

LIFE OF A PRINCE

ISLAND HISTORY GROUP

1st Friday of the month
(except January 2010, which
is on 8th January).

The Group meets at 2.30
p.m. in St. Mary's Church
Hall, Cowes

After the next talk, on 6th
November, which will be given
by Mary Jones, on "The life
of HRH Prince Leopold of
Albany, youngest son of HM
Queen Victoria", the year's
programme will culminate in a
visit to Northwood House,
Cowes, for a grand Christmas
Lunch in a beautiful historic
setting, on Friday 4th Decem-
ber (a few spaces still avail-
able).

In the New Year, the first
meeting will be held on Friday,
8th January when Daphne
Knapp OBE will give a talk en-
titled "Oscar Wilde - Fool or
Genius". Oscar Wilde was a
frequent visitor to the literati set
in Freshwater, where he would
have enjoyed conversing with
other renowned writers, poets,
lovers of art and photography,
in the grand landscape of Ten-
nyson country. Daphne Knapp
is an authority on the writer and
we look forward to hearing
about another era, when life on
the Island went on at a more
leisurely and elegant pace.

Sylvia Sillar 883924
Sue Weaver 293522

Cowes Crafts new home!

Cowes craft group are del-
ighted to announce we
have been offered a room at the
Cowes Baptist Church, Victoria
Road. This means we can now
accommodate more people
within the group. Classes will
commence on **Wed 13th Janu-
ary at 2 - 4pm**. If you are in-
terested in joining us we work
on a 'self help' basis doing gen-
eral crafts such as making toys,
covering coat hangers, cush-
ions etc. In the first instance
classes will be once a month.
Interested? contact

Sally Hayes 289805

ANNUAL SUBS DUE!

Another year has passed and once more it is time to remind you that membership subscriptions will be due on 1 January 2010. The rates for 2010 will remain unchanged at £10 for single membership and £17 for couples living at the same address. We hope that you will wish to rejoin. If so, please fill in the Membership Application Form that is enclosed with this Newsletter and return it to me with your subscription. If you wish to Gift Aid your subscription for 2010 please complete the Gift Aid section (on the back of the form).

We now have over 410 mem-
bers (15% more than at this time
in 2008) so the task of maintain-
ing accurate records has grown.

Please help by letting me know
of any changes, especially to
your address or e-mail address,
otherwise you may not receive
your Newsletters, and your copies
of U3A News and Sources.

Thank you to everyone who
has supported our raffles and
sales tables this year. To date
these have raised £338.80
gross or £134.94 after paying
for refreshments.

At the end of October our
Account Balances totalled
£4958. £3640 of this was in our
Business Account.

I hope that you have an enjoy-
able Christmas and that 2010
will be a better and brighter year
than 2009.

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

Remembering WHEN!

The Group has had only two
meetings since our last
report. Again the subjects
proved interesting and varied in
our group of eight. We had 'A
First Job' plus 'A Life-
Changing Moment' These varied
from, 'potential diamond
smuggling', 'vocational chang-
ing moments', 'a record 36-0
defeat at Soccer', 'bullying at
Cadets' and 'unity of two broth-
ers.' The jobs again were di-
verse and these included two
potential Bank Managers, a
spell in the Vets and a love of
animals, an aspiring Actuary cut
short by National Service in the
RAF as well as others. Our
member, Douglas, was missed
at our last meeting due to ill-
ness and we do hope he is
back with us soon and fit and
well. We welcomed a new
member, Edna to the fold. Our
next meeting at The Park Cen-
tre, St Thomas Church, Ryde is
on 17th, November '09 at
2.15pm the Subject 'A Time you
were really frightened'
Bill Robson 868073

