Weymouth and Portland u3a

October 2026 Newsletter



A message from the Editor:

Well, thank goodness the heat wave has finished. I think I have mentioned before how much the British like to talk about the weather. It is so changeable. I am sure most of you remember the summer of 1976. I was a teenager and I loved every minute of the heat; going swimming and going out in the evening without a cardigan or jacket.

I remember we had a hosepipe ban then. My Dad was a great gardener and he fixed a system so that all our bath water ran into a large container outside so that he could continue watering his plants.

This year, although we did water our plants, quite a few of them died. I think it was also because there was a warm wind often blowing and taking the moisture from the leaves.

What difficulties extreme weather can bring.

We have heard about global warming for quite a few years but now it seems it is really happening. Suddenly, hot summers are not so attractive: with hosepipe bans, rivers drying up, wild fires with road closures and family homes destroyed and a danger to wildlife.

This is our October Newsletter with photos of the Annual Group Fayre held in September.

Susan Francis

Newsletter Editor

CHAIR'S REPORT for October.

I must start by thanking all our Group Leaders and those of you who assist them, our committee, those of you who help in the Kitchen every month, and our Meeters and Greeters. It is only by your support that we can maintain this wonderful organisation.

Our Group Fayre this September was an example of this commitment and teamwork. One of the many visitors that day, came to see me at the end, and said "what a wonderful example of community spirit that the u3a demonstrated".

The Group Fayre was an amazing success. So many people helped to make it a great morning. It would be wrong to single out any one person, so many contributed. We had 67 visitors, 21 signed up as members and many said they would do it online. To all our new members, welcome to u3a. We will be holding a coffee morning soon at which you can learn more about how the groups start and function; how the organisation is managed; and a chance to ask questions of the Committee.

I hope you find this newsletter both helpful and enjoyable. Our Newsletter Editor, Susan, does a great job putting it together. But she couldn't do it without the efforts of all our contributors. Thank you all.

Hugh Pelham

Kenneth Rowsell asks:

What connection do Doctor Who and the German battle ship Bismark have?

Answer:

Jon Pertwee who played Dr Who was an able seaman on HMS Hood. The ship was sunk by the Bismark. Jon Pertwee who was doing officer training had left a week or so before the sinking which only 3 people survived.

Group News

Beginner French Group

Jenny and Kirsten thought you might like to know about our new Beginner French group which meets at the Palm House weekly Thursday mornings from 10 am to 11 am.

We started last March with a lovely group of six, have someone ready to start in October, and would love to welcome one more member to bring us up to a full complement of eight.

It's very informal and centres on what the members of the group feel is useful in their learning. This takes various forms: we have covered the usual starting points of travelling, ordering a meal, coffees, booking a hotel room and suchlike but we all want to be able to chat to French people and understand what they say in reply! So, we practice conversation too. Sometimes we prepare a few lines to read to the group next time (all optional) or read a little (we have found the Mr Men books amusingly helpful!). This tends to bring up questions and maybe confusion in idiom and grammar which Jenny and I enjoy explaining.

One group member has described the beginner French; "It's in a relaxed friendly setting learning at your own pace."

We buy coffees in advance which also perk us up!

[redacted]

The Outings group

Ten of us had a very enjoyable trip to Bucklers Hard in September. We can thoroughly recommend it. The guided tour of the museum was especially good. We learnt the origins of "top dog, underdog", "your number's up", "money for old rope", why we say someone is "pickled" when they are inebriated and many more sayings.

Our December coach trip is to Cricket St Thomas on 17th December for a three course Christmas Lunch and panto and a charity raffle.

Brochure price: ££65.95
U3A price £59.50 if mentioned at the time of booking.

