

NEWSLETTER

November 2021

u3a Sidmouth

Welcome

It's officially Autumn, heralded by the amazingly bright Hunters Moon and Orionid meteor shower. We're so lucky in leafy Sid Valley to be surrounded by beautiful Autumn colour. But now the clocks fall back, nights are drawing in and we've got so many opportunities to meet up with friends old and new through u3a to look forward to. See pages 3 and 4. There's a new u3a Sidmouth 2022 calendar available to order (details attached) to help you keep track of those important dates.

Looking forward to seeing you out and about!

Brenda

newslettereditor@sidmouthu3a.org

Chairman's Message

As the days get shorter and more people want to stay indoors we are planning to have extra meetings on zoom through to the Spring. Details on page 3. If you would like the link to the zoom sessions please contact Brian on speakerfinder@sidmouthu3a.org.

It seems Covid cases are changing daily. We intend to keep groups, open meetings and social events going so long as it is safe to do so and within government guidelines. It is recommended to keep in touch with your group leaders to make sure you have correct details about your groups.

More people are still needed to help out on the chair rota and tea rota for our open meetings at Stowford. Please contact frontofhouse@sidmouthu3a.org if you are interested.

Best wishes

Janet Bailey *chairman@sidmouthu3a.org*

It's All Change Front of House

This is my last report as Front of House Manager and I wish to say a big '**thank you**' to the committee and members of the Sidmouth u3a for all the support I've received in my role as Front of House Manager. Without that support the role would have been so much harder. It's also been a lot of fun working with such a variety of characters over the years, past and present and truly enjoyable. Jack Richmond now takes over the reins.

I'm sure everyone will give Jack lots of assistance in his role as Front of House Manager. Not only is he new to this role but also to Sidmouth u3a. It's a wide-ranging role and relies on a team of willing volunteers as support to make everything runs smoothly. I would personally like to wish him every success and assure him I can still be contacted for advice at any time.

Thanks again and see you all around.

Keith Symes *frontofhouse@sidmouthu3a.org*

Sidmouth u3a Calendar

The Calendar is back for 2022 by popular demand. Produced by the Digital Photography Group it features some stunning East Devon images by group members. Full details on how to order your copy are in the flyer. Not many left now so first come, first served! All enquiries to u3a2022@gmail.com, not to the newsletter please!

Membership News

A warm welcome to all our new members. We look forward to your participation in our u3a.



At the moment we have around 488 members as a whole for Sidmouth u3a.

It's very heartening to see so many people wanting to join our u3a after the last two years. We would encourage any new members to join our groups and as much as anything to help with any small jobs that need doing to help this u3a stay so vibrant and welcoming.

Our Social Committee can always do with a little extra help, that way we can keep a very full calendar of events.

If you need any more information, please let me know.

Chris Ward, Membership Secretary on membership@sidmouthu3a.org

What's Going On

U3a Sidmouth asks all members to self-assess for Covid19 symptoms prior to attending any u3a meeting, activity or event and not to attend if they have symptoms. If any member feels they may have Covid19 symptoms, it is advised that they get tested - lateral flow or PCR - or contact the NHS helpline by dialling 111.

THE SOCIAL COMMITTEE IS PLEASED TO OFFER ...

**Exeter
Christmas
Market**

**Get in the festive
spirit! Visit
Exeter Christmas
Market in
December**



Travel there and back on the bus, visit the market stalls on the Cathedral Green. Lunch at Zizzi's in Gandy Street or do your own thing. Maximum number for Zizzis is 15 and deposit needed in advance.

Tea Dance

We are very sorry to say that due to the lack of support for the Tea Dance we have had to postpone this event until the end of March 2022. I hope by then you'll have had a chance to dust off those dancing shoes and be eager to join us.

Andrea Talbot socialchair@sidmouthu3a@org

In-line with our Covid19 Policy, the spacing between seats for our monthly meeting at Stowford Community Centre will be increased to help reduce the risk of spreading any virus. Unfortunately this will result in reduced capacity in the hall. We hope there will still be enough seats to accommodate all attendees, however, in the event of a very high turnout access will have to be restricted and some people may be disappointed. This is an unfortunate scenario we would not like to happen, but under the current circumstances feel it would be necessary to ensure the safety of all our members. We hope you will understand and bear with us as we work through these difficult and changing times.

The organisers will follow all the requirements of the hall. The hall will be well ventilated which may make it chillier than usual, so please come prepared. Sanitiser and discretionary spare face masks will be available. Your name and contact details will be taken and retained for 21 days in compliance with the government Track & Trace scheme. If you're diagnosed with Covid19 up to 10 days after a meeting, please inform frontofhouse@sidmouthu3a.org.

9 November Open Meeting Starts 2pm Stowford Rise Community Centre, Sidmouth

Lundy – A Landmark 50 Years by Simon Dell

In 1968 the decision was made to put Lundy Island up for sale following the death of its owner Albian Harman. When the sale was announced there was great public concern about the island's future. An obvious solution was the National Trust, but it had no funds to buy it, let alone manage it from thereon. Much interest was shown by a number of organisations in purchasing the island but thankfully, in response to a national appeal, Sir Jack Hayward donated the purchase price of £150,000. The National Trust then leased the island to the Landmark Trust.



