

NEWSLETTER
July 2026



CAPTURE THE CRETAN BULL

For his seventh task, Hercules was tasked with capturing the Cretan Bull, a mighty and untamable creature that had once been sent by Poseidon and later fathered the Minotaur. Hercules journeyed to Crete, wrestled the bull into submission, and brought it back across the sea to Mycenae.

u3a Chairman's Report July 2026

Hello to you all again. I am writing this in my study which is one of the coolest rooms in my house as it gets no direct sun. As you all know it has been so hot recently with records tumbling left, right and centre.

On the news, they keep referring to 1976, which is 50 years ago, when it was again very hot. There were hose pipe bans, lack of water and standpipes to collect water in buckets, also heath fires. I, myself, don't remember much of this as I was in Poland at the time. It was a student trip organised by the friends of Poland and I went for six weeks in my summer holiday after my third year at Nottingham University. I was based in Gdansk on the coast of Poland. It was hot there as well and we were living in student accommodation. We did not know how bad the heatwave was in Great Britain until we came across some old British newspapers! I was in Poland before glasnost and it was still communist. There was a shortage of many items including types of food. We used to stand in a queue, then send a friend to find out what people were queuing for – it was oranges one time! There were paper shops that sold all types of paper items from toilet rolls and tissues to writing paper and wrapping paper. I did manage to fence while I was there and got some lessons from a coach. I travelled across Gdansk to get these. It was fortunate that in the area I went to there were warm showers rather than the bowl wash we had to use in the student accommodation. The public transport was cheap and there were very old trams in Gdansk which quite often fell over. I did visit Warsaw which had been rebuilt and had more modern trams and great ice cream! The Polish people were very friendly to English people. However, they always wanted your address in England probably in case they wanted to defect. No-one turned up on my doorstep!

We have two more meetings in St. Andrew's hall in July, on 7th and 21st. There are no meetings in August. The trip to Highgrove Garden, belonging to the king, is on Monday 27th July and I am very much looking forward to that. The flower beds and herbaceous borders should be looking spectacular then as long as they haven't shrivelled up!

At every meeting we have tea or coffee and biscuits afterwards. Thank you goes to all the helpers who make the drinks and wash up. There is also an organiser who checks who will be able to help, keeps the coffee and tea, buys the milk and biscuits. This has been Anthony Mizzen with the help of his wife, Maria, for a while now. Thank you very much to both of them. However, they now feel that they cannot do this any longer and we wish to find a replacement or two. This is not an onerous job and there is a lot of support in the kitchen. If you go away on holiday, they are others who can help then. If a member would like to volunteer to do this, please see myself or Anthony to ask any questions. We do need a replacement or the tea and coffee will stop. Please consider this. You don't have to do it for ever!

I hope you are all managing to keep cool.

Marilyn.

QUIZ

Some of the Greek islands that Hercules may have visited can you find them in the grid?

A	S	A	N	T	O	R	I	N	I	A	R	L	S	A	L	A	M	I	S
B	A	S	E	M	C	Q	P	A	T	M	O	S	E	S	C	O	P	A	O
X	M	D	K	T	N	O	A	E	H	N	S	A	M	S	F	E	M	F	S
G	O	S	A	K	A	L	M	H	A	R	A	O	E	K	B	O	I	J	A
J	T	Y	R	O	L	U	E	I	C	O	R	F	U	K	S	O	U	T	H
L	H	I	P	P	O	M	N	H	A	N	R	B	T	G	K	O	S	F	T
K	R	P	A	A	N	I	A	Q	E	T	B	E	N	D	Y	R	E	S	O
Y	A	S	T	B	N	A	X	T	Z	M	U	L	N	Y	R	V	X	P	I
T	C	W	H	I	I	N	O	X	S	O	N	I	T	Y	O	D	N	E	W
H	E	R	O	N	S	S	S	Z	R	N	A	C	A	U	S	A	L	T	S
I	B	A	S	K	O	P	E	L	O	S	R	A	C	M	T	E	E	S	O
R	D	A	U	R	S	E	N	L	E	E	F	R	T	Y	F	G	R	E	H
A	H	S	D	I	A	C	R	E	T	E	D	I	V	K	Q	E	O	S	T
K	G	N	L	G	A	T	O	M	R	M	N	A	A	O	M	V	S	M	N
N	A	A	L	S	O	C	K	N	P	E	Z	D	J	N	Q	I	A	I	Y
R	N	E	R	O	K	I	L	O	T	I	A	I	N	O	L	A	F	E	K
S	I	S	H	L	T	P	G	S	U	C	H	I	O	S	U	F	E	O	A
V	G	S	K	I	A	T	H	O	S	W	E	O	F	E	R	J	S	Y	Z
Y	E	S	D	M	Z	W	R	E	F	C	R	H	O	D	E	S	A	W	B
K	A	L	Y	M	N	O	S	O	X	A	P	N	Y	S	T	O	W	A	Z

