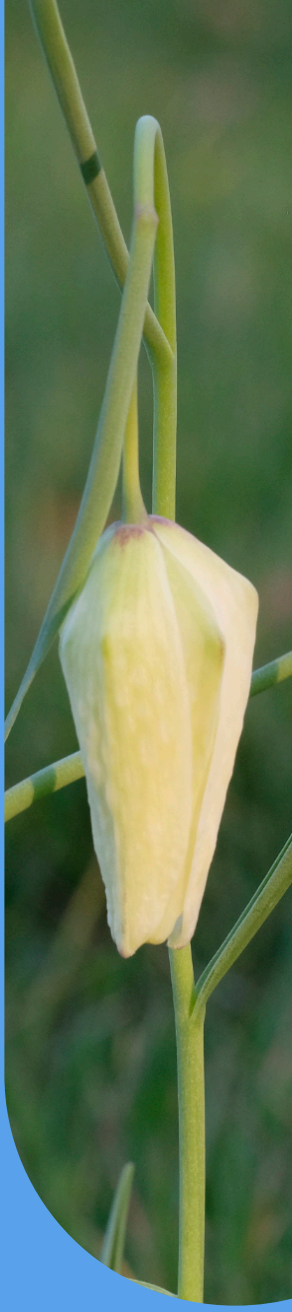
MAKE CONTACT
MAKE FRIENDS
KEEP LEARNING



u3a4u

Spring 2023

u3a Lyme Regis
learn, laugh, live

website: www.lymeregisu3a.org
Registered Charity No. 1115022

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Introducing our New Chair

Message from Richard Doney

As the incoming Chair of the Lyme Regis u3a, I feel a little daunted when I look back at the achievements of my predecessors and their committees. Without doubt, they have grown our u3a into one of the key social groups in the town and its surroundings.

That said, I believe the strength of our organisation comes from the ground up. Look at the wide range of interests supported by the different groups, of which there are over thirty. The role of the Chair and the Committee is very much one of support and encouragement within the national u3a framework.

So what of the future? Undoubtedly, the last few years have taken a toll on our membership. I would like to see us improve that position, particularly by introducing our organisation to the 'newly retired' who are moving to our town in steady numbers.

I also know that there are many older people who are put off by the word 'university'. We need to make contact with them and show that what we are about is fun, friendship and learning. It's no surprise that 'fun' comes first. Otherwise, what's the point? There are many older people in our town who are really struggling at the moment. Joining our u3a could really help them. Another group we can engage.

These are some of the challenges I can see for my term as Chair. I am motivated looking at the u3a website, where the headline you first see is "Do Something Brilliant Today".

Why don't you? You can if you want to.

Richard Doney

PS: If you have any comments, suggestions, questions, whatever, please do get in touch with me.

Breakfast

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. WHAT EXACTLY IS THE u3a?

The Lyme Regis u3a aims to provide a variety of social activities for those in Lyme Regis and the surrounding area who are no longer in full-time work. It is part of the national network of u3a associations. Its central theme is learning in its broadest sense.

2. IS IT A REAL UNIVERSITY?

It is called a university because it offers opportunities to study, to practice new activities and to experience the pleasure of learning together with others. We don't have

In February we moved from the Pilot Boat to the Rock Point Hotel for our breakfast. They gave us a beautiful continental breakfast with cereal, bread, cold meats and cheese, Danish pastries and fruit. From March they hope to be able to provide a cooked breakfast too for those who want it. Please do come along and try the new venue. You won't be sorry!

For more details contact Rachael Pope, phone 01297 445575.

students as such but we do have members. You join a local u3a just as you would become a member of a local amateur dramatic society or tennis club. You pay an annual membership fee which enables you to go to meetings and join groups, or to get involved in special interest activities or subjects that interest you.

3. WHAT SORT OF PEOPLE JOIN THE u3a?

The u3a is for all people who wish to learn new skills or improve their knowledge. Previous experience (jobs, qualifications, achievements, etc.) are irrelevant. The u3a welcomes everyone and gives all-comers the opportunity to try out new things.

Lyme Literature Group

Frances Barter

The Lyme Literature Group meets monthly on the second Thursday of the month, in the winter months at 2pm and in the summer at 3pm, in a member's home. We currently have nine members and could take one more. Our range of book choices is wide. Members choose a book and usually do an introduction on it for the group who then join in the discussion. We have lively discussions with various viewpoints which is what makes the group interesting. While at times we have followed a theme, at others we have just chosen a book that has impressed us personally or which has been in the limelight recently.

