

Weymouth & Portland u3a Newsletter

Spring/Summer 2024



A Message from the Editor

Now that the dark days of winter are behind us, we can look forward to longer days and, hopefully, some nice weather over the coming months. In this issue, we look back to the Christmas Party and AGM, look forward to Spring and Summer events, and include two volunteering opportunities: one associated with the Ministry of Justice and the other with School Readers - more details inside. I would also like to thank all those who have contributed to this edition.

Finally, I hope you enjoy the newsletter and find it useful but, as always, all future contributions and feedback from yourselves are always much appreciated.

John Williams, email: newsletter.weyportu3a@gmail.com

20th Anniversary

This year is the 20th Anniversary of the founding of the Weymouth and Portland u3a. To celebrate this milestone, your committee is planning a wonderful experience with a few surprises added to make this event truly memorable.

This will be a wonderful opportunity to come together to remember the last twenty years, to celebrate all the fantastic achievements of the u3a and to highlight its impact on the lives of its members.

Weymouth & Portland u3a 20th Anniversary Celebration



**In the Ocean Room,
Weymouth Pavilion
1st June 2024 - 1pm to 4pm**

Finger Buffet from 1:30 pm 🍽️

Complimentary tea/coffee on arrival ☕

Bar 🍸

Entertainment 🎵

Numbered ticket must be shown at the door
(tickets will be distributed before the event)

If you would like to attend, please email a speedy reply declaring your interest to Karyn Jeanes (email: membershipsec.weyportu3a@gmail.com) as capacity is limited due to venue size. For information, 176 of 250 tickets have been allocated at the time of publication.

Annual General Meeting

Chair

Hugh Pelham, the outgoing chair, opened the AGM by reporting that the last twelve months have seen our u3a continue its growth following the devastating impact of the Pandemic on our activities and membership. The number of members has increased by over 40 new members since the 2023 AGM and the experience of the last two years suggests that the membership will grow again in 2024. The number of groups stands at 58 with the Groups Co-Ordinator planning even more groups over the coming months.

The highlights of 2023 included:

- An excellent survey undertaken by Caz Cousins seeking the views of Members, which was invaluable to the Committee in undertaking their responsibilities Caz's work also led to several Members expressing an interest in joining the Committee;
- A focus group of approximately 40 members, which led to the introduction of coffee mornings, and an awareness of how we might better welcome new members being the key outcomes;
- A very successful Group Fayre;
- An excellent Christmas Party, with our thanks to the Recorder and Ukulele Groups;
- Some excellent Speakers at our Monthly Meetings; and
- A dramatic improvement in the financial position of the groups, for which all the Group Leaders, as well as the Members, deserve congratulations.

He thanked all the members for their support for u3a over the last year; the Group Leaders for all their work in managing their groups; the committee for all the work they do, much of which is unseen; and the new Committee Members who have come forward this year. The Board will be much changed, he felt sure they will continue to develop and grow our organisation.

He made a special thanks to those Officers and Committee members who are standing down, either due to constitutional reasons, or personal circumstances and that members give the new Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary and Treasurer their full support.

Treasurer

Paul Rogers, the outgoing Treasurer presented a summary of the accounts which had been audited and showed there was a surplus of £3100.00 over the year which means the u3a is in a very sound financial position. He went on to introduce Chris Harris, the incoming Treasurer to the members at the AGM.

Acceptance of the accounts was proposed, seconded, and carried at the meeting.

Election of Officers

The following officers and members of the u3a Executive Committee were duly elected by the AGM.

OFFICE	OFFICER
Chair	Steve Millin
Treasurer	Chris Harris
Secretary	Bernie Moore
Vice Chair	Trevor Lindley
Membership Secretary	Karyn Jeanes
Speakers Co-Ordinator	Fran Rook
Groups Co-Ordinator	Tomasa Sherwood
Committee Member	Michael Daniel
Committee Member	Janet Armstrong
Committee Member	Abbigail Langstone-Wring
Committee Member	Kathy Kincaid
Committee Member	Kim Harris

W&P u3a Membership

Membership Update

Our membership currently stands at 651. Some members decided not to renew their membership for various reasons, but I am pleased to report that we have had 74 new members sign up since 1st January.

