

SOMERTON u3a

Newsletter 26

May 2022



U3A JUBILEE MORNING

Competitions



~Best decorated Jubilee cake

~Best tasting sponge cake

~Best tasting fruit cake

~Jubilee inspired Hat

~Jubilee inspired Art (2D)
any medium


~Jubilee inspired Craft
any medium eg knitting, sewing, pottery, wood

SPEAKER
Visual Quiz

Raffle

SUBS playing 5 of the
Queen's favourite songs

Refreshments

The Competition cakes will be offered at the end of the morning in exchange for a contribution for the Dorset & Somerset Air Ambulance 

Edgar Hall - 27th May

Wear red/ white / blue
or Fancy dress!

Top judges + prizes

Competition entries to be checked in 9.30- 10.30am please. Doors open for everyone else 10.00am.

Chairman

For Discussion *DONT FORGET THESE DATES*

Please come and join the Committee on Wednesday 4th May at 10am ,
THE PINNY ROOMS

CELEBRATE THE QUEENS JUBILEE - Friday 27th May at the Edgar Hall.
WE NEED YOUR ENTRES TO THE COMPETITIONS - SEE FURTHER DETAILS FROM AMANDA

June 24th.... the **AGM** - Please note we will be starting at 10.15am

Judi

May is Pretty, May is Mild

By Annette Wynne

May is pretty, May is mild,
Dances like a happy child;
Sing out, robin; spring out, flowers;
April went with all her showers,
And the world is
green again;
Come out, children,
to the glen,
To the meadows, to
the wood,
For the earth is clean
and good,
And the sky is clear
and blue,
And bright May is
calling you!

May is pretty, May is mild,
Dances like a happy child,
On a blessed holiday,
Come out, children, join the play!



Events - Jubilee morning

Hello

On Friday 27th May there will be Jubilee themed events as well as the Speaker.

You may like to wear red/ white / blue or come in fancy dress!

There will be a raffle, visual quiz and entertainment of five of the Queen's top favourite songs.

The 3 competitions will be: **Jubilee hat**

Jubilee artistic creation

Jubilee cake

The artistic creation could be anything non-edible...crafty, photography, floral etc.

It is hoped that the cakes, after judging, can be offered to those attending in exchange for a donation to charity.

This would be after the Speaker, when more tea and coffee will be available.

It could either be a large cake, or cupcakes.

Thanks
Amanda and Events Team
events@somertonu3a.uk

Brian Pearson's talk...

Raised £202 equally split between DEC Ukranian appeal and ACE arts Somerton.

Many thanks to all those who contributed.

David Robins

Can you help?

Would anyone be interested in volunteering to take over as organiser of the teas and coffees at the monthly Friday meetings.

Maggie Beeson will be standing down from the role in August so there is plenty of time for anyone interested in taking over to learn the ropes. If you are willing to help or want more information please contact Sue Haigh, email pebbles515@btinternet.com or 01458 273303.

Sue

Group News

Jazz Appreciation

The group has hit the floor running with our first meeting in Curry Rivel on Friday 4th March attended by 9 of us and I thank Maurice and Naomi Powell for their hospitality and offering their home, Counterpoint House, as our monthly venue.

Big Band and Trad Jazz seem most popular, but we all appreciated other genres during our successful session, which was played on CD and DVD via the newly acquired DVD player.

Members are encouraged to bring along their favourite music and tell us why they enjoy it and a little about the chosen tunes.

We were told about Roy Copeland who lives in The Lynch at Somerton and how he had always both played on clarinet and alto sax and enjoyed listening to jazz throughout his long life.

I visited him on a couple of occasions and following our chats he invited us to hold a meeting at The Lynch and

we held an additional meeting on the 18th March. What an enjoyable meeting we had with some great music played via Roy's Bose sound system and listened to some of his past history with music and parties at The Lynch.

What a venue we found The Lynch to be, oozing with music memorabilia and art works, and what a raconteur.

I am hoping we can make a return visit soon – maybe in the gardens.

New members will be very welcome

contact David Munns on 01458 272573

Singing for Fun

Singing for Fun will be celebrating our Queen's Platinum Jubilee on Thursday June 9th from 2pm- 4pm in West Street Church Hall.

We plan to dress in red, white and blue and will be singing popular patriotic songs.

We invite all u3a members to join us; the only qualification required is enthusiasm. If you have never come to our monthly meetings why not come along this time and give it a try.

Warning: it could prove addictive!

Chris Cox



Swift



Dunnock

Group News

Craft Group

In recent months we have used Encaustic painting and Marbling to produce backgrounds for cards and other projects.

As the Craft Group is currently full, a new member is considering co-hosting a second group if anyone would like to assist her or join. She has a particular interest in Card making, Scrapbooking and Quilting. Please contact events@SomertonU3A.UK for more information.



*Beautiful
bluebells, 5
minutes from
the centre of
Somerton*



The Special Friend I'll Always Remember

During the War many people were on the move and 1942 saw me in Bournemouth. We met at 'Bournemouth School for Boys', with me turning up 6 weeks late, delayed because 'there was a war on'. The only spare seat was in the back row of the class and I was put next to this boy who was obviously bright. I was other. I only knew Roger (Monty) for 7 or 8 months yet we became pals, as only 12 year olds can. Somehow we clicked and I was invited to 117 Prince of Wales Road, where his Mum was one of the warmest ladies I had ever met – and she made cakes! Dad and Uncle were fire officers which impressed this 12 year old. They'd put the fire out on Beales when it was bombed. Big Status! There were also younger sisters – three? – one called Avril – a French name. Now I'd just started French and although a strange name for this boy, I could translate it. We were scholars! Anyway they were girls and we were boys, and at twelve in those days, of not much interest. For the athletically minded this was the time when two Swedes, Haegg and Anderson were trying to lower the World Record for the One Mile to four minutes and I remember sitting in their garden listening to this race on the radio set outside. 4m 01.4sec as I remember? Now that mattered! The English had a miler called Sydney Wooderson hoping to do the same.

