

# Cheddar Valley **News**

## u3a

**Aug / Sept 2022**

Volume 28 Issue 4

Registered Charity 1040522

[www.u3a.org.uk](http://www.u3a.org.uk)



<https://u3asites.org.uk/cheddar-valley>

Facebook Page: @cheddarvalleyu3a



**The CVU3A Rock Band performing at the  
Cheddar Community Platinum Jubilee Picnic**

*Thanks to Alan Anderson for the photograph.*



## Chairmans' Chat

Summer continues on apace, and nearly 200 members enjoyed our garden party on the Old Vicarage lawn beside Cheddar Church on 16th June. A hard-working band of volunteers erected gazebos and carried tables and chairs across from the Village Hall,



and we were blessed with perfect weather for the occasion. There was a most interesting display of royal memorabilia produced by various people, a lovely lunch was laid on and the response to the challenge to come up with decorated cakes was amazing. Truly scrumptious and varied examples turned up and the winner – a very close decision – is pictured in the newsletter, together with its vegan recipe, as requested by the people lucky enough to eat some of it.

The next U3A event is the Speaker Meeting on Thursday 1st September in the Catholic Church Hall, Tweekentown, a change from the usual venue which was not available. Tea and coffee is served at 2.00 pm and the talk by Andrew Powell-Thomas starts at 2.30 pm. He is an author who will be talking about the hidden gems of Somerset. There is no charge and everyone is welcome. The Coffee Morning on Thursday 15th September will be in Cheddar Village Hall as usual.

Wedmore is hosting a "Well-being Day" on Saturday 17th September. Our U3A will be represented, alongside other organisations from the area, from 9.30 am to 2.30 pm. If you are in Wedmore that day, come and have a look at the activities and support available.

There is also the Group Leaders' Lunch on Saturday 24th September, to which Group Leaders will receive an invitation.

We are so lucky to have the freedom to roam and mingle in our balmy summer weather and should spare a thought for those with less good fortune. The Cheddar Valley is hosting a number of Ukrainian refugees who are with us until such time as it's safe for them to return home. They are having to learn a new language and strange customs while battling

homesickness and worry about those left behind. Some U3A members are helping with this initiative and we wish them well.

We hope you are enjoying the summer, and looking forward to a renewed programme of U3A activities in the autumn.

Best Wishes,

**Helen Batt and Christine Barker**

**Joint Chair CVU3A**

## **Welcome**

Susan Beer

June Pinker

Lyn Grimason

Paul Tubman

Roger Grimason

Rachel Watts

David Hart

Pamela Weston

Elaine Morley

**We wish all these new members  
a very warm welcome to our U3A**

## **Calling Winscombe members!**

Would you like a bi-monthly walk around your village to deliver a dozen or so printed CVU3A Newsletters to fellow members? That's only six times each year!

**REWARD:** Exercise plus a glow of satisfaction for helping your U3A!  
*(Other means of transport can be used.)*

Please contact Helen Batt to volunteer. Tel:

## **Monthly Meetings with Speakers**

A programme of varied, informative and enjoyable talks is arranged from September to June. The meetings are held on the first Thursday afternoons of most months, usually at Cheddar Village Hall, but check the venue for each talk in the newsletter. Meetings start at 2.00 pm when tea and coffee will be served, followed by the talk, which will begin at 2.30 pm. There is no charge and visitors and guests are welcome.

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**Thursday 1st September at 2.00 pm for 2.30 pm  
at the Catholic Church Hall**

*Please note the change of venue.*

### **"The Fifty Gems of Somerset"**

**Andrew Powell-Thomas**

Andrew is a Somerset based author who writes children's fiction, military history and local heritage books amongst other activities. He has been invited to tell us about *The Fifty Gems of Somerset*. Many you may know but there may be some surprising finds too.

Famous for its rolling countryside, Somerset is a county full of natural beauty, with glorious beaches, jagged coastline, varied hills and vast open spaces. It is also full of legend and history, with castles, abbeys and bustling towns. Nowadays modern day celebrations of the Bridgwater Carnival and the world-renowned Glastonbury Festival also feature in this journey to the natural and man-made gems that make Somerset special.

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**Thursday 6th October at 2.00 pm for 2.30 pm  
at Cheddar Village Hall**

Speaker to be confirmed.

# **Membership Notices**

## **1) Membership**

Since the last Newsletter, we have welcomed 9 new members to Cheddar U3A.

## **2) Membership Renewals**

Thank you all who responded to our final reminder to renew their membership, so that the 100 that we had not heard from has now been reduced to 62.

Those 62 have now been deleted from our data base, as three months overdue on their subscriptions and so assumed to have resigned.

Any of those whose data has been deleted who wish to re-join, will need to make a fresh application with a form available from Mary Evans.

## **3) Ann Filer resignation as Membership Secretary**

Ann Filer will be resigning as Membership Secretary as from the end of August.

*Please note:* From sometime in July, Round Robins to all members will be coming from Mary Evans, whose email is:

Mary's contact telephone number can be found on the Management Committee list at the back of this Newsletter.

**Ann Filer and Mary Evans**

**Membership Secretaries**

## Group Liaison

**German Group Update:** This group, led by Ken Brown, meets on Wednesday mornings from 10.00 am until 11.30 am/12 noon on the first, third and fifth Wednesdays upstairs in Cheddar Library and on the second and fourth Wednesdays on Zoom.

They do German Crosswords (usually children's), read a German book or short story and often talk about things that are going on – sometimes things in our lives, what we have been doing recently etc and sometimes world events. They are pleased to welcome new members, but do need them to have a basic knowledge of the language. They cannot unfortunately take on beginners.

**Canasta:** The Canasta Group is now up and running under the new leadership of Alex Smith and welcomes additional members. His contact details can be found in the Group Meetings Timetable towards the end of the Newsletter.

Would anyone be interested in starting a **new Cooking Group** - perhaps to include recipes that men would find interesting? If so please let me know and I will forward on the information.

**Super Seniors at Kings Leisure Centre:** I now have an ongoing list of U3A members interested in going along to either of the two classes at our excellent Leisure Centre. These are detailed in the email circulated to all members in June by Barry Coppard. Details are also included on page 31. Please let me know if you would like to add your name.

**Solos:** Please note that Myra Derrick has now handed over the reins of this popular group to Julie Baker and Brenda Baldwin and their details can be found in the Group Meetings Timetable towards the end of the Newsletter and in the Group News section.

**Lynne Hamlyn**      Group Liaison Officer

Email:

## Coffee Mornings

Reminder - there will be **no Coffee Morning in August.**

Our **September Coffee Morning**, on the 15th, will be at the normal time, from 10.00 am to 11.30 am, in Cheddar Village Hall.

**Jigsaw Puzzles** - Sue Davey, who kept many of us going through Lockdown and beyond, by running a very successful Jigsaw Puzzle Exchange Group from home, will, from September, also have a table at Coffee Mornings - so please bring your puzzles along, and hopefully, find a couple to take home.

**Barry Coppard**    Coffee Morning Co-ordinator

### *DATES FOR YOUR DIARY*

August - NO SPEAKER MEETING

August - NO COFFEE MORNING

Thursday September 1st – Speaker Meeting in **Catholic Hall  
(behind Catholic Church) Tweentown, Cheddar**  
**(note change of venue)**  
2.00 pm for 2.30 pm.

Thursday September 15th - Coffee Morning at Cheddar Village Hall from 10.00 am to 11.30 am.

Thursday October 6th - Speaker Meeting at Cheddar Village Hall,  
2.00 pm for 2.30 pm

Thursday October 20th - Coffee Morning at Cheddar Village Hall  
from 10.00 am to 11.30 am.

