

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.

This is my last edition as Newsletter Editor. I've really enjoyed sharing our news and happenings with you over the past year. We're so lucky to have the wide range of groups and activities available to us through the goodwill and hard work of all the volunteer organisers. Looking forward to seeing you out and about at groups and events.

Brenda Birmingham newslettereditor@sidmouthu3a.org

Chairman's Message

I'm delighted to be able to introduce our new Editor, Brian Webb. Although Brian and his wife live in Sussex they join us for open meetings whenever they can and are active members of the Walking Group. The next newsletter will be produced by Brian.

Many thanks go to our retiring Editor, Brenda for her time and the excellent quality of the newsletter. Brenda remains Group Leader for Samba and Recorders.

Our next open meeting on 8th March is our AGM followed by our very own speaker Brian Fernley; details of his talk are on page 3. Are you interested in joining the committee? If so please let me know. I hope to see many of you there.

Please let me know if you would like to join the working party to clear some ground for us to be able to erect a shed for much needed storage. It will be no more than two hours one morning later in March.

I would like to remind you all that the yearly subscriptions were due on 1st February. Please send your payment to the Membership Secretary via direct bank transfer or by cheque quoting your postcode in both cases. Queries to Chris Ward on membership@sidmouthu3a.org

Best wishes

Janet

Janet Bailey chairman@sidmouthu3a.org

Membership News

Third Age Matters Magazine

- To all members, the u3a publishes a magazine: Third Age Matters (TAMs)
- This is priced at £4 per year
- TAMs is published five times a year in February, April, June, September and November.
- The content of each issue is varied and interesting to all u3a members, with articles on wide ranging subjects from: prog rock, to contemporary history, to recipes!
- Please email membership@sidmouthu3a.org to subscribe and I can send you details of how to make a payment if you don't have the information
- Payment via BACs is preferred but a cheque made to u3a Sidmouth is acceptable. **Please use your postcode as a reference** if making a payment to u3a Sidmouth
- If you have already paid, there is no need to contact me, but in case you would like to subscribe again in 2022 please let me know **before 8 March 2022**.

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.

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. Two course lunch £24.00. We'll be seated in the main dining room so room for more. Don't miss out ... book now! Please book with full payment by Friday 11th March. Cheques payable to: u3a Sidmouth Contact Andrea Talbot on socialchair@sidmouthu3a.org or 01395 488875

SKITTLES & LUNCH @ BLUE BALL INN, Sidford FRIDAY 6TH MAY 2022 £7.95

11am for coffee and skittles, followed by soup and sandwich lunch. Numbers limited, so book early so you don't miss out!

For more information and to book, contact Carla or Martin Scott

Sidmouth u3a has always had a very good reputation for the social activities that take place in addition to the regular monthly group meetings. To continue to offer a range of different events the group needs more members to come forward with new ideas who are willing to join the social committee. With enough new members on the social committee the role would not be onerous. As you can see, this month we have two members offering to organise a one-off event which should be good fun. Do contact me to find out how the social committee works.

Andrea Talbot socialchair@sidmouthu3a@org



invites

Members of the East Devon u3a Network Link and Mid Devon, Honiton, Tiverton and Exe Valley u3as

to an **Inter u3a Quiz**

on

Thursday 28 April 2022

From 14:00 – 16:00

at **Willand Village Hall**

Gables Rd, Willand, Cullompton EX15 2PL
(Car Park on site)

Each u3a may enter up to 3 teams and each team must have 4 players.

Cost: £10 per team of 4

Refreshments available

Please contact shlawrieu3a@gmail.com

to register your team/s by

Thursday 31 March 2022



Six rounds of 10 questions

PLUS a picture round.

Joker can only be played on one round.



CALLING ALL QUIZZERS! Want to join a team?
Contact Veronica Swinburn
veronica.swinburn@icloud.com 01395 515953

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

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 March 2022

Sidmouth u3a Annual General Meeting, followed by our regular talk
AGM starts at 2pm. Tea/coffee served from 1.30-2pm

Hunting the Hunter (The Story of the only US Navy Airbase in Europe) with Brian Fernley



Centred on RAF Dunkeswell this talk features the Battle of the Atlantic, the only battle that continued throughout the six years of conflict. Dunkeswell played a key role in countering the submarine threat.

