

## Welcome

It's good that summer seems to have finally arrived. Lots going on as usual both in our u3a and around Sidmouth. Looks like another interesting talk this month about the RNLI. Something very essential locally. I have put a piece in about Scams later in the newsletter as some of us appear to be having some dodgy emails! On a more serious note in spite of attracting a record number of new members in the last 12 months we are still short of committee members. We do need your support and help otherwise it will not be possible to continue with our range of activities in the future. It is not a difficult task, I manage to contribute in spite of living 150 miles away. Although someone locally to help with content and editing would be appreciated. If you feel you could help in any way please talk to or contact any member of the committee. Thanks and best wishes,

**Brian Webb** – [newslettereditor@sidmouthu3a.org](mailto:newslettereditor@sidmouthu3a.org)

## Chairman's Message

The editor is right, we have so much happening over the next few months including our first trip away for quite some years. On 6th June we have a three day gardening visit to Trentham Gardens, RHS Bridgewater, Arley Hall and David Austin Roses. There are a few remaining places, should you wish to go, but you must contact me straight away if you are interested as this trip leaves in a few days time. See the social section of this newsletter for details of all of the other events happening soon and contact the organising member of the event.

Who is going to be the next Chair of Sidmouth u3a? I need a Vice Chair on the committee who will then take over from me when I step down. I'm honoured to be the person leading our organisation but I can't do it forever and someone else needs to come forward now so that we have a seamless transition. We can't operate without a Chairperson!

Other opportunities at the moment are Groups Coordinator, Data Security and we need many group leaders to start new groups where there are waiting lists. If you want to join a group that has a waiting list, why not start a group of our own. Do contact us if you are interested in any role.

Enjoy this lovely weather whatever you are doing this month

Best wishes Janet Bailey [chairman@sidmouthu3a.org](mailto:chairman@sidmouthu3a.org).

## Forthcoming Events

**Tuesday June 13th Meeting, Stowford Rise Community Centre from 1.30–3.30pm**

**“Women of the RNLI” by Wendy Richards Wood.**



WENDY speaks on behalf of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution with particular emphasis on 'Women of the RNLI' describing the role of women both historically and up to present day. Wendy is a volunteer Lifeboats Stations Visits Officer, volunteer speaker and fundraiser for *Teignmouth Lifeboat Fundraising Team* in Devon. As a keen sailor living on the coast Wendy appreciates the opportunity to be involved with Saving Lives at Sea.

**Tuesday July 11th Monthly meeting**

**“Royal Shenanigans in the 18th Century” by Mike Rendell**

## Social Events

### Evening Tree Walk.

Join Ed Dolphin for an evening of trees on **Monday 19th June at 5.30pm.**, for a walk around the Knoll followed by an evening meal at The Woodlands. Sign up at the open meeting on 13th June or email Janet Bailey, details on the back page. No charge for the walk, £30 for the meal (2 courses). Contact – Janet.

### Meet up and Chat

Our first social evening on the 16th of May attracted about 20 members. It was lovely to meet you all that evening and I hope that everyone enjoyed our Drink and Chat event. Listening to all your introductions was a delight and I do hope you will come again to sit, chat, have a drink and enjoy each other's company. Here's to some more lovely friendly meetings ahead and hope you all enjoy the summer sunshine. Our next meet-up will be at **The Balfour Arms on Tuesday 20th June 7–9pm.** Just come along and join us. Best wishes, Marian.

### Observatory walk.

Join Neil Morley for a walk around the Lockyer Observatory on **Thursday 6th July** starting at 11a.m. Sign up at the June open meeting or email Neil, details on the back page. Contact Neil – [membership@sidmouthu3a.org](mailto:membership@sidmouthu3a.org)

### Fireworks.

A trip to the National Firework Championship in Plymouth is planned for **Wednesday 16th August**. There are three 10 minute displays starting at 9.30pm. The coach will leave Sidmouth at 6pm and return after the firework display. The cost for the trip is £17. Please contact Judy Bosanko for a place on the coach. Further information can be found on [www.britishfireworks.co.uk](http://www.britishfireworks.co.uk)  
Contact Judy.

