



WELCOME to the Autumn edition of UPDATE. I couldn't resist sharing this photo with you even though it has nothing to do with the season of mists and mellow fruitfulness. However, it is a reminder of us finally being able to get away this summer and who can resist smiling at these cheeky little creatures from Skomer, off the West Coast of Wales.

This month feels like a new beginning for Churchdown u3a, with a celebration planned for our first proper Monthly Meeting, as set out by the new Chair below. Also look out for the report from the Singing Together group who are hoping to find a pianist to assist with their practice sessions. You don't

need to be a Liberace, Bobby Crush, or Mrs Mills (remember them?) but just be competent enough to play simple accompaniments and help out with the choral lines. Please contact Alan Winwood if you can help. Unfortunately, it's not possible at the moment to publish a full speaker programme but Robbie, our Speaker Secretary, is working on it and hopes to confirm bookings very soon. Details of the speaker for October can be found on the last page and further meetings will be confirmed on the web-site.

From the Chair



It was good to see so many of you attend our long-delayed AGM at our meeting in July, after a very long time apart. We then saw both Emma Fletcher and Jill Bunting step down from office and our thanks go to both for their service and efforts on our behalf. It was my privilege to take on the role of Chair and we welcomed Jan Febury as a new committee member.

I'm sorry that we had no choice but to change the date of the September meeting, this is a one-off and future meetings will revert to the 3rd Wednesday of each month, although we are unable to get back to the CCA until January at the earliest. However, I do hope as many of you as possible are still able to attend, and that it gives some of you the opportunity who can't usually make it.

I'm very keen for us to focus on the re-opening of our groups at this meeting with Group Leaders being invited to talk about their groups and be on hand to chat with members and answer individual queries. The Group Coordinator, Louise, will be there so if you have an idea for a new group or are unsure who to speak to regarding joining a group, do seek her out.

Finally, I want to stress that this is a celebration of all our u3a activities having the opportunity to start up again and we will be offering a glass of wine and cake, along with the usual soft drinks, tea and biscuits. I hope you keep safe and well and look forward to seeing you.

With my very best wishes **Paul Grierson**

The 2021/2022 committee:

Paul Grierson – Chair
Robbie Philip – Vice Chair and Speaker Secretary
Jane Moore – Secretary
Roger Coates - Treasurer:
Louise Keeling - Group Co-ordinator
Joyce Winwood - Membership Secretary
Roger Streatfield - Cotswold Link Co-ordinator
with responsibility for Data Protection
Jan Febery - Member Liaison

Thanks to all those who have stayed on for another year and to Jan for coming forward. Without you the rest of us could not enjoy all our activities.



Membership

It has been such a joy to see activities begin to open up and to meet each other again. Things are looking positive as, at the time of writing, 21 people have joined us as new

members or renewed their membership which is an excellent start as we approach our “renewing membership” time.

You will have been delighted to read in our recent email that the Committee has agreed to reduce our membership fee to £12 for individual members and £20 for couples. (Those who, in good faith, have paid the old fee will be reimbursed). We are hoping you are eager to renew and return to those interests you have enjoyed or have missed. Maybe there will be something new to tempt you too.

To renew your membership please download a Membership Renewal form from our website, complete both sides and bring it to a meeting or return it to me by post (my address is on the form). If you cannot print out a form hard copies will be available at the next two Monthly Meetings. You can rejoin at the Monthly Meeting on 22nd September, please bring the completed form, a cheque made payable to Churchdown u3a or cash and you will be handed your new Membership card which will cover you till September 2022. We will offer the same opportunity at the October Monthly Meeting.

We are keen to keep our numbers high, we are ambitious to improve and expand what we offer and we hope you will renew your membership so that we can work together to make Churchdown u3a the best it can be.

A warm welcome to 9 new members:

Susan Dean
Carole Harriss
Kenneth Hill
Gordon Sills
Catherine Dewar
Marie Hannan
Dorothy Trinder
Lesley Upton
Perry Poole

We very much look forward to seeing you at the meeting on the 22nd September, which will be the perfect opportunity for you to find out about the groups currently running and for us to show that we are a very friendly u3a over a glass of wine.

Joyce Winwood, Membership Secretary



Group Coordinator

At the time of writing several groups are meeting, including Bridge for All, Walking, Photography, Table Tennis, Craft and Petanque (boules). History of Art is meeting again in

September, all of which is good news as we start to open even more. Some groups are still thinking about how or if they are in a position to meet again. This includes the Scrabble and Whist groups. If you enjoyed these groups please consider offering to help start them up again.

Some groups share the responsibilities of being the contact, collecting fees or opening up venues. Perhaps this is the way forward for a group you might be interested in organising or starting up again.

