

Verwood u3a Newsletter

2021-2022 Year

Welcome, to the new Verwood u3a year. Let's hope it's a good one with lots of fun, learning and socialising!

Following our successful Open Day back in July we have 23 activities going forward. We are always looking for more, so, if you have a passion for any activity that others might like to join in with, let us know. There's lots of support available.



Rustic Fayre

Huge thanks go to Sue Coveyduck and her team for organising the stall at the Rustic Fayre this year.

There was much interest from people new to the Verwood area, we hope they get involved in the activities available and maybe bring new ideas for us to join in with.

There were lovely presentations from a number of the activities currently on offer. The rota worked well with enthusiastic members who attracted people to the stand and explained the u3a offer. It certainly was a busy event. The team ran out of leaflets and names were taken for follow up.

It was lovely to have music this year, provided by the Guitar group. Several suggestions for new activities or restarting were also provided: Ukulele, Computer any volunteers? We have had a take up for Ukulele already!

1

WEBSITE

Have you checked the website recently?

www.verwoodu3a.org.uk

2

E MAIL ALERTS

You now receive e mail alerts to check the website.

3

NEWSLETTER

This provides you with an overview of what has been going on and what is to come.



Did you know?
Verwood u3a now has two card readers to facilitate face to face payments.
See article



A new group has started -
Cribbage. E mail
verwoodu3a@gmail.com



Are you interested in learning the Ukulele?

E mail

verwoodu3a@gmail.com

History group by David Cheshire

The Group has changed over the years but there are still some founder members who attended my first session back in 2010. We're 40 in number this year, including several new members, one of whom, Sue Elve, volunteered to "meet and greet" and do the register, a big help given our large numbers. We kept going through lockdown by email, then Zoom. Returning to face-to-face meetings was a big decision; we decided on wearing masks and lots of ventilation following a consultation about what we'd be comfortable with.

Over the years we've covered a lot of historical ground: Europe, America, China, the English language, the British Empire, philosophy. What unites us isn't any particular knowledge, rather our shared enthusiasm for history in general. Many of the topics are new to me; we learn together, and I suspect I learn more than anybody. What I think we most enjoy are the stimulation, liveliness and humour of our discussions.

I distribute my "script" in advance of each session. Tony Bird, a long-standing Group member and Verwood u3a webmaster, puts them on the website. He's designed an impressive "flipbook" format for them and even an audio version. This allows people to catch up if they miss a session and is also a first-rate archive. I'm sure few other u3a's offer this facility!



Millais' *Ophelia*: from Cathy Knight's presentation on the Pre-Raphaelites

A particular highlight are presentations by Group members. Cathy Knight brought art history to life for us, via the Renaissance, the pre-Raphaelites and movements in 19th century European art. Lindsey Dedden shared her family history links with Darwin, John Edgar his North American ancestors and historic sites in Southern Africa, Sue and Cliff Froud the teachings of Julian of Norwich, and Chris Buckman her Waterloo ancestor. This year's topic is the 20th century and we're looking forward to Dave Timpson's presentation on the early history of recorded music, illustrated by audio extracts from his extensive collection. He's "digitised" them, so sadly no actual cylinders or HMV-style phonograph horn!

Finally, member Sue Elve, who joined last year, shares her impressions: "*History but not as you know it, Jim! We have been looking at history from a wide range of perspectives. It's not history like it might have been for you at school. So, we have dipped into art, architecture, music and technology to name a few areas. We enjoy lively discussions and consider wider themes. We've enjoyed exploring art with expert commentary and guidance by Cathy, learning about Tolstoy's local connections and escaping from the tedium of lockdown with a virtual tour of the Foreign Office.*" .

Art group by Crissy Harris

The Monday art class is a small group of people enjoying the chance to rediscover their painting skills, most of whom haven't painted since they left school and have been surprised by what they have managed to achieve over a period of time.

The class is mainly Watercolours but some have used Acrylic, Gouache and Pastels. We all help one another and enjoy passing on tips we have learnt along the way. Here are a few paintings done by members:



Have you ever painted before? Beginners are always welcome. Release your inhibitions and express yourself with ART. Come along to this class and learn something new. Bring your paints and paper and you will be surprised at what you can achieve. Help and guidance will be given by other members who will be willing to share their experience. Some of us had never painted until we retired. There will be occasional demonstrations on various aspects of Art. You can do Watercolour, Gouache, Acrylics, or just sketching, whatever takes your fancy. Be warned we are very full and there is a waiting list. Can anyone put on another class?

Money Matters

Verwood u3a have now purchased two card readers to help with financial transactions. The cards are held by John Morris and Sylvia Page and accept any credit or debit cards. Just like in a restaurant or shop the readers can be used when face to face transactions are undertaken.

You can now pay for the travel group, annual subscriptions and any other type of payment, by card, cash or bank transfer. Payments by bank transfer should be made as follows:

Account Name: Verwood u3a

Sort Code: 20-72-37

Account No: 80233196

Please remember to add your name and brief description of what you are paying.

