

Liphook u3a Winter/New Year Bulletin

On reflection, 2025 has proved to be a generally successful year for Liphook u3a on a number of counts – our membership has grown by some 10%; we have recruited several new Trustees who bring additional skills and experience to u3a activities; we have enhanced our profile through the use of social media and the local press; delivered a successful programme of presentations and our Groups continue to provide challenging and interesting activities for their members.

Looking forward to the New Year we still need to recruit to some important posts and hope to be able to consolidate and build upon past achievements, including the delivery of a full programme of talks and activities.

We kick-start the new season with the return of Sheila Willis who will present “Beside the Seaside” on Monday January 5th at 2pm in the Millenium Centre. Advance publicity advises us to: “ Take your seats, or deckchairs, as we travel to hear about piers, saucy postcards, donkeys, landladies, knitted bathing costumes and more! A plethora of fun memories with laughs galore that will have you singing all the way home”.

That will be followed on Monday 2nd February (same time, same place) By the popular Tony Harris who has successfully transitioned from Margaret Thatcher (2025) to Donald Trump! for what promises to be a roller-coaster of a performance. Details of the full year’s programme will be found on the Liphook u3a website but for ease of reference:

March 2nd Jim Miles “Life and Work of William Morris”

April 13th AGM Barrie Watson “Liphook: The Domesday Village”

May 11th Ben Hamlin “The Woodland Trust”

June 1st Andrew Negus “Southampton – Water, Slaughter and Trade “

Sept 7th Bob France “Tbc Petworth or Uppark”

October 5th Graham Owens “Construction of the Thames Barrier”

November 2nd Steve Priestly “Britain in Cyprus”

December 7th Pete Allen “Oh no it isn’t”

All in Millennium Centre at 2pm.

On an administrative note, I have been asked to clarify the position regarding the attendance of Liphook u3a members at other u3a’s. While all u3a’s will welcome other area u3a members to their events, each organisation will have its own policy on the fees that may apply. For example, some u3a’s will accept external members as “Associates” at a reduced fee. Others may insist on full membership fees. In short, if you do wish to attend another u3a’s activities please check with their Membership Secretary what level of charge will apply.

It only remains for me to wish you all a very Happy New Year - I understand a cold snap is forecast but if it is any consolation, it is unlikely (hopefully) to be as memorable as that which affected Selborne in January 1798 when the county was covered in deep snow and the temperature fell to minus 14 and a half “indoors”! (Source: Gilbert White – *Natural History and Antiquities of Selborne*).

Best wishes for 2026