

Membership renewal time

Renewal of your u3a membership is due on 1st March. For individual members the cost is still £20, but if you wish to receive the national u3a Matter magazine by post it will be £25 this year.

If you pay by Standing Order and wish to receive the magazine, please amend your SO to £25. If you pay by Direct Debit (our preferred method) and wish to receive the magazine, please ring the Treasurer on 01590 671205 or email treasurer@lymingtonu3a.org

If you pay by cheque please make your cheque payable to Lymington u3a and write your name clearly on the back. Then put it in an envelope addressed to the Treasurer and place it in the u3a post box in the reception area at the Community Centre, or post it to Lymington u3a, c/o Lymington Community Centre, New Street, Lymington SO41 9BQ.

If you pay by BACS, please make your payment to:
Account name: Lymington u3a
Sort code: 20-53-53
Account number: 20271233

Please give your surname, followed by your initial as the reference.



Notice of the AGM

The AGM of Lymington u3a will be held at on Wednesday 1st April at 2 pm at St Thomas Church Hall. All members are warmly invited to attend. The monthly speaker meeting will follow at 2.30 pm as usual. Your AGM papers will be sent out nearer the time.

If you wish to nominate yourself or someone else to become a Trustee of the charity (i.e. join the committee), please ring the Secretary, Edward Ratheram on 07719 625508, who will send you a nomination form to have it signed.

From our Chairman, John Ward



Looking out of the window from my desk while typing this I can see that it is not raining and there is even a hint of sunshine, which is quite a change from what has seemed to be the recent perpetual wetness.

Perhaps Spring is coming along with a new membership year for Lymington u3a.

The Annual General Meeting is probably not the Lymington u3a event that you most eagerly look forward to, but please do read the Annual Report and vote either in advance or in person at the AGM. All of your committee members and others who help to run our organisation are volunteers and without whom there would be no Lymington u3a, so some visible support from you and other members would be appreciated.

I shall be at the AGM (I think attendance is in the job description) and the following talk on SCAMS and their avoidance. If there is anything that you think we could do better or differently, or perhaps something that we don't do at all but ought to consider please stay on for tea after the meeting and talk to me about it.

John Ward

Activities open to all our members:

Please come along and support our Monthly Speaker Meetings

Please remember that our monthly speaker meetings are now being held on the first WEDNESDAY afternoon of the month in the St Thomas Church Hall. This is because it will save us money that we can spend on other activities, and as a charity our trustees are obliged to seek best value. Our first two meetings were beset by failings in the hall's heating system but we are now assured that this has been dealt with and we shall be warm from now on!

Wednesday 4th March **The Eighth Crewman**

The Royal Air Force is well known for its outstanding qualities of determination, accuracy and innovation in times of conflict. During WW2 a small number of squadrons were tasked with specific roles; best known of these is probably 617 'Dam Busters', but there were others, whose roles were so secret that they were unknown – even to each other. Lancaster bombers of 101 Squadron flew more missions than any other squadron in the RAF, against greater odds and suffered the highest number of losses, both of aircraft and men. This talk by Colin van Geffen is the story of one member of that squadron.

Wednesday 1st April **Scams, and how to avoid them**

Speakers from Hampshire Constabulary.

Please note this meeting starts at 2 pm with a short AGM.

Coffee mornings in 2026

Come and join us for a sociable chat from 10 am in the Solento Lounge (formerly Barclays Bank).

NB Our coffee mornings are now held on the **second and fourth Wednesday** mornings of the month.



TED talks - for stimulating, sometimes challenging discussion – just what u3a is for!

These take place on the third Monday morning of the month at 10 am prompt in the McLellan Hall (during the renovation works at the Centre) at the Lymington Centre. We watch an interesting short video together and then discuss it in small groups. Coffee / tea free of charge until 10.15 am.

March 15th

How the simple button changed the world, according to fashion designer Isaac Mizrahi.

AND

Designer Jessi Arrington packed nothing for a conference but 7 pairs of undies, buying the rest of her clothes in thrift stores around Los Angeles. It's a meditation on conscious consumption -- wrapped in a rainbow of colour and creativity.

