

# IN TOUCH

## MAY 2023

### News Updates

Dear All,

May is going to be a busier month than many of us probably had envisaged at this time last year! Not only do we have the usual two Bank Holidays but we have the extra one for the Coronation. Whilst I cannot be the only member of u3a, whose memories of the last Coronation are hazy in the extreme, and there are those of you for whom this will be the first Coronation they have experienced, there are also those of you who have very clear memories of the last Coronation 70 years ago. Despite all the pomp and pageantry, at the heart of it all is something quite special – a solemn consecration and a promise of service, and we are indeed privileged to be able to witness the King and Queen dedicate themselves to the service of this Country and the Commonwealth.

I commend this edition of In Touch to you and hope you will enjoy reading it, in between all the other activities you all do!

*Liz Greenway,*

Chairman.

### DO YOU LIKE TO SING?



I think we need a choir! Singing offers many health benefits, physical, social and psychological, to say nothing of the pleasure it gives to those listening. Wouldn't it be lovely to hear our own choir singing at our

Christmas meeting? I'd like to hear from anyone who might be interested, regardless of ability or experience. We would need a group leader, but we are also willing to fund a professional choirmaster.

*Barbara Hurst*

# u3a



## Shaftesbury and Gillingham

### Forthcoming Events

**4 May at 10am – u3a Talk**  
**Susan Vincent**  
**The Life of Lawrence of Arabia**

**6 – 7 May:**  
**Coronation Events**

**6 June – u3a Talk**  
**Dr. Francis Burroughes**  
**The Wonderful World of Glass**

**Autumn Holiday to Norfolk**  
**4-8 September 2023**

Here is the links to our web page  
<https://u3asites.org.uk/squ3a/home>

## Next u3a Talks

Monthly meetings are held on the first Thursday of the month at 10.00 for 10.30am start at The New Remembrance Hall, Charlton, Shaftesbury, Dorset, SP7 0PL

A charge is made of £2 per person, to cover the cost of speakers and refreshments. Open meetings provide an opportunity to have a coffee, socialise and to enjoy presentations from invited speakers. Non-members are welcome to attend one open meeting to sample what is on offer.

Details of speakers for the coming year can be found on our website; the next two are shown below.

### Thursday 4 May

#### **Susan Vincent – The Life of Lawrence of Arabia**

This talk is about T.E. Lawrence before and after Arabia when he was living in Dorset.

T.E. Lawrence, known as Ned to his family, became well known as Lawrence of Arabia when leading the revolt of the Bedouin tribes against the Ottoman Empire. On return to the UK, he changed his surname to Ross and then Shaw. Why? Why did he enlist in the RAF and Army Tank Corps in Bovington as a Private when he had been Colonel Lawrence in WW1? 2023 sees the anniversary of the first meeting between Thomas Hardy and T.E. Lawrence. What was the mutual interest for them both and how was their time together spent?

Susan Vincent lives in Dorset and is a member of the T.E. Lawrence Society and on the National Committee. Susan is currently completing her MA in Classical Studies with the Open University. Her career has involved stints in the world of advertising and for the last twenty years has been an Executive Search Consultant – that is a headhunter.

### Thursday 8 June

#### **Dr. Francis Burroughes – "The Wonderful World of Glass"**

This remains the most popular of Francis's talks. From his own collection, he brings historic and valuable items of glass for members to examine for themselves, to illustrate the history of Glass-making from 3000B.C. to the present day.

Francis is an acknowledged expert, and often asked to lend pieces and speak about them for various television antique programmes. He is a lecturer and after-Dinner Speaker, for W.I.s, Rotary & Round Table, U3As and special interest groups and societies. Francis is now retired, but in his long career he has been a school teacher, and director of several companies. In his spare time he has been a church organist for over fifty years, a keen flower arranger, and conductor of numerous choral societies, operatic societies and musical groups.

## Group News



### Knit and Natter

I hope to start a Knit and Natter group shortly, the time and venue yet to be decided. As the name suggests, this would be very informal, and need not be confined to knitting. Any craft work where busy fingers leave you free to chat would be fine. If you would be interested, please let me know. And particularly if you would be willing to lead or host.

*Barbara Hurst*

01747 825646 or

[barbara@pbhurst.com](mailto:barbara@pbhurst.com)

### Garden Interest

I am delighted to announce that Irene Gordon has volunteered to be leader of the Garden Interest group, and will be taking over shortly. She will bring energy, enthusiasm and fresh ideas. I shall be mentoring her while she gets to grips with the role and wish her every success.