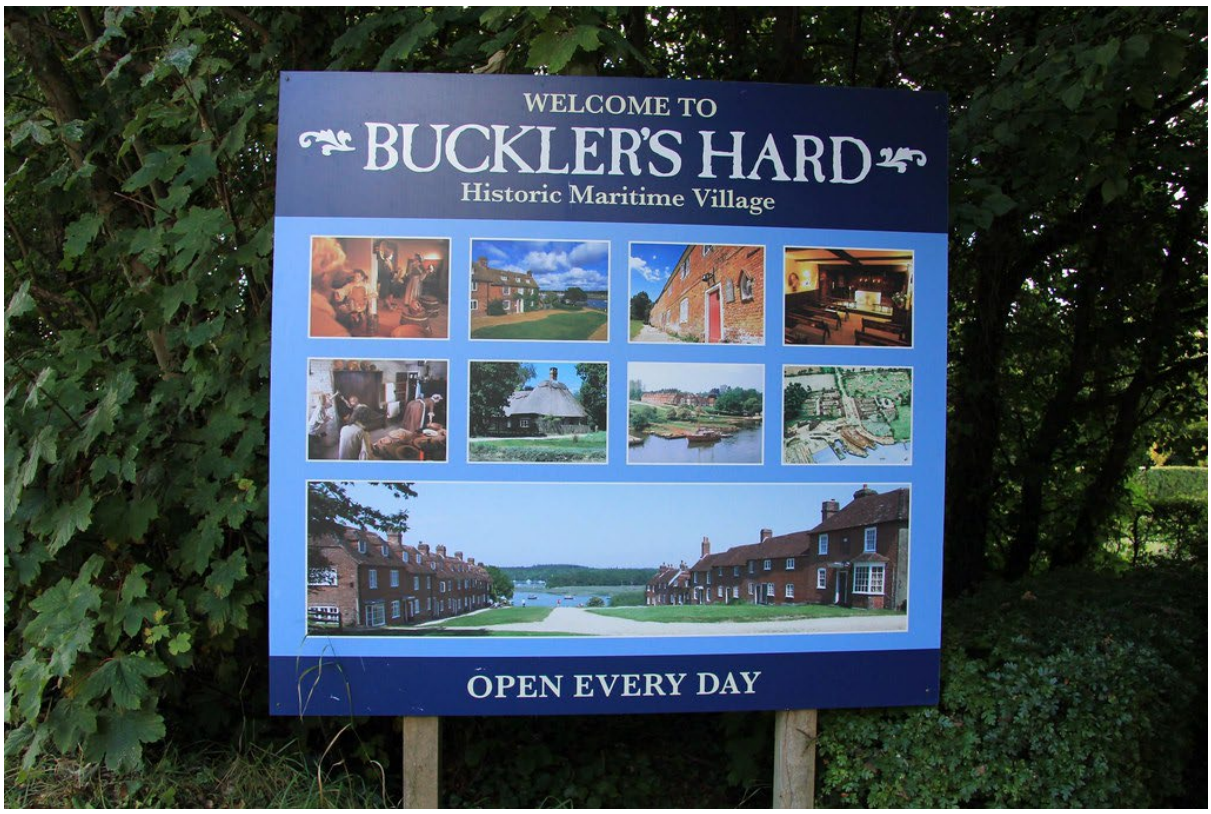
11 January 2027
Queen Elizabeth 11 Life in styles (Kings Gallery)
Brochure price £74.95
U3A price £67.50 if mentioned at the time of booking.

28 March 2027
Wiltshire towns and villages
Brochure price £47.95 U3A price £43 if mentioned at the time of booking

Call Crossways Travel 01305 851697 to book.

Please always state you are Weymouth & Portland U3A member for your discounted price.

For regular updates on our coach trips, please join the Outings Group.
If you are interested in our bus and train outings please contact me, Chris Hill, by [redacted]



This Photo by Unknown Author is licensed under CC BY

Speakers for Monthly Meetings

Monthly Meetings are held at St. Aldhems, Radipole Lane.

16th October 2026 – Sailability

To help disabled people get involved in sailing.

20th November 2026 – Tumbledown.

What do we do?!

2027 U3A COACH TRIPS

11/1 Queen Elizabeth 11 Life in Styles (Kings Gallery)

Brochure price £74.95 U3A price £67.50 if mentioned at the time of booking.

11/2. New Forest Winter Wanderer

Brochure Price: £47.95 U3A price: £43 if stated at the time of booking

28/3 Wiltshire towns and villages

Brochure price £47.95 U3A price £43 if mentioned at the time of booking.

24/4 Tulip Fest, Sussex

Brochure Price: £84.95 U3A price: £76.50 if stated at the time of booking

8/5 Oxford Hop on/off bus and walking tour

Brochure Price: £74.95 U3A price: £67.50 if stated at the time of booking

12/6 London River Thames Cruise

Brochure Price: £79.95 U3A price: £72 if stated at the time of booking

22/7 Thames Barrier Estate, London

Brochure Price: £79.95 U3A price: £72 if stated at the time of booking.

29/8 North Devon Coast - Sunday Explorer

Brochure price £49.95 U3A price £45.00 if mentioned at the time of booking.

22/9 Killerton NT

Brochure price £69.95 U3A price £63 00 if mentioned at the time of booking.

14/10 South Devon Steam Railway and the House of Marbles

Brochure price £74 95 U3A price £67.50 if mentioned at the time of booking.

4/11 Royal Albert Hall Guided Tour

Brochure price £69.95 U3A price £63.00 if mentioned at the time of booking.

16/12 Cricket St Thomas Christmas Party

Brochure price £72.50 U3A price £65.00 if mentioned at the time of booking.

PLEASE ALWAYS STATE YOU ARE A MEMBER OF WEYMOUTH & PORTLAND U3A, EVEN IF YOU DON'T SEE THE TRIP LISTED AS SUCH. THEY WILL CHECK IF IT IS A U3A TRIP.

The Jubilee Sailing Trust

By Norman Wood

The Jubilee Sailing Trust (JST) was founded in 1978 with a mission to integrate disabled and non-disabled people as a crew for the challenge of Tall Ship sailing.

The TS Lord Nelson was launched in 1986 and was the first purpose built, fully wheelchair accessible tall ship in the world.

I was enamoured with tall ships after the tall ship race started from Weymouth in 1985, 1987 and 1994. The atmosphere around Weymouth during those weeks was truly vibrant. Some ships were in the outer harbour and many more were anchored in the bay. This climaxed with the start of the race in the bay and around off Bowleaze Cove where my family had gathered to watch the procession of tall ships. A spectacle to behold.



Some years later, one of my colleagues at work regaled us with tales of her voyage with the JST. I couldn't stop talking about it. This culminated with my family combining to issue their challenge to me by booking a voyage on the TS Lord Nelson for my sixtieth birthday; a five day voyage, 9th to 14th October 2010 from Poole to Cherbourg returning to Southampton. An experience I will never forget.

