

Lionel takes the Chair Treasurer's Report

I was elected by the committee at its meeting in May as its Chairman and Co-opted chairman of the IWU3A.

I shall try to do my best as Chairman, following five very good years with Margaret Lyndley at the helm.

The committee welcomed the new elected members - Georgina Marsh and Adrian Ould, and co-opted members, Shirley Smith and Tony Key. This makes a full complement of 14 on the committee. The new members were allocated responsibilities to help them begin to learn about the functions and work involved in the committee. The sterling work of our Treasurer, Secretary, Membership Secretary, Newsletter Editor, Programme Secretaries and Distribution Officer continue as before, and I am most grateful for their help and guidance as

well as Maggie Holden as our senior 'ombudsman'.

Publicity and Community Liaison are also vital functions. Jan Tavill with the assistance of Georgina Marsh has taken on the important and sensitive job of Group Leaders' Co-ordinator, and has written to all the Group Leaders, and will liaise with them and provide any support they require. The postponed Group Leaders meeting is now scheduled for October 2nd. I am grateful to Peter Edmunds for agreeing to stand as Vice Chairman.

Our next General Meeting at the Riverside on September 11th (not 18th) we will have as the speaker- Dr Lawrence Goldman, Editor of the Oxford Dictionary of National Biography, with the intriguing title 'Re-writing British History ('and the Isle of Wight's place in

it'). We have invited members of the IW Historical Association.

The Open Day follows at the Parish Hall in Newport on September 17th. Please come and bring new members as well as anyone interested in the activities of the U3A. I have spoken to Colin Mitchell our South-East Regional Trustee and he mentioned that he hoped that he would be leading a Regional meeting in the Autumn and will keep us informed. He kindly agreed to our invitation to be the speaker at the next AGM in April 2010. In early September I am travelling up to Edinburgh as our representative at the U3A National Conference and AGM and will report back. In conclusion, I hope you all enjoy the rest of the Summer on our beautiful Island.

Lionel Alexander. 852688

Our membership is now 368 - 33 more than at this time last year. If you know of people who would like to join our U3A please tell them that the reduced membership subscription rates for the period ending 31 December 2009 are single £5 and couples £8. These rates are really quite generous because, whether or not a member rejoins for 2010, we will have to pay a capitation fee of £3.50 per member (up £1 on the current rate) to The Third Age Trust in 2010. The total fees payable are based on a U3A's membership at 31 December of the previous year.

Thank you to those members who have been able to Gift Aid their subscriptions. HM Revenue and Customs Charities Repayment have now repaid £1016 to our U3A for the years 2006 to 2008. Your Committee would welcome ideas from members about ways in which this money could be used to provide the greatest benefit to our U3A.

We have paid the conference fees of £259 and £100 towards travel costs for our delegate to attend the U3A Conference being held at Herriott Watt University in Edinburgh from 2 to 5 September.

Our Account Balances are Business £4052; Social £661; Business Premium £571; Total £5284.

**Roy Williams 872276
(24 Dove Close, St Helens, Ryde PO33 1TQ)**

FOLK DANCING

We continue successfully and with enjoyment. Come and join us. We start the new season on 4th September All are welcome on Friday mornings between 9.45 and 11.45am at St Mary's Church Hall ,off Warwick St. Ryde

For group details please contact;

**Brenda Benson 562047
Shirley Burns 616062**

WALKING WITH MIKE

Monday 7th September;
2.30pm.4 miles.

Meet outside Riverside Centre Newport GR 502894. A Tunnel, old railway track, farm lanes and fields, lots of pillar boxes, a rusty boat and river-side stroll.

Monday 5th October.
2.30pm 4 miles. Meet in Carisbrooke Castle car park for circular walk with meadows, hills and views to Garstons and back.

Monday 2nd November 2.00 pm. (its winter now) 3 1/2 miles. Meet at Chillerton Hall,GR487837.Park on road only where it is wide enough or in the small estate without blocking access. We will be passing a ruined barn where we can stop in shelter if anyone brings coffee.

Mike Beardmore 754327

GENERAL MEETINGS

Members and Guests are welcome at The Riverside Centre, Newport at 2.15 for 2.30 until 4.30 p.m.