Regrettably, we had to cancel our plant swap in April. The dreadful weather in the days beforehand made conditions underfoot both unpleasant and potentially dangerous, to say nothing of the impact it would have had on our host's home and garden. Although disappointing, I am deeply grateful to Sheila for offering us her lovely home as a venue.

On 15 May, we shall be visiting The Old Rectory, Manston, Sturminster Newton, DT10 1EX, a beautifully restored 5-acre garden. There is a South facing wall with a 120ft herbaceous border, an enclosed yew hedged flower garden, a wildflower meadow marked with mown paths, a young plantation of mixed hardwoods, a well maintained walled Victorian kitchen garden with new picking flower section, a large new greenhouse and a well-established knot garden. Entry is £7 + £5 for refreshments. Please let me know if you would like to join us at The Old Rectory by 8 May.

On Friday, 9 June, in a change to our schedule, we're off to Old Down House, Horton, Wimborne, BH21 7HL. Located on the edge of Cranborne Chase, this 3/4-acre garden, with stunning views across the countryside, features a circular lawn, perennial borders, quirky garden art and an impressive potager. Entry is £10, including refreshments. If you would like to visit Old Down House, please let me know by 2 June.

*Barbara Hurst*



### CHURCHES/PLACES OF WORSHIP

I'm keen to start a new group to visit places of worship, which, in addition to the many beautiful local churches, could include cathedrals, chapels, garrison churches, hindu temples, mosques and synagogues, depending how far members want to travel. If you would be interested, please let me know, especially if you would be willing to organise the visits.

*Barbara Hurst*

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[01747 825646](tel:01747825646)

## PÈTANQUE

U3a members were invited to the opening of the new pètanque 'terrains' in Gillingham on 23 April and a few accepted the invitation to find out more about this popular game and the new facilities. It's a game suitable for all ages, with obvious health benefits.

I would like to know whether there is sufficient interest to form a 'Pètanque Group' and whether someone would be willing to organise sessions as group leader. Play could be just for fun and/or in local leagues, depending on numbers and levels of experience.

Please let me know if this is something you would be interested in.

*Barbara Hurst*

## The Philosophy and Discussion Group

The Philosophy and Discussion Group meets in Gillingham for a few hours on a Tuesday afternoon towards the end of the month. Before the end of each meeting, we decide on the topic for the next one.

Over the last few months, we have investigated many different subjects.

We have asked "What is the role of government?" To do that we needed to look at the model of the Nation State (a common area of ground, a common language, a common value system – however, that ideal Nation State does not seem to exist!). What gives them power, and how do they interact? To try and answer that question we started with the example of Plato's Republic, and drew parallels with today's political structure. Does that really give us a meritocracy? Do the facts add up and take us to that conclusion? We did invite our MP to that meeting, but unfortunately, he had to attend Parliament. He did indicate that he would like an invitation the next time we address that question!

We also asked: "What is Civilisation?" We analysed the concept of civilisation and created a model to try and discover what is needed. Then we asked: does civilisation actually produce advancement, or would we be happier without it?

One of our members asked if we could investigate the question: "Do we need strong leaders?" To try and answer that question we looked at the history of Fascism in Italy, which to some extent copied the Roman Empire. It also asks the question: "Do we really want that? If not, are we in danger of moving in that direction?"

We then went on to ask: "Are we more or less isolated than before?" That turned out to be a very broad question. We started by looking at the impact of government policy which has resulted in the closure of local libraries, swimming pools, social centres.... That certainly has an impact on old people. However, it broadens on to the loneliness of command in Naval ships, and singlehanded circumnavigation of the world. Then we included domestic domination of women. That results in the woman being isolated from her friends. Then we looked at recent actions of politicians who isolate populations from the truth (eg Putin, and Trump). How do they do that?

The next meeting is discussing "What is the legacy of colonialism and slavery?"

That should be very topical!

*Chris Spencer*

## Other groups / for everyone's interest

### K9 Walking Group

Is anyone interested in joining a monthly dog walking group? Walks of approximately 1-1.5-hour length, in areas suitable for mostly off-lead walking, with dogs that are well behaved. All walks within the Shaftesbury & Gillingham U3A catchment area (exact distance to be agreed!). If interested please contact me.

*Ros Ham*

[rosalind.ham@talk21.com](mailto:rosalind.ham@talk21.com)

### History/Archaeology group of Westbury u3a.

I am group leader of the History/Archaeology group of Westbury u3a. On the afternoon of 11 August the group will be visiting an archaeological dig of a Roman shrine complex at Teffont. The dig supervisor, Dr Roberts, has suggested that members from other reasonably local u3a's may wish to attend. I am not sure whether you have an archaeology group but could you please circulate this among your u3a membership. Anyone wishing to join us, and they will be very welcome], should contact me on the e-mail address below or call 07526283901.

