



New Chairman's Introduction

I would like to introduce myself to you all as the new Chairman of Sidmouth U3A. My name is Janet Bailey and many of you will know me as Vice-chairman, and one of the Group Co-ordinators. For the last two and a half years, along with Jill Williams, I have been helping to support our wonderful Group Leaders. A role I have very much enjoyed and will continue to do, until Jill and I stand down at the next AGM and pass the role onto our two new Group Coordinators, Heather Gordon and Jeanette Ward.

Following the resignation, last month, of our previous Chairman, Janis Huntley, I have been elected by the committee to take on the position. My thanks go to Janis, and previous Chairmen, for all they have done to make our organisation great.

I am delighted to accept this new role and feel it is an honour to be able to lead us all forwards into what I believe will be a bright future. It may seem a bit daunting at the present moment, but I firmly believe that we have a truly amazing organisation that, if we work together, will develop into something even more incredible: At a time when some of the U3As in the country are struggling, Sidmouth U3A has accepted new members and has even started new groups during lockdown. I must say well done to all members who have worked hard to keep us active during this indescribable year, and for your continued efforts to stay positive.

The heart of Sidmouth U3A is, and always has been, the interest groups we run. From the original four groups started over 26 years ago by a handful of pioneering people, we now have 59 groups. Although it has been impossible for some groups to carry on, many Group Leaders have risen to the challenge of taking their groups onto Zoom, and some have been even more active than normal. Other groups have kept in touch by email, or phone. Well done to everyone who has tried to make the best of things. Your actions are always appreciated by someone, even if they don't say at the time. See the attached list of groups still active, or trying to get active. If you would like to learn more about running a group on Zoom please contact the Group Coordinators.

As well as you receiving benefits by being a member, Sidmouth U3A needs your help. In order to continue to communicate with you via our newsletter, we need an editor. We need someone to step forward and volunteer to take on the role now, ready for the next newsletter due out in the new year. As well as everything else that Brian does, he has very kindly offered to do this newsflash, but we can't expect just a few people to do all the work when we have so many talented members. Please get in touch with me or Brian if you are interested in this or helping in any other way.

Our next Zoom open meeting will be on Tuesday 10th November at 2.30pm. Todd Gray will be presenting, "Devon & its Georgian cloth industry". I look forward to being able to welcome many of you to the meeting. I hope it's not too long before I can welcome you to a real, live, in venue meeting, but until then I hope you all stay well and stay safe.

Janet Bailey (jbailey194@yahoo.co.uk)
Chairman

Aviation	Science, Engineering & Technology
Cook and Share	Sidmouth Nature Explorers
Environmental Issues	20th Century History
Gardening Topics	3rd Age Bookworms
Geology	Well Preserved
Nature Walks	Wine Appreciation
Quiz Group	

During the current restrictions there is no cap on numbers, please feel free to contact the group leader if you would like to try one or more of the above groups

u3a Winter Learning Programme

All initiatives are available at: <https://www.u3a.org.uk/learning/national-programmes>. Initiatives are intentionally released on a stagger to keep people's interest and participation over the winter. Events which require members to book are at: <https://www.u3a.org.uk/events/educational-events>. The website will be updated regularly so members should be encouraged to keep checking these pages.

National poetry competition. Nationwide search to find the best poem penned by a u3a member. Closing date: 20th November 2020, then judging. Winner announced January 2021.

Programme of free talks delivered by members (currently being sourced). Talks are released on a stagger so people don't bulk book. Talks confirmed to date:

Mayan civilization,

How to write your living history

Yoga (booking not yet released)

Bridge tutorials for beginners and improvers (booking not yet released)

Crown green bowling (booking not yet released)

Philosophy (booking not yet released)

Cryptic crosswords (booking not yet released)

Japan (booking not yet released)

Other TBC.

Made it! Make it! gets a Christmas update – people will be encouraged to send in pictures and explanations of how they have made decorations/items for Christmas and the festive season. This will use the same pages with updated wording and a push on social media. From 12th October, regular weekly updating.

Poetry reading. Encouraging members to read their poems aloud. Led by a u3a member. First session 14th October, 2:30pm. Second session TBC. Booking at: <https://www.u3a.org.uk/events/educational-events>

Winter Watch. Members send it pictures of winter gardens, scenes, animals etc. Launching 20th October, regular weekly updating.