## **Jigsaw Exchange Group - Good news for the autumn**

The Jigsaw Exchange Group has proved to be very popular, with over 120 puzzles in circulation which are available for exchange on a weekly basis. Like most groups the day does not suit everyone. From September I will have a table at Coffee Mornings, on the third Thursday of the month, in addition to the current arrangement.

I will bring a selection of 500 and 1000 piece puzzles for you to choose from. You do not have to bring one to make an "exchange" but if you have one which has been finished, is complete and you no longer want please feel free to donate it to the Group. All our puzzles are sanitised after making up and before bagging and returning for someone else to use, so they are all nice and clean without coffee drips or cake crumbs in the box. (Don't ask!)

I would request that you join the Group by giving me your email address and permission to keep your details, as per Data Protection Regulations, for use only as a member of the Jigsaw Exchange Group, if you are not already on my list. I send out a weekly email to members of the Group advising of opening times, new puzzles and any other updates.

**Sue Davey**

Email:

### **Submission of material for our next issue**

Submissions for the October / November 2022 edition  
should be sent to the Newsletter Editor:

**Sue Bathe,**

**cheddar.u3anews@yahoo.co.uk**

**DEADLINE: Friday 16th September**

**For further information see page 58.**



## Day Trippers' Group

The next event is the Day Trip to Windsor on Wednesday 12th October 2022, cost of the trip is £23 per person including tip. This is a popular request, book early.

Full details are on the Booking Form on page 11.

## U3A Holiday to Kent

The Holiday to Kent starts on 14th May 2023 for 5 days; which includes staying at The Best Western Abbots Barton Hotel with landscaped gardens, approximately 15 minutes walk from the city centre of Canterbury.

Details of the itinerary and price based on 35 people going are shown on pages 13 and 14.

For a booking form contact Shirley Vincent on

## Snowdonia Holiday May 2022

Day Trippers enjoyed an excellent holiday to Llanberris in Snowdonia. In the past on all our holidays we have enjoyed really good weather but this one was looking as though we would have a lot of rain and it would be quite chilly. Yes we did have some rain and it was occasionally cool but we had some really lovely days with sunny spells at times when it really mattered.

The coach set out from Cheddar to travel to Berrington Hall (National Trust) for a couple of hours to enjoy a break for lunch, stretch our legs and explore the house, parkland area and gardens. It is situated in Leominster, Herefordshire.



Rosemary Edwards dressing up  
at Berrington Court  
*Thanks to Pam Padfield for the  
photograph*

From here we travelled to the hotel where we were welcomed with tea and coffee by really friendly staff.

The Royal Victoria Hotel was set in its own beautiful grounds boasting a ruined castle and lovely walks and gardens. A quite imposing building on arrival, but most welcoming and cheerful.



Part of Caernarfon Castle

After breakfast the following day we did a very short journey by coach to the Llanberis Railway and boarded the train to admire the wonderful lakeland scenery. Sadly Snowdon railway was off the agenda due to rail repairs and little facilities available for us. Following our ride we visited the Slate Museum, a fascinating history, full of artefacts to explore. We had lunch and time to walk near the lake and surrounding area before walking back to the hotel for dinner. Some members discovered a beautiful waterfall about a 20 minute walk from the hotel.

The following day was one of the highlights of the trip, visiting Portmeirion, the famous Italianate village designed by William Ellis, probably made more famous by the TV series *The Prisoner*. The sun shone for us highlighting the beauty and colour of the villas. The views across the gardens and ponds made for lovely photographs.

*The Snowdonia Holiday report is continued on page 15.*

Statue of Hercules at Portmeirion



# CHEDDAR VALLEY u3a DAY TRIPPERS



## Windsor

### Wednesday 12th October 2022

The cost of this trip is £23 per person including tip.

**PLEASE MAKE YOUR CHEQUE PAYABLE TO:**

**CHEDDAR VALLEY U3A SOCIAL FUND**

**To book a seat please send completed form together with your cheque to: Margaret Woodliffe at**

**. Tel:**

**email:**

Full Name: .....

Mobile No: .....(for emergency contact on the day)

Address: .....

.....

Email: .....

Membership No: ..... Tel No: .....

(If you do not have an email address please enclose a stamped addressed envelope)

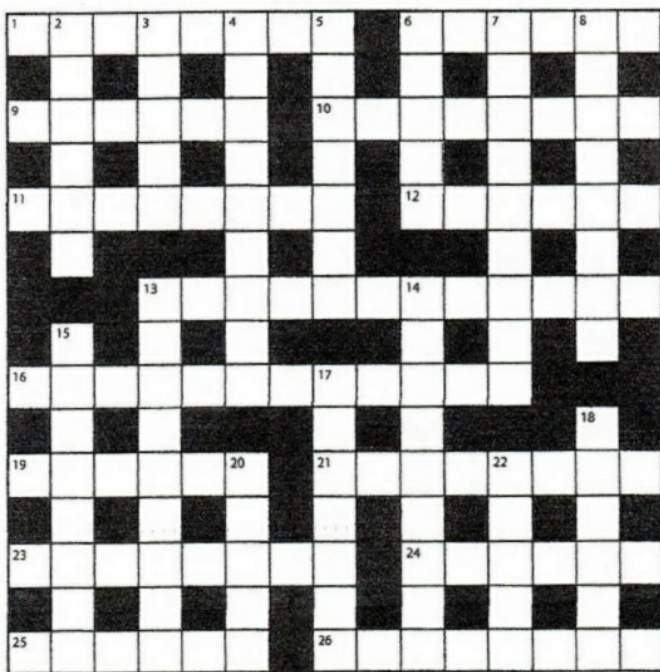
I would like to be picked up at: (please indicate):

**Bus Stop Bottom of Tweentown ..... Axbridge Town Hall .....**

Departure times will be advised later.

**Payment enclosed: Cheque £ ..... Cheque No. ....**

**Please note** that should you wish to cancel your seat once the coach is booked, no refunds can be given unless a replacement can be found.



## ACROSS

1. Come upon (8)
6. Water crafts (6)
9. Groom (6)
10. Chemin-de-Fer (8)
11. Haughty (8)
12. Anticipates (6)
13. Nice stint son (anag) (12)
16. A miss upon Rio (anag) (12)
19. Improve (6)
21. Proclaims loudly (8)
23. Emphasises (8)
24. Visit (6)
25. Thoughtless (6)
26. Suspended (8)

## DOWN

2. Safeguard (6)
3. Musical instrument (5)
4. "Woody" leafed plant (9)
5. Winter apple (7)
6. Plant type (5)
7. Variety of bread (9)
8. Browning (8)
13. Penniless (9)
14. Inject (9)
15. Maternal (8)
17. Girl's name (7)
18. Cultural (6)
20. Squander (5)
22. Flatbread (5)

*Thanks to Barry Ede for creating  
this crossword.*

Solution is on page 28.



## Cheddar U3A

# Kent



Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2023 / 5 days

### HOLIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

Lovely hotel in Canterbury

Visit to Chatham Dockyard

Visit to Leeds Castle

Visit to Chartwell\*

### CHOSEN HOTEL

Set within landscaped gardens around 10-15 minutes' walk from Canterbury city centre, the **Best Western**

#### **Abbots Barton Hotel**

dates back to 1830. The

53 bedrooms are all unique in shape, size and décor, but all are equipped with a TV, hairdryer and tea/coffee making facilities. The restaurant serves modern British cuisine using fresh, seasonal ingredients sourced locally. The bar area has many original features including beautiful gothic windows while the adjoining Garden Room and Library offer comfortable surroundings to enjoy a relaxing drink. There is also a pleasant garden terrace. Porterage is included.

The hotel offers a 3 menu with 3 choices per course with choices made at dinner with tea/coffee and a full breakfast with hot and cold dishes.