On our early visits we took the dog, Prince out for walks on Meyrick Park where Monty introduced me to the world of economics – this involved looking for golf balls which could be sold back to players for sixpence - but don't try the first man you meet – it might be his ball! We must have climbed trees – he wasn't very good – and dammed streams, but his special skill was collecting train numbers and he travelled considerable distances to find new ones. (Like us, trains are resistant to change and spend a lot of time running up and down the same piece of track, so to find new ones the observer needs to travel). Locally, in Bournemouth, we sat on top of a wall above the station to watch, and in turn were watched by the security, because there happened to be a thirty foot drop the other side - through a glass roof onto the platform. Not much health and safety in those days. Here, we met 'Harry', of the Southern Railway Constabulary, a large man, who more than

once requested, "Come down young gentlemen, names and addresses boys, please!"

Monty's parents allowed him to travel much more than mine, who had been bombed out at least once and wouldn't let me travel east if it was in range of German bombers. He had toured the engine sheds at Eastleigh, Exeter and Salisbury. Once, when allowed to go to Salisbury with him, there being no evidence of bombing there, he took me, 30 miles on our bikes - mine being a child's model with no gears. Three hours each way? However a past-master of disguise, he stopped just round the corner from the engine sheds, opened his saddlebag to produce a pair of dungarees, rumpled and ready stained with grease, which he put on, then illegally led me crawling on all fours past the 'clocking-in' window until it was safe to stand up. We weren't challenged but he would have got us out of it, I'm sure.

I hadn't realised he had other skills until one day he gave me, (birthday present?), a beautifully detailed, pencil-drawn plan of Eastleigh Engine sheds with important waymarks – for a 12 year old intruder. I regret letting go of this in 2017 when we downsized on moving.

After many outings with the dog he was invited to come with me during both the Easter and summer holidays to stay with my bombed out 'London Grandma', now living in Devon, in a quayside cottage at Dittisham, on the R. Dart. This meant all-day travel on a Royal Blue coach, Bournemouth to Exeter, then a GWR train to Churston, (engine number?) plus a one mile walk to the river where you crossed the Dart using a row-boat ferry – who came, you hoped, from the other side after you rang a large bell. The river in 1943 was filled with American warships and every creek was full of Tank and Troop Landing Craft, which as far as we were concerned were there just to be climbed over. 'Tide out' this was easy-peasy, but 'Tide in' when everything was moving not so. I don't think it occurred to us how we'd get out, if still alive, after falling in. We'd have been mincemeat - there were hundreds of these things all around you and the deck would have been way out of reach.

The Special Friend I'll Always Remember

On another occasion we travelled into Dartmouth on the weekly bus, and after a brief visit to the shops crossed the river and walked up the other river bank back all the way back to the ferry. This meant passing through people's property and then along the railway line – Monty assured me that this kind of behaviour was quite normal. It was ALL very daring. The last large garden to be crossed was Greenway House, where Agatha Christie lived – we knew that – and could hear the clack of the typewriter as we crept along the shoreline. I can feel the tension now!

Grandma's cottage being old, and damp, was well populated by cockroaches and Roger became an expert at killing these with a rolled-up newspaper, usually the News of the World. Now, don't ask me what a 65 year old widowed grandmother was doing with the News of the World, the crossword perhaps?, but the more mature Monty resourcefully used it to teach me the 'facts of life', which my parents seemed somehow to have forgotten about. An additional chapter to this occurred during the summer holidays. On our way home walking the long mile from the railway down to the ferry we met two WAAF's coming the other way. "Have you got the time", they asked. I replied, "No, Sorry we haven't got a watch." Fifty yards on Monty said, "You should have said, 'No, nor the money nor the inclination'" - which I've now worked out what it meant. The ferryman said they had

spent the whole afternoon sunbathing more or less topless on the quay. In 1943 this behaviour was not common. Just think, had we been half an hour earlier my education may have got to 'A'-level.

When school resumed in September 1943, Monty was gone - transferred to another unmentionable place – and we never met again. Because I was a bit of an introvert gypsy so far as school was concerned and before this, staying at the same school for two years was unusual for me, he was the only 'school friend' I ever had. When asked what we did on many sunny afternoons out together I'm sure the answer would have been - 'Nothin'.

Twenty years on, I went looking for him, and this happened about every five to ten years without success. I knew he had been to Bristol University and that was all. However, computer literate children succeeded where I consistently failed and they 'found him in May 2020', alive! – but it was a January index and for me that was just one month too late. Recalling these times today makes me realise, "You are only twelve once!" I'm still enjoying this – never grown up?

David Perkins

Martock u3a...Programme of Talks

11th May - Arthritis and Rheumatism

Dr Paul Reilly a retired Consultant Rheumatologist. will discuss the huge variety of musculoskeletal diseases that come under the heading of Rheumatology.

8th June - The Importance of the Enigma Code during WW2 and its Relevance Today

Speaker Dan Atkins will be bringing a replica Enigma machine.

13th July - Buddhism

John Baxter

14th September - Tenerife

Ian Winkle

12th October - Service Dogs and the way they help people suffering with PTSD

9th November - What can we do about Climate Change?

The meetings are the second Wednesday of each month at Martock Parish Hall with members welcome from 2.15pm

Monthly speaker programme

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

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.



Please send all articles for the Newsletter to the editor

mike.davis@silchester.org

Deadline for the June edition...20th May

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>

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."