

# IN TOUCH OCTOBER 2023

Dear All,

Well, it looks as if autumn really is here – the weather is more variable and the nights are definitely drawing in, and the end of September sees our local carnival season, with money raised going to local charities. After the upheaval of the last few years, it is good to see these local events reappearing.

May I please remind you that the November meeting is our AGM. We are still looking for willing recruits to the committee, so the branch can continue to exist! One good piece of news is that we have a volunteer to take on the role of organizing refreshments for our general monthly meetings, so you will continue to be able to have a tea or coffee and biscuits. Thank you Lorraine, it is most appreciated.

Looking forward, it looks as if next year will see us celebrating 25 years of existence, despite plague et cetera!

I will not be with you for the October meeting as we are away on a long awaited holiday, but it looks as if the talk will be highly interesting.

Yours,

*Liz Greenway*

Chairman.



**Shaftesbury and  
Gillingham**

## **Forthcoming Events**

**5 October – u3a Talk  
Alan Jones – "Keep Your Hair On!"**

**Thursday 2nd November  
AGM  
Followed by  
Barbara Hurst  
"The Women Artists that History  
Forgot"**

***link to our web page*  
<https://u3asites.org.uk/sgu3a/home>**

## News Updates

### Membership Renewals

A gentle reminder that membership subscriptions are now due for 2023/24.

- Individual Members: £10
- Joint members (Two at the same address): £20

If you wish to receive the Third Age Trust Magazine add £4.00 to the above.

Details of how to renew are on the web site.

Alternatively, you can renew at a Monthly Meeting or by post to:

Membership Secretary  
9 Peacemarsh Farm Close  
Gillingham  
SP8 4XQ

Cheques should be made out to "Shaftesbury and Gillingham U3A". It would help if you put your membership number on the back of the cheque.

When renewing by post, if you wish to have your membership card posted to you, please enclose a SAE.

### 2023 AGM

The AGM of sgu3a will take place at the November monthly meeting. The agenda, minutes of last AGM and annual accounts are fully available on the AGM + Docs page of the website. Also available on this page is a nomination form to join the committee.

Several long-standing members of the committee have decided to stand down at the AGM in November. The constitution does recommend a regular turnover of committee membership as a healthy ideal. This will put considerable pressure on those remaining to maintain the kind of experience you have come to expect from Shaftesbury & Gillingham u3a. Indeed, it may prove impossible to continue at all unless volunteers come forward to fill the key roles being vacated. The committee meets every three months, and the posts that will fall vacant are:

Chairman, Secretary, Web Support, Events/Outings Organiser.

If you have experience in any of these areas and have some spare time, please consider joining the committee.

If you are unable to commit to joining the committee in any formal capacity, perhaps you have skills, in design, finance or IT, for instance, and could offer occasional support for specific projects. Any help would be greatly appreciated.

Please contact me if you can help.

*Roger Laidler, Secretary*

07749230894

roger46laidler@talktalk.net

## Next u3a Talks

Monthly open meetings are held on the first Thursday of the month at The New Remembrance Hall, Charlton, Shaftesbury, Dorset, SP7 OPL – opening at 10.00am for 10.30am start. A small charge of £2 per person is made, 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, free of charge, 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 5 October

#### **Alan Jones – "Keep Your Hair On!"**

Straight, wavy, long, natural or dyed! Wigs, extensions, beards and eyebrows. Smuggling, politics, religion, and fashion collide in a billion-dollar trade. Discover the secretive and lucrative international world of Hair that is guaranteed to grip you by the long, short or curly.

Alan returns having given us a most amusing talk on Hypnosis in 2020. He has enjoyed a variety of careers, each bringing their own unique experiences and events. A trained nurse, hypnotherapist, BBC journalist and more, all providing a wealth of anecdotes to fill his talks with fun, information and discovery.

### Thursday 2nd November

#### **Barbara Hurst – "The Women Artists that History Forgot"**

This presentation examines a number of women artists who were very famous in their day, acknowledged as great artists, but who largely disappeared from the historical record until recently, when their work has been re-examined. Far from mere tokenism, these women are now being accorded the recognition they deserve. Among them court painters, natural history painters and RA Academicians, though many of their names are scarcely known. But their stories are fascinating, especially considering the obstacles they had to overcome in order to pursue their careers as artists in a strongly patriarchal world.

Barbara is a former lecturer in English and Humanities, with an MA in Literature & Writing Studies. She was a borough councillor at Rushmoor Borough Council in Hampshire for many years, holding portfolios in Health & Housing and later in Economy, Housing Strategy & Planning. She is a governor at Gillingham Primary School, has served as a trustee for a number of charities and as the long-term Secretary of The Farnborough Society. She is currently Groups Coordinator and trustee for Shaftesbury & Gillingham u3a and is also leader of the Art Appreciation Group, Reading Group and Garden Interest Group.

## Group News



### Learn Italian

Having just retired from teaching French and Spanish I am really looking forward to returning to my favourite language Italian by leading an Italian conversation group. I studied Italian at university and have lived in various parts of Italy over the years including Florence, where I was a cathedral guide at the Duomo. I also lived in Sicily and the Veneto region where I was an au pair for two different families. Subsequently I taught English as a foreign language near Milan. I now continue to enjoy family holidays in Italy and hope to go to Bologna in October.