Thank you

Richard Woodroffe

[woodroffe@outlook.com](mailto:woodroffe@outlook.com)

### Can you help!

Shaftesbury School needs a few more Invigilators for this year's external exams. If you could give time to this during May and June, please contact the Examinations Officer at the school.

## OUTINGS

### Autumn Holiday to Norfolk 4-8 September



Steve Hale tells me there are still a few vacancies for this trip. Please contact Steve on 01747 834466 or email

[halerysm@gmail.com](mailto:halerysm@gmail.com)

## The Coronation

Saturday 6 May is the Coronation Day of His Majesty King Charles III. The Coronation Ceremony will take place at Westminster Abbey, London, and will be conducted by the Archbishop of Canterbury. The Ceremony will see His Majesty King Charles III crowned alongside Her Majesty The Queen Consort.



Across the Coronation Weekend, there will be opportunities for people to come together in celebration of the historic occasion. The Coronation Big Lunch, where neighbours and communities are invited to share and have fun together, will take place across the country between Saturday 6 and Monday 8 May.

If you would like to join in with celebrating this historic occasion and organise your own, sign up food to receive a 'Big Lunch' pack. Containing all you need to get started with fun ideas, top tips, practical advice and more.

<https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/the-coronation>

## What3words

If any of you are familiar with 'what3words' then you know how important it is to have this on your phone. We know from our onboard satnav that we have 'reached our destination' but have we – well more or less as sometimes it just identifies an area. Street addresses don't always point to precise location

**What3words** has given every 3m square in the world a unique 3-word address

The words are randomly assigned to each square and will always stay the same

It is easy to find and share any location by giving the 3 words

Meeting with friends or social group, share the what3words location this is especially useful for ramblers in remote locations.

### Get help faster in an emergency

When it's hard to describe where you are in an emergency, you only need to read out three words for 999 to know exactly where to find the incident.

To find you more easily in an emergency, many UK Emergency Services are encouraging you to share your 3-word address.

### How do I use what3words in an emergency?

- Find the 3 word address for your current location on the what3words app for iOS and Android . It works offline – ideal for areas with unreliable data connection.
- Share your 3-word address over the phone to the call handler.
- The emergency service can then coordinate a response directly to the exact location where help is needed.

To find out more information or to download the app go to:

<https://what3words.com/about>

<https://what3words.com/how-to-use-the-what3words-app>

**New Remembrance Hall = rollerover.shoebox.hits**



.....and finally



There is a nudist convention on Monday, I may go to it if I have nothing on.

The bank returned a cheque to me this morning, stamped lack of funds – Is it me or them?

Group	Date	Leader
Art Appreciation	3rd Thursday 2-3.30pm	Barbara Hurst
Art Workshop	1st & 3rd Monday 2pm-4pm	Joan Stewart
Canasta	1st and 3rd Monday - pm	Hazel Baker
Digital Photography	3rd Thursday - am	Andy Newton
Embroidery	3rd Wednesday - pm	Lesley Frost
French for Fun 1	Tuesday/fortnightly 10-11.30am	Ron Beard
French for Fun 2	Wednesday /fortnightly pm	Chris Stotsbury
Garden Interest	2nd Monday - am	Irene Gordon
Genealogy	4th Monday - pm	Liz Greenway
German Conversation	Wednesday / fortnightly - pm	Robert Light
International History	3rd Wednesday - am	Richard Sim
Literature	1st & 3rd Monday 10.30am on Zoom	Peter Rolfe
Lunch Club	Last Friday	Ros Ham
Mahjong	2nd & 4th Friday - am	Marion Pace
Music for Pleasure	2nd & 4th Thursday - pm	Eileen Haddleton
Natural History	2nd & 4th Wednesday 10am to 12.30.	Marion Hammond
Philosophy	Monthly Tuesday pm	Chris Spencer
Poetry & Play Reading	1st Thursday - pm	Audrey Cross Janet Botterill
Reading Group	1st Friday 11am -12pm	Barbara Hurst
Rummicub	Weekly Tuesday - pm	Avril Fletcher
Scrabble	Weekly Friday - am	Yvonne Hill
Spite & Malice	3rd Thursday - pm	Sue Walker
Table Tennis	Weekly Thursday 2pm	Elizabeth Lewer Chris Stotesbury
Walking Group	1st Tuesday - am	Barbara Robson

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