A new members' meeting was held recently to tell them a little about the history of u3a. They also met each other, some of the committee and a few group leaders who were keen to sign them up for groups.

Members Portal

Access to the members' portal via the Weymouth & Portland u3a website has now been simplified but, if you haven't already accessed the site, you will need to log in the old way one last time using your details as follows:

Membership Number, Forename, Surname, Postcode, and Email Address

Once you have done this you can register your email address and then in the future you only need to enter your email address and a password of your choice to get through the portal to be able to update your details or to renew your membership in January.

Karyn Jeanes, email: membershipsec.weyportu3a@gmail.com

or

no email? Use the bat phone: 07833417243



Weymouth & Portland u3a Website

The migration of our website to a new platform is starting to come into focus and within a few months you should be seeing a new website for the Weymouth & Portland u3a. The committee has signed the terms and conditions for the transition and Karyn, and I are going through a zoom training/orientation session. After that we will be upskilling and learning about the new platform, how to build our site and then the steps to publish it. Then the hard work starts as we review existing content, decide what to use, and what new bits we need, build new frameworks, and make sure it fits our purpose.

This is an exciting time for us, and we are looking forward to the challenge. As soon as we have news of the change we will be in touch.

Did you Know?

We have on average 4000 visits to the pages on our site, this could be to the home page, group pages, events etc.

Did you Know?

You can contact the group leader of any of our groups using the bluebird symbol on the right-hand side of any of the group pages.

Did you know?

The picture on our home page was taken by one of our members from the photography group - Stephen Baker.

Caz Cousins, Webmaster email: web.weyportu3a@gmail.com

u3a National Website

As u3a members you have access to the [Weymouth & Portland website](#) and the [u3a national website](#), take time to navigate round both to find more activities and events to get involved in. Click on the embedded links to take you straight to the website pages.

On the national website there is information on:

- The University of York will play host to [u3a's first ever festival](#) next year - a chance for members from across the UK to gather and share the joy of the movement.
- *Interest groups online (IGO):* [u3a - Interest Groups Online](#). For an annual fee of £12 you can join the interest groups online via the u3a national site and access a wide range of different subjects from 3D printing to Armchair Archaeology to Zentangle!! All done via zoom.
- *National Programmes* - Free online talks, workshops, competitions, and many other items - [u3a - National Programmes](#). You might be interested in:
 - 15th April - Bollywood Laughter Yoga Dance;
 - 19th April - The Climate Crisis - and some solutions;
 - 24th April - Secrets of the Human Brain: Talk Four: The Blood-Brain Barrier;
 - U3a Walkers' Exchange; or
 - Maths Challenge.

Dorset Digital Champions

Do you struggle with your mobile phone, iPad, tablet, or computer?

Did you know there is a group of friendly and patient volunteers called the ***Dorset Digital Champions*** who are good at explaining computers, without using jargon AND IT IS FREE. They can help set up devices, get you online and show how to do home shopping, access digital NHS services and much more.

They run sessions in local libraries and doctor's surgeries, visit their website <https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/volunteer-digital-champions> and give them a call or see the page on the Weymouth & Portland u3a website under the useful information tab. It has never been so easy to get help and support with technology.

Monthly Meetings

Monthly meetings are held on the **third Friday** of each month at **St Aldhelms Church Centre, Spa Road, Weymouth, DT3 5EW** except for December when it is the **second Friday** and there is no meeting in August.

Refreshments are served from 10 - 10.20 am and followed by announcements at 10.30 am from the Chairperson and our Groups Coordinator.

Month	Speaker	Topic
19 April 2024	Bonny Sartin (ex Yetties)	Folk Songs of Dorset
17 May 2024	Roy Norton	TV Production Over 50 Years
21 June 2024	Lucy	Margaret Green Animal Rescue
19 July 2024	Alan Jenkins	The Royal Visit That Went Wrong
August 2024	No speakers planned	
20 September	Group Fayre	
18 October 2024	Martin Fielding	The Dorset James Herriot
15 November 2024	Paul Stockler	The Porthole Murders
13 December 2024	Christmas Party	

Please check on the [Events page](#) for up-to-date details of the monthly meetings.

