

Dear Member,

The year progresses and we have had some excellent talks. Our membership numbers are holding up well, despite some glitches in the renewing process this year. Thank you so much for bearing with us. It has been pointed out to us that the automatic dispatch of the membership card has used an old version of the card. We hope to put this right shortly but do not worry, as you do not need to card to attend the Open Meetings, and group leaders can check membership in other ways. Last month's meeting was a real pleasure. Sadly, the summary just can't do justice to the performance. This month, Laura Jones is talking to us about the history of fashion. Remember that if you haven't renewed yet, there will be an opportunity to do so at the meeting.

Liz Ouldrige (Chair)

### Important dates

**July 18<sup>th</sup>** Monthly coffee morning for all at 'The Hayloft' Mole Avon Country Store from 10:30am

**July 19<sup>th</sup>** Open Meeting at the Boniface Centre: Laura Jones 'The Origins of the Mass Production of Fashion'. Refreshments from 9:30am, the talk starts at 10:15.

**August 15<sup>th</sup>** Monthly coffee morning for all at 'The Hayloft' Mole Avon Country Store from 10:30am

**August 16<sup>th</sup>** Open Meeting at the Boniface Centre: Stewart Raine 'The Merry Wives of Saxe-Coburg'.

### June's Open Meeting: 'The Musical Evolution of the Spanish Guitar' by Mark Bramwell

Our meeting started a little chaotically as the church car park was full due to a sports day at the local school, so the start was delayed while people hunted around for somewhere to park. Once all were assembled, a near full house of attendees was treated to a very entertaining talk by Mark Branwell about the evolution of both the Spanish Guitar and the various types and styles of music played on it.

During the talk he explained how the instrument had had its range extended by its design changes and the addition of various electronic devices from its original acoustic beginnings to the current standard. He illustrated the various different styles of music played on it including the different types of Flamenco music by playing many small selections and ending up with a tune from the Gipsy Kings. These are a band of Catalan rumba, flamenco, salsa, and pop musicians, founded in 1978 in Arles and Montpellier, in southern France, who perform mostly in Catalan but also mix in Spanish with southern French dialects. In all he delivered a very informative and engrossing 45 min talk which was much enjoyed by all present.

### The Role of the u3a Committee: Business Secretary – current holder: Ros Reeves



This month we continue our series on the u3a committee by meeting Ros, our Business Secretary (picture left). The Business Secretary deals with much of our paperwork. Ros takes and circulates the minutes at committee meetings and liaises with the central organisation on administrative matters. She also works with the Treasurer to maintain our charitable status and organizes the AGM. You will often see her at our Open Meetings, taking the entrance fee. Together with the Chair and the Treasurer, she is one of the executive members of the committee. This means that, to be a viable branch of u3a, we must always have this post filled.