

# SOMERTON u3a

## Newsletter 19 October 2021



### October

O hushed October morning mild,  
Thy leaves have ripened to the fall;  
Tomorrow's wind, if it be wild,  
Should waste them all.  
The crows above the forest call;  
Tomorrow they may form and go.  
O hushed October morning mild,  
Begin the hours of this day slow.

Make the day seem to us less brief.  
Hearts not averse to being beguiled,  
Beguile us in the way you know.  
Release one leaf at break of day;  
At noon release another leaf;  
One from our trees, one far away.  
Retard the sun with gentle mist;  
Enchant the land with amethyst.

*Robert Frost*

### Chairman's Message

I recently read an article "The Healing Power of Hobbies". People who have hobbies tend to have lower levels of stress, lower blood pressure. Expression through creative activities can help ease anxiety and depression.

I think that as we re-adjust to living with Covid and having more freedoms, there is a need to grab the opportunities that life offers up.

It was therefore wonderful to meet many new members in September and to meet the group leaders at *the White Hart* for a coffee, cake and a chat.

Please read on to see the pictures and the details. We also held our first monthly Friday meeting at the Edgar Hall, just amazing to see so many of you attend and to have such an entertaining talk.

As the group activities start again, it is a great time to take up the opportunities Somerton u3a has to offer all members.

In this issue of the newsletter there is a feature introducing you to some of the Somerton u3a committee members and why they joined the committee. If you find this interesting, why not come along to a **Meet Your Committee on Friday**

**15<sup>th</sup> October at the White Hart** at 10.30am and join some of us and other members for a casual chat over a cup of coffee.

I certainly look forward to getting out more in the coming months and look forward to seeing you at future events.

*Judi*



*Chairman, Judi Powell, thanking group leaders*



## Chairman's Christmas message

Dear members,

Christmas is not far away and we have missed the last two festive lunches.

We are proposing to meet this year but we would really appreciate your thoughts as to how the day should look.

What would you like?

**A sit down buffet style lunch as we have had previously or something completely different, a brunch with mulled wine, sausage rolls and mince pies, a carol concert either midday or evening, a pantomime, fancy dress party?**

These are just some thoughts!

What are **your** ideas?

Please let me know asap so that we can manage your expectations.

Judi

## Committee profiles

### Judi Powell

I was cajoled

Looking back over the past 4 years , I would not have been without the opportunity to join the committee. I have learned so much and made many firm friends. The last 18 months , although challenging at times, has made me realise just how resourceful the members are and how committed they are to their fellow members. It has been so much fun and the experience is so worthwhile. I will be sad to step down as Chairman but new blood brings new ideas.

I am looking forward to meeting new committee members over the next few months.



# Committee profiles

## Amanda Hooper

When the Committee were looking for new members I thought I'd find out more.....I found a friendly, dedicated, hard working bunch with clearly defined roles utilising individual strengths (mine isn't IT!).

What could I offer?! I decided to put myself forward, as a relatively new member of u3a, as a voice representing the interests of members- as individuals and collectively - how would decisions the committee make affect them.

I still haven't met all of the committee in person, but I look forward to being part of it in the coming year and seeing u3a activities re-establish themselves.

*Amanda Hooper*

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## David Robins

Hi, I am Dr David Robins, retired consultant anaesthetist, and I used to run the Intensive Care Unit in my hospital in Basingstoke, north east Hampshire. I moved to Somerset when I took early retirement from the NHS in 2005, when I continued to work as a self-employed disability analyst and medico-legal expert.

My wife and I moved from Norton Sub Hamdon to Somerton in 2016. I immediately joined the U3A, primarily because I wanted to join the French conversation group.

It soon became clear there were lots of other "clubs" which piqued my interest and I am a member of the Science and Technology group.

I felt I wanted to give something back to the organisation so when one of the committee members retired and a vacancy appeared I applied but could not attend on the AGM because my mother in Wales was unwell.

Nevertheless at the AGM 3 years ago, I was voted onto the committee.

retired and I was asked if I could take over the role, which I duly did and still enjoy enormously.

I sometimes get a speaker who is a little below par, but on the whole members seem to enjoy my choices.

