

NEWSLETTER
September 2026



OBTAIN THE GIRDLE -BELT- OF HIPPOLYTA

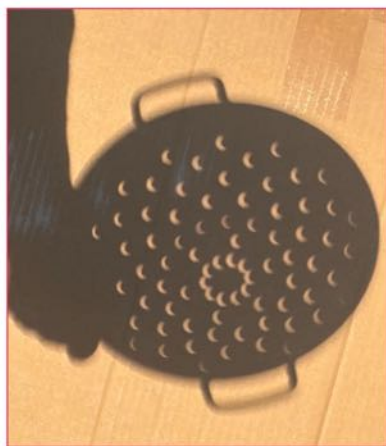
In the ninth labour, Hercules was told to retrieve the girdle of Hippolyta, queen of the Amazons. At first, she agreed to give it to him peacefully. However, the goddess Hera, ever hostile to Hercules, stirred up suspicion among the Amazons, leading to a battle.

In the chaos, Hippolyta was killed
and Hercules took the girdle by force.

u3a Chairman's Report September 2026

Welcome to you all. I hope that you had a good summer and that you are looking forward to the new u3a season. I know that I am. There should be lots to enjoy: bimonthly meetings with interesting talks, great trips to go on, interest groups to join and share knowledge, skittles for fun and gentle competition, and last but not least the annual Christmas lunch.

Did you see the solar eclipse on 12th August? There was a major partial solar eclipse that day as the Moon passed in front of the Sun during the early evening. This was partial in the U.K. and Ireland but a total eclipse for parts of Greenland, Iceland and northern Spain. Fortunately, we had good weather here locally with no clouds. I set off to Hatchets Moor with my colander and when I arrived it was heaving. I have never seen the carpark so busy. I managed to squash my car into a corner of the carpark and set off with my folding chair to find a spot to observe the eclipse. I just walked a short way to a point overlooking the pond with the waterlilies. The colander was not very effective (I don't think I had the correct technique) but fortunately I made friends with some people nearby and they lent me their special glasses from time to time. I was able to observe the moon moving slowly across to cover about 90% of the sun. It was amazing. I thought I would have a look as the next total eclipse here is in 2090!



Having you been watching Evolution with Chris Packham on BBC1? I am watching it on iPlayer and I am finding it fascinating. The last one I watched was on bats. I have always wanted to go and observe bats but the visits were always not good days for me. I will try harder. I am planning to watch Hamza and his programme on birds of prey in Africa. The trailers look amazing. I am a member of the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust and I get four magazines every year. They are full of information and facts about wildlife especially related to the local area. The last magazine had articles about damselflies, wild orchids and seagrass. The chalk downland of our two counties supports three native wild orchids: the pyramidal orchid, the bee orchid and the bird's nest orchid. There are many volunteers who help with the seagrass planting across the Solent, including at Calshot. The latest news is that beavers are at Blashford Lakes and have been recorded there for the first time! I think that this is the only magazine that I receive that I read from start to finish all the way through.

I am hoping to set up an environmental and science group in our u3a. There is so much to see, discuss and do. Locally we have so many facilities to interest us from chemical engineering processes at Esso, science hands-on at the Winchester Science Centre, geothermal energy in Southampton, the oceanography centre and ecology and nature in the New Forest.

Please come along on 6th October and talk about what you would like to enjoy with this group.

Marilyn.

QUIZ

Some fairly general knowledge questions

1. Where was the Inspector Morse TV series filmed?
2. In which make of car does Michael J Fox go "Back to the Future"?
3. Who directed the film "The Birds"?
4. Which year links an overture by Tchaikovsky and Napoleons retreat from Moscow?
5. What type of books did Zane Grey write?
6. What is the name of the private detective in Dashiell Hammett's "The Maltese Falcon"?
7. Which city is the capital of Iceland?
8. With which song did ABBA win the Eurovision Song Contest?
9. In which book does Bilbo Baggins first appear?
10. Which mountain did Noah's Ark come to rest on?
11. Who stole the porridge belonging to the three bears?
12. Who plays The Prisoner in the cult TV series?
13. Which vitamin are carrots rich in?
14. Which country in Central America is known by the Spanish for "Rich Coast"?
15. What colours will hydrangeas growing in acid soil normally be?