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Friday 11th September (note amended date)

Speaker: Dr. Lawrence Goldman,
Editor of The Oxford Dictionary of National Biography

**"Re-writing British History
(and the Isle of Wight's place in it)"**

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Friday 23rd October

Speaker: John Hannam
Legendary Isle of Wight Radio Broadcaster and Journalist

*

Bring a friend and share the pleasure
Admission free

Free Refreshments / Raffle /Bring and Buy

*

NB: The Riverside Centre requests all car owners to sign in at Reception.

All unlogged vehicles will be clamped.

HISTORY AT FRESHWATER

We continue as a small group but friendly, and interested in the various topics we look at. We are still currently reading through the book *Eleanor of Aquitaine* by Marion Meade which seems to have been generally popular. We meet at the Freshwater Conservative Club on alternate Thursdays at 2.30pm. **Wendy Williams 872276**

DINNERS OUT

The lakeside hotel at Wootton Bridge provided us with a very pleasant evening and very good food in May. At Lugleys of Cowes some were pleased with their food but a few were not quite so happy. Unfortunately there were two groups of six obvious yachtsmen present who were also very noisy indeed. The manageress was apologetic because usually in mid week it is quiet!

In July we enjoyed a variety of dishes at Morgans restaurant in Shanklin in pleasant but fairly minimalistic surroundings. They were very busy but the service and food were very good.

Future venues will be ;
26th August. Burrs restaurant Lugley St. Newport.
23rd Sept. Yelfs Hotel. Union St Ryde
28th October China-China . The Esplanade Cowes.

Please could you phone me at least 12 days in advance for the August and September bookings because I will have the menus and have to book your orders in advance. We will meet as usual between 6.30 and 7 pm. Should you wish to cancel please phone me as soon as possible.

June Reddiex 294628

RECORDED MUSIC

At our last meeting in May we watched a DVD of an 87 year old Artur Rubinstein playing the Brahms Concerto No 1. No Rheumaticy fingers there!

In the second part I played a CD of one of the best known symphonies—Dvoraks No 9 'from the New World'

We resume in September with the first meeting here in Wroxall, One of our new members, Muriel Bridgman, has kindly offered to present a programme in October and Bill and Evelyn Robson will be entertaining us in November.

Dates and times;
September 8th Wroxall
October 13th Shanklin
November 10th Winford.
Meetings start at 2.30pm
Peter Bell 853303

IWU3A OPEN DAY

Thursday 17th September
2.00 to 4.30 p.m.

at Newport Parish Centre. Town Lane Newport
Come and speak to Group Leaders, see displays and learn about new groups
Admission free - Free refreshments

REMEMBER WHEN?

Reminiscing group

The Group has continued to be most interesting and varied. Our last subject prior to a months holiday in August was 'your favourite item of clothing'. And our next subject is 'Your first job'. The garments varied from 'A Scarf', clothes in the UK and New Zealand, steel toed leather football boots, sandals forever worn(though not in bed). Plus special never-grow- old trousers.

However, buried in the selections were ;

A. The pathos of dad's last gift
B. Memories of wedding joy in New Zealand.

C. The only man to wear open topped sandals (and has pictures to prove it) at his daughters's wedding.

D. Perhaps future purchase of the 'never die' trousers.

E. Could we bring back steel-toed boots?

Our next meeting at the Park Centre, Ryde is 15th September at 2.15pm.

New members are welcome.
Bill Robson 868073

French Conversation Group 3

Since we sadly lost our Group Leader, Helen, earlier this year, we now meet once a week in each others' homes, on Friday afternoon. We are a small, progressive and enthusiastic Group, our meetings are lively and fun. We use a variety of methods to make the French language more familiar to us but our basic tool is a CD-based intensive language course. At the moment we could take two or three new members, if you are interested please call

Sue Casey 614095.

'METAPHYSICAL' POETRY AT RYDE

Since our last newsletter report we have delved into the world of the 'metaphysical' poets of the 17thC namely Henry Vaughan George Herbert, Andrew Marvell and Thomas Trahern. These needed more concentration but on 'pooling' our interpretation of the poems at our meetings we found a great deal of enjoyment and satisfaction. Quite a few of the verse has been put to music and we recognised songs which we sang at school. 'Cherry ripe' is one.