Families-and dark crimes

Modern Novel 2 -

No Time for Goodbye by
Linwood Barclay was a
page turning psychological
thriller - a story of a Mother
haunted by the unsolved disap-
pearance of her entire immedi-
ate family 25 years before, who
feared her new family might
also vanish. Providing perhaps
less story satisfaction than
some classic Rankin and Rebus
novels, and with some criticism
of language and writing style,
most enjoyed this novel, despite
its slightly weak ending. The
Brass Verdict by Michael Con-
nolly proved rather disappoint-
ing, - a somewhat 'run of the
mill' American courtroom
drama, where a powerful indi-
vidual is accused of murdering
his wife and her lover. With
somewhat limited character
depth, it did demonstrate well
how lawyers work to manipulate
witness statements to pro-
vide their desired 'bias', and
gave a fascinating insight into
the background of calculated
jury selection which apparently

can so significantly affect trial
outcomes. We wondered if the
UK judicial system can be simi-
larly influenced. Interestingly set
on the IOW, which was a bon-
us, The Sorrow of Sisters by
Wendy K. Harris was voted
good by some, but certainly not
all. A light-ish summer read
where yet again, current day
events were traced back to dark
and secret family 'doings' of the
past. It told of an aged aunt who
left a cottage on the IOW, in her
will, to her childless niece, who
previously didn't even know of
her existence, let alone that of
other 'relations' who become
'unearthed'. We meet in Cowes
every 3rd Friday, (subject to any
necessary changes), taking it in
turn to choose books to read for
review. Our next scheduled
meetings and books for review
are:- 20th Nov. - The 8th Con-
fession by James Patterson.
18th Dec. - Netherland by Jo-
seph O'Neill. Jan. 15th - The
Other Hand by Chris Cleav
Shirley Maudsley 883612
Pat Davies 872005

Music on a lovely afternoon

Recorded Music

We resumed meeting in
September after our sum-
mer break, when I presented a
programme of choral music by
Tomkins, Vivaldi, Poulenc and
Haydn. One of our newer mem-
bers, Muriel Bridgman invited us
to her home in October, where
we spent a lovely afternoon
listening to music by
Shostakovitch, Verdi, Sibelius
and Saint-Saens. Bill and Eve-
lyn Robson will be entertaining
us on November 10th in Win-
ford and I will be doing some-
thing on December 8th in Wrox-
all. Dates for January and Feb-
ruary still to be decided.

Peter Bell 853303

ARMCHAIR FIREBIRD

Armchair Opera & Ballet
 Currently I am having some adaptations to the house which will involve considerable redecoration and refurbishing so I have had to cancel the November meeting. We do not meet in December so our next meeting will be on Tuesday 26th January when we will have Stravinski's Firebird, to follow on from our earlier Petroska; February's opera will be Fidelio and in March, in season, Fred Astaire and Judy Garland in Easter Parade. Please telephone me if you would like to attend any of our meetings.

Edna Cahill 863079

FLYING GRANNY

Tuesday pub lunches by bus

In October we had a convivial lunch at the White Lion Arretton. In November I will be visiting family and grandchildren in Australia for several weeks. The following venues have been booked and will be overseen, in my absence, by Rosemary Marks.
 Tuesday 5th January 2010 Eight Bells Pub & Restaurant, High St Carisbrooke Bus no. 7 or 11.
 Tuesday 2nd Feb. The Fighting Cocks, Hale Common, Arretton. No. 8 bus.
 Tuesday 2nd March The Woodmans Inn Station Rd. Wootton. No 9 bus from Newport taking the Staplers Route. With all the above venues please ring Rosemary on 406590 to book your place.
 An early Merry Christmas to everyone.
 Maggie Hough.

Sight Problem?

If you have difficulty reading the newsletter in this size we could produce a special larger copy for you.

Call Peter Edmunds
862108

ART WORKSHOP

Our group has greatly increased over the last year and we now have 35 members. We are continuing with our monthly project, October's was "Emotion" and November's is "A Touch of Red"; the members always produce varied and interesting interpretations of the subject.

We have also started to organise tutorials, these are taken by someone in the group who has a talent in a particular medium. So far we have covered pastels, coloured pencils, pen & wash and various aspects of watercolour painting. These "lessons" have proved popular as they are run in small groups and give people a chance, judging by the chatter and laughter, to get to know each other better. I think we also improve our skills and sometimes even discover a hidden talent.

One of our longstanding members, Margaret Peddie, will be leaving us soon and we would like to thank her for the willing help she has given us over the years.

Barbara Edmunds 862108

OUT WALKING

Walking programme

Please note that walks will take place on the SECOND Monday of the month until April.

