

June 2025 Newsletter



A Message from the Editor:

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

From the 2nd to the 8th June is Volunteers' Week. It is an annual celebration of volunteering. I have been a member of u3a for about eighteen months now and I have discovered some excellent volunteers—our group leaders. These people arrange the place, equipment required and the amount that has to be charged each meeting to cover costs. I imagine that dealing with these things are very difficult if members, who said they were coming, do not turn up, thereby leaving the group short of funds to pay for the venue. We must look after our group leaders, all volunteers. "Use them or lose them."

The next newsletter is the beginning of September. Contributions please. Send them to: newsletter.weyportu3a@gmail.com

WORDS FROM THE CHAIR

Hello, welcome, to this our latest newsletter. Our editor Susan goes from strength to strength.

I have to give you the sad news that our Vice-Chairman, the lovely Trevor Lindley has passed away. I've known Trevor, and his wife Anne for ten years or more. An old soldier, he was passionate about military history, the Indian Army in particular. He was also a stalwart volunteer at the Nothe Fort. Our sincerest condolences go out to Anne and their family. He will be missed.

Already we are entering the middle of 2025, where does the time go... At this mid-year point we have 696 members and I'm sure we will be breaking into the 700 barrier very soon.

Once again, I must ask for volunteers to join the committee. We have eight, but that is our minimum. We really need 10-12. Remember, it is *your* committee. If you want a say in what happens – join the committee!

Even if you don't want to join the committee, there are still other ways in which you can help without coming onto the committee. Our overworked Group co-ordinator could do with some help, as could our treasurer. So, please, think about it.

We only have two more monthly meetings until the August break. But, don't despair, there will be a coffee morning on 15th August for those of us that will miss our monthly meeting. And in September we will have our open day. A day when our groups can show off what they do.

Well that's enough from me, I will now let you get on and read the newsletter and enjoy the summer!

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 PayPal.

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

Tomas, 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

Diana the 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

Committee news:

There will be a meeting for new members on 24th October 2025 in Rooms 4 and 5 at St Aldhem's.

Does anyone know of someone who could give us a talk on the British sign language (BSL) or/and lip-reading?

If you do can you let Tomasa know please:

gc.weyportu3a@gmail.com

Speakers for the monthly meetings:

20th June: Sally Smith—Women sailors through history.

18th July : A speaker on The Swannery

15th August: No meeting but there is a coffee morning to which all are welcome.

19th September: The group Fayre

Zoom Meeting:

Remember, you can join a Zoom Meeting on Monday 2nd June at 2pm with the Council and council representatives. You can ask questions and tell them how you would like the council to represent you.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://>

us02web.zoom.us/j/84997133248?pwd=ebJtJOL2AbnYMYacn8eBwDXDvSCZ0b.1

Meeting ID: 849 9713 3248

Passcode: 1ZGu52

Group Meeting on 16th April 2025

On 16th April 2025, Ron Glynn gave a talk on his life as a Bobby between the 1970s and the 1990s. He kindly donated his fee to the Donkey Sanctuary in Sidmouth, Devon. Ron has recently received a letter from the Fundraising Department of the Sanctuary, a picture is below.



Dear Mr and Mrs Glynn,
Thank you so much for sharing the £50
proceeds of Mr Glynn's talk with us. It is
very much appreciated.
Please pass on our thanks to Heymouth M3A
group for their support too.
Kind regards.
Rose Huxham.
Community Fundraising

Quotes from our members

“If you have a garden and a library you have everything you need. “

Cicero

A favourite quote from Maggie Stansfield

Grand tour of Northern Highlands and the Outer Hebrides

Six enthusiasts from the Weymouth and Portland Cycling Group rode a magnificent 306 miles with about c. 19,500 ft of ascent, in a circular tour from Inverness to the Outer Hebrides via Skye, and Ullapool and back, over thirteen days at the end of April.

While England enjoyed record spring sunshine, the stalwart cyclists battled rain and high winds threatening to blow us from our saddles. But, there were some bright sunshine interludes with no midgets!

We've memories of stunning Highland scenery, sparkling lochs, pristine sandy beaches, Highland cattle, the odd seal or two in clear seas, and the relative comfort of Caledonian sleeper trains to take us up to Inverness from London and back.

We had a convivial time away. It was a great adventure.