## **Provisional Itinerary**

**Sunday** – Travel to Canterbury via Windsor for lunch and free time

**Monday** - Chatham Dockyard

The Dockyard was once the country's largest and most important industrial site. Today its surviving Slips, big enough to protect mighty warships; and magnificent Mast Houses, long enough to store ships masts as tall as 90ft, mean there is no shortage of space and fresh air around our 80-acre heritage estate.

**Tuesday** – Visit to Faversham in the morning followed by free time in Canterbury

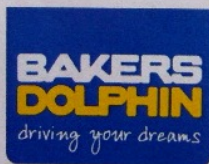
**Wednesday** – Visit to Leeds Castle. Known by some to be "The loveliest Castle in the World" 5 miles southeast of Maidstone. It is built on islands in a lake formed by the River Len to the east of the village of Leeds. A castle has existed on the site since 1119,

**Thursday** – Return Home via Chartwell (Former Home of Churchill)  
(\*National Trust entrance payable if non-member) on the way home.

### **Price**

**£565**

**Single Room supplement £75 for the duration.**



Issued 9/6/2022

## **Snowdonia Holiday** - continued from page 10.

The final trip was to Blaenau Ffestiniog Railway, an excursion from Betws-y-Coed and ending in Porthmadog to visit the castle and coast.

On two evenings we had entertainment, plus one evening Shirley Vincent organised a quiz for us all, no prizes but a lot of fun and taxed our tired brains or were they befuddled?

Thursday we travelled home and spent some time in Shrewsbury for lunch and a browse before continuing the journey home.



Steam train at  
Ffestiniog Railway station



Shrewsbury

The committee had very good feedback about the members' experience on the holiday and declared it a great success.

Shirley would like to thank all members for the garden token she received and she will enjoy putting it to great use.

*Thank you to Mary Evans for the photographs.*

Mary Evans, Anthea Raines  
and Jean Hopkins  
at the entrance to Portmeirion





## **Day Trip to Dorchester and Weymouth**

Wednesday 29th June, the first day trip of the year, and it started to rain! We picked up in Cheddar and Axbridge and had a full complement of passengers.

By the time we arrived in Dorchester the sun was shining and we all dispersed in various directions to visit shops and museums or look for coffee and cake or lunch. Several hours were spent here before moving on to Weymouth, again in lovely sunshine, the tide was in, the sand and sea looked glorious. It all looked so colourful, one member even braved a paddle.

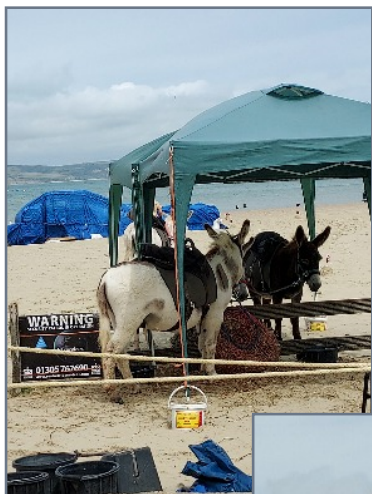
Prior to returning to the coach several congregated in a cafe for tea and scones with cream and jam and a chat. All seemed happy to have had a very successful and sunny day out. We later learned it had poured with rain in Cheddar all day.

## **Thank you**

The committee would like to say a huge thank you to all U3A members who support our day trips and holidays, for being prompt for departure there and back. It makes things run so smoothly.

**Mary Evans** on behalf of the committee





A sunny day in  
Weymouth



*Thanks to  
Mary Evans  
for the photographs*



## **Cheddar Community Picnic to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee**

Many CVU3A members enjoyed this celebration on 3rd June, and two CVU3A groups provided some of the entertainment.

The Handbell Group, shown below, were much appreciated, and were followed by the Rock Band, whose performance was highly praised and had people dancing in the aisles, as shown on the next page.





### *Thank you note from the Editor*

I received 40 photos of the Community Picnic and 30 photos of the Garden Party from which to select a few to feature in this newsletter.

Thank you to: Alan Anderson, Geoff Bathe, Barry Coppard, Mary Evans, Margaret Farnie, Lynne Hamlyn and Frances Snelling.



## CVU3A Garden Party

The CVU3A Garden Party on 16th June, to celebrate our Queen's Platinum Jubilee together with 40 glorious years of U3A in the UK, was a great success, and was much enjoyed by the many members who attended. It was held on the Old Vicarage lawn and nearly 200 people attended.

The appreciative comments included: a lovely "English" setting, super food, amazing cakes made by members, and plenty of sunshine.

Jan Fenner sent the following note of thanks to all the Committee, organisers and helpers, and I am sure her sentiments are echoed by many:

"I just wanted to say thank you for a wonderful afternoon. My friends and I all really enjoyed it. The food was delicious and such variety; the cakes were very, very tasty.

The Vicarage Garden makes for a beautiful setting; we are very fortunate to be allowed to use it. Even the weather obliged, although I'm not sure if you can claim credit for that.

A lot of work went into the afternoon, so very many thanks to all involved. Plus, it was free!

Have a good rest,

Jan Fenner"









A few of the many happy participants at the CVU3A Garden Party





*The Winner of the Jubilee Decorated Cake Competition was Peta Burns, with this vegan chocolate cake, beautifully embellished with summer fruits.*



Following the great success of our garden party on 16th June a number of people have asked for the recipe of the fantastic prizewinning vegan chocolate cake, made by Peta Burns. Here it is, with our thanks!

### **Vegan Chocolate Cake**

300 ml vegan milk (soy, oat, almond etc)  
1 tablespoon lemon juice  
150g vegan butter  
3 tablespoons golden syrup  
1 teaspoon coffee granules (optional, but it enhances the chocolate flavour)



275g plain flour  
175g sugar  
4 tablespoons unsweetened cocoa powder  
3 teaspoons baking powder  
1 teaspoon bicarbonate of soda

**For the frosting (make double to cover the sides as well)**

75g vegan butter  
200g icing sugar  
4 tablespoons unsweetened cocoa powder  
2 tablespoons water

**Method**

1. Preheat oven to 180C/160C fan. Lightly grease 2 x 8" round cake tins
2. Stir the lemon juice into the milk and set aside to thicken and curdle slightly.
3. Melt the butter, syrup and coffee in a pan over a medium heat. Set aside to cool slightly.
4. Sift the flour, cocoa, sugar, baking powder and bicarb into a bowl and mix well.
5. Pour the milk mixture over the flour mixture and stir well until it becomes a smooth batter.

**Do not overbeat at this stage.**

6. Divide the mixture between the two tins and bake for 30 to 35 minutes or until an inserted skewer comes out clean.
7. Allow the cakes to cool in the tin for 5 minutes, then turn out onto a rack to cool completely.
8. Meanwhile, beat all the frosting ingredients together till smooth, and when the cakes are completely cold sandwich together with half the icing and spread the rest over the top of the cake.

Peta uses Flora Plant Based Block Butter which is available in most large supermarkets in 250g blocks.

She uses smaller tins, which makes a deeper cake.

## HOMES FOR UKRAINE

Many of you will know that Penelope and I are hosting a family from Ukraine and we have been surprised by the amount of interest that this has generated. I thought a short piece about the process we have gone through and our experiences, whilst maintaining the privacy of our guests, might help everyone to understand what is involved and may prompt others to take the plunge.

Our journey started with a letter from the church asking for people to help Ukrainians fleeing the war in their country. It asked for volunteers at a number of levels starting with offering a space in your home through meeting the incomers at the airport, providing food and clothing, to providing money for their journeys. We started at the bottom of the list with the easy options but quickly found ourselves asking the question “why shouldn’t we offer to host a family?” To which the answer was “why not!”.

