

NEWSLETTER
June 2026



SLAY THE STYMPHALIAN BIRDS

The sixth labour involved slaying the Stymphalian Birds, man-eating creatures with bronze beaks and metallic feathers they could shoot like arrows. They lived in a marsh and were difficult to approach.

With a magical rattle given to him by the goddess Athena, Hercules startled them into flight and shot many down with his bow.

u3a Chairman's Report June 2026

Hello members.

I hope you have been able to enjoy the sunny weather without getting too hot. If you want any tips on how to keep cool, I wrote about it in my chairman's report for last July which will be in the July 2025 newsletter.

Last Thursday I enjoyed a lovely lunch at the Boathouse on the marina. Great food – I had the sea bass and chocolate brownie – and excellent company. I believe that our u3a is very friendly and I hope we continue like that. Thank you very much to Margaret Andrews who organised it. If anyone else would like to organise a lunch or trip and would like help, advice or support, please ask me or any other member of the committee.

Recently we sent out a survey to you all asking you to fill it in. It is 'Inside u3a: Members Profiles and Perspectives' survey designed to help the u3a move forward. It is anonymous and any replies will not be connected to your name. I have filled mine in online. It is easy to do with tick boxes and takes about 15 minutes. We have already given out two paper copies for those who don't have email or a computer, including free post. If you would like a paper copy, please ask Trish Franks at the next meeting. The deadline for this survey has been extended to 14th June. Please complete the survey to help the u3a movement and it might make you think along the way.

Some members of the
Garden Group



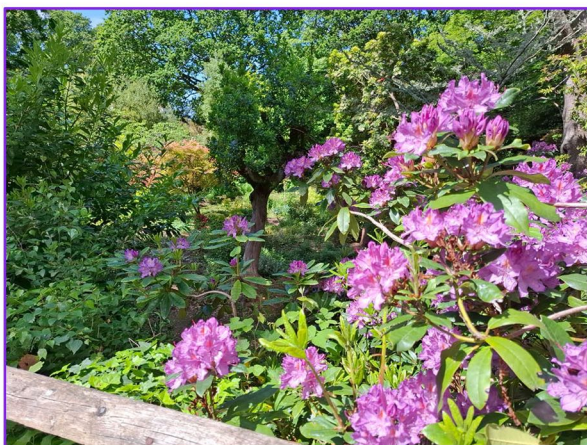
The garden group meets regularly once a month normally on the third Thursday of the month. We either get together in each other's gardens (there is no compulsion to host) or go to visit a garden or nursery. This month we went to Mac Penny's nursery at Bransgore to walk round their display garden which shows off the plants that they sell. The plants for sale are all arranged in alphabetical order which is helpful but unusual. We often share lifts to be friendly but also save a bit of fuel. Due to a few members of the group leaving who are not now able to attend, we have about four spaces available. If you would like to join our friendly and knowledgeable garden group, please contact Liz Coppack whose phone number is on the back of the information leaflet.

Finally, did you come to the Hythe fete last Bank Holiday Monday on Ewart's Recreation ground? If you did, did you see our stand and our new gazebo. It is in the blue and yellow colours of the u3a with our name and branding on it. We had quite a few enquiries and handed out many leaflets. Thank you to all those who helped.

We continue to have two meetings a month in June and July but we do not have any in August.

I hope to see you at them.

Marilyn.





Some picture from
MacPenny's
and our new gazebo



A bit of a general knowledge quiz

1. In which city would you find the Spanish Steps?
2. In Star Wars, can you name the two robot companions of Luke Skywalker
3. Whose neighbours are Barney and Betty Rubble
4. What is the plural of mongoose
5. What is the capital of Venezuela
6. Reporter Clark Kent worked for the Daily Planet, how is he better known
7. In the nursery rhyme, what did the dish run away with
8. According to George Orwell, who is watching us
9. Which country gave the Statue of Liberty to the USA
10. 'M' is James Bonds boss, but who give him his gadgets
11. Morello is a sour type of which fruit
12. Which vegetable did Sir Walter Raleigh bring back from The Americas
13. Who is Dr. Jekyll's alter ego
14. With which instrument was George Formby associated
15. Who 'packed her trunk and said goodbye to the circus'
16. In which book does Bilbo Baggins first appear
17. What colour were all Model T Fords
18. 'Apples and pears' is Cockney rhyming slang for what
19. Who made his 'last stand' against the Sioux Indians in 1876
20. Who plays the man with no name in 'High Plains Drifter'

What a Day 5 - June

First of June – According to Messrs Rodgers and Hammerstein June can now “bust out all over”. Looking around at the flowers and trees in our gardens perhaps June has been pre-emptively busting out.
152nd day of the year and only 213 left before you open the diaries you bought the previous August.

