

GENERAL NEWS

2026 Subs (£17) are due on 1 January but please do not make any BACS payments before that date. Members are reminded that they should pay by BACS if possible as this is our preferred method of payment. Cheque and cash payments now incur charges of 42p per cheque and 75p per £100 cash banked.

GROUPS NEWS

SHORT WALK GROUP

Our short walk group has had some very enjoyable walks meeting on the last Thursday of each month. Ours is a very gentle exercise walk, well more of an amble really, usually on flat ground and somewhere for a cuppa at the end. We have enjoyed a variety of walks with talks, and the occasional scenic detour that proved we always get there in the end.

We've wandered by the sea, through woods, and all around our local area, discovering places we may never have found if we'd gone straight there. Highlights include tea at Lockwood Bowls club, Fort Nelson and its impressive Standing Giants, being utterly absorbed by our bird experts on Warsash shore, and, of course, enjoying plenty of fresh air. (picture on next page).

CATHERINE

ART GROUP

At our December meeting we had collected bunches of holly, ivy and mistletoe and the group had to create a design by painting (not drawing first) directly on to paper. Here are some of the excellent results. (pictures on next page)

Our 12 January session will be fun with cartoon characters. **KEN BERRIDGE**

BREAKAWAY GROUP

The Breakaway group seems to be going from strength to strength - we have enjoyed some great breaks this year. Looking forward to next year, we have already booked and paid for a Warners break at

Reflecting on the past year at our u3a

As I look back over the past year at Warsash u3a, there is much to be proud of and to celebrate. Our groups have continued to thrive, friendships have deepened, community generosity has shone in our support of the food bank and enjoyment has been evident in everything we do. From regular meetings and special interest groups to walks, talks and shared laughter, the heart of Warsash u3a remains its members.

CHAIR'S CHAT

Beyond our own community, the world has continued to change at a remarkable and sometimes worrying pace. The past year has brought many individual challenges and loss of loved ones within our group. They remain part of our story and we have many good memories of them.

In an often uncertain world, organisations like u3a play an increasingly important role in bringing people together, promoting lifelong learning, and offering connection, purpose and friendship.

Looking ahead, we are excited to be ap

ing a very special milestone - our tenth annive decade of achievement, growth and shared experiences, but also an opportunity to reflect on how far we have come and to look confidently to the future.

To ensure Warsash u3a continues to flourish, we are committed to strengthening our committee and encouraging members to consider getting involved. A strong, supportive committee is essential to sustaining what we already do so well, while also exploring new ideas and opportunities for the benefit of all our members.

My first chat of the year talked of our collective strength and sharing of expertise. A group is only strong as the support of its members and your support is the key to our success, so thank **you** as we continue into 2026 together. Happy New Year everyone. I look forward to the year ahead and to many more successful years of learning, friendship and enjoyment at our Warsash u3a.

CATHERINE

Bembridge on the Isle of Wight and are just completing payment for a return to The Ashbury & Manor Activity holiday in Okehampton. For the end of November - all forty places we have reserved for the Turkey & Tinsel in Torquay are already taken & today I rang up and reserved 3 more twin/double rooms (there are no more single rooms available - why not consider sharing with a friend) - if you are interested and your name isn't on the list - get your name down soon, as this holiday is likely to fill up quickly.

A small group of us plan to go to the u3a Festival in York in the summer - as part of our individual visits to family and friends in the area. If you have any thoughts for future breaks or have seen something that looks promising - send us details, we're always only too pleased to hear your ideas.

ROSEMARY AND CHRIS

BUS TRIP GROUP

The December Bus Trip visited Inspiration; the Railway 200 touring exhibition train, created in partner-

ship with the National Railway Museum. Inspiration celebrates 200 years of the modern railway and features interactive displays. The train has been touring the country this bicentennial year. Inspiration's stop in Southampton includes a Portsmouth University-led exhibition for the *Life and Death* Project, highlighting the South Coast's Forgotten Railway, telling the life stories of railway workers in an around Portsmouth from the 1850s to the Second World War, produced with a team from the Havant Local History Group.

ROSEMARY SCOTT

DISCOVERING WINES

This is a light hearted and informal group that meets every 2-3 months to sample a selection of wines presented by one of the members. We don't claim to be connoisseurs but usually manage to find a new wine or two to add to our future shopping baskets. The most recent evening was loosely based on Christmas with wines

with a Christmassy label or from a supermarket Christmas range and we finished off with a mulled wine and mince pie. (picture on next page)

If you would like to join this group, sign up via Beacon or at the monthly meeting or contact the group organisers.

KUMI COULTHARD

MAYFLOWER THEATRE GROUP

Payment is now due for *Top Hat*, which we are going to see on 8 April, if you have not already paid.

I have booked tickets for *Moulin Rouge*, on 8 October, at 2pm. If you would like to see this highly recommended performance, please contact Judith. Unfortunately, the Mayflower require payment, for this show by the end of February, but I am trying to extend the date. Tickets will be approximately £49 each and are all in the stalls. **JUDITH SIMS**

CINEMA GROUP

Just a reminder that our next film will be *The Choral* on 8 January. Existing group members will have received the email confirming the details. if you wish to join the group, please let us know.

**KATHY KANJI AND
JAN SLAWSON**

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NEXT MEETING FRIDAY 9 JANUARY

This is our tenth Anniversary Meeting which includes afternoon tea along with a celebration and memories of our first ten years.

Unfortunately, being a catered event in the hall with limited capacity, we cannot accommodate every member of our u3a. However, every member who requested a ticket has been successful.



Above Bus Trip fans peer out of a cardboard carriage door at the Southampton train exhibition.
 Top left One of the Art Group created a delightful holly, ivy and mistletoe painting.
 Left A memory jogger photo from one of the Short Walk meanders during 2025.
 Right All that's left of a Discovering Wine meeting: five empties.



At the December meeting members enjoyed a sing-along with the Sign4Fun group who provided sign language with the music. Several members had a go at sign language but preferred to use their fingers for the the mince pies and mulled wine.