

Newsletter

May 2021

u3a Sidmouth

Brenda Birmingham

Newsletter Editor

newslettereditor@sidmouthu3a.org

Welcome to your May Newsletter. The number of groups getting back into action one way or another is on the increase. More details can be found in the Groups List on pages 5 and 6. We also have fresh momentum with lockdown restrictions starting to ease, and a new committee following the successful AGM. Hopefully by the next Newsletter, due out mid-June, we'll be able to announce that we're fully back in action with all groups, live Open Meetings and trips and events. In the meantime, enjoy the remainder of Spring in sunny and showery Sidmouth.

Chairman's Message

Good news. All groups can now meet indoors with a maximum of six people including the Group Leader, and outdoor groups can have up to 30 people. I'm sure you will all enjoy using your Welcome Back Bonus to help you get active again.

Since the AGM on 11 May, our first AGM held via Zoom, I would like to welcome the new members of the Committee, all of whom are listed overleaf by our retiring Secretary. Contact details are on page 4. My sincere thanks to all retiring members of the Committee who have come to the end of their term of service, and to those remaining, for their hard work and continuous support. Your u3a wouldn't be active without them. I have received a wonderful comment from Janet Newton:

"Sidmouth U3A should be applauded for all the help and its initiative during a very challenging year. So, well done and thank you."

2 June will be National u3a Open Day. As this is still within lockdown restrictions we will not be planning any activities. However, next year will be the 40th anniversary of u3a in Britain so we can make that a special celebration if enough people offer to help in the planning of such a big event.

I wish you all well in getting back together with your groups.

Best wishes

Janet

Janet Bailey

Chairman

chairman@sidmouthu3a.org

From the retiring Secretary

David Brittain

On 11 May 2021, we held our delayed Annual General Meeting. Unfortunately, the delay did not enable us to hold the face-to-face meeting we had planned, as continuing government restrictions precluded any indoor meeting. We therefore held our first (and hopefully only) virtual Annual General Meeting.

The meeting commenced at 2:30pm with the Chairman welcoming attendees and explaining the Zoom voting and question facilities to be used. Apologies were read and the minutes of the 2020 Annual General Meeting, the Chairman's Report 2021, the Treasurer's Financial report and the amended Constitution were all proposed, seconded and unanimously approved by the meeting. The following Committee vacancies, which had been duly proposed and seconded, were elected to the Committee: Janet Bailey *Chairman*, Diana Crowther *Treasurer*, Christina Isis *Secretary*, Chris Ward *Membership Secretary*, Brenda Birmingham *Newsletter Editor*, Andrea Talbot *Social Committee Chairman*, and Veronica Swinburn *Committee Member*. The new Committee members were introduced to the meeting by the Chairman. There was no 'Any Other Business' so the Chairman closed the meeting.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish my successor Christina success in her role as Secretary and to thank the past Committees and the members for their support during my three years as Secretary.

David Brittain

What's Going On

New Group Life Stories

Do you like to get together with friends and tell tales about your experiences and places you have visited, and listen to their tales? Then you might like to join our new group, which is called "Life Stories". That is exactly what we are going to be doing, with meetings structured so that everyone gets their turn. Your stories could be written down beforehand and read out, or could be just told off the cuff, and a list of themes will be provided to get your ideas flowing.

This could also be a suitable group for people who do not want to tell their own story but would like to listen to other people's stories. Meeting is limited at the moment, but I would like to know how many people are interested so I can plan ahead. If you think this sounds like your kind of thing, please email me. The provisional slot for the meetings is the third Thursday of the month 10am-12 noon.

Maureen Hawkrige

In the News Group

Would you like to be a Group Leader but can't think what kind of group to start? Well, there is a ready-made group needing a leader, and that is "In the News". The group discusses current affairs, we have been running for several years, and now new ideas are needed. There's no need to keep the name or the format, you could organise it however you choose, but there is a gap in our programme for a discussion group of some kind. If you would like to have a go, please let **Janet Bailey** know of your interest.

Open Meeting Tuesday 8 June

Brian Fernley

speakerfinder@sidmouthu3a.org

Brian has lined up another speaker with a fascinating tale to tell. If you would like to attend and are not yet on the regular invitation list, please email Brian and he'll send you the Zoom invitation link shortly before the date.

Nancy Wake - A Truly Remarkable Spy by Paul Barwick

Paul Barwick spent 34 years in the Police Service. He retired in 2019 and set up a Central London walking tour company focused on



London's rich history of espionage incidents and characters. For his talk he tells the story of Australian journalist Nancy Wake, *pictured here*. Nancy had it all: intelligent, beautiful, and married to a wealthy French industrialist, living in grand style in the South of France.

But in June 1940 when the Nazi war machine rolled into France, Nancy knew she had to fight back. The talk describes the part she played, running escape routes, assisting the resistance, and being a general menace to the Gestapo, who nicknamed her 'The White Mouse'. We look at her amazing life and how she found the peace much harder to win.

Help Required with Audiovisual Equipment for Open Meetings

Following the untimely death of Chris Huntley, we have no cover for setting up the audiovisual equipment at open meetings. There isn't a huge amount to do but it is essential for the smooth running of the meetings.