We have already done bed and breakfast in the past and so the idea of having strangers in our home was not too daunting but we were careful to consider all aspects of the commitment. We thought through the size and make-up of the family that we could cope with and concluded that a mother with one or two school aged children was what we would feel most comfortable with. We discounted smokers and pets. We also thought about the longer-term implications and quickly realised it might involve cancelling our holiday planned for late May (which it eventually did). Committing to a minimum six-month stay can’t be taken lightly.

The next stage was to register on the government’s “Homes for Ukraine” website and to get in touch with a potential family. This we did via a charity “Love Bristol” who had volunteers on the ground at a reception centre in Poland who were able to do the matching process, pairing a family’s needs with the potential host (Were we happy with a mother and 9-year-old daughter, vegetarians? Were they happy with an older married couple?) and helping with the visa application process. Since this application took place online, it could be completed either from Poland or from the UK but involved a sharing of passport details to allow the Home Office to vet both applicants and hosts. Then there was the wait!

We felt quite helpless. Our family were stuck in a derelict Tesco supermarket in Przemyśl (pronounce that if you can!). We’d spoken to

them on WhatsApp and were amazed at their calm resilience but seeing the cramped surroundings made us keen to get them to the UK. All we could do was register with Somerset County Council who needed to check our home was suitable and to fill in forms for a DBS Check, all necessary steps before hosting was confirmed.

Meanwhile, a couple from Cheddar were travelling to Poland delivering medical supplies and helping wherever they could and offered our family support and a lift back to UK if approval was granted. It took around two weeks for the first visa application to be approved and permission to travel to be given, but this was only for the mother. The daughter's application stalled and almost 3 weeks later a decision needed to be made whilst the lift was still available. So, it was decided to risk setting off without the necessary paperwork. It was a three-day drive to Calais and became more stressful the closer they got. It took emails to our MP and contacting the local media before eventually the long-awaited email arrived, but not before we had driven to Calais to meet them, expecting to have to stay in a hotel in limbo until permission to enter UK was granted. But all was well and we arrived in Cheddar on 10th May.

Since then, we have spent lots of time with a plethora of form filling and giving lifts for meetings. A welfare check in Bridgwater, a trip to Kingswood to provide biometric data, another to Shepton Mallet with our DBS certificates and two more to Wells for the Job Centre to register for Universal Credit and to meet up with a Jobs Coach; none of these things we had done before. We needed to apply to register at the Medical Centre and to get the daughter into school. Our biggest revelation has probably been the availability of Apps to translate both written and spoken words from one language to another; both Say Hi and Google Translate are amazingly easy to work with and have proved a lifeline, especially translating all the forms from English to Ukrainian and back again.

What has been really encouraging is how kind everyone has been to our guest and the many other Ukrainian families who have arrived. From Deanes who have provided free school uniforms, the Leisure Centre offering free membership, Vodafone giving free SIM cards and other groups setting up "Meet and greets" so Ukrainian families and hosts can meet each other. Employers have been welcoming and our guests have been keen to work. We now have a small, but still growing, Ukrainian community in our midst, busy learning English and getting on with their lives whilst missing family and friends back home.

Two months down the line, we have no regrets; their English is improving, though not our Ukrainian, our knowledge of vegetarian cookery has expanded exponentially. The initially very slow bureaucracy has run its course and life has become routine. We've just had a delayed nine days holiday and came home to a spotlessly clean house and a well-stocked fridge, nothing less than we would have expected from guests who are quiet, respectful and undemanding. We are so pleased we took the plunge.

**John Morgan**

## **CROSSWORD SOLUTION**

### **ACROSS**

1. Discover
6. Yachts
9. Ostler
10. Baccarat
11. Arrogant
12. Awaits
13. Inconsistent
16. Parsimonious
19. Mellow
21. Trumpets
23. Stresses
24. Attend
25. Blithe
26. Abeyance

### **DOWN**

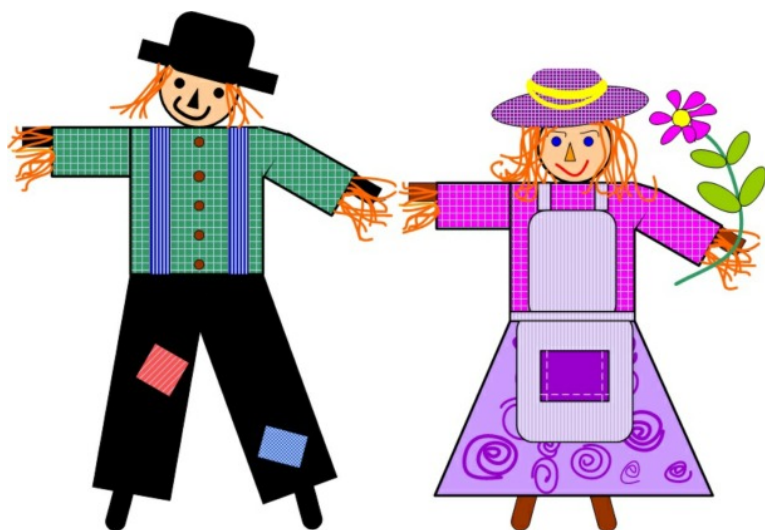
2. Insure
3. Cello
4. Verbascum
5. Ribston
6. Yucca
7. Chapattis
8. Toasting
13. Insolvent
14. Inoculate
15. Parental
17. Natasha
18. Ethnic
20. Waste
22. Pitta

## COMMUNITY NEWS

This Community News section of the Newsletter includes short specific items of local interest or about people and places which are indirectly linked to the Cheddar Valley U3A.

### Cheddar Scarecrow Trail 2022

from Saturday 6th August to Saturday 20th August.



Scarecrow Trail Maps will be available in early August from Cheddar Library, Katie Boo, Woodbury Insurance, Time Out, Hansford's Deli or Maunders. Also Cheddar Bikes, which is open on Sundays.

For a pdf of the Trail Map contact the Cheddar Flower Show Facebook Page or email

### **THERE IS (JUST) STILL TIME TO ENTER A SCARECROW**

The deadline for registering your location has been extended to midnight on **Sunday 31st July.**

Flyers are available at the locations listed above, or contact Cheddar Flower Show Facebook Page or email as above.



## **Softer Sessions FOR SUPER SENIORS**

**Over 50? Feel  
overwhelmed at the  
thought of starting a  
new fitness journey?**

With endless benefits to maintaining an active lifestyle throughout all stages of life, we at Kings feel passionately about making this possible for all. These gentle classes aim to provide a safe, fun and social environment in which people can familiarise themselves with the team and facilities at Kings and take that first step towards a more active lifestyle.



Find out more at [www.kingsfitness.co.uk](http://www.kingsfitness.co.uk)

## **Kings Fitness and Leisure Centre, Cheddar**

### **Softer Sessions for Super Seniors! - Activities and Times**

#### ***FitSteps***

***Tuesdays 11.30am in Studio 3 with Paula Stitch (starting 7th June)***

This is an energetic, upbeat dance fitness class featuring all of your favourite Strictly dances! It is for everyone. Fun fitness that does not involve a partner.

Included in Gold membership. £5.50 standard/£5 concession for non-members.

#### ***Soft Circuits***

***Thursdays 11.30 am in Studio 3 with Sarah Ford (starting 9th June)***

A gentle exercise session focusing on balance, strength, mobility, fitness & fun.

Included in Gold membership. £5.50 standard/£5 concession for non-members.

\*\*\*\*\*

Not all of us feel comfortable attending an activity on our own, but if you would be interested in going in a group, please contact Lynne Hamlyn, Group Liaison,

## **Recycling News Update**

**Empty blister pack recycling:** This has been discontinued at the local Sainsburys, and the U3A cannot find an alternative local distributor. Thank you to all who supported this in aid the Marie Curie charity but unfortunately we cannot continue. If you already have some at home then it might be possible to personally hand them into a Superdrug store which has a pharmacy within.