What perhaps makes us a bit different from many book groups is that we do some analysis into the background of the book and its style. We usually also look into the author's life and consider the social relevance at the time the book was written. Members' backgrounds vary considerably. You just need to have a love of reading and discussion.

We always have tea and cake/biscuits afterwards when we chat more generally.

During Covid we managed to keep going all the time; at first we met virtually through Zoom and later in a member's large garden where we could respect the distance code. Similarly this then continued

4. IS THERE AN AGE LIMIT?

No. There is neither an upper nor lower age limit, however the u3a is a co-operative of people who are no longer in full-time work.

5. WOULD I BE JOINING A LOCAL OR A NATIONAL ORGANISATION?

A bit of both. When you pay your membership fee you are actually joining a particular local u3a and can then take part in any of the subjects, activities and meetings run by that u3a. However, there is a national umbrella body,

into the winter when we withdrew indoors. Where there's a will, there's a way!

Should you be interested in joining us, please contact Frances Barter at francesbarter@francesbarter.plus.com

called the Third Age Trust (referred to as u3a national) which exists to provide advice and resources to all the local u3as and all u3a members. A part of your membership fee goes to the national u3a.

6. HOW DO u3as DIFFER FROM EACH OTHER?

Local u3as are independent bodies. They organise their own programme of activities and fix their own subscription fees. In practice, however, most u3as tend to be run on fairly similar lines, each offering a set of 'interest groups' that members can join. The number of

Rare Book Group

Bob Speer

The U3A Rare Book Group is led by Bob Speer and meets at the Sanctuary Bookshop in Broad Street. Our meeting on the evening of Friday 7th October 2022 was most interesting and much enjoyed by all.

Bookplate of Eduard Andreevich Stoeckl

We had the opportunity to inspect and discuss a four volume set of volumes written by Napoleon's Aide de Camp, Louis Constant Wairy (1778–1845). He was valet to Napoleon, Emperor of the French. This copy was ex-libris Eduard Andreevich Stoeckl (1804-1892) - or his descendents - with his bookplate.

Stoeckl was a Russian diplomat, important historically for having negotiated the American purchase of Alaska on behalf of the Russian government. In fact, on 30th March 1867, the United States reached an agreement to purchase Alaska from Russia for a price of $7.2 million. The Treaty with Russia was negotiated and signed by Secretary of State William Seward and the then Russian Minister to the United States, Eduard de Stoeckl.

After much consideration, Napoleon chose the bee as the emblem to represent his status as Emperor. It is a motif rich in meanings. Due to its industrious habits the bee has come to symbolise hard work, diligence, industriousness and orderliness.

such groups varies, as does the actual subjects on offer. These reflect the interests of the local membership.

7. WHAT MEETINGS ARE THERE?

Local u3as hold monthly General Meetings, usually with a visiting speaker, and offer a wide variety of special-interest groups. Individual interest group meetings are held regularly as determined by the group. The subjects are wide ranging with some that have a broadly educational slant (e.g., history or science and technology), some that are primarily practical (e.g., music or gardening), and some that are unashamedly social (e.g., Scottish dancing).

The Convener of the meeting was Bob Speer. Photography by John Mister.

The Rare Book Group is looking to welcome new members. Please contact Bob Speer on 01297 445815.

Left image: Richard Malim, John Marriage, Joe Tesoriere
Central image: Spines of the volumes
"N" = Napoleon
Then: The Imperial Eagle of the First and Second Empires
And: Napoleon's imprimatur: Bees.
Right image: John Mister

8. WHAT DOES IT COST?

Each local u3a fixes an annual subscription fee which includes a small contribution to u3a national. The individual interest groups charge varying small fees depending on their expenses. Some groups are free to members.

9. CAN I JOIN THE u3a FOR THE MONTHLY MEETINGS ONLY?

Yes, a few members do just this, although you will get more out of the u3a if you join one or more of the special interest groups.

Play Reading Group

Frances Barter

The Play Reading Group meets on alternate Mondays at 2pm in members' homes. My apologies to those who have contacted me and have gone on a waiting list. I haven't forgotten you! It's just that we presently have 12 members which is an absolute maximum re housing the meetings and allocating parts satisfactorily so that everyone has a go, so to speak. As soon as there is a vacancy, it will go to the first person on my list. I currently have three people waiting.