Renewals for 2026/2027

As August is the end of our year, we will be sending out the renewal forms for 2026/2027 by email to those members for whom we have an email address. It would help if you could print, fill in and return with your cheque at the first meeting of our new year, the winter term on September 1st.

You may pay before then by internet banking if you have the facility, quoting your Surname and Initials as the reference, the bank details are on the Subscription Renewal form and below. Please note that we require one form for each member and that it has to be signed (Data Protection, I'm afraid) and returned.

For those members not on email or who are unable to print the form, there will be some printed copies available at our first meeting in September.

We look forward to you renewing for another interesting year of meetings and continuing with the varied groups.

Bank Transfers to: NatWest

Account Name: New Forest Waterside u3a

Sort Code: 60-20-40

Account No: 79043283

Reference: Your Surname & Initials

Cheques Payable to:

New Forest Waterside u3a

u3a learn,
laugh,
live
New Forest/Waterside

u3a
Subscription Renewal
not valid after 31st Aug 2027

New Forest Waterside u3a
RENEWAL SUBSCRIPTION
to end August 2027
£20 and 50p

The Third Age Trust
New Waterside

Payment Details:
Bank Transfer to: New Forest Waterside u3a
Account Name: New Forest Waterside u3a
Sort Code: 60-20-40
Account No: 79043283
Reference: Your Surname & Initials

Name: _____ Title: _____
Address: _____
Post Code: _____
Email: _____ Phone: _____

Please tick the box if you would consider being a committee member or a group leader or assisting on an ad-hoc basis.

Please tick the box if you would like to receive the Third Age Waterside Magazine ☐

☐ I agree to abide by the Principles of the club movement, and the procedures and practices of the New Forest Waterside u3a

☐ I agree to always act in the best interests of the club movement, and the procedures and practices of the New Forest Waterside u3a

☐ I agree to support the committee and do anything which could bring the movement into disrepute

☐ I agree to read fellow members with respect and courtesy at all times

☐ I agree to comply with and support the decisions of the elected committee

☐ I understand that it is a requirement to wear the required membership identification at all meetings

☐ I understand that the personal details being held on a secure database and used solely for the purposes of administration and the distribution of club communications. They will never be passed to any outside agency or party other than for you to receive Third Age Waterside by post

☐ I understand that any price appearing on the website and membership form

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Field Comp Card Cheque/Bank Transfer Date

u3a 'Thank you' tea.

In August we held an afternoon tea to thank u3a members who help our u3a function and run smoothly. There were committee members, tea makers, fee collectors, trip organisers and more who give generously of their time and effort. It was held at a committee member's garden on the hottest day of the year!

However, we had plenty of shade and fans and there were many chairs to sit on. Members did bring their own chairs to help. We had Pimm's or J2O to drink which gave a garden party feel. After we had toasted our friend Ken who has recently passed away, we partook of our lovely tea. We had sandwiches, scones with jam and cream, and two types of cake. They were lemon drizzle and chocolate brownie, both of which were yummy.

It was a very enjoyable afternoon with time to talk and catch up.

Thank you to those committee members who helped to organise it.

And another thank you to those members who help our u3a selflessly throughout the year.

Marilyn.





October 6 – a special meeting for members (and maybe a few friends)



This is a free event and here's what you can do:

- **Bring cakes for our cake sale**
- **Eat cakes and drink tea or coffee**
- **Buy cakes**
- **Find out what the groups have been doing and their plans:**
 - See where the Garden Group has visited
 - View a wonderful display of Embroidery
 - Find out what plans there are for the History group with their new leader
 - Check what the Discussion group has been discussing
 - See some photos from the Photography group
 - Make some words for Scrabble
 - Learn when you can play Skittles
 - Join or watch a game of Pétanque or Table Tennis
 - Find out where members have visited and dined.
- **See some new ideas:**
 - Learn to play Mahjong
 - Admire some beautiful Calligraphy
 - Improve your drawing and painting skills
 - Learn about Science and the Environment
- **Chat to your friends**
- **Make new friends**

**Finally, but most important, donate to this year's charity:
Waterside Cancer Support Centre** who do so much to support
and give guidance to those with a cancer diagnosis.

