

March 2025 Newsletter



A Message from the Editor:

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

I hope you had an enjoyable Christmas. Already we are looking forward to Easter. It is frightening how fast time goes. My Dad always said, "It passes faster as you get older." And now I am older, I am afraid I have to agree with him.

The next newsletter is the beginning of June. Contributions please. 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 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:

Fran Rook has been arranging speakers for our u3a monthly meeting for the last ten years. She has decided to retire and the role has been taken over by Anne Lindley.

Thank you Fran for your work. I have certainly enjoyed the speakers.

Janet Armstrong has taken over the role of Secretary.

Diana Morton is now the membership Secretary and Karyn who we also thank for your work remains as Z-beacon administrator.

Hugh Pelham is also joining the committee.

Speakers for the monthly meetings:

21st March: Tim Spooner —Greenhill Gardens.

11th April: Ron Glynn—A Bobby's Life

16th May: Ros Dean—The Repair Café, what's it all about?

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

Quotes from our members

From Trevor Lindley:

“British Battles all have two things in common, they are always fought uphill and at the corner of two or more maps.”

Field Marshall Slim.

From Niall Simpson:

“Si vis pacem para bellum!”

If you want peace be prepared for war.

Flavius Vegetius Renatus

From Ros Dean:

The woods would be a quiet place if no birds sang except those who sing best.”

Henry van Dyke

From Anonymous:

“People from a planet without flowers would think we must be mad with joy the whole time to have such things about us.”

Iris Murdoch

“What makes life dreary is the want of a motive.”

George Elliot.

“If you want to build a ship, don’t drum up the people to go to the forest to gather wood, saw it and nail the planks together. Instead, teach them the desire for the sea.”

Antoine de Saint-Exupery

A thought:

That last quote made me think about the Newsletter. I have to direct the membership to enjoy the satisfaction of writing a completed piece to share with other members. Anything you would like to write may be included into the newsletter. How about it?

Send to me, Susan:

newsletter.weyport3ua@gmail.com



The Group Meeting Friday 21st February 2025.

Firstly, the AGM was held. Chris, the Treasurer displayed the accounts for everyone to see and the committee members were voted in. The meeting was short and sweet as there were no questions or observations arising from the floor.

The address from the speaker

Jeff from the Dogs for the Blind gave a very interesting talk about the work of this charity. He is blind and has a dog called Pringle and he knows at first hand the value of a dog to aid him.

His informative talk makes you realise the enormous undertaking to train a dog. It takes two years to train mainly Labradors or golden retrievers.

They are trained to have a “Spending” area where they go to toilet every time for obvious reasons. They learn to socialise with other dogs and humans and walk on a lead nicely. They then go to “big school” where they are trained by qualified guide dog handlers.

After the dog is trained, the “matching” takes place to see if a visual impaired person and guide dog will be able to work together. The pair have to develop a trusting relationship to ensure safety of one another. The last part of the talk was moving where Jeff explained how his dog, Pringle saw him safely across a very busy road. During the talk, Pringle waited extremely patiently.

The talk made me feel how lucky I am and wonder at the excellent work some people do to improve the life of others.

Your donations amounted to £234.30p.

[The next monthly meeting is on Friday 11th April 2025.](#)

The White Hart

St Nicholas Street. Weymouth.



The White Hart is a most important 16th—17th century building. The private house of Sir John Browne was altered badly in the early 20th century.

A family memorial of the Browne family can be seen in the village church of Frampton where the family also owned the Frampton Estates.

From ancient maps, it can be seen that the White Hart had a garden extending from lower St. Albans Street to the “backe sea” on the west.

Originally, the house was of six gables and had such details as gable kneelers; finely built chimney stacks each with a moulded and dentilled cornice; a complete circular stone staircase; “thin rib” plaster ceilings in two of the first floor rooms. These features suggest a date of mid 16th century.

The White Hart seems to have links with not only John Browne but also Thornhill, his son-in-law Hogarth and perhaps Daniel Defoe.