The main purpose of the group is to have a good time. We don't take ourselves too seriously! We read a play each time, usually a murder or melodrama but we are open to suggestions. Recently, for a change, we had a one-act play which then gave us time to have a catch-up on the future programme and other matters. We always have a chat over tea and biscuits at the end.

At every meeting, we each put £1 in the kitty which goes towards the hiring of the plays and also towards the "jolly" at the end of each term. Before Christmas we had a lovely get-together at the Harbour Inn where a good meal was provided for all tastes. The money in the kitty went towards the drinks. In the summertime, we usually have a cream tea before breaking up over August.

Everyone is very friendly and for some members it has become a rescue from some of today's strains and issues. You don't have to

10. CAN I JOIN AN INTEREST GROUP BUT NOT COME TO THE MONTHLY MEETINGS?

Yes you can. Members do join the u3a simply to take part in one or more interest groups.

11. CAN I JOIN MORE THAN ONE INTEREST GROUP?

You may join as few or as many interest groups as you wish and can fit into your diary.

act, just to read well and be prepared for some quite raucous language and accents at times!

If you do wish to add your name to the waiting list, please contact Frances Barter at francesbarter@francesbarter.plus.com

12. WHERE DO THE TEACHERS COME FROM?

A group may choose to pay for a tutor or other leader if they wish to do so. However, most groups are self-taught, relying on learning from the knowledge and experience of the Group Leader or other members of the group, or learning from the research the group undertakes for itself.

13. WHO DECIDES WHICH GROUPS ARE ON OFFER?

Groups are led on a voluntary basis by the Group Leaders. All groups are on offer. A few groups may choose to set minimum standards which new members will need to adhere to. For

Yet More Groups

Italian Groups

Allan Swannell

Members of the Beginner and Intermediate Italian Groups met for a festive celebration of 'Natale' and 'Il nuovo anno' at the Italia restaurant in Lyme Regis. The proverbial good time was had and the groups look forward to learning more of this fascinating language in 2023.

example, a group of fluent foreign language speakers or experienced musicians may be looking for an experience which beginners could not keep up with.

14. IF I JOIN A GROUP, WILL I BE EXPECTED TO DO WORK BETWEEN GROUP MEETINGS?

Some categories of groups expect members to pursue or practise their interest between meetings. Each group can set its own rules. As with many things in life, the more effort that goes in the greater the benefit will be.

Music Group

Rob Walker

A lovely photo of our music group making music in Morecombelake! Why not join us?

15. WHAT IF MEMBERS OF A GROUP HAVE WIDELY VARYING ABILITIES OR KNOWLEDGE?

Some groups will be happy to share their knowledge and skills with anyone. Other groups are run in a manner that can accommodate different perspectives. Each group will want to provide its members with the opportunity that they are looking for and will set their rules accordingly.

Group Organisation

Key details of each group are given below. The groups are divided into five categories namely: Exercise, Knowledge, Languages, Skills, and Social. The final table lists activity by day of the week, where the day is known.

It would be great if we could have a few more groups. Why not develop a passion, satisfy your curiosity and follow your instinct to fill a gap in your knowledge or master a skill you wish you had? Anyone who thinks that they may wish to run a group to share their interest, curiosity or passion in any area is invited to contact **Mark Gillams** on groups@lru3a.org for information or a chat.

16. WHERE ARE THE INTEREST GROUP MEETINGS HELD?

Groups that need a place to meet can choose between a wide range of public meeting places and halls or meeting at the Group Leader's home or at a selection of members' homes.

17. HOW DO I JOIN A GROUP?

Contact the Group Leader. The Groups Co-ordinator can put you in touch with the Group Leader if their details are not known to you.

EXERCISE

Exercise	Day	Time	Place	Contact
Badminton	Monday	5.00pm	The Hub, Lyme Regis	Janet and Mike Moyes via groups@lru3a.org
Chi Gung (Qigong)	Tuesday	5.30pm	St Michael's Church Hall, Lyme Regis	Dave Edwards, 07717 457180
Scottish Dancing	Monday	10:00am	Woodbury Community Hall	David Acland, 01460 65981
Short Tennis	Thursday	2.00pm	Musbury Village Hall	Jill Menzies, 07775 256722
Table Tennis	Thursday	p.m.	Baptist Church Hall, Lyme Regis	Brian Watson, 01297 32060
Tennis	Tuesday	10.00am	Charmouth Tennis Club	Jane Littler via groups@lru3a.org
Walking 1	Alternate Mondays	10.00am	Various locations	Sue Wilson via groups@lru3a.org
Walking 2	Alternate Mondays	10.00am	Uplyme Village Hall	Marion Richardson, 01297 33824

18. WHAT IF I'M NOT SURE WHETHER A GROUP IS FOR ME?

Most groups will invite prospective members to a taster session where they can meet group members and see first-hand what they do. 'Meet the Leader' events are also held which enable members to talk to many leaders about their groups.