However, Carol Anne Duffy the newly appointed Poet Laureate brought us back 'down to earth' This session was interrupted by a visit from Margaret Lyndley who brought a past member Pat Allen to say farewell to us as she is leaving the Island. She was a popular member of the poetry group for many years and her late husband Derek Allen started the Philosophy class of the IW-U3A. Our class is now resting until 10th September when we resume at 2.15pm at the Park Centre in Ryde on alternate Thursdays. Come and Join us!

Evelyn Robson 868073

ULTIMATE BRIDGE

Following the summer recess the King of all card games resumes on Thursdays at 2.00 pm at the IOW Community Club (Park Road, Cowes) on 3rd September. In recent sessions the group has progressed from Rubber Bridge through "Chicago" on to the ultimate version of the game, Duplicate Bridge, in which the play of the hands is compared as they are passed on to the other tables, and at the end of the session points are awarded to reflect the best bidding and play. As always we welcome all-comers, including absolute beginners. Brian and Joy will be departing for New Zealand earlier than usual this Autumn, leaving the reins again in the very capable hands of-

Vernon Morris 292976

Ryde History Group

Our fortnightly meetings at Farriers, Binstead will resume at 2.30pm on 16 September. We will be continuing with our study of the Spanish Civil War based on the book by Paul Preston. We are sorry that we are unable to take further members as there is already a waiting list.

Lionel Alexander 852688
Wendy Williams 872276

Cruisin' down the river (pub lunches !)

1st Tuesday in the month meeting at various venues 12.00 for 12.30 pm. A big thank you to Maureen Gratton - the retired Leader - for giving me lots of help in taking over the Tuesday Group. In July we went by boat from West Cowes down the river Medina to the Folly Inn for lunch. The boat came back two hours later to take us back to Cowes. Everyone enjoyed the trip and although the weather was inclement we dodged the

showers.

Autumn Programme

September 1st. The Wheat-sheaf Inn, Yarmouth Bus No. 7
October 6th The White Lion Arreton Bus No. 8.

November 3rd The Sun Inn Calbourne Bus No.7.

I would appreciate a phone call a week before the lunches to give me an idea of numbers.

Maggie Hough 292689.

FRANCOPHILES PROGRESS

The nucleus that developed well over a year ago of nine Francophiles who would be Francophones, plus the earlier guidance of Germaine and now in 2009 that of Janine has stabilised into a group of friends meeting every two weeks with a sense of fun and concentration prevailing. Our approach to our task of increasing our knowledge of this language has changed, after a conscious effort, to have the spoken word predominate, after all it is a "French Conversation Group". This has been an undoubted success as, although progress is in the individual hands, there is a more open sense of relaxation. Our latest spin-off is to write a short Devoir, (homework), with an English proverb a subject of a short story without the proverb being divulged and at the meeting following to have a question and answer session to search out the words of the proverb. We will see how it works out. Germaine, we hear from Janine, continues to make progress and we hope that in the future she may feel she would like to visit us where she would be so welcome.

Jack Eales. 760591

ARMCHAIR OPERA AND BALLET

We have set the pattern of starting with a ballet in the first month, the next month an opera, followed in the third by a musical, and before we closed for the summer, we looked at the role of Fred Astaire in the early film musicals. We will follow the same pattern this autumn, meeting here in Winford on 22 September, 27 October and 24 November, (fourth Tuesday in each month).

As I am still sorting and classifying my video and DVD library (and trying to find the missing ones after the upheaval of builders followed by DIY finishing), the detailed programme is not yet available. If you would like more information, speak to me at the Open Day or telephone me at 863079.

Edna Cahill

MODERN NOVEL 2 AND HISTORY 1

Since the spring, we have improved our history knowledge. **The Rose of Sebastopol** by Katherine McMahon told of the Crimean War and 2 cousins, from contrasting upbringings in 19th century Britain, who separately found themselves amongst the soldiers of the Russian battlefields, and the world of Florence Nightingale. The story, providing detail of upper middle class Victorian Britain as well as the ravages of the war was mostly enjoyed, although unsatisfactorily left us with several unanswered questions.

The Return by Victoria Hislop, was judged good, but overall, not as appealing as Hislop's earlier novel, - **The Island**. Based largely in Granada in the present, it detailed the Spanish Civil war in Franco's era 70 years earlier, through one particular family, tragically split by opposing ideals of the time. Scenes both of the war and of Flamenco dancing with its emotive music were vividly brought to life, and the story was relatively straightforward, with a satisfying end, which certainly cannot be said of all our reads!