The first day, after settling into our bunks, we were assigned to our watches for the trip. My first watch was 2pm to 6pm still in Poole Harbour. All tasks for the watch were posted and you were expected to know where you should be at all times.

Having read the pre-instructions posted to us, I wisely took travel sickness tablets before and during the trip. However, some people did not and suffered for a few days. We were instructed in tasks including safety at sea and where your watch should assemble with life jackets etc. in the case of an emergency; hauling on ropes to raise the sails; coiling the ropes correctly; etc. The more I type, the more memories unfold so here is a just a few.

Smoko was a gathering on deck at both mid morning and afternoon for coffee/tea with snacks which was fine in good weather, not so with a rolling sea.

We experienced a force 8 gale as we crossed the channel and approached Cherbourg harbour. As the entrance to the harbour is narrow, we had to "hove to" for the night. A number of us decided to be on deck during the storm, clipped to safety lines and watch the rough seas as the ship tossed and rolled around. After the storm there were not many people in the mess for breakfast!

At anchor in the harbour, there was a voluntary traditional climb to the crows nest. I watched as the first few people climbed and then it was my turn. Getting into the safety harness and then with a crew member behind me, I climbed the rigging to the top and had to navigate up and out over the railings to the platform. I received a great cheer from assembled crew below. The view was fantastic.

A couple of years later, the TS Lord Nelson visited Weymouth and my daughter and I had a day's sailing more as passengers but I couldn't help myself. I joined in hauling ropes!

All good things, sadly, come to an end and the JST, like many organisations during covid, experienced financial difficulties and in December 2023, the Jubilee Sailing Trust officially ceased operations and went into administration.

Alas the JST is no more.

Norman Wood

The Independent Monitoring Boards (IMB) are looking for volunteers.

Sophie Anscombe [redacted]

writes:

"Many of our most successful members are retired or semi-retired people who want to continue learning new skills, engaging with their communities, and doing valuable and interesting work. This seems to align closely with the interests of U3A members.

The IMB is a group of volunteers who monitor the treatment and conditions of people in custody, providing independent oversight to ensure fairness and decency. It's a role that offers variety, challenge, and the chance to make a real difference."

You can find out more at the website: https://imb.org.uk/

[redacted]

The Weymouth &Portland Group Fayre

The u3a Group Fayre took place at St. Aldhem's Church Hall in Radipole on Friday 18 th September 2026.

Several people attended the meeting where the current u3a groups displayed their wares to show some of the activities that are available. The groups ranged from crafts, calligraphy, musical groups such as recorder and ukulele and Latin to more active groups such as walking, table tennis and tennis. We have various games and card groups who would welcome new members: quizzers, canasta, mah jong and chess.

There is a MOTO (members on their own) group.

One of the new ladies today talked of starting a dancing group.

The meeting was very successful and indeed 21 people signed up for the u3a.





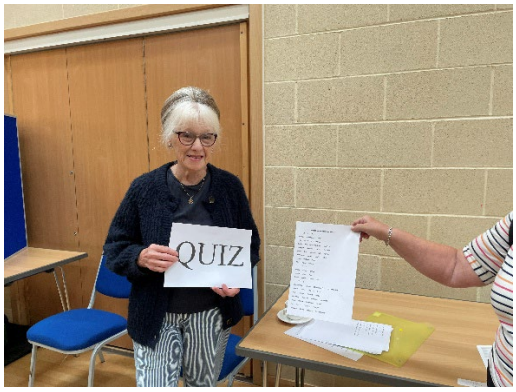
The Group Fayre













The Market Researcher, and her dog by Linda Dobbs

A blowsy, blonde, market researcher
out with woman's best friend – a lurcher –
stopped to ask me the way
from rail station to Bay.
Her dog snarled, but blonde said, 'She won't hurt ya.'
But that canine was on a long lead
and looked like it needed a feed.
So, I side-stepped her jaws,
plus her ruddy great paws,
and the puddle where she had just peed.
The blonde then became quite offensive.
I argued, 'Dry cleaning's expensive.
Your dog's paws are dirty.
She's coming on flirty.
You're putting me on the defensive.'
The bitch was reeled in, lead now shorter.
I felt safer for not having fought her.
Why don't dog owners suss
those without want no fuss?
Just my luck, that Monday …
(that I managed to avoid injury, coming home with just a few grubby stains on my winter-white down-filled coat, which costs an arm and a leg to dry clean).

Cycling the Great Western Way from Bristol to London by Linda Dodds

Renowned civil engineer Isambard Kingdom Brunel was born in April 1806, and in June this year - with such clement weather! – we decided to cycle from Temple Meads Station, Bristol to the Brunel Museum in Rotherhithe, in honour of Brunel's 220th anniversary. Spending most Thursday mornings over the past few years, with Mike Beament and his u3a Cycle Group, we were fit and ready for the challenge, scheduled to take five days between start and finish.

Our route followed National Cycle Network 4 for the majority of the way, though it wasn't always well signed at obvious major junctions. Overnight stops were booked in Trowbridge, Hungerford, Reading and Windsor, with midday breaks at attractive cafes. We used Premier Inns in a couple of places – you can take your bike to bed with you here, for added security. We chose a B&B within walking distance of Windsor Castle, and enjoyed visiting the town after, perhaps, 55 years!