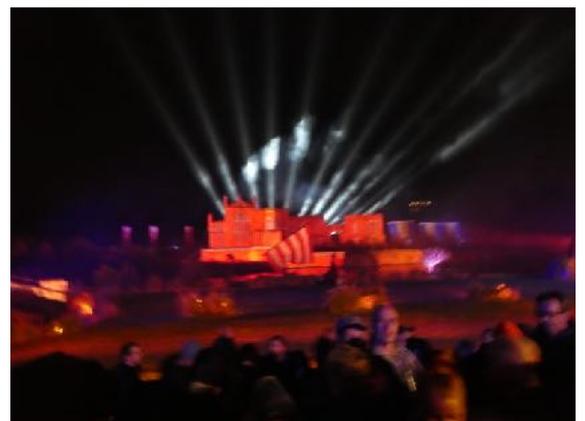
Kynren Visit by Angela Daymond

What a busy weekend we had! Hotel in Middlesbrough; four hours in Durham on Saturday, with some walking along the river, others exploring the city and cathedral and plenty of volunteer guides in the market square giving out information. Then back to the hotel for an early dinner and the journey to Bishop Auckland to see “Kynren”, the story of 2,000 years of English history.

Kynren is the Anglo-Saxon word for generations. Before the show there was plenty of time to wander round the grounds and soak up the atmosphere and I have never been to an outdoor event that has so many, proper and very clean toilets – no queueing despite the hundreds of people there. Tiered seating enabled the whole wide panorama to be seen by all with matching performers coming in from both sides, but we were not allowed to take photos once the performance started. There was light rain most of the time but it paled into insignificance as there was so much to see, constant changes to the scene as features appeared then disappeared; others rotated; the Vikings came by ship, the Normans invaded, knights galloped and charged their targets; Stevenson’s Rocket chugged by and smoking industrial chimneys appeared and we could smell the coal and smoke. There was much, much more, all enhanced by Son et Lumiere effects, dramatic music, commentary, strobe lighting and fireworks. No words can do it justice.

On Sunday we went to the Beamish Open Air Museum which involved a lot of walking to see the different historical areas featuring the mining industry, an early steam train which offered short rides, a village hall, a traditional early 20th century town of shops and homes, a funfair, railway station and signal box and a farm. If the plan was to take the tram or bus between exhibits, then you were out of luck – the trams weren’t running much to everyone’s disappointment and the buses were often full as most people stayed on the bus till it reached the town where there was such a wide selection of old-fashioned shops. The baker’s and the sweetshop had the longest queues. One hour into our visit there was a torrential downpour and the wet weather gear came into its own again but we came prepared.

We are very grateful to Sylvia Page for giving us the opportunity to make this visit – worth every mile travelled, every step taken and every aching limb! Thank you Sylvia.



Verwood u3a AGM

Our AGM was held on 12 October 2021 at St Michaels & All Angels Church Hall.

The Chair, Jim Green, indicated that membership had grown slightly this year, with 228 members and 25 activities in place. We even have a few members who are members at other local u3a's.

He stated that many activities were now full and that there is a need to increase the activities on offer so that membership can continue to grow. He asked if anyone had any ideas for activities who were able to take a lead. The Committee are available to help with the setting up offering support with venues, processes, some equipment etc.

He thanked Tony Bird for the website, Sue Eyre for Christmas lunch and asked if anyone would help to arrange a monthly lunch. Leaders of groups and the committee members were also thanked for their hard work over the past couple of years.

The Financial officer, John Morris, was able to report that following the lockdowns and no membership fees being paid last year, we are in good financial health. Two card readers have been purchased which will help with future payments.

A new committee member was proposed and seconded. Welcome to Howard Wells. The Committee is now complete.

Jan Mills was proposed and seconded to become Vice Chair this year with her taking over the Chair in 2022/23, subject to a vote at the next AGM.

The Travel officer, Sylvia Page promoted several trips that have been organised. Unfortunately, at the time, one had to be cancelled and the next couple are under review. Please keep an eye on the website to see the trips planned

Following some Q & A the meeting closed.



Cribbage

Lesley Newman, a new member to Verwood u3a, has offered to start a new activity.

This will be a fun cribbage group that will meet on alternate Thursday afternoons. Novice players, along with those who are experienced and willing to help guide new players, are most welcome.

Tables of 4, chosen at random, so that every session you will play with someone new, facilitates a very sociable activity. This will enable you to meet new friends quickly.

Each session will be for 2 hours giving time for setting up and closing down and one and a half hours playing time.

If you are interested in joining in please e mail:

verwoodu3a@gmail.com

Have you a new activity to suggest or can you extend an existing

group? E mail verwoodu3a@gmail.com

RHS GARDENS, WISELY, TUESDAY 7 DECEMBER 2021

A visit to the gardens followed by afternoon tea. As it gets dark we will be able to wander the enchanting trail around the garden to see some of Wisley's iconic sights in a new and dazzling light.

COST: £42 per person including afternoon tea.

£38.75 per person if you are a RHS member - bring your membership card.

Deposit £25 per person to confirm booking (cheques payable to Verwood u3a}

Contact Sylvia Page, 01202 813206 OR john_sylviap@yahoo.com

Booking essential

Use it or lose it!