

SOMERTON u3a

Newsletter 25

April 2022



A Chairman's Appeal

Dear Members,

Over the past 2 years due to various lockdowns, members of Somerton u3a were unable to meet as groups or as friends which was very hard for everyone.

However, the committee continued to meet via Zoom and managed to ensure that Su3a survived and supported its members and continued all through the pandemic.

You may remember the constitution was recently changed to allow the chair to serve a further term due to these exceptional circumstances.

Luckily, these circumstances have now changed.

Therefore after 4 years, I will be standing down as chair and also from the committee at the next AGM in June.

Being part of Somerton u3a committee has not only been rewarding but I have made many new friends, I have learnt so much. Even though the past couple of years have been challenging in many different ways, the experience has also been so rewarding.

The committee we have today is a very small, very active and happy group of members.

Between us we have many skills but we would welcome new members who have any of the following skills and talents: techno buffs, financial wizards, people with organisational and communication skills, creative ideas, sound common sense and good humour, willing to support each other and debate ideas with the best interest of Somerton u3a at heart.

WE DO NEED YOU: your ideas, positivity and energy to enable Somerton u3a to continue to grow.

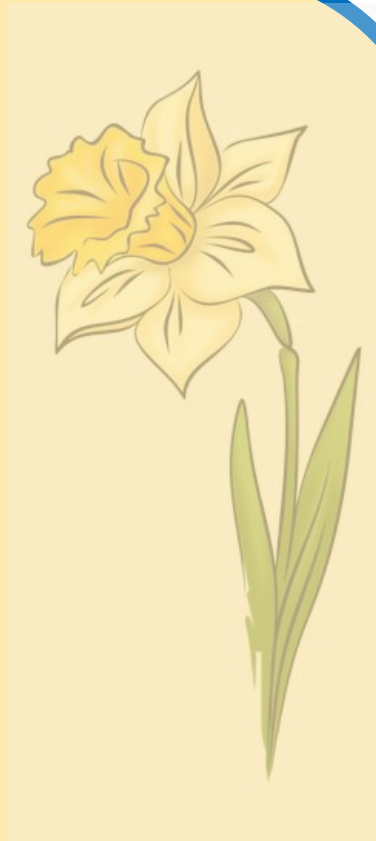
If my message has ignited your interest, why not come and meet us at the next committee meeting to find out more about what we do.

You won't be disappointed

The next meeting will be on Monday April 9th in the Pinney Room, Parish Rooms, Somerton at 10am.

My telephone number is 01458 258280, email judimp@icloud.com

Judi



Membership News

Reciprocal Arrangement Between Avalon u3a Network Organisations

This arrangement affects the following five u3a's:

Chard & Ilminster, Crewkerne, Somerton, Martock and Camelot Area.

Members of other u3as may join one or more of our groups, subject to availability and with each organisation's own members generally being given preference.

The reciprocal arrangement, as above, means visiting members will **NOT** be required to pay our annual subscription and will only pay costs associated with any group. The visiting member should contact the group leader to ask if they can join the group and show their membership card when attending the meeting.

Visiting members may attend monthly meetings as guests for Insurance purposes.

Where there is no reciprocal arrangement visiting members may join as associate members.

If a membership card cannot be produced the visitor should be treated as a prospective member. It is an insurance requirement that all persons attending groups are u3a members. This is relaxed where prospective members wish to try out groups before joining. They can have 2 such taster sessions. The visitor's name and contact details should be recorded.

Wild Encounters

I have experienced a number of situations with wild animals in my lifetime: canoeing with dolphins off the coast of North Carolina, being kissed on the cheek by a very large jellyfish (fortunately the safe end), pulling the tail of a live 20 foot anaconda, in the Amazon basin, being bitten by a poisonous spider, but the most touching incident happened to me in our garden recently.

I was viewing a new pigeons nest in our laurel tree and accidentally overbalanced into our soft hedge....for those who have been skiing, hedges are a bit like soft snow, each time to push down your hand to get up, your hand just disappears! I was stuck and a little distressed.

As many gardeners have, I have a friendly Robin who follows me around looking for worms and singing...that day, he came to inspect my predicament by perching on a nearby laurel branch, whilst I phoned my wife for help. It seems the Robin was concerned of my situation and hopped closer and closer watching me intently and nearly hopped onto my shoe when my wife arrived disturbing him.!

Forgive me but I found this experience most touching and needed to share it with you.



Mike Davis

News About Groups

Art Denise Clarke has retired from leading the Art group after many years. Thank you, Denise for all your enthusiasm and hard work.

The new leaders, Mata Kirkham and Linda Worth, will welcome new members. The group will continue to meet in the Parish Rooms on the first Tuesday afternoon of each month.