The Sustrans official route map covering 167 miles 'conveniently forms an unbroken link between Bristol; London and, despite its length, is almost entirely flat, following canals, rivers and dales'.

So, we were pleased to cycle on the peaceful Kennet & Avon Canal towpath, though overhanging brambles were vicious at times! There are quiet lanes beyond Devizes and beautiful villages in the Vale of Pewsey towards Newbury. From there we followed the River Kennet until it joined the Thames in Reading, then cycled the Thames Valley Cycle Route into Central London.

We had planned to visit the Brunel Museum in Rotherhithe, but insufficient cycling time on the last day meant we had to end the trip at Waterloo Station for return to Weymouth, after 45 miles. On reflection, it was our crossing of vast Windsor Great Park which stole our schedule for the day. There are no waymarks within the Park, other than for official/residential areas within it, so we relied on Ordnance Survey to help us leave for the final stage into London. Cycling in late-afternoon London traffic wasn't too demanding, though scary at crossroads, and we even managed a few miles on Thames-side as we neared Waterloo. Our return train journey was severely delayed that evening, but we eventually whizzed through dark and peaceful Weymouth at 00.30hrs, to hit the sack at 01.15hrs on day 6! It was memorable, and rewarding to return to various old haunts from our youth sixty years ago.

Book Review

Jean Quick reviews books for a company called Booksprout. They are always on the lookout for people to read prepublication books and review them on Amazon or Goodreads. They give you guidance about how to write your review and you can choose from a range of books and the timescale you need to read and review them in. I enjoy finding new authors and sometimes the authors get back to you and you have some interesting conversations about their work. I have added my review of this lovely book below.

The Lighthouse Keeper by Carley Lewis.

This is a beautiful book that will inspire people especially those who have struggled with grief and loss. There are the glimpses of humour that will lift your spirits and make you smile. Basically, the story is about two people who in very different circumstances have been bereaved and thought that solitude and living at the furthest point possible from their tragic stories would help them to keep going.

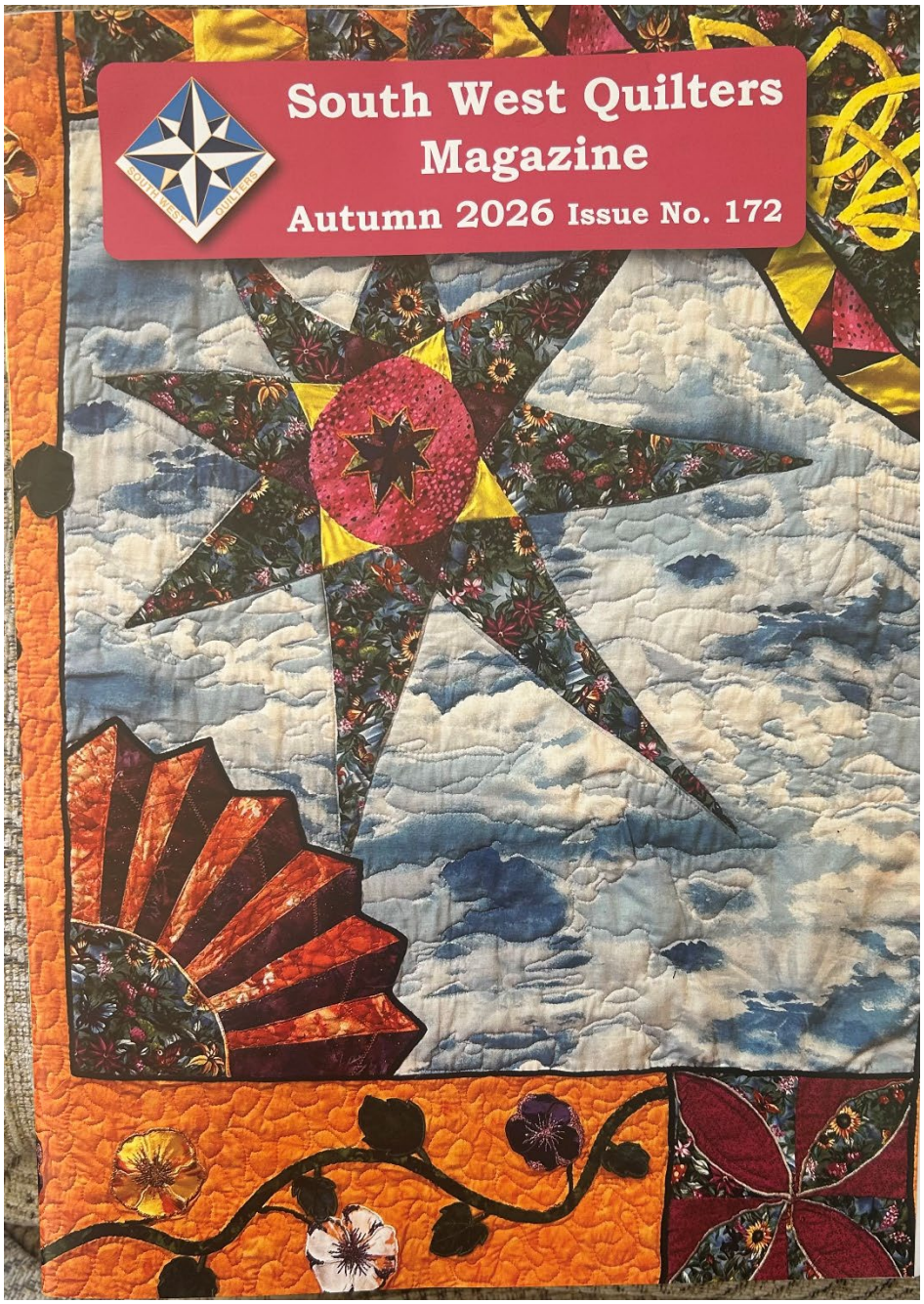
The story is set in Cape Point, South Africa. The point where two oceans meet. James is the lighthouse keeper and tends a defunct light that is lit in memory only once every year. Amara is a scientist from a scientific family background. At the same place as where the lighthouse is situated to collect data about the whales. Jame's wife died from pancreatic cancer and he nursed her in her final years, then travelled as far as he could to escape the world that was overwhelmingly compassionate. So, he lives in this harsh environment, on the edge of the world. Keeping his wife's memories alive by baking bread twice a week as she did and only with his ridgeback hound Darwin for company. Darwin is the bridge; his wife Fiona, a school teacher, could name all the dogs of the children in her class.