**Janet Hillman**



## **Cheddar Flower Show**

**Saturday 20th August at 2.00 pm in Cheddar Village Hall.**

**Refreshments, Raffle and Tombola.**

The Show is open to all Exhibitors, so even if you do not live in Cheddar you are welcome to enter.

Printed copies of the Show Schedule are available from Cheddar Library, Katie Boo, Woodbury Insurance, Time Out, Hansford's Deli or Maunders. For a pdf of the Schedule contact the Cheddar Flower Show Facebook Page or email .

**So know your onions, count your tomatoes and admire your roses and sweet peas before going to the kitchen to bake cakes, grab a jar or two of jam then check your art folder, choose some photographs and raid your craft cupboard for entries. There are ten classes for children too.**

*Or just relax and come along in the afternoon to enjoy the displays of produce and admire the exhibits with a cup of tea and cake!*



## Group News

*This section of the Newsletter brings you news of what our various groups have been doing recently. Not every group has an entry in every newsletter, but all established groups and group leaders are shown in the tables on pages 54 to 57.*

### Bridge Group (Wednesday)

We meet every week from 2.00 pm to 5.00 pm and enjoy a tea break halfway through the afternoon. We are a very sociable group and have become great friends. We meet in each other's homes and manage two tables each week. We play very friendly Rubber Bridge, but cannot accommodate beginners.

Our friend and long standing Member of the Wednesday Bridge Group, Barbara Roberts, passed away on 29th June 2022. She was a dear friend and will be greatly missed by the Group members. She joined U3A 27 years ago and has been involved in several activities over the years. Our sympathy goes out to her husband, John.

**Stasia Taylor**

Group Leader

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### Canasta Group

The Canasta Group has started meeting again between 2.00 pm and 4.00 pm on the second and fourth Mondays of each month in the side room at Cheddar Village Hall. New members, including beginners, are very welcome to join this friendly group. For those who have never played before Canasta is a card game ideally suited for partnered groups of four but can also be played with three or even two players. It can be played at a fun level relying primarily on the turn of the cards but players will develop skills based on tactics and memory. We have a coffee break half way through the meeting allowing social contact.

We will not be meeting in August but are back again Monday 12th September. If you would like any more information feel free to phone or email me.

**Alex Smith** Tel.

## Cardaholics

We are still continuing to enjoy our card making on the second Thursday of each month until I move. Is there anyone who would like to take over the Cardaholics? It has been running since 2005. No one in the group can take it on, but unless a new leader is found in the next two months I'm afraid it will close.

**Myra Derrick**

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## Classic Films Group

The Classic Films Group will resume meeting on Monday 5th September, 2.00 pm at Hannah More Cottage, North Street, Cheddar. We will start with a royal film, in keeping with the Platinum Jubilee theme of this year(!), and will watch Charles Laughton playing *The Private Life of Henry VIII*, the 1933 film for which Laughton won an Oscar. The programme for the coming season will be outlined at that first meeting. All U3A members are welcome to attend the film group, and we have to charge £2 per person to cover the rental of the hall. I do hope you can join us on 5th September.

**Helen Batt**

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## Crafte

The Crafte group still meet on the fourth Thursday of the month, but there seems to be a lot going on on that day, so the numbers have been low lately.

Is there anybody willing to take over this group? If a new leader is not found in the next two months I'm afraid Crafte will have to close.

**Myra Derrick**

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## Greek Group

When I introduced this new topic, I knew it would probably not be a runaway favourite as the Greek language is such a challenge for most of us. What with its different alphabet, complex grammar and tricky pronunciation, no wonder we have the expression "It's all Greek to me!".

But with so many of us enjoying a holiday in Greece, I thought it could be fun to have a go in order to make more sense of street signs, maps, menus and to be able to ask simple questions (whether one understands the answer is another thing!).

A brave lady called Elaine stepped forth and kindly offered to host at her home and our first meeting was just the two of us on 12th April.

We agreed to meet fortnightly and by our second meeting we were joined by Chris, your new co-chair. (These two courageous souls are shown in the photograph.)

We have continued to meet fortnightly on Tuesday mornings and we all enjoy our sessions which are relaxed and informal.



**Stella Zingas** Tel:  
Email:

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## Great Lives Group

If you're fascinated by characters from the past then Great Lives Group is the one for you. We meet in Cheddar Village Hall on the fourth Tuesday of each month, at 2.00 pm to discuss this month's "Great Life" chosen from the back editions of more than 500 Great Lives programmes available on BBC Sounds. Importantly, we have all listened in advance to the programme which gives us a great starting point for further personal

study, if we feel the subject warrants it. We aim to have as wide a range of subjects as possible and thus interest everyone.

In May, it was the turn of Josiah Wedgwood, recently described as the Steve Jobs of his day. Born into a family of potters, he immediately showed skill on the wheel but at a young age was struck down by smallpox which left him with a permanently weakened knee and unable to operate the wheel's foot pedal. But, rather than give up, he turned his hand to design and experimentation. Through time spent with others he learned all about pottery process and became the foremost innovator in the field. Ultimately he was one of the wealthiest entrepreneurs of the 18th century, introducing such concepts as a money back guarantee, buy one get one free, free delivery, direct mail and illustrated catalogues, enabling him to export to royalty and the middle classes world-wide. Yet he was an enlightened employer who cared for his workforce. Undoubtedly, a Great Life.

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In June the person in the spotlight was Noor Khan, the Indian Princess who lost her life whilst working as a spy in France in 1944. During our enthusiastic discussion, the question arose as to what makes a great life and to whom the honour of being thought of as having had a Great Life should be granted. Two members of our group did not think she should be referred to as a Great Life.

Noor Khan was a Muslim Princess born in Russia in 1914. Her family emigrated to England at the beginning of the First World War and later settled in Paris where she remained until 1939.

In 1939 Noor joined the WAAF and trained as a Morse code operator. After a year she joined the newly formed SOE (Special Operations Executive) which had been put in place by Sir Winston Churchill to work behind the scenes in France, in order to prevent further numbers of espionage agents being killed, within days of arriving in the country.

Noor was the first woman radio operator to be sent to France and there was some disagreement as to whether she was suitable for the job. She was aware of the dangerous missions she was going to undertake but was determined to go ahead, in order to stop the subjugation of the European people by the Nazis. Noor was eventually parachuted into

France after she was fitted with a special parachute, as due to being very petite the regulation ones were too big for her. Within days of her arrival all of the British Agents working with the French Resistance network known as "Prosper" were captured by the Nazis. She assumed the name of Jeanne-Marie Renier and posed as a children's nurse; her code name was Madeleine.

Due to the dangerous nature of the mission few agents lived in the field for more than 3 weeks before either being captured or killed. Noor Khan was at one time doing the job of 6 operators. During the four months that she was working with the Resistance the lives of 30 airmen were saved as a result of her relentless determination to get them out of France. Sadly, Noor was betrayed by a French woman informer working within network "Prosper". She was captured by the Gestapo and taken to 84 Avenue Foch in Paris, which at that time had become the headquarters of the Gestapo, the sixth floor having been converted into torture rooms and cells. Several attempts were made by Noor to escape and she was eventually sent to a prison in Poland where she was beaten but never once betrayed any of her colleagues.

With WW2 drawing to a close, Himmler ordered that several women prisoners, including Noor, be sent to Dachau concentration camp. Four women, including Noor, were to be shot on the morning of 13th September 1944 and the night before her death she was beaten mercilessly by the prison guards. One person who was there said: "although she had almost been beaten to death she never cracked under the torture or revealed any information". As she knelt on the ground her last word was "Liberte". She was 30 years old.

