

SOMERTON u3a

Newsletter 29 August 2022



Chairman's message

Surprises come when we least expect them – after all, it wouldn't be a surprise otherwise, would it? I was pleasantly surprised when, following the Somerton AGM in June and the appeal for members to join the Committee, I contacted Judi, offered my services and, following an amendment to our constitution, was allowed to join as Chairman. It was a little nerve racking addressing the monthly meeting after a break of 9 years, but I wish to thank all of you for giving me your support and kind words of encouragement. My thanks must also go to Jane Redgrove who has stepped up to be Vice-Chairman, Annette Sparks for volunteering to be our Secretary and to Fran Cook for joining the Committee.

Our U3A has come through a difficult time, along with U3A's across the Country, and we are indebted to Judi and the Committee for keeping us going. Hopefully we can now move forward again and begin to build on our experiences towards a bright future of fellowship, learning, support, enjoyment – and fun.

This year we celebrate the 25th Anniversary of Somerton U3A and I am very pleased to say that we still have active founder members! The Committee have been planning events to mark this occasion and we hope that as many of you as possible will join us for some of them. Full details will be sent to Members and announced on the web site in due course.

Thank you all.

Steve Davis, Chairman Somerton U3A

Annual and Special General Meeting 2022

The **AGM** took place at the Edgar Hall and on Zoom on Friday 24th June at 10.00 am

and

On Friday 22nd. July 2022 a **Special General Meeting** took place at the Edgar Hall, Somerton and on Zoom.

Details can be found on the Somerton u3a web site:

<https://u3asites.org.uk/somerton/page/121582>



Group News

Groups News for August Newsletter

Good News.

The **International Studies Group** is restarting in September. There are more details on page 3.

Liz Beckinsale is starting a new **Scottish Dancing Group**. This will be held fortnightly in the Scout Hut, 1.45 to 3.45, starting on 15th September.

For more details, please contact Liz, ealbeckinsale@btinternet.com

Open Day

9th September 2022

2 – 4 p.m.

The **Open Day** is your chance to find out about what groups are available for you to join.

Please note that the event is taking place in the **afternoon of the 2nd Friday in September** in the Edgar Hall.

Several groups have indicated that they have vacancies. Others are full. I will circulate details nearer the time.

I will be hoping to start Second editions of any groups that are full, if there is a demand. I will also be promoting new ideas.

Now is the time to let me know if you feel we are not catering for your favourite interest. I can't **promise to cover everything, but I do promise to try to find some like-minded members to join you.**

Please email me as soon as possible with your ideas.

Jane Redgrove, Groups co-ordinator

redgrove@btinternet.com

Welfare Officer

Somerton u3a has a Welfare Officer who is pleased to send cards and keep informed as to the health and well-being of members.

Marilyn can be contacted via the Membership link on the Website: <https://u3asites.org.uk/somerton/contact>

or by phone on 01458 899773

Marilyn is also the Membership Secretary

Group News

Su3a International Studies - Starts again Friday September 16th.

Pinney Room 10 am to 12 noon

Jeremy Greenop and David Harrison

Some historic background to Ukraine and the Russian Invasion in February 2022.

International Studies is coming back for a limited series of 3 talks and discussions this Autumn. As before the format is a presentation of about 1 hour followed by discussion. Due to the size of the room attendance is limited to 30 to ensure it is comfortable.

The first talk is about **Ukraine**. The territory covered by the state of Ukraine 1990-2014 was all previously in the Russian Empire and then the Soviet Union, apart from German occupation in both world wars. The talk is not about events this year.

In preceding centuries there were several invasions, occupations and changes of regime and territory. The constant was a Ukrainian culture and religion which carried on whoever was in charge. The talk will be illustrated with maps showing the changing frontiers of what is now Ukraine, and where the borders with Lithuania, Poland, the Austrian Empire and Germany used to be. The background of the peoples who have lived there have changed drastically over 5 centuries.

This will be an open meeting open for the first 30

Somerton u3a members who apply. All that we ask is a contribution of £1 on the day to help pay for the room and refreshments – and for active participation. We hope some of you will decide to become members interested in the October and November meetings - 3rd Fridays, Pinney Room 10 to 12.

If you would like to attend please call David Harrison on 01458 273177 or send an e mail to dandpharrison@btinternet.com.



Science & Technology

Science and Technology meet on the 4th Thursday of the month 10.00 – 12.00. At the moment the group is considering whether to return to face-to-face meetings in the future, to hold 'hybrid' meetings, or just continue on Zoom. Our future meetings which you can assume will be on Zoom are:

22nd September – "Aliens" given by Ron Cooper

27th October – "What constitutes modern Science" - Leigh Edwards

24th November – "What's a cloud?" given by Trevor Ryder

If you are not a member of S&T but would like to join one of these Zoom presentations please email me at U3A@jmlight.co.uk



John

Future Events

Whilst we are enjoying the Summer sun, you may like to know about two Events which are being planned:

Barn Dance

Su3a member Dick Carlyon will be teaching and calling the dances with live music being provided by accordionist Chris Toyne on

Friday 7th October, 7-10pm.

They have over 90 years experience between them for all levels of dancer capabilities and an enjoyable evening is eagerly anticipated.