YOUR COMMITTEE NEEDS YOU

We have several vacancies for members of our Committee .

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





HYTHE OF ACTIVITY DAY

Come to Hythe Village Centre to interact with over 30 of the Waterside's range of societies, volunteer groups, social and support groups.

Each will showcase themselves and have an interactive element for a fun filled day finding out what the area has to offer!

SATURDAY
5TH
SEPTEMBER
10AM-3PM



GAMES AND ENTERTAINMENT



LIVE MUSIC AND ARTS



COMMUNITY SPIRIT AWARD CEREMONY

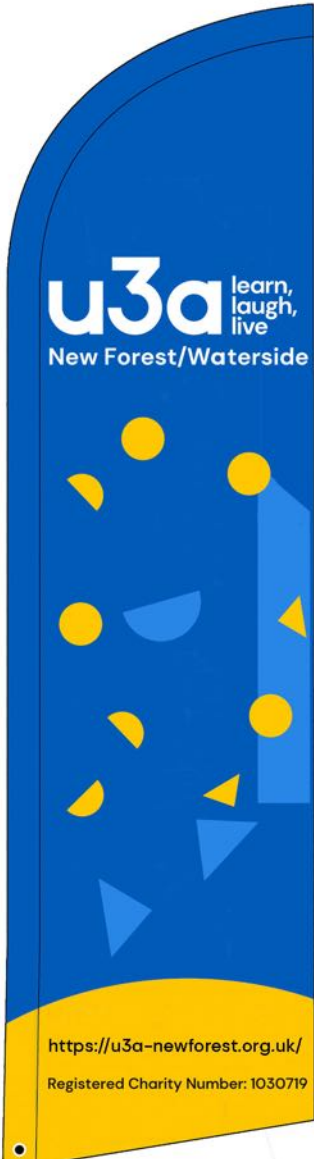


Hythe & Dibden
PARISH COUNCIL

For more information email-
emily.black@hytheanddibden.gov.uk



RevitalHythe



u3a learn,
laugh,
live
New Forest/Waterside

<https://u3a-newforest.org.uk/>
Registered Charity Number: 1030719



Hythe & Dibden
PARISH COUNCIL

"Hythe of Activity Day"

Will we be seeing you at the
"Hythe of Activity Day"
on the 5th September?

As part of this, your u3a will have a table
at the event (hopefully outside Waitrose
as last year), where we hope to
encourage a few more people to
become members.

If you are in Hythe that day please
come along and stop for a chat.
You could also stop and have a word
with prospective new members.

The committee will be manning the
table all day (from 10am until 3pm)
and will welcome the chance to catch
up with you all.

It would be nice to see you,
so please come along to
support your u3a.

Christmas Light Up Trails

Hilliers Gardens in Romsey

6 p.m. 10th December

We haven't been to the Christmas Light Up Trails at Hilliers for a couple of years now. I had an email from them recently with dates to book and their new installations for 2026. The Ember Garden, Angels in the Snow, and House of Bloom along with the old favourites like Written in the Stars. Leave a wish and watch it illuminate above the water. This was always a popular trip so I hope enough of you would like to come this year.

I have applied for 30 tickets for 10th December at 6 p.m. I will be taking names and cheques at the first meeting in September. Price of the ticket is £20 per person. If by any chance we can't sell these tickets I will put them out to friends and family after 15th September. The tickets will be held for us until 18th September.

The trail is about a mile long with a break and refreshments available half way round. The path is gravel and said to be wheelchair friendly.

There will be no arranged transport to Romsey and I'm hoping that friends can get together and arrange a car share as we have done before. Parking is included and there will be the usual refreshments available.

More details to follow.

Margaret Andrews



Drawing and Painting for Absolute Beginners

Another bright and sunny morning, and a group of us has gathered at the community hall, for a drawing workshop, headed by John Edwards, who gave such an interesting talk and demonstration to us in January.

After the talk, several members had said they wished they could do that, "How clever!", so I booked a venue, and the tutor. It was a community event (rather than exclusively u3a), and we were joined by a few ladies of a certain age, from the local senior drama group. 11 of us altogether. A few were a bit nervous to start with, worried that they hadn't done anything like this since they left school, whilst one or two had actually got an art certificate from school. Also, a long time ago.