Does Noor Khan deserve the accolade of being called a Great Life? Of course she does. Moreover, she should be called a hero, as far as I am concerned, she is definitely one of my heroes.

If you're interested in finding out more about great figures in history and more recent, why not join the conversation. Ring me for the programme link and get stuck in.

**John Morgan** Tel:

## Handbell Group

The Handbell Group were invited to ring at the Cheddar Parish Jubilee picnic. Due to other commitments from some members of the group we managed to have about 15 of the team join us to ring. We were asked to ring inside the new Pavilion but chose to play outside instead so that people could see us. I thought, rightly as it turned out, that once happily settled on their chairs or picnic rugs etc. in their family / friend groups, most people would probably stay put. So no-one could hear us but we could at least be seen. It was an interesting experience! We also did battle with the wind blowing our music and music stands. At least they didn't end up being blown onto the roof like one of the gazebos, which was eventually brought down by the Army Cadets!

We have continued to meet twice monthly in the new Catholic Church Hall but will take a break in August, ready to get going again in September.

**Margaret Farnie**

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## History Group

We have now completed our study of the 1850's decade in Victorian England and farther afield.

Recent topics include crime and punishment; we learnt that arsenic poisoning was a favourite method of disposing of unwanted partners and wealthy relatives! Punishments ranged from imprisonment under the "separate system" (when the prisoner was kept in solitude and forbidden to speak) to transportation and in extreme murder cases public execution. We read the letter sent to *The Times* by Charles Dickens who, after watching the public hanging of the notorious husband and wife killers the Mannings, condemned such public hangings and their use as popular entertainment.

Further to our study of public health we looked again at the cholera epidemic of 1854 and the research of John Snow who traced the outbreak to the Broad Street pump in Soho where sewage was contaminating the water supply. Queen Victoria also had reason to be grateful to John Snow

when he administered chloroform as an anaesthetic to her during the births of her last two children.

After a break for the summer period we resume in the autumn and propose to spend a few meetings discussing the 1950's period, a decade of which all of us have personal experience!

We would be pleased to welcome one or two new members to the group. Please contact me by phone or email if you might be interested.

**Heather Davey** Tel:

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## Industrial History

After a couple of inoperative years, like many other groups post-Covid we are set to put ourselves back on track.

We duly held the Relaunch Meeting at the Catholic Church Hall on Tuesday 12th July. Those attending were unanimous in their enthusiasm for continuation of the Industrial History Group. The objective is therefore to get a few events onto the calendar for the autumn.

I wished to relinquish my post of Leader of the Group and I am pleased to report that Yvonne Brown and Claire Talbot have taken on the post as Joint Leaders.

This will therefore be my final reporting of the Group's activities and I would like to thank everyone who has helped the Industrial History Group over the last five years.

## David Woodliffe

Yvonne and Claire are looking forward to leading the Industrial History Group. New members will be very welcome.

**Yvonne Brown** Tel: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Claire Talbot** Tel:   
Email:

## Jigsaw Exchange Group

### Good news for the autumn.

The Jigsaw Exchange Group has proved to be very popular, with over 120 puzzles in circulation which are available for exchange on a weekly basis. Like most groups the day does not suit everyone. From September I will have a table at Coffee Mornings, on the third Thursday of the month, in addition to the current arrangement. For full details see page 8.

**Sue Davey**      Email:

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## Model Railway Group

I came back from holiday in July and found that Father Christmas seemed to have come early this year!



There was a bag of goodies on the doorstep containing **28** motors for changing points, a control panel with switches and a huge amount of wiring which should be enough to complete all wiring that will be required.

I had a phone call some six weeks or so ago from a U3A member who asked if the group would like a supply of Model Railway wiring that his mother had in Torquay and which he could collect when he next went there. Being rather overwhelmed with this offer I said "Yes Please" and then forgot to get his name! So, to whoever the donor is, very many thanks and please could you phone me as, on behalf of the group, I would like to personally thank you for the generous and most useful gift.

Progress has been slow since the last newsletter due to holidays and hot weather (90°F or 32°C in the Train Shed). Will try and do better for the next report.

**David Woodliffe**    Tel:



## Patchwork Group

The Patchwork Group were pleased and proud to have won a place for their patchwork and applique block to be included in the U3A's 40th Anniversary quilt. The grand unveiling of the quilt was in The Whitworth Art Gallery in Manchester in June. All the blocks look wonderful together with the unifying sashing and borders. It looks great as a representation of U3A endeavours across the country. Our block is on the second row from the top, second from the right. The most colourful of them all!?



Recently we've worked on our own projects, seeing members of the group discuss and make some amazing miniature quilts, beautiful Christmassy table runners and bed quilts too whilst also practising sewing curves and half-square triangles and free-motion quilting.

Before we break for the summer, in July, we'll be "dropping our feed-dogs" and we're going to have a go at free-motion quilting with thread and angelina fibres on dissolvable fabric, to create little baskets and bowls, followed by a picnic, in the sunshine, hopefully.

Next year we plan to create a black and white (with a tiny hint of colour) group quilt for Project Linus, perfecting our patchwork skills along the way.

**Wendy Booth-Boyd**

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## **Photography Group**

Summer at last and a reminder of the scorcher we had for the Jubilee Party last month. As Photography Group Leader it was a pleasure to meet lots of members who showed interest in our display of old darkroom equipment, cameras, and images from the 'Fifties. It was also lovely for me to meet committee members I had not met before. The food on display looked lovely, even if I just gazed at it from afar, as I was too late to book a ticket.

Thanks to Graham and other members of our group who contributed.

All is now very quiet with most of us enjoying the weather and beginning to venture further afield.

Our next meeting is at the beginning of August, when we will not be using Zoom for the first time, but continuing to use the TV monitor to show images that members can bring along on memory sticks for me to show via my laptop. Subjects, not surprisingly, will be "Jubilee" and any image of any subject but in red, white, or blue.

September date to be arranged.

For more information please contact Liz Fosbury on LL or email at .

**Liz Fosbury**

Liz Fosbury took this photograph of a juggler on stilts at her local Jubilee street party.



## Poetry Group

We have been looking at poems about gardens. As well as the well-known ones, such as *The Glory of the Garden* by Rudyard Kipling we found many others, both old and new. We learnt that the verse "The kiss of the sun for pardon, the song of the birds for mirth ..." which is frequently quoted is actually from a poem by Dorothy Francis Gurney. Perhaps the most interesting item was when one of our group produced a booklet produced by Cheddar Schools in 1997 which included a poem written by her granddaughter.

## Glenys Runciman

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## Rock Band

We've been busy since the lockdown ended, rehearsing weekly to catch up and prepare for the Christmas concert. This was postponed due to the Covid virus and eventually the "Evening with the Rock Band" went ahead in late March attracting an audience of over 80 people who seemed to enjoy themselves with some dancing towards the end. The retiring collection raised £170 for a local charity.



CVU3A members dancing to the Rock Band's music  
at the Cheddar Parish Jubilee Picnic



Following this successful gig we focused our rehearsals on preparation for the recent Jubilee Picnic on the Cheddar Playing Fields which attracted an audience of approximately 300. Some can be seen on the photographs on pages 19 and 44. We had some difficulty erecting the gazebo as a sudden gust of wind blew it over but it was retrieved and secured by the Cadets who gallantly rose to the occasion. All went well until half way through our second set when the rain came down which brought proceedings to an abrupt end. Despite this disappointment we enjoyed the experience and it seems our performance was generally well received.

We are now rehearsing some new songs for our next gig which we hope to organize around Hallowe'en followed by a Christmas concert. We are still searching to recruit a drummer and lead guitarist to complete the line up. Particular thanks go to Geoff Farnie for his PA sound system, without which we could not function. Thanks also to Richard Hamlyn for his Master of Ceremonies role.