This is one of the Events to mark 25years of Somerton u3a and 40 years of u3a, and is close to our Charter Day.

Tickets will be £5 each. Although water will be available, if you want drinks with flavour or alcohol please bring your own.

Christmas Lunch

This year we will have a cooked lunch at Long Sutton Golf Club on

Tuesday 6th December.

Two courses £20 (£25 for 3 courses), with water on the table and coffee served after.

For both these Events you will need to buy your ticket in advance (preferably by Bank transfer) and numbers will be limited.

More information to follow.

Thank you, and hope you have a good Summer.

Amanda

Monthly speaker programme

All meetings are at the Edgar Hall with Zoom support on the 4th Friday of the month starting at 10.45am.

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.



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.



Community Shed for the Langport, Curry Rivel and Somerton Area

Chris Bottomley

A Community Shed is being set up to cover the area around Langport by a small team assisted by the UK Men's Shed Association and the Rotary Club of Langport and Somerton.

You might ask: What is a Community Shed? It is based on the Men's Shed concept, started in 1999 in Australia and now spread worldwide, that provides a community space for men to connect, converse and create. The activities are often similar to those of garden sheds – a place to pursue practical interests at leisure, to practice skills and enjoy making and mending. The difference is that garden sheds and their activities are often solitary in nature while our aim is the opposite. We are about social connections, sharing skills and knowledge, friendship building and of course a lot of laughter to help reduce loneliness and isolation. Our Shed will be open for both men and women, a Community Shed.

Members will be able to access tools, workbenches, skills and opportunities to make and mend things in the company of others. Sheds bring health benefits, encouraging physical and mental activity and improved wellbeing as they provide an enjoyable way for members to stay socially integrated in local communities by being creative, and learning or passing on skills.

There are around 2000 Sheds in total worldwide with over 500 in the UK so it's about time there was one covering our area. We are a small enthusiastic group and we are looking to set up a Shed near Langport covering Langport, Somerton, Huish Episcopi, Curry Rivel, Aller and the surrounding villages. We have found a suitable building but we need more people to get involved to help set it up and more importantly use it!

If you would like to help us set up the Shed, are interested in using it once we are up and running or would just like more information please contact us at:
parrettcommunityshed@outlook.com.

Charity Theatre Trips

Chris Cox

Charity Theatre Trips supports British Red Cross. We start in Curry Rivel picking up in Langport & Somerton then en route using the A35 or A37 to Bristol Hippodrome.

For pick-up details and a description of each show see www.charitytheatretrips.com

Trips planned are all evening ones, starting at 5 p.m.

The payment dates for 'Joseph' and 'Beauty & the Beast' fall in August.

Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dream-coat: Sep 5th

Disney's Beauty and the Beast : Oct 20th

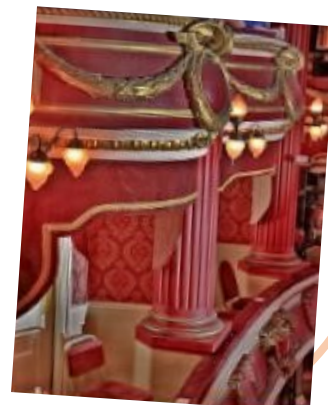
Raymonda, English Nation Ballet Nov 24th

Cinderella starring Craig Revel Horwood: Dec 12th

Matthew Bourne's Sleeping Beauty : Thu 2 March '23

The Commitments : Tue 21 Mar '23

Strictly Ballroom : Tue 13 Jun '23



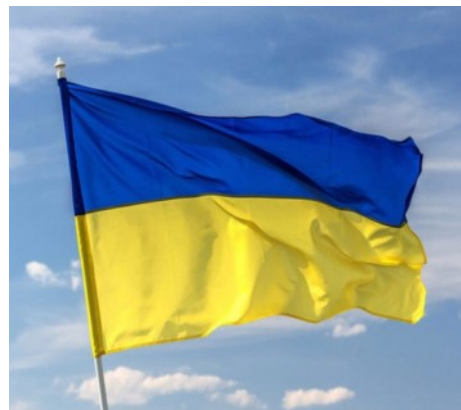
IT for Ukrainian Guests

The response to the request made at the July meeting for IT and other electronic devices which can be refurbished by the charity 'Donate-IT' was nothing short of magnificent.

Having gathered up the equipment from donors, it has been delivered to the technicians at their workshop in Wincanton and 'new' phones, iPads and laptops have now been passed on to their delighted new owners in and around Somerton.

Further collections and deliveries are planned and we know the difference made to the grateful recipients will continue to be very significant. Thank you from us and them for being a vital part of this important work.

Althea and Brian Pearson



For further donations of electronic equipment including, PCs, tablets, iPads and Mobile phones, folk can call me on 274360 and I will be happy to collect by arrangement.

Brian

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 if you are willing to help or want more information please contact Annette Sparks, email annette2853@gmail.com or call 0758 201 2105

Mike

Please send all articles for the Newsletter to the editor

mike.davis@silchester.org

Deadline for the September edition...20th August

Pictures welcome, but keep script brief

Minimum formatting please...no pdfs!

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