1495 The first known batch of Scotch whisky recorded.
Worth a fortune on Flog It now if you had put a bottle aside.

1533 Anne Boleyn crowned. Born about 1500 very certain when she died 19 May 1536.

1831 James Clark Ross became the first European
at the magnetic North Pole.

1878 James Masfield - poet born died 1967.
Hands up if you had to learn Sea Fever at school.

1907 Frank Whittle born – invented the jet engine
and so enabled us to get to our foreign hotel pools quicker.
Died 1996.

1919 Prohibition in Finland

1926 Marilyn Monroe born – died 1962.

1943 BOAC Flight 777 shot down over the Bay of Biscay
killing actor Leslie Howard

1958 Charles de Gaulle comes out of retirement.

1962 Adolf Eichmann hanged.

1968 Jason Donovan born.

1994 South Africa becomes a republic.

1999 Technoblade American You Tuber and streamer born.
Please explain what he actually does. Is it a proper job?

2011 Space shuttle Endeavour makes final landing after 25 flights.

**1st
JUNE**

Lyburn Farm and Cheese Supper, Landford

Thursday 2nd July 6:30 p.m.

I will be collecting £15 in cash for this trip at the first meeting in June in the Rainbow Room.

Just to remind all members who have booked the trip there is no arranged transport. You will have to make your own way there, possibly with friends who are going too. It's 17 miles from Dibden Purlieu and should take around 30 minutes on the A326 and then onto A36. Your phone or sat nav will find it for you. Barbara and myself have been for a recce and found it easily enough. There is plenty of parking. 6:30 p.m. arrival for a 6:45 p.m. start with the Cheese Supper after the Tractor Ride.

The itinerary is a tractor and trailer ride around the farm which takes approx. one and a half hours and on the way we will look at the issues of organic vegetables, visit the reservoir, the pumpkin fields & the cows and return to the farm to hear a bit about the cheese which is made on the premises and has recently won a top award. We will then sit down to a cheese supper.

I'm told it can be a bit bumpy and you need to dress in casual clothes and don't forget a jacket. It can get chilly. We have been informed that the trips are rarely cancelled, even in wet weather.

Unusually this is a cash only event as the money is passed directly to Lyburn Farm who after expenses donate the money to their charity of the year. The farm has been running these trips for charity since 2008.

Margaret Andrews



LYBURN
FARMHOUSE CHEESEMAKERS



Our u3a Trip to Kings Gallery London Queen Elizabeth II : Her Life in Style Exhibition

It was an early start when we all set off on the coach to London on a sunny morning at the end of April. 48 members, friends & relatives of members all looking forward to the exhibition that had been featured heavily in the press and news programmes for the past four weeks.

We had a 45-minute comfort break at Fleet where cups of coffee and tea were enjoyed, especially those who had been on the coach since 7:15 a.m. It was a quick journey as far as the outskirts of London but then it slowed down with the heavy traffic that is common to London. Our driver Lee, (but for some reason I had it in my head his name was Ian) was a really good driver and seemed to drive to our drop off point near Buckingham Palace effortlessly. He managed to drop us not far from the Gallery and informed us of our pick-up point and time of 4:15 p.m.

We all had tickets to the exhibition. 25 of us with an entrance time of 12:30 and 23 of us with an entrance time of 12:45. As we were early, quite a few of us walked the few hundred yards down to Buckingham Palace to enjoy the sunny day, watch the crowds and of course to take some photos. We then made our way to join the queue for our timed entrance and then had to go through the airport type security check before going up the stairs to the entrance to the exhibition.

The exhibition featured more than 300 items of clothing worn in all ten decades of Queen Elizabeth's life – from birth to adulthood, from princess to queen and from off-duty style to dressing for the global stage in Britain's history. Many of the items on display for the first time.

There was no time limit to our visit so we made our way around both rooms and then went back round again trying to absorb it all. Floral lawn cotton dresses that the princesses wore as young children, dresses from different decades of her life, shoes, hats and gloves and her informal clothes that she wore when 'off duty'. Seeing them all there together and actually recognizing some of her coats & hats she wore at occasions that were televised was remarkable. The colours of her coats & hats particularly were mostly bright so, as she said "Everyone will be able to see me". "I have to be seen to be believed". Angela Kelly, her long-time dresser and confidante was instrumental in developing a uniform that became instantly recognizable, consisting of tailored coats, a Launer London handbag, sensible shoes and matching hat.

One of the things that lots of people around the exhibition commented on was how small the Queen was. We all knew she was small but seeing her dresses & coats on the mannequins made you realise just how small in stature she was.