Rhubarb

We all know what rhubarb is, don't we? But, did you know it was an exotic 'foreign' fruit. Traditionally, in the theatre, any uncomfortable silence on the stage might be filled by the hushed mouthing of the word 'rhubarb' to imitate back-ground conversation. Apparently, the combination of the syllables closely replicates a real human exchange.

However, the name of the plant is linked with another far weightier word from ancient times, also linked with unintelligible chatter. To the ancient Greeks, when foreigners spoke it sounded like "bah, bah, bah", to their ears. These foreigners were seen as untrustworthy heathens and it is from their indecipherable chatter that 'barbarian' was born. The second syllable of rhubarb comes from the Greek 'barbaras' meaning foreign.



Many English words have been derived from the innate trust of foreigners:

strange—from another country.

outlandish—literally from the outlands.

alien—from elsewhere and distasteful.

Captain Correlli's Mandolin

By Louis de Bernieres

Captain Corelli was an Italian soldier who was stationed on the Greek island of Cephallonia as part of the occupying forces in 1941. The story is about the war years on the Island, what the inhabitants had to put up with from the Italians and later the Germans. I found some parts of the book horrifying, describing what people were prepared to do to fight for survival and the brutality of war.

Running through the book is a Romeo and Juliet story of Antonio Corelli and Pelagia Iannis. It doesn't run to a happy ending exactly but, the characters are powerfully described and I needed to read on to find out what happened to them both.

Doctor Iannis, Pelagia's father who was looked to by the locals for medical cures was a self taught doctor and through him we experience the Greek culture of the time.

The mandolin plays a part in the story. It shows how barriers were broken down and actually remains on the island and is finally played by the 'grandson' of Pelagia.

I recommend this book.

Susan Francis.

Trevor Lindley recommends:

[Quartered safe out here](#) By George MacDonald Frazer

Most books about the war are written by generals or academics

This book is about the war in Burma when the author was a serving as a corporal.

News about groups from the Groups' Coordinator,
Tomas

GAMES AFTERNOONS EARLY 2025

March 7th, April 4th

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

Great British Beach Clean

Tuesday 25th March 2025 at 10:00 meet at Chesil Beach Centre.

Tony Dodds is keen to lead an u3a group to join this. The no.1 bus will get you there or there is parking.

Badminton

There may be a new badminton group starting soon at Osprey Leisure Centre, Portland. There is room for more members.

Singing for Pleasure:

This group is now meeting some Friday mornings at St. Aldhems. There is room for new members.

Recent First Aid Workshops.

Two very informative workshops were held at St. Aldhems in the last two weeks presented by a volunteer from the Red Cross. It is planned to repeat these in the near future so look out for email reminders.

If you need any more information about these or any other group, contact Tomasa:

gc.weyportu3a@gmail.com

Assistant Groups coordinator.

Thomasa would still like some help with this role and would like an assistant. If you are interested please contact Thomasa.

gc.weyportu3a@gmail.com

Group leaders Lunch.

The group leaders in our local u3a group were invited to lunch at St. Aldhems on Tuesday 21st January to express our gratitude to them for running groups. They could meet one another and discuss how they run their groups, etc. I was delighted to meet many of them for the first time.



Quizzes

TRAIL WINDER SPRING

Starting at the red square, follow a continuous trail winding left, right, up and down, but not diagonally, to find 15 words relating to Springtime.

