

# Verwood u3a Newsletter

## Verwood u3a Open Day

Find out about all our activities and join Verwood u3a at our annual Open Day. This is happening on **Wednesday 6 July 2022 at The Hub from 2pm - 4pm**. Come and meet the people who lead the activities who can explain how it all works.

The membership fee for 2022 -2023 is £30, to cover access to all the activities, subject to places being available. So if you want to join get there early and enrol.

Have you a new activity to suggest?  
Contact: [verwoodu3a@gmail.com](mailto:verwoodu3a@gmail.com)

Check the website for new Travel events.  
Booking essential  
Use it or loose it!

Over the last few months a number of the organised trips have not taken place due to a lack of numbers. It might seem the dates are far in advance but cut off dates are as well. The 'use it or loose it' statement above happens - the trips are cancelled.

New Forest Show  
27th July 2022

Cotswold Wildlife Park and Gardens  
7th September 2022

[www.verwoodu3a.org.uk](http://www.verwoodu3a.org.uk)

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### WEBSITE

Have you checked the website recently?

[www.verwoodu3a.org.uk](http://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.



**Don't forget:**  
Ventilation

Masks

Social Distancing



**A new activity is Starting September, Keep an eye on the website:**

Jazz Appreciation

**AGM**

**11th October at 2pm,**



**St Michaels Church Hall**

The next Committee meetings are on:

28th June 2022 @ 2pm

13h September 2022 @ 3pm

Please contact us with any suggestions/queries etc.

[chair@verwoodu3a.org.uk](mailto:chair@verwoodu3a.org.uk)

## Women's Discussion Group by Sue Coveyduck

The Women's Discussion Group has been 'discussing' topics for nine years, ranging from Churchill's quotation of 1946, 'We are applying to the present, the habits of the past', local places to visit for an interesting day out, gender issues and sharing our favourite poems. Among others, we have had Jenny from Morrisons talk to us about cheese and a healer to share her experiences.

We meet every fortnight during the u3a term to discuss a topic chosen by one of the group and often augmented by others. I have to be honest, despite a title, every topic seems to take on a life of its own and can wander far and wide!

We do have a few ground rules, the main one being that we respect each other's opinions and differences, what would a discussion group be without those? We don't discuss one another's contribution outside the group and we don't discuss domestic matters unless they serve to illustrate a point.

We start our meetings with a blow on the golden whistle 'to focus our minds', share u3a notices and always end with coffee in The Hub cafe. For the last two Rustic Fayres we have, in the main, set up and manned the u3a stand and recruited not just members but also leaders, including our vice chair!

Every member is welcome to join our 'ladies who lunch' group once a month, generally at Al Trullo, to enable those of us who need to, to get to our afternoon activities without having to cut our precious time together too short. We continue these during the u3a holidays.

During lockdown we endeavoured to continue courtesy of Zoom. This proved a steep learning curve for many of us, enabled by a glass of wine to calm the nerves for at least one member, and a challenge to keep up with changing u3a passwords for all of us. As small recompense for not meeting to discuss, some of us met to walk and talk and this has continued post lockdown, followed by coffee, sometimes joined by non walkers, again monthly and continually throughout the year.



So readers, you now know our Women's Discussion Group has many guises to enable constructive and not so constructive but always enjoyable 'discussion' and I am told is the envy of some male members!

## Afternoon Tea and Cakes by Nancy Tolley

At the beginning of 2022, four u3a members took over the quizzes which Jeanette Warburton has successfully run for years. Sue Coveyduck, Howard Wells, Nancy and John Tolley agreed to do the quizzes on alternate months and decided to offer members a social event between the quizzes. Hence, the Tea and Cake get-togethers at The Hub began.

The first, very successful event, was held in March with 33 attendees. The most recent in May had 13 attendees, the fewer number possibly due to the holiday season in full swing.

To get the conversations started, opening topics are available on tables, as one purpose is to encourage members to meet others who may be in different classes. It is not a quiz, there are no prizes, just a chance to have a conversation and buy a delicious piece of cake and a cup of tea or coffee at a generous price concession courtesy of The Hub.

All u3a members are welcome and a notice will be sent to all, prior to our next Tea & Cake event on **Wednesday 13th July in The Hub cafe.**

## Social and Dog Walking Group by Peter Cornforth

Dogs are sociable animals. They instinctively want to be around their friends sharing a common purpose, not unlike people. We started our social and dog walking group last year, just at the end of the spring lockdown. Our aim was to provide an outdoor activity with a social element for dog owners and dog friendly humans. We have held walks every two weeks for most of the year with a break in the winter. We share our local knowledge to provide a good variety of locations. Last year we explored Stevens Castle, Hengistbury Head, New Forest, Bournemouth Tropical Gardens and many more.



Dog friendly beach near Bournemouth

Typically our walks are one to two hours, usually ending end up at a coffee shop or a pub. Here we can chat and relax. This is the high point for the dogs who love a dog treat or two before stretching out for a well-earned rest.



Marley taking a nap at the Alice Lyle

We welcome new members. If you have a dog or are dog-friendly, please get in touch.

Peter Cornforth 07468 584709

## Our First Lunch with Speaker organised by Howard Wells

On 6 April Howard Wells organised a lunch at Remedy Oak Golf Club with Baron (Ian) MacLaurin as the guest. Ian had been Chairman of Tesco, Vodafone, England Wales Cricket Board and UK Sport, when Howard was its Chief Executive. Following an impressive lunch, Howard led a Question and Answer session with Ian and then invited questions from the audience, which was 48 strong.



The second lunch in this series will be on **21 September, at the same venue**, when Patrick Foster, a reformed gambling addict will be the guest. Patrick became a “silent addict” whilst at Durham University and at one point was £4 million in debt. This should be particularly interesting to parents and grand parents, as on-line gaming is now a major industry and has dragged in people of all ages.

Please register your interest with Howard at [hjcwells@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:hjcwells@yahoo.co.uk) as soon as possible.

## Beaulieu Visit by Heather Morris

On Friday 29<sup>th</sup> April my husband and I joined members of Verwood u3a on a trip to Beaulieu Abbey and Gardens. We were particularly interested in the BBC Gardening Fair which was being held in the grounds of Beaulieu Abbey.

The weather was lovely and we saw the plants and flowers at their best in the sunshine. There were various guided walks around the grounds of the Abbey as well as rides on the monorail. The motor museum was fascinating as was the visit to the Abbey itself.



The coach was modern and comfortable and I felt very safe. Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves, which was the main reason for the excursion.

Many thanks to the organisers, Sue and Sylvia.

