

Welcome

Another Year and the first month gone already. It's been miserable weather and not much incentive to get out and about. However there is lots of interesting information and activities outlined below for the coming months. I am sure you will find something to brighten up your days.

Brian Webb – newslettereditor@sidmouthu3a.org

Chairman's Message

Hello Everyone. Renewal time is here again, 1st February our u3a subscription is due. The annual fee remains, for yet another year, at just £12. Excellent value, I'm sure you will agree. You can pay by BACS (preferred method) or by sending a cheque to the membership secretary. If paying by BACS please use your postcode as reference. Do have a look at some of the events coming up this year. A singing day in March, and a bowls taster session in March (date to be confirmed). And, for the first time in many years, a short break away. We have a three day gardening trip organised for our members in June to RHS Bridgewater in Salford, also visiting Trentham Gardens, Arley Hall and David Austen Roses. For full details see later in this newsletter. For a booking form please contact me on chairman@sidmouthu3a.org. **Janet Bailey**

Membership Secretary's Message

A handover of this position is taking place on the 1st of February, I have decided to step down due to other commitments which are increasingly taking up my time. Some work related and others pleasure. This has been a great experience, meeting and greeting new members and asking existing members to renew their subscriptions each year. It's better to renew by BACS as again this makes life easier for the membership secretary and especially the treasurer. I have to say the work has been done mainly by email which is so much easier for everyone, from you the member, to our committee being able to keep you informed of our u3a Sidmouth's plans and events. Sometimes this seems a little impersonal as a way of communicating but it does give everyone time to think and reply in their own time easily. 40 years ago while working in Portugal. At the time we were generally communicating via Fax Machines (remember them?) All those rolls of paper. Then photocopying the fax as it would fade away if not made permanent. In 1983 I sent my first email to the USA. Now it's every day, and sometimes every hour we get communications. At least you can ignore the ones you don't want or need! Times change, It also reminds me of a gentleman I met a few months ago. 'What did you used to do before you retired?' I enquired? Oh I used to run a business sending out mailshots, on behalf of charities. Yes, 6 million appeals a month. I said, Well I don't get many of those now via post, No he replied, we stopped sending out mailshots, and just took out a prime time TV advert, with the same type of pictures and an appeal. This generates more income and return than any mailshot. We get straight into your living room, and you watch on a screen. How times move on, no more wasted (recycled) paper, no postage costs. Now in 2023 it will be over to Neil Morley to pick up membership where I have left off. I am sure he will make some improvements. It's been a good time, the committee are so helpful and work hard on your behalf, if you can help in the running of the u3a you will find it rewarding and worthwhile. Please take part. Thank you all for your kind words, to you, good health and best wishes. Thank you! **Chris Ward** - membership@sidmouthu3a.org

Secretary's Message

Sidmouth u3a's Annual General Meeting will take place at the open meeting held at the Stowford Centre on **Tuesday 14th March 2023**. The AGM will be followed by the talk. At the end of this newsletter you will find the following documentation required for the AGM:-

1. The Annual General Meeting Agenda for the meeting on Tuesday 14th March 2023
2. The Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting held on 8th March 2022.

Providing these documents prior to the meeting will reduce the length of meeting and allow more time for members to enjoy the speaker. Your attendance is important. I look forward to seeing you on the 14th March. Thank you! **Christina Isis** – secretary@sidmouthu3a.org

Forthcoming Events

Tuesday February 14th 2023 Meeting, Stowford Rise Community Centre

from 1.30–3.30pm

'Terrorism – How can YOU prevent it?'



Ex-Dorset Police Inspector Alan Jenkins will give an overview of the current terrorist threat, discuss some high profile cases he was involved with and show how you personally can help identify persons who are vulnerable to radicalisation.

Tuesday March 14th –Monthly meeting 'Private Godfrey's Real War'

Social Events

Friday 3rd March from 1.30 to 4.30 at Primley Church Hall

A one-off session of **'Sing and have Fun'** with *Tess Bisson*

Sidmouth u3a members have an opportunity to join Tess in a three hour session of warm up, singing and learning two or three different songs.

Songs may be Gospel, African or folk.

Please bring your own refreshments

The cost will be £3 per person to be paid in cash by the end of February.

This event is being subsidised by u3a.