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

TRAIL WINDER SPRING

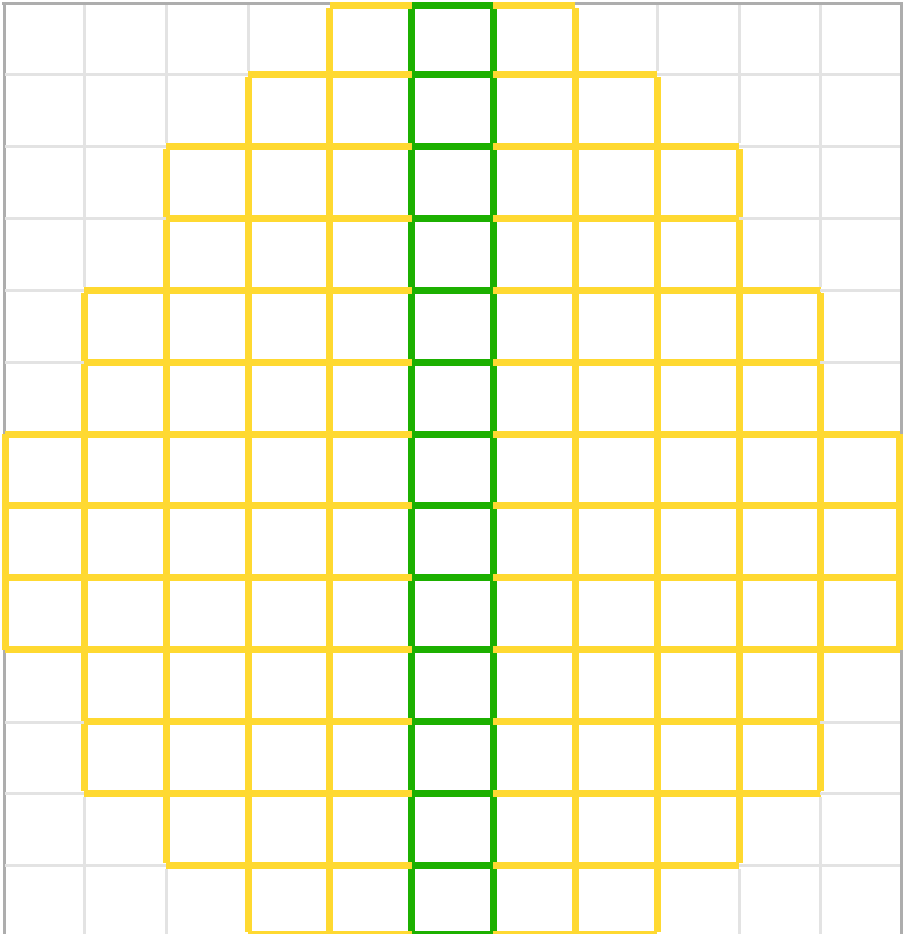
STEPLADDER PUZZLE

Rearrange the 13 words below in
to the grid so that when correct a seasonal pastime appears in
the green column.

AMASS APOSTLE BAPTISE CLANDESTINE COMMUNION

ENTER FEATHERED HEN INDULGENTLY PLUNDER

SPRINGCLEAN SUCCEEDER SUGARCANE



Quiz answers

The answer to the Stepladder is EASTER EGG HUNT

The Trail Winder answer is

APRIL SHOWERS, CHERRY BLOSSOM SNOWDROPS

CATKINS CHICKS DAFFODIL LAMBS CROCUS

BUTTERFLY AWAKENING POLLEN APPLE BLOSSOM

BREEZE SPROUTING BUDS

Recycling

Our u3a member, Jane Church who wrote the Three R s Guide on our website is in the process of updating it.

If you have any details or views that you would like to have included in the guide please let Jane know by the 1st May 2025.

Email: nowasteweymouth@outlook.com

Many thanks.

Highlights from U3amatters national Autumn magazine

In the February issue of u3amatters, there is a feature called "Stories to share." Three u3a members share memories of their experiences in the past.

David Thomas talks of visiting Liverpool's The Cavern Club. In the 1960s when he was fifteen years old. He says he missed the chance of a lifetime when he didn't accompany his girlfriend to the band room to speak to the group appearing that session—The Beatles!

John Whitton tells of his adventure when he was eleven. He went on a steam trawler, Kingston Agate from Hull to Bear Island in the Artic Circle. It was a three week commercial fishing trip. The ship had no radar, ne telephone, only radio communication. The year was 1946.

Virginia Aighton of Clitheroe u3a, tells us about a suitcase she inherited from her father, Jim Allen. It was full of photos and letters written by her father during the second world war. It opened her eyes to what her father's generation had to endure during those terrible years, the dangers, the pain and the fact that people just got on with it. Virginia was so inspired by her father's writing that she has published a book about it on Amazon.

