

# INTOUCH

Dear All,

It seems no time at all since I was composing last month's letter, and looking forward to our first meeting at our new venue at the New Remembrance Hall at Charlton. We still have a few glitches to work through especially with the sound system but we will get there!

I have one sad piece of news to report: Davina Belcher a longstanding member of our u3a has sadly passed away following a tragic accident and a prolonged stay in hospital. A card has been sent to her family on behalf of us all.

Then, only a week after our September meeting came the news of the death of Queen Elizabeth II. Although from the reports from the Royal Press Office of periodic mobility issues, and the recent photos of her, it was clear that she was becoming more frail, it was nevertheless a shock. Although I was born in George VI's reign, I cannot remember his death, so for me, as for so many British citizens, she was the only British monarch I can consciously remember. Her example of quiet fortitude, service and just getting on with the job, allied to a deep faith is an example I think we can all empathise with, and hopefully seek to follow.

*Liz Greenway Chairman.*

## Group News

Following the detailed news in the September edition I am pleased to tell you that group leaders have provided me with feedback.

**Rummicub** has a new member but as there is no space in the current group a waiting list has been started. Should you wish to join why not consider setting up a new group - see (FfFii) mentioned on page 2.

**Scrabble** has a new member, as does **Canasta** - but again no space. **Walking Group** has 2 additional members and **Art Appreciation** a whacking 11.

**Spite and Malice** has welcomed one new member and one who was returning after many months absence!

A number of people have joined the **Garden Interest** group over the year and two more joined after last month's issue but several no longer take part. So, they now again have about 20ish on their list. Meetings in the field are usually 10 - 14 which is just right, occasional meetings indoors again this winter will likely bring out most of the list.

## Garden Interest Group

Our next garden visit is on Monday 10 October, to Frankham Farm, Ryde Intrinsica, Sherborne DT9 6JT. Time: 10:00 for 10:30. Cost: £10.00

This is a visit to a large and lovely garden, created for year round interest and coffee and cake is included in the price.

Happy Gardening.

**Jan Skelton—Leader Garden Interest Group**

## Spite and Malice

Our numbers were diminished this month by members who preferred to go on holidays and/or cruises rather than staying home to play S&M!

Well, really!!

But fun was had, and cake was eaten.

**Sue Walker**

## French for Fun ii (FfFii)

At the end of October, a second French for Fun group is starting, led by myself and Liz Lewer. We will be meeting on alternate Wednesday afternoons in Shaftesbury.

The aim will be to help each other improve their conversational French, and to this end members will be encouraged to use French wherever possible during the sessions! Activities will include talking in pairs and all together, story reading and a little translation, while probably also working through an intermediate French course. We hope also that it will be fun!

How we develop will depend on the abilities, interests, ideas and contributions of the participants.

Chris Stotesbury

## Lunch Group

A lunch group is now starting and will meet once a month in changing local establishments.

The day will be the fourth Friday of each month and the time - 12.30. The first meeting is planned for **October 28th 2022**.

It will be a chance for members to meet new people, try new cuisines and have a day off cooking!

Members will be encouraged not to sit with their 'friends' but to regularly sit with different people, learn new things about the U3A and area and to try a variety of menus suggested by the group membership. Some choices might not suit everyone but a variety of venues will keep us all 'up to date'! 10 is probably the maximum membership for the group so we can all sit at one table in most places.

If you are interested in joining the group and coming along please let me know and I will inform you of the chosen venue.

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

## Table Tennis Group

Our leader (me) failed to write something about the Table Tennis group for last month's In Touch, so here it is now.

We meet from 2-4 on Thursdays at Child Okeford Village hall and we play Table Tennis, talk, drink tea and eat biscuits (and, occasionally, cake). No minimum skill level is necessary, apart from being able to move around. Many have only played previously at a youth club, and it is a joy to see people improving over the months and years. It also helps if at least some of us can remember the score and who is next to serve!

We have space for a few more to join us, and if you do, we hope you have some fun.

Chris Stotesbury

## Philosophy

One problem philosophy has is that we tend to have discussions, frequently about abstract ideas. For example, in the last meeting we asked the question: "What is the role of government?"

We found parallels with today's public school system and questioned if the UK was truly a meritocracy. Then we found challenges in trying to build a useful model of today's Nation State and we found ourselves questioning many things that we previously held as being true.