Aegina

Aitoliko

Alonnisos

Andros

Chios

Corfu

Crete

Evia

Icaria

Ithaca

Kalymnos

Karpathos

Kefalonia

Kos

Kythira

Lefkada

Lemnos

Leros

Lesbos

Milos

Mykonos

Naxos

Patmos

Paxos

Rhodes

Salamis

Samos

Samothrace

Santorini

Skiathos

Skopelos

Skyros

Spetses

Thasos

Tinos

Zakynthos

YOUR COMMITTEE NEEDS YOU !

We have several vacancies on our Committee which we need to fill.

Would you like to volunteer to help out?

The role can be exciting and rewarding so what are you waiting for?

Speak to any member of the committee to let them know that you are interested.

(or, they may come and talk to you!)

Committee Members Needed



H i s t o r y G r o u p

The History Group is looking for a new facilitator/leader/organiser. We are a small but enthusiastic group who meet monthly. In the past at Hythe Community Centre but a change of location is always an option. As examples of our activities, we have visited St Nicholas Church Brockenhurst, St John's Church Boldre and All Saints Church Minstead. We have been to the Waterside Heritage Centre and behind the scenes at the New Forest Heritage Centre Lyndhurst. Members have given presentations on the Forest Charter, Commoners Right, the Esso Cinema other local topics and which historical figure would you invite to dinner.

Leading the group is not particularly arduous or time consuming and new ideas are always welcome. So, if you feel you could take on this role talk to me, our Chair Marilyn or Groups Organiser Caryll Young.

Peter Dudley

What a Day 6 - July

1 July Half way through the year and the countdown to Christmas should be starting any time now.

At least three important events during the month –

4/7 American Independence Day,

14/7 Bastille Day in France

and at an undisclosed date my birthday.

But we are concerned with the first of the month.

1770 Lexell's comet approached a mere 1,360,000 miles from Earth.
You could almost feel the draught.

1837 Civil registration of births, marriages and deaths established.

1858 Darwin/Wallace papers on evolution read to the Linnean Society of London thereby upsetting many of a religious persuasion.

1867 Canada becomes a Dominion

1903 Amy Johnson born - died 1941
First Tour de France

1908 International distress signal SOS adapted

1916 First day of the Battle of the Somme –
19,000 British Army personnel killed, 40,000 injured.

1963 Kim Philby denounced as a spy.

1997 Hong Kong handed over to the Chinese

2007 Smoking banned indoors in establishments in England.
Good decision.

2015 Val Doonican died born 1927.
Remember the days of proper Saturday evening telly?

And I nearly forgot

1995 Teeyong, South Korean rapper born

History Group

Towards the end of June the History group visited **All Saints Church, Minstead** for a tour ably conducted by a church member. Local, often small, parish churches can often provide a wealth of history and knowledge.

We started, as you would expect, at the lych gate. A practice that started during covid lockdowns continues today. Visitors have been leaving messages or prayers here on small wooden roundels a supply of which is kept at the gate by the coffin rest.