Linda Dobbs

Our Very Own Veteran

Many members will remember Mary Wrigley as a pillar of our lovely u3a singing group which met many years under the leadership of Brenda and performed for years at Christmas and summer festivities. She was also in Liam's Ukulele group and I think "Use it or lose it."

Mary is 103 years young in October! She is still sharp and up-to-date on World Affairs although her eyes are beginning to cause difficulties.

I got to know her through the singing group and we have become fast friends over the years. She has told me so much of her career and of course VE Day was very special. She came from the NE and worked originally in a shipping office but when old enough, joined up to the WAAF. As soon as you reached 18 you could do more exciting things and the day before D-day, they were waiting in a boat in Liverpool, having been told to write to their parents to say they were going abroad—of course no one knew where.

Once D-day was underway, they set off to Cairo. Mary talked of them dropping supplies off at beleaguered Malta on route and the perpetual worry of U-boats.

Once settled in, she met a dashing Spitfire Pilot and, reader, she married him—in Jerusalem Cathedral! A couple of years later, she came home, pregnant, on a troop ship, still precarious conditions of course. She went to stay with her in-laws at Hebden Bridge. She hated it—I think Yorkshire winters came as a shock after Palestine.

Her husband came home safely and after the war, seemed to have had a job of shutting down stations around the world. I asked Mary where the worse places that she had to live. Aden and Belfast was her reply!

Sadly after all these adventures, he died at only 60 and she remained in the Midlands until coming down here to be near her sister – another war widow.

I asked Mary if she had any regrets. She regretted the way her two children were rather dragged about—perhaps it is why her son and all his family are settled in Australia and New Zealand. I think they have done very well. Last time her son was here, he brought a sailing boat, and is now happily living on a lake in New Zealand. Her daughter is a well known glass artist in Weymouth. I'm working on getting a glass group for u3a but had no luck yet!

Long may Mary carry on berating Trump and feeling sorry for Kier Starmer, over a nice cup of tea.

Anne Lindley



St Mary's Church

St Mary's Street, Weymouth.



St Mary's Church was built of Portland stone between 1815 and 1817. It has been a Grade 1 listed building since 1953. The architect was James Hamilton and has been described as having an "austere design in Palladian mode." There has been a church on this site since the thirteenth century when a Chantry Chapel was first recorded in 1299.

A new church was built to replace this in 1605 and was to become the parish church of Melcombe Regis in 1606. St Anne's the church of Radipole had been the parish church and was two miles north of Melcombe Regis. It had become

increasingly inconvenient for Melcombe Regis inhabitants not least because people feared French raiding parties attacking their homes while they were absent.

George III visited the chapel between 1789 and 1805 and as Melcombe Regis continued to expand, the chapel was considered too small. George III owned one of the new box pews that wealthier people owned in the new building but he never visited the new church.

Another feature of St Mary's is the painting of the Last Supper painted by Sir James Thornhill. In the 1720's Thornhill, a Melcombe boy, became painter to George I and a MP for the town.

Melcombe Regis was on one side of the harbour and Weymouth was a small port on the other. There was no bridge.

Calligraphy

Calligraphy is one of the many groups within our u3a.

The word "calligraphy" is Greek meaning beautiful writing. The craft of calligraphy is almost as old as the history of writing itself. Nowadays, with such a lot of emphasis being placed on computers, etc, the practice of calligraphy is a very tangible link with our past history. It is a very satisfying craft and is really quite therapeutic.

There are many different "hands" of basic calligraphy to learn of which I will name just a few.

- A) Roman uncial—first developed in the third and fourth centuries and developed from the Greek alphabet. It consists of round unjoined letters. (This hand can be found now in Scotland, Ireland and Wales—It has a Celtic look about it.)
- B) Gothic Black Letter— used in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries. It is quite a decorative style with angular thick and thin strokes.
- C) Italian—used in the fifteenth century. It is a more slanted style with many flourishes.
- D) Paper - Vellum eventually replaced Papyrus for writing. Papyrus was very hard and cracked easily. Vellum was much more pliable, smooth and could be made into books.
- E) Quills—are cut from feathers making wide or thin points .



Our Calligraphy Group

We meet once a month to learn a new craft which is part of our ancient history. (We always have a short break for a cup of tea and a chat to get to know each other.) Of course, we use modern calligraphy pens, ink and paper. We enhance our projects with paints and coloured inks. I think it is important and a privilege to keep this ancient craft alive — the WRITTEN word.

