

Welcome

The days are drawing out at last; snowdrops, daffodils, camelias and all the other beautiful flowers and shrubs the Sid Vale is famous for are really starting to show. Here's your latest information on events, groups and gatherings planned for the next few months and going forward.

Brenda Birmingham newslettereditor@sidmouthu3a.org

Chairman's Message

Welcome to the start of another u3a year. Your subscriptions for 22/23 are now due from 1st February. Please see the article from our Membership Secretary in this newsletter for details on how you can pay.

I'm delighted to announce that we have a new Front of House Manager, Jo Fox and I'm sure many of you will help support her in her new role. You will meet Jo at the open meeting in March, which, of course, is our AGM. If you would like to be an active part of our successful team you can join the committee at the AGM. Contact me on chairman@sidmouthu3a.org if you would like to know more. u3a is run for the members by the members so it's up to all of us to make it work.

A plea from our Group Leaders: **please reply** to emails you may receive about your group. If you can't attend meetings and you don't keep in touch, you may be removed from that group if there is a waiting list. I look forward to meeting many of you during the course of this year.

Best wishes

Janet

An important date for your diary

**The next u3a Sidmouth Annual General Meeting will be held on
Tuesday 8th March 2022. More details to follow.**

Janet Bailey chairman@sidmouthu3a.org

Obituary

Margot Wells joined Sidmouth u3a in 2001 and was an active member of several groups. Together with Marion Tasker, she established the Bridge Group and in later years took over leadership of the Walking Group.

Margot had an eventful life, being born into a farming family in East Germany. As a young woman she escaped from East Germany and travelled to London where she eventually met and married Jim. They moved from London to Sidmouth on Jim's retirement, but Margot continued to work and was employed by Russell and Bromley in Exeter.

Margot's main interests were walking and gardening. In recent years she was proud to have completed the Southwest Coast Path.

She was well known around Sidmouth and will be sadly missed.

Rita Skidmore

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

U3a

Committee

Contact details

RENEWAL OF YOUR 2022/23 u3a SIDMOUTH MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION IS DUE BY 28TH FEBRUARY 2022

**Annual subscription 1st February 2022 – 31st January 2023
is £12.00 Per Person (or £8.50 for members of other u3a branches)**

There are 2 ways to pay: Bank transfer or Cheque.

NO CASH PAYMENTS ACCEPTED

Please pay by BACS if possible as this is easier for all concerned.

Sidmouth u3a account details are as follows:

Bank: Lloyds Bank

Sort code: 30-94-36

Account number: 01179888

Account name: u3a Sidmouth

Please use your postcode as your reference: this is the easiest way to verify who has made the payment

If you prefer to pay by cheque, please send to:

U3a Membership Secretary, Chris Ward,

The Firs, 15 Connaught Close, Sidmouth, EX10 8TU

Please write your postcode on the back of the cheque.

Cheques will also be accepted in person at our February monthly meeting, but there's always a queue!

Thank you in advance for your patience.

**If you have changed address, phone numbers or email during the last 2 years will you please let me know,
either by email or by post.**

I do need to keep our membership database up to date for
your own data protection.

We DO NOT disclose any of your personal data to anyone outside the current Sidmouth u3a Committee.

Chris Ward, u3a Sidmouth Membership Secretary membership@sidmouthu3a.org

- The Sidmouth u3a Membership List now stands at 510 plus several enquiries for 2022
 - This is an increase of some 65 people in the past twelve months. Thank you all for joining.
 - You will find a Subscription RENEWAL NOTICE above.
 - It would help greatly if you could pay via BACs from your bank account, details of our bank account details are in the renewal notice above.
 - Please use your postcode as the reference in the BACs details.
 - We **do not** disclose any of your information to anyone outside our committee.
 - New members are continuing to contact us and join our thriving u3a.
 - Our annual fee is nominally £12: excellent value for all the facilities and groups on offer to our membership.
 - If you have any change in circumstances to your postal address, phone or mobile numbers, or more especially your email address, please don't forget to contact me as soon as you know of a change.
 - As our u3a is now using email as the preferred contact method it is important we are all up to date. If you need any more information, please let me know. Email membership@sidmouthu3a.org
- Chris Ward Membership Secretary**

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.

