

Welcome ALL to the New Season and a New Newsletter

In this edition

- The AGM
- An opening word from the New Chair
- The Committee, including the new lay-out of the members, their positions and thoughts
- A contact list
- We will introduce some Convenors and the Venues, what they have to offer and maybe, even, courses you didn't know about or wanted to join but were not sure about
- List of special events and their dates for your diary
- List of events in the wider Wimborne area
- The next Newsletter date



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The AGM

The minutes were as follows:

Current Committee Members attending

Chairman	Carol MacPherson
Secretary	Alex Wood
Treasurer	Steve Wallington
Membership Secretary	Linda Halliwell
Groups Secretary	Jayne Twomey

(Minutes taken by Anne King, standing in for Barbara Geldart)

Apologies – Tony Marlborough, Anne Peterson, Ceri Wolfe, Sue Pearson, Jean Morgan, Inge Axt-Simmons, Wendy Dadd, Barbara Geldart, Keith Holiday, Susanna Parker, Margaret Pickford, Christine Tricks, Rachael Fleet, James Power, Paul Windwood, Dana Proctor, Barbara Digby.

1. Welcome – The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for attending in numbers which exceeded the quorum. Sixty-one members were present.
2. Minutes of 2023 AGM – had been circulated and were approved. (Proposed by Maggie Mikati and seconded by Sue Lucarotti.)



3. Treasurer's Report – The Treasurer's Report was circulated. Wimborne u3a's finances were in good shape, with a small surplus. Moving the membership renewal date had been very helpful in managing cashflow. The bank now offering an instant access account with interest had also proved useful. The Treasurer thanked the committee for its guidance and support during his time as Treasurer.

4. Election of Committee

The following had been nominated in accordance with Wimborne U3A rules.

Chair	Ashley Rowlands
Vice-Chair	Vic Grayson
Treasurer	Jayne Twomey
Secretary	Christine Letchford
Membership Secretary	Horace Letchford

Each candidate gave a brief summary of their background before the vote was taken, and all were duly elected.

Flowers were presented to Carol in recognition of all her work as Chairman of Wimborne U3A.

5. Open Forum – Questions were invited from the floor, but there were none. The newly elected Chairman said he was very excited to take on his new position, and was looking forward to building on the work already done. He was keen to get feedback from convenors and others to help with planning the future.

The outgoing members of the committee were given a round of applause.

Carol Macpherson then gave her closing remarks as outgoing Chairman of Wimborne u3a.

Carol thanked her Committee colleagues over the last six years for their diligence and support, although she was she looking forward to a more relaxed period outside the Committee. She did, however, comment most strongly on the aspect of succession planning and the lack of candidates to take over roles within the Committee. Without those committing to these positions, we, Wimborne u3a, run the risk of closure, which, I think we all agree would be catastrophic. She thanked those who have stepped up but urged a greater emphasis on succession over the next three years.

6. Close of Meeting – The meeting closed at 11:00 a.m.



Editor: The AGM was held at the Methodist Hall with an absolutely tremendous turnout of over 60 members. But I think one of the main issues was summed up perfectly by Carol's remarks on succession planning and the need for, in three years' time at the latest, new candidates stepping into these positions, because without a FULL committee, as stated in the by-laws of the u3a, we would be forced to close down our programme of events completely. An unthinkable event for all of us who enjoy the camaraderie, physical, mental and social aspects of this incredible organisation from which we all benefit.



Words from The Chair

I'm Ashley Rowlands, and I'm your new Chair. I've lived in Wimborne since 1990 and I've been a member of u3a for the last four years. My background is in education, and in the past, I have had, amongst other things, management responsibility for the adult education provision at Bournemouth and Poole College, so have experience and commitment to lifelong learning. I have always had a strong involvement in the Third Sector, and to the services that build and support communities. I spent 12 years as a Trustee and, latterly, Chair, of the Dorset Community Foundation, a charity dedicated to encouraging philanthropy for

local causes. I have also been a trustee of Citizens Advice for eight years, and I'm Vice Chair of Governors at Poole High School. So, I hope to bring to the u3a my skills and experience in working and leading in charity roles. I am honoured and excited to take up this job, and I intend to make our u3a the best it can be for our community.

I am looking forward to going round the groups and meeting convenors and members throughout the year, so that I can have a better understanding of the U3A organisation.

Ashley

email: chair@wimborneu3a.org.uk

Your New Committee



From L to R: Barbara Geldart; Horace Letchford; Christine Letchford; Alan Pickering; Jayne Twomey; Ashley Rowlands; Heather Lowe; Vic Grayson.

Vice-Chair: Vic Grayson

We moved to Wimborne from Whitby in N Yorks in 1967 and we're still here in the same house on Rowlands Hill. I have been involved in the teaching & learning of adults for 61 years – initially as a comprehensive school teacher who taught adults in the evenings (remember night schools?).