Lockdown was a problem, but I suggested to the committee that we could do Zoom talks, not once but twice a month. I feel this has helped keep the Somerton u3a going, and because we were not hiring the Edgar hall, money saved there could be spent on the extra speakers.

We are always needing new blood on the committee and so if anyone else, like me, wants to see the u3a continue, then please contact our present "boss", Judi, via the website or in person at Edgar hall, or via the good old telephone.



The Speakers' Coordinator on the committee then

# Committee profiles

## Marilyn Muffett

When asked to say why I joined the Committee the phrase 'twisted arm' came to mind! However under Judi as Chair and with a great group of people it has been a largely happy experience. The past months haven't been easy and we

had to get used to meeting virtually but we have the satisfaction of knowing that we have kept Somerton u3a going and have even gained new members during that time.



## Liz Short

### Why I became a committee member

I joined my local u3a in Essex when I retired 8 years ago and was a member of several groups, including being a Group Leader for my play reading group. I thoroughly enjoyed the friendship of other members and the safety net of being able to invite members into my home with the u3a behind me.

I relocated to Somerton in January 2019 and attended my first – and only, to date – meeting at the Edgar Hall, fully intending to be part of u3a life here. I heard at that meeting that Somerton were looking for a new Treasurer as David Harrison was wanting to step down. I had been Treasurer for my local running club in Essex and enjoyed both that role and being a committee member.

I am a bit of a Lance Corporal Jones figure and like to volunteer for most things.

Almost all organisations need committee members and rely on volunteers. I would say that I get as much out of being a committee member as, I hope, I put in. To use the old cliché, I like to be part of a team and I have not been disappointed. We are 'a good bunch' and I thoroughly enjoy being part of the committee.



Liz Short

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## Group Leaders Meeting

*Group leaders enjoying coffee and cake*



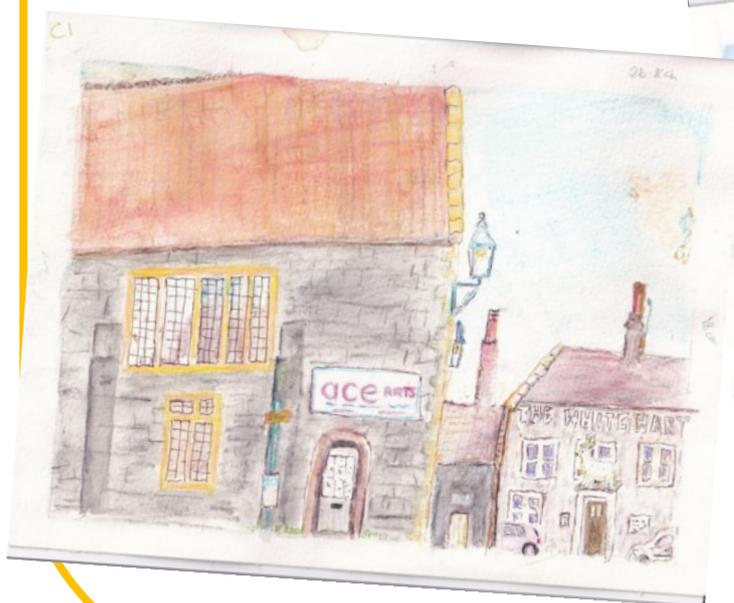
*The 2 Mikes sharing a joke*

# Group News

## Art Group

As I mentioned at the Group Leaders' meeting, around Feb/Mar 2020, the Art group was discussing what we could do for the u3a Open Day which had been planned. We decided to do a panorama of the Market Square in Somerton and each person was given a small piece of a photograph to develop into a painting. There should have been 16 pieces altogether which would have been joined to form the

panorama. Then Covid happened and everything went to pot! In September this year the Art group met up again but sadly we have lost several of our original members for various reasons and there are only a few bits of the panorama in existence.



# Group News

## Garden Visits

### Knoll Cottage Garden

Last month eight members of the Garden Visits group enjoyed a guided tour around Knoll Cottage garden from the owner, John Leech.

The garden is on the side of a valley on the outskirts of Stogumber, a picturesque

village in undulating country between the Brendon Hills and the Quantocks.

