

Verwood

Our Monthly Newsletter

August 2026

After the success of our Open Day it has been a very busy month for your committee and the group leaders who took part in the Family Fun Day at the Hub. We are now preparing for the Rustic Fayre and organizing future events.

Future Events

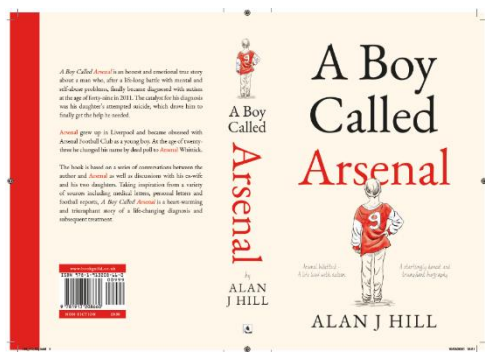
Rustic Fayre Potterne Park on Monday 31st August

We have a stand at the Rustic Fayre again this year as it is important for us to participate in such local events to raise the profile of our u3a and attract new members. This is beneficial for our continued growth as it ensures that we can continue to provide a thriving community asset.



Sue Coveyduck is grateful for all the offers of help at the u3a stand at the Rustic Fayre and to those who have offered items for display. Please come along to support. There will be opportunities to join u3a, if you are not yet a member. The event runs from 12 noon to 5 pm.

U3a Special Event - A Boy Called Arsenal at the Verwood Hub on Wednesday 30 September at 16.00



A talk and an insight into autism. We are fortunate to have Arsenal Whittick, the subject of a best-selling book, as our speaker.

A moving story about something which most of us know little about.

Arsenal was only diagnosed with autism aged 49. Only then did the traumas he experienced start to make sense.

We anticipate a good deal of interest in this talk so please register early should you wish to attend. There will be a charge of £2.00 per head payable at the door to cover the room hire.

Please respond to our Events Coordinator, Mike Parsonage
michael.parsonage@yahoo.co.uk. Places will be allocated on a first come first serve basis.

U3a Christmas Lunch Monday 14th December

The Verwood u3a Christmas lunch will be held at the Remedy Oak Golf Club starting at 12.00 and probably go on until 4.00

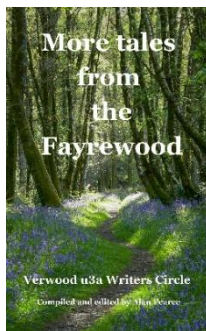
There has been very encouraging interest in members wanting to take part.

As new members may have missed the details, please contact Howard (Chair@verwoodu3a.org.uk). There are still places available,



Writers Circle

Our u3a Writers Circle group leader, Alan Pearce, reports:



The Verwood u3a Writers Circle's second book "More Tales from the Fayrewood" is to be published in the next few days. It is a compendium of 100 short stories, articles and poems, with fiction and non-fiction, fantasy and personal experiences from all eleven members of the group. It will be on sale at Amazon books - just enter "More Tales from the Fayrewood" or "Alan Pearce".

Then, when we have sold 30/40 copies I will present a cheque to the Chairman of Verwood u3a – also, if possible. with an Echo photo.

Events in July and August

Riverblue Ukulele Picnic

What a great afternoon we had at the Verwood u3a Ukulele Picnic!



The audience was fantastic joining in the fun and doing the actions of the song from the Sound Of Music - Doh Ray Mi (you just had to be there).



Jill & Vaughan, from The Folk Circle Group, performed a duet of an old folk song that went down really well.

Thanks to everyone who came along and took part, this could be an annual event!

Family Fun Day at The Hub on 1st August



Several committee members and group leaders represented Verwood u3a at the Family Fun Day and our Ukulele orchestra performed outside. A lot of interest was shown and the day was very well attended by the public.



Groups

Diane Northam

Craft Workshop 2nd September 2pm at the Hub

Wendy Jefferies will be running our next Craft session on 2nd September, 2pm at the Hub. Please join us for an afternoon of Pebble Art on Canvas. Copy one of the samples shown below or create your own design.



Tuition and all materials will be supplied including the display easel.

A small charge of £4 will be made towards the cost of this workshop.

To join, please contact craft@verwoodu3a.org.uk



The Folk Circle

Vaughan Danning

I'm glad to say the Open Day in July successfully generated enough interest to make it worth while for the September session to go ahead, so if any one would like to come along and sing, play, recite or simply listen, you will be made very welcome by the friendly and supportive Folk Circle group.