I left teaching after 23 years & moved to Dorset to become Principal of Bournemouth Adult Education Service. I was "retired" in 1997 by DCC when Bournemouth Borough Council became a unitary authority, taking over county council functions from Dorset County Council.

Fortunately, I was 'headhunted' by Bournemouth & Poole College & joined their growing Teacher Training Team. I also became an External Verifier for City & Guilds which involved visiting Colleges and Adult Education centres all over the South West.

My great passion is jazz. I took up guitar about 1954, playing in skiffle groups & dance bands before discovering jazz. My only real claim to fame was playing with a great trombonist who became Dusty Springfield's musical director.

I have been the Programme Secretary of Bournemouth Bug Band Swing & Jazz Club since 2015. My wife has been a Wimborne U3A member for quite a few years & in 2022 persuaded me to offer a U3A 'Jazz For Beginners' group at The Reef Centre in Colehill. It's now called 'Jazz For All' & I still love teaching!"

Vic

e-mail: vice_chair@wimborneu3a.org.uk

Treasurer: Jayne Twomey

I'm Jayne Twomey and I've recently taken up the post of Wimborne u3a Treasurer after a year as Groups Secretary. During my first year, I enjoyed visiting many of our Groups and learning all about their activities.

As Treasurer, I maintain records of our u3a's income and expenditure, culminating in the presentation of an annual statement of accounts at the AGM.

My background is one of languages and learning, incorporating IT processes and budget management. I believe that lifelong learning is central to well-being. Our many and varied u3a groups offer great opportunities for learning new skills, improving existing skills and, most importantly, socialising.

Jayne

e-mail: treasurer@wimborneu3a.org.uk

Secretary: Christine Letchford

I was born into a Wimborne family and lived here until moving away to study Occupational Therapy in Exeter. Subsequently I worked for Essex Social Services and the NHS supporting disabled children and their families.

I moved back to Wimborne with my husband when we retired. Since then, I have benefitted from the varied activities offered by the U3A and at present am joint convenor of a walking and badminton group, as well as playing short tennis and attending the monthly quiz.

I look forward to the new challenge of becoming a member of the Wimborne U3A committee and taking up the role of secretary.

Chris

e-mail: secretary@wimborneu3a.org.uk

Membership Secretary: Horace Letchford

Being married to a Wimborne girl, I have been associated with Wimborne for over 50 years. I taught in Essex for 39 years, ending as Head of Citizenship, Religious and Personal Education, before retiring to Wimborne 10 years ago. I am currently a rugby referee with the Dorset & Wilts Referee Society, and enjoy walking and cycling.

Joining the Wimborne U3A has enabled me to explore many parts of Dorset I probably would not have visited and meet a varied collection of people. I currently run the Monday walking group with my wife and am a member of a badminton and short tennis group, as well as attending the monthly quiz.

Horace

e-mail: membership@wimborneu3a.org.uk

Venues Secretary – Heather Lowe

I'm Heather Lowe and I'm the new venues secretary for Wimborne u3a. I joined u3a when I retired in 2021 and was like a child in a sweet shop when I discovered how many groups were on offer. So many new possibilities to try new things. In 2022 I became the convenor for the Ballroom and Latin group who, like so many of the groups, are a very friendly bunch.

As venues secretary I book rooms, halls etc for u3a groups who need them. If you have to cancel or change a booking for any reason, please let me know as I will be checking invoices. Similarly, if there are any issues with your venue, please contact me.

I will try and visit all our venues at some point during the year, so if you see me looking lost, please point me in the right direction!

Heather

e-mail: venues@wimborneu3a.org.uk

Newsletter Editor: Mike Twomey

Hello, I'm Mike Twomey, I've recently taken over responsibility for the Wimborne u3a Newsletter.

My responsibilities are to produce three newsletters every year, to request information about events for the upcoming terms from members of the committee and group convenors, so as to keep the members fully informed.

My background is in Marketing and PR in manufacturing, commercial and financial sectors, experience which I hope to bring to this role.

Mike

e-mail: news@wimborneu3a.org.uk

Groups Secretary – Temporarily Ashley Rowlands and Vic Grayson.

As part of this temporary role, both Ashley and Vic will conduct a series of visits to as many groups as possible to introduce themselves, find out about the diversity of the venues and courses and answer any question that may arise

e-mail: groups@wimborneu3a.org.uk

Website – Alan Pickering

I moved to Dorset 28 year ago, after a career as a Primary School teacher and headteacher in outer London. I then worked in education locally and lastly as an Electoral Services administrator for the (late) Poole Council.