John handed us each a sheet of blank paper, and a piece of charcoal, about 4 cm long. He also provided a pack of wet wipes, for anyone fussy about clean hands!

And all we had to do was watch what he did at the front of the class, with his piece of paper and charcoal, then do the same. Easy peasy. A few random black marks here, a few more slightly less black marks there, a couple of lines, and hey presto! A landscape with tree and a stream.

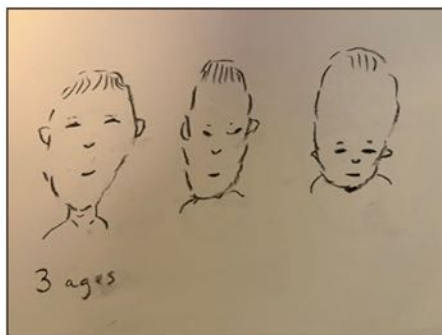
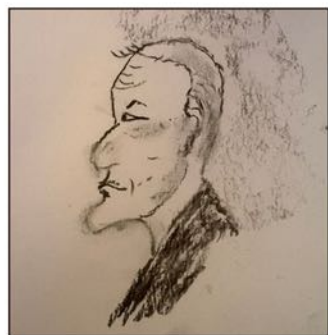
At least, that was what John had drawn. And to be fair, most of us had managed something recognisable too. Though each one was different. And the pack of wet wipes had gone down considerably...





That was an hour gone. Quick break for a drink and biscuit, and back to the drawing board, this time to have a go at a portrait. A line here, another one there, a bit of black shading for hair, a few subtle shadows, and there is a recognisably human face, though mostly one that only a mother could love.

What was very noticeable during the morning was how quietly everyone was working, concentrating really hard. Coffee break excepted.



John also talked round a few useful technical points, such as deciding which direction light is coming from, and noticing proportions in faces, from baby, to older child to adult. Where ears go, in relation to eyes. That kind of thing. Properly looking at things.

We had great fun seeing each other's efforts, and mostly being surprised at how much we had enjoyed themselves.

If there is sufficient interest, John has agreed to run another workshop, probably after Xmas, when we may even be let loose with some colour.

We could also set up a u3a interest group, for similar, self guided , activities, if enough people would like to join.

Watch this space.

Brenda Smith

What a Day - September 2026

1st September – Day 244 and only 121 until the end of the year and so even fewer until Christmas. The beginning of this month usually brings several days of really warm days to welcome the children back to school but they will have had plenty of hot weather training this year.

So 1st September

- 1532** Anne Boleyn made Marquess of Pembroke.
Not every girl gets a pressie like that from her boy friend.
- 1645** Civil War Scottish Covenantors abandon the siege of Hereford.
Obviously more attractive sieges north of the border.
- 1859** The Carrington Event (he was a London astronomer) – the strongest geomagnetic event yet recorded. A solar flare observed with the energy of 10 million atomic bombs (how did they calculate that?) Very intense lights lit up the sky over much of the Earth.
People reading newspapers by its light etc.
- 1875** Edgar Rice Burroughs, creator of Tarzan, born. Died 1950
- 1878** Emma Nutt became the world's first female telephone operator.
- 1898** Violet Carson born – died 1983. Was she the one in Coronation St that always wore a hair net?
- 1939** Germany invades Poland and we all know what happened next.
- 1969** Col. Gaddafi comes to power.
- 1974** SR-71 Blackbird sets and hold the record for the New York to London crossing –1 hour 54 minutes 56.4 seconds.
Only marginally longer than the journey from Southampton Central to London Waterloo.
- 1976** Babydaddy American singer/songwriter born!
- 1985** Wreck of the Titanic discovered.
- Oh!** And its Wattle Day in Australia apparently

HISTORY GROUP

a message from Hector Bird

Since Peter Dudley has stepped down as the Organiser of the History Group, I have been persuaded to take over its running. As previously, the History Group will meet on the fourth Thursday of each month starting September 24th, and will initially run from 10:30 to 12 noon.