The next session will be on Wednesday 16th September at 2 pm at the Hub in Studio 2/3.

Sugarcraft

Fiona Webb

Sugarcraft sessions are on first Monday of the month 10.00 am to 12.00 noon at The Hub. No experience is necessary just enthusiasm.

I can supply equipment, tools etc and you need to bring either modelling paste, sugarpaste or flowerpaste which can be purchased in most supermarkets. Any questions feel free to contact Fiona Webb fionawebb1958@gmail.com.

I am planning on making a dragon for our first session so if you would like to make it look out for a Terrys Chocolate orange in supermarkets Also, if you are unsure sugarcraft is for you please feel free to come along and just watch and ask questions, all welcome.



Garden Matters

The Garden Matters group currently has space available for new members. Our aim is to cater for all gardeners: from experts and novices, enthusiasts and reluctant gardeners, ornamental and vegetable growers. The meetings are discussion groups where we share our knowledge and also help with any problems, pests or diseases members might be facing in their gardens.



Meetings also include short presentations on topical issues and also members' particular interests. Surplus plants, seeds, books and other garden related items are exchanged at meetings. In the summer we also visit members' gardens to see the fruits of our labours and, of course, enjoy the tea and cakes.

Contact Colin English if you wish to join or want more information: colinenglish@verwoodu3a.org.uk

Digital Photography Peter Kingsbury

We still have spaces for anyone who wants to explore digital photography. We meet fortnightly on Tuesdays at 10.30am at the hub.

All are welcome and the group members will happily coach new members in all aspects of photography.



The image shows one of our evening studio sessions where each person gets opportunities to work in a studio environment.

Travel Through My Lens Lake Garda - Carolyn Whitlock

All members are welcome to attend Travel Through My Lens talks. They are on the third Thursday of each month, at the Hub, starting at 10.30am on Studio 2/3.

Our year starts on Thursday 17th September, with a talk by Carolyn Whitlock on Lake Garda. We will explore Malcesine, Limone and Ravello, plus a coach trip around the Lake, stopping at Gardone Riviera.

Please let Colin English or Carolyn Whitlock know if you would like to attend, for us to ensure seats. travel.colin@verwoodu3a.org.uk or Travel.carolyn@verwoodu3a.org.uk

We are also interested in talking with anyone who would like to contribute a talk in 2026/7.



The Elastic Band - Mick and Pat Roberts

We are an enthusiastic bunch of amateurs willing to try different styles of music and are open to ideas - hence The Elastic Band. Currently we have had a go at Bowie, Fleetwood Mac, Stones, Gerry Rafferty, Tom Petty, E.L.O, Junior Walker and others. We have mainly amplified instruments but the group is not exclusively electric and we already have a sax player.

If you play anything, hit anything or just want to sing then you are welcome. We tend to cover 6 or so songs in a session as we try and get things as good as we can. Music is currently supplied in chord sheets and TAB which can either be printed or accessed via shared files on the web. Although probably not for the complete beginner as long as you are willing to have a go then you would fit in and we can all share any knowledge we have. We meet at Woodlands Village Hall on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month from approximately 2-4pm with a little leeway on start and finish times as the hall is booked from 1-5 to allow for setting up and packing away. You can find our complete schedule on the Verwood u3a website calendar and contact information on the groups page.

Family History

Lindsey Dedden

It is likely that we all have a photo similar to this one! It is a record of a family gathering to commemorate – you can hardly say “celebrate” with the facial expressions! – the Golden Wedding of Henry and Harriet Randall in 1912.

This is the sort of item which sparks an interest in Family History. A group of those who have been smitten by the Family History “bug”, those who are becoming interested and those who are considering taking up this hobby meets under the u3a banner fortnightly in The Hub.



We talk about all sorts of topics and often go down “the rabbit hole”. There is room for more members – and we would love to have you!

The Quiz

The Quiz is held bi-monthly on Wednesday afternoons between 2:15 pm and 4:15 pm. It is open to all members and starts again on Wednesday 9th September at the Hub. Teams of four with prizes to be won. If you are interested in joining please contact nancytolley@onebox.com.. There is a £2 fee to cover the cost of prizes.

Forest FM

The next Forest FM broadcast will be recorded on 2nd September when Howard Wells will be taking to Irene Martin about her skills in knitting.

If you might be interested in joining the U3a please contact Ray or find our Facebook Group [Verwood u3A Official Facebook Group](https://www.facebook.com/Verwoodu3a) or Website. <https://verwood.u3asite.uk>