Contact: Janet Bailey at chairman@sidmouthu3a.org



Bowls Taster day March ? Contact Jackie Cox for more information at jacquelinestanhopecox@gmail.com

Tuesday 6th to Thursday 8th June 2023

Bridgewater Garden Tour 2023

3 days 2 nights Tour Price – from £356 – based on 26 passengers travelling



Included in the Tour Price:-

- Executive Coach Travel throughout
- Accompanied by an experienced Floral Tours representative
- Half Board accommodation on a shared room basis at the Novotel Manchester West, 4* hotel, single rooms are available but with a supplement of £40pp/pn
- Visit to Trentham Gardens
- Visit to RHS Bridgewater Garden
- Visit to Arley Hall Gardens
- Visit to David Austin Roses
- All u3a members have Insurance as part of their membership included.
- If passenger numbers change the price will be adjusted accordingly, for example :- For 30 passengers travelling the price will be £336 and for 40 passengers travelling the price will be £302
- RHS members – £8.50 reduction on the price

If you have any questions or to get a booking form please contact:-
Janet Bailey via email :- chairman@sidmouthu3a.org



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Volunteers needed!

All u3as are run for the members and by the members. A successful u3a needs about 10 to 15% of the members engaged in running the organisation. The backbone of volunteers is of course our group leaders. We are fortunate in having over 50 of them but with the influx of new members we could easily fill a few more groups. If you have an interest or pastime it is fairly easy to start a new group. You do not need to be an expert as there are plenty of resources and help available both locally and nationally. Or perhaps you are in a group with a waiting list, then you could start a similar group on a different day or week to suit you. If any of these ideas appeal then talk to either of our group coordinators for some advice. The other area are those who quietly support by assisting in preparing the hall and refreshments for monthly meetings and social events. They are always happy to have additional people to join the team. We still need people to **'Meet and Greet'**. Just ask at the next meeting

Finally we need new committee members. Each year a third of the committee resigns so we need another 4 to 5 people to step forward. This represents less than 1% of our membership so can you be that 1 in 100 we need? Bringing new faces and ideas helps us develop and change to meet the requirements of the members. It is not an onerous commitment nor are there lots of committee meetings. There are some tasks that need a little training but most of you would find it easy. It is imperative we have a full committee to keep the workload down to a minimum and also to meet our statutory requirements necessary because we are a 'charity'. Currently we need **'Front of House'** plus an additional **'Groups Coordinator'** and a **'Speaker Finder'**. If you think you could help please talk to any committee member to find out more. Their emails are listed at the end of this Newsletter.

Note from the Newsletter Editor:-

Firstly, I am an outsider, one of those pesky holiday makers who fill Sidmouth during the Summer months. We have a static caravan and are in Devon about 70 days a year. So why did I volunteer? I have been a u3a member for the last 20 years and because of moving around have been involved with 6 u3as and on the committee in 3 of them. As we were here in the area a lot we joined Sidmouth and got involved in groups such as walking where we could just join in when we were down here. Sidmouth u3a is definitely one of the 'good ones' so when no one came forward locally I decided to step in, as I believe it is important that there is good communication to tell the members what is happening in their U3A.

So how has it been for me and what is the workload? - Towards the end of each month I gather the information I have received from group leaders and the committee and lay out the newsletter, just a few hours of work. This is now all done online so I can work anywhere and it will make it much easier to hand over to a new member when I step down. The only downside is that I am not able to interact with members easily or be aware of what is happening which is why this position could be done much better locally. However it is an enjoyable experience and the team is good and supportive. So my plea is please consider getting involved one way or another for without your support your very good u3a will gradually diminish. Brian Webb

Groups Galore

Walking Group Christmas ramble.



A lower number than usual joined the lovely walk we all had in December. A longer walk that day, over 6 miles, took us from Otterton along part of the river path and over the hills to the coast path to Brandy Head. The walk that month was led by Gill and Martin Powell who very kindly provided festive mince pies and Stollen bites to fortify us before going down towards Budleigh Salterton and back to Otterton Mills for a Christmas lunch. The photo taken at Brandy Head unfortunately doesn't show what a clear sunny day we had, which couldn't have been better for a December day's outing. The walking group meets on the first Thursday of every month and usually walks between 4 and 5 miles along countryside paths and byways finishing at a pub for lunch! Full members are encouraged to lead a walk now and again. At the moment there is a short waiting list to become full members of the group (20 in size) but obviously not every member can attend every walk, so waiting list members still get a chance for the occasional walk. Contact the Group leaders at:- jillandpetergorton@gmail.com or rita44skid@gmail.com

Nature Explorers – 2023 Programme.