Croquet Pamela Branley hopes to start teaching Croquet in April, weather and lawns permitting. There is still space for a few more players.

Italian Three people have shown an interest in learning or refreshing their knowledge of Italian.

I think they have arranged to meet this week to plan a way forward.

Quiz A very keen group of quizzers met in the Sports Club on 21st February to re-start this group. Valerie Taylor has taken on the leadership but everyone will be involved in preparing the quizzes. They would welcome more members.

Choral Music Appreciation As a result of a request from members of her other groups, Enid Thresher has just started this group. There is space for a few more people.

"Message from Enid"

I've been asked to start a group, **Choral Music Appreciation**. This will not be opera and also will not be solely sacred music, although, because of the genre, much of it will be. But choral music also includes madrigals and other secular works. I have a collection ranging from Palestrina to Karl Jenkins via Handel and John Rutter. If you want to join us, we'll be at 94 Behind Berry at 2pm on the 4th Monday of each month. Enid (01458272915 cnethresher@sky.com)

Local History It is hoped that the Local History group will be able to start up again soon under the guidance of Judi Powell and Kay Williamson.

Garden Visits These visits will hopefully start up again in April.

Holiday to Suffolk in October 21 people have paid a deposit for this holiday so far, so we can go ahead. We could easily accommodate a few more. If you are interested or want more details, please contact Jane Redgrove.

If you want any further information about any of the groups, please contact the leaders via the website: www.u3asites.org.uk/somerton

or Jane Redgrove: redgrove@btinternet.com

The May Newsletter will be concentrating on news from the groups. Please send a short report and pictures of your group's activities to the editor, Kay Williamson.

Events News

On Friday 27th May there will be a slightly longer morning at the Edgar Hall with Jubilee themed events as well as the Speaker.

More information to come, but we thought you may like to wear red/white/blue! There will be a quiz, raffle, cake competition, hat/dressing up competition, craft competition (any medium/ mixed media). If you have other suggestions please let us know.

In September we are planning an Event to mark 25 years of Su3a and 40 years of national u3a.

So far members have offered poetry, a dance demonstration, music, food(!),....again, if you have thoughts on what would make an enjoyable afternoon (indoor event) please let us know.

Thanks

Amanda and Events Team

U3a National Courses

News About the National u3a Online Learning Programme

If you haven't already, why not check out the variety of online courses offered free by the u3a, all by Zoom.

The April programme offers one-off sessions on extreme crochet, igneous rocks and discussions on, health and religion.

Of particular interest could be:

Roger Black, the former Olympic athlete talking about his career on **Tuesday 12th at 2pm**,

A book discussion forum with ideas on how to run a book group on **Friday 22nd April at 2pm**.

New sessions of the very successful, ***Laughter Yoga Workshops*** are starting again on the 2nd Wednesday of every month, starting **13th April at 10am**.

If you're in to podcasts, there is one on the 17th of every month.

Free – via YouTube, or podcast platforms Apple, Spotify and Google.

Further details of all these events can be found on the u3a website under **Online Learning**.

Monthly speaker programme

All meetings are at the Edgar Hall on the 4th Friday of the month starting at 10am.

Friday 22nd April

Debbie Bertwisle - **A talk on the work of the DSAA, Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance**

Members of the committee thought that Debbie's talk on the work of Somerset and Dorset Air Ambulance service, given in October by Zoom was so inspirational that it should be repeated, if possible, to a live audience at the Edgar Hall.

Some members' comments sent in after the talk.

"I have learnt so much about the DSAA - never knew they were totally self-funded".

"Those volunteers are unsung heroes. Not just in the emergency but their time given over to research and development of new products and life-saving procedure."

"I am about to amend my will - the money might save my loved ones now".

"Just on my way to the post box with a form for a monthly donation after this morning's talk about the amazing Air Ambulance, all unbelievably self-funded".

Friday 27th May

Richard Foulkes – **Flight, Camera, Action**

Twelve years on and have you ever wondered about what happened to get 'The Queen' to parachute into the opening ceremony for the 2012 Olympic Games. Worry no more. Richard Folkes from Leonardo Helicopters will be here to provide a fascinating talk on just what went on, the planning, the challenges and how they were overcome.

Featuring official and unofficial video footage, this will make for a thoroughly entertaining morning.

The talk, "Senior Safety" by Ashley Jones originally scheduled for Friday 27th May has now been rescheduled for Friday 26th August.

Friday 24th June

Roger Brown - **The Great American Songbook**

A Zoom talk into the Edgar Hall

From the age of 4, Roger has had an amazing life in music. He sings, he acts, he composes and directs. He is also a jazz pianist and has accompanied many of the greats including Louis Armstrong, George Melly and Humphrey Lyttleton amongst many others, across all of the USA and various other countries of the world.