The four acre garden was started from fields in 1998. It has been designed to take advantage of the views of the surrounding countryside and a slight hill brow creates a natural ha-ha, so the garden appears to blend seamlessly into the fields and woodland further down the valley.

The planting is very varied. There are extensive mixed beds with annuals, perennials and shrubs. Roses are a particular favourite with over 80 varieties. A large pond is bordered by willows and a pittosporum hedge which

screens an extensive fruit and vegetable area. Further down the garden a woodland area has many choice trees and shrubs, including 27 varieties of birch, 20 rowan, 18 different acers and 14 varieties of hawthorn. This leads on to a coppice planted



*John showing us around his garden*



*Hydrangeas thrive in this garden*

in 2009 with 750 ash trees. John told us that most of these have been affected by ash dieback and very few had been untouched.

John also said that rabbits and slugs had been a huge problem this year.

After the walk, Elaine, John's wife, provided us with tea and a lovely selection of homemade cakes.

This visit was the last in the series of 8 arranged this summer by group leader, Jane.

All the gardens visited are in the National Garden Scheme and can be found in the "yellow book".

I'm sure that I speak for the other members of the Garden Visits group in thanking Jane in organising these trips so that, not only could we admire the beautiful and stunning gardens, but also enjoy being able to see each other again after so many months locked away.



*Jane, you are a star!*



*Ladies deep in thought*

## Bird Watching

## Group News

### *Learning Something new*

I have been watching Egrets over quite a few years now but would still profess not to know much about them – I just like watching them! The photograph shown here is of a Little Egret feeding and it doesn't look too remarkable. I took the photo on one of my many visits to Abbotsbury Swannery at the beginning of September and what I did find remarkable was what it was doing.

The bird was poised, for many minutes, in the water, neck outstretched with its bill resting just into the water. It looked, for all intents and purposes, as if it was drinking? Its bill was moving very slightly, producing bubbles and almost 'chattering' on the surface. It did this for several minutes before flying off, then returning to the same spot and repeating the process.

At Abbotsbury a visitor is fortunate that there are very helpful and knowledgeable staff around who will always answer questions and I was fortunate to see the Reserve Manager Charlie. Charlie told me that it was just feeding.

Apparently, Egrets fish in 3 different ways. Firstly, they can

stomp around, stirring up all and sundry and spearing fish as they see them. Secondly, like the familiar Grey Heron in our waters, they will patiently stand and stare – and wait, grabbing an unsuspecting fish as it ventures too close. The third way is what my Egret was doing. They will stand, as I have described and vibrate their bills onto the surface of the water which, apparently, mimics flies and other small insects on the surface which in turn attracts fish!

Over the years of watching, I have seen methods 1 and 2 on numerous occasions but this was a first. It made my day to see something new.

*Steve Davis.*



## Welcome to the New Groups' Organiser

I am very pleased to welcome Jane Redgrove, who many of you know as an ex- chairman of Somerton u3a and a leader of 3 groups, who has kindly offered to become **New Groups' Organiser**. At the moment, I have a dual role in being both **Secretary** and **Groups' Organiser** so I am thankful to have someone else to help.

As many of you know, Jane was a previous chairman of Su3a and presently group leader of 3 groups.

With everyday life gradually returning to more normal conditions, people are looking forward to not only resuming previous activities but maybe trying something new.

Group leaders have been contacted

and asked to give up to date reports on what is happening with their groups. Thank you to all those who responded as it gives us an accurate picture of which groups are currently in a good position and those who might be struggling, whether from the leader standing down or a lack of members.

Jane's role will be two-fold in that she will try to help groups where the leader has stood down and also actively help develop completely new groups.

The next item, **Groups' Update**, started in the September newsletter, gives more up-to-date information on 7 more groups.

Next month the newsletter hopes to be able to give you a new regular feature which will chart current information on every group.

After **Groups' Update** is a feature entitled, **New Groups**, which gives details of new activities just about to start.

If you have an idea for a new group that you would like to see started, why not contact Jane for help.

Also, if there is a group you would like to join but is full up, Jane might be able to facilitate the setting up of a second group.

*Sue Haigh, Groups' Organiser*

# Groups' Update

## Aviation

### Just to keep everyone up to speed with events.

To date I have received 31 replies, from the current membership of 64 members, to my email regarding the Aviation Group. Of these 25 have shown a willingness to attend live meetings again.