This group meets on the first Wednesday of each month and explores all aspects of the flora and fauna of the Sid Valley. *New members are always welcome.* All explorations start at 10.00am and finish by 12 noon. If weather conditions are poor, check your email before leaving home. An invitation with details of the meeting point and accessibility will be emailed about 7 days in advance. No dogs please. We also have our own WhatsApp group to share sightings and ask questions as well as showing photos on our Flickr site at <https://www.flickr.com/photos/187622043@N05>

March 1st Explore the Upper Byes, then cross the new bridge to stroll up Griggs lane. :- Hedgerow flowers, trees in leaf & flower, bird song, and more.

April 5th Explore the observatory grounds & woods around South Combe Farm:- Wildflowers, unusual grasses, birds, insects and more.

May 3rd A tour of the Knapp Nature Reserve and Lower Knapp Pond:- Blossoms galore, pond-life and a wildflower meadow area.

June 7th Join us to hunt for wildflowers in the Lincombe Valley, Salcombe Regis:- Wild orchids plus a bounty of butterflies, bees, bugs and birds.

July 5th A roam around Delderfield Nature Reserve:- Flowers and the bugs that thrive on them, orchids & crickets too.



Canasta group:- We have a few vacancies for a new session starting February. We meet on the second and fourth Thursday afternoons of the month. Please contact Coral on coral@je57.com

Sidmouth Recorder Group

Brenda Birmingham has regrettably had to stand down as Group Leader, but we are pleased that Amanda Haste has now taken on this role. We continue to meet on the first Wednesday of the month, at the United Reformed Church hall in Primley Rd, Sidmouth, and we play a wide repertoire including folk songs, arrangements of baroque, classical and modern music. We welcome experienced players as well as musically literate u3a members who would like to work on their recorder-playing skills. If you're interested in joining us, please contact Amanda Haste on amanda.haste68@gmail.com

Music appreciation group:- We now meet on the fourth Thursday of every month EXCEPT DECEMBER. Our next meeting will be on February 26th 2023.

Scrabble Group:- We have moved to the Leigh Browne room which is in the **Dissenter Centre, located at the junction of All Saints Rd, Sidmouth, EX10 8ER.** For further information, contact Jack Richmond, Group Organiser. – jackgrichmond@gmail.com

Latin Drumming Group. :- Due to my continuing poor health I am sorry to say that I will no longer be running the Samba Band/Latin Drumming Group for the foreseeable future. Thanks to all the members who have supported the Group over past months – it has been a pleasure to play with you. Brenda Birmingham.

Urgent Requirement For New Group Leaders

A Group Leader is urgently required to run the once monthly newly named **Wanderers** group.

Rummikub Groups – New leader needed

Singing for Pleasure – Leader needed.

If you think you might be interested in one of these roles please contact Marilyn Burton on groupsm@sidmouthu3a.org or Carole Turner on groupsc@sidmouthu3a.org

Groups with vacancies Full details can be found in the '**Groups List**' (link on the newsletter email).

<p>Chairman: Janet Bailey – chairman@sidmouthu3a.org Vice Chairman (vacant) Secretary: Christina Isis – secretary@sidmouthu3a.org Treasurer: Vera Arnold – treasurer@sidmouthu3a.org Membership Secretary: Neil Morley – membership@sidmouthu3a.org Groups Co-ordinator 1: Marilyn Burton – groupsm@sidmouthu3a.org Groups Co-ordinator 2: Carole Turner – groupsc@sidmouthu3a.org Social Committee Chairman: (vacant) Newsletter Editor: Brian Webb – newslettereditor@sidmouthu3a.org Open Meetings: Brian Fernley – speakerfinder@sidmouthu3a.org Front of House Manager (vacant)</p>	<p>u3a Committee Contact Details</p>
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Notification of the Annual General Meeting of Sidmouth u3a