As we play more together we grow in confidence and enjoyment which, after all, is what this is all about. Who knows, we may end up at Glastonbury festival one day! Probably not but we can dream.

**Basil Clarke**      Group Leader.

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## **Scottish Dancing**

The Beginners' Scottish Dancing Group is taking a break for the summer but will be back on Wednesday 7th September.

We meet weekly in Axbridge Town Hall at 9.30 am and are pleased to welcome members of all abilities and none. Our most recent group members joined just before Christmas, and have picked it up really quickly, whilst others have been with us since the group began almost eight years ago. We are a welcoming group of men and women who dance for enjoyment and fitness. Singles and couples welcome.

If you're looking for a new hobby for the winter and want to sharpen up your body and brain why not come and have a look; just pop in any Wednesday at 9.30 am and see what we're about. Your first session is free then it's just £2 a week.



For more information ring Penelope and John  
or Marion and Clive .

We finished the season with our usual summer dance and BBQ on the lawn of our joint leaders Marion and Clive Warren-Smith. A great time was had by all, as can be seen in the photographs below.

### John Morgan



*Thanks to Alan Anderson  
for the photographs.*

## Scrabble Group

Our Scrabble year will start on Friday 9th September and we would be very pleased to welcome anyone who would like to join our friendly group. Tuition can be given to those who wish to improve their game but obviously no one will be under any pressure.

Scrabble is meant to be fun! Please give us a try!

Some useful words:

Edh - character of the runic alphabet

Rico - worthless trifle

Gleg - quick

Helve - tool handle

**Brenda Horwood**

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## Solos Friendship Group (Solos)

After leading Solos since 2006, I have now handed over to joint leaders, Julie Baker, Brenda Baldwin and Sylvia Mayor. They have taken over from 1st July.

In June we had a lovely trip to Oakham Treasures, it has grown such a lot since we last went and so much to see, with great memories of things from our childhood. They also do a really nice lunch. After that we went on to Portishead for a look around as most of us had never been.

Our Sunday lunch in June was to Rich's Cider Press at Watchfield. A great place to eat at on any day of the week, but Sunday carvery is excellent with loads of fresh vegetables.

**Myra Derrick**

Myra Derrick has been the leader of the **Solos Friendship Group** for many years and as a result, numerous people have enjoyed excursions, holidays, day trips, and, as the title of the group says, friendship. She is very aware of the need of people who are alone and would welcome the company of other people in the same situation.

Sadly for us, but wonderful for her, Myra will be leaving Cheddar in the near future in order to move closer to family members. As a result of this, she has handed over the reins to me and Brenda Baldwin with Sylvia Mayor assisting whenever possible.

If you are new to U3A or already a member and interested in joining us, do come along. We meet the first Monday of every month at 10.30 am in the Methodist Church Hall in Cliff Street in Cheddar. We enjoy going out for Sunday lunch once a month and also going on monthly days out.

Sometimes it is difficult to join a new group but loneliness doesn't single out women, men can also be lonely. Do come along - you may wish you had joined before as the emphasis is on **friendship and enjoyment**.

Myra is going to be a hard act to follow. Her dedication to Solos has been remarkable. Thank you Myra, you have given so much to all of us in our group.

### **Julie Baker**

Contact details:

Mrs. Julie Baker Tel: Email:

Mrs. Brenda Baldwin Tel: Email:

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## **Stained Glass Group**

The Stained Glass group have continued to meet twice monthly at the Men's Shed in Cheddar. We have taken on a new member making eight of us altogether. We are each "doing our own thing" and enjoy sharing our skills as well as any problems that crop up.

We are currently having great trouble trying to locate thinnish metal chain to hang some of our larger items. We are looking for steel ½" link chain which no longer seems to be available. If you have any spare from other craft activities then please do let us know.

### **Margaret Farnie**



# **Original Walking Group Programme**

## **Thursday 4th August**

Leaders: John and Karen. Starting Point: Hilliers Lane, Churchill. Grid ref: 438598. Time: 2.00 pm. For further details contact John or Karen on .

## **Tuesday 16th August**

Leader: Pat. Starting Point: Village Hall Car park, Blackford (opp. Sexey's Arms pub). Grid ref: 408478. Time: 2.00 pm. For further details contact Pat on .

## **Wednesday 31st August**

Leader: Martin. Starting Point: New Manor Farm Shop, West Harptree. Grid ref: 574585. Time: 2.00 pm. For further details contact Martin on .

## **Thursday 15th September**

Leaders: Brenda and Alan. Starting Point: Congresbury Footbridge. Grid ref: 438638. Time: 2.00 pm. Park either public parking on Kent Road by tennis courts or rear of Congresbury Arms. For further details contact Alan or Brenda on .

## **Tuesday 27th September**

Leader: Chris. Starting Point: Ebbor Gorge NT car park. Grid ref: 520485. Time: 2.00 pm. Walk about 5 miles. For further details contact Chris on .

## **Wednesday 12th October**

Leader: Martin. Starting Point: Oakhill car park by Sports Ground up Zion Hill Oakhill and Ashwick Village Hall BA3 5AN. Grid ref: 636476. Time: 2pm. For further details contact Martin on or .

**Martin Fewings**    Group Leader

# Easy Walking Group

## Time for a change

I can't remember exactly how many years I've been the group coordinator, but it's a long time. I hope to continue walking, but Sylvie Browne has kindly agreed to send out the emails with details of the walks with effect from August.

Sylvie's contact number:

Email: .

Three of our members have also agreed - with their combined knowledge of local walks and input from other members - to create a diary of proposed walks for the next year.

The group will continue to meet at 10.00 am on the second Wednesday of each month at the Tennis Club car park near the reservoir unless noted to the contrary.

Happy Walking!

**Sue Gudgeon**



Some of the Easy Walking Group enjoying our walk in Cheddar on the morning of 13th July.

*Thanks to Chris Barker for the photograph.*

## Reading Group 1

### "The Artist of the Floating World" by Kasuo Ishiguro

Everyone in our group knew of the artist's most famous work *The Remains of the Day* for which he won the Booker Prize in 1989, but were less aware of his widespread achievements. He won the Winifred Holtby Award in 1982 and the Whitbread Prize in 1985 for our June choice. His crowning literary achievement, though, has to be as the winner of the Nobel Prize for Literature in 2017 and he capped that with being knighted in 2018.

Interestingly although his parents were Japanese and his mum was born in and survived the atomic bomb on Nagasaki he came to live in Britain at the age of six in 1960 and has only very recently been back to visit Japan.

*The Artist of the Floating World* centres on Ono, a well-known artist and his life before the last war under an increasingly militaristic government and his and the artistic communities' ways of expressing regrets over their involvement in the war. It was quite a difficult read because of the time variations and the comment "I am glad I read it" perhaps sums up our feelings.

The author's style of floating above direct reality is clearly strongly recognised as the above awards show. However he has written quite different novels. He is also a strong lover of music and an accomplished song-writer.

If you have an appetite for more of the "floating" Kasuo, read *The Unconsoled*. I think it's great!

Keith Herring

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## Reading Group 2

### "We Must be Brave" by Francis Liardet

Our book for May was *We Must be Brave* by Francis Liardet. Ellen Parr has always been sure she never wanted children but when she finds a

young girl asleep and unclaimed at the back of a bus, fleeing the Southampton blitz, every thing she believed is overturned.

This story initially takes place in WW2 and takes us through Ellen's life after the war in the supportive and friendly village where she lives with her husband.

This is a book we all enjoyed in varying degrees which led to a long discussion of memories of wartime rationing, food eaten and bomb shelters! Not quite so many memories for some of us younger ones apart from my 2 oz of Dolly Mixtures per week!