Mon. 7th Dec. Shorwell 14.30pm. Park Opp. Village Hall. About 4 miles. One hill and some slopes. Some walking on quiet lanes.

Mon. 11th Jan. Freshwater Bay. Park in Freshwater Cliffs NT car park 351856. 10.00am 1 hour 45 minutes. Fresh air blow. Home-made bread and soup available afterward. Phone 754327 and commit to £4.50 per head to Hospice. Spouses are also welcome to join us.

Mon 8th Feb. Parkhurst. 14.30pm. Park in forest 480900. A clockwise walk in and around the forest. Mileage depends on quality of path-finding.

Mondays 8th Mar/5th April please phone for details.

Mike Beardmore 754327

GENERAL MEETING

Friday, 4th December

at The Riverside Centre, Newport
at 2.15 for 2.30 until 4.30 p.m.

Member Speaker

Brian Baffles

'Magic and Culture Around the World'

Bring a friend: Admission Free

Free refreshments/Raffle/Bring and Buy

DIARY DATES FOR 2010 MEETINGS

19th February: 9th April (AGM):

22nd October and 3rd December

All meetings at The Riverside Centre.

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

All unlogged vehicles will be clamped

Programme Secretary's Report

A good audience ignored the bus strike and beautiful weather to come to September's General Meeting and listen to Dr. Lawrence Goldman, editor of the Dictionary of National Biography. With enthusiasm and clarity we learned of the origins of the Dictionary from 1885 to some of its references to the Island, and individuals with a significant connection to it and its history. Dr. Goldman proved how easy access

is, with current availability online at local libraries from your own computer ie; www.iwight.com/the_library plus your library card number) and I for one will be whiling away many hours.

John Hannam spoke at our General Meeting in October. He modestly told of meetings with a wide range of personalities he had interviewed over the past 20+ years, usually having been invited into their homes. 'Charlton Heston' and 'a cup of tea and a cake' are words I thought I would never see in the same sentence..

Audrey Bendon 521665

OUT DINING

We enjoyed the usual high standard of food and service at Burrs restaurant in August and happily the same can be said of our dining in September at Yelf's hotel in Ryde. At the latter venue the service was a definite improvement on that of the previous year. We welcomed two new members and there may be more, as several people added their names at the Annual Meeting in the Parish Room on Open Day

Our Dining out meetings will be held on the last Wednesday of each month from now on, to avoid confusion with the dates.

2009;
25th Nov. Melville Hall Hotel Melville St. Sandown.

2010;
27th Jan. Albert Cottage Hotel East Cowes.

24th Feb. New Holmwood Hotel. Queens Rd. Cowes
31st March. Valentinos. Carisbrooke.

Please could you phone me at least two weeks in advance of the first three venues if you wish to attend, because of having to select your orders in advance from the menus. We will meet as usual between 6.30 and 7.00 pm. Should you need to cancel would you please phone me as soon as possible.

June Reddix 294628

CALLIGRAPHY

Currently we are planning our Christmas Lunch and a trip to an exhibition of Calligraphy at Walton on Thames, as well as doing our Calligraphy. I must report that I have at long last completed a rather large piece of work, which the rest completed ages ago, so I can look Sheila in the face once more. Our new members have settled in well and our waiting list is now empty so if anyone is thinking of joining us, now would be a good time to get your name on the list

Lily Stafford

740280

L'ETE OU?

French intermediate

Our meetings are continuing in a similar vein for the most part. Recently we have had members not being able to attend always due to holidays, appointments, family etc. but this has not lessened the interest that always seems to permeate our meetings and for the most part we are at full strength. From a personal point of view I have to say that, in a recent holiday in France, both my speaking and understanding of the language has improved. This, I am sure due to the bi-weekly gatherings we have. There are always changes in the format of the work that we do, recently our well established "devoirs", (homework), have taken a subtle change. Now, each of us chooses their own subject on which to write and speak rather than all of us working on the same one. The result of this is that a freshness has come into the re-counting of and listening to the experience in question. So, now as we approach the shorter days it is probably a safe bet to say that we will be hearing of Christmas and the New Year in the thoughts and words in the "rendez-vous" yet to come. L'HIVER ICI!

Jack Eales

760591

Lives, Works and members contributions

ENGLISH LITERATURE (WEST WIGHT)

The group are continuing with their usual format of the lives and works of authors, with an occasional afternoon when all members bring their contributions on various subjects.

Fyodor Dostoevsky was the subject of a very interesting talk by Sarah Pivonka. He was arrested as a member of a socialist circle and spent four years in a Siberian penal settlement, to be followed by another four years as a private soldier. In prison he read 'Pickwick Papers' and 'David Copperfield'

U3A National AGM IT News

Lionel Alexander- Chairman

After a very pleasant and mostly dry August, September and October have been busy. I went to Heriott-Watt University in Edinburgh early in September for the **National Conference and AGM**. As a new chairman I found the meeting helpful and informative. Ian Searle was elected the next chairman of the Third Age Trust. I managed to talk to him and our Regional Trustee, Colin Mitchell. Ian clarified the need for Group Leaders to keep registers for insurance purposes but there was no need for central compilation. One of the motions put to the AGM was to sub divide the larger Regions. This was approved and it is hoped that ours will be divided into three and that Colin Mitchell will look after Hampshire and the Isle of Wight. A recent survey of U3A members showed the membership was made up of 71% women and 29% men and the average age band was 70-74, with only 3% under age 60. Two-thirds felt that U3A membership improved their social life and one-third their health and well being. There are now **229,000 members and more than 700 U3A's** - with approximately one new U3A being opened every week! Sadly less than half the U3A's were represented at Conference. Two sayings from the good lectures on the aging population: **'Old age begins 15years from where I am now'** and **'The problem with a long life is that the extra years come at the end of it'**. Unfortunately it rained so much over the 3 days, that Princes Street and Waverley Railway Station were flooded and the rainfall was the most in over 50 years. Back home, **The Group Leaders Meeting** was well attended and a testament to our new Group Leader Co-ordinator Jan Tavill ably assisted by Gina Marsh. A wide range of group matters were discussed as well as news of new Groups being formed. The two General Meetings were well attended - 70-80 present. The subjects - **People from the Isle of Wight** in the Oxford Dictionary of National Biography by the editor Dr. Lawrence Goldman, and **Interviewing Celebrities** by John Hannam were fascinating and well presented. Our last General Meeting of the year on Dec 4th at the Riverside Centre is **'Magic and Culture around the World'** by Brian (Baffles) Colling - do come and enjoy it. At this time we have 413 members of our IWU3A. Indeed in under three months since the beginning of August, we have had a net gain of 43 new members. Many of these enquired at the successful Open Day, General Meetings or at our table at the 'Celebration of Age Festival' in Newport. Our Publicity Officer Adrian Ould has arranged for us to write an Editorial for the January 2010 Beacon. Finally I would like to express my thanks to to all the committee for their support - a good team. Keep warm this winter and avoid the flu!

I am looking at a new approach for classes in 2010. As I have a waiting list for absolute beginners I am intending to still run this class commencing January for 6 sessions.

Following this course I would like to do something different such as creating a sort of 'computer club'. Sessions could have a topic base or simply be led by the needs of the class at any one time. I would be very interested to hear any of your viewpoints on this and whether you have ideas of your own to enable your continual learning in respect of using your computer.

In addition I would still run some 'planned' classes as I think there is still a need for this.

What do you think?

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

Jan Tavill

562565

VANISHING ACT AND DARK DOINGS

BOOK GROUP 1: The Modern Novel

The three books this group has read over the summer have been so different that it is impossible to compare them. **'The Vanishing Act of Esme Lennox'** by Maggie O'Farrell was the story of a young woman's discovery that an elderly relative had spent many years of her life hidden away by her family in an Institution. It was a sensitively written tale of relationship and the changes in society. Perhaps we read it a little too near **'The Secret Scripture'** to appreciate it fully. **'The Years'** was a late Virginia Wolfe and very popular in its time. It was chosen for its approachability. A long and quite complicated family history, opinions were divided over it, but for some it made reading Virginia Wolfe much less daunting. In September we read **'The Secret History'** by the American Donna Tartt; another very long book with a dark feeling, it was set in an East Coast College where a set of mostly privileged young people were studying the Classics. The form of the novel followed that of the Greek tragedy, with the Jacobean plays also having their influence. We were lucky to have June explain these intricacies which really opened up this quite sinister account of violence and tragedy.