I am hoping that the group will give those that have never had the chance of learning Italian the opportunity to learn alongside those who are returning to it after a break. I love all things Italian and am looking forward to sharing this with you.

The group will meet every Tuesday at my home from 10–11,30am. If you are interested, please contact me at [arigby2023@outlook.com](mailto:arigby2023@outlook.com) or 07895 720 975.

*Alison Rigby*

## Shared Interests

### The American Museum & Gardens

The first outing by members of this new group saw four members visit the Museum and Gardens, near Bath. The weather was pretty miserable, so we spent our time exploring the museum, a wonderful Lego exhibit and, of course, the cafe.



We all enjoyed ourselves and aim to return in May to enjoy a picnic and see the gardens at their best.

If you would like to join the group and find like-minded people to do things with, please let me know.

*Barbara Hurst*

01747 825646

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



## Garden Interest

Edmondsham House was a huge success. We were shown around by Andrew Haynes head gardener for 30 years, whose speciality is exotic plants, a lot of which were of Japanese origin. The exotic bed was stunning with Tithonias, Castor Oil plants and a beautiful collection of dahlias. Andrew has practised 'no dig' in this garden for many years now with obvious success. He was generous to part with his wisdom to us all, and showed us how to properly puddle and place our plant correctly in situ.

The trees in this garden were worthy of a note here as they were magnificent, especially the giant majestic Cedar of Lebanon, an ancient Copper Beech and Japanese Katsura tree, which, when damp, smells of Candyfloss.

The house itself is a Tudor Manor House with Georgian editions. Some of our members will return when the house is open to the public once more.

Our next garden visit will be to The Hollow at, Blandford Forum. A third of an acre garden with interesting plants, with borders that line the numerous sloping pathways. Water features for wildlife are well placed with seating areas to sit and enjoy the views. Along with a productive veg garden in the converted paddock The Hollow recently appeared in 'Amateur Gardening' magazine so should be a very interesting visit.

*Irene Gordon*

## Churches/Places of Worship

The next visit by the Churches/Places of Worship group will be to the Italianate St Mary & St Nicholas parish church in Wilton on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> October. I have arranged a guided tour at 11.00am with the organist, who will naturally tell us about their exceptional instrument. The cost will be £3. There is also the option of a free self-guided tour of St Mary's, about 15 minutes' walk away, and a number of cafes and restaurants for refreshments. Please let me know if you would like to come, and whether you need a lift or you can offer a lift; it would be nice to include those who can't drive if we can.

After the guided tour, I shall be taking lunch at *Origins* before heading to St Mary's. If anyone from Gillingham would like to join me for that itinerary, I'm happy to offer three others a lift.

*Barbara Hurst*

01747 825646

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## Knitting/Crafts

This meeting was very productive as we had a new member crocheting, myself knitting and a wonderful guest who has promised to come to each meeting, her being an expert on Crewelwork embroidery, which I hope to start a project on soon. The latter of course using wool, too.



We have had some interest and in fact will be hosting next time a few more enthusiasts and all with their own ideas and projects.

The next meeting is Tuesday 10th of October.

*Irene Gordon*



## Oxford Trip

We had glorious weather on Wed 6 Sept, interesting guides, the chance to visit museums (and or friends/relatives). As the photos show, we saw wonderful architecture.



There were very few students around, so the streets were not too crowded. All in all, a lovely day.

Many thanks to Steve.

*Sue Walker*



## Other groups / items for interest



### School Governorship

Many local schools are in need of committed governors and it's a very valuable way to contribute to your community. Older people have a wealth of experience and many have skills that are desperately needed. If you think this is something you would like to explore, contact the Chair of Governors at your local school via its website and arrange to meet for a chat about what is involved. Gillingham Primary School, where I am a governor, is one school in need of fresh blood, so feel free to contact me if you would like to know more.

*Barbara Hurst*

01747 825646

barbara@pbhurst

## Trading Standards news: Single use Plastics Ban

Single-use plastics are only used once before they're thrown away. The problem with plastic waste is that it doesn't break down, it only breaks up into smaller and smaller parts. This impacts the environment and wildlife for years to come.

According to estimates, England uses 2.7 billion items of single-use cutlery, most of which are plastic, and 721 million single-use plates per year. Of these, only 10% are recycled. If 2.7 billion pieces of cutlery were lined up, they would go round the world over eight and a half times (based on a 15cm piece of cutlery).

Previous efforts to eliminate avoidable plastic waste, include:

- One of the world's toughest bans on microbeads in rinse-off personal care products announced in 2018.
- Restrictions on the supply of single-use plastic straws, drink stirrers and cotton buds in 2020.
- Plastic Packaging Tax in April 2022 whereby a tax of £200 per tonne was introduced on plastic packaging manufactured in, or imported into the UK, that does not contain at least 30% recycled plastic.
- The 5p single-use carrier bag charge, in May 2021 which was increased to a minimum charge of 10p and extended to all retailers, taking billions of bags out of circulation.