Gillian Steadman

Calligraphy Group Leader



News about groups from the Groups' Coordinator,
Tomasia

GAMES AFTERNOONS EARLY 2025

Friday 13th June

At the Conservative Club from 2pm until 4pm

Feeling Blue?

Enjoy a friendly sociable afternoon.

The bar will be open.

Bring a card or board game to share or learn a new game that is already there.

Need more information?

Contact Angela Holt on:

angelaholt@hotmail.com

Italian Conversation Group

Parli italiano?

If you can answer si, consider putting your name down for a possible Italian conversation group.

Crochet Group

The crochet group will become a crochet and knitting group in September. Look out for the start date.

Weymouth Museum

We have received a message from Diana Day of Weymouth Museum asking for volunteers. 'Weymouth museum is about to open a popup museum in St Thomas St Weymouth. We need more volunteers to man the shop and are looking for people who have either a morning or afternoon spare each week to join the rota. No experience necessary other than the ability to greet visitors with a smile! Training regarding the exhibitions will be given. Please drop an email marked 'popup volunteer''

to weymouthmuseumchair@ btinternet.com for more details.

The Wyke Regis Horticultural Society

The Wyke Regis Horticultural Society is also looking for volunteers. You do have to be a member of the Society but if you love gardening it is a worthwhile thing to belong to.

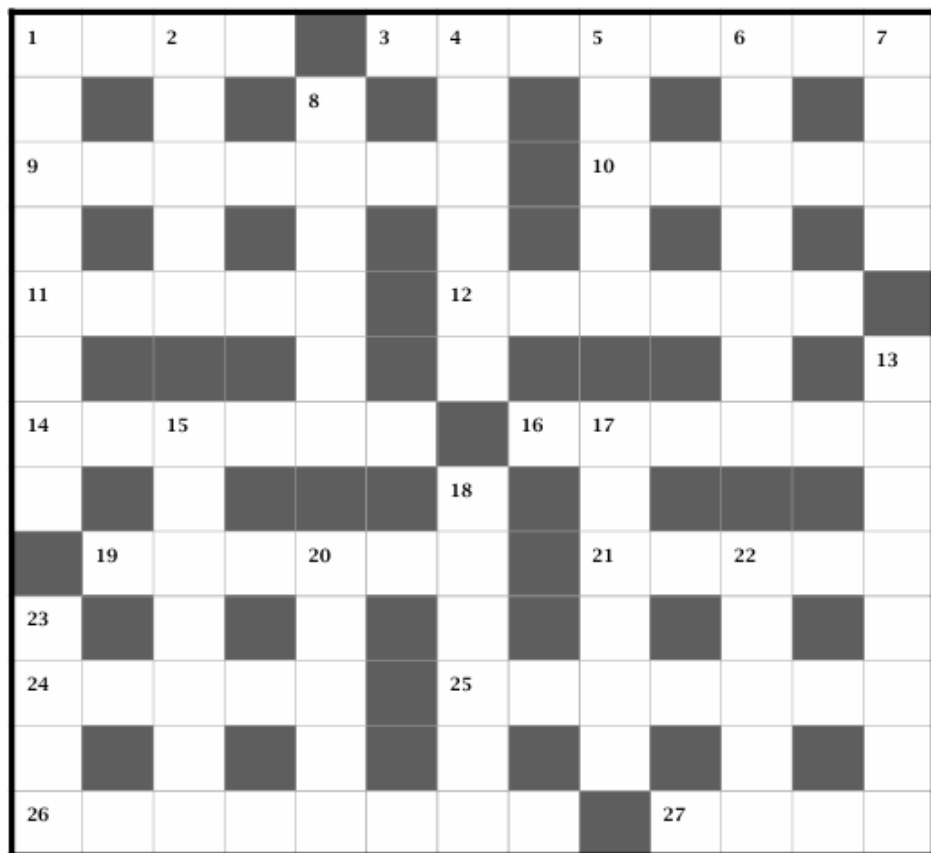
The society need volunteers to help run The Trading Post in Rylands Lane on Wednesday afternoon and Saturday morning. Apply in person at The Trading Post.



