

Welcome

Another month and another year almost over, where does the time go! Still there is our Christmas event to go to. Shame I can't be there. This edition covers January 23 as well, so keep it handy in the new year to ensure you remember what is going on. Have a good festive season and we will be back in touch in February.

Brian Webb – newslettereditor@sidmouthu3a.org

Chairman's Message

After a gap of three years, Sidmouth u3a visited 'The Great Hall' in Exeter for a performance by the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra. Everyone who went had a very enjoyable evening and it was nice to be able to restart an excursion that used to be very popular. We now need one or two members to offer to keep this going into next year.

We will also be needing more of our members to join the committee and the social committee in the new year. There are many roles to fill, most very enjoyable, but without volunteers, our activities would come to a halt. Please get in touch if you want to take an active part in the running of your organisation. u3a is run for the members by the members.

I hope to see as many of you as possible at our Christmas meeting this month. Last year we had a good afternoon with Simon who did a great job of entertaining us. Everyone left the hall with a smile on their face.

I would like to wish all of our members a wonderful Christmas and a very happy new year.

All my best wishes, **Janet Bailey** – chairman@sidmouthu3a.org

Membership Secretary's Message

Our membership currently stands at 570 members. We had another successful New Members Welcome afternoon (tea and chat) during November, with over 40 new members attending to see news of groups with vacancies together with a warm welcome from Janet our Chairman, who explained some of the history of u3a and what we have to offer. However I will be standing down as Membership Secretary in the new year so we are actively looking for one OR two of our members to step forward to take on this role within our Sidmouth u3a. As the u3a is run by members for members, I hope if you are interested you will be encouraged to contact Janet Bailey our Chairman. Thank you! Chris Ward - membership@sidmouthu3a.org

Advanced notice for your diary!

Sidmouth u3a's Annual General Meeting will take place at the open meeting held at the Stowford Centre, **Tuesday 14th March 2023**. The AGM will be followed by a talk to be announced in the next issue. Christina Isis secretary@sidmouthu3a.org

Forthcoming Events

Tuesday December 13th 2022 Meeting, Stowford Rise Community Centre
from 1.30–3.30pm



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 and finish at 3.30pm so you can leave in the daylight. If you can't make it then have a look at one of his videos by clicking [HERE](#)

Tuesday January 10th 2023 Meeting, Stowford Rise Community Centre
from 1.30–3.30pm

The Devonshire Land Girls by Rebekah Pearson

In 1943, over 1700 women were serving in the Women's Land Army and the Women's Timber Corps in Devon. Living and toiling individually on farms or as part of a gang that lodged in a hostel and worked on the land wherever they were needed. The Land Girls and Lumber Jills were crucial to maintaining food supplies during the Second World War.

Rebekh is an ex naval officer who believes the contribution of these extraordinary women, who came from the big cities and all walks of life, some as young as 17, deserve to be remembered and honoured in the same way that the regular Forces were,"



Zoom Meeting : Monday January 30, 2.00 pm

Bang Up To The Elephant – Fool's Gold



During lock down we had two shows on Zoom from "Fool's Gold", they are making a welcome return to Sidmouth u3a with a new show. The title usually arouses people's interest, essentially the show is concerned with all things Victorian. Murders, doctors, high adventure and the working poor all make an appearance. Original music is mixed in with well-known can't-help-but-join-in Victorian songs.

A good afternoon's fun from the comfort of your home!

It is with great sorrow we have to announce the death of Maurice Ault November 2022.

Member of Sidmouth u3a 2015-2022

I first met Maurice when Brian and I joined the quiz group when we came down to Devon in 2016. We were occasional partners but it was at half time over a cup of coffee I often got into conversation with Maurice. It was on one of these occasions that I found we had frequented a smart, popular eating establishment near Nottingham (Grange Farm) during the late sixty's and seventy's. For me it would have been for special family anniversaries or birthdays but for Maurice it was a place where he took customers.

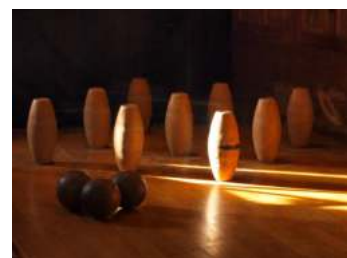
On another occasion when he was complaining at his lack of fitness (through ill health) he told me he had been a personal trainer for young athletes in his younger days.