Maggie Thomas has offered to lead a new Spanish group and there is a wine tasting group in the process of being set up.

Please check our website for regular updates but I will also be at the monthly meeting on Sept 22nd if you would like to know more about starting up or joining a group.

Louise Keeling

Theatre Trips - *something to look forward to*

After a very difficult time I have taken a leap of faith and booked tickets for two matinee shows at the Everyman, Cheltenham. All the seats are in the stalls and close to each other; I have chosen a location that you can travel to easily and if you wish to enjoy a pre-theatre meal, I am asking you to make your own arrangements and we will meet in the theatre.

Of course, many of you may think it's too soon to be meeting with a large group of people and I fully respect your views but for those of you who are ready to enjoy a live performance I have reserved tickets as follows:

Everyman Theatre, Cheltenham

Thursday 14th October 2pm

Dial M for Murder @ £35 per head (saving £3)

20 tickets have been reserved in the stalls and we must pay the bill by 30th September. Please come prepared to pay on 22nd September at the Monthly Meeting with a cheque made payable to Churchdown u3a or cash.

Thursday 18th November 2pm

Blood Brothers @ £35 each (saving £3)

20 tickets have been reserved in the stalls. These tickets can be reserved and paid for either at the Monthly Meeting on 22nd September or by 15th October at the very latest.

If these events prove to be popular and successful and the situation with COVID does not cause further concern I will book another theatre visit in Spring 2022.

Joyce Winwood



NEWS FROM THE GROUPS



BRIDGE FOR ALL Emma Fletcher

Since we re-opened in May, we have been meeting every Thursday at the Methodist Church Hall. The easing of Covid -19 restrictions on 19th July meant we have been able to return to playing as we used to in pre-pandemic days. As well as relieving me of the weekly chore of ensuring the right numbers, it has been good to see more of the former group

members returning, and to welcome some new players to join us.

As our name "Bridge for All" suggests, we aim to give an opportunity to anyone interested in playing the game no matter what your level of experience. We are a friendly, relaxed group where experienced players join with beginners, those who have learned recently and need practise or who learned long ago and now wish to revive their interest. We all need to keep playing and have much to learn from one another.

We also offer variety, from simple friendly games to more competitive duplicate bridge. And now that other clubs are opening up, we are rebuilding our links with the Churchdown Bridge Club and expecting to take part in a local league tournament beginning in the autumn.

We are looking forward to the Group focused Monthly Meeting on 22nd September in St. John's Church Hall, where we will be on hand to speak to anyone thinking of joining us. Please also look at our Bridge group web page on the Churchdown u3a website for news of further developments.

u3a Bridge Lessons at Gloucester u3a



If you are interested in learning to play Bridge, Gloucester u3a will be organising lessons in the Autumn. Please contact Alan Stanfield for more details by email: thestanfields@outlook.com

More information is available on the web-site

Archaeology – Liz Harris

On behalf of the group, I would like to thank Alison Walesby for her leadership after stepping in to Ian's shoes. She did such a good job keeping everyone interested and coming up with activities. However, the time has come for fresh ideas and a new leader. I have agreed to be the contact in the mean-time and if anyone has an interest in archaeology and would like to join us, please get in touch via the web-page. We will be meeting up in September and are looking forward to putting the group on a stable footing again.



LUNCH GROUP – Robbie Philip

After a year and five months and a few false starts we finally made it to enjoy Lunch together as a Group. A few people were unable to attend as they were now able to escape on holiday, however, 26 of us sat down for lunch at Hatherley Manor on Thursday 12th August. Immediately on arrival there was the lovely sound of chatter and laughter; people who had not seen each other for such a long time and so much to catch up on.

The Lunch Group meets on the second Thursday of the month at 1 pm. The setting at The Hatherley Manor was ideal as we were allocated a large room with four very large round tables with plenty of space between tables and also at the table itself. We were able to pre-book our meals which consisted of either two or three courses, followed by tea and coffee. The meal was excellent as was the service and it was enjoyed by all. We will certainly go there again at some point in the future.

As with all the lunches I have organized during the serving of the teas and coffees we had a little game which, this time, was to guess the weight I had put on during the first lockdown. The answer will remain a secret with only those attending knowing the answer! Needless to say, two people had identical, almost correct answers, so we had a tie break. Janette and I were going on holiday the next day to Blair Atholl, Perthshire and I needed to know the distance. One of our two new diners was nearest to the correct answer of 416.5 miles and won a lovely mug of Boris the cat who had featured prominently in my weekly blog to the Lunch Group over the previous 70 weeks.

Contact was maintained during this time by having a weekly poem from Stuart Turnbull and also poems from several other members including Jenny Cotton and Joan Akturk. Other members

kept in touch, letting us know how they were coping with the situation.