Ann Allen

852037

and his letters and notes are full of references to Dickens and they shared an interest in such subjects as the city, children, crime and the suffering of the innocent. We particularly remember him for **'Crime and Punishment'** and **'The Brothers Karamazov'**.

Joan Livingstone, our next speaker, dealt with the American author **Ernest Hemmingway**. He spent a varied, exciting life, spending time as a reporter, on an ambulance unit on the Italian front, supporting the Republicans during the Spanish Civil War, and as a war correspondent in Europe during the Second World War. He is remembered for **'A Farewell to Arms'**, **'For Whom the Bell Tolls'** and **'The Old Man and the Sea'** (all major films) amongst his works.

'The Sea in Literature' was an open meeting and members

brought along their own contributions. These included readings of **'Dover Beach'** by Matthew Arnold and **S.T. Coleridge's 'The Rime of the Ancient Mariner'**. In prose there were readings from **'Zorba the Greek'** and **'Treasure Island'**.

John Kempster spoke about **Robert Southey** who is, probably, a less well-known Poet Laureate, who was vilified by Lord Byron and William Hazlitt. That was nearly two hundred years ago and it is only in recent times that he has begun to emerge from the shadow of his detractors. His best known poems were probably those written between 1797 and 1799 and include **'The Battle of Blenheim'** and **'Inchcape Rock'**. He was a fellow Lakeland poet and friend of Samuel Taylor Coleridge and William Wordsworth.

John Kempster

752308

Experience emotions & Isolation I

Book Group – Shanklin

The *Kite Runner* by Kahlid Hosseini was enthusiastically received by the group. It was considered one of the best recent reads and although the two main protagonists were just young boys when we first meet them, their experiences and emotions were so well portrayed everyone was able to empathise with them.

Through teeth wrenching examples of what man is capable of inflicting on his fellows, Hosseini leads the reader into undreamed of violence in nightmare scenarios yet through it all he gives his characters hope and, finally, redemption. Highly recommended.

The Road Home by Rose Tre-main was the winner of an Orange Prize and follows the ups and downs of immigrant Lev. For some, from the moment we meet Lev on a 12 hour bus journey across the continent from Eastern Europe to London, we are aware he is an inadequate: for others the novel was a sensitive portrayal of the isolation of the immigrant.

Lev made preparations for his trip west. He learned basic words in English and although the use of these words was often comical, the barriers and prejudices he was likely to encounter were highlighted through one stock phrase, "I am legal".

For others in the group the story ends in a rosy glow of attainment through determination, success achieved through application, a returning of the prodigal son to redeem the people and the land he left behind. This novel will continue to divide the opinions of the readers.

The Road by Cormac McCarthy was found to be a confusing read. The apocalypse scenario that had been in place for ten years when the reader joins father and son in their long painful trapeise south for warmer weather, is never explained. The wife, unable to face a devastating future, has died by her own hand leaving her baby in the care of his father. It is this couple who are "each other's entire world" that we follow.

June Withers 866459

STRICTLY FOLK DANCING

Our new season has started successfully and we would welcome anyone interested in joining. We meet every Friday morning between 9.45 and 11.45 am. at St.Mary's Church, off Warwick St. Ryde. For group details please phone;

Brenda Benson 562047

Progress in French

French Conversation Group (3)

Our small informal, friendly French Conversation Group continues to meet every Friday afternoon. We are making progress and becoming more comfortable with holding conversations in French. We occasionally also touch on a little French grammar. We are using material from a variety of sources and have collected a small library of French novels.

We have space for a couple of new members so if you have decided that 2010 will be the year you re-acquaint yourself with the French language, just give me a ring.

Sue Casey 614095

Scrabble for fun!

Scrabble is a fantastic game with elements of spelling, vocabulary, mathematics – and luck! But you don't need to be 'good' at any of these to enjoy the game, and you don't need to know the meanings of any of the words played on the Scrabble board. Every game is different and every new rack of 7 letters is a new and exciting challenge. If you enjoy crosswords, board games or cards, chances are you'll love Scrabble!