It was sometime later that Maurice would join the Nature Walks group when I discovered his love of nature. But that wasn't long before 'lockdown' when Nature Walks, with the help of Kevin Walker with his new Nature Explorers, would meet twice monthly but only by Zoom. Maurice always had something to contribute and it was here that he showed photographs of his and his neighbours private nature reserve at the back of their gardens.

I remember Maurice with affection for his warmth, enthusiasm and contribution to whatever u3a activity he was taking part in; he will be missed by all who knew him. Janet Fernley

Anyone for Skittles?

We were new to the game of Skittles that we played at the Blue Ball with the u3a on Thursday 4th November. Carla and Martin Scott were our hosts. After having coffee at 11 am the game started. Throughout the morning the game was explained to the whole group. We were divided into two teams, all mixed genders and abilities which we thought was very fair. When it was our time to play we found we were actually able to knock down some of the skittles after three goes. Yes you are expected to pick up your own skittles as there is no automatic device to do so. No problem, we all played our part in doing this. I must admit the women did get the advantage of standing a little nearer at the start line. It was good fun with a nice atmosphere among the group. They were all friendly and made us feel very welcome. If you have a morning to join the fun come along. It was a close tie in both games, but the third game was the last game, which was a knock out down to the last person. Well done to Anne Chance who was the champion of the day. Nothing for a prize but that didn't matter, taking part and having fun was. Would definitely play again. At the end of the games you could choose to stay and enjoy lunch with the group. Enjoyable morning that we shared with others. Eunice and David Hall.



Nature Walks



This November the Nature walks group had a **fungi foray** led by Micheal Jordan. Michael is a renowned Mycologist (fungi expert) having written books on Mushrooms and fungi, author of *The Encyclopedia of Fungi of Britain and Europe*, founder and chairman of the Association of British Fungal Groups (ABFG).

Photos courtesy Ed Dolphin

Exploring Art Group

We would like to thank the people who painted a picture of their house for the "Our Town" project. If anyone is still finishing their picture, I need to receive them by the end of January at the very latest, and preferably sooner. At the moment I am assembling a collage of paintings on the computer. I hope to be able to tell everyone when the poster will "go public" sometime early in the new year. To see



more pictures of our artwork please visit the Sidmouth u3a website [or click on this link](#).

If you have any questions about the project, please email me. Maureen Hawkrigde

Change of Venue

Scrabble Group:- We have moved to the Leigh Browne room which is in the **Dissenter Centre, located at the junction of All Saints Rd, Sidmouth, EX10 8ER.** We will not be meeting in December but will reconvene in January on the 4th Wednesday. For further information, contact Jack Richmond, Group Organiser. -

Music appreciation group now meets on the fourth Thursday of every month EXCEPT DECEMBER. Our next meeting will be on January 26th 2023.

Urgent Requirement For New Group Leaders

A Group Leader is urgently required to run the once monthly newly named **Wanderers** group.

Rummikub Groups - New leader needed

Singing for Pleasure - Leader needed.

If you think you might be interested in one of these roles please contact Marilyn Burton on groupsm@sidmouthu3a.org or Carole Turner on groupsc@sidmouthu3a.org

Groups with vacancies Full details can be found in the '**Groups List**' (link on the newsletter email).

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-ordinator 1: Marilyn Burton - groupsm@sidmouthu3a.org
Groups Co-ordinator 2: Carole Turner - groupsc@sidmouthu3a.org
Social Committee Chairman: (vacant)
Newsletter Editor: Brian Webb - newslettereditor@sidmouthu3a.org
Open Meetings: Brian Fernley - speakerfinder@sidmouthu3a.org
Front of House Manager: Jo Fox - frontofhouse@sidmouthu3a.org

u3a

Committee

Contact
Details

SIDMOUTH u3a CALENDAR ORDER FORM



As well as a useful & attractive adornment to your home, the calendar also makes an ideal Christmas present for friends and relatives, reminding them of just what a beautiful part of the country we are all lucky enough to live in.

The calendar is 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.

The price per calendar is just £6.25 without an envelope or £6.50 with an envelope.

Calendars can be paid for & collected at the u3a December meeting OR

Pay by BACS and get free delivery to your home address OR

Complete the form below and send a cheque to: Chris Powell, 7 Primley Gardens, Sidmouth EX10 9LE

BACS

Account Name: Sidmouth U3A Photo Club

Sort code: 30 98 97

Account No: 66583062

Reference: Your surname + 'calendar'

I wish to purchasecalendar(s) @ £6.25 **+** cardboard mailer(s) @ £0.25

I enclose £.....by cheque made out to 'u3a Sidmouth'

NAME:

ADDRESS:

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Postcode:

TEL:

EMAIL: