

December 2024 Newsletter



A Message from the Editor:

Many thanks to all of you who contributed to OUR Newsletter.

A reminder:

Please contribute. I am hoping for small articles on anything that you have come across that you think that other people would find interesting or something you have specifically enjoyed in a group you attend; “what really gets my goat”; book review about books you have just read or one that you read a while ago but remains a favourite. Send them to: newsletter.weyportu3a@gmail.com

Remember I am only the Editor!

Susan Francis

WEYMOUTH AND PORTLAND U3A Contact details

WEBSITE: www.weymouthportland.u3asite.uk

Weymouth & Portland u3a website where you can find out about groups and events. You will also find the Members' Portal where members can update their name, address or other contact details. From January each year you can renew your membership via the members' portal, using either PayPal or a debit/credit card.

beacon.weyportu3a@gmail.com

Contact Karyn, the Beacon Admin if you are having any problems with Beacon or you are unsure how to do something.

gc.weyportu3a@gmail.com

Tomasa, the groups' co-ordinator: For group information if you are unable to contact the group leader or you would like to start a new group.

membershipsec.weyportu3a@gmail.com

Karyn, the membership secretary or Diana the assistant membership secretary. All questions about membership.

newsletter.weyportu3a@gmail.com

Susan, the newsletter editor would be pleased to receive any contributions for the next newsletter.

treasurer.weyportu3a@gmail.com

Chris the Treasurer. Notify him if you have paid money into the u3a Barclays account. Group leaders can also scan their group registers and email them to Chris if they are not attending the monthly meeting.

web.weyportu3a@gmail.com

Caz, the Webmaster. Contact her with any questions or suggestions for the website. If you are unable to use the internet, we have a u3a dedicated mobile phone that we lovingly call the "bat phone". This will be answered by the membership secretary when she is at home. If there is no answer, please leave your name and phone number and she will call you back as soon as possible. The Bat Phone number is 07833417243. Updated September 2024

From our Chairman

Hello, good evening and welcome, as David Frost once said, to this our latest newsletter. And what great job Susan has done. Thank you Susan.

It has turned out to be a good year for our u3a. Incidentally, I do hate the use of lower-case letters in our header. Lower case looks like we are whispering rather than upper case which more like shouting **loud and proud!** Anyway, enough of my rant.

I'm pleased to say we now have 732 members! That is really very good for a town our size. But then, it is very good value for money when you think of it. We have 50 or more groups we can join if we wish and if there is not one that takes your fancy, you can float the idea of a new one. After all, that is how all the groups are formed originally. And, if you want help setting one up, then Tomasa, our Group Coordinator is always on hand to help. Or just speak to a committee member. Don't sit there thinking no one will be interested in that – you'd be surprised. As I was when I suggested a Sixties Group.

Then there's the monthly meetings. Free entry, Free tea Coffee and biscuits and a speaker. What's not to like!

And if that's not enough, not only do you get Susan's excellent newsletter, you get the u3a magazine "Third Age Matters". All in all, it is £12 a year well spent.

Right, I'll shut up now, but not before a few thankyou's. Thank you once again Susan for the newsletters, thank you committee for making my job easier and finally thank you all you members for making our U3A a success.

Oh, one last thing – HAPPY CHRISTMAS!

RENEWING YOUR U3A MEMBERSHIP

I am pleased to say that the committee has agreed not to increase membership fees for 2025 which is good news for everyone. The fees are therefore:

£12 for the full year from January to December

£6 for those not joining until September

£3 for those not joining until November.

For an Associate Member i.e. someone who already has full membership of another u3a and wants to join Weymouth & Portland u3a as well, the fees are:

£8 for the full year from January to December

£4 for those not joining until September

£2 for those not joining until November

As in previous years you cannot renew before 1st January 2025 and if you do not renew in January your membership will lapse on 1st February 2025 and you will be removed from any groups.

You can **renew** your membership in the following ways:

1)On-line via the website

www.weymouthportland.u3asite.uk

2)Send a **cheque** to The Membership Secretary, 30 Stanier Road, Preston, Weymouth DT3 6PD writing the names of the member(s) on the back

3)At the monthly meeting on 17th January 2025 using **cheque or cash**

We do not accept membership fees via bank transfer nor do we have the facilities to accept card payments. Please use cash as a last resort.

As you know, I am handing over the role of membership secretary to Diana Morton at the AGM in February. She is also taking charge of the email address so all membership enquiries continue to go to the same address membershipsec.weyportu3a@gmail.com but it will now be Diana who replies to you.

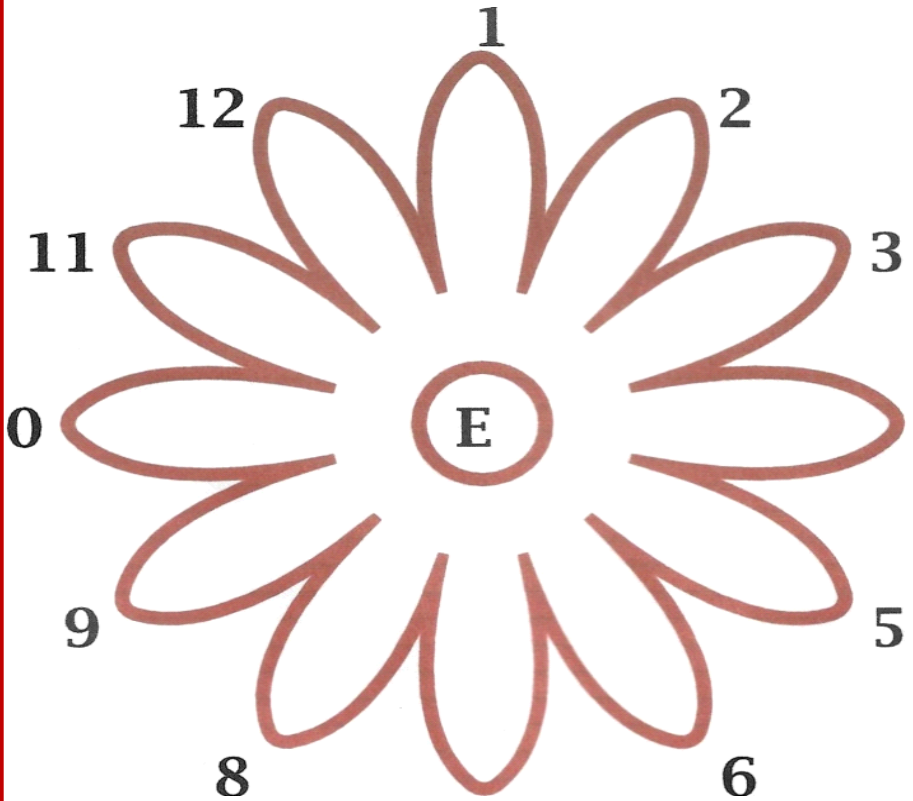
I am continuing with u3a as the Beacon Administrator. Beacon is the database that we use to manage our membership and finance. For any Beacon related items like using the members' portal or group leaders wanting help and advice on how to use Beacon to manage their groups, I have a new email address: beacon.weyportu3a@gmail.com

You will be getting an email from me in December with instructions on how to register for the members' portal if you have not already done so. Using the portal gives access to your personal page where you can update your own contact details at any time. The option to renew your membership will not be there until 1st January.

Wishing you all a very happy Christmas and peaceful new year.

Karyn Jeanes

Quizzes



Christmas Celebration?

Each petal has a 6 letter word ending with an E

1. Mix with people at Christmas party.
2. No room at the Inn so baby Jesus was born here.
3. A type of fir tree.
4. Praise the decorations.
5. Team spirit, self esteem.
6. Don't get the fairy lights into this.
7. After the Carol singing your voice may sound like this.
8. Tender.
9. Ask to Christmas lunch.
10. One of many fallen under the tree.
11. Christmas wish.
12. Tapering ice.

When all the words are correct, the first letter of each answer read anti-clockwise from number 1 spells out a Christmas

Celebration.

THE OFFICE CHRISTMAS PARTY

On the evening of 22nd December, the office Christmas Party of the Hargreaves' Solicitors was taking place at the Fox and Ferret. At 9.30pm the dinner was finished and the tables pushed back ready for dancing. Two members of the bar staff brought in a large bowl of punch brimming with slices of fruit.

