

## Welcome

*Hello everyone! Well, I don't know about you, but I've certainly enjoyed catching up with u3a friends old and new now things have really got going again. In this month's newsletter you'll find details of more new events and new groups. There's also a fresh copy of the groups list available for handy reference from Groups Co-ordinator Marilyn, contact details on page 4. See you around and about!*

**Brenda**

**[newslettereditor@sidmouthu3a.org](mailto:newslettereditor@sidmouthu3a.org)**

## Chairman's Message

What a beautiful Autumn we've been having during most of September. Let's hope this good weather continues for a little while longer as I'm sure it makes us all feel so much happier.

Welcome to Jack Richardson who will be taking over as Front of House in October when Keith Symes stands down. Thank you so much to Keith for all his hard work, input and positivity while he's been a member of the committee. We also welcome Chris Pike who'll be taking over as Refreshment Lead from Maggie Symes when she stands down in October. Thanks to Maggie for keeping us refreshed at meetings! Another new member to the team is Mary Holliday who is our new joint Groups Co-ordinator working alongside Marilyn looking after our groups.

### Treasurer needed

Would you like to become Treasurer for Sidmouth u3a?

This role is ideal for anyone who likes to work with figures

You will be provided with a laptop and software for the sole use of u3a matters

Treasurer is a committee position for a term of three years

Please get in touch with me if you would like to discuss this: [Chairman@sidmouthu3a.org](mailto:Chairman@sidmouthu3a.org)

As u3a is an organisation run for the members by the members, without people coming forward to play an active role we wouldn't have such well-run activities. There's still room for people to help on the tea rota, chair rota and on the social committee. Please contact me for more information.

Sidmouth u3a has a lot of equipment, and up to now it's been spread around the area in the homes of various members. We've now been offered some land on which we can erect a shed to give us some permanent storage. If anyone would like to help us clear the land, or erect the shed, I'd be very happy to hear from you.

Best wishes

**Janet Bailey**

**[chairman@sidmouthu3a.org](mailto:chairman@sidmouthu3a.org)**



## Membership News

A warm welcome to all our new and rejoining members. We look forward to your participation in our u3a. Philip Smith, Charlotte Sullivan, Stephen Sullivan, Linda Funnell, Raymund Whalley, Clive Brook, Rita Brook, Josephine Squibbs, Jennie Dunn, Carol McManus, Janet Bell, Deidre Smith, Peter Macmillan, Lillian Sevilla, Caroline Wyborn, Pamela Evennett, Linda Gibson. At the moment we have around 480 members as a whole for Sidmouth u3a.

Members are now getting back to meetings either with u3a Meetings at Stowford Community Hall or at group meetings. This is good news. It certainly seems that people are looking to get back to events and meeting others in a safe environment. Some groups have reformed after the various lockdowns and restrictions and have been encouraging new members to join up. And special events, have all increased our numbers by at least 5 people this last two months.

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

Email **Chris Ward** , **Membership Secretary** on [membership@sidmouthu3a.org](mailto: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 ...



## Bowls

Taster session arranged for Sunday 17 October 2-5pm. There will be instruction for playing. Fun competition. Cream tea. Tickets £10.00 for players, £5.00 for non-players. Places are limited, so don't delay! Please contact Gail Richmond

## Tea Dance

A first for Sidmouth u3a!

Tea Dance at All Saints Church Hall, Sidmouth

Thursday 28 October 2.30-4.30pm.

Tickets £3.50 each.

- ◇ Programme and music arranged by professional dancers.
- ◇ Why not dust off those glad rags and dancing shoes and come and join us?!

For tickets please contact Andrea Talbot



**Andrea Talbot** [socialchair@sidmouthu3a@org](mailto: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.*

## 12 October Open Meeting Starts 2pm

### Stowford Rise Community Centre, Sidmouth

#### Crime on Canals by Anthony Poulton-Smith



Crime on the canals looks at over two centuries of murder, theft, criminal damage, health and safety, and even truancy. Until the coming of the railways these waterways were the main arterial routes in the country and, as such, proved a temptation to every rogue, rotter and ne'er-do-well.

Not just the macabre here but also the mysterious the hapless and more than a little humour.

