

Winchester **u3a** learn,
laugh,
live

February 2024

Issued quarterly
February – May – August - November

www.winchesteru3a.co.uk



The Hospital of St Cross & medieval almshouse has been described as "England's oldest and most perfect almshouse".

(Thanks to the Photography Group for this lovely photo)

<u>Contents</u>	<u>Page</u>
AGM Date and Agenda / 2023 Minutes	3, 4 & 5
Chairman's Letter	6
New Groups	11
New Members	8
News from Groups (in alphabetical order)	12 to 16
Newsletter Info	8
Nick Vernon – An Appreciation	7
Monthly Meetings & Report on January talk	9 & 10
Website information	8

Winchester u3a Committee 2024

Chairman Joan Sherrin
Secretary Susan Shannon
Vice Chairman Ann Edwards
Treasurer: Vernon Tottle
Membership: Marion Schiesser
Groups: John Craig
Speakers Secretary:
Website: Barrie Brinkman
 Freda Bates
Newsletter Editors: Sheila Ayling/Judy Smith

**Annual General Meeting of the Winchester u3a
To be held at
Littleton Memorial Hall at 14.30 on Tuesday 12th March 2024**

AGENDA

1. Welcome
2. Apologies
3. Minutes of the AGM held on 14th March 2023
4. Matters arising from the Minutes
5. Chairman's Report
6. Treasurer's Report and Account
7. Election of Committee for 2024-2025
8. Any other business
9. Date of next AGM – Tuesday 13th March 2025

Susan Shannon
Secretary, Winchester u3a

MINUTES OF WINCHESTER U3A ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD IN LITTLETON MEMORIAL HALL AT 14.30 ON 14th MARCH 2023

1. WELCOME:

Bob Shemilt, Chairman, welcomed 83 members to the meeting.

2. APOLOGIES:

Belinda Ward, Chris Peck, Margaret Boyden, Marjorie Patient

3. MINUTES of Annual General Meeting held on 10th May 2022: These were accepted.

4. MATTERS ARISING from the minutes: None.

5. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

Bob Shemilt thanked Freda Bates (Vice-chairman) for her generous and valuable help as he took on the vacant position of Chairman. He also thanked David Boddy (Secretary) for his work over the past three years. The meetings on Zoom had been interesting and had helped to keep the group going. The experiment with meeting in the city centre had been worth trying, and is now part of our regular pattern, especially useful for those who find it difficult to travel to Littleton. The meeting unanimously approved the Chairman's report

6. TREASURER'S REPORT AND ACCOUNTS:

Vernon Tottle had published the accounts on the website and in the Newsletter. He noted that the bank balance shown in the accounts was quite high, partly because during lockdown members had continued to pay their subscription, but we had not been able to hold meetings and therefore pay speakers.

Rising costs will inevitably reduce the surplus this year, but we are still likely to be in a good financial position. He invited anyone with questions about the accounts to approach him afterwards, so as not to delay the day's speaker. He then proposed that the meeting accept the accounts, which it did unanimously.

He also thanked David Smith for his work as Independent Financial Examiner.

Joan Sherrin proposed a vote of thanks to the Treasurer for all his work, and to the rest of the committee for all the work they do for the membership. The meeting responded with applause.

7. ELECTION OF COMMITTEE FOR 2023-2024:

Joan Sherrin had been nominated and seconded as Chair, Ann Edwards as vice-Chair and Susan Shannon as Secretary. Julia Whitburn has resigned, but all other members of the current committee are prepared to serve another year and were unanimously re-elected as follows: Vernon Tottle (Treasurer), Barry Brinkman (Webmaster), Marion Schiesser (Membership), Nick Vernon (Speakers), John Craig (Groups) and Freda Bates.

Bob then declared the formal meeting closed at 14.45, and the afternoon continued with the usual monthly talk.

**NEXT AGM: 12^h MARCH 2024 AT LITTLETON MEMORIAL HALL.
DOORS OPEN 14.15 FOR 14.30 START**

David Boddy
Secretary
14.03.23

Chairman's Letter

Dear Fellow Members

It is with sadness that I need to tell you that Nick Vernon died in December. Nick was an active member of Winchester u3a for many years. He was an excellent Trustee and Committee member holding the role of Speaker's secretary. He researched & found speakers for us and set up any equipment they requested at the monthly talks. He was also chairman of the Apple Mac user group and a member of a Quester group. In tribute to Nick we dedicated our December meeting as a celebration of his life. We offer condolences to Pauline and the family from us all in Winchester u3a.