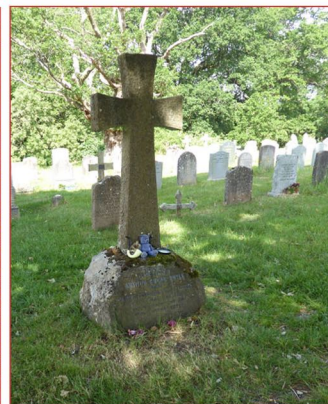
We were next guided around the churchyard to see some of the more interesting graves. Some of course are difficult to read weathered as they are by time and the slow growth of lichens. One had a clear depiction of a serpent. Not a New Forest reptile but a musical instrument from a by-gone age. Another was the spectacularly resplendent resting place of a Romani gypsy Queen. Three more of special interest. Conan Doyle buried away from the church perhaps because of his Spiritualist tendencies. He was brought here from his original first resting place where he was apparently buried in an upright position. Does that qualify as a resting place then? Then there was Air Commodore Rex Waite who originally said the Berlin airlift was feasible and planned it thereby changing the direction and post-war history of Europe. Close by Emma Chambers who was the delightfully dotty Alice in The Vicar of Dibley.

Moving inside the church the first obvious signs of age are the two deep grooves on the doorstep worn by the passage of many feet over centuries. The font is carved with Biblical scenes and spent some time in the vicarage garden perhaps as a bird bath. There two large galleries to which you climb at your own risk – we didn't. One was where the band played before the church acquired the organ and the other where the less devout children of the village might have been found during services. Then there is the three tier pulpit. The vicar/rector delivered his sermon from the uppermost and would have a good view of anyone nodding off. The wall behind the altar seems to have been boarded off at some time perhaps to secure treasured items from Cromwell's troops.

Now a touch of luxury not afforded to many churchgoers.
A separate, elevated box pew with its own fireplace. Proper church going!
Finally on the door with marks carved to ward them off and make sure they didn't get inside.
So, a small piece of Forest history serving parishioners for many centuries.

Peter Dudley







Lyburn Farm and Cheese Supper, Landford **Thursday 2nd July 6:30 p.m.**

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.

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.



LYBURN
FARMHOUSE CHEESEMAKERS



u3a visit to Highgrove Gardens on Monday 27th July 2026

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.



HIGHGROVE

Our Speaker on the 16th June, Christopher Legrand, who talked about the Music of Salzburg (and previously the music of Vienna) has arranged a charity concert in aid of local cancer charities.

If you are interested please contact him at c.legrand@btinternet.com to reserve tickets.

A Special Concert in aid of local Cancer Charities
Macmillan Caring Locally (Christchurch) and Wessex Cancer Support
Charity Number 1100412 Charity Number 1110210

Dianne Tompkins (Soprano)
Christopher Legrand (Bass)
and John Porter (Accompanist)
present

'Unforgettable'

with Special Guests 'The West Moors Sounds'
and Daniela levolo (Saxophone)

at St Martin's Church

2 Moorlands Road, West Moors, BH22 0JW

on FRIDAY 31st July 2026

at 7.00pm

With the music of Cole Porter, Irving Berlin, Nelson Riddle,
and Monty Python's 'Spamalot', the shows 'Ragtime' and
the huge 1985 Broadway success 'Big River'

TICKETS £10 available from Brewer and Brewer (opposite the
church) or you can reserve for collection at the door by visiting
www.talksbychristopher.co.uk, click on 'Concert' button, or email
c.legrand@btinternet.com

u3a Lunch at The Boathouse, Hythe Marina

On Thursday 28th May, approximately 40 members of our u3a went for a lunch at the Boathouse in the Marina at Hythe.

Over a very relaxed lunch we chatted whilst the food was prepared and delivered to the table. Every dish looked (and was) delicious.

Our thanks to Margaret Andrews who arranged this event, and as on previous occasions her organising was first rate.

We are already looking forward to a return visit.



Boathouse
HOTEL & RESTAURANT







Just a reminder

We have had a few phones ringing
during our speakers talk lately.