I have had 7 replies from my appeal for speakers, all of which are prepared to talk live to an audience. There is obviously a little more work for me to do but we should have a viable programme.

With the need to be able to socially distance, and the comments from some members, I have made an executive decision to switch the venue and also the day of the week that we will be able to meet.

Meetings will re-start in **February 2022** and will run through to **November 2022**. We will meet on the first **Friday** of the month and we will now meet in the main hall at the **Edgar Hall, Somerton** between **10.00am and 12.00 noon**. There is ample free parking at the venue.

To cover the cost of a speaker and hall hire the meeting subscription will be raised to **£ 4-00**.

With the current restrictions no refreshments will be served.

Look forward to seeing you again in 2022 at the new venue on the first Friday of the month.

*Ray Jones*

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## Raspberry Pi

At the start of Lockdown we went straight onto Zoom, and instead of meeting twice a month we started meeting every week. We have designed and built some great projects. Two weeks ago we had a short Zoom meeting and then met up outside Buttercross Tea Rooms.

## Science & Technology

Initially there seemed little interest in going onto Zoom, however in November 20 we restarted and we have been running each month since. Members attending is slightly down on pre-COVID days.

Both groups used to meet in the Edgar Hall 'Meetings Room' with no windows or external ventilation, so not suitable at the moment. I have an updated price list from Edgar Hall and know that the Conference Room or "Bar Area" are available, but at the moment there is no enthusiasm from my groups to return to face to face meetings.

*John Light*

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## Recorders

We have been playing indoors over the summer with six members or less being present at each session

As we play in members houses we are unable to take any new members as we are a group of eight at the moment.



# Groups' Update

## Singing for Fun

We re-started on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> September, with plenty of ventilation and spacing. I have also supplied everyone with a personal face shield, so we are as safe as we can be. We hope to go back to our regular Thursday slot, so the next *Singing for Fun* will be **Thursday October 14<sup>th</sup>**, assuming the Isle of Man does not impound me.

We meet in the United Reform Church Hall along West Street between the Boots and the Butter Cross from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

This by no means a choir, we just enjoy singing songs from years gone by, from films and musicals, folk songs and well-known popular ballads.

We welcome all members. If you are tempted give it a try...hoping to see you there.

*Chris Cox*

## Pins and Needles

After many, many years of leading Pins and Needles, Gill Graham-Clare has retired. Do you want a new group? This could be whatever you want it to be. A small intimate group meeting in each other's homes or something bigger, perhaps meeting in a hall with occasional demonstrations. Let us have your ideas. [groups@SomertonU3A.UK](mailto:groups@SomertonU3A.UK)

## Veg, Cook and Eat

We have resumed meeting at people's houses. Current membership is uncertain so no plans at the moment to accept new members.

*Steve Davis*

## Mahjong

I hope to start the group again on Tuesday 19th October indoors at my house in Curry Rivel.

Two members are not carrying on but I hopefully have two new members to take their place. I can probably only take one more new member if requested.

No masks will be worn and sanitizers will be on each table.

## Walking groups, Strollers and Striders

The good news is that we have 2 volunteers to organise both groups, Liz Short, the Strollers (2-3 miles) and Ruth Thomas, the Striders (4-5 miles). They will be responsible for maintaining lists of members and passing on details of each walk.

It is expected that members take it in turns to organise walks. This will require a reconnaissance beforehand and previous walking trips have traditionally always finished in a booked café/pub visit. Depending on the number of members this shouldn't happen too often.

Please register your interest at [striders@somertonu3a.uk](mailto:striders@somertonu3a.uk)

## Theatre Visits

After many years, Daphne has decided she cannot continue booking tickets for this group. The theatres are beginning to re-open. Would someone be willing to take over the Theatre Visits group? Who would like to visit a local theatre as part of a group? Email us at [groups@SomertonU3A.UK](mailto:groups@SomertonU3A.UK) When we know the degree of interest, we can make plans.

## Social Bridge

Helga Hincks, the group leader, would welcome new members. She says the emphasis is very much on the social side and having fun.