The exhibition showed exceptionally high-quality garments, featuring meticulous British couture, intricate embroidery and luxurious fabrics including silk tulle, delicate lace and velvet with many featuring detailed embroidery. Many were designed by the likes of Norman Hartnell and Hardy Amies with the Queen being heavily involved in their design. Highlights of the exhibition included her christening robe, bridesmaid dress, Coronation dress and her own wedding dress.

The Queen's wedding gown designed by Norman Hartnell in 1947 was a centre piece of the exhibition. It was absolutely stunning. Made of Chinese ivory silk, and satin with a tailored bodice and a fan shaped bridal train that was 4m in length. It was in keeping with Hartnell's signature of embroidery, soft floating fabrics of tulle, chiffon and silk. The dress was decorated with crystals and 10,000 seed pearls imported from USA. Round the hem of the dress, a border of orange blossom was appliqued with transparent tulle outlined in seed pearls and crystal. Hartnell claimed it as "the most beautiful dress I have so far made." As rationing was still in force in 1947 the government allowed her 200 extra coupons plus donated extra coupons from brides to be from all parts of the country to help her acquire the dress. Apparently, those donated coupons had to be returned as it was illegal for them to have been given away. This may be one of the last occasions this dress will be on display as the 79 year old dress is showing many signs of decay and the Royal Collection Trust team are using the most advanced preservation techniques to "try to slow that down as much as possible."

(Everyone received the memo to wear blue!)



The other dress that was a centre piece was the Coronation dress worn in June 1953. Again, this dress was designed by Norman Hartnell. It was Elizabeth's wish that the Coronation dress should be made of satin, like her wedding dress, emphasising regal elegance but with no undue emphasis on shape. It was designated to be traditional while also being contemporary in its design. Hartnell submitted eight varying designs for the Queen's consideration, and she selected the eighth design, but determined the final appearance herself by requesting that the gold and silver embroidery be enhanced by the introduction of coloured silks, which would enrich the traditional white and gold colour scheme. The ivory silk satin was produced at a silk farm in Kent and was richly encrusted with beautiful embroideries in pearls, crystals, beads, sequins and gold and coloured threads. The combination of pastel colours and large amounts of embroidery is one of the most notable features of the dress. The seams were embroidered to ensure the joins were invisible. Hartnell added a final special touch by adding in an embroidered four-leafed clover for luck, positioned on the skirt so that the Queen could gently touch it with her left hand.

We left the exhibition and went to lunch after spending around 2 hours absorbing it all and taking photos. We were all enthralled and full of admiration for the seamstresses, designers and quality of fabrics of the beautiful clothing on display. It was a day to remember. A long day by the time we arrived home but worth every minute. It was something that many of us will never see again in our lifetime.

Margaret Andrews





Wedding Dress



Coronation Dress



Dress from post coronation tour
to Australia & New Zealand 1953
designed by Hartnell



u3a Highgrove visit on Monday 27th July 2026
Out visit to Highgrove Gardens
owned by King Charles III
is on 27th July.

Cost £138

Includes coach, 1.5 hour guided tour of gardens,
two course lunch with wine and coffee.

It should be a great day out.

We will be leaving at 9:00a.m., to be confirmed.

The coach is a midi coach with a toilet on board.

We will stop on the way for a coffee break.

We shall arrive at 12noon. You will need photo I.D. like a passport
or driving licence for security reasons.

The tour starts at 12:30 for one and a half hours
so you will need to be able to walk for that long
and wear sensible footwear.

This will be followed by lunch at 14:20.

We will then have time to look in the retail outlets.

If you have any questions, please ask myself or Eunice.

Marilyn Wheelband and Eunice Adams.



HIGHGROVE

A bit of a general knowledge quiz
did it test the old grey cells ?

1. ROME
2. C-3PO R2-D2
3. FRED & WILMA FLINTSTONE
4. MONGOOSES
5. CARACAS
6. SUPERMAN
7. SPOON
8. BIG BROTHER
9. FRANCE
10. 'Q'
11. CHERRY
12. POTATO
13. MR. HYDE
14. UKELELE
15. NELLIE THE ELEPHANT
16. THE HOBBIT
17. BLACK
18. STAIRS
19. COLONEL GEORGE CUSTER
20. CLINT EASTWOOD

COMING SOON

MEETINGS:

◇ Our forthcoming talks
at St. Andrew's



- ◇ Tuesday : 2nd June - at 2pm.
Subject : "Noel Pemberton-Billing - a unique character"
Speaker : Julian Gee
- ◇ Tuesday : 16th June - at 2pm.
Subject : "The Music of Salzburg"
Speaker : Christopher Le Grand
- ◇ Tuesday : 7th July - at 2pm.
Subject : "New Forest WW 2 stories"
Speaker : Marc Heighway
- ◇ Tuesday : 21st July - at 2pm.
Subject : "Beyond Beliefs:
one family's incredible story"
Speaker : Sohail Husain



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