Veterans Hub

Andy Price from the Veterans Hub gave a very interesting speech at the monthly meeting in January and, following the talk, a collection was made from all the u3a members in attendance. It raised £389.69 for the Veterans Hub. Well done everyone!

Situation Vacant

Fran Rook, who has arranged the speakers for monthly meetings for 10 years has indicated that she would like to 'retire' at the end of the year, so we are looking for a volunteer to take her place. If you are interested, please contact Bernie Moore, email: secretary.weyportu3a@gmail.com

Groups News

Update on our current u3a Groups.

All details on our groups (regular, project and pop-up) can be found on the Weymouth & Portland u3a website and the current activities list. The current list and whom to contact can be found at <https://u3asites.org.uk/weymouth-portland/groups>.

The *Photography* group are keen to accept new members. If interested, please contact Group Leader **Peter Knight** via the bluebird symbol on the Photography group web page: [Photography Group](#).

The *Badminton* group closed due to lack of support. We have quite a few members, but are there people who would like to get it going again?

The *Litter-picking* group has also discontinued for lack of a Group Leader - more about this later (see page 13).

The *Science & Technology Group* are looking for a new Group Leader so that it can continue after Alexander Scott and Angela step down shortly. As Alex says, "It would be a real shame for the group to stop unnecessarily".

Joining a group

Before joining any group, please contact the group leader to find out more about the group and check times, dates & availability.

Click on the bluebird symbol on any of the group's pages to send a message to the group leader.

Group Timetable Summary

The current groups and the days on which they run are shown in the table below, for information. Latest information can be found on the [W&P Groups Web Page](#).

Day	Morning		Afternoon	
Monday	Exploring Literature	4 th	Bridge	Weekly
	Italian Improvers	Weekly	Calligraphy	2 nd
	Pétanque	Weekly	Scrabble for Fun	1 st
	Recorder Players	2 nd & 4 th	Canasta	2 nd & 4 th
			Theory of Music	Monthly
Tuesday	Golf for Pleasure	Weekly	Cribbage	1 st & 3 rd
	Latin (Beginners)	1 st & 3 rd	Creative Writing	4 th
	Local Walks	Weekly	Quiz	3 rd
	Pétanque	Weekly	Table Tennis	Weekly
	Science & Technology	2 nd	Guitar	Fortnightly
Wednesday	Rummikub	2 nd	Gardening Club	2 nd
	Play Reading	3 rd	MOTO	1 st & 3 rd
	Ukulele	1 st & 3 rd	Photography	4 th
	Wednesday Easy Walkers	weekly		
	Whist	4 th	Scottish Country Dancing	2 nd &4 th
			Book Club 2	3 rd
Thursday	Cycling	Weekly	Book Club 1	2 nd
	French Conversation	Weekly	Current Affairs	4 th
	Spanish Conversation	1 st	History of Art	3 rd
			Mah Jong	Weekly
			Darts	1 st & 3 rd
Friday	Bird Watching	1 st	History	2 nd
	German Improvers	Weekly	Kings Cribbage	2 nd & 4 th
	Watercolour Painting	2 nd & 4 th	Piano Playing	Monthly
	Card Quilling	2 nd		
Sunday			Sunday Lunch Club	
Days Vary	Outings (see following page), Spice Club			

Outings

The following outings are available between April and October 2024. The latest details regarding times, prices, booking requirements and any updated information including planned trips can be found on the Outings Group website: [Outings and Theatre Trips](#).