The scientist lost her partner of eleven years in a diving accident. He was of course more to her than a colleague but it was a love that was never spoken about between them. Amara's mother faithfully telephones her every Thursday. She too is a schoolteacher. Every Thursday she is given the briefest of information about her daughter,' fine' is the most Amara offers. However, the mother is not put off and keeps up her weekly calls. There are lots of interesting parallels in the story. Not least with human behaviour and the natural world. Amara says that she has built an architecture around her emotions and staying within its structures keeps her from feeling. The light is housed in architecture. James and Amara begin dismantling and rebuilding in the sad situation of spending a harsh stormy night trying to save the life of a calf. The mother whale never stops calling and for three days after the calf dies, she continues as if calling out her grief. The book has a definite rhythm to it and the repeated phrases are poetical and bring a sense of gentleness and order to this story of two people living on the edge of life and finding a way through their grief. There are so many deep and profound statements that really make you think. For example, 'The things that we carry become lighter not when we put them down but when someone else sees what we're holding.' The book is written from a third person perspective and you wonder who is making the observations and recording the story. It is certainly a book that will inspire and one that you will want to turn to again and again.

Well done!

Nava Young writes:

Just wanted to say my quilt was chosen to be on the front cover of South West Quilters magazine. I had many blocks in my sewing room and a few months ago I decided to use them by putting them into a big quilt. We call them PHD - projects half done. Need to find a few fabrics already in some of the blacks. I was lucky to find a few fabrics to compete this quilt. To my surprise it was worth the effort as it appeared in the magazine. So, I encourage folk to spend time finishing projects. It is worth the effort.



Update on Weymouth Area Swift Town Project

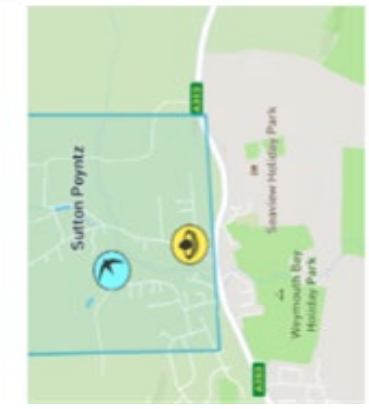
by Tony Dobbs

I gave a talk to U3a in June this year about this Project and this provides an update for those who are interested.

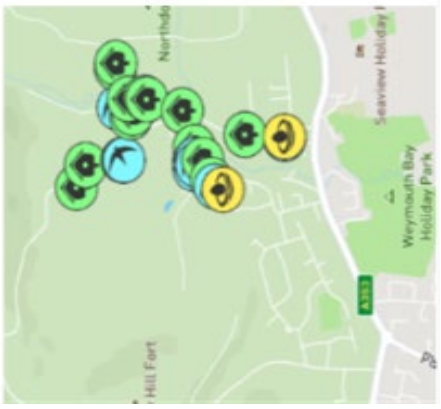
The swifts that bred in the UK this year are now heading south possibly to Spain or beyond, so it is an appropriate time to assess the impact of the Project thus far. One of the project objectives was to raise awareness of swifts in our Weymouth area and the free app Swiftmapper records swift nests and "screaming parties" (these register where swifts are actively nesting in the area and/or looking for nest sites). In 2025, Swiftmapper recorded 1 nest and 21 screaming parties; this was before the project started and was fairly constant over previous years. In 2026, these numbers had increased to 6 nests and 62 screaming parties recorded. This is obviously too soon for the project to have impact on visiting numbers but this increase does demonstrate that awareness of swifts in the area has increased.

A more startling positive impact is apparent in the results for Sutton Poyntz. Colin Marsh has really been very active in this area and has had a startling impact, as can be seen from the images below from the Swiftmapper app showing a dramatic increase in nestboxes (green dots unoccupied nests/ yellow occupied nests) and numbers of reported screaming parties (blue dots). Apologies for the quality of the photo; I had to use a photo of my computer screen.

In conclusion, I think the project has made a reasonable start but there is still a great deal to do and, over the winter, we will be making more nestboxes ready for installation next year and beyond, and trying to find more ways to help property owners install nestboxes. If you would like to help the project please contact me through a PM (personal message) on Facebook using the Weymouth - Swift Town page.