The thirty staff members crowded around eagerly waiting for their turn to have a taste. Mr. and Mrs. Hargreaves were given the first glasses to try and both nodded their appreciation. Minutes later, they were getting ready to leave as their taxi had arrived. They had a two hour journey ahead taking them to their house in the country to spend Christmas with their family. Meanwhile, the office party carried on till about 11.30pm.

The next day, unbeknown to the Hargreaves, the majority of their staff were in hospital. Forensic tests were carried out and found that the punch that they had all drunk had been poisoned. Soon after, a former sacked employee, who held a grudge against his employer, was arrested. He had taken a temporary bar job at the Fox and Ferret.

How did the Hargreaves's escape being poisoned like their staff, as they had been the primary targets?

Now or Never

Often, when in London or watching the news on the TV, we have often thought that we would like to go to see the Houses of Parliament.

Queues outside the building have always put us off and we realised we would have to book a time slot on line. Too difficult, put it on the backburner. One day...

Imagine our delight when we saw that Crossway Coaches organised a trip and u3a members could go with a reduction. Wow!

The coach picked us up at 7:30am at Weymouth Railway Station And after a trouble free journey, dropped us off at Millbank at the Houses of Parliament. We had a time slot so we only had to queue for a short while at security.

What a wonderful place! Westminster Hall is old and is the only part of the original Whitehall Palace as built by Rufus, son of William the Conqueror. We had an audio tour which meant that we could go at our own pace. It was very comprehensive and we saw both Chambers , all the famous statues and the Robing Room.

We were pleasantly surprised at how much we could see. A delightful day. The coach dropped us off where we had been picked up and we returned home, tired, but content.

Roger and Susan Francis

Highlights from U3amatters national Autumn magazine

In the Autumn u3a matters magazine, there was an interesting article entitled "Saving the Scillies".

We hear a good deal about climate change effecting elsewhere in the world such as Kiribati and Vaanuatu, low lying islands in the Pacific. This article talks of climate change that the Scillies are experiencing.

Sea levels will rise by 0.5 metres by 2080 if pollution levels remain the same. Around 30% of the area of St. Mary's, the largest island, is below 5 metres: a significant section of Hugh Tower and Old Town further along the coast will be flooded; water quality will be affected.

The Isles of Scilly Council have initiated the Climate Adaptation Project to build sea defences against coastal flooding and erosion.

Reading about somewhere so close really brings the importance of climate change home to me.

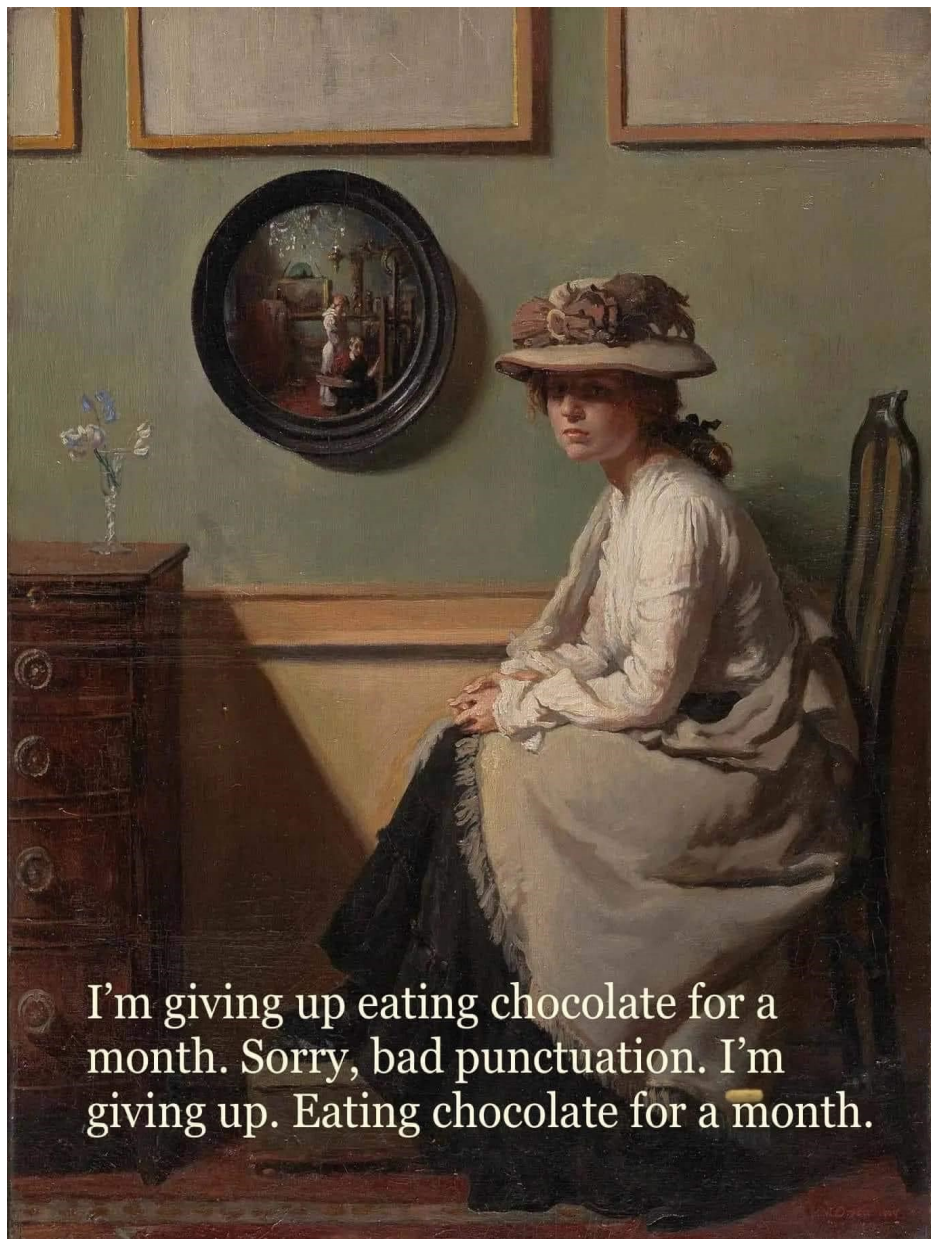
"That really gets my goat!"