Life on the base was documented by an American magazine providing a wealth of visual material, which, coupled with the personal anecdotes of people who were there provides a fascinating insight to the role of the submarine hunters. One of those hunting was Joe Kennedy, brother of JFK, President Kennedy will be heard, only days before his death, reminiscing about his brother's time in the navy.

The speakers at our next Open Meetings are:

12th April 2022 Ellen Holah

About Frauds & Scams

Ellen is a Police Community Support Office who has offered to inform us of current malicious activities we need to avoid.

10th May Steve Davis

On The History and Work of the Thames River Police

Originating as a partnership between the Government of the day and the West Indian planters and merchants, the Marine Police were formed to protect the vital trade between the West Indies and London from widespread theft on the Thames. Over the last two centuries the Thames River Police, as they have come to be known, have continued to protect the river, patrolling, with very few exceptions, 24 hours a day, seven days a week since their foundation.

Today the Thames River still protects the river, as they have done since 1798. They are now recognised by UNESCO as the longest continuously serving police force in the world and, as forerunners of the Metropolitan Police, are the founders of modern policing.

Groups Galore

New Group Leaders Needed

Strollers It's been suggested that we start another Strollers group as the current one has quite a long waiting list.

A member has suggested a group for **Learning to Draw on an Ipad** following in the footsteps of David Hockney!

Interested in leading either of these groups? Please contact Marilyn Burton, Groups Co-ordinator: groupsm@sidmouthu3a.org or Mary Holliday groupsm@sidmouthu3a.org.

Yoga Helen is now able to resume yoga classes from March.

Groups with vacancies

Around the World in 80 Bites Chris Hall

Bridge Susan Clarke

Vegetarian/Fish curry club Helen and Anthony Goodman-Payne

Music Appreciation Group Despite a significant cooling of the hall during the latter part of the afternoon last month due to a misunderstanding over timer settings, Group members stoically remained to hear the full music programme. The February temperatures were cosily warm when our music programme took us on a journey through some late Baroque to early Classical period repertoire, as we listened to works from both popular and less frequently heard composers who were active during Haydn's lifetime.

Various musical genres were explored with compositions from Paganini, Rossini, Schubert, Donizetti, Weber, Scarlatti, Dittersdorf, Gluck and Dussek, with the piano harpischord, harp, and soprano voice represented as well as various orchestral offerings: an enjoyable afternoon of delightful music, with a hot drinks and biscuits during the interval. Everyone enjoyed the experience and the afternoon ended around 4.30 pm as usual. The Music Appreciation Group meets at the Sidmouth Methodists Hall just off the high Street on the third Wednesday afternoon of every month, why not get in touch to arrange for a free taster visit? Mike Drew, Group Leader



Table Tennis Group is looking for new members. We are a friendly group and meet in a great venue where we have 2 tables. All ages and abilities are welcome.



Let's Play! The **Samba Band** is a great way to discover hidden musical talents, improve co-ordination and relieve stress. No previous music skills are necessary and you don't have to read music. All tuition and instruments are provided so members come along and enjoy good company whilst playing songs.

Recorder Group is a consort of players of mixed experience, which enjoys playing a repertoire of early and more modern music, songs and carols for Christmas. Group Leader for both groups:

These groups are keen to recruit a few more members, please contact the leaders direct for more information.

All these new and established groups have vacancies and will be delighted to hear from you.

Around the World in 80 Bites, Australian Mahjong, Aviation, Bridge, Canasta Beginners 1, Circle Dancing, Cribbage, Curry Club, Evening Book Group, Exploring Art, Fantastic Fiction, Geology, German Conversation, Heritage, Jigsaw Swap, Life Stories, Mahjong, Modellers, Music Appreciation, Painting For Pleasure, Recorders, Samba Band, Scrabble, Science Engineering & Technology, Sidmouth Nature Explorers, Singing for Pleasure, Table Tennis, Writing for Fun, 20th Century History.

To find out more, please contact the **Group Leader**, contact details can be found on the groups list.

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**

Apology

We would like to apologise for an error in last month's obituary for Margot Wells. Although Margot was an active member of the Bridge Group she wasn't instrumental in setting the group up. We hope no-one was upset by our error.

Janet Bailey, Chairman

<p>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: Brian Webb newslettereditor@sidmouthu3a.org Committee Member: Veronica Swinburn veronica.swinburn@icloud.com Open Meetings: Brian Fernley speakerfinder@sidmouthu3a.org; Front of House Manager: Jo Fox frontofhouse@sidmouthu3a.org</p>	<p>U3a Committee Contact details</p>
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