The Landmark Trust took on their greatest challenge and over the past 50 years of management on behalf of the island's owners, The National Trust, the island's future has been transformed. With numerous properties for rent for holidays and over 15,000 day-visitors each year Lundy is a showcase example of what can be done with sensitive but effective management.

The unbelievable changes of the last 50 years are the subject of this talk photographically charting those changes which have made the island what it is today – a vibrant, secure and well-known wildlife reserve and so much more. The future looks bright as a result of those 50 Landmark Years.

Tea, coffee and biscuits served until 2pm.

Enquiries to: [Brian Fernley speakerfinder@sidmouthu3a.org](mailto:Brian.Fernley@sidmouthu3a.org)

The last Open Meeting at Stowford for 2021 - our Christmas Party - takes place on Tuesday 14 December. More details in the next newsletter.

Winter Zoom Meetings

With the Covid 19 pandemic far from over it's understandable that many members will still feel unsure of attending in venue meetings. To help those at home get through the Winter months we will be hosting an additional open meeting via Zoom in November, January and February. The first will be on Tuesday 30th November. This is the fifth Tuesday of the month so it shouldn't conflict with normal group activities. The subject of the first talk will be announced shortly.

Groups Galore

New Group Leaders Needed

Environmental Issues Group Unfortunately, Roger Holliday has had to stand down from running this group.
Strollers It's been suggested that we start another Strollers group as the current one has quite a long waiting list.

If you think you might be interested in either of these roles please contact Marilyn Burton, Groups Co-ordinator:
groupsm@sidmouthu3a.org 07443019284

Paused Groups on offer again

Digital Photography Group We now have two new leaders, .
Scrabble Group this group will be meeting at the Anchor pub.
Cryptic Crosswords is now up and running on a Monday afternoon.

Tiles Ahoy!

The Scrabble group restarts in November. The group will meet in the Captain's Table room upstairs at the Anchor Inn, Old Fore Street, Sidmouth on the first Thursday morning of the month at 10.15am. Sessions starting on 4 November and continue on 2 December 2021.

New Groups

Curry Club Vegetarian/Fish. This will be held at their home in Newton Poppleford on the second Monday lunchtime starting on 8th November.

Snooker We are in negotiation with the Conservative Club to use their two tables.

Groups with vacancies

Tempted to brush up a language, banish those Winter blues with music and dance, or pursue science or cultural interests? These new and established groups all have vacancies and will be delighted to hear from you.

A Good Read, Art Appreciation 1, Australian Mah-jong, Aviation, Canasta Beginners 1 & 2, Circle Dancing, Cryptic Crosswords, Evening Book Group, Exploring Art, Geology, German Conversation, Jigsaw Swap, Life Stories, Line Dancing, Mah-jong, Modellers, Music Appreciation, Painting for Pleasure, Recorders, Samba Band, Scrabble, Science Engineering & Technology, Sidmouth Nature Explorers, Singing for Pleasure, Singles Meet-up, Snooker, Writing for Fun, 20th Century History.

To find out more, please contact the Group Leader, or Groups Co-ordinators
Marilyn Burton on groupsm@sidmouthu3a.org or Mary Holliday on groupsm@sidmouthu3a.org

Recorder Group Workshop

The Sidmouth u3a Recorder Group hosted a one-day workshop on Saturday 9 October 2021. It was attended by twelve u3a members from Sidmouth, Exmouth and Exeter. The workshop was led by Helen Hooker, a renowned international concert performer and tutor, and covered playing technique as well as interpretation of some new pieces of baroque and modern music. Everyone attending felt they had learned some useful hints and tips and enjoyed making music with fellow u3a members from other branches. Members were appreciative of the opportunity to experience such a high-quality workshop leader with the benefit of the u3a Sidmouth welcome back bonus.

Sidmouth u3a Committee

Chairman: Janet Bailey
chairman@sidmouthu3a.org
Vice Chairman (vacant)
Secretary: Christina Isis
secretary@sidmouthu3a.org
Treasurer: (vacant)
treasurer@sidmouthu3a.org
Membership Secretary: Chris Ward
membership@sidmouthu3a.org
Groups Co-ordinators:

Marilyn Burton
groupsm@sidmouthu3a.org;
Mary Holliday
groupsm@sidmouthu3a.org;
Social Committee Chairman:
Andrea Talbot
socialchair@sidmouthu3a.org
Newsletter Editor: Brenda
Birmingham
newslettereditor@sidmouthu3a.com

Committee Member: Veronica Swinburn
veronica.swinburn@icloud.com;
Open Meetings: Brian Fernley
speakerfinder@sidmouthu3a.org;
Front of House Manager:
Jack Richardson
frontofhouse@sidmouthu3a.org