



Newsletter No.49 Summer 2023

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u3a learn,
laugh,
live

Registered Charity No:
1157184

Membership

We will be inviting you to renew your subscription in early September, either via email or letter. It's quick and easy to renew online via credit/debit card/PayPal if you are able to. Alternatively, you can pay at the Renewals morning on 27th September (10.00–11.30) – see separate notice.

It would also be helpful, please, if you could check your membership data on our website to ensure we have your correct details. This includes emergency contact information which is needed by Group Organisers. Thank you.

Catherine Firth
Membership Secretary

Groups' Report

Renewals and Group Promotion Day

Wednesday 27th September 10–11.30

Hi Members! The September monthly meeting is our opportunity to show you all what wonderful pursuits we have available for you to try. Many of our hard working Group Organisers will be there, hoping to show you what they have to offer.

It would be great if as many of you as possible could bring a friend or neighbour with you who you think might benefit from some of our activities– entry plus tea, coffee and biscuits is free. So put your thinking caps on.

On the subject of thinking caps, we are also on the lookout for ideas for new groups– since covid the number of groups has reduced significantly, from around 40, and after a slight recovery, currently stands at 25. We will have an ideas table and would like suggestions for new or revamped groups. You might have some expertise or hobby that could be shared by our u3a family, or would simply like to express an interest in a possible group.

Some of the ideas so far are:–

- ♦ **Ballroom Dancing**
- ♦ **Singles Tea Group**
- ♦ **Rummikub or General Board Games**

- ♦ **Opera/Classical Music Appreciation**
- ♦ **Ambles with Interest**

Some of these suggestions may well seem familiar, but with our membership numbers increased since last year, now maybe the time to start or restart them. We are particularly hoping that our newer members may inspire some new activities. We look forward to seeing you there on the 27th. SEE YOU THERE– DON'T BE SQUARE. If you can't make it but have a suggestion or want to express an interest, please do email me.

Rob Gorton
Group Support



Sunset at Cutsdean (Andy Lewis)

Renewals and Group Promotion day

Bring a Friend?



Do you have a friend or neighbour who might like to join us? **Please** ask them to come along with you on 27th September (10.00 – 11.30) and see what our u3a has to offer?

Free coffee!!

Fun!

Companionship!



Reports from Interest Groups

Country Dance Group

The Country Dance Group continues to meet on the first and third Thursdays of the month at the Baden Powell Hall, close to the British Legion Hall. On 26th July 2023, instead of the regular speaker at the monthly meeting, our group put on a barn dance, ably aided and abetted by the Choir and Recorder Groups. The theme was the new reign of Charles III. The dances were mostly simple country dances, although there was some early stuff thrown in, with evocative names, such as Jenny Pluck Pears and My Lord Byron's Maggot. The music was in two parts: the first was from the Tudor era and the second covered the restoration of our king's namesake, King Charles II. At the end, a rousing rendition of Rule Britannia and the National Anthem were sung with gusto. We're always looking for new members so come along to a practice or contact Steve and Myra Ford. As Patricia Hodge would say, "Such fun!"

Steve Ford



Members' Monthly Meetings

Meetings will be on 4th Wednesdays (2nd Wed. in Dec.) 10am – 12Noon at the British Legion Hall, Bourton-on-the-Water. Tea and Coffee will be served from 10am – 10.30am. This is a chance to chat with other members, meet some of the committee and Group Organisers and catch up on the latest plans and news. Speaker or activity starts 10.45
Details on website or phone 07783235320

Date –2023	Topic	Speaker
September 27th	Renewals Day	
October 25th	The Cotswold Way	Steven Blake
November 22nd	Folklore and More!	Adrian James
December 13th	A Brief History of Popular Music	Nigel Thompson

Reports from Interest Groups

Mah jong

Mah jong will be available on the 27th September at the members meeting in the Royal British Legion hall, Bourton on the Water. It is a relatively easy game to play contrary to all the scary thoughts it conjures up. We are a friendly group who play on 1st Tuesday of the Month 10–12 at The George Moore Centre, Moore Road, Bourton on the Water. I and some of my fabulous group members shall be playing a game on the 27th so you can come and see what is involved and possibly have a go. If it's a new game with lots of laughter and friendly banter you are looking for, come and meet us and have a chat. Experienced players are always welcome as well as absolute beginners. We all had to learn and I always stress to members to help the newbies and they do so with a smile.

Denease Robinson

Walking Group.