Cumulative Results for 2021 TO 2015



Results for 2026

From other organisations

Art:

I'm a member of Weymouth Art Group and we meet on Tuesday mornings 10-12 at Southill Community Centre @ £2 a session. New Members are welcome to join us.

We are a large friendly group of mixed ability artists using a variety of mediums. It is not a teaching group though we all support each other and we do have occasional visits from professionals for demos and workshops. We also have an optional monthly theme. We welcome new artists to join us whatever experience you have, beginner, improver or advanced. We hold our annual Exhibition in our regular hall on 2nd Tuesday in November which this year falls on the 10th where free refreshments are available in our coffee shop. Maybe you'd like to pop in and see what we do.

If you are a beginner and feel like having a go you would be most welcome. Take a deep breath and just turn up with some paints and paper and a simple picture or photo of anything you like, perhaps a piece of fruit or some flowers. A Greetings card is a good place to start for beginners. Not too big or intimidating. Nobody will judge you. We were all beginners once. If you find you are disappointed in your first endeavours, well, join the club! We are all our own worst critics. Regular attendance is key to success and also, it makes you 'do it'.

Best wishes and Happy Painting

Daphne Stevens
Wag Sec

Weymouth Museum.

The Teas and Talks programme organised by Weymouth Museum and supported by the Friends is starting on Mondays at the end of the month at the **Centenary Club**, 21 Jubilee Drive, Weymouth. Free car parking. Talks are at 2.30pm, doors open and tea available from 2pm. **Friends of Weymouth Museum £3 Non-members £4.**

28 September	Jeff Little	The Portland Massacre
5 October	Stuart McLeod	Samuel Mico – a Weymouth 'lad'
12 October	Lindsay Fry	World War II in Weymouth – her father's book
19 October	Tony Flux	Thornhill paintings in Weymouth and beyond
2 November	Jeff Little	Witchcraft
9 November	Graham Perry	Weymouth's Tudor Buildings
16 November	James Farquharson	The Black Death in Weymouth
23 November	Sam Johnson	The Work and Archive at the Dorset History Centre

And a practical opportunity to help Weymouth Museum now they have received their National Lottery Heritage Fund grant.

The museum wants to enlarge their small, passionate group of volunteers who care deeply about Weymouth's stories, its heritage and the community. If you become a volunteer you might be greeting visitors, helping with collections, supporting school groups, or lending a hand behind the scenes, but you will also be part of something that really matters.

The new Volunteer Application Form. If you are interested, please contact the Chairman of Weymouth Museum Trust, Bob Chedznoy, at bob.chedzoy16@googlemail.com, or Trust member, Di Day, at dianemday@icloud.com. Your support will be most appreciated.

David Carter
Friends of Weymouth Museum Committee

Book Review

May we Feed the King.

By Rebecca Perry.

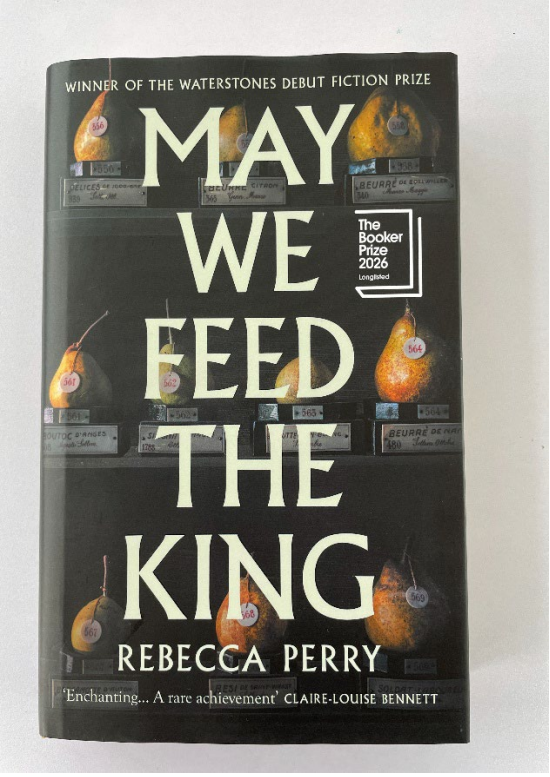
May we Feed the King is the first novel from Rebecca Perry who has written a collection of poetry called Beauty/Beauty.

I have not read her poetry but I decided on this book mainly because I liked the title. A strange title and for me a strange book.

It runs two threads: a modern curator who dresses the rooms of historic buildings for display, and a medieval king who was on the throne, he did not want, because of the death of his elder brothers. The king's story is the middle of the book, framed each end by the curator preparing a display for a palace anniversary that no one can quite account for. Characters go unnamed!

The novel won the Waterstones Debut Fiction Prize and was in the longlist for the 2026 Booker Prize. The book is written in a prose which is precise and cool. One recurring observation is the angle of vision. Scenes are glimpsed through doorways and windows and conversations are half-overheard. This makes the reader feel unsettled and like a ghost in the palace.

There is not really a storyline; the unnamed characters create deliberate distance. However, the book is well-written and is unusual. If you fancy something different, try May we Feed the King.



Susan Francis

Your Committee Members

Chairman – Hugh Pelham



Vice-Chairman – Norman Woods



Committee Member – Chris Fraser



Chris Fraser who has fairly recently joined the Committee enjoys different crafts.

