

SOMERTON u3a

Newsletter 27

June 2022



Chairman's message

Our Jubilee Celebrations

I hope you all enjoyed last Friday's celebrations at the Edgar Hall. It was wonderful to see so many of you attend this special Friday Meeting. I would like to congratulate the winners of the various entries and well done to everyone who took part and made cakes, hats and all things Jubilee!

I am sure you would all like to join me in thanking Amanda, as Events Co-ordinator, and her team for putting on this amazing event. It took a lot of time, ideas and organisation to pull this together and make it such a special day. Please see the photos included in this Newsletter...see p 4 & 5

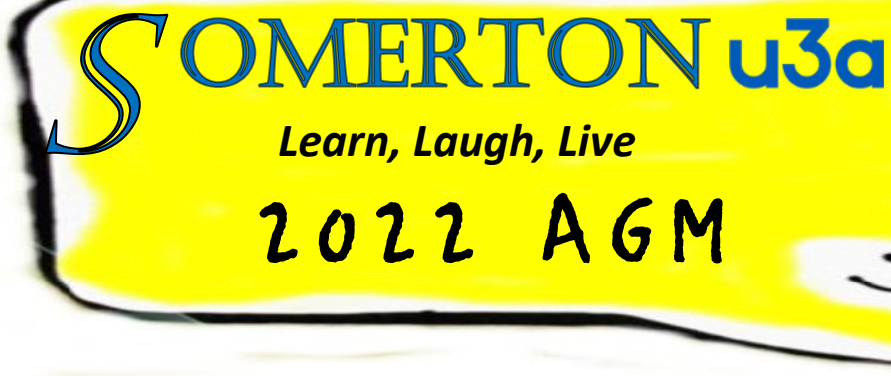
Maggie Beeson and her volunteers were kept very busy serving teas and coffees both before and after the event. As you will be aware, after many years, Maggie is standing down from being the linchpin for organising the refreshments at the monthly meetings. Maggie has also helped at the Group Leaders' luncheons. She will be very much missed. We are looking for a volunteer to take over from Maggie, so please make yourself know to any of the Committee Members

Our next event will be the AGM on Friday 24th June. Please note that we will be starting this meeting at 10.15am. There will be a number of changes to the committee so I do hope you will come forward and join the group. We need members to share their ideas and skills to ensure Somerton u3a thrives in the future.

Our next committee meeting will be held on Thursday 9th June at 10am.

This meeting will be via Zoom

Judi



Dear Member

I am now in a position to give you details of Somerton u3a AGM.

The AGM will take place at Edgar Hall and on Zoom

on

Friday 24th June at 10.15am promptly

The following documents will be made available on the Su3a website:

- Agenda
- Somerton u3a Annual Report & Accounts 2021/2022
- New Trustee Nominees
- I will contact you again once all the above are ready for you to review.
- Minutes of the AGM held on 9th August 2021 are already available on the Su3a website.

Should you have any questions regarding the information please contact me by 10th June.

We your Trustees, hope many of you will join the meeting on 24th June.

Judi, Chair, Somerton u3a

chairman@Somertonu3a.uk

This meeting will be followed by Roger Browne "The Great American Song Book"

Group News

Aviation Group.

We meet in the Edgar Hall in Somerton on the first Friday of the month with a couple of exceptions, when we meet on the second Friday of the month, between 10.00am and 12.00 noon. Although we have a large membership we love to see and welcome any visitors to our talks.

In June the meeting is on Friday 10th June when we will welcome Stephen Robson who will present a talk entitled "Neville Shute".

Neville Shute Norway (1899 – 1960) was an English novelist and aeronautical engineer who spent his later years in Australia. He used his full name in his engineering career and **Neville Shute** as his pen name, in order to protect his engineering career from inferences by his employers (Vickers) or from fellow engineers that he was "not a serious person" or from potentially adverse publicity in connection with his novels, which included *On the Beach* and *A Town Like Alice*.

He originally worked for de-Havilland Aircraft Company but moved to work for Vickers Ltd as there was more scope for advancement. At Vickers he worked as the Chief Stress Engineer on the R100 airship, and was then promoted to deputy Chief Engineer of the R100 project, under the leadership of Barnes Wallis. When Barnes Wallis left the project Shute became Chief Engineer.

With the fateful demise of the R101 airship, which was government designed, the R100 airship which had made a successful visit to Canada was grounded and subsequently scrapped.