Quizzes

Brain teasers

- 1) Which colour logically comes next in this sequence?
RED BLUE GREEN YELLOW
orange purple scarlet turquoise
- 2) Which of these is the ODD ONE OUT?
BEXHILL CHICHESTER EXMOOR MANSFIELD RINGWOOD.
- 3) Why should visitors to Vietnam be wary of explosions?
- 4) Which word can be added to this sequence.?
BRAG MOOD SWAP WARD
goal harp leek town
- 5) If Elaine, Stuart, Amanda and Jack have a mother called Kate, what is the name of the father of Martin, Hugo, Alice and Jill?
- 6) What links these words?
CHILLI MAGIC COSMOS LOVER METRO MERGE SHERPA RISKS
- 7) Which word could be added to this sequence?
BENEATH DONATE LEOPARD SAMPLE TIMELESS
Cloudless Genuine Kennel Private
- 8) Which of these is the ODD ONE OUT?
Alan Bates can't drink cider. Emma Farley gets holiday insurance.
John Knightley loves macadamia nuts. Olivia Parks queries results shrewdly.
- 9) Can you guess which two letters come next?
TN EC SL OT HW SG UY ??



ACROSS

1. Elope.
3. Spanish soup.
9. Italian dish.
10. Circumspect.
11. Crystal clear.
12. Imprudently.
14. Stiffen with.
16. Oppressive atmosphere.
19. Flower.
21. Imbed.
24. Dull colour.
25. Venezuelan river.
26. Long legged fly.
27. Peter Benchley novel.

DOWN

1. Boxer.
2. Impassive.
4. Bird enclosure.
5. Agreements.
6. Burgundy wine.
7. Semi-precious stone.
8. Sour.
13. Contentious.
15. Respiratory tracts.
17. Hinder.
18. Dexterous.
20. Japanese poem.
22. Hawaiian greeting.
23. Flick through.

Quiz answers

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

ACROSS:

1. PASS. 3. GAZPACHO 9. GNOCCHI 10. CHARY 11. LUCID 12. RASHLY 14 STARCH
16. MIASMA 19. ORCHID 21. PLANT 24. KHAKI 25. ORINOCO 26. MOSQUITO
27. JAWS.

DOWN:

1. 1. PUGILIST 2. STOIC 4. AVIARY 5. JACK 6. CHABLIS 7. ONYX 8. ACIDIC 13. FAC-
TIOUS 15. AIRWAYS 17. IMPAIR 18. ADROIT 20. HAIKU 22. ALOHA 23. SKIM

BRAINTEASER ANSWERS

1. SCARLET Each colour has one more letter than the previous one.

Red has 3 letters, blue has 4 green 5, yellow six . Scarlet is the only one with 7 letters

2. CHICHESTER. All the others end in natural feature. HILL, MOOR, FIELD, WOOD.

3. ETNA VIETNAM has ETNA in it which is a volcano.

4. KEEL All the words spelt backwards make another word. Brag becomes garb. Mood becomes doom etc. Keel is the only one that can. Leek.

5. LEON The last letter of their names in reverse order. JILL ALICE HUGO MARTIN

6. CAPITAL CITIES CHILLI MAGIC COSMOS LOVER METRO MERGE SHERPA RISKS

7. KENNEL All the words start with a boy's name. BENEATH DONATE ETC. KENNEL is the only one that follows this rule.

8. ALAN BATES CAN'T DRINK CIDER IS THE ODD ONE OUT . All the other sentences are in alphabetical order. A B C D C is not.

9. N C In reverse order the letters are the last and first letter of the words in the written sentence. TN = NEXT EC = COME and so on.

Highlights from U3amatters national Spring magazine

I was delighted to read the Connections section of the Spring 2025 magazine.

“Keep on running” tells of a lady Hilary O’Shea who has always enjoyed running and who is now doing a parkrun every week of 5km at the age of 75. She came to parkrun after having fallen on blackice that necessitated a hip replacement. Hilary was never going to give up her running and her incentive was driven on by the idea of Parkrun.

Parkrun started in October 2004 when Paul Sinton-Hewitt invited thirteen friends to run five kilometres around Bushy Park in south-west London. There are now 1,200 different Parkruns with over three million finishers and around half a million volunteers. Anyone is welcome so you can register on line if you would like to run.

“Code of Honour” tells of Ruth Bourne who joined the Women’s Royal Naval Service (WRENS) and in 1944, aged just 17, she was recruited to the team working for the top secret code breaking operation at Bletchley Park near Milton Keynes.

The importance of the invention, by mathematician Alan Turing that was used to decode encrypted German messages can not be overstated.

In 2018, Ruth was awarded France’s top honour the Legion d’Honneur for her wartime service.