This is a small fledgling group whose members can be of any ability but just want to play a social game of Scrabble – like you would at home with your family or your friend. We have a few regular members but we would welcome new players of any level, beginners included.

The Scrabble group meets alongside the bridge group at the Isle of Wight Community Club, Park Road, Cowes (formerly the Plessey Club, opposite the recreation/cricket ground) on Thursdays, 2.00-4.30 pm.

Penny Downer 298665

SCIENCE GROUP

We have a number of projects that are ongoing. Pond surveys for DEFRA are now in their third year, the work involves using chemical analysis and invertebrate recording. The archaeological surveys on the Island in conjunction with Southampton University are slowly progressing and at the moment we are also conducting experiments in dowsing and the identification of earth energy lines (Iey Lines) on the Island.

Derek Bean 872945

Colourful days out

Six of us had a very interesting trip to the Parliament buildings on September 22nd, and were fortunate to have picked a lovely day as well. Our next outing will be to the Victorian Fayre at Portsmouth Dockyard on Friday 27th November - this having become an annual event for us. Our numbers are usually few, but we wrap up and thoroughly enjoy the colourful events that are on offer. If anyone is interested in joining us please contact me before the due date for time and place of meeting. Next year we hope to visit more mainland venues which will hopefully include Westminster Abbey and Buckingham Palace.

Wendy Williams 872276

HISTORY- WHATS NEXT?

HISTORY—EAST WIGHT

We are coming to the end of our study of the Spanish Civil War of 1936-1939. In the New Year we will be looking at a new topic. At the time of going to press this is under discussion. Our Group continues to meet at Farriers in Binstead from 2.30pm to 4.30 pm on alternate Wednesdays. We are sorry that we are still unable to take any more members.

Lionel Alexander 852688
Wendy Williams 872276

Group Co-ordinators Report

In the last edition of the newsletter Georgina and I asked for ideas for new groups. We received a good response (see Louis' article on his proposed new groups). Other suggestions were Chess for Beginners, Local Theatre, Playreading, and Mah Jong. We are now asking whether any of you would be prepared to run one of these groups. Being a group leader does require patience and time but it does have a lot of rewards; I should know, being a group leader myself. If you think you would be interested or would like to know more about becoming a group leader please contact one of us.

We now have a third history group which will commence in November. Well done to the French Beginners group whose progress has warranted a change of name to French Inter as they are no longer beginners! There are now 3 Modern Novel Groups; Bonchurch, Shanklin and Cowes!

Jan Tavill 562565
Georgina Marsh 564217

PATCHWORK AND QUILTING

We should like to thank those who attended for their very kind comments about our stand at the Open Day at Newport. This year's project was to make something for a 'Season'. We have had a very busy year and have helped each other to solve any problems. We have learned from each other and enjoyed each others' company. I do however have a request to U3A members. Is there anyone who could give us a workshop or demonstration in Patchwork & Quilting? We don't have funds, but I could pay travelling expenses. If you are able to spend an hour in very pleasant company and are skilled in a certain technique, please contact me. The Patchwork & Quilting Group wishes all U3A members a Happy Christmas and a Healthy and Happy New Year.

Dinny Card 564749

U3ATV

This new U3A group is intended to bring out all the creative talents of those who have retired from the TV industry, or are photographers or just those who have put their camcorder away for the winter and want to find an interest. As an indication of what we could do, just have a look at; www.ventnortv.com

We would meet for general briefing sessions then go off and cover whatever stories seem appropriate, just like a fulltime professional camera and production team with the result published on our website for the world to see. There would be some tutoring in camerawork and computer based editing available. email to louisonwight@yahoo.co.uk for info re first meeting.

Landscape Art group

This group is for those who want to draw or paint or photograph the variety of attractive landscapes on the Isle of Wight, and would like to work outdoors in company with others. Starting in February of 2010, and monthly, this group will select their locations, then do the preparatory work toward the finished product. A professional artist will be available for tutoring. Be prepared to travel around the Island for sessions which would be either morning or afternoon, also dependent on weather conditions. To enrol in this group please write to L Lawrence. 38 Albert St. Ventnor PO381EZ with your own details or email; iowu3a@yahoo.co.uk