St George's Day Lunch Saturday 23rd April 2022

Join us to celebrate St George's Day in style with lunch at the Belmont Hotel, Sidmouth. Three course lunch with entertainment £30.00. We'll be seated in the small dining room so numbers will be limited. Don't miss out ... book now! The Belmont won't hold the booking without full payment by their deadline. Please book with full payment by Tuesday 8th February by mail, or at Stowford Open Meeting. Cheques payable to: u3a Sidmouth
Contact Andrea Talbot on socialchair@sidmouthu3a.org or 01395 488875

The Craft4Crafters Show

Thursday 24th – Saturday 26th March 2022 Westpoint Centre, Exeter Doors 10am – 5pm

The Craft4Crafters exhibition features a mass of crafting delights; packed full of crafting displays, demonstrations, lectures, workshops, make and takes, and a large selection of fantastic retailers. Over the last 18 years the show has established itself as one of the largest sewing and crafting exhibitions in the Southwest. **Craft4Crafters would like to make a special offer to all U3A members of £2 discount per ticket if booked online in advance. When booking online, just enter the Code C4CU3ADEVON**

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 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 8th February 2022 *The SS Great Britain* by Ian Caskie

Talk starts at 2.15pm. Tea/coffee served from 1.30-2pm.



Ian was born and raised on Merseyside, where he spent many an hour watching the arrivals and departures at Liverpool's busy Pier Head in the 1950s and 60s. This led to his lifelong passion for ships – especially ocean liners. He has been a Visitor Experience volunteer with the SS Great Britain Trust since 2007. The SS Great Britain was the second of Brunel's three great ships, in which he employed the very best of cutting-edge technologies to create the world's first transatlantic liner – a true wonder of the Victorian age. She was the first ocean-going steamship with an iron hull, and the first driven by a propeller. This extraordinary ship, launched in 1843 as the largest and fastest afloat, transformed shipbuilding and sea travel forever. Through his illustrated talk Ian will enlighten us on the ship's remarkable story, from her original design through the different phases of her working life. He describes her incredible salvage and return to Bristol in 1970, and finally her restoration, preservation and 're-launch' as a multi award winning museum of international renown.

Zoom Talk: 'Beaming the Dreamtime' by Nick Lockett – Wednesday 23rd February 2022 starting at 2pm

A story about how the world's longest continuous civilisation, First Australian Aboriginal people, who run a modern satellite TV channel from the desert in Alice Springs. Nick Lockett is a professional photographer for over 40 years.
Brian Fernley speakerfinder@u3aSidmouth.org

Groups Galore

New Group Leaders Needed

Environmental Issues 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 or Mary Holliday groupsm@sidmouthu3a.org

New Groups

Around the World in 80 Bites – run by Chris Hall – chrishall1950@gmail.com 07588 460281

Cribbage – Chris Powell is leading this group, chris.powell@cameronpowell.com 01395 568071

Snooker- Janis Huntley is leading this group. The first meeting was at the Conservative Club in December. Please contact Janis if you would like to join.

Groups with vacancies

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, Circle Dancing, Digital Photography, Evening Book Group, Exploring art, Fantastic Fiction, Geology, German Conversation, Heritage, 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 Meet, 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

Around the world in 80 bites

A new cooking group for the adventurous. Each month we'll choose a country or region and each cook a dish to take round to the home of the host and share. If you've been to that country or region you can share your memories with the group. It's not competitive. If a dish doesn't quite work nobody is going to mind. The group will meet monthly at lunchtime usually 12.30 /1pm. Hopefully the host will have the facilities to warm up the dishes if required. Ideally each member of the group should have the capacity to host 6 to 8 people, but if you're really interested and don't have the space, still think about joining. Singletons and couples are welcome. And it would be good to have a pudding maker! Email Chris Hall if you're interested, or sign the signup sheet at the next u3a monthly meeting.

Chris Hall

Heritage Group

The next Heritage Group meeting is a talk by Brian Portch on "Brunel's Great Western Railway" which we think may be of interest to other Sidmouth u3a members outside of the Heritage Group.

The details: Brunel's Great Western Railway with speaker Brian Portch on Friday 11th February at 10am. Venue: Primley Church Hall, Primley Road, Sidmouth EX10 9LB **Pre-booking essential**. Contact Colin Boynton, or Andrea Talbot socialchair@sidmouthu3a.org

Geology Group

John Ayres has kept the Geology group going for many years now. However the time is right for him to step back from being the named group organiser. So with immediate effect and for the rest of this academic year, Colin Boynton and Carol Pearce will assume joint responsibility for the group. There is also the opportunity for another person to step up to help us and eventually to assume the role.