19. WHAT IF THERE ISN'T A GROUP THAT CATERS FOR MY SPECIAL INTEREST?

Start your own group. The Groups Co-ordinator will be pleased to assist you.

KNOWLEDGE

Subject	Day	Time	Place	Contact
Archaeology	1st Wednesday	3.00pm	Various	Maggie Davidson via groups@lru3a.org
Book Group	1st Monday	p.m.	Members' homes	Jo Marsh via groups@lru3a.org
Current Affairs	3rd Tuesday	10.30am	Members' homes	Gilbert Bland, 07754 545590
History	2nd Wednesday	4.00pm	Members' homes	Paul Hancock via groups@lru3a.org
Literature	2nd Thursday	2.00pm	Members' homes	Frances Barter, francesbarter@francesbarter.plus.com
Memoir writing	One Tuesday per month	2:00pm	Charmouth Library	Jackie Lloyd, 01297 443516
Play reading	Alternate Mondays	2.00pm	Members' homes	Frances Barter, francesbarter@francesbarter.plus.com
Rare Book Group	1st Friday, alternate months	7.30pm	65 Broad Street, Lyme Regis	Bob Speer, 01297 445815 (day) / 01297 443653 (evenings)
Science & Technology	3rd Friday (excl. August & December)	10.00am	Woodmead Hall, Lyme Regis	Richard Doney via LRU3ASciTech@gmail.com

20. WHAT IF THE GROUP I WANT TO JOIN IS FULL?

Groups that are full are encouraged to keep a waiting list. The Group Leader will contact you when a vacancy arises. As an alternative you could start a second group in any topic area and potentially save yourself a wait. The Groups Co-ordinator will be pleased to assist you.

21. WHAT DOES THE u3a NATIONAL ORGANISATION HAVE TO OFFER?

Quite a lot. To start with, there is a large range of physical resources available for groups to

LANGUAGES

Language	Day	Time	Place	Contact
French Conversation	Alternate Tuesdays	10.00am	Members' homes	Maggie Allison, 01297 443983 / Keith Robson, 01297 442183
French Club	Thursdays	10.00am	Members' homes	Wendy Howard, 01297 445195
French for Fun	Alternate Tuesdays	10.00am	Members' homes	Kay Luckraft, 01297 599416
German	Alternate Tuesdays	2.30pm	Members' homes	Kay Luckraft, 01297 599416
Italian Conversation	1st & 3rd Thursdays		Kilmington	Allan Swannell, 01297 443003
Italian Intermediate	Alternate Mondays	10.00am	Whitchurch Canonicorum	Allan Swannell, 01297 443003
Spanish Conversation	2nd & 4th Mondays	10.00am	Members' homes	Rosemarie Hearn 01297 34342

borrow which includes DVDs. There are human resources in the shape of national co-ordinators for many subjects; their advice can be sought on ways to run particular interest groups. National experts are also available at an annual summer school, where members can choose from a set of interesting short lectures or practical courses. All u3a members can receive a regular magazine called TAM (Third Age Matters). For those with internet facilities, there is a national website which is a mine of useful information, and members can join national online courses in a growing list of subjects.

SKILLS

Skill	Day	Time	Place	Contact
Craft and chat	2nd Monday	1:00 to 4:30pm	Hallett Community Hall	Jayne Avery on jayne.avery@btinternet.com
Creative Writing	2nd Tuesday	11:00am	Members' homes	Lesley Smith via groups@lru3a.org
Making Music	Alternate Wednesdays		Morecombelake Village Hall	Rob Walker, 01297 444811
Meditation	2nd & 4th Tuesday		Member's home, Lyme Regis	Jo Smith-Oliver, via groups@lru3a.org
Seafront gardens	Varies	Varies	Lyme Regis	Merry Bolton on 01297 443334
Snooker	Tuesday	3.00 to 5.00pm	Royal Lion Hotel	Keith Barfoot