The group will reconvene in January as various members are otherwise engaged.

If anyone is thinking of joining it might be as well if you contact Joan Allsopp on either [01747 853869](tel:01747853869) or [07726275193](tel:07726275193), as I will be away.

Chris Spencer

## Xmas Lunch

On 3rd October the Committee are discussing venues but that is too late for this publication. Details may be available at the October meeting in Charlton and will be published in next months In Touch.

## CURRENT GROUPS

All leaders can be contacted via the website

Group	Meetings	Leader
Art Appreciation	1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursday Afternoon	Barbara Hurst
Canasta	1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Monday Morning	Hazel Baker
Digital Photography	3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursday Morning	Andy Newton
Embroidery	3 <sup>rd</sup> Wednesday Afternoon	Lesley Frost
French for Fun	Tuesday Alt Weeks Morning	Ron Beard
Garden Interest	2 <sup>nd</sup> Monday Morning	Jan Skelton
Genealogy	4 <sup>th</sup> Monday Afternoon	Liz Greenway
German Conversation	Wednesday Alt Weeks Afternoon	Robert Light
International History	3 <sup>rd</sup> Wednesday Morning	Richard Sims
Literature	1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Monday Morning	Peter Rolfe
Mah Jong	2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Friday Afternoon	Marion Pace
Music for Pleasure	2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Thursday Afternoon	Patricia Lawford
Natural History	2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Wednesday Morning	Marion Hammond
Philosophy	Arranged by agreement	Chris Spencer
Poetry & Play Reading	1 <sup>st</sup> Thursday Afternoon	Audrey Cross
Rummicub	Weekly Tuesday Afternoon	Avril Fletcher
Scrabble	Weekly Friday Morning	Yvonne Hill
Spite and Malice	3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursday Afternoon	Sue Walker
Table Tennis	Weekly Thursday Afternoon	Elizabeth Lewer Joint Leader
Table Tennis		Chris Stotesbury Joint Leader
Walking	1 <sup>st</sup> Tuesday Morning	Barbara Robson

## News from Trading Standards: Button Battery Safety

Button batteries are used to power everyday items including car key fobs, remotes, and children's toys, but if swallowed, they could badly injure or kill a child.

Button batteries react with saliva to create caustic soda, which is the chemical often used to unblock drains. If a child swallows a button battery and it gets stuck in their food pipe (oesophagus), it can burn a hole and cause internal bleeding, or even death. If a button battery gets into the stomach, it can also cause significant tissue damage.

Larger lithium 'coin cell' batteries (about the size of a five pence piece) are the most dangerous. Smaller batteries can be inserted into places such as ears and noses, causing serious injuries for children if undetected.

**Store spare batteries securely** and out of children's reach. Be careful when opening multi-packs of button batteries to ensure they do not fall on the floor.

**Know what products use button batteries** and check that the button battery compartment is secure. Put products with unsecured button batteries out of children's reach. Under product safety regulations, button battery compartments in toys are required to be secured.

**Educate older children about button batteries** including why they should not play with them or give them to younger children.

**Discard dead button batteries straightaway** as even dead button batteries can still have enough power to badly hurt a small child. When you remove a button battery, store it securely, and recycle it properly and promptly.

**Act promptly if you suspect a child has swallowed a button battery**, take them straight to the nearest A&E department or call 999 for an ambulance. Take the battery packaging, toy, or gadget if you can, to help staff identify the battery. Symptoms may not be obvious. The child might be coughing, gagging, or drooling, or pointing to their throat or tummy. Unclear or fluctuating symptoms mean it is important to be vigilant. Do not let the child eat or drink and do not make them be sick.

## Alan's humour column

(as told to Alan by one of our ladies!)

I was sitting in the waiting room for my first appointment with a new Dentist, when I noticed his dental diploma, which bore his full name. Suddenly I remembered a tall handsome, dark haired boy in my secondary school class 30 years ago. Could this be the same fellow I had a crush on back then. Upon seeing him however I quickly dismissed the idea that this balding, grey haired man with a deeply lined face was far too old to have been my classmate. After he examined my teeth I asked him if he attended Morgan Park School, yes I did he said I am a Morganer, and he beamed with pride. When did you leave school I asked, I left in 1965 he replied, why do you ask. You were in my class I exclaimed. He looked at me closely, then this ugly, old, bald wrinkled, fat grey haired man asked, what did you teach!

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