The 19th Wife by David Ebershoff proved fascinating for several, but certainly not for the entire group, and was based in Utah, with history of the Mormons and associated religious sects. It rather unnecessarily intertwined a modern day story, - a murder investigation, with events years earlier of Ann Eliza Young - a '19th wife' unwillingly caught up within plural marriage. Ann Eliza battled for freedom and independence from her all powerful husband, and fought a legal campaign to have polygamy outlawed in the United States.

Meetings: - Cowes, normally 3rd Friday each month, 2pm. Future dates & books: - Aug. 21st - **No Time for Goodbye** by Linwood Barclay: Sept. 18th (- date possibly to be re-arranged) - **The Brass Verdict** by Michael Connelly: Oct. 16th - **The Sorrow of Sisters** by Wendy K. Harris.

Pat Davies
Shirley Mawdsley 883612

HAROLD THE LOSER

ISLAND HISTORY GROUP
1st Friday of the month.
meets at 2.30pm. in St. Mary's Church Hall, Cowes

In July, the group enjoyed a guided tour around the house and grounds of **Haseley Manor**, which can trace its history back to King Harold, the unfortunate loser at the Battle of Hastings, who was the owner before 1066. The **Abbey of Quarr** farmed the lands for 400 years, until Henry VIII seized the monasteries and all of their lands, and the ensuing periods of history are all represented in the varied architecture of the Manor, carefully restored by the present owners from near dereliction. Cream teas in the barn afterwards rounded off our journey into its fascinating

history.

After the summer break the group meets again in September for a talk by **Michael Arnell** on the history of the **Apollo Theatre**. As theatre director and actor he is knowledgeable about the past of our local theatre as well as being actively involved in current productions.. This will be followed in October by another talk by **Kathy Barter** entitled "**Serving life at Osborne**". There is plenty still to tell. In November, **Mary Jones** will talk on "**The life of HRH Prince Leopold of Albany**", youngest son of HM Queen Victoria", which she has recently researched. A Christmas Lunch is being arranged, to take place on 4th December.

Sylvia Sillar 883924
Sue Weaver 293522
Sally Hayes 289805

MODERN NOVEL

Bonchurch 3rd Monday
This Report covers the months February to June as we cancelled one months meeting but continued reading a book each month.

'Troubles' by **J.G.Farrell** was a witty book with its' picture of a crumbling hotel in Ireland with its' equally crumbling residents. A young Officer, just back from the '14-'18 war, arrives in this setting, so different from his life previously, even though the Irish troubles are rumbling around and eventually come close. **'The Secret Scripture'** by **Sebastian Barry** was next---this sad story centres around Rosa, wrongfully incarcerated in a psychiatric hospital for a large part of her life. Immaculately written, with Rosa's and her Doctor's stories neatly interwoven, though perhaps the ending is somewhat contrived, this is a book we can recommend to all. It thoroughly deserved to win The Costa Award. **'The Return'** by **Victoria Hislop** disappointed us. Its subject the Spanish Civil War, was well researched and

interesting, but the family at the centre of the story were one dimensional and the book poorly written. **'The Inheritance of Loss'** by **Kiran Desai** rather divided us, some loving the book and some critical. The story set high in the Himalayas and in New York, with superb descriptions of the mountains and area is a tale of exiles and unrest, written with love and humour. It won the 2006 Booker prize. Why not read it and make your own mind up? We have ended this very full period with a giant of a book: **'The People's Act of Love'** by **James Meek**, who is British but has lived in Russia. This is set in a small town in Siberia in 1919, during the Russian civil war, where we meet the Christian castrates, and Czech soldiers, stranded behind after fighting in the war, who are living here. Into the midst of these mostly unhappy people comes a man of pure evil. This is a big bold thrilling different book, very Russian, but perhaps not for the fainthearted.

Ann Allen 852037

Your Newsletter can be sent to you by email as a PDF file and that saves a considerable amount of postage over a year. If you are happy to do that please send an email to;

bpedmonds@aol.com

West Wight Literature group plans for future

I must apologise for not sending reports to the last few news letters. As some of you will know I have suffered a personal loss and have been kept very busy. Rest assured, the group is still going strong and have just planned their next programme:

Date	Subject	Presenter
Sept. 14	Fyodor Dostoevsky	Sarah Pivovnsky
Sept. 28	Ernest Hemmingway	Joan Livingstone
Oct. 12	'The Sea' in Literature	All Members
Oct. 26	Robert Southey	John Kempster
Nov. 9	A.A. Milne	Wendy Hayday
Nov. 23	Lewis Carroll	Jill Gregor
Dec. 7	Planning and Free for All	

We meet in the Tennyson Suite at the Memorial Hall, Freshwater at a revised time of 2.30 pm and are always pleased to welcome new members.

