

Welcome

Well the clocks have gone back and the days are getting shorter. Not my favourite time of the year but with all the things going on in the u3a there is always something to learn or do! Enjoy your read.

Brian Webb newslettereditor@sidmouthu3a.org

Chairman's Message

There are lots of things to check out in this newsletter, please have a look at what's coming up and what you can take part in. I can't believe I'm saying this already, but have a look at what's happening in our Christmas meeting.

The visit to Monet's garden and Versailles in June of next year is going well. If you would like a booking form or more information please let me know. The dates are 18th – 22nd June.

Next year we will be celebrating our 30th birthday. We need both new and long serving members to help to plan some fantastic celebrations. Please do get in touch if you would like to be part of this.

We have some training dates set up for group leaders for Beacon, our new management system. Shortly afterwards it will be available to all members and by 1st February 2024 you will be able to renew your membership online, but don't worry, you will still be able to do it the usual way if you prefer.

Best wishes Janet Bailey chairman@sidmouthu3a.org.

Forthcoming Events

Tuesday November 14th Meeting, Stowford Rise Community Centre from 1.30–3.30pm. Refreshments served until 2pm.

Kayaking around the South West with Rupert Kirkwood



Rupert has paddled every inch of the southwest coast (all 1154 miles of it) and has clocked up nearly 32,000 miles in his kayak over the last twenty years and he loved every minute of it.

The talk will be accompanied by pictures and videos of puffins, otters, beavers, seals, sharks, sunfish, dolphins, Giant Tuna and whales. Also a badger, deer and squirrel swimming in the sea. All photographed from his kayak around Devon and Cornwall.

Next Open Meeting 12th December, Stowford Rise Community Centre from 1.30–3.30pm. Refreshments served until 2pm.

Join us for our Christmas open meeting on Tuesday 12th December at Stowford Hall. 1.30pm as usual for a Christmas get together with mulled wine, mince pies and nibbles. Tea and coffee will be served only up until 2pm to allow the kitchen crew to join in the festivities and you are welcome to bring your own drinks or soft drinks for the rest of the afternoon.

There will be a Christmas quiz with prizes. How much do you really know about Christmas? Come in your best Christmas hat as there will also be a competition for the best Christmas hat, most festive hat, biggest Christmas hat and most outrageous Christmas hat, all with prizes. Maybe even a Christmas sing-along. More details in the December issue.

We look forward to seeing you there.

Social Events

A reminder that the **Galactic Soundtrack concert on 3rd Nov. is cancelled** because of building repair work in The Great Hall. Everyone who had paid for this event should have had a refund by now. If you haven't, please contact Marian Gadian

Six the musical will be held at Torquay on Friday 17th Nov. There are seats available on the coach without theatre tickets should you wish to go to Torquay for late afternoon shopping and an evening meal. Please contact Jackie Cox

Evening Social at a new venue this month 'The Anchor Inn'.

This is held on the 3rd Tuesday in the month from 7 – 9 pm on the following dates:-

November Evening Social Tuesday 21st at The Anchor inn in Sidmouth. It's a very friendly chatty group who would welcome any new members especially if new to u3a. Just come along, no need to book. However it would be useful if you could email me at vice.chair@sidmouthu3a.org so I have some indication of numbers. Thanks, Kate Ashby

The following Social evening will be on **Tuesday December 19th** and returns to the Balfour Arms.

Christmas Wreath Workshop.

Our u3a members have the opportunity of joining with the Sidmouth Flower Guild to create our own stunning Christmas wreath, or a table centre decoration. The workshop will take place on **Friday 1st December** at the Guide Hut on Lawn Vista from 10am to 12 noon, in a pleasant environment. All materials will be provided and a mince pie and coffee will be served. If we can assemble a group of at least 6, the cost will be £20 per person, payable in cash to me by the 21st of November. If you have any queries, please phone me on 01395 515953 or discuss with me at the monthly meeting on November 14th. Veronica Swinburn. Social Committee.



Events are now being planned for the spring of 2024. If you would like to join the social committee please contact Janet on chairman@sidmouthu3a.org

Gardening trip to France 18th to 22nd June

Our gardening trip next year is to France from 18th to 22nd June. This is a short summary of the trip. The cost will be £1,142pp if travelling alone and £874 if sharing a room with another person.