In his talk Roger traces the history and music of this genre, including the great composers such as George Gershwin, Jerome Kern, Cole Porter, Irving Berlin, amongst others who influenced so much popular music between the wars.

Roger illustrates his talk with live examples on the piano and hilarious stories about the people, places and events connected with this iconic music.

Roger gave a Zoom talk last year to Somerton u3a. It was very well received and one member commented,

"What a wonderful hour. Just this was worth the £18 subscription."

Monthly speaker programme

Friday 22nd July

Dr Tony Davis - *How Did the Kings Find Bethlehem?*

The Kings arrived in Bethlehem following a star? Actually, how would you do that? In this talk we, who are used to the magic of satnav, will investigate how navigation has evolved over the centuries and consider possible solutions to the Kings' problem.

Tony is a 78 year old who follows new developments in maths and science with great interest and aims to illustrate these ideas in an amusing and entertaining way in his illustrated talks.

He is the author of 3 books which I'm sure he will be pleased to sell you on the day.

Friday 26th August

Ashley Jones – *Senior Safety*

Ashley is the Regional Fraud Protect Advisor, Avon & Somerset Police. He is internationally recognised as an expert in the field of crime prevention in the financial exploitation of the vulnerable and senior citizens and will be giving a talk on how we can protect ourselves from fraudsters.

Friday 23rd September

Dr Francis Burroughes – *Glass Wonderful World*

Francis is doctor of music and an organist from Yeovil. He is an acknowledged authority on antique glass and is often asked to provide samples for TV. It is hoped he will bring examples from his collection.

Friday 28th October

Sally Smith – *Those magnificent WOMEN in their Flying Machines*

Sally is also a parachute champion and is the author of Parachuting and Skydiving. She was the leader of the world's only ALL ladies parachuting tem.

Friday 25th November

Brian Pearson – *Christmas...but not as we know it*

Brian Pearson will be entertaining us for the second time this year; we are very lucky that Brian is a Somerton u3a member.

Previous talks, *The Bishop's Bagman*, *The Return of the Loose Canon*

Somerton u3a Holiday in Suffolk

Somerton U3A presents

The Historic Houses & Heritage of Suffolk

5 days from £629 Departing 3rd October 2022



FEATURES

- 4* hotel
- Half board accommodation
- All excursion travel & guided tours included
- Blue Badge guide on Days 2 to 4
- Executive coach throughout

WHAT WE WILL SEE

- Audley End House & Gardens
- Christchurch Mansion – guided tour
- Constable Country – East Bergholt, Dedham & Bridge Cottage
- Aldeburgh – guided tour
- Red House
- Sutton Hoo
- Ickworth House
- Melford Hall
- Lavenham
- Gainsborough's House – guided tour
- Beth Chatto's Gardens

ACCOMMODATION

We stay four nights on a half board basis at the 4* Stoke by Nayland Hotel (www.stokebynayland.com) on the outskirts of Leavenheath. Located in a countryside setting and 10 miles from the centre of Colchester, facilities at the hotel include a restaurant, bar, indoor swimming pool, gymnasium, sauna, steam room and a Jacuzzi. All rooms are en suite and feature television, telephone, hairdryer, and tea & coffee making facilities.

EXTRAS TO YOUR TOUR

- Insurance (including Covid cover) £28
- Single room supplement £99
- Entrance fees to places visited as part of this itinerary (NT properties free to NT members & EH properties free to EH members)
- Gratuities

Price based on twin share. Minimum numbers required. Normal booking conditions apply.



Bridge Cottage

For more information on this tour contact your Group Organiser

Jane Redgrove

Tel: 01458 899962

Email: redgrove@btinternet.com

62 Pearmain Road, Somerton TA11 6AY



Tailored Travel's ATOL number is 5605



*There is still time to sign up for the holiday to Suffolk.
Please contact Jane Redgrove. 01458 899962 redgrove@btinternet.com
to register your interest as soon as possible.*

April Poem



An April Morning

by Bliss Carman

Once more in misted April
The world is growing green.
Along the winding river
The plume willows lean.

Beyond the sweeping meadows
The looming mountains rise,
Like battlements of dreamland
Against the brooding skies.

In every wooded valley
The buds are breaking through,
As though the heart of all things
No languor ever knew.

The golden-wings and bluebirds
Call to their heavenly choirs.
The pines are blue and drifted
With smoke of brushwood fires.

And in my sister's garden
Where little breezes run,
The golden daffodillies
Are blowing in the sun.

Please send all articles for the Newsletter to the editor

kaywilliamson46@hotmail.com

Deadline for the May edition...20th April

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>