

SOMERTON u3a

Newsletter 30

September 2022



Chairman's message

It was a great pleasure to be able to talk with new and 'newer' members at a coffee morning on Friday 19th and to hear about their interests and reasons for joining U3A. I was asked to say a few words and I muddled through my basic knowledge of the founding of the organisation back in the 70's in France, to the start of the adopted model of U3A in this country in the 80's and the founding of Somerton U3A in 1997 and our progress since then.

As we start our new U3A year, it struck me, having talked to our new members, that I had missed a lot of changes that have happened since I was last Chairman, and I am grateful to the members of the Committee for their guidance in updating me. The next few months will be a learning curve for me but learning and experiencing new things is what U3A is all about.

So, if you are a new member, a returning member, or a lifelong member of U3A – you are welcome. We are all here to learn, to support each other, to take part in whatever new project takes our fancy, to get involved – and to have fun.

Here's to a good year ahead!

Steve Davis

Chairman

A Dragonfly

When the heat of the summer	With its blue jointed body,
Made drowsy the land,	And wings like spun glass,
A dragonfly came	It lit on my fingers
And sat on my hand,	As though they were grass

Eleanor Farjeon



Future Events

Open Day

9th September

2-4pm at Edgar Hall Somerton

Come and see what the u3a can offer you.

There will be information about more than 50 interest groups which are available to our members.



Further information

groups@somertonu3a.uk

Membership enquiries

membership@somertonu3a.uk

Urgent... *help needed on 9th September*

We believe there are many members in Somerton u3a who do not want to be on the committee but are willing to help out from time to time. We tried to form such a group a few years ago but Covid got in the way.

Now is the time to start again. Below is a list of some of the things you might be asked to help with.

- Serving refreshments at events Distributing posters or leaflets
- Stuffing envelopes
- Manning a stall to recruit new members

If you would be prepared to help out on occasions, please contact our groups co-ordinator.

Contact Jane on redgrove@btinternet.com

Anniversary Tea Party

Sun Oct 30th

Edgar Hall

To celebrate the 25th Anniversary of Somerton U3A there will be a tea party held at the Edgar Hall.

Times will be advised to members in due course.

Look out for details next month

Future Events

Monthly speaker programme

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

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



Wha hae!!!!

Come and join us for a **Barn Dance** on **Friday 7th October**
in **Somerton Parish Rooms** from **7pm to 10pm**

No experience required with live music & expert tuition for all abilities

You can bring your own drinks and nibbles

Tickets are £5 each – names to be checked off at the door (i.e. no tickets to be issued)

Email treasurer@somertonu3a.uk

or write to Liz Short to book a place

Send your cheque made payable to Somerton U3A to Liz
at:

8 Wheeler Barton, Somerton TA11 6FE

Or you can pay by bank transfer to Somerton U3A

Account No: 00958442 Sort Code: 30 18 16

Liz will email you with confirmation of receipt

Don't forget your dancing shoes

Members only



Group News

Science and Technology Group

Over the past month we have had discussions about resuming face-to-face meetings. The September meeting will be Zoom only, but the October and November meetings will be in Edgar Hall Conference Room (a large room with plenty of windows!) and also on Zoom. Coffee and tea will be available. If these two meetings are well attended this will become the norm for the future, otherwise we will be Zoom only.

22nd September 10.00-12.00 "Aliens"

The theoretical chance of their existence and a discussion between two "experts" (on video) of what aliens could or would be like!

Presented by Ron Cooper. (Zoom only).

27th October 10.00-12.00

"What constitutes modern science?" -

Modern Science, with the advent of the scientific method, has only been around for hundreds of years, and its true origins are still the subject of debate. But, it is evident that

progress in science has been very rapid over the past four hundred years, with most of that in the last one hundred, and the pace of development is quickening rapidly. The way we divide, sub-divide and classify the branches of science has changed too.

Presented by Leigh Edwards. (Edgar Hall Conference Room and Zoom).

24th November 10-12.00

"What's in a Cloud?" - a brief examination of the atmospheric processes that lead to cloud formation and precipitation from clouds. If you've ever wondered why most clouds don't produce any rain, this might provide a few answers.

Presented by Trevor Ryder. (Edgar Hall Conference Room and Zoom).

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

John Light

Cycling group.

"U3a cycle group now has 4 members, the latest recruit is Jo, (thats short for Josephine!) From near Shepton Mallet. This foto has John showing off his new home made helmet- go- faster streamliner. He doesn't really need it since he is the fittest of us all.and is always first up the hills. Do join us, we usually meet at the Somerton sports ground at 2pm on Tuesdays"

Contact Dr David Robins on 0783 132 3582



Hola....¿Habla español?

Do you speak some Spanish?

Would you be interested in joining a Spanish conversation group?

We meet at least once a month at our group leader's house.

Converation topics are prepared in advance so there is a focus to our discussions.

We help each other with grammar and vocabulary queries.

Please contact us via the u3a groups page if you would like to come to a taster session.

<https://u3asites.org.uk/somerton/groups>

We meet on Wednesday mornings in Somerton and you will be made most welcome.