The trip will include:-

Executive coach travel throughout.

Bed and full buffet breakfast with accommodation on a shared room basis at the Mercure Rouen Centre Champs de Mars 4* hotel or similar.

A full day in Versailles and entrance to the Palace and Gardens of Versailles.

Entrance to Monet's garden with free time in Giverny.



Entrance to the Marmottan Museum in Paris with a river boat cruise and evening meal at a Parisian restaurant.

Visit to Le Jardin Plume, the gardens of Pays d'Auge and a calvados producer.

Includes 4 breakfasts and two evening meals.

The trip will be accompanied by a Floral Tours representative throughout.

If you would like further details and a booking form please contact Janet on chairman@sidmouthu3a.org.



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Groups Galore

NEW Discussion group:- This House believes! (Zoom only)

This new group is modelled on the Oxford Union Debating Society. The group will have an opportunity to debate current and ethical issues with the meeting ending with a vote of members, after hearing the debate between those for and against "what this house believes".

Our time together will be via Zoom, which will not only accommodate a larger number than an in-person venue, but will also make for more authentic voting and questions. We just need a few more to sign up, then we can arrange a suitable time and day to commence. For more details, please contact Stephen Low.

Groups Galore

Music Appreciation Group "The art of Listening rather than Hearing"

The Group meets at 1.35 for 2.00 pm. starts on the 4th Thursday of each month with no December meeting. Venue: *United Reformed Church Hall, Primley Road, Sidmouth*. Easy local parking and a nearby bus stop. **Thursday 23rd November meeting notice :-** For the final meeting of 2023 we are fortunate to have as **guest presenter Roger Hendy**, whom many of you may already know from his series of orchestral concerts and recitals here in Sidmouth. Roger is the musical Director of the Exeter based **ISCA Ensemble South West** and has generously given us the afternoon from his busy schedule to present a programme on the Music of Benjamin Britten coupled with some insights and anecdotes on his activities as Musical Director. Our audio quality is equal to most domestic arrangements and probably better than many, all promising an informative and entertaining afternoon. **This is a free taster opportunity open to all Sidmouth u3a members.**

To ensure we can cater for additional numbers it would be appreciated if those wishing to attend would please advise me. Mike Drew Group LeaderT

Groups with vacancies.

Please contact the group leader to find out more details. The full groups list is sent out with this newsletter. [Full details can be found here or on the link on the newsletter email.](#)

Important information for All Members

Sidmouth u3a is in the process of introducing a u3a membership management system called Beacon. As part of the Beacon system, all u3a members can register to use the **Members Portal** where you can see additional information about the Sidmouth u3a Interest Groups, and renew and pay for your membership online.

In the coming weeks you will receive an email from Chris Powell, the Beacon administrator, with a link to register for the Members Portal.

The 'From' email address will be *Chris Powell via Sidmouth U3A* <noreply@u3abeacon.org.uk> and the email footer will read *This email was sent by Beacon on behalf of webmaster@sidmouthu3a.org*. **This is a safe link** but if you have any worries about using it, contact us through the contact section of the Sidmouth u3a website at www.sidmouthu3a.org.

Registration is very straightforward. Initially you will be asked to fill in your membership number (which will be included on your notification email), forename, surname, postcode and email address. Thereafter you simply log in with your email address and the password you set.

Tech Corner with Tony Warren

Data in the Afterlife

Here's a question that sorely needed answering – so many people have brought this up recently, I thought I'd dive in. This is really aimed at married couples or partners, and people with elderly relatives, but it fits anyone who needs to access a deceased person's data. What happens to our digital world, the data, the emails, the bank accounts and all the other stuff when we shuffle off life's mortal coil? How does our surviving partner deal with all that data, as well as everything else that's got to be done? This is a question that crept up on me as I've aged so I've worked out how to prepare for the "just in case"! – not, I hasten to add, that I'm planning on going anytime soon, so I'd like to share how I approached "putting my digital affairs in order".

