

# SOMERTON u3a

## Newsletter 28

July 2022



## Editor's message

As most of you know, we are sadly losing a number of key members of our dedicated committee. I would like, on behalf of all members to thank them wholeheartedly for their support and hard work....Chair Judi, Secretary Sue and Co-Editor Kay.

As indicated at the AGM, this leaves us in a situation with vacant slots in the committee...

**The good news is we have had offers to fill the key positions of Chair and Secretary, so after the formalities, Somerton u3a soldiers on!**

(I will continue as Newsletter Editor)

On Friday 24th June, following the AGM, we enjoyed the performance of Roger Brown.

However, the Edgar Hall broadband let us down so we apologise for the poor quality of sound. We are constantly working on improvements.

*Mike*

## July Poem

*by Sir Charles George  
Douglas Roberts*

I am for the open meadows,  
Open meadows full of sun,  
Where the hot bee hugs the clover,  
The hot breezes drop and run.

I am for the uncut hayfields  
Open to the cloudless blue,—  
For the wide unshadowed acres  
Where the summer's pomps renew;  
Where the grass-tops gather purple,  
Where the oxeye daisies thrive,  
And the mendicants of summer  
Laugh to feel themselves alive;



# Group News

## Geology group

The Geology Group, with ten or so active members has now completed a scrutiny of the history of the Jurassic in Somerset, focusing on the rocks dating from that period which can be found in the county and their influence on landscape – and their use as building stones. Having had a winter break in January and February the group reconvened in the Spring with two "classroom" sessions and two trips, one to Ham Hill and the other to Blue Anchor Bay - very contrasting locations.

The Jurassic in South Somerset shows evidence of shallow tropical seas, with remarkably high sea levels, and fluctuating climates – alternately wet and dry, but always hot. In North Somerset, conditions were a little more exciting, with tectonic activity disturbing the tropical calm and producing folds and faults still evident in the contorted rocks exposed along the Bristol Channel coast.

It's not all about rocks; the old lime kiln at Ham Hill with (Left to right) Robert Maxwell, John Rix, Trevor Ryder, Mata Kirkman and Martin Roper. New recruits Rookie and Scrumpy in the foreground. Photograph by Liz Maxwell.

Our group meets on the first Thursday of the month either in the Edgar Hall or on field visit; however the field visits are flexible; our first visit to Ham Hill was postponed due to high winds and the trip to Blue Anchor was delayed by the Jubilee celebrations.

*Trevor Ryder*



Ammonites in abundance at Blue Anchor Bay. Photographs by John Rix



# Group News

## Local History Group.

**This group has restarted and is led by Judi Powell and Kay Williamson. It was organised for many years by Marion Mander and more recently by The Hub.**

Each month a meeting is held at 10.30am in the White Hart where we have coffee and cake and plan future activities. Monthly visits have now started to various places of interest and our initial visit was to Yarlington House on 1st June 2022. This has been the home of Count Charles de Salis and his wife Carolyn since 1961.

The weather was superb for our visit and twelve members attended with eight of us enjoying a light lunch at the Stags Head the village pub. Some of us popped into the church of St. Mary which is nearby and boasts an 11<sup>th</sup> century tower. The village is approached from several directions but all use very narrow roads and are not for the faint hearted!

We were met at the house by our charming host Carolyn the Countess. The house dates back to 1782, it has subsequently been extended and is Grade 2 listed. The garden is vast and our first stop was at the stunning rose garden with its hedge on stilts, it is next to the marquee/ helicopter friendly front lawn and swimming pool. The garden drops away and features amongst other things a laburnum arched way and woodland. The lower level garden has a meadow with large swathes of wild flowers and the extensive walled garden is beautifully kept with some areas used as allotments by fellow villagers.



We toured the lower floor of the house led by the Count who is an expert on Napoleon and he (Napoleon) is represented in most rooms. There are many interesting pictures, sculptures, items of furniture and unique clocks.

We then had very good tea and cakes in the garden served by the Countess.

This first visit was excellent and will be a hard act to follow. The next trip, on the 6<sup>th</sup> July 2022, is to the South Somerset Heritage Collection in Yeovil with fish and chips at Palmers beforehand.

The group has space for additional members so if you are interested please speak to Judi or Kay.

*Jeff Bailey.*



# Monthly speaker programme

All meetings are at the Edgar Hall with Zoom support on the 4<sup>th</sup> Friday of the month starting at 10.30am.



**Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> 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.

**Fri Aug 26th** Ashley Jones

*Regional Fraud Protect Advisor,  
Avon & Somerset Police*

## ***Senior Safety***

Recipient of an MBE in 2019 for services to charity and older people. Ashley came up with the concept of 'Chat Benches'

Ashley 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



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

***mike.davis@silchester.org***

***Deadline for the August edition...20th July***

*Pictures welcome, but keep script brief*

*Minimum formatting please...no pdfs!*

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