David Robins

Group News

Family History Group

To mark the occasion of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, the subject of our June meeting was Royal Memorabilia. Members were asked to bring along any mementoes of royalty during the past 70 years and amongst them was a saucer, missing the cup!, a mug, a small tin carton, photos of Princess Elizabeth's visit to Kenya along with her husband, the Duke of Edinburgh, taken by a member's mother in 1952, as well as other small items. However, if none could be found, the members were requested to bring an item which brought back special memories to them, so that we could have a Show and Tell Meeting.



As you can see from the photos they included family saws from the early 20th century and the actual marriage certificate of an ancestor who married his 3rd wife in Montevideo, Uruguay, provided by a visitor from Camelot u3a.

Unfortunately the Family History Group at Camelot had ceased during the Pandemic and Kate thought that despite the distance she may join our u3a from September so she was welcomed and in fact proved to be the inspiration for our July Meeting - 'Back to Basics', as she had only recently discovered an amazing archive of documents so wanted and needed help as to how to create a Family Tree. It reminded the members of the initial vital and important processes we should all use in the records of our own Family Histories.



A list of 18 "Don'ts" was circulated plus various forms that could be photocopied and used for recording ancestral profiles and family trees. The July meeting proved to be extremely interesting and motivating to all members present with all participating in either, suggestions to improve our methods, or stories of sad errors that all recognised we had experienced in the past - an extremely useful exercise.



Our group has spaces for new members and we welcome guests to come along to a meeting to meet us to find out whether we can help with their research especially discovering ways to track down ancestors using available free websites together with help from all the other members of our group.

Viv Winterburn - Family History Group Leader



Margaret Tiffin remembered



Margaret Tiffin, who has sadly died, was a founder member of Somerton U3A (membership No. 30) along with her husband Brian (membership No.20) and were among those present at the first meeting, in 1995, when the idea of forming a U3A in Somerton was discussed. Margaret was not a person to stand by and let others do things for her, she was a person who liked to get involved, so she soon found Groups to join and Groups to lead. Together with Brian, they remained loyal and hard-working members for the next 25 years.

As well as bringing up a family and working at Elmhurst School, she was a member of the Parish/Town Council for many years, during which time she helped produce two Town Plans.

She was a member of the Parish Rooms Management committee for over 30 years.

She was a member of the Somerton Tourism and Heritage Partnership which organised events and ran the Tourist Information Centre, first in the Parish Rooms, then in the Antiques Centre in West Street and finally in the library. They produced a guidebook for Somerton in 1988.

Margaret led Saturday walks around the parish and produced a book of local walks.

She was a member of the Blue Triangle club, and they produced the first edition of Somerton News in 1971, which was then taken over by the Parish Council.

Margaret and Brian were members of the Dramatic Society for many years. She looked after the costumes and made many of them.

In 1996, she was part of the Community Association which ran a charity shop in the Half Moon car park to raise funds for a new community hall. The Community Association still raises money to help with projects to help the whole town – for example, Christmas Lights.

In 1979 Philip Jackson saw a picture by Marmaduke Cradock for sale and Margaret was part of the team who bought it and created the Marmaduke Cradock Trust. She organised Somerton History Days to encourage people to remember Somerton as it was before the rapid expansion in the 1970s. In 2002 she was part of the group which organised a whole week of events for the Jubilee. She remained a trustee right until her death.

Margaret was also a Trustee of the Sir Edward Hext Almshouses in West Street.

When I joined U3A, Margaret's 'Local History Group' was the first Group I joined, they had just published a book about the Old Houses of Somerton. A few years later the Group published another book about the old shops of West St. under her guidance.

Margaret was a very quiet, modest lady who got involved and got things done. She was clear thinking, she had good ideas and she did everything with kindness and humour. She epitomised the spirit of U3A and will be sadly missed by all in Somerton for the wonderful contribution she has made over many years.

Thanks to Nancy Schooling for providing so much information about Margaret.

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 u3a's may join one or more of our groups, subject to availability and with each organisations' 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 visitors name and contact details should be recorded.

Membership renewal

You will already be aware that we are holding an Open Day at 2.0pm on 9th September at The Edgar Hall at which time you will be able to renew your membership (Cheques or BT only - no cash). However I am able to start renewing memberships from now if you would like to get ahead! I will need a new form this year on which you can indicate whether or not you wish to receive The Third Age Trust Magazine. This is published five times a

year and is free to members. However postage is 3.30 per year for the five issues. If you wish to receive these you will need to add this amount to your £18 subscription making £21.30 in total. Unfortunately we are unable to continue to pay for the postage as we have done in the past.

Marilyn

Su3a Membership Secretary

Photos of wee shops in Dunoon and Greta Green in Scotland earlier this year.

Adrian Zielonka



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 Autumn

Amanda

2023 u3a diaries will be available to order in October. More details next month.

Would anyone
over as
teas and
monthly Friday meetings?

Fulfilled!....Thank you Kay!!

be interested in volunteering to take
organiser of the
coffees at the

Maggie Beeson has stood down from the role.....**Thank you Maggie**

“ Everyone in u3a should
be an involved member, not
a customer being served ”

Please send all articles for the Newsletter to the editor

mike.davis@silchester.org

Deadline for the October edition...20th September

Pictures welcome, but keep script brief

Minimum formatting please...**no pdfs!**

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