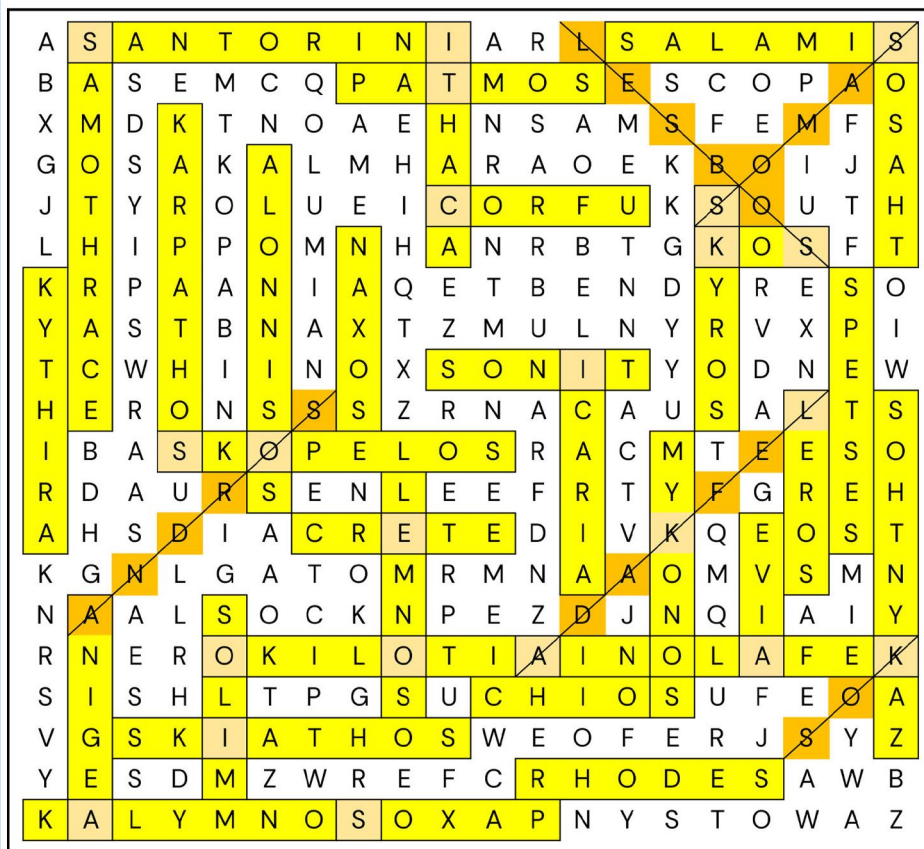
Please remember, thank you.



**PLEASE SWITCH OFF YOUR
MOBILE OR TURN IT TO SILENT**

Quiz

how many have you visited



- | | | | |
|-----------|-----------|---------|------------|
| Aegina | Ithaca | Lesbos | Samothrace |
| Aitoliko | Kalymnos | Milos | Santorini |
| Alonnisos | Karpathos | Mykonos | Skiathos |
| Andros | Kefalonia | Naxos | Skopelos |
| Chios | Kos | Patmos | Skyros |
| Corfu | Kythira | Paxos | Spetses |
| Crete | Lefkada | Rhodes | Thasos |
| Evia | Lemnos | Salamis | Tinos |
| Icaria | Leros | Samos | Zakynthos |

COMING SOON

MEETINGS:

◇ Our forthcoming talks
at St. Andrew's



- ◇ Tuesday : 7th July - at 2pm.
Subject : "New Forest WW II stories"
Speaker : Marc Heighway
- ◇ Tuesday : 21st July - at 2pm.
Subject : "Beyond Beliefs:
one family's incredible story"
Speaker : Sohail Husain

August : No Meetings

- ◇ Tuesday : 1st September - at 2pm.
Subject : "My Digital Legacy"
Speaker : Paul Day



u3a.nfwnl@gmail.com

<https://u3a-newforest.org.uk>

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