Most of the audio equipment is supplied by Stowford but we do use our own radio microphones and mixer which connect to the hall's system. The hall provides a screen, but we prefer to use our own projector and laptop for displaying the speaker's presentation. The role entails connecting up the equipment and monitoring the levels throughout the talk to ensure there is no feedback and that everyone can hear.

If you have any relevant experience and would like to get involved, please contact Brian Fernley at speakerfinder@sidmouthu3a.org. If you would like to get involved but haven't done anything like it before, still get in touch and Brian will show you the ropes.

Committee

Chairman:

Janet Bailey chairman@sidmouthu3a.org

Vice Chairman (vacant):

Secretary:

Christina Isis secretary@sidmouthu3a.org

Treasurer:

Diana Crowther treasurer@sidmouthu3a.org

Membership Secretary:

Chris Ward membership@sidmouthu3a.org

Groups Co-ordinator:

(vacant) groups@sidmouthu3a.org

Social Committee Chairman:

Andrea Talbot socialchair@sidmouthu3a.org

Newsletter Editor:

Brenda Birmingham newslettereditor@sidmouthu3a.org

Committee Member:

Veronica Swinburn

Open Meetings:

Brian Fernley speakerfinder@sidmouthu3a.org

Group	Time	Group Leader	
A Good Read	3 rd Thurs pm	Eileen Conn	V
Amblers	4 th Tues pm	David Brittain Ruth Brittain	W
Art Appreciation 1	2 nd Wed pm	Mair Miles	V
Art Appreciation 2	3 rd Wed am	Anthea Cridlan Barbara Murphy	W
Astrology Beg	4 th Mon pm	Janis Huntley	W
Aviation	3 rd Wed am	Anthony Derrick	V
Bird Watching	4 th Thursday am	Janet Fernley Janis Huntley	W
Book Talk	Wed pm varied	Vanessa Royse	V
Bridge Intermediate	4 th Thurs am	Marion Tasker Susan Clarke	W
Canasta for Beginners	2 nd & 4 th Thursday pm	Coral Escott	W
Canasta Players	TBC	Janis Huntley Sue Langdon	W
Cook and Share	2 nd Friday lunchtime	Chris Gaine	W
Curry Club	3 rd Tuesday	Janice Paul	V
Digital Photography	1 st Thursday am	Malcolm Seymour John Oxley	W
Exploring Art	4 th Friday am	Maureen Hawkridge	V
Family History	4 th Friday pm	Steve Paul	V
Fantastic Fiction Discussion Group	1 st Tuesday pm	Jennifer Dixon	V
French Conversation	3 rd Thursday am	Anne Marie Bowyer	W
Games and Puzzles	4 th Friday pm	Marion Sangster	W
Gardening Topics	4 th Wed 10 am	Janet Bailey	V
Geology	4 th Thursday am	John Ayres	V
German Conversation	2 nd and 4 th Monday pm	David Spring	V
Heritage Group	2 nd Friday 10 am	Andrea Talbot Colin Boynton	V
Jigsaw Swap Group	by arrangement	Heather Gordon	V
Life Stories	3 rd Thursday 10am	Maureen Hawkridge	V

Line Dancing	3 rd Mon. pm	Mary Kenney	V
Luncheon Club	4 th Wed or Fri	Jill Williams	W
Mah Jong	4 th Thurs pm	Rosemarie Aldridge	W
Modellers	Last Thurs am	Colin Davis David Riches	V
Music Appreciation	3 rd Thurs pm	Mike Drew	V
Nature Walks	3 rd Wed am	Janet Fernley	W
Organic Gardening	3 rd Mon pm	Chris Gaine	W
Painting for Pleasure	Weekly Wed pm	Gwen Papai	W
Philosophy	1 st Wed pm	Rita Skidmore	V
Quiz Group	2 nd Mon pm	Anthea Cridlan	W
Recorders Experienced	1 st Wed am	Jan Macgregor Brenda Birmingham	V
Rummikub	4 th Tues pm	Jane Tunnicliffe	W
Russian Beg	Alt Wed am	Gerald Clark	V
Scrabble			
Science Eng &Tech	1 st Mon am	Bob Miles	V
Shakespeare's Plays	1 st & 3 rd Tues pm	Marie Moore David Bowyer	W
Sidmouth Nature Explorers	1 st Wed am	Kevin Walker Malc Seymour	W
Singing for Pleasure	2 nd Thurs am 4 th Tues pm	Joan Edgecumbe	V
Spices - NEW	2 nd Mon 10.30	Mair Miles	V
Strollers Monday	1 st Mon pm	Vanessa Royse David Royse	W
Strollers Tuesday	3 rd Tues pm	Vanessa Royse David Royse	W
Supper Club	2 nd Thurs 7pm	Janice and Steve Paul	W
Table Tennis	3 rd Thurs am	Hilda Hoepelman	W
20 th Century History	3 rd Mon pm	Brian Fernley	W
3 rd Age Bookworms	4 th Mon pm	Jill Williams	W
Well Preserved	4 th Mon pm	Chris Ferguson	V
Walking	1 st Thurs am	Jill Gorton Rita Skidmore	W
Writing for Fun	4 th Tues am	Marion Sangster	V
Wine Appreciation	1 st Thurs pm	Carol Pearce	W
Yoga	3 rd & 4 th Friday 11.30 am	Helen Goodman Payne	W