For details email [groups@SomertonU3A.UK](mailto:groups@SomertonU3A.UK)

## A new Sunday Lunch/Dining group

Somerton u3a does have several Sunday lunch groups which are all currently full.

If you are interested in joining a dining group, doesn't always have to be on a Sunday or a lunchtime please contact [groups@SomertonU3A.UK](mailto:groups@SomertonU3A.UK)

# New Groups

## French for Beginners & possibly more advanced.

Anne Green has offered to start up one or two new French groups, depending on demand and ability. The groups will meet in Anne's home in Langport and will be limited to six people in each.

She has had lots of experience in leading groups for her u3a in Hampshire before moving to Langport in 2019.

If you are interested or would like more details, please contact Anne and David by email: [dgasa48@gmail.com](mailto:dgasa48@gmail.com) (N.B. She has 2 cats and so if you have an allergy this may not be the group for you).

## Coffee and Chat in the *White Hart*.

2nd Thursday of each month from 10.30. Meet new friends over a cup of coffee. Would you be interested? We may have to limit numbers so please let us know if you would like to join this new group.

[groups@SomertonU3A.UK](mailto:groups@SomertonU3A.UK)

## Scrabble II

The original Scrabble group is more or less full.

However, if you would like to play Scrabble, please contact me on [groups@SomertonU3A.UK](mailto:groups@SomertonU3A.UK) and we will form a second group if there is enough demand

## Badminton

If you would like to play badminton, please contact [badminton@somertonu3a.uk](mailto:badminton@somertonu3a.uk)

## Mahjong II

Are you interested in playing Mahjong? New or more experienced. Let us know, and if there is enough interest we will try to arrange a second group.

[groups@SomertonU3A.UK](mailto:groups@SomertonU3A.UK)

## Play Reading

I am setting up a group of eight people to meet monthly in each other's homes from 9.30 to 12.30 on a day to be agreed by the group. For anyone unfamiliar with the concept of play reading, the group will read through a play suitable for the size of the group for the amount of time that we meet; this will be approximately three hours with a break half way through. You don't need to be an actor or have any theatre experience – we merely read the play through. The break will be for tea, coffee and cake provided in turn by the members of the group. If time permits the group will have the chance to talk about the play in terms of the plot and how much, or otherwise, they enjoyed it and decide on plays for the future. These can be dramas, farces, comedies, light plays, serious plays – whatever we, as a group, feel we would like to read. The cost will be £20 in total for a year's subscription to the Yeovil Library so that equates to just £2.50 a member if we have eight in the group.

If you are interested in joining the group or would like more information, please email me, Liz Short, at: [playreading@somertonu3a.uk](mailto:playreading@somertonu3a.uk)

I look forward to hearing from you.

**If you would like to join any of these groups, please email: [groups@SomertonU3A.UK](mailto:groups@SomertonU3A.UK)**

**Or phone Jane on 01458 899962**

# Colin Conway

Colin Conway, who sadly passed away in September, will be most remembered by those who knew him in Somerton for his involvement with Somerton U3A.

Colin was a founder member of our U3A following an inaugural meeting set up by Sherry Briggs in 1997. That meeting resulted in an Enrolment Day with 40 local residents signing on and SU3A was born. Colin was elected as chairman in January 2000 and served until May 2003. Following a year off Colin was again elected as chairman and served another 3 years from 2004 – 2007.

As well as his active role on the committee, Colin was the group leader for the chess group and belonged to and supported many groups within our U3A. In 2000 during his first post as chairman, Colin oversaw the fundraising, which included a sponsored swim which he took part in, and the installation of the Millennium Sundial on the Parish Rooms.

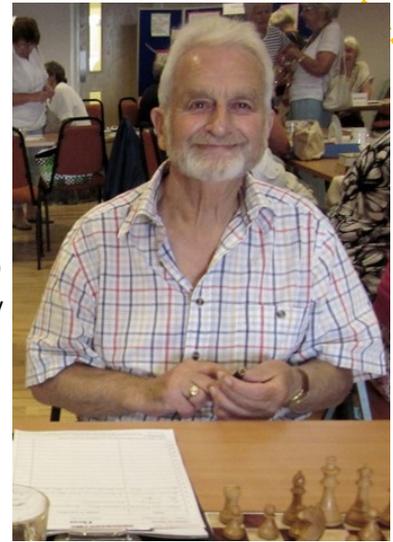
By this time the membership had grown to almost 100 with 19 interest groups. In 2015 Colin moved away from Somerton to live in Dorset.