I have been involved with Wimborne u3a for the past 12 years, as one of the convenors of the 'Singing for Fun' group. I have helped with u3a administration for much of that time, managing our website and 'Beacon' membership database. I also arrange the design and production of our various publications.

e-mail: info@wimborneu3a.org.uk

Editor: As part of my on-going series of visits to venues and courses which I am going to undertake over the year, we will, in this issue, look at Table Tennis, Friday Art Group, Scrabble and Bridge for Beginners and Improvers. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any ideas, or of future events you would like to feature.

Colehill Sports & Social Club

Good parking

Large adaptable main room



Table Tennis



There are three Table Tennis groups who meet at the Colehill Sports and Social Club, Beryl, the Convenor of the middle group, met me with a big smile and explained all about the table tennis group she had the pleasure in overseeing. They meet weekly, on Tuesdays at 12:30pm.

There is more than ample parking in the enclosed area around the club house. The group meets in a large room, which is also the bar (unfortunately not open), that also accommodates an indoor bowling track and a pool table. The group has 26 members, up from 22 last year, with an average of 16/18 every week. Each session lasts one and a half hours, although, Beryl would really like it to be the full two hours as with the other two Table Tennis groups.



I chatted with several of the members, including Mike, Martin and Peter, who all said how much they enjoyed the great camaraderie and social interaction of the group. Although competitive (at times), it was in an atmosphere that was never far away from laughter and cries of "good shot" or "oooooh, hard luck." They also commented on how it was beneficial as a physical exercise and for eye and hand co-ordination. And mentally for keeping the score in-between howls of laughter.



I also met Tessa, who is the convenor for "Bridge for Rookies". The group will start on 4th December. They have, at the moment, eight members who will meet in their own houses. Tessa went on to say how the course is designed for Bridge players who are either starting out to learn the game, or those coming back after several years without playing (see group below). Therefore, it is not as rigid or strict as other more competitive leagues. Sounds ideal to me, as someone who hasn't played since University days (just a few years ago, ha ha).



The Friday Art Group

The Friday art group meet from 10:00 to 12:00 in an upstairs room of Allendale House. Parking is available in the Allendale Car Park, payable, but the market is also on that day, so it may be busy.



June, who is the group convenor, says that her members are very much a "self-help" set, with occasional tutorials from a member who is a retired art teacher.

They operate in a multitude of mediums, from water colours to printing, from pencil & charcoal to inks. But they are all undertaken with an infectious air of enjoyment and co-operation, each willing to pass on any knowledge they have gained over the years.

Jo, who before retirement worked as a graphic designer for an advertising agency in London, is painting a seaside landscape in water colours, a medium she has never used during her career.

Another member, Pauline, has dusted some leaves with charcoal, has then pressed them onto her paper, and then outlined them in contrasting colours. Very original and effective.

June is drawing a coastal village scene (very much like Brixham) using memories and pictures, melding them together to form a whole new and original scene.

This is a great group with wonderful ideas and a spirit of fun and in having a

different theme every season, this one being Autumn, they always have something new and exciting to prepare and research.



Allendale House

Historic building and site of learning



Scrabble Group

The Scrabble Group also assemble in Allendale House, on the ground floor, on Fridays at 2pm.

A brilliant idea by Anne, the convenor is that when a member arrives, they take out a token from a bag, denoting which table they sit at. Therefore, the chances of the same players each week against each other are diminished.



Anne has also printed out and laminated a sheet of acceptable two- and three-letter words to aid the game (a dictionary is also on each table). With different abilities and years of playing this game throughout the group, as one of the members, Frank said, that he "learns every day". Truly the essence of u3a in action.

The group (up to 19) is silent with deep concentration only interrupted by the odd sound of wow and ooooh as an unexpected word or high score is made.

Anne made a very good point in that some members who don't go to the AGM may never see anyone from the Committee and that, therefore, they may feel somewhat isolated and separate from the Wimborne leadership. I replied that as a Committee, we plan to change this, Jayne and I will continue to see as many groups and venues as possible, and that Ashley and Vic, the new Chair and Vice-Chair are also planning on visiting different groups during their tenure to improve not only their appreciation of the differing subjects and topics we have but also as a very important internal communication exercise, enabling all to put faces to names and answer any questions that may arise.



I left with the impression of an extremely well run and thoughtful group.

St Nicholas Church Hall, Corfe Mullen

Large Hall

Ample parking

Great rooms with ample (free) parking with facilities for refreshments



Bridge for Beginners and Improvers



I visited the Bridge for Beginners and Improvers with trepidation, having played while at school (a few years ago....) where I always suffered in mis-calling my hand and facing the scorn and ridicule of my fellow players.

How I wish I had known Margaret then.

She clearly states that Bridge can be played in many ways, but that she will teach her way – because it works.



With the aid of an extremely effective PowerPoint, not just the fundamentals are explained but also tactics and the reasoning behind it. The members all had differing abilities and experience, the latter always willing to help out the newer ones.

