



Registered Charity no. 1073206

February 2018

Email: ferndownu3a@gmail.com

Website: www.ferndownu3a.co.uk

Retention of new members - For some time we have been aware that about 50% of new members do not renew their membership after the first year.

Last Autumn **Yvonne Warner**, our Community Liaison Officer contacted all 81 members new to us in the 2016/17 year. Sadly only 9 members replied, but these are their thoughts:

Only one person had been to our open day in May. All of the respondents, except one, had heard about us from neighbours and friends i.e. word of mouth. One had seen a link in a regular email from EDDC.

People seemed to find the booking process pretty easy and a couple of people congratulated us on our colourful, informative website. We would seem to be doing things right and people were happy with their classes.

Everyone thought we were friendly, but a couple of people would have liked either names on labels or each member introducing themselves at the start of the classes. Perhaps this is something we should think about. In my bridge group I always make a point of introducing new members to everyone, but players normally write their names on their scorecards which is useful for everyone till the names stick!

One person thought our noticeboard at the Barrington was too tucked away and out of date.

There was criticism of the room that the Current Affairs group meets in as the ceiling was very high and it echoes making it very difficult to hear.

One person was very disappointed that the Beginners bridge was cancelled. She did not feel she could attend the Improver bridge until she had a bit of guidance and practice as she was rather rusty. She has offered to host a beginners group in her own home next term, if it was a lack of numbers that caused the cancellation.

Another is really enjoying the Awful Singing Group and wondered if it could be extended in frequency and has offered to help with this. He has offered his assistance in any capacity thought to be useful to any of the lecturers on the courses he attends.

Two members said they were very happy, but have not been able to attend many of their classes. Everyone had already been recommending Ferndown U3A, which is a good sign. Finally one member summed up his form saying that he had never heard of U3A 'until my wife and I moved to Ferndown in late 2016, but it is brilliant and has added a totally new dimension to our lives'.

Note - We always appreciate feedback from our members whether new or 'old hands'. Feedback should be addressed by email to ferndownu3a@gmail.com

We have been advised of the death of **Jean Statham** on the 5th February. Jean was not a current member of FU3A, but was previously a Bridge player, and some members will remember her.
Our thoughts are with her family at this time.



Visit to Highgrove House

U3A Ferndown are fortunate to have been given the opportunity to visit the Prince of Wales's garden at Highgrove House in Gloucestershire.

It is a truly inspiring place showing the caring and creative side of the Prince's character – beautiful, interesting surroundings in which to have the guided tour which lasts 2 hours. Obviously the house is not open to the public but we will be able to purchase refreshments in the very attractive Orchard Restaurant.

Date Thursday 31st May. Approx. timing 8.45am to 6.30pm Departure Ferndown Cost £42 (coach fare and tour). More detailed information about arrangements will be circulated later.

We are only able to take a limited number of people so, to secure a place, please fill in the attached booking form and post by 20th March with a cheque to the following address:-

***Ferndown U3A
C/O 61 Victoria Gardens
Ferndown, BH22 9JQ***

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ONE FOR YOUR ADVANCE DIARY.....

At the 'First Friday talk' on May 4th, Tom Balchin will be speaking about the work of Dorset Rural Police. This replaces the advertised talk on the Mary Rose Museum which has been postponed to a later date.

All are welcome - Barrington Centre Conference Room. Tea/coffee from 9.45, with the presentation starting at 10.30 - or earlier if all the seats have been taken!

Skittles - There will be SKITTLES on **Thursday April 5th** at The Three Legged Cross Pub from 11.15am until approximately 2.30pm. The cost is £10.50 which includes a basket meal, cake and small prizes. To book a place please contact Betty Ford on 01202 873125 or Brenda Baldry on 01202 875851.

Communicating with members

Clearly it is important that ALL members receive information in a format which meets their needs. At the moment we rely on Beacon and the website to update people for whom we have an email address but we believe that just because an email address exists, not all recipients are confident enough in their computer skills to actually access this Information themselves.

We are considering putting in place a 'buddy system' whereby computer literate members would share information with someone they know who does not have access.

If you feel that this is a workable idea and something you would be willing to do, please could you email me, Jude, on: jdth.hodges@gmail.com ***N.B. This will NOT commit you to do anything at this stage. We are just putting out feelers to see if it is worth progressing.***



FERNDOWN U3A
20th ANNIVERSARY VARIETY SHOW

Devised by LES BRAND Produced by RITA BURKE

Saturday March 17th 2018

St. Marks Church Hall New Road West Parley

Doors Open 2.30 p.m. for 3.00 p.m. Start

PERFORMANCES BY:



The Choir - Leader David Oddy



Ukelele Group - Leader Robert Gomm



Drama Group - Leader Rita Burke

Refreshments will be served in the interval

All donations to the Kawasaki Trust

Entry is free and to reserve your seats please email ferndownu3a@gmail.com.

