



Dear member,

Welcome to 2024 with u3a. We had a splendid Christmas Lunch in December at the Waie Inn, with about 80 members coming. As there was no talk in December, there is no talk summary. Instead, I'm taking the opportunity to encourage you to join our special interest groups, in a special section on group activities. Remember, you can sign up for a group either by 'clicking' on the blue bird on the relevant of the webpage or by registering your interest on the sign-up sheets at any Open Meeting. I'm also circulating some information from the national organisation.

Hoping to see you soon,  
Liz Ouldrige (Chair)

### Important dates

**January 16<sup>th</sup>** Monthly coffee morning for all at 'The Hayloft' Mole Avon Country Store from 10:30am.

**January 17<sup>th</sup>** Open Meeting at the Boniface Centre: Ian Gasper 'Refugees and Asylum Seekers in the UK'. Refreshments from 9:30am, the talk starts at 10:15am

**February 20<sup>th</sup>** Monthly coffee morning for all at 'The Hayloft' Mole Avon Country Store from 10:30am

**February 21<sup>st</sup>** Open Meeting at the Boniface Centre: Brian Fernley 'The Battle of Britain outside London: Exeter's role in the conflict.' Refreshments from 9:30am, the talk starts at 10:15am

### News from the National Organisation

In our day to day lives, not many of us spend a lot of time thinking about the management of the national u3a organisation. Up to now, management has been carried out by a board of directors made up of 12 members representing the different regions. (For a list of current members, please go to this website: <https://www.u3a.org.uk/board-of-directors>.) However, last year saw something of a revolt by the local branches who objected to a proposed change in the constitution concerning charges to branches. Realising that the communication between the national organisation and the branches was not good enough, the board has proposed setting up a Council of Members whose job it will be to liaise with the board. We have been sent a document describing the progress so far in defining the structure and role of the Council. This I am sending to you as a separate attachment, as we were asked to do so by u3a National. However, without more background it is hard to make sense of it. The national website has more details (<https://www.u3a.org.uk/news/fit-for-the-future>). More, hopefully easier to understand, information will be coming out in January, and this I will again circulate. We will then be asked, as a branch, to comment on the proposal.

### Special Interest Groups – Wow! Don't we do a lot.

Bird watching for All	1st Friday in month, am	Book Group 1	2nd Tuesday in month, pm
Book Group 2	2nd Thursday in month, pm	Boules	2nd Tuesday in month pm
Carpet Bowls	3rd Monday in month, am	Coffee Mornings	3rd Tuesday in month am
Churches & Historic visits	Monthly visits - days vary	Crafts	1st Wednesday in month, pm
Collage	2nd Thursday in month, pm	Current Affairs	2nd Thursday in month, am
Creative writing	1st Wednesday in month m	Dance	Every Monday, pm
Cycling	1st Monday in month, am	Exercise 1	Wednesday pm
Energy Action Group	Friday a.m.	History	Last Thursday in month, am
Exercise 2	Thursday a.m.	Mindfulness	Mondays, 2:00-3:00pm
Intermediate Walks	1st Tuesday in month, am	Poetry discussion	4th Wednesday in month, pm
Mooramblers	3rd Thursday of month, am	Crediton Strollers	4th Wednesday in month, am
Pub lunches	Last Friday in month, am	Theatre	Ad Hoc dependant on Shows
Sunday Pub Lunches	Mid-month, am	Walking With Dogs	Last Friday in month, am
Ukulele	2nd+4th Mondays, am	Wine Appreciation	meetings every 2 months

## News from some of the Groups

### Book groups

We had our December meeting at Bow Garden centre, where members discussed the book and also enjoyed Christmas lunch. Both book groups are full at the moment anyone wanting to join can be put on a waiting list.

### Dance Group



This is a new group meeting at 'The Elephant on the Green'. No skill is needed. It's more about rhythmic movement to music. All are welcome. Our picture shows the first meeting, which was lots of fun.

### The Friday Pub Lunch Group

This group provides an opportunity for members to meet informally over lunch for conversation and friendship. We meet once a month, currently **the last Friday of the month**, at approximately 12.30, in pubs in and around our area. We aim to order on the day once we have seen the menu and prices! Currently group is full, but we do have a waiting list.

### Sunday Lunch Group

This is a separate group to the current Pub Lunch Group and organises Sunday pub lunch meetings at various Pubs within the local area. We will attempt to arrange the meals at venue's which still provide a varied menu on Sundays for those amongst us who would like something different to the standard "meat and 2 Veg option. The group has spaces.

### Wine Appreciation Group



We have had a great year learning a lot from two different sommeliers, tasting red and white wines, enjoying a bring your own favourite and share its story evening. A summer barbecue and a wonderful cocktail evening were held when the weather was nice and we could meet outside. Our December meeting was at the new wine bar in Crediton. We meet once every two months, usually on a Thursday evening. Our next event will be in February at The Elephant on the Green. Date to be decided.

### The Collage Group

Formally known as Paper and Scissors (and there has been a suggestion from one of our members that we should be called Cut and Stick), however, Collage it is, as people can find us on the website.

We have been meeting for 3 years!!!! The 2nd Thursday of the month - Congregational Church Rooms...2.15-4.15 p.m. We have attempted a different theme every month - from 'copying' Klimt or making images in the style of Van Gogh...to Built environments/Our Summer Holiday and Re-creating a Poem of our Choice. We have had a session run by a participant in making papers for collage...made Christmas decorations and some people have gone off piste and done their own thing...the so-called group leader often does nothing but learn from the others. It is a relaxing group - so we chat, but a fairly concentrated effort goes in to our work.... all materials provided and we always include a refreshment break. The cost is split so is usually £6-£7-00 to cover cost of the room and materials. The maximum number of participants for comfort is 8. Our next session will be on Thursday January 11th where the theme will be on making realistic or surreal images directly from cut outs of magazines. If you want any further information, please call Jane on 07967137032 for a chat.