We are now moving towards our AGM in March when we shall be looking for offers of help for the various events we hope to organise throughout the new u3a year. On or off the committee – back up role – one off – ad hoc – it doesn't matter. All help is welcomed. The delicious food at our Christmas meeting only happened because the cooking group made an offer we couldn't refuse and what a success that was. A case of 'many hands make light work'

Remember that it will be our 35th birthday this year and this should surely be celebrated in some way. Your ideas are always welcome.

We are very conscious that some members may find attending the monthly talks at Littleton difficult. Freda Bates has taken on the role of 'Transport Arranger.' Please make contact with her with your name and area in which you live if you either could volunteer to offer or need a lift.

Meanwhile we've passed the shortest day so here's to the Spring when we look forward to meeting many of our members over the coming months. The talks which I've listed on our diary entry will be interesting – thanks to Nick's hard work throughout last year.

Joan

Nick Vernon (1939-2023)

An Appreciation

Nick was the best of men. A gentleman in the truest sense of the word: a gentle man. If you had a problem, he would be there for you. But he was no pushover and you had to earn his trust. Once given, he was steadfast and the kindest of friends.

I met him over fifteen years ago. Our wives had been diagnosed with dementia and we got talking over coffee at a drop-in centre. So, there was a common bond and it grew over the years as our spouses both succumbed to one of the cruellest of diseases.

Nick and I would meet for lunch about once a month at one of the many pubs in the Winchester area, to put the world to rights [we could probably have compiled our own "Good Pubs Guide"!]. And, of course, we talked about our problems and supported each other.

Over one of those lunches I asked him if he was a member of U3A. I had joined back in 2003 and had been a committee member and chairman. It was one of the best decisions of my life and I told him it would be the same for him. Being the man he was he not only joined but became actively involved in Questers, and in the Apple Mac group. More recently, he joined the Committee as a very effective Speakers Secretary. He will be greatly missed.

Nick leaves behind a devoted wife, Pauline, and a loving family - daughter, Carol and sons, Matthew and Graham – to whom I offer my sympathy on behalf of U3A.

All that remains for me to say is: Goodbye old friend. It was a privilege knowing you.

John Gardner

We welcome the following new members from:

Winchester

Janet Loveseed

Margaret Melling

Kings Worthy

Lynda Bailey

Broughton

Robin McConnachie

Romsey

Brian Pickett

Andover

Nigel Dewbury

www.winchesteru3a.co.uk is an information source for members and the general public.

Access to Member only information is available by using the Member option on the menu with the password

Please let Barrie Brinkman know if you experience difficulties or have suggestions or need help using our web.

Notes for Contributors to the Newsletter.

The deadline for inclusion in the **February** newsletter is

Friday, 12th April 2024.

Please send contributions as a **Word document (not pdf)** by email attachment in **Arial font, type size 10, single line spacing** to the editors, (Sheila Ayling and Judy Smith), at ***u3aletter@gmail.com***.

You will receive an automatically generated reply acknowledging receipt. If you do not receive this reply, we have not received your contribution!

Reports of visits should not be longer than one page (about 400 words): the editor retains the right to edit items if necessary.

ENTRIES FOR YOUR DIARY

Our **monthly talks** are held at **Littleton Memorial Hall** on **2nd Tuesday** of each Month. The doors open at 2pm with the talk starting at 2.30pm. They are followed by a cup of tea /coffee. A social interlude in our busy lives.

FEBRUARY 13th

Katia Wright

'The Medieval English Queens as Land Holders'

MARCH 12th

Winchester u3a AGM

Followed by John Connell

'Folk songs in time of war from the Elizabethan Period'

APRIL 9th

Colin Scott-Morton

'Confessions of a VAT enforcer'

MAY 14th

Avril Robinson

'Emmaus – More than just a homeless charity'

JUNE 11th

David Bailey

'Photographic Wildlife Wanderings'

Watch this space for more activities being planned !

Joan

Can't get to Littleton for our monthly meetings?

Please contact Freda Bates well before the meeting date with your name and address, preferably by email or if that isn't possible by phone.

Freda will then try to arrange a lift for you with a member who lives nearby if that is at all possible.

Monthly Talk Report by Nicola Giles

January monthly talk: The Meanest Millionaire (John Paul Getty).

The first talk of the New Year was well attended. Dr Anne Anderson fortunately made it back from Philadelphia the day before!

It was amazing to hear how much Art and antiquities were acquired by JP Getty and later by the Getty foundation. The Getty Villa built in the style of a grand roman villa was completed in 1974, unfortunately he never got to visit his museum although he died 2 years after completion.