Donations should be by cheque to Societi which is the UK Foundation for Kawasaki Disease.

For those who prefer not to reserve seats in advance, entry will be possible at the door on the day if any seats are still available at that stage.

NEWS FROM THE GROUPS

DISCOVER WESSEX



After a well attended talk on Old Poole at the recent Discovering Wessex meeting, a band of 12 hardy souls braved the arctic cold on Friday last to follow up the talk with a visit to see the sights.

A fine, sunny but bitterly cold day so our rendezvous at the Poole Museum (well worth a visit) commenced with refreshment at the Museum cafe. This was followed by a one hour or so walk around the Cockle Trail, marked by brass plaques set in the ground to show us where to go and what to look at.

As is so often the case, most of us had visited Poole many times, but as always there are aspects which many of us saw for the first time.

After the tour, most of us repaired to various hostelrys for lunch; The Jolly Sailor, not the most obvious choice it must be said, proved for some of us to have both good food and very reasonable prices. A second group went to the Poole Arms which specialises in seafood; a Chowder with bread and butter was a bargain at £5.95!

VISIT BACKSTAGE AT THE LIGHTHOUSE POOLE



On Friday 16th February, two groups of members enjoyed a fascinating tour of the Lighthouse Poole, arranged by our own Bob Reeve who is a Trustee there.

We were shown around by Martyn Balson, the General Manager and gained a detailed insight into how an art's centre is financed and run. Martyn clearly loves his job which was obvious from his enthusiasm.

I imagine few of us realised the range of activities taking place there, nor the strong emphasis on building and supporting the musical, dramatic and artistic aspirations of young people of all ages.

We were also unaware that the centre is the largest of its type outside of London, and one of the largest in Europe.

As well as concerts and drama there is a small cinema which shows new films a little after they are available to the large cinema chains.

The cafeteria has been revamped and serves a range of snacks and meals which are excellent value.

Change to location of Notice Boards in the Barrington

The board beyond the Hayes Room was not used by members or the public as few people ventured to that part. This board has been re-sited nearer to the entrance. The board is just past the entrance to the Cafe and toilets.



My name is Barry Zimmer, a member of Ferndown u3a.

In June this year I am setting out to cycle from John O'Groats to Lands End. The route I will be taking will not be the shortest but one that takes in tracks trails and less busy roads. The distance will be around 1200 miles.

It is not my style to stay in Hotels so I am taking a small tent, and will stay in camp sites and wild camping where permissible.

I am intending to travel alone but if there is anyone in the u3a who would like to join me I can promise it will be a real adventure. Please email bzimmer@hotmail.co.uk for further details.

Please note that Barry is doing this privately. It is neither sponsored nor insured by FU3A.

Appeal for Volunteers

I am one of the Friends of Penny's Hill Practice in Ferndown and we recently attended the Health & Wellbeing event at the Barrington Centre organised by Dorset County Council, where the U3A was also represented.

We are a Ferndown organisation that helps support patients of Penny's Hill Practice by offering a transport service to and from medical appointments and a befriending service for those who may be isolated or lonely. I am the Transport Co-ordinator who organises the drivers for trips for the transport side of the organisation.

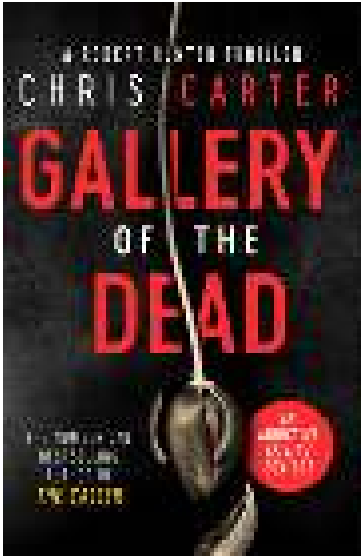
Our volunteers are all patients of Penny's Hill Practice – our slogan is "Run by patients for the benefit of patients".

Sadly, several of our volunteers have recently had to retire through ill health and we need to recruit some new volunteers to enable us to maintain the voluntary services that we provide, for which there is increasing demand.