SOCIAL

Event	Day	Time	Place	Contact
Breakfast	1st Saturday	9.30am	Rock Point Hotel, Lyme Regis	Rachael Pope, 01297 445575
Canasta	2nd & 4th Fridays	2.15pm	Charmouth Library Meeting room	Valerie Penn, 01297 560717
Garden Lovers	Varies	Varies	Varies	Mary Bohane, 01297 444566
Informal Drop-in	Last Thursday	10.00am	Rock Point Hotel, Lyme Regis	Rachael Pope, 01297 445575 / Ann Fleet, 01297 442651
Jazz Appreciation – Live!	Varies	Varies	Varies	Heather Britton, 07802 797427

GROUPS BY DAYS

Day	Activity
Monday	Craft and chat; Badminton; Book Group; Italian Intermediate; Play reading; Scottish Dancing; Spanish; Walking Groups 1 & 2
Tuesday	Chi Gung (Qigong); Creative Writing; Current Affairs; French Conversation; French for Fun; German; Meditation; Memoir writing; Snooker; Tennis
Wednesday	Archaeology; History; Making Music
Thursday	French Club; Informal Drop-in; Italian Conversation; Literature; Short Tennis; Table Tennis
Friday	Canasta; Rare Book Group; Science and Technology
Saturday	Breakfast
Sunday	

The tennis group ready for action

University Quiz

We all know that the u3a is the University of the Third Age, but what do you know about the other wonderful institutions in the UK? Take our fun quiz to find out.

1. What is the oldest university in England?
2. What is the oldest university in Scotland?
3. Which university has the motto, "A world without knowledge is no world at all."?
4. What is the acronym for the British university admission system?
5. In which century was the Queen's University Belfast founded?
6. Which modern Midlands university was originally both created and dissolved in the 13th century?
7. If your post-nominal was "MA (Dunelm)", where would you have studied your degree?
8. What is the UK's youngest university?
9. Founded in 1875, The Edinburgh School of Cookery and Domestic Economy became a university in 2007. What is its current name?
10. When was the Open University founded?

Answers p22

Some interesting items about Lyme Regis and Charmouth that made the newspapers in former times.

February 1777

A local man reaches a grand old age:

The death was reported of John Salmon, a shepherd from Charmouth, who had reached the incredible age of 104 years. His date of birth would have been around 1673. He lived through the reigns of Kings Charles II, James II, William III & Queen Mary II, Queen Anne, Kings George I and II, and died when King George III was on the throne. He would have been a teenager at the time of the Monmouth Rebellion in 1685, seen England and Scotland 'United into one Kingdom by the Name of Great Britain' in 1707, lived through the first global war (the Seven Years' War 1756-63), and died just after the United States declared independence (1776).

What a time to be alive!

July 1823

In a significant change from the beautiful July weather we experienced last summer, the Dorchester Gazette had this to report from the summer of 1823:

"The unseasonable weather which we have lately experienced has been particularly felt in the neighbourhood of Lyme Regis. Those lofty hills which add so much to the beauty and grandeur of this romantic landscape, are in a great measure the cause of the violent storms which sometimes occur here, from their electric negative power of attraction with the impending clouds, whereby they cause them to pour down their contents into the valleys beneath. The fall

of rain has this year been fatal to many farmers, spoiling immense quantities of hay, and doing considerable damage to the wheat crops in the heavy lands. It is much to be feared, that, if this weather continues any longer, we shall have our ports opened to the importation of foreign grain, to the manifest injury of the agricultural interest of this country."

February 1923

And on the continuing theme of coastal erosion and who is to pay for the work of sea defences, this article was reported in the Portsmouth Evening News:

"Should the work of sea defence be a national or local responsibility? Representations have been made by various coastal towns that the cost should be borne by the Government.

In a reply to Lyme Regis Town Council, the Board of Trade says that in view of the present necessity for drastic economy in public expenditure, they cannot hold out any hope that the Government would be prepared to reconsider the decision of the Royal Commission on Coast Erosion, that there was no justification either from a legal or practical point of view for the assumption by the nation at large of this responsibility."

Government grants were made to Lyme Regis from 1537 to 1832.

Answers to the quiz

1. Oxford, founded in 1096
2. St Andrews, founded in 1413
3. Aberystwyth University
4. UCAS
5. 19th century (1845)
6. Northampton University
7. Durham University
8. Royal Holloway, granted university status in 2022
9. Queen Margaret University
10. April 1969

www.lymeregisu3a.org

Recycle me!