Last year the UK Government consulted on banning other types of single use plastic and they reported that over 95% of those who responded to the consultation were in favour of the ban. So, in October 2023 a new ban on other single use plastics is set

to come into force. The ban will include single-use plastic plates, trays, bowls, cutlery, balloon sticks, and certain types of polystyrene cups and food containers. The ban on these items will include online and over-the-counter sales and supply, from new and existing stock.

It will mean that businesses can no longer supply, sell, or offer these types of single-use plastics to customers. Businesses will need to use alternative options instead. The UK Government announced the ban in January this year, giving businesses time to prepare for the change.

## **Dorset Museum**

Life Drawing at Dorset Museum – 8 week course led by James Meiklejohn.

9 October 2023, 2:00pm to 4:30pm

This is a bookable event on the museum web site

## **Talk**

Wildlife friendly gardening by Mitch Perkins

10 October 2023, 2:00pm – 3:00pm

This is a bookable event on the museum web site

## **Lecture**

Real Dorset with Jon Woolcott

19 October 2023, 7:00pm – 8:30pm

In this lecture, let Jon Woolcott take you on an amusing whistle-stop tour through some of the discoveries and oddities that make Dorset unique.

This is a bookable event on the museum web site

## **Museum Tours**

Collections Discovery Centre Tour

25 October 2023, 2:00pm – 2:45pm

## **Halloween Event**

Museums After Dark 2023

27 October 2023, 5.00pm – 9.00pm More information – [keepmilitarymuseum.org](https://keepmilitarymuseum.org)

This is a bookable event on the museum web site

## **Black History Month**

John Brown in Dorchester

30 October 2023, 2:00pm – 3:00pm

A talk in the Alice Ellen Cooper Dean Community Space.

For more information on all the above visit the website



.....and finally,

Why did the yogurt go to the art exhibition?

Because it was cultured.

I told my wife she was drawing her eyebrows too high. She looked at me surprised.

Why do French people eat snails?  
They don't like fast food.



Group	Date	Leader	Website
Art Appreciation	2nd Monday 2-3.30pm	Barbara Hurst	<a href="#">click here</a>
Canasta	1st and 3rd Monday – pm	Hazel Baker	<a href="#">click here</a>
Canasta		Barbara Watkinson	
Celtic World	4th Monday – am	Denise Sims	<a href="#">click here</a>
Churches/Places of Worship	To be Arranged 4 visits per year	Barbara Hurst	<a href="#">click here</a>
Cosmology	1nd Monday – am	Denise Sims	<a href="#">click here</a>
Digital Photography	3rd Thursday – am	Andy Newton	<a href="#">click here</a>
Embroidery	3rd Wednesday – pm	Lesley Frost	<a href="#">click here</a>
French for Fun 1	Tuesday/fortnightly – am	Ron Beard	<a href="#">click here</a>
French for Fun 2	Wednesday /fortnightly pm	Chris Stotsbury	<a href="#">click here</a>
Garden Interest	2nd Monday – am	Irene Gordon	<a href="#">click here</a>
Genealogy	4th Monday – pm	Liz Greenway	<a href="#">click here</a>
German Conversation	Wednesday /fortnightly – pm	Robert Light	<a href="#">click here</a>
International History	3rd Wednesday – am	Richard Sims	<a href="#">click here</a>
Italian for Beginners	Tuesday 10.30 – 11.00am	Alison Rigby	<a href="#">click here</a>
Knitting/Crafts	2nd Tuesday – pm	Irene Gordon	<a href="#">click here</a>
Languages of Planet Earth	3rd Friday – 2.00pm	Denise Sims	<a href="#">click here</a>
Literature	1st & 3rd Monday – am on Zoom	Peter Rolfe	<a href="#">click here</a>
Lunch Club	4th Friday in the month	Ros Ham	<a href="#">click here</a>
Mahjong	2nd & 4th Friday – 2pm	Marion Pace	<a href="#">click here</a>
Music for Pleasure	2nd & 4th Thursday – pm	Eileen Haddleton	<a href="#">click here</a>
Natural History		Janet Fenton	<a href="#">click here</a>
Philosophy	Monthly Tuesday pm	Chris Spencer	<a href="#">click here</a>
Poetry & Play Reading	1st Thursday – pm	Audrey Cross Janet Botterill	<a href="#">click here</a>
Reading Group	1st Friday 11am –12pm	Barbara Hurst	<a href="#">click here</a>
Rummicub	Weekly Tuesday – pm	Avril Fletcher	<a href="#">click here</a>
Scrabble	Weekly Friday – am	Yvonne Hill	<a href="#">click here</a>
Shared Interests	Varied	Barbara Hurst	<a href="#">click here</a>
Spite & Malice	3rd Monday – pm	Sue Walker	<a href="#">click here</a>
Table Tennis	Weekly Thursday 2pm	Elizabeth Lewer Chris Stotesbury	<a href="#">click here</a>
Walking Group	1st Tuesday – am	Barbara Robson	<a href="#">click here</a>

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Copies of this newsletter can be found on our website <https://u3asites.org.uk/sgu3a/>