The Getty Centre Museum on the other hand is a striking modern building, both in Los Angeles. The artworks range from Renaissance to Pop Art and antiquities, Elgin marbles and statues. Some purchases came with provenance, others had to be repatriated after illegal looting. The Artwork was then bought back from the reunited owners. Art and money go together in America apparently. Art purchased is tax deductible. Much Artwork was acquired when the great country houses of the UK had to raise funds either to pay death duties or essential maintenance; they were able to outbid the British. Whole Parisian rooms were bought and recreated, French gilded furniture was a favourite.

The two main indications of his meanness we learned was he reportedly wore empty tissue boxes for slippers and when his grandson was kidnapped he would only stump up \$2.2 million, not the full amount demanded, as that was tax deductible. It was only a loan. He charged the family 8% interest! Getty was actually worth \$6billion on his death.

Anne has a selection of videos on UTube Anna Anderson Art and Design History Channel should you be interested to see what else she covers.

New Groups



I would like to start a **UKULELE group** to meet weekly/fortnightly as part of the U3A.

If you are interested, please contact me. I used to manage a very successful social Uke group as part of Tadley U3A. The essence of the group would be FUN!

Email: Taff Powell

Another Mahjong group opening.

South Wonston Village Hall.

2/4 pm Thursdays. (Ample parking)

Charge of £2 to cover cost of hall. (Tea/coffee)

If you are interested, please contact Wendy

Another Cooking Group Opening??

See Page 13 for more details!

News from Groups

Exploring French Literature

Exploring French Literature is a small group of Francophiles who enjoy reading and discussing French Literature, both Classics and Modern according to your taste. We meet monthly on Skype during a Wednesday afternoon, usually the last week of the month, but not always.

Our meetings are light, the environment is friendly, and provides a good opportunity for using and thinking in French. If you are wanting to expand your horizons and become involved, please contact Diane

COOKING GROUP

The Winchester U3A Cooking Group concluded its 2023 programme with the usual monthly session on the first Wednesday in December plus baking cakes for Winchester U3A's Christmas Meeting at Littleton Memorial Hall on Tuesday December 12th.

Several different cakes were provided and they went down a storm with the large number of Members who attended. (See Photographs on back cover).

The Cooking Group continues to thrive with the 2024 Host Rota already planned up to September. Group size is limited to 8 due to the small size of some members' kitchens.

Our "Host of the Month" model works well however and could be the template for new groups. Although originally set up for men to improve their cookery skills, we are now happily a mixed team, sharing the preparation of lunch and then eating it together.

Chris Scott



Our New Year meal – eaten!

When I joined the Cooking Group about 18 months ago, I did not know what I was letting myself in for! However, I have not regretted joining for one moment. How better to get to know people than by working together in the kitchen and then jointly devouring a delicious meal. Many of the recipes chosen have been so good that members have used them again at home. As Chris says, it would be good to form another group, and don't worry if your kitchen is small. Mine is and it just makes the logistics more interesting. And it does not matter what your experience is.

John Craig

If you would like more information about the Cooking Group,
please contact Chris Scott

Or if you would like to be put in contact with others who would be interested in
forming a Group, please contact me – John Craig, Group Secretary –

**And members of our Group have said that, in order to get a Group started,
they would be happy to act as a mentor for a few meetings!**

Debating Group

A debating group has recently been formed . We met for the first time in January and began by considering the different formats there are for debates. The general consensus was that we should opt for an informal debate to start with! We also chose the motion for our next meeting in February, which will be 'Euthanasia should be legalized in the UK.' The members of the group said they wanted to have the opportunity to prepare their own argument that either supports or opposes the motion, having done some independent research to back it up. They will each have a maximum of 5 minutes to present their case so it will be really interesting to hear them all and see how much they differ.

New members would be very welcome . We meet on the afternoon of the 4th Wednesday in every month from 2 - 3.30 p.m. in Kings Worthy, so our next two meetings will be on the 28th February and then the 27th March . If you are interested and would like to join the group, please contact Ann Edwards

Walkers Group 3 – Whitchurch Village Mill Trail

The Walkers travelled the fascinating Mill Trail on January 12th. Both rolling countryside and grand 18th century properties (and a butchery!)

The eight walkers were under an overcast sky, but no further rain; several houses are placed next to the fast flowing River Test, and the water surface was to within only a few inches of the flat gardens.

It is always a pleasant surprise that the B3400 road through Whitchurch is only a shield to rather grand old estates and follows the river and hills towards the north of the village. Livestock was in the fields; water meadows; there were FIVE mill sites. Both the archery range and gin distillery were easy to spot in Laverstoke village. A pleasant six miles walk.

Please contact either Chris Sharratt or Mark Brown If you want to join in.

Maybe even be willing to lead a friendly walk? Please contact Chris for any advice.



Refreshments at our Christmas Meeting provided by the Cooking Group



Another splendid meal cooked and eaten by the Cooking Group.