Our poem for this month, chosen by Anne Norris, was *Home Thoughts From Abroad* by Robert Browning.

## **Pat Panchaud**

### **“Let's Do It” Jasper Rees**

*Let's Do It* written by Jasper Rees is a biography of the late Victoria Wood. We looked forward to reading this as most of us had enjoyed her many performances over the years. Journalist and author Rees first met her in 2001 and due to her early and unexpected death in 2016 decided to tell her story in full. My goodness! He certainly did. The book is over 550 pages long, mostly full of extensive archive material, interviews, promotion occasions, theatre appearances dates and times - fact driven throughout except for the beginning when we learned about Victoria's young life.

Far too long it needed serious editing, only one person in the group persevered to the end. The rest, daunted by the size and content, disliked it! Had Victoria herself written her autobiography perhaps we would have seen who she really was. For me, she came over in this book as very much a perfectionist, and control freak. A disappointment!

Our poems were: *The Preference* by Maud Wynn Cole and *Warming her Pearls* by Carol Anne Duffy.

## **Pamela Hansen**

## Reading Group 5

### "The Road to Little Dribbling" by Bill Bryson

For our May group meeting the members met over tea and biscuits and had a general chit chat as opposed to discussing a book at length. At our next meeting we discussed a Bill Bryson book *The Road to Little Dribbling*. Most did not feel it was as humorous as the critics said, others felt it wasn't up to his usual standard. On the whole the majority felt it was the sort of book you could dip in and out of and each chapter felt like a separate entity. Many had visited the various places he was writing about.

One member felt he moaned too much about buildings and customs lost since he last visited, others enjoyed his spot on descriptions of places and people.

Some members had read other books as well during this period which we chatted about.

Our next book is *The Olive Tree* by Lucinda Riley.

**Mary Evans**

## Special Interest Groups

|                               |                                  |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Art                           | Patchwork                        |
| Ballroom & Latin Dance        | Philosophy                       |
| Boules                        | Photography                      |
| Bridge (Tuesday)              | Poetry                           |
| Bridge (Wednesday)            | Quiz Group                       |
| Cardaholics (Greetings Cards) | Reading Group 1                  |
| Canasta                       | Reading Group 2                  |
| Crafte                        | Reading Group 3                  |
| Classic Films Group           | Reading Group 4                  |
| Computer: Apple Devices Group | Reading Group 5                  |
| Computer: Computer Users      | Rock Band                        |
| Day Trippers' Group           | Rummikub                         |
| French: French Conversation   | Scottish Country Dancing         |
| French: Les Hesitants         | Scrabble                         |
| French: Simple                | Singing for Pleasure             |
| German                        | Solos                            |
| Great Lives                   | Stained Glass                    |
| Greek                         | Table Tennis                     |
| Handbell Ringing              | Tai Chi - Social                 |
| History: History              | T'ai Chi and Qigong              |
| History: Industrial History   | Walking: Easy Walking            |
| Hola España (Spanish)         | Walking: Gentle Short (Proposed) |
| Italian Self-help             | Walking: Original                |
| Jigsaw Exchange Group         | Woodcarving                      |
| Lace-making                   |                                  |
| Model Railway Group           |                                  |

## Group Meetings Timetable

| Group                    | Week                       | Leader |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|--------|
| <b>MONDAY MORNING</b>    |                            |        |
| Computer Users           | 2nd                        |        |
| Rummikub                 | Weekly                     |        |
| Solos                    | 1st                        |        |
| <b>MONDAY AFTERNOON</b>  |                            |        |
| Boules                   | Weekly                     |        |
| Canasta                  | 2nd & 4th                  |        |
| Classic Films Group      | 1st                        |        |
| Hola España              | Fortnightly                |        |
| Italian Self-Help        | 2nd, 4th & 5th             |        |
| <b>TUESDAY MORNING</b>   |                            |        |
| French: Les Hesitants    | Fortnightly                |        |
| Greek                    | Fortnightly                |        |
| History                  | 2nd                        |        |
| Lace-making              | Weekly                     |        |
| Photography              | 3rd                        |        |
| Reading Group 2          | 4th                        |        |
| T'ai Chi and Qigong      | Weekly<br>(Term Time only) |        |
| <b>TUESDAY AFTERNOON</b> |                            |        |
| Bridge (Tuesday)         | Weekly                     |        |
| Great Lives              | 4th                        |        |
| Industrial History       | 1st                        |        |
| Singing for Pleasure     | 1st & 3rd                  |        |
| Table Tennis             | Weekly                     |        |

| Group                          | Week                    | Leader                         |  |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|--|
| <b>WEDNESDAY MORNING</b>       |                         |                                |  |
| French: Conversation           | 2nd & 4th               |                                |  |
| French: Simple                 | 1st & 3rd               |                                |  |
| German                         | Weekly                  |                                |  |
| Poetry                         | 3rd                     |                                |  |
| Reading Group 1                | 1st                     |                                |  |
| Reading Group 4                | 4th                     |                                |  |
| Scottish Country Dancing       | Weekly                  |                                |  |
| Easy Walking                   | 2nd                     |                                |  |
| <b>WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON</b>     |                         |                                |  |
| Bridge (Wednesday)             | Weekly                  |                                |  |
| Quiz Group                     | 2nd                     |                                |  |
| <b>THURSDAY MORNING</b>        |                         |                                |  |
| <b>Coffee Morning 10.00 am</b> | <b>3rd</b>              | <b>At Cheddar Village Hall</b> |  |
| Cardaholics                    | 2nd (All Day)           |                                |  |
| Handbell Ringing               | 1st, 2nd, 4th & 5th     |                                |  |
| Model Railway Group            | Weekly<br>(Phone first) |                                |  |
| Philosophy                     | 4th                     |                                |  |



| Group                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Week                                                                                        | Leader                         |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <b>THURSDAY AFTERNOON</b><br><b>Speaker Meeting 2.00 pm</b><br>Crafte<br>Rock Band<br><b>THURSDAY EVENING</b><br>Stained Glass                                                                             | 1st<br>4th<br>2nd, 3rd & 4th<br><br>Weekly                                                  | <b>At Cheddar Village Hall</b> |
| <b>FRIDAY MORNING</b><br>Art<br>Patchwork<br>Reading Group 3<br>Social Tai Chi<br><b>FRIDAY AFTERNOON</b><br>Ballroom & Latin Dance<br>Reading Group 5<br>Scrabble<br><b>FRIDAY EVENING</b><br>Woodcarving | 4th<br>3rd<br>2nd<br>Weekly<br><br>2nd, 3rd & 4th<br>Last Friday<br>2nd & 4th<br><br>Weekly |                                |
| <b>NO FIXED DAY</b><br>Apple Devices Group<br>Day Trippers' Group<br>Walking: Original                                                                                                                     | By<br>arrangement<br>See page 9<br><br>See page 49                                          |                                |

## Submission of material for our next issue

Submissions for our October / November 2022 edition  
should be sent to the Newsletter Editor:

**Sue Bathe,**

**cheddar.u3anews@yahoo.co.uk**

**DEADLINE: Friday 16th September**

I will acknowledge all e-mail communications.  
If you do not receive an acknowledgement in a reasonable time,  
you must assume it has not been received,  
and use another method to contact me.



**Please** use identifying words in the subject line of your e-mail, and in the title of any attached files,  
**e.g. Group name and month of report**, such as "Drama Group November report", and **not** just "Notes from November" or "U3A Article".

If possible please send in your articles and reports by e-mail.

The information can be in the body of the e-mail itself,  
or be as an attachment in a common format,  
such as Word, Open Office, or as a pdf.

(Please do **not** send anything as **.pages**, I cannot open it.)

Photographs of your groups and group activities  
are also always welcome (as jpgs please).

Please always state who took the photograph.