for us to try. Our membership has grown since we started, but we still have a few spaces, so come along--join us for coffee, biscuits with some fun and games in a welcoming, friendly atmosphere.



## Committee

The following members have volunteered for the Committee next year

Position	Name	Proposer	Secunder
Chairman	Clive Midson	Sandra Manktelow	Len Lovis
Secretary	Maggy Chesters	Jean Cooper	Sandra Manktelow
Treasurer	Patricia King	Heather Payne	Andy Forbes
Membership Secretary	Diane Simpson	Kathy Jarvis	Mary Weston
Groups Coordinator	Suzy Gardiner	Anne Noble	Andy Forbes

Committee	Kathee Pitt	Maggy Chesters	Juliet Taylor
Committee	Karen Bowles	Maggy Chesters	Juliet Taylor
Committee	Ron Hammerton	Stan Wright	Brenda Wright
Committee	Bernadette Grima	Andy Forbes	Diane Stoner

Committee	Karen Bowles	Maggy Chesters	Juliet Taylor
Committee	Ron Hammerton	Stan Wright	Brenda Wright
Committee	Bernadette Grima	Andy Forbes	Diane Stoner
Committee	Chrissie Middleton	Anne Rising	Maggy Chesters

Our constitution allows for a committee of up to 12, so we have room for more if anyone decides in the next year that they might be interested. In the meantime we have sufficient to carry our U3A forward and I am grateful to those who have volunteered.

Finally I would like to express our thanks to Avril Adams-Baxter for serving as Secretary for the last few years.

Clive Midson  
Chairman

