

Newsletter No.50 Winter 2023

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u3a learn,
laugh,
live

Registered Charity No:
1157184

Merry
Christmas
Everyone



Message from the Chair

PLEASE CAN YOU HELP?



We have a very vibrant u3a because, behind the scenes, your Committee works really hard to provide you with a whole variety of activities, speakers and other programmes which, we hope, offers something for you all."

Next May, there will be a couple of vacancies on the Committee. Can we tempt you to consider being part of our excellent Committee? Helping us requires little in the way of special skills; it's simply about you wanting to help us make our u3a even more successful than it is already.

We **urgently** need to find a new Treasurer. You don't need to be a qualified accountant! Just good with numbers. Training can be given. This role will take approximately 5 hours a month on average. Please contact Diana or Paul if interested

Do you want to see if you might be able to make a significant contribution? Why not come as a guest to a Committee meeting to see how everything unfolds? If interested, please contact any member of the current Committee and we can arrange something.

Paul Clark

Groups' Report

NEW GROUPS

Following on from our Renewals/Group Development event and a successful New Groups meeting, I am pleased to announce that B and D u3a now has five new groups! The groups are:-

Ukulele— A big thank you to Myra Ford for setting this one up. They meet on 2nd and 4th Wednesdays between 2pm and 3.30pm at a group member's house. For more info contact Myra at ethnicfords@hotmail.com



Walks with Talks— 4th Thursday of the month March– November. Times may vary. Thanks to Jenny Stanfield for stepping up as Group Organiser. Jenny can be reached at jenanddavid@talktalk.net

Walking (short)— This will be on the 4th Tuesday, up to about 4 miles duration, with Ernie Rumsey as leader— thanks Ernie. Contact him on eerumsey@gmail.com

Singles Coffee and Chat— Meeting on the 3rd Monday at 10.30 at Timothy's in Moreton. Thanks to Carol Grenz for leading this one. Contact Carol at spangle14@gmail.com

Ballroom Dancing— Meeting on the 1st Thursday of the month, 7.30pm to 9pm at Upper Rissington Village Hall. A big thank you to Ian Lepingwell for agreeing to teach us— enquiries to myself at groups@banddu3a.org.uk

We are investigating the possibility of a second French Conversation group, as the current one is full. If anybody is interested please let me know at groups@banddu3a.org.uk

Finally, if anybody out there has an idea for a new group, please do run it by me. It would be really nice to hear from some of our newer members!

A very happy Christmas and New Year to all.

Rob Gorton
Group Support



Membership

'Thanks to everyone for renewing their subscriptions, despite the 'hiccups' with passwords. Thank you also to David Tebbutt who has now taken over the Membership role. **Catherine Firth'**



'Skittlers' enjoying a well earned rest!

Members' Monthly Meetings

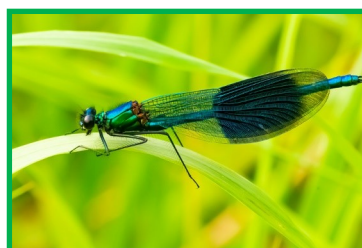
Meetings will be on 4th Wednesdays (2nd Wed. in Dec.) 10am – 12Noon at the British Legion Hall, Bourton-on-the-Water. Tea and Coffee will be served from 10am – 10.30am. This is a chance to chat with other members, meet some of the committee and Group Organisers and catch up on the latest plans and news.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

Date –2023	Topic	Speaker
December 13th	The Renaissance of Swing	Nigel Thompson
January 24th	Morning Social	
February 28th	The Joy of False Memory	Dr Katy Bellamy
March 27th	Pooh Talk Part 2: Philosophy, Politics and Poohsticks	Mike Aggleton
April 27th	A Century of Popular Song – 1860s to 1960s	Richard Churchley
May 22nd	AGM	
June 26th	The Most Dissolute Man in London	Dr Gillian White

Reports from Interest Groups

Nature Group

We resumed our indoor meetings in September with a 'What we saw over the summer' session, where contributions ranged from Swallowtail butterflies, fungi, lichen and Jersey Lizards. October saw a fascinating talk on 'People and Fungi' by Lenka Cmelakova of the Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust, and in November Simon Smith of Cotswold National Landscapes (formerly the Cotswold Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty) gave an intriguing and optimistic assessment of 'Nature Recovery in the Cotswolds'.



Banded Demoiselle, (Mike Boyes)

For outdoor meetings we went to the Wildlife Trust reserve at Whelford Pools in September, and then to Aston Pottery in early October. This formal garden was a riot of colour, including whole

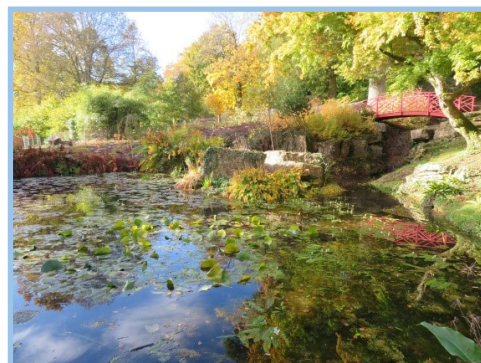
banks of sunflowers, and we attempted to identify the various species of bumblebee we found there. November saw a trip to Batsford Arboretum – later than we have visited before but still plenty of colour, and plenty of fungi which our in-house expert helped identify.