At this time the Lunch Group unfortunately is full with 34 members. However, Janette has suggested a Reserve List, as there are always members who are unable to attend for a variety of reasons. This being the case, once I have found out who wishes to attend from the Group, any spare spaces would be offered to those on the Reserve List. So, if you wish to Lunch once a month, please let me know and I will add your name to it. Next month we are off to The Swan at Coombe Hill.



Singing Together - Kate Methven

The Singing Together group, sadly, had to close completely during the period of Covid restrictions but we are now planning to reform and get back to normal as quickly as possible.

The group meets at the Methodist Church in Chapel Hay Lane on the second and fourth Monday of the month, at 2pm. Our first meeting back will be on 13th September. The group is expertly led by Alan Winwood who, with a long background in music education, has taken a number of non-singers and taught us to 'sing together' as a group. The meetings are light hearted, and fun but with the intended end result of us learning new song and techniques. We have an hour singing before a cup of tea or coffee and the chance for a chat. Alan believes everyone can sing with the right support and anyone who is interested should contact him for more details. He is also very keen to make contact with anyone who would be interested in joining us to play piano accompaniment - it would obviously be beneficial to us all to have that support.



Taken on Tuesday, 7th September on the circular walk from The Swan at Hanley Swan. The Malverns were a beautiful backdrop most of the way.

Here is the **Walking Group** programme until December. A coffee stop is taken at some point on each walk which usually ends with an optional lunch. Meet at the Council Offices in Parton Road, to share cars and offer lifts, at 9.25 to leave at 9.30. Further details are on the website or contact Mary White: email: mjwhite@live.co.uk or 07817007706

Date	Location	Leader
Tuesday 14 th September	5 mile walk on field paths and quiet lanes through the villages of Upper and Lower Dowdeswell. It is undulating territory with one short steep climb. There are a number of stiles Pub lunch	Sylvia Bennett
Tuesday 21 st September	Stanton & Stanway One uphill section of 0.75 miles. 5.5miles picnic lunch	Mary White
Tuesday 5 th October	Minchinhampton Common 4.5 miles Pub lunch	Sue Grierson
Tuesday 12 th October Dogs on leads allowed	Broughton Hackett & White Ladies Aston Flat walk 6 miles Pub lunch	Jane Moore
Tuesday 19 th October	Bibury Mainly flat 6 miles Pub lunch	Paul Grierson
Tuesday 2 nd November	Leckhampton Hill & Severn Springs 5 Miles Pub lunch	Paul Grierson
Tuesday 9 th November Dogs on leads allowed	Eastington and Stroudwater Canal 5 miles mainly flat Pub lunch	Mary White
Tuesday 16 th November	Robins Wood Hill 5 miles Cafe afterwards	Mary White
Tuesday 30 th November	South Cerney Flat walk around Cotswold Water Park and disused railway lines - 5 miles Pub lunch	Paul Grierson
Tuesday 7 th December	Short walk followed by a " Christmas " meal. To be confirmed.	Paul Grierson

Next Monthly Meeting: Wednesday 20th October

Speaker: Bernard Barton-Ancliffe - Tales of a Travelling Man

A number of you may know Bernard as he has previously given talks to a number of local organisations and until a few years ago he was the Command Officer of Imjin Barracks (formerly RAF Innsworth) before retiring. He will cover his many travels both as a military man and a civilian and should be very interesting.

Current Group List

Please contact the leader if you wish to join a group or for more information go to our web-site:

<https://u3asites.org.uk/churchdown>

Group Coordinator: Louise Keeling: louise.keeling1@icloud.com

Group	Leader	Telephone
Archaeology	Liz Harris	Contact via web page
Art History/Appreciation	Martin Bowden	01452 854007
Badminton	Eamonn Doherty	07946 341270
Bird Watching	Alan Baxter	01452 856440
Book Club/Literature	Joyce Winwood	01452 715099
Bridge for All	Emma Fletcher	01452 712336
Cookery	Eve Anstis	01242 235833
Crafts	Wendy Martin	01452 714049
Cribbage	Diana Sinden	01452 698713
Gardening	Ann Knight	07770 599744
Garden Visits	Jane Moore	07950 705993
Family History	Ruth Phillips	01452 857236
Italian Appreciation	John Hawkswell	01452 730528
Lunch Club	Robbie Philip	01452 715033
Petanque	Brian Keeling	01452 712753
Photography	Ann Knight	07770 599744
Politics	Roger Streatfield	01452 713498
Singing Together	Alan Winwood	01452 715099
Table Tennis	Syd Leuillette	01452 857039
Spanish (Language & Culture)	Maggie Thomas	01452 676751
Walking	Mary White	07817 007706
Yoga	Sue Grierson	01452 857831