We held a Recruitment Week at Penny's Hill Practice week beginning 19th February, but we are always aware that we are approaching patients who are visiting their doctor and therefore probably not feeling at their best! Ideally, we would like to make contact with patients of Penny's Hill Practice with time to spare, who do not need to visit their doctor because they are sick!

This led us to think about other ways we could contact patients of the Practice who may be interested in volunteering to help some of our more vulnerable patients. We wondered whether we could make contact with your U3A Groups as you must have many patients of Penny's Hill Practice that attend your various activities.

My telephone number, should you wish to phone me to discuss this further, is 01202 873017, or alternatively you could contact me by e-mail lmurgatroyd@googlemail.com.



Gallery of the Dead by Chris Carter

A 'must-just-read-another-chapter' thriller by expert penman Chris Carter

Linda Carter arrives home after a tiring day modelling. After pouring herself a glass of wine she decides to send a Face Swap picture of herself and her cat, Mr Boingo, to her friend Maria. But when she opens the application, instead of identifying herself and the cat, the software places the red circle around someone in the doorway behind her.

So opens the latest offering involving Detective Robert Hunter, head of the Los Angeles Police Department's Ultra Violent Crimes Unit. Hunter is probably the foremost expert on criminal behaviour in the country who ignored the calls of the FBI, preferring instead to serve in the LAPD.

When he and his partner Carlos Garcia are called out to the murder scene, it is nothing like they have ever seen before, and within twenty-four hours they find themselves working with the FBI searching for a serial killer who appears to be taking 'art' to its illogical conclusion.

This really is a great thriller where the plot simply rolls on like a locomotive out of control. There is simplicity in Mr Carter's writing and I, for one, enjoy the fact that he writes in short chapters, each with a focus of its own. I have read far too many books where the author seems to be lost in a sea of syntax and semantics, and this a welcome change. That is not to say that this is a simple story. Far from it. It is cleverly thought-out and there are quite a few interesting and shocking false leads before we arrive at the end of this journey. And even then there awaits a surprise!

Thank you, Chris Carter, for another great Robert Hunter adventure. Definitely up there with James Patterson's Alex Cross.

Sméagol

The reviews in the newsletter are from Judith Hodges and Glyn Bosanko who are both Founding Members of Breakaway Reviewers. www.breakawayreviewers.co.uk

If you love to read and are interested in reviewing books prior to publication, **and** can commit to as little as one book a month, Breakaway would be delighted to hear from you.

Email Rony Cambell at rony.breakawayreviewers@outlook.com, or speak to Glyn or myself.

The Lighter Side of Life!



A husband and wife who worked for the circus went to an adoption agency.

The social worker raised doubts about their suitability.

The couple then produced photos of their 50-foot motor home, which was clean and well maintained, and equipped with a beautiful nursery.

The social worker then raised concerns about the education a child would receive while in the couple's care.

"We've arranged for a full-time tutor who will teach the child all the usual subjects along with French, Mandarin, and computer skills."

Then the social worker expressed concern about a child being raised in a circus environment.

"Our nanny will be a certified expert in paediatric care, welfare, and diet."

The social worker was finally satisfied and asked, "What age child are you hoping to adopt?"

"It doesn't really matter, as long as the child fits into the cannon."

(With thanks to Keith Banks!)



PUZZLE

Mark is on a raft, adrift in the ocean with several other survivors of a shipwreck. The others are too weak, so he or Steve will swim to a nearby island to look for help. It is almost certainly suicidal, due to the circling sharks, but they have little else to hope for.

Steve takes the loose change from his pocket and puts two pennies in a hat. He tells Mark that one is a 2005 penny, and the other 1975. If Mark picks the newer penny he can stay on the raft, and Steve will risk his life. If Mark picks the older penny, he must go.

Mark has seen that both pennies were actually dated 1975, but he doesn't want to say anything, because Steve is a big guy. How does he win, and get Steve to go, without exposing him as a fraud in front of the others?

Solution on website!



Ferndown U3A Booking Form

Please reserve tickets for the event below

I enclose a cheque for £
(made payable to Ferndown & District U3A Social Account)

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Name of Event

Date Departure Point

Organiser

.....

First Participant

Contact Number Email

Any special requirements?

Emergency Contact *Please provide details of someone who can be contacted in an emergency. This needs to be someone who will NOT be travelling with you.*

Name Landline

Mobile Email

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Second Participant

Contact Number Email.....

Any special requirements?

Any further participants need to be listed on a separate form.

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Please place form and cheque in an envelope to be returned to the organiser.