Following the cancellation of the March walk due to inclement weather, the Walking Group has ranged far and wide over the subsequent four months taking in the splendours offered by the North Cotswolds from Miserden to Cherington by way of, Winchcombe, Lower Swell and Broad Campden. Some of the Spring and early summer sights were expected (eg lambs and foals) but some were rather less so (eg the very friendly, goat kids). Some of the climbs (ie near Miserden and Winchcombe) have been challenging but all were rewarded with fine weather and lunch at a suitable hostelry. Let's hope this continues into the Autumn and Winter.

Neil Cox



Interest Groups

GOs please inform Rob Gorton, Groups' Support of **ANY** changes to your Group's details ASAP. He will then inform Newsletter & Website Editors.

DISCLAIMER

Before attending any groups please check with GO Members participating in any groups must be responsible for their own welfare and abide by Government guidelines.

Group	Group Leader
Archaeology	Steve Ford 01451 810484
Art and Craft for Fun	Anne Thurling 01608 654191
Book Club Bourton	Susan Foster 01451 821184
Bridge	Neil Cox 07947 511343
Chess	https://u3achessnetwork.org.uk/
Choir (The Five Bridges Choir)	Annette Smith 01451 830160
Country Dancing	Steve Ford 01451 810484
Film Group	Neil Cox 07947 511343
French Conversation	Catherine Field 01451 810203
History—General	Jo Young: 01451 832523
Indoor Kurling	Peter Boxall 01451 824175
Mahjong	Denease Robinson 01451 824103

Interest Groups

Group	Group Leader
Mexican Train	Terry and Sandra Gavin 01451 824178
Nature Group	Andy Lewis 07789 430441 nature.banddu3a@btinternet.com
Play Reading 1	Roger Harris 01451 798125
Play Reading 2	Mike Rees 01608650825
Poetry Circle	Jenny Stevenson 07969827928 jennystevenson18@gmail.com
Quiz	Ray and Susan Dodd 01451 822431
Recorder Group	Myra Ford 01451 810484
Scrabble	Brenda Bennett 07464 098373
Skittles (2nd Monday)	Madelaine Cox 01451 810896
Skittles (4th Monday)	David Prout 01451 821478
Sunday Lunch Club	Beth Bryan 01608 674255
Table Tennis	Geoffrey Williams 01451 833887.
Walking Group	Neil Cox 07947 511343
Writing	Fiona Freeman 07557 121421

Reports from Interest Groups

Nature Group

In April we had a talk from Arthur Ball (almost a fixture on the u3a circuit!) about the wildlife of Cleeve Common, where he does a bird survey every month, and then in early May we had a walk round the area. Another regular speaker, Roberta Goodall, described her trip to the Himalayas and the extraordinary bird life there.

As usual we stopped indoor meetings for the summer, but continued with outdoor ones: a trip to the southern part of the Cotswold Water Park, a return visit to a route around the Cotswold Farm Park, and most recently a walk around the National Trust estate at Ebworth with an excellent introduction by Tom the warden. This forms part of the nationally important Cotswold Beech woods.

Our indoor meetings resume in September, when group members will be discussing what wildlife they have seen over the summer.

Andy Lewis



White Fallow stag at Sherborne (Jenny Whalley)

Film Group.

The monthly Film Group meetings in the Bourton Community Centre continue to be well supported. We will shortly be drawing up next year's programme and Film Group members have been invited to propose films for inclusion in it.

Neil Cox

Archaeology Group

The Archaeology Group goes on trips once a month. This year the programme has been varied, ranging from Gladiators, a ruined Abbey and sites ranging from the Neolithic (New Stone Age) to the Roman Era. These have included a trip to Painswick Beacon, which must have the only Iron Age Hill Fort with a golf course running through the centre of it! The following month saw us at Great



Witcombe Roman Villa, located in a wonderfully scenic spot. In August we were privileged to be taken round the site of the Sisters Long Barrow by Prof Tim Darvill, who has been leading a team from Bournemouth University on annual digs since 2015. This is a complex site with the earliest part being created 5,500 years ago. It can be loosely classified as a Neolithic Long Barrow.

Our group mostly covers archaeological sites but anything historically interesting is also included.

Steve Ford

Bourton & District U3A Executive Committee 2023/24

Position	Name	e-mail
Chairperson	Paul Clark	chairperson@banddu3a.org.uk
Secretary	June Renshaw	secretary@banddu3a.org.uk
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Speaker Secretary	Mary Bryant	marybryant149@yahoo.co.uk
Refreshment Team Leader	David Prout	Das.prout@btinternet.com

Skittles Group

As there was a regular imbalance of numbers at the two monthly skittles meetings, several members volunteered to move to the 'other' group which will hopefully produce more equitable numbers each time. This is much appreciated. New members are also welcome.



Madelaine Cox