To be held at the Stowford Community Centre,

Chambers Close, Sidmouth EX10 9YL

On Tuesday March 14th 2023 at 2pm

Tea and Coffee served at 1.30pm

AGENDA

1. Chairman's welcome
2. Apologies
3. Minutes of the meeting held 8th May 2022 for approval
4. Matters Arising
5. Chairman's Report
6. Treasurer's Report
7. Election to vacant Committee Positions:-
8. AOB

**Minutes of The Annual General Meeting of Sidmouth u3a
held at the Stowford Community Centre
Chambers Close, Sidmouth EX10 9YL
On Tuesday March 8th 2022 at 2pm**

1. Chairman's welcome

The chairman welcomed members to the 2022 AGM. 80 people were in attendance

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from Bob and Alison Cook, David and Ruth Brittain, Christina and Simon Bowler, Zena Johnson, Jill and Peter Gorton, Dave Pole, Anthony and Jacqueline Green, Jenny Underhill, Judy Bosanko, Jeryl Wheeldon, Mr. & Mrs Iain Morrison, Michael and Julie Fowle, Sylki Beck, Margaret Brett, Gill Thomas, Martin & Gill Powell, Jill & Mike Pincock, Brenda Birmingham, Merle Selwood, Janice & Steve Paul, Elisabeth & Duncan Robertson, Marion Ricketts, Jan Hill, Alison & Peter Budgell, Monica Jones, Hilary & John Cowling, Keith & Maggie Symes, Jane Moorish, Linda Essame, Trevor Heynes, Derek & Elizabeth Carter, Luc & June Vandamme, Paula Hughes, Angela Truscott, Andrea Talbot, Ann Newcombe, Alison & Ian Harrison, Edward & Lynne Bearman, Marline & Dave Butler, Annie Chapman and Steven Harper

3. Minutes of the meeting held 11th May 2.30 pm 2021.

The minutes were accepted as a correct record of the meeting.
Proposed by Marilyn Burton, Seconded by Fran Lee.

4. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising

5. Chairman's Report

The Chairman expressed how delighted she was to have a face-to-face meeting today. The last AGM was held on Zoom 10 Months ago in May 2021 during lock down. Covid precautions continue with open windows in the hall. Masks and hand gel for members is available in the entrance hall if required by members. The Sidmouth u3a committee members were introduced by the Chair. Events of the previous year were reported. The full report from the Chair will be in the next Newsletter.

6. Treasurer's Report

There has been a change of Treasurer and the report will be signed off by Paul Swinburn.

7. Election to vacant Committee Positions

Marilyn Burton-Groups Coordinator - Proposer Janet Bailey - Secunder Keith Symes
Vera Arnold -Treasurer - Proposer Janet Bailey - Secunder Chris Ward
Jo Fox - Front of House - Proposer Brian Fernley - Secunder Marilyn Burton
Brian Web – Newsletter- Proposer - Janet Bailey - Secunder Brian Fernley

8. AOB

The Chairman asked the committee and members for any other business. As there were no other matters the Chairman closed the meeting.

**RENEWAL OF YOUR 2023/24 u3a SIDMOUTH MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION
IS DUE BY 28TH FEBRUARY 2023**

Annual subscription 1st February 2023 – 31st January 2024
is £12.00 Per Person (or £8.50 for members of other u3a branches)

There are 2 ways to pay: Bank transfer or Cheque.

NO CASH PAYMENTS ACCEPTED

Please pay by BACS if possible as this is easier for all concerned.

Sidmouth u3a account details are as follows:

Bank: Lloyds Bank

Sort code: 30-94-36

Account number: 01179888

Account name: u3a Sidmouth

Please use your postcode as your reference
as this is the easiest way to verify who has made the payment

If you prefer to pay by cheque, please send to:

u3a Membership Secretary,

Please make cheques payable to **u3a Sidmouth** and write your postcode on the back of the cheque.

Cheques will also be accepted in person at our February monthly meeting, but there's always a queue! Thank you in advance for your patience.

If you have changed address, phone numbers or email during the last 2 years will you please let me know, either by email or by post.

I do need to keep our membership database up to date for
Your Own Data Protection.

We DO NOT disclose any of your personal data to anyone outside of the current Sidmouth u3a Committee.

Neil Morley, u3aSidmouth Membership Secretary:- membership@sidmouthu3a.org