Date	Outing	U3a Member Price
16 April 2024	Christchurch College Oxford	£54
16 April 2024	Oxford Sights, Or Shopping	£36
21 April 2024	Mystery Drive With 2 Course Roast	£45
28 April 2024	Sunday Explorer, Looe in Cornwall	£38
1 May 2024	Hamilton The Musical, Bristol Hippodrome	£98
9 May 2024	Tiverton Horse Drawn Canal Cruise	FULL
19 May 2024	Sunday Explorer Lynton and Lynmouth	£35
13 June 2024	Motisfont and the National Rose Collection (NT)	£52
16 June 2024	Dunster Castle (NT)/Minehead	£53
6 July 2024	Hampton Court Flower Show	£70
21 July 2024	Highclere Castle	£62
31 July 2024	New Forest Show	£54
14 August 2024	Dartmouth Paddle Steamer and Cream Tea	£54
17 August 2024	Bristol Zoo Project/Cribbs Causeway Shopper	£50.50
25 August 2024	Sunday Explorer - Picturesque Polperro	£39
4 September 2024	Forde Abbey And Gardens	£45
5 September 2024	Tiverton Horse Drawn Canal Cruise	£52
19 September 2024	Grease The Musical, Bristol Hippodrome	£75
26 September 2024	Slimbridge Wild Fowl and Wetlands Centre	£54
29 September 2024	Sunday Explorer - Isle of Wight Scenic Drive	£68.50
6 October 2024	Eltham Palace	£56.50
19 October 2024	St Albans On Market Day	£38.50
23 October 2024	Wimbledon Tennis Courts Behind the Scenes Tour	£63
29 October 2024	Bowood House And Gardens in Autumn Splendour	£49.50

Group Leader: Christine Hill

Litter Picking

On a recent litter picking walk, 6 u3a members had a very nice walk and collected more than 6 bags of litter in the Radipole Park/ Swannery car park area. The weather was kind, dry and sunny.

Unfortunately, Tony Dobbs can no longer lead this group and it will be dissolved unless a new Group Leader steps forward. In case anyone is wondering what leading this group entails, they could contact Tony and he can help, but in brief, it involves:

- Selecting a time and place for the walk and telling the Group;
- Contacting Weymouth council for the loan of picking equipment and DCC to arrange to pick up of the full sacks; they will provide empty ones on request; and
- Picking up and returning the kit on the day of the walk.

That's it!

You may also like to know that there are local Community litter pick groups such as the Weymouth & Portland Marine Litter Project Their planned picks are listed on their website (www.weymouthportlandmarinelitterproject.org). They provide the equipment, and they even offer a hot drink to participants. In the absence of a u3a group, give it a try.

Creation of New Groups

Formation of new groups is an ongoing activity; we need members to step up and be the Group Leader to keep our activities vibrant and interesting.

If you have a skill or knowledge that you can share or if the group you want to join is full, talk to the Groups Coordinator and see, if together, we can get a new group up and running. There is plenty of support for all new leaders and new groups.

Groups can run in a variety of ways: they can happen every month or twice a month, weekly, a block of 4 or 6 or even just a one off. Whatever fits with the volunteer and the subject matter.

The u3a ethos is 'for the members by the members' so we need you to help us achieve this!

Contact: Groups Coordinator email: gc.weyportu3a@gmail.com

Events

U3a Coffee and Cake Mornings

Our coffee and cake mornings are still proving popular, the last one being held in Willowbed Hall at Chickerell. With so many of you busy with groups, the aim is to hold each one on a different day of the week and in a different area of the town to give as many members as possible the chance to come along. Our next coffee and cake morning will be held on Friday 3rd May at 10 am in the Masonic Lodge, Victoria Square, Portland. We have quite a few members who live in Wyke Regis or Portland and it will be an opportunity for them to have something nearer to home. The Portland bus which runs regularly stops outside and there is also a free car park next to the hall.

Another coffee and cake morning has been planned for 10 am on 6th August 2024 at St Aldhelms so “save the date” if you think you would like to attend.

Karyn Jeanes, email: membershipsec.weyportu3a@gmail.com

Christmas Meeting

The Christmas meeting was held at St Aldhelm’s on 8th December 2023. It was very well attended and in addition to refreshments, mince pies and stollen we were treated to three very enjoyable activities.

Firstly, Liz Walsh organised a quiz which was introduced by a reading of a very topical poem: Rain! The questions are reproduced later for you to have a go at if you were unable to attend the meeting.

We were then treated to a medley of festive music by the recorder group, and then the ukulele group played some of the songs learnt during 2023 and mixed in a few Christmas songs that were new to the group.

Both performances were very well received and contributed enormously to a successful and enjoyable morning.