*Tea, coffee and biscuits served until 2pm.*

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

*Well done to everyone who is helping to get all of our groups active again, and our social committee members who have organised so much for us already. I had the pleasure in joining the quad bike session at Escott and as you can see from the photo on the front page, had a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon with nine other u3a members racing around the Escott estate. Thank you to Keith for organising this. Janet Bailey*

## Groups Galore

### Group Leaders needed

- ◇ Digital Photography
- ◇ Scrabble
- ◇ Snooker

### Would you like to run a group of your own?

It's fun and enjoyable to be the leader of a group. You don't need to be a subject expert, you just need an interest in the subject.

If you think you might be interested in one of these roles please contact

**Marilyn Burton, Groups Co-ordinator** [groupsm@sidmouthu3a.org](mailto:groupsm@sidmouthu3a.org)

## New Groups

**Canasta for Beginners 2:** this is a new group that will be meeting twice a month on Fridays

**Circle Dancing:** In circle dancing, we hold hands and dance in a circle, often to folk music, at other times to contemporary music. The steps are similar to those used in line dancing but are usually much gentler. It is a very social activity and you don't need partners. The dances can be traditional, classical, modern, fun or meditative. The leader will listen to what you want to do.

**Cryptic Crosswords:** For beginners or those more experienced and able to share their knowledge. We will investigate the many types of cryptic clues whilst solving a crossword puzzle.

**Environmental Issues Group:** This group has now resumed. We started in August to examine and understand a wide range of topics that are impacting the way we live locally, nationally and worldwide. Currently, our membership is full, but we are happy to keep a waiting list for future openings, or we consider expanding the group in the future.

**Line Dancing** has now resumed with Mary Kenney on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday pm at the Conservative Club, there are still some vacancies.

**Singles Meet-up:** meet with Janet James for coffee/tea with the idea of arranging with others to go on visits to cinema, theatre, gardens etc. The first meeting will be on the 4<sup>th</sup> November.

**Snooker – leader needed:** Suggested before lockdown but didn't get started. We have been offered the use of the two tables at the Conservative Club.

**Geology:** meeting on zoom twice monthly until end of 2021.

## Groups with Vacancies

A Good Read, Aviation, Art Appreciation 1, Australian Mahjong, Canasta for Beginners, Circle Dancing, Evening Books, Exploring Art, Geology, German Conversation, Jigsaw Swap, Life Stories, Line Dancing, Modellers, Music Appreciation, Recorders, Samba Band, Science, Engineering & Technology, Sidmouth Nature Explorers, Singing for Pleasure, Writing for Fun, 20<sup>th</sup> Century History.

**To find out more, or to join, please contact the relevant Group Leader. Contact details are on the groups list.**

## Sidmouth u3a Committee

**Chairman:** Janet Bailey [chairman@sidmouthu3a.org](mailto:chairman@sidmouthu3a.org); **Vice Chairman (vacant); Secretary:** Christina Isis [secretary@sidmouthu3a.org](mailto:secretary@sidmouthu3a.org); **Treasurer:** Diana Crowther [treasurer@sidmouthu3a.org](mailto:treasurer@sidmouthu3a.org); **Membership Secretary:** Chris Ward [membership@sidmouthu3a.org](mailto:membership@sidmouthu3a.org); **Groups Co-ordinator:** Marilyn Burton [groups@sidmouthu3a.org](mailto:groups@sidmouthu3a.org); **Social Committee Chairman:** Andrea Talbot [socialchair@sidmouthu3a.org](mailto:socialchair@sidmouthu3a.org); **Newsletter Editor:** Brenda Birmingham [newslettereditor@sidmouthu3a.org](mailto:newslettereditor@sidmouthu3a.org); **Committee Member:** Veronica Swinburn [veronica.swinburn@icloud.com](mailto:veronica.swinburn@icloud.com); **Open Meetings:** Brian Fernley [speakerfinder@sidmouthu3a.org](mailto:speakerfinder@sidmouthu3a.org); **Events:** Keith Symes: [frontofhouse@sidmouthu3a.org](mailto:frontofhouse@sidmouthu3a.org)