Our venue is now room no.1 on the ground floor at Cornerstone Church next to the Post Office depot in Hythe. There is disabled access with coffee and tea served from the desk from 10:00 onwards at £1 per cup including a biscuit. There is limited parking here, with one designated disabled parking space, but it's not far to walk from the Hythe car parks.

The room is large with comfortable seating, internet connection, a huge television screen which can show pictures and videos from your laptop including items from the internet.

Talks given by members can use the screen to enhance and ease their production.

The range of all presentations will now be from prehistory up to recent history some of these may well include personal oral history of ourselves and our predecessors.

The next presentation on 24th September will be "Hythe and Dibden Purlieu history from WW2 and onwards" by Eunice Adams and Margaret Vaughan

I do hope you can make it, there is the potential for our group to grow, there will be a display publicising the History Group at the 6th October u3a meeting.

If you've any queries or suggestions for our group or presentations you can contact me on 07950 316438 or email hectorbird@sky.com

Hector

Winchester College Tour plus War Cloister Tour – Thursday 15th October

£16.65 for both tours

I'm organising a one hour guided tour of Winchester College plus a one hour guided War Cloister Tour on Thursday 15th October. We have been offered up to 40 tickets for two tours. The first tour will commence at 11 a.m. and the second tour at 1:30 pm to allow time for lunch. The tours will be divided into two groups. Half of the members will go on the College Tour at 11 a.m. and the other half will go on the War Cloister Tour at 11 a.m. and then swap over at 1:30 p.m.

There are a few pubs & cafes nearby for lunch and Winchester Cathedral has a lovely café in a walled garden and only a seven minute walk from the college. No charge to just visit the café.

The College suggest we use the Park & Ride at Junction 11 and get off at The Broadway stop. £3.50 per car per day including all passengers. There are **no** parking facilities at the College. Winchester College is a ten minute walk from the bus stop at Broadway. I'm hoping that members will be able to 'buddy up' and car share.

I will be taking names & cheques payable to New Forest Waterside u3a at the first and second meetings in September. (1st & 15th September.) If by any chance you can't come to the September meetings contact me if you'd like to come.

I will need payment & confirmation of numbers by 22nd September please. You can pay by BACS if you prefer but, in the reference, please put your surname & Winchester so our Treasurer knows who it's from and for which event.

I do hope the tours sound interesting to you and as always, thank you for your support

Please see the website for further information.

winchestercollegeheritage.org

Margaret Andrews



WINCHESTER
COLLEGE

QUIZ

fairly straight forward?

- 1.The Inspector Morse TV series was filmed in OXFORD
- 2.Michael J Fox went "Back to the Future" in a DE LOREAN
- 3.ALFRED HITCHCOCK directed the film "The Birds"
- 4.The 1812 overture by Tchaikovsky commemorates Napoleons retreat from Moscow
- 5.Zane Grey wrote COWBOY books
- 6.SAM SPADE is the private detective in Dashiell Hammett's "The Maltese Falcon"
- 7.REYKJAVIK is the capital of Iceland
- 8.ABBA sang WATERLOO to win the Eurovision Song Contest
- 9.Bilbo Baggins first appears in THE HOBBIT
10. Noah's Ark came to rest on MOUNT ARARAT
11. GOLDDILOCKS stole the porridge belonging to the three bears
12. PATRICK MCGOOHAN played The Prisoner in the cult TV series
13. Carrots are rich in VITAMIN A
14. In Spanish "Rich Coast" translates as COSTA RICA
15. Hydrangeas growing in acid soil will normally be BLUE / MAUVE

COMING SOON

MEETINGS:

◇ Our forthcoming talks
at St. Andrew's



- ◇ Tuesday : 1st September - at 2pm.
Subject : "My Digital Legacy"
Speaker : Paul Day
- ◇ Tuesday : 15th September - at 2pm.
Subject : "Your Home Made Better"
Speaker : Nyron Jordan
- ◇ Tuesday : 6th October - at 2pm.
Subject : Groups Demonstration
Subject : Cake Sale
- ◇ Tuesday : 20th October - at 2pm.
Subject : "Scams and Frauds - How to avoid them"
Speaker : Richard Williams



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