Games Afternoon

A Games afternoon was held on March 8th where over 20 people enjoyed an afternoon of card and board games at the Conservative Club. This is a new venture, the idea being to bring a game and play a game. Some people brought unfamiliar games and showed others how to play them. Boggle and Querkle were new to most people. There was also a good range of standard games. People said they enjoyed the afternoon. A second games afternoon is planned for Wednesday 15th May at the Conservative Club, from 2 pm until 4 pm. Drinks will be available from the bar, and the charge will be £1.50.

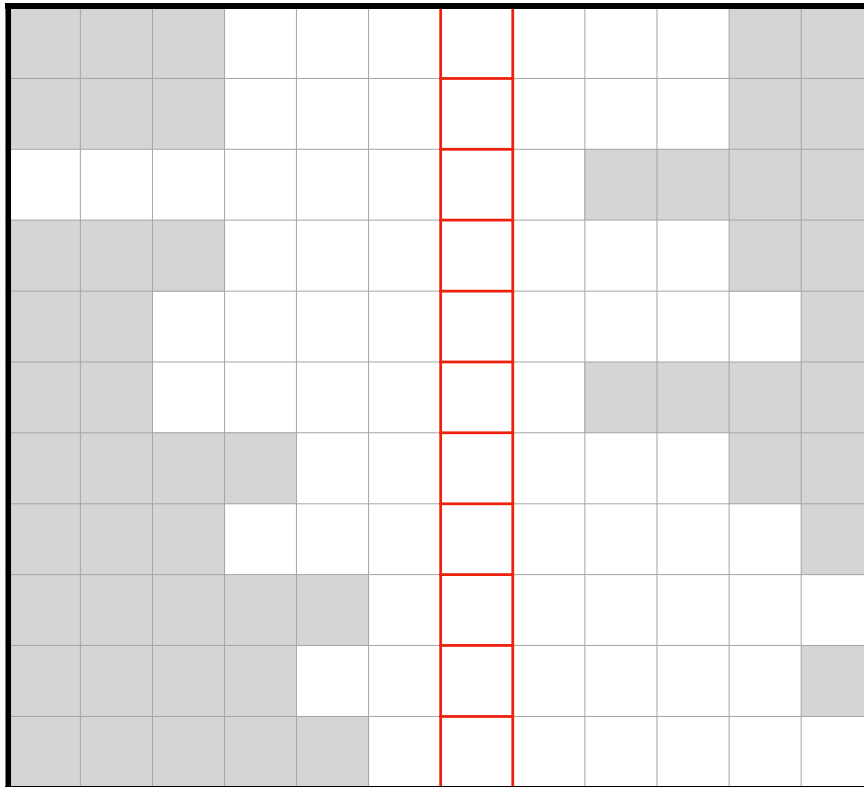
Quiz

1. How long is the Chesil beach?
2. What is the name of the Weymouth lifeboat?
3. The town bridge system is the same as Tower Bridge in London; what is the system called?
4. Where are the Bronze Age barrows known as the Five Marys?
5. There is a statue of a famous writer outside St Peters church in Dorchester; who is he?
6. In which country is Kilimanjaro?
7. How many colours are there in the South African flag?
8. What is a group of pandas called?
9. How many dots are on a six-sided die?
10. What is the strongest human muscle?
11. Which country drinks the most coffee?
12. What type of fruit are Pink Ladies?
13. What colour are Mickey Mouse's shoes?
14. Who was the first Disney princess?
15. What was the first name of the footballer Maradona?

Answers on page 19

Puzzle Corner

This stepladder puzzle has been provided by u3a member Sheila Sibbert - thank you Sheila. The solution is on page 19.



STEP LADDER

Rearrange these 11 U3A activities into the correct order so that another activity appears in the red column. You are given the square that each word starts and ends in.

BADMINTON BRIDGE CANASTA CROCHET
CYCLING GERMAN MAH JONG PETANQUE
SCRABBLE SPANISH UKULELE

General Items

Recycling

Back in February 2023, Jane Church created a very comprehensive recycling guide. In response to members' suggestions, the guide has been revised and you can download it from the [Recycle](#) tab on the Weymouth & Portland u3a website by clicking on the Recycle tab. A copy will be at the monthly meeting for you to peruse.

