

Edition: ONE – September 2019

UPDATE Editor: Sue Hooper-Lawrie

Email cvu3aupdate@gmail.com

At its heart, the U3A believe that continuing to learn, develop your interests, make friends and try something new, is a life-long passion.

For those unfamiliar with U3A – A brief explanation ...

The University of the Third Age (U3A) is a nationwide organisation based on local groups providing opportunities for those no longer in full-time employment or raising a family, to come together and develop their interests. U3A is not a university in the formal sense, we just enjoy taking part and meeting people.

Why Third Age? – You've survived your childhood (first age), your working life and/or bringing up a family (second age) and you now have the opportunity to pursue your own interests and make the most of opportunities that come your way (third age!)



May I offer a warm welcome to all who have shown an interest in the setting up of the Culm Valley U3A.

The success of this new adventure depends on you. Several activities and interest groups have already been suggested. and we look forward to working with you to develop all our activities.

Peter Morris (Chair)

The journey so far...

Following the first meeting several people have been meeting regularly with the sole intention of making a U3A for the Culm Valley a reality.

From those meetings a Steering Committee was formed. The members of the Culm Valley U3A Steering Committee are:

Peter Morris	Chair
Carol Mitchell	Vice Chair
Gill Sole	Secretary
Lynne Rose	Assistant Secretary
Richard Taylor	Treasurer
Sue Tremeer	Membership Secretary
Sue Hooper-Lawrie	Publicity/ Newsletters/ Website
Vacant	Groups Co-ordinator

Participation...

From the members of the Steering Committee to the participation of every member, we are all volunteers aiming to create an environment in which we can learn, laugh and live!

Members share their knowledge and experience within their interest groups which are informal sessions covering a wide range of subjects, topics, issues and activities.

Interest Groups...

Interest groups can be both academic and non-academic and range from Arts to Walking and Backgammon to History.

All members of Culm Valley U3A are encouraged to identify their interests and join with others to create opportunities which will develop and enhance those interests.

Some groups or group sessions may require a small financial contribution to help towards any costs which may be incurred.

Interest groups will not have a leader as such but will have a convener or conveners. These are folk who make sure any arrangements required for a meeting are carried out. A group may meet in a public building, a private home or another suitable venue. If there is a cost incurred in using a particular space or venue, the specific group will be responsible for meeting those costs.

Members may join and leave interest groups as they like, however we would ask that you inform your groups when you intend leaving and contact the specific group convener if you are interested in joining a particular group.



Monthly Meetings...

As well as interest groups Culm Valley U3A will hold a monthly meeting for all members. The meetings will be on the **FIRST THURSDAY of each month**, unless otherwise notified.

Monthly meetings will be held in the Willand Village Hall starting at 2pm and will usually run for 2 to 2½ hours. You may be requested to contribute to refreshments and/or the general costs of a monthly meeting depending on the circumstances, i.e. the cost of a speaker.

Members are invited and encouraged to recommend possible speakers for monthly meetings.

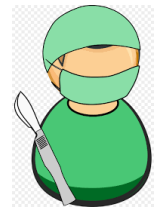
The dates for monthly meetings for the rest of 2019 and 2020 are:

2019	2020		
3 October	No Meeting in January	7 May	3 September
7 November	6 February	4 June	1 October
5 December	5 March	2 July	5 November
	2 April	6 August	3 December

Speakers for the three dates in 2019

For our first monthly meeting on **3 October** we look forward to welcoming **Dr Gavin Haig** MB MRCP FRCS Eng FRCS Edin State Scholarship in Classics - Jeaffreson Exhibitor at Barts Hospital.

Until recently, Consultant Surgeon at Dawlish Hospital, and General Surgeon Day Case surgery at Tavistock Hospital. His talk is entitled **"Trials and Tribulations of a Surgeon"** which has gone down a storm wherever he has delivered it! We have it on good authority that this talk is not to be missed.



On **7th November** we welcome **Mr David T Hawkings** C.Eng., M.I. Mech.E., M.I.Nuc.E., F.S.G. (David, a Genealogist, is a member of the Wellington U3A). His talk is entitled **"Family History for Beginners - How to research your family Tree"** David did most of the research for the TV documentary of *"Who Do You Think You Are"* featuring TV personality, Jeremy Paxman!

As a U3A member David does not charge a fee, however, as a staunch supporter of the local charity *"Somerset Sight"* which provides assistance and support to blind people, he has asked that a bucket be provided for donations.

To round off 2019 and put us all in the Christmas spirit on **5th December** our speaker will be **Mr Mike Crew** (a long time member of the Wellington U3A) specialises in researching Queen Victoria's children, most especially Princess Louise. He also knows a great deal about other aspects of Victorian era history, especially Jack the Ripper! His talk will encompass **"Queen Victoria's Children - Celebrating Christmas at Windsor Castle"** and include snippets about Princess Louise.



Would you volunteer to help at a monthly meeting?

We need help with setting up and clearing away chairs and tables, making, serving and clearing away refreshments and general meeting and greeting as people arrive. It would also be great if a few people would volunteer to bake cakes, cookies, cupcakes or any other tasty morsel and bring them along to the monthly meeting. If you can help in any way, please let a member of the Steering Committee know.



If you have any information or news which you feel the rest of the Culm Valley U3A should know please email it to cvu3aupdate@gmail.com