I first met Colin when my wife and I, having just moved to Somerton, joined SU3A in 2005. Colin greeted us with a handshake, a broad smile and a warm welcome. He asked our names and said, proudly, that as chairman he



*Colin, a much loved former member of Somerton u3a, who recently died*

had made it his business to remember everyone's names but struggled slightly when the membership exceeded 100! He very soon persuaded me to join the committee and it was then that I saw how much influence he had in the success of our



U3A. I had no experience of any sort on a committee, but he guided me through things, got me interested in the organisation and was very strong in being part of the wider movement with our association with the Avalon Network and work within the Southwest Region. He boasted, rightly so, that Somerton U3A was the friendliest around!

Colin had a very gentle approach to everything he did. He enjoyed the company of people; he had a good sense of humour and he never seemed daunted by anything that came along. He was an excellent role model for all future chairman and committee members!

Colin was very proud of the U3A gift of a sundial to the town and that will be a physical memorial to him, and the other early members of course, but his legacy should be the friendliness of our U3A.

Colin always wanted it to be fun.

*Steve Davis*



*Pictured here is Colin and his partner, Maggie, taken at the leaving party that was given for him, which included founder members and committee members*



# Two Colour-Full Lives

Arrival in Somerton was a consequence of our 'advancing years' when the family thought we needed to be closer for support, if and when needed. It was! The consequence - we left behind a large number of friends - but what some Somerton neighbours have noticed is that in our case there seems to be an inordinate number of 'overseas' friends, and this made us ask how many nationalities have slept in our home(s). The first back of an envelope count was at least twenty.

This made us reflect on how did we manage to meet such disparate people? Mostly we've lived in cities and if you're looking then that's where diversity is most obvious, and also it seems we've always been interested in 'difference', and part of our (ethical) reason for living has included challenging injustice when we've come across it. This means that casual conversations at work, in the butchers or the bus stop can lead... anywhere.

Returning to England following living abroad with young children, where even supermarket shopping was a challenge, let alone telling the gas man in Dutch that your cooker doesn't work, took Joan on a course in teaching English as a foreign language. This seems to have opened our floodgate. Women with young children whose husbands were in UK because of government contracts, work or university, added to others who had fled home because of danger, sometimes with husband, sometimes without, like the Vietnamese Boat people, or those from Idi Amin's rule in Uganda, or later, Sarajevo.

Lessons in basic subjects like, "What is your name?" led to accompanying mums to the doctors, schools, the Post Office, etc and finally, when trust has been established, to their homes.

Tens of years later this meant invites to weddings, funerals, and other family events.

At one Sikh event, a Sikh wedding, present as an 'honorary man' she was invited to consume unusual amounts of alcohol resulting in a slurred phone call home for a lift! The culmination of this life led to Joan spending three weeks visiting 'Granny and the family' in various parts of Punjab and Western India.

Joan tried to remember many kinds of transport she used? One was on a bullock cart across fields!

Meantime Dave was at work, but his redundancy led to promotion from 'driver and support staff' to some sort of equality - but still **Mr. Joan!** One morning this found him on the mezzanine floor of a large secondary school expecting to feed English guests at a Hindi wedding,, who

might reject the normal curried fare. The plan was that we bring **40** 10-inch home-made pizzas with various fillings, plus itsy-bitsies.

In fact the UK guests went for the curry and the Hindu families raided the pizzas!

Our reward - a week later - included a 56lb. sack of unused carrots! But what a lovely family! That event was typical of many other warm welcomes into 'the kitchen' for tea and a chat. 'The kitchen' implies acceptance to family status that the 'Front Room' with TV on' does not, and when hair is let down all sorts of 'fun' is revealed.

Moving to Gloucester didn't change the lifestyle, only the people. Sikhs and Hindus were joined by many more Muslims who are the core of Social Services in the City, and do much more besides. We helped found GARAS, an Asylum Seekers and Refugee Help organisation which became a leader of its kind in the country.