But things are ever-changing on the recycling front locally (not necessarily for the better). So Jane intends to update the U3A Recycling Guide shortly - but only if there is enough demand. So, unless you have already contacted her, please send any required additions or amendments to nowasteweymouth@outlook.com by 1 May, and if there is sufficient to warrant an update she will make it so.

Please have a look at the guide (<https://u3asites.org.uk/files/w/weymouth-portland/docs/a3rsversion2aug23pdf.pdf>) as Jane put a considerable amount of time into it.

Volunteering Opportunity

The Ministry of Justice is looking for help reaching out to people regarding a volunteering opportunity. The role is for members of the independent monitoring boards (IMB) who monitor prisons for fair and humane treatment. The role often attracts those who are retired or semi-retired and still looking to develop their skills, make social connections and help impact their communities. This is why they have reached out to multiple u3a branches in our area as they believe the demographic to the u3a aligns with these characteristics.

This is a unique opportunity and if it is of interest to you, please contact Sophie Anscombe (email: sophie.anscombe@justice.gov.uk) at the Ministry of Justice in the first instance.

Schoolreaders
improving literacy • increasing life chances

Volunteers Needed!

Please visit [Schoolreaders.org](https://www.schoolreaders.org)



Become a Schoolreaders Volunteer

Schoolreaders is looking for volunteers in this area to listen to children read in primary schools.

No qualifications are required, just a love of reading and some spare time each week in term time.



Registered Charity Number: 1159157 Registered in England and Wales

© 2023 Schoolreaders CIO

Car Parking

Dorset Council offer a short stay car park permit for £78 for 12 months that enables you to park in most Dorset Car Parks for 2 hours without paying the hourly rate and can be used across 2 cars (not parking at the same time though). It does however require you to use an app, text, or telephone each time you use it.

Here is the link for you to explore the option: [Dorset Short Stay Car Park Permit](#).

(I didn't think we used car parks that often but signed up for this in June 2023. Since then we've parked 70 times in 10 months so, using a mean cost of £2 per visit over that time, we've saved £62 already and have 2 months to go. Ed.)

Puzzle Solutions

Stepladder Solution

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

U3A ACTIVITY STEPLADDER ANSWER

Quiz Answers

1. 18 miles
2. Ernest and Mabel
3. Bascule
4. Chaldon Herring
5. Williams Barnes
6. Tanzania
7. Six
8. An embarrassment
9. 21
10. Jaw
11. Finland
12. Apples
13. Yellow
14. Snow White
15. Diego

W&P u3a Committee Information

CHAIR:	Steve Millin
VICE CHAIR:	Trevor Lindley
SECRETARY:	Bernie Moore
TREASURER:	Chris Harris
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY:	Karyn Jeanes
GROUPS' COORDINATOR:	Tomas Sherwood
SPEAKERS' ORGANISER:	Fran Rook
COMMITTEE MEMBER:	Michael Daniel
COMMITTEE MEMBER:	Janet Armstrong
COMMITTEE MEMBER:	Abbigail Langstone-Wring
COMMITTEE MEMBER	Kathy Kincaid
COMMITTEE MEMBER	Kim Harris

Any one of these can be contacted through the following link:

<https://u3asites.org.uk/weymouth-portland/contact>.

Our current list of groups is shown at <https://u3asites.org.uk/weymouth-portland/groups>. Group Leaders can be contacted directly if you wish to join, or require more information about, a particular group. Group Leader contact details are on the current Group Activities list, or you can use the Weymouth & Portland website (click on the group page and use the Bluebird symbol on the right-hand side to send an email to the Group Leader). If you have a general enquiry about our u3a groups, please contact the Group Coordinator (gc.weyportu3a@gmail.com)

No email?

Karyn Jeanes, our membership secretary, has charge of the Weymouth & Portland u3a mobile phone (lovingly referred to as “the bat phone”). If you want to use this instead, the number is **07833417243**. Please feel free to leave a message on that phone (if Karyn cannot take the call, she will ring you back).