In her spare time, she likes to crochet especially blankets; she paints diamond pictures; makes homemade cards including for Christmas. She also enjoys wordsearches.

Your committee members



Groups' Coordinator

Tomasa Sherwood



Secretary

Janet Armstrong



Membership Secretary

Diana Morton



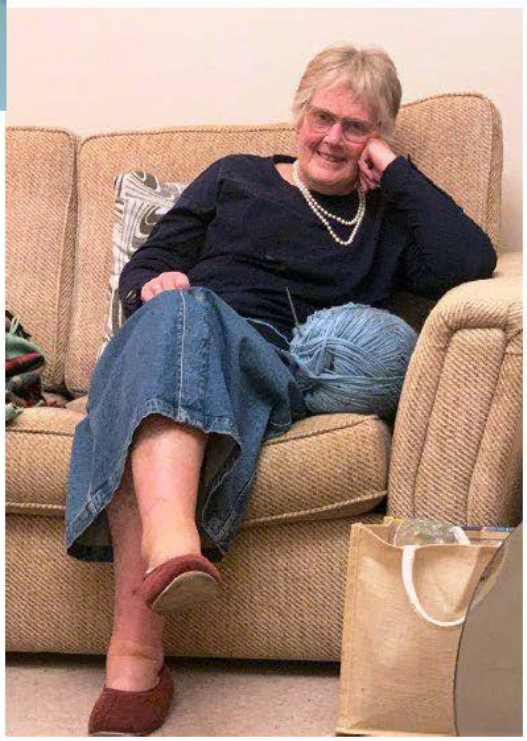
Newsletter Editor

Susan Francis



Speaker Organiser
Anne Lindley





Assistant Groups' Coordinator

Bridget Lister

Committee Member

Gwyneth Gardiner

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.

Chairman : Hugh Pelham - [redacted]

Secretary: Janet - secretary.weyportu3a@gmail.com

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.

assistgc.weyportu3a@gmail.com

Bridget is our assistant group Coordinator.

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

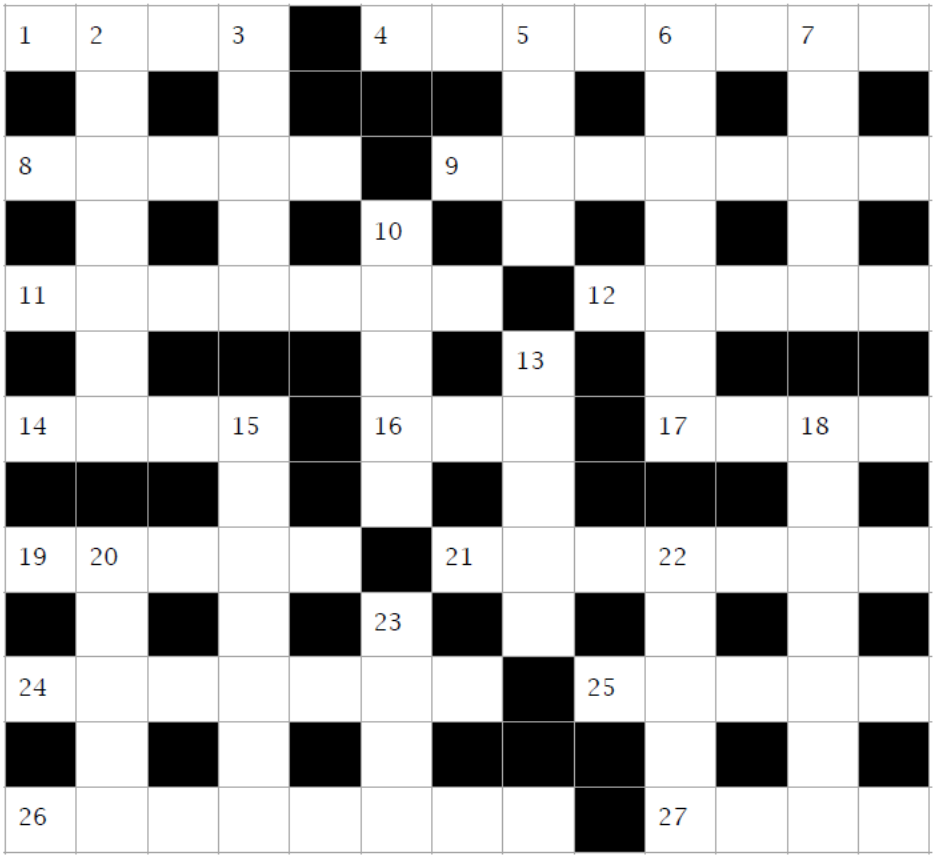
Chris the Treasurer. Notify him if you have paid money into the u3a Barclays account. Group leaders can also scan their group registers and email them to Chris if they are not attending the monthly meeting.