### Theatre trip to The Mousetrap.

**This is a proposed trip and will only go ahead if there is enough interest. Please get in touch if you are interested.**

Agatha Christie's Mousetrap is at The Princess Theatre in Torquay on **Wednesday 13th September**. Our trip will be for the matinee performance at 2.30p.m. The coach will leave at approx. 11.30a.m. and get to Torquay to allow plenty of time for you to enjoy lunch at one of the many pubs or restaurants close to the theatre. The cost will be in the region of £35-£40. Contact – Janet.

### Galactic Soundtrack.

This is the next Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra concert at The Great Hall in Exeter on **Friday 3rd November 2023**. The coach will leave The Triangle at Sidmouth around 5pm with pick up points around town and in Newton Poppleford. There will be a two course meal at the venue before the performance. The cost is currently being calculated.  
Contact – Amanda

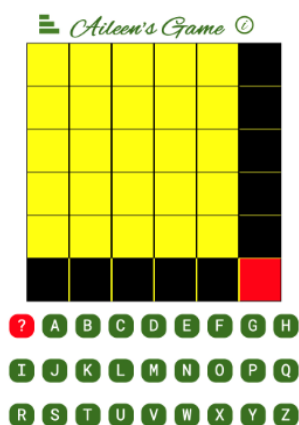
### Theatre trip to 'Six the Musical'.

**This trip is proposed and will only go ahead if there is enough interest.**

**Friday 17th November 2023.** This evening performance will start at 6pm. and is one act with no interval. The coach will leave early enough for a meal before the show and will return after getting us back much earlier than usual for an evening performance.  
Contact – Janet.

## News and Comments:-

### Quizzing?



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In March we mentioned a new game devised by a member of East Suffolk u3a that we could all play online. There are quite a number of players from around the country and **in April Sidmouth u3a member Lorainne Low came top of the scoreboard**. Click here for the [winning details](#). Well done, perhaps more of us could give it a try! Here is the link:- [Aileens Game](#)

## Poetry!

The u3a National Poetry competition took place from November 2022 to January 2023.

With over 600 entries our own **Phillip Smith** took 2nd place with a poem called:-

### ***A Clamour of Rooks***

*It's time to muster in the churchyard  
and we gather, strutting and flapping,  
a bedraggled conclave  
absorbing colour from the looming clouds.*

*We're an untidy gang of opportunists  
scavenging under weed and moss  
with our pewter beaks, flicking gravel  
and disrespecting the buried departed.*

*Self-absorbed, we hop about  
amongst weathered granite memorials,  
incised marble slabs and faded flowers,  
focusing on our staccato stabs and jabs.*

*As the funeral cortège approaches,  
we lift as one into the breeze  
on broken, squawking notes of discord:  
dark calligraphy against a lowering sky.*



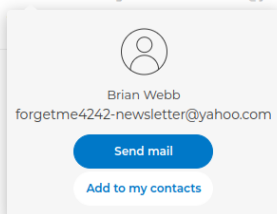
You can read the other winners poems here at [u3a Poetry Winners](#)

## Scams and Spam

There have been some scam emails landing in our Inboxes recently. They appear to come from someone we may know and the text goes something like the following and often the heading is 'Catch Up' followed by:- 'Hello, I'm unable to speak over the phone due to a serious throat pain caused by laryngitis. Hope this finds you well. Please let me know when you get this, I'd like to ask you for a favour. B.....' or 'Can I ask a quick favour from you? Am unavailable on the phone. Let me know if we can communicate via email. Thanks, D....'

Is this a SCAM email?

Brian Webb <forgetme4242-newsletter@yahoo.com>



us throat pain caused by laryngitis.  
ask you for a favour.

Firstly DO NOT REPLY! Once they have your email, who knows what they have put on your computer to extract information or they will get into correspondence with you. But how do you know it is not your friend? If you click on the name of the sender at the top of the email you can see if it is a genuine email name. Very occasionally they have actually hacked the person's email which is much more serious. Either way ignore it and if you think it could be true then get in touch another way. For example 'Text message', 'Whats App' or try 'phoning' any method but email.

If your email provider is any good then a lot of these types of scams end up in your 'Spam' folder so you do not notice them. I checked my spam folder in my main email address and there were 14 spam emails in the last two weeks. However, I have another email address and this did not pick up these 'Spam' emails at all! So it is worth checking your 'Spam' settings to try to filter some of them out.

