

NEWSLETTER

December 2021

u3a Sidmouth

Welcome

It's a chilly sunrise, but it's a lovely, bright Winter's morning on The Esplanade in Sidmouth today. So get the kettle on, settle down and take a look through the newsletter to see how busy our dedicated team of volunteers has been, setting up new groups and organizing events for you to enjoy.

Looking forward to seeing you around!

Brenda Birmingham newslettereditor@sidmouthu3a.org



Chairman's message

We're looking for a Front of House Manager to help organise the Open Meetings held on the 2nd Tuesday of the month from January. The role includes: organising a rota of members to help with the set up before the meeting and people to check in members, as well as the Health and Safety aspects. If you're interested please contact me as soon as possible.

Our Social Committee is getting very active now; you can see the many events they're organising in this newsletter. I'm so pleased to see that many of us are getting out and about again.

We have so many new groups and suggested groups starting up. I urge you to get in touch with the group leader or the Groups Co-ordinators if you're interested. Anyone with a particular interest can start a group of their own; just contact the Groups Co-ordinators if you want to know more.

The December Open Meeting will be a little different this year! Please see the details later in this newsletter. I hope many of you will join us for a Christmas afternoon.

Thank you so much to the many people who help our organisation run so smoothly. u3a is run for the members by the members, and without the time and energy that many people put in, we just wouldn't have an organisation to enjoy. This year hasn't been the easiest of years and I really appreciate all the help and support we've had to make the organisation work as it does.

I'd like to wish you all a very merry Christmas and hope that you will all be able to spend some time with family or loved ones.

My very best wishes
Janet

Janet Bailey chairman@sidmouthu3a.org

Membership News

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

This takes our numbers to over 500 members!
If you need any more information, please let me know.

Chris Ward, Membership Secretary 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.

There's now a wide range of events arranged by the Social Committee for your enjoyment.

Christmas



Wreath

Friday 17th December. Why not try making your own Christmas wreath this year at Sidmouth Guide HQ 10.30am - 12.30pm? Demonstration and guidance by two members of Sidmouth Flower Arranging Group. £10.00 to include the cost of a basic wreath.

Contact: Andrea Talbot socialchair@sidmouthu3a.org

Exeter Christmas Market

**Get in the festive spirit!
Visit Exeter Christmas Market on Wednesday 8th 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.

Exeter Northcott Theatre Visit

Sunday 27th February. Show starts 7pm.

The Show Must Go On

Enjoy songs from Bugsy Malone, Fame, Hairspray and many more in a West End style concert

Tickets £14.75 (concessions £12.75)
Minibus at shared cost if sufficient demand

Tuesday 29th March. The Tea Dance will be back. It's

a date for the diary and full details will follow in due course.
Contact Andrea for more details.

Saturday 23rd April. Join us to celebrate St George's Day in style this year with lunch at the Belmont Hotel. Three course lunch with entertainment £30.00. We'll be seated in the small dining room so numbers will be limited.
Contact Jack for more details.

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.

Open Meeting, Stowford Rise Community Centre on Tuesday 14th December

Sidmouth u3a Christmas Event



A somewhat different monthly meeting as we approach Christmas, no formal talk this month. Instead we've engaged a singer, Simon Rees, to provide entertainment. Simon has a wide repertoire and, hopefully, there'll be something for everyone.

Festive nibbles will be available. Tea, and coffee are available on entry only. If you'd like to enjoy a festive tippie please bring your own wine, beer or soft drinks and glasses.

Doors open at 1.30pm. Entertainment will begin at 1.45pm. Finish 3.30pm so you can leave in the daylight.



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.

Interested in either of these roles? Please contact Marilyn Burton, Groups Co-ordinator:
groupsm@sidmouthu3a.org

New Groups

Curry Club Vegetarian/Fish with Anthony and Helen Goodman Payne. This will be held at their home in Newton Poppleford on the second Monday lunchtime.

Snooker Janis Huntley has offered to lead this group. The first meeting will be at the Conservative Club on Monday 6th December 2-4pm. Please contact Janis if you'd like to join this group.

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 Mahjong, Aviation, Canasta Beginners 1 & 2, Cryptic Crosswords, Evening Book Group, Exploring Art, Geology, German Conversation, Jigsaw Swap, Life Stories, Line Dancing, Mahjong, Modellers, Music Appreciation, Painting for Pleasure, Recorders, Samba Band, Scrabble, Science, Engineering & Technology, Sidmouth Nature Explorers, Singing For Pleasure, Singles Coffee Meeting, 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

Music Appreciation Group

Since last August u3a when Groups renewed full activity, Music Appreciation has had something of a roller coaster ride. Due to Covid we lost our almost perfect venue at the Sidholme Hotel so now have a new venue in the Sidmouth Methodists Hall, Church Lane, off the High Street and much lighter and transportable audio equipment. Our new venue means we have ample space for new Group members. **We meet regularly on the afternoon of the third Wednesday each month, from Wednesday 15th December at 1.45pm for a prompt start at 2.00pm. We have a refreshment interval and usually end around 4.30pm. All this for a quarterly charge of £ 7.50 to cover hall hire and refreshments.**

The group membership ranges from those with a considerable appreciation of classical music to those who have had little or no exposure to it, but who wish to develop their understanding and appreciation. Our music is substantially but not totally classical and could perhaps be described as somewhat like Classic FM but without adverts! As Group Leader I am not musically trained but have a lifelong appreciation of the Classical repertoire. My Group concept is to present music generally based on my understanding of members' existing tastes and introducing further repertoire of a similar nature but likely unknown to them, plus a little background information. As Classic FM would say, "If you liked that, then you may like this"
New members welcome. Why not try a taster visit? Just contact me in good time, either by e-mail or phone to book yourself in.

Proposed Cribbage Group

Are you interested in learning to play Cribbage or are you already a Cribbage player? If so, would you be interested in joining a yet-to-be-formed Cribbage group? So far this is an interest gathering exercise and days/venues have yet to be decided.



I'll also have a table at the next Open Meeting at Stowford on 14th December if you want more information.

Polskie

New member is looking for a bit of help. He's trying to learn Polish and wants to find someone who knows a bit of the language for practice. If there's sufficient interest he's willing to start a Polish Conversation group.

So, if there are any members who know a bit of Polish and wouldn't mind helping David with his studies, reading together or looking at Polish history; speaking, etc, he's not a beginner and can speak a bit and read quite well, but his understanding of spoken Polish is very poor. Or any interest in forming a Polish Group,

Samba Band Group

After our enjoyable 3-month taster course the members have decided to make the group a permanent fixture. From January 2022 the Group will meet twice a month on the first and third Thursdays 2-4pm at a new venue: Primley Church Hall. New members, beginners and experienced, welcome: the more the merrier - literally!

Sidmouth u3a Committee

Chairman: Janet Bailey
chairman@sidmouthu3a.org
Vice Chairman (vacant)
Secretary: Christina Isis
secretary@sidmouthu3a.org
Treasurer: Vera Arnold
treasurer@sidmouthu3a.org
Membership Secretary: Chris Ward
membership@sidmouthu3a.org
Groups Co-ordinators: Marilyn Burton
groupsm@sidmouthu3a.org
Mary Holliday groupsmmary@sidmouthu3a.org

Social Committee Chairman: Andrea Talbot
socialchair@sidmouthu3a.org
Newsletter Editor: Brenda Birmingham
newslettereditor@sidmouthu3a.com
Committee Member: Veronica Swinburn
Open Meetings: Brian Fernley
speakerfinder@sidmouthu3a.org;
Front of House Manager:
(vacant) frontofhouse@sidmouthu3a.org

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