Here in the first year we met about fifty nationalities of persecuted families from all over the world. The Roma came first, followed by North Africans from the old French colonies, so we were soon eating couscous!

After the fall of the USSR ethnic Russians came from the 'stahn countries and Poland, Lithuania and Ruanda, but other clients came from the Far East and all over. First priority was helping get *Leave to Remain*. On average this takes seven to ten years, during which you are not allowed to work, very difficult for qualified professional men, and you live on vouchers.

Education, health of children, and accommodation were amongst the needs, so walks to schools and doctors surgeries became routine, plus advice on indoor heating in the winter. This takes you into their homes and once again, when you have their 'trust', the stories begin to come out. We have yet to meet a person with whom we would change places.

In spite of their hardships though the level of hospitality offered us always amazed us. We have much to learn from them. Our advice, **'Don't reject the offer of a cup of tea from a stranger if you ever manage to help one, the resulting chat can lead....anywhere', and remember - they're human.**

*David and Joan Perkins*

# A Grand Day Out

My wife, myself and my guide dog Webster spent Wednesday 8th September at The National Memorial Arboretum, Alrewas, Staffs. The event we were attending was the unveiling of the Royal Army Dental Corps Centenary Stone, the Corps I served with for 24 years from 1961 to 1985.

The unveiling was carried out by HRH The Duchess Of Gloucester GCVO.

After the ceremony we attended a buffet lunch and we were presented to HRH. Everything went to plan until HRH asked me my guide dog's name.

Without thinking I said 'Webster'. Up to this point Webster had been laying down at my side snoozing.

Hearing me say 'Webster,' he trotted across to say hello to HRH who handled the situation skilfully and with good humour.

The day was finished off with a 3-course evening banquet attended by many of the Corps members past, present and their guests.

In the words of Wallace & Grommet, 'A Grand Day Out'.

Haydn Callow

*The Dedication Stone*



*The Duchess of Gloucester at the Dedication Service*



*The Duchess of Gloucester meeting Webster*



*The Duchess of Gloucester meeting past and present members of the Corps*



*Cheers to a Grand Day Out*

## Thoughts on the replacement of a broken mobile phone.....

I remember early mobiles, size and weight of half a brick,  
Status symbol in your briefcase, operation hardly slick.  
One step up from walkie-talkie, park your car and make a call,  
Drive around to find a signal, often saved no time at all.

Some years later, in their phone socks, tiny phones were all the rage,  
Still with clock and calling function, suited to the modern age.  
Simple games and smaller buttons younger fingers to distract,  
Sold to parents 'for their safety', sadly danger could attract.

So much time now spent on mobiles, conversation skills get lost,  
Take a selfie, do some shopping, share and influence at what cost?  
Watching folks in bars and cafes, barely present, on the phone,  
Toddlers potty-trained to movies, what's the future for their homes?

Me, I'd rather meet in person than use phones of any type,  
Whilst I can see the good in tech, am never tempted by the hype.  
Smaller models cost a fortune, far more functions at their core,  
Pockets aren't now big enough ... so phones aren't mobile any more.

Jadi Carlyon

## Pendant's Corner

### Superfluous words

The words in italics are redundant as the word in italics repeats the meaning of another. How many do you use? We are all probably guilty as most of these examples here have entered into common parlance.

**"If it is possible to cut a word out,  
always cut it out."**

### George Orwell

*quite* unique  
small *in size*  
*true* facts  
*past* history  
smiled *happily*  
evolve *over time*  
consensus *of opinion*  
*twelve* midnight  
Sahara *desert*  
*prior* notice  
*end* result  
the *general* public  
personal friend  
*end* result  
strangled *to death*

## U3A Enrolment 2021/22

### Existing Members

As with last year, enrolment will not be carried out face to face.

Payment is by cheque made out to Somerton u3a, or by bank transfer to

**Account No: 82483286 Sort Code: 09 01 53,**

Please give your name as a reference. Cash will not be accepted.

### New Members

If you are applying for new membership there is a form available to download from the website.

Click on *Links*.

### Change of Details

If any of your details have changed, there is a change of information form similarly available. **If you are already a member and none of your details have changed you do not need to complete another form.**

If you are unable to download a form for any reason one can be posted to you.