April 20th

What's behind the rise of far-right politics in Europe? Far-right parties are gaining popularity worldwide. Why is that? Political researcher Daphne Halikiopoulou reveals how rising leaders tap into people's economic insecurities and distrust of institutions in order to cleverly rebrand their right-wing policies.



News from the Groups:

Tim and Sue Norris, our Group Co-ordinators, report:

There are spaces in the following groups:

- Armchair Travel 2nd Tues 10 am
- Book Club 2 3rd Weds 2.30 pm
- Food and Friends Occasional Sundays
- French Chat in the Café – all levels 1st Mon 4 pm
- French Advanced 2nd and 4th Mon 2 pm
- Golf 1st Fri 9.30 am
- Local Interests 1st Weds am
- Lunch Club Monthly – day varies
- Mahjong 1 Every Mon 2 pm
- Painting 2nd and 4th Mon 9.30 am – 12 noon
- Patchwork and Quilting Alt Thurs 10.30 am
- Petanque Every Thurs 10 am
- Philosophy 2nd and 4th Tues 10 – 11.30 am
- Rummikub 2nd and 4th Mon 2 pm
- Science and Technology 3rd Fri 10 am
- Scrabble 2nd and 4th Thurs 2 pm
- Spanish Intermediate 2nd and 4th Thurs 10 am
- Walking 1st Mon morning

Monthly 'open' groups, **Walking, Lunch Club and French Chat in the Café (all levels)** always have spaces. If you are interested in any of the above and would like to know more (where the groups meet etc), then **please phone 07835 130900**.

If there is something else that interests you that's not listed, do please talk to us, as the situation changes all the time in existing groups, or we can help you to set up a new group



The Lunch Club meets once a month on different days of the week at various venues (usually a pub) for a meal and a chat.

All are welcome, either every month or on the odd occasion. The practical maximum number for a pub lunch is about 20, which usually works out, but if not booking is on a 'first come' basis.

To receive information about forthcoming lunches please contact organiser Cheng Wood:
Tel: 01590 673213 / 07940 851242

Walking Group

The Walking Group meets on the first Monday of each month for walks of about 5 miles, sometimes with optional lunch afterwards. For more information or to receive details of each walk please contact Trevor Norton on 01590 674193.

Future event:

Trip to 'The Red Shoes' ballet at the Mayflower, Southampton on Saturday 14th March 2026 (Matinee) Cost £65.65. **FULL**

If you wish to go on the reserve list for this ballet, please ring Sheila Ward on 01590 671205.

We may plan a **bus pass outing to Southampton** before Easter for an official guided tour of historical areas overground and underground. This tour includes uneven paving, heights, spiral and stone staircases when descending into the vaults. It will last approximately 90 minutes and cost £10. If you want to know when we have a date for this, please ring Sheila Ward on 01590 671205.

No further trips are currently planned because no members have come forward to organise such events.

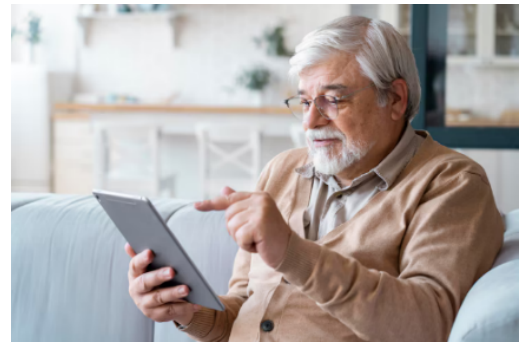
If you want to go on day trips with u3a friends, you might want to look at those run by Highcliffe Coaches or Hythe and Waterside Coaches, though none have Lymington pick-ups.

Newly online?

If you have just joined the IT world and now have an email account that we don't know about, please email our Hon Secretary at lymingtonu3a.generalsecretary@gmail.com

Please do check your emails daily if possible, and you will then receive prompt details of all group vacancies, new groups and future events.

Help in using your tablet or smart phone



At our request, Adult Education are now running **five-week Basic Digital Skills courses** here in Lymington to help you to learn how to use your phone or tablet safely and with more confidence. They take place at the Community Centre on Wednesdays in the early afternoon. With groups of just 6 in the class, you will get almost individual attention to help you to keep up with everyday living online.

Call in at the Adult Education office in the Community Centre reception area to learn more and to book.