Susan Askew really enjoys walking around the local area but recently she was horrified to notice the number of people who are not cleaning up after their dogs. Susan is concerned that it lowers walkers enjoyment of the area.

It is a local byelaw but it seems there are still inconsiderate dog owners.

This amused me when I saw it on Facebook! All those years trying to teach punctuation!

Susan Francis



I'm giving up eating chocolate for a month. Sorry, bad punctuation. I'm giving up. Eating chocolate for a month.

News about groups from the Groups' Coordinator, Tomas

New Groups

The following groups all have room for new members and have just started or are about to start.

Theory of Music Group

This aims to show members how to read and write music, music notation, scales and key signatures. No previous Knowledge is required.

Anyone interested can contact the Group Coordinator, Tomasa, in the usual way, email:

gc.weyportu3a@gmail.com who will forward your email to the relevant person.



Guy's Group

The Guy's Group met for the first time in the Dry Dock café on Thursday 14 November 2024. It was very informal and will not be constrained to any fixed venue or time. The next meeting will be in the Nautico Lounge on Friday, 29th at 10am. Prospective members welcome. Contact Kevin (07973281818)

or Steve (07943083628)

Sixties Group

Sixties Group, set up to celebrate that seminal decade, held their inaugural meeting on Thursday, 21st November last.

Unfortunately, due to the weather only six of the fourteen prospective members managed to make it to the Upwey Memorial Hall. Nonetheless, it was a very lively meeting with all of us getting to know one another and exchange experiences. The next meeting will not be until next January, because of the Christmas/New Year holiday, but it will be at the Memorial Hall again on Friday 24 th , commencing at 14:00. Contact Steve (07943083628) for more information.

Ukulele Group

Last January, Bernie became the new leader of the Ukulele group. Several of us were complete beginners and Bernie took us under wing and has taught us several basic chords.

As we are going towards Christmas, we have been learning and practising some Christmas songs. We are having fun and have the satisfaction of learning something new. It is a friendly group and meet fortnightly on a Wednesday morning.

Book Club

A member is thinking of starting a new book club. There are already two book clubs but they can not accept any other members so if you are interested get in touch with Tomasa.

Assistant Groups coordinator

Tomasa is interested in having an assistant to help with the large and busy task of coordinating Weymouth and Portland u3a groups. If you are interested and would like to know more about it., please contact Tomasa at

gc.weyportu3a@gmail.com