First, Passwords (yes, that again!) I have left a constantly updated list of all username and passwords in a free on-line Password Safe called ZoHo (see my last months column), with clear instructions on how to get into it. Just in case, there's also a printout (which I keep up to date) very securely hidden away. Next, there's our *"Where Everything Is"* system. I shall be survived by a wife that thinks computers are the devil incarnate. She hates them, even though she daily uses iPad and iPhone for everything and, frankly, is better with IT than she thinks! I created an account in her name with the popular (and free!) on-line cloud service called "DropBox". You can sign up to the free service at "Dropbox.com" DropBox is a simple to use place where you can store up to five gigabytes of data in cloud storage, and it costs nothing to use. That amount of space will cater for about fifty thousand documents. Should be enough! Because it is in the "cloud", it's available from anywhere when you have the username and password; better than that, you never need to back it up, because the cloud IS your backup. I then put a link to this DropBox account on both her iPhone and iPad, so that she simply touches the link and it instantly shows all the *"How-To"* documents I have put in the account (I write them with Microsoft Word, and save them on DropBox as PDF documents). If I expire, she touches the iPad icon and it's all there. I also have a link on my computer to this DropBox account so that I can keep the *"How-To"* documents up to date.

There are documents called *"How does the heating work"* *"How do I access his email account"* (which must NOT be cancelled) *"Where are the passwords"* *"Who should I tell he's gone"* *"Who shouldn't I tell"* *"How does the TV work"* *"Where is the mains water tap"* *"What bills are paid, when and to whom"* *"Links and email addresses of all services, insurers, banks, clubs, Amazon"* etc etc ... There are hoards of them. Finally, iPhones and Android phones. I stress though, don't cut these off, deactivate or cancel them. Just keep them on and charged as long as you want. Apple lets you set up a Legacy contact in your iPhone profile settings, to help the family access all your data, photos, emails etc after passing. Android doesn't have it. You have to use their *"Inactive Account Manager"*. I wouldn't use it! Just keep the account active, and the phone on. Windows needs you to raise a Support Ticket and provide hoards of documentation to be able to access a loved one's data. Once again, best to just keep the account going, and the laptop periodically charged. Facebook - you can *"Memorialise"* the account. Once again. Just leave it active. With all of these - if you want to know more, Google it, or better still, use BING AI Chat, which will tell you everything you need to know.

One of the best preparations any of us can make is actually showing our partners how to work things, like pressurising the boiler, finding passwords or getting into on-line banking.

Disclaimer coming - all situations and circumstances can be different, this is only meant as a guide, if it fits your situation. Finally if you would like to suggest a topic for another edition please [click here to put your suggestion on this form](#)

Chairman:- Janet Bailey - chairman@sidmouthu3a.org
Vice Chairman:- Kate Ashby - vice.chair@sidmouthu3a.org
Secretary:- Christina Isis - secretary@sidmouthu3a.org
Treasurer: Vera Arnold - treasurer@sidmouthu3a.org
Membership Secretary: Neil Morley - membership@sidmouthu3a.org
Groups Co-ordinator 1:- Amanda Haste - groupsmz@sidmouthu3a.org
Groups Co-ordinator 2:- (vacant)
Beacon Administrator:- Chris Powell - webmaster@sidmouthu3a.org
Newsletter Editor:- Brian Webb - newslettereditor@sidmouthu3a.org
Social Committee Chairman:- (vacant)
Speaker Finder:- Norma Pearce - normapearce4@btinternet.com
Front of House Manager:- Chris Pike - frontofhouse@sidmouthu3a.org

u3a
Committee
Contact
Details

The 2024 Sidmouth u3a Calendar

As usual, the calendar has been produced by the Sidmouth u3a Digital Photography Group, using photos that have been taken in & around the East Devon area by the photography group members.

Following feedback on last year's calendar, this year we have changed the format to long and thin (425mm x 135mm) with a line per day to allow a bit more space for writing your important information. The price has also changed: this year it is just **£5 per calendar**



Calendars will be available for collection at the monthly u3a meetings on 14th November and 12th December. If you are unable to attend either of the meetings, calendars can be delivered to your home **FREE OF CHARGE**.

Please put your enquiry by email to:- Chris Powell – webmaster@sidmouthu3a.org