Andy Lewis



Buff-tailed Bumblebee, Aston Pottery (Mike Boyes)

Batsford Arboretum (Andy Lewis)



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 re-
sponsible for their own welfare.

Group	Group Leader
Archaeology	Steve Ford
Art and Craft for Fun	Anne Thurling
Ballroom Dancing	Rob Gorton
Book Club Bourton	Susan Foster
Bridge	Neil Cox
Chess	https://u3achessnetwork.org.uk/
Choir (The Five Bridges Choir)	Annette Smith
Country Dancing	Steve Ford
Film Group	Neil Cox
French Conversation	Catherine Field
History—General	Jo Young
Indoor Kurling	Peter Boxall
Mahjong	Denease Robinson
Mexican Train	Terry and Sandra Gavin
Nature Group	Andy Lewis

Interest Groups

Group	Group Leader
Play Reading 1	Roger Harris
Play Reading 2	Mike Rees
Poetry Circle	Jenny Stevenson
Quiz	Ray and Susan Dodd
Recorder Group	Myra Ford
Scrabble	Brenda Bennett
Singles, Coffee and Chat	Carol Grenz
Skittles (2nd Monday)	Madelaine Cox
Skittles (4th Monday)	David Prout
Sunday Lunch Club	Beth Bryan
Table Tennis	Geoffrey Williams
Ukulele	Myra Ford
Walking Group	Neil Cox
Walking Group (Short)	Ernie Rumsey
Walks with Talks	Jenny Stanfield
Writing	Fiona Freeman

Reports from Interest Groups

Film Group

Attendance continues to hold up at our monthly Saturday evening sessions and we have recently finalised our exciting programme for 2024. A particular highlight is scheduled for March 30th when one of our members will relate her filming experiences in Afghanistan during the Soviet occupation of the 1980's. **Neil Cox**



Spindle Tree fruit opening to show orange seeds (Andy Lewis)

Walking Group

Over the last 3 months we have made excursions to Birdlip Hill (a small but dedicated band of walkers, maybe due to the rather steep climb to finish!), a considerably flatter walk along the Thames at Lechlade and a local walk based on Bourton on the Water. We seem to have entered the rainy season now and our boots and waterproofs are receiving a thorough testing. Our planned Christmas walk based on Bledington promises to be a little muddy but I'm sure the lunchtime meal will make it all worthwhile as usual.

Neil Cox

Calling for Refreshment

Team Volunteers.

Those who prepare and serve our refreshments at our monthly u3a meetings provide a valuable and helpful service to all our members. Team members sometimes have to leave and their replacement is essential if the team workload is to be comfortable for all.

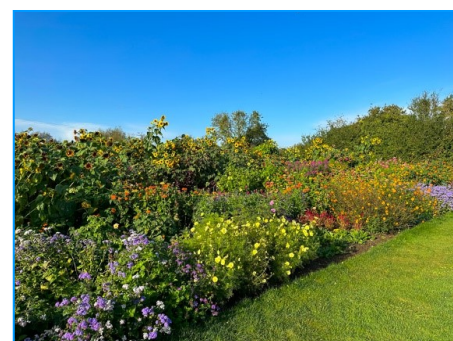


We are in that position now and I am calling for volunteers to join us, ideally around six, to join one of the four main teams or the reserve team who can be called on when needed in the event that a main team member is not available. Each main team is only called on three times each year to prepare the refreshments so the responsibility is not too arduous. Refreshment teams start preparation at 9.30am and are normally finished around 10.00 to 10.45am when the speaker gets up.

Anyone interested in helping us and wishes to know more, please feel free to call me on **01451**

821478 or email
das.prout@btinternet.com

David Prout



Aston Pottery, October (Mike Boyes)

Bourton & District U3A Executive Committee 2023/24

Position	Name
Chairperson	Paul Clark
Secretary	June Renshaw
Treasurer	Diana White
Membership Secretary	David Tebbutt
Groups' Support	Rob Gorton
Equipment Officer & Beacon Lead	Ken Lamacraft
Publicity Officer	Neil Cox
Assistance Officer	Steve McHale
<u>Posts Available</u>	
Webmaster	
Speaker Secretary	
<u>Non-Committee</u>	
Editor	Christine Gorton
Refreshment Team Leader	David Prout

Getting in Touch

To contact any Group Organisers, please go to the "Groups Page", click on the "Group" you are interested in and then click on the "Bird Icon." This will allow you to email the Group Organiser.

If you wish to contact anybody who is mentioned but is not listed as a Group Organiser, please use the "contact page" on the website. The message is then passed on to them.

Alternatively you can ring :

07783 235320