Cheques, and requests for forms if necessary, should be sent to:

**Marilyn Muffett  
4, Meadow Close  
Somerton  
TA11 6AS**

You can also email Marilyn at [membership@SomertonU3A.UK](mailto:membership@SomertonU3A.UK) or call her on 01458 899773 to request a form.

**All renewals should be accompanied by a stamped, addressed envelope for return of your membership card, which also acts as receipt for payment.  
This applies to payment by bank transfer too.**

# New Members' Guided Walk Around Somerton

On a cool but dry Autumn day a group of new members and committee members enjoyed a guided walk around Somerton. Martyn Smith took us on a gentle stroll around the historically significant buildings and sites of Somerton and supplied much interesting information. The Church being the source of many fascinating facts alone. (see article below)

## New Members Treated to Guided walk Around Somerton

Before meeting for coffee in the White Hart, new members were treated to a guided walk around Somerton with Martyn Smith, a long-term Somerton resident who is well known for his local tours. We were limited to a dozen or so people so that Martin's commentary could easily be heard. Several new members attended and it was good to meet them. We were treated to such things as:-

**Leavers Court** is a grade 11 listed building, next to the dry cleaners, dates from the 15<sup>th</sup> century and is one of the oldest houses in town, with a Tudor overhang on the first floor.

In the 17<sup>th</sup> century it was the Nag's Head Inn.

**The Church of St Michael and All Angels**, whose wooden Nave roof was made off site by the monks of Mulchelney Abbey in 1450. There are gryphons/wyverns in the roof spandrels, and a small wooden barrel in the ceiling to the left of the main entrance. This was the "calling card" of the carpenters,--probably coopers or barrel makers.



*The Church of St Michael and All Angels looking glorious in the September sunshine and the newly trimmed yews.*

The Patriachal, also known as the archiepiscopal cross, is a variation of the Christian cross, believed to have originated during the byzantine era. It is the emblem of archbishops of the Roman Catholic Church.

It is believed that this one carved onto the floor of St Michael's Church signifies that an archbishop visited here sometime before the Reformation started in the reign of Henry V111

**Cow Square**, opposite Somerton Barbers and New Street, was where the cows were paraded before sale. The Old Hall here was built on the site of the old County Court, since Somerton was the County Town from 1278 to 1300s.



*Martyn and the group outside the Parish Rooms*

*Martin pointing out one of the unique features of St Michael's Church*



There were so many other things and I have a transcript of the whole walk if anyone is interested plus the names of 3 books on ancient Somerton.

Following the walk, which took around one and a half hours, the group went to *The White Hart* where coffee was taken in the courtyard giving new members the opportunity to get to know each other and meet some of the committee members, including the chairman, Judi.

*Dr David Robins, Speaker  
Coordinator, Marilyn Muffett,  
Membership Secretary*



## Future Speakers

*Fri Oct 22nd*

### The Air Ambulance Service

A presentation at the Edgar Hall, by Debbie.



*Fri Nov 26th*

### British Raj Christmas in 1940's Madras

A talk by Jenny Mallin

Author "A Grandmother's Legacy"  
Winner of Best in World Cookbook  
World Gourmand Cookbook Society.

#### *This is what Jenny has to say.*

This talk centres around my family's traditions at Christmas, how the festive season was enjoyed by those who were living in a country which was part of the British Raj. We explore and discover how enticed they were by those exotic ingredients found in India, which with the help and careful consideration of their native cook, produced a different kind of cuisine.

Through the pages of the old cookery book dating back to 1844, we uncover family recipes which were so loved and enjoyed over five generations, which provide a fascinating insight into those unusual recipe names which are alliterative with titles such as Ding Ding Fry and Rumble Tumble!



We also get a good idea as to how they entertained, and how their social calendars were filled with tea dances, balls and social evenings which started on Christmas Eve and went right through to twelfth night".

***Please send all articles for the Newsletter to the editor***

***kaywilliamson46@hotmail.com***

**Deadline for the November edition...20th October**

**No entries can be accepted after this date.**

Pictures welcome, but keep script brief

Minimum formatting please...**no pdfs!**

Web site:<https://u3asites.org.uk/somerton/home>