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

Crossword by Shiela Sibbert



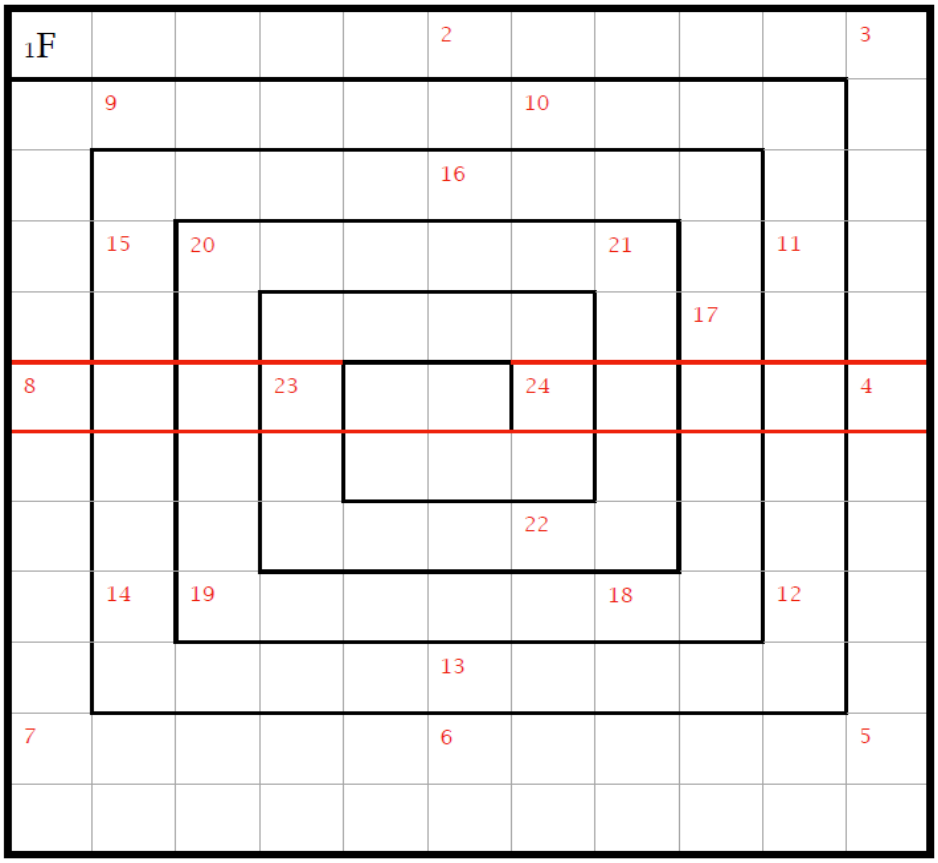
CLUES ACROSS

1. Anguished cry.
4. A baleen whale.
8. A precious stone.
9. Give reasons for.
11. Seek advice.
12. Give encouragement.
14. Fable.
16. Tall vase.
17. Cummerband.
19. Reprimand.
21. Pensive.
24. Tropical fruits.
25. Cooking method.
26. Disease eradicated by 1979.
27. A person's physical structure.

CLUES DOWN

2. Expression of regret.
3. Lends.
5. Tear to pieces.
6. Character from Cinderella.
7. Parts of a shirt.
10. Nimbus stratus.
13. Asian country.
15. Large bag.
18. Seedy, slumlike.
20. Captivate.
22. Pulsate.
23. Recondition.

Spiral



SPIRAL

The last letter of each 6 letter answer is the start of the next one. The clue for the 11 letter word across the centre is Radiant, shining.

1. Cavort. 2. Beguile, coax. 3. Captivate. 4. Garden tool
5. Lush, profuse. 6. Inert gas. 7. Small amount of food.
8. Sheen. 9. Mass departure. 10. Beach wrap.
11. Swiss lake. 12. Writer. 13. Spurn. 14. Put on display
15. Excite, tingle. 16. Dally. 17. Renovate.
18. Seabird with brightly coloured bill. 19. Spice.
20. Pungent bulb. 21. Prickly plant.
22. Highly seasoned sausage. 23. Twelve to a foot.
24. Tranquil.

Challenge!

Sheila has written a short story in one hundred words. Please read it below.

I challenge you to write one too! One hundred words only. There is a book token for the best.

Susan Francis

Don’t stand too close.

The explosives are in place; the timer primed. He positioned himself some distance away, to watch. As the deafening bang rang out, the sky was illuminated with a bright amber glow. Then, without warning, a flying shard of metal pierced his neck. The next thing he became aware of was the cold nose of a dachshund exploring his face, and a voice penetrating his foggy brain.

“Don’t worry mate, I’ve called an ambulance.”

The last thing he heard, before everything went black, was a disembodied voice,

“Sorry sir, we had to take a detour; some maniac blew up the bridge.”

Sheila Sibbert

CROSSWORD ANSWERS.

ACROSS 1. WAIL 4. HUMPBACK 8. TOPAZ 9. JUSTIFY
11. CONSULT 12. BOOST 14. MYTH 16. URN 17. SASH 19. SCOLD
21. WISTFUL 24. BANANAS 25. GRILL 26. SMALLPOX 27. BODY

DOWN 2. APOLOGY 3. LOANS 5. MAUL 6. BUTTONS 7. CUFFS
10. CLOUD 13. INDIA 15. HOLDALL 18. SQUALID 20. CHARM
22. THROB 23. VAMP

SPIRAL ANSWERS

1. FROLIC 2. CAJOLE 3. ENRAPT 4. TROWEL 5. LAVISH
6. HELIUM 7. MORSEL 8. LUSTRE 9. EXODUS 10. SARONG
11. GENEVA 12. AUTHOR 13. REBUFF 14. FLAUNT 15. THRILL
16. LINGER 17. REVAMP 18. PUFFIN 19. NUTMEG 20. GARLIC
21. CACTUS 22. SALAMI 23. INCHES 24. SERENE