John Kempster

752308

DAYS OUT

Our trip to the New Forest did not unfortunately materialise due to dire weather forecasts - which didn't actually eventuate and lack of numbers. Our next outing will be on September 18th to the Houses of Parliament. I have a list of some who are interested in this, any others please let me know as I will probably get the tickets in advance to ensure entry. Mode of travel yet to be arranged. If October is a fine month perhaps we can arrange something for then, otherwise our next certain time will be the Victorian Fair at Portsmouth Dockyard which some of us have visited for the past two years. That is usually about the end of November. **Wendy Williams 872276**

IT with Jan

After running in succession two Absolute Beginners courses the autumn term will commence with an Intermediate class. Places for this will be offered in the first instance to those who have attended the beginners. However, as usual, if you want to join any of my classes you need to get your name on my waiting list. Names are currently being taken for the Absolute Beginners sessions to commence in January 2010. I notice that Age Concern are advertising an 'itea and biscuits' week 21st - 25th September, this is to promote the use of computers, mobile phones and other forms of technology, if you are interested it may be worth contacting them to see if there are to be any events on the Island. If you are interested in joining a class please contact me on 562565 or email jan_tavill@lineone.net (there is an underscore between the jan and tavill) All classes are held on Wednesday 's 2pm - 4pm at the Riverside Centre on given dates..

GROUP LEADERS' MEETING

Friday 2nd October
10.00 for 10.15 a.m.

at
Wootton
Community Centre

Please try to attend, or send a representative. Telephone Jan or Gina if you would like an item added to the agenda, which will be sent out nearer the time

GROUPS & LEADERS 2009

Armchair Opera	Edna Cahill	863079	Winford
Ballet			
Art Workshop	Eileen Ellis-Williams	613381	St Helens
Bridge	Brian Moakes	247568	Cowes
"	Vernon Morris	292976	
Calligraphy	Lily Stafford	740280	Newport
"	Sheila Bell	853303	
Craft	Sally Hayes	289805	Cowes
Days Out	Wendy Williams	872276	Various
Dinners	June Reddiex	294628	Various
Folk Dancing	Brenda Benson	562047	Ryde
"	Shirley Burns	616062	
French Beginners	Roi Milburn	562205	Ryde
French Conversation	Jack Eales	760591	Ryde
French Conversation 2	Sandra Thearle	752979	Freshwater
French Conversation 3	Sue Casey	614095	Ryde
History East Wight	Lionel Alexander	852688	Ryde
"	Wendy Williams	872276	
History West Wight	Wendy Williams	872276	Freshwater
Island History	Sylvia Sillar	883924	Cowes
"	Sally Hayes	289805	
IT	Jan Tavill	562565	Newport
English Literature	John Kempster	752308	Freshwater
Modern Novel	Ann Allen	852037	Bonchurch
Modern Novel 2	Shirley Mawdsley	883612	Cowes
Modern Novel 3	June Withers	866459	Shanklin
Patchwork & Quilting	Dinny Card	564749	Ryde
Poetry	Evelyn Robson	868073	Ryde
"	Sheila Day	615947	
Pub Lunch by Bus	Maggie Hough	292689	Various
Recorded Music	Peter Bell	853303	Wroxall
Remember When?	Bill Robson	868073	Lake
Science	Derek Bean	872945	Various
Scrabble	Penny Downer	298665	Cowes
Spanish	Sylvia Haddon	872555	Brading
"	Gerry Keigwin	407495	
Theatre Visits	Lily Stafford	740280	Chichester
Walking	Michael Beardmore	754327	Various
Genealogy	Linda Jones	551340	TBA

IDEAS INVITED

Some groups may have waiting lists but please ask to be included. With an ever increasing membership and lots of our groups with waiting lists, it seems an appropriate time to mention that more groups are needed. Have you got a favourite subject or skill that you think you may be able to share with others? If so, telephone either **Jan 562565** or **Georgina 564217**