Their homework (yes, that's right) was looked at where all were giving their ways of working out and explaining the bidding process. This was supplemented with a practical on each table with Margaret going to each in turn and giving advice and encouragement.

A truly inspirational session, or as one of the members, Jenny, laughingly said: "the more you learn, the less you know." A truism for life if ever I heard one.



Wimborne Methodist Church

Great venue and rooms,
with refreshments available.

Parking at King Street car park



Friday talks

The illustrated talks are held in the Wesley Hall at the Methodist Church in King Street (opposite the back of the Minster) and begin at 10:30 am. Teas and coffees are available from the counter on the ground floor from 10:00. Cost is £2 for members and £4 for non-members. There is no need to book.

Our monthly talks take place during our autumn and spring terms; there are normally no talks during the summer term.

Janice Deane is the Convenor for these talks and she would like to pass on the following: "I hope you all enjoyed Alan Jenkins' talk on 'The Royal Visit Which Went Wrong' in October. Alan has asked me to pass on his thanks for the warm welcome he received. Janice's thanks go to John Lillie for introducing the speaker and also thanks to Terry Mee for all his assistance in organising this term's speakers and for providing a smooth handover of duties.

15th NOVEMBER: JACKIE AND BRIAN SUTTON IT STARTED WITH A KISS

For November's talk, we welcome back Jacqueline and Brian Sutton. Their presentation is entitled "It started with a kiss" and is the fascinating tale of the life and times of the

world-famous poet, Dylan Thomas. Although born in Wales, he had considerable connections with the Ringwood and Fordingbridge area. You will hear about his debts, marital affairs, American tours, Jacqueline and Brian will tell of Dylan's wife Caitlin and her infamous and exhibitionist behaviour, 1-night stands, and their neglect of their children in favour of their constant drinking, and finally, his downward spiral into alcoholism and early death.

13th DECEMBER (date to be confirmed): RON TAYLOR DINOSAURS, DWELLING AND DISCOVERY

Poole and Christchurch from prehistory and Saxon and Norman times, Civil War Cavaliers and Roundheads. Wareham as the major port in the area. Christchurch as the major yet small town in the area. The surrounding villages especially Holden Hurst known to many as the mother of Bournemouth. Smuggling and how the locals made a living; plus, much much more!

As always, for more information see our website: www.wimborneu3a.org.uk

Spring events will be promoted in the Christmas Newsletter.

List of events in the wider Wimborne area

Events November & December 2024

"It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas" A concert of seasonal good cheer. Hear some Christmas-flavoured stories, some beautiful music sung by the choir, and sing some of your favourite carols. All rounded off with mulled wine and mince pies. December 15, 2024 St Mary's Church, Church Street, Sturminster Marshall, Blandford, Dorset BH21 4BU

Tivoli Theatre Wimborne
www.tivoliwimborne.co.uk

November:

18th Mark Smith Antiques Expert on the road

19th Soft Machine

20th Ed Byrne: Tragedy Plus Time

21st T Rextasy

22nd UK Pink Floyd Experience

23rd Good Evening Mr Buble

26th Paul Jone & Dave Kelly

27th The Searchers Experience

28th Moving Pictures – A tribute to the music of Rush

29th Talon – tribute to The Eagles

December:

2nd Maddy Prior & The Carnival Band

3rd A Christmas Carol – A radio stage play live on stage

4th Marty Wilde and The Wildcats: Greatest Hits on tour

5th Platinum – The Live ABBA Tribute Show 2024

6th Showaddywaddy in concert

7th Counterfeit Stones

14th to 6th Jan 2025 Snow White & The Seven Dwarfs Pantomime (and Adult versions – see web site)

Museum of East Dorset (MED)
www.museumofeastdorset.co.uk

18th Nov. 2:30 to 4:00pm Craft & Chat Afternoon

26th Nov 6:00 to 8:00pm Fused Glass Christmas Decorations

30th Nov & 7th Dec 2pm: 2:45pm & 3:30pm Visit Santa: Make Christmas Magical

28th Nov 5:00 to 8:00 pm Christmas Shopping Night at the Museum

6th Dec 10:00 am to 1:00pm Felted Robin Fridge Magnet Workshop

12th Dec. at 6:30pm Welcome or Welcome Not: A Christmas Performance. Actor and folk singer Alastair Braidwood and esteemed and respected singer and folk musician Tim Laycock.

Wimborne Minster
www.wimborneminster.org.uk

14th Dec. 10:00 to 12:00 Christmas Fayre

20th Dec 6:00 pm Carols in The Cornmarket

The Next Newsletter ... There will be A NEW YEAR SPECIAL

Look out for the email and further details. Until then "ENJOY YOURSELVES".

If you have any questions or wish to promote something:

Reply here: Mike Twomey Tel: 07722145067 Email: news@wimborneu3a.org.uk

Mike