He then teamed up with another de-Havilland trained engineer to form the aircraft construction company Airspeed Ltd. Airspeed grew over the years and produced many successful aircraft including the Airspeed Oxford with over 8,500 being built.



Airspeed Oxford

For the innovation of developing a hydraulic retractable undercarriage for the Airspeed Courier, and his work on R100, Shute was made a Fellow of the Royal Aeronautical Society.

Raymond Jones



R100 Airship



Airspeed Courier

Su3a Jubilee Day

Many thanks to all those involved in planning, helping and participating on our Jubilee Day.

A big thank you also to Graham and Sebastian our judges, to Richard our entertaining speaker and David who took the photos.

Amanda and Events Team



Su3a Jubilee Day



U3a Coach Trips

I am delighted to announce details of the next U3A Coach Trip

Destination: BATH Date: FRIDAY 15TH JULY

Cost: £15.00 per person

Payment: either by
Cheque made payable to Somerton U3A

or by

Bank Transfer

Account Name: Somerton U3A

Sort Code: 30 18 16

Account Number: 00958442

Reference: Coach Trip

(Cash will be accepted at the Monthly Coffee/ Speaker mornings In May & June

There will be 3 pick up /drop off places

9.00am Huish Church Car Park (Langport)

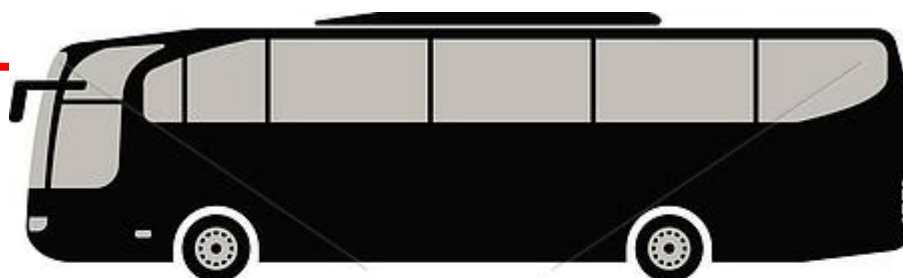
9.10am Bus Stop opposite Gassons Lane / Sports field

9.20am Somerton Market Square

For those members who have not yet joined us on a Coach trip, we simply drop you off at a central location in the town and then pick you back up at the appointed leaving time to return at the same location. This means you are totally free to enjoy the visit as you wish. You can shop, lunch, sightsee, visit the Abbey , Museums, Roman Baths, book a guided tour or anything else that takes your fancy.

Book early to avoid disappointment. Contact Ruth Thomas:

Email: ruththomas@tiscali.co.uk Tel: 01458 251687



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



Martock u3a meetings

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

8th June " The Importance of the Enigma Code during WW2 and its Relevance today" The speaker Dan Atkins will be bringing a replica Enigma machine.

13th July - Buddhism with 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

Judi

Thank you letter



from the Dorset & Somerset Air Ambulance



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info@dsairambulance.org.uk
www.dsairambulance.org.uk

28 April 2022

Dear Dr Robins

On behalf of Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance, I would like to thank you and members of Somerton U3A for your very generous and kind donation of £139.72 following your recent Talk. This includes £56.50 raised from the sale of our merchandise.

During these troubling times, thanks to your support, our crew are continuing to provide a critical care service for 19 hours a day, both by air and by road. This is being done through very close cooperation with our NHS colleagues across the region and so, we know that our service is being used where and when it is most needed. We are also in a position to help move patients between hospitals if that is required, by road or air, whichever is the most appropriate. Clearly at a time when clinical staff in hospitals are under pressure, this is a real benefit. Things can change very quickly and we continue to review the situation on a daily basis with our NHS partners.

Our whole team are playing their part in the collaborative NHS response to COVID-19 and we are only able to do this with the amazing support we receive from people like you. With operational costs now over £5 million and fundraising challenged in ways that we have never seen, we need your support now more than ever.

Your donation at this difficult time really will make a big difference and enable us to continue to be there for the patients who need us, so on behalf of all of them, thank you.

Yours sincerely

Julie Plowden
Deputy Chief Executive Officer

Monthly speaker programme

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

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.”

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.

Please send all articles for the Newsletter to the editor

mike.davis@silchester.org

Deadline for the July edition...20th June

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>