Is there any way you can stop them or reduce your risk? I will explore this issue next time BW.

[For more information about protecting your email then click here](#)

## Groups Galore

**Another Mah Jong Group:-** This group started again on Fridays at 2 pm, 26 Summerfield, Sidmouth. Heather. We use the book "Improve your MahJong" by Patricia A Thompson & Betty Maloney.

**Alternative Vegetarian Curry Club:-** There are limited spaces left for now on the 1st Monday of each month from 1.00-3.00. Please contact Helen & Anthony for more information to book your place. Thank you.

**Cribbage group:-** The Cribbage group welcomes all levels of players from complete novices to experienced players. We are a small friendly group, many of whom learned how to play from their grandfathers or grandmothers (and may not have played much since). We use a rotation system so that everybody gets to play everyone else, eventually. We don't currently play the 'muggins' rule, so don't worry if your counting skills are a little rusty. We meet on the 3rd Friday of the month from 10.00 to 12.00 in a large, light and airy room with toilet facilities, a kitchen and (limited) parking. For more information contact: Chris Powell, [webmaster@sidmouthu3a.org](mailto:webmaster@sidmouthu3a.org)

**Exploring Art :-** The Exploring Art group's project "**Our Town**" is now completed and the poster is now up on the billboard in the East Ham car park by the swimming pool.. Please go and take a look if you haven't already seen it. You can also see a video of the making of the artwork here:-

**📺 Our Town - a celebration of Sidmouth**

More pictures and information about the Wallspace billboard can be found on the [Sidmouth School of Art website](#).

A2 size prints of the *Our Town* poster will be available to purchase from the Information Centre next to the swimming pool from the beginning of May. Photo reproduced courtesy of [www.sarahhallphotography.co.uk](http://www.sarahhallphotography.co.uk)



### Find Your Voice'

Our new singing group got off to an amazing start with their first meeting on Tuesday 23rd May. Over 40 people had signed up and 35 people attended the first session. Lorna and Sue were absolutely delighted with the outcome.

'Everyone involved participated with such energy and enthusiasm. There was a truly remarkable sense of community and fun. We are very grateful to have received some really lovely feedback from members and look forward to our next meeting on **Tuesday 27th June**'.

### Italian.

Sidmouth u3a have been invited by Honiton u3a to join their new Italian group. This group will therefore be held in Honiton. For further information please contact Janet on [chairman@sidmouthu3a.org](mailto:chairman@sidmouthu3a.org)



## Sidmouth Recorder Group

We 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.

**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.

**Sunday Lunch Group:-** Come and join our friendly group of diners who visit upmarket restaurants in the local area. We meet on the 2nd Sunday in the month and so far, have enjoyed a wide variety of dining experiences. Please contact Gail Richmond.

## Urgent Requirement For New Group Leaders

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

If you think you might be interested in this role please contact Ed Dolphin on [grouped@sidmouthu3a.org](mailto:grouped@sidmouthu3a.org)

**Groups with vacancies and Groups List:-** Full details can be found in the link on the newsletter email).

<p>Chairman:- Janet Bailey – <a href="mailto:chairman@sidmouthu3a.org">chairman@sidmouthu3a.org</a> Vice Chairman:- (vacant) Secretary:- Christina Isis – <a href="mailto:secretary@sidmouthu3a.org">secretary@sidmouthu3a.org</a> Treasurer: Vera Arnold – <a href="mailto:treasurer@sidmouthu3a.org">treasurer@sidmouthu3a.org</a> Membership Secretary: Neil Morley – <a href="mailto:membership@sidmouthu3a.org">membership@sidmouthu3a.org</a> Groups Co-ordinator 1:- Ed Dolphin – <a href="mailto:groupsed@sidmouthu3a.org">groupsed@sidmouthu3a.org</a> Groups Co-ordinator 2:- (vacant) Social Committee Chairman:- (vacant) Newsletter Editor:- Brian Webb – <a href="mailto:newslettereditor@sidmouthu3a.org">newslettereditor@sidmouthu3a.org</a> Speaker Finder:- Norma Pearce Front of House Manager:- Chris Pike –</p>	<p><b>u3a</b> Committee  Contact Details</p>
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