

# SOMERTON u3a

## Newsletter 31

October 2022



## Chairman's message

***"We are all visitors to this time, this place. We are just passing through. Our purpose here is to observe, to learn, to grow, to love.... And then we return home."*** Australian Aboriginal Proverb

I am sure that most of you will have participated to some degree, in the events that have taken place since the death of H.M. Queen Elizabeth II, if not in person, then probably by watching or listening to the broadcasts by the media. A biographer, when being interviewed on the day of the funeral, said that the Queen, during a state visit to Australia, quoted the above Proverb.

The Archbishop of Canterbury, reflecting on grief during his sermon, while talking of the loss to the Royal Family said "...grieving as every family at a funeral – including so many families round the world who have lost someone recently ...." His words to me were very poignant that day as I had heard only a few hours

before of the passing of John Hayter who had been a close friend and active member of our u3a for many years.

Along with John, I would like us to remember those other members who have died in recent times and share, with their families and friends, our sincere condolences but also let us remember the fun and laughter we have had together.

As we enter a new year of u3a and perhaps prepare to take on new challenges, meet new people and make new friends, let us draw comfort from the Aboriginal Proverb.

*Steve Davis.*





# Future Events

## 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](mailto: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

Cash is now accepted too but tickets need to be bought in advance

Liz will email you with confirmation of receipt

**Don't forget your dancing shoes**



## Monthly speaker programme

**Friday 28<sup>th</sup> 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 parachuting team.



**Friday 25<sup>th</sup> November**

**Brian Pearson – *Christmas***

***.....but not as we know it***

Brian Pearson will be entertaining us for the second time this year; we are very lucky that Brian is a Somerton u3a member.

Previous talks, *The Bishop's Bagman*, *The Return of the Loose Canon*



# Future Events

## Anniversary Tea Party

Sunday 30th October from 3 pm. to 5 pm

Come and join us at Edgar Hall to celebrate

*25 years of Somerton u3a*

Tickets are £12 for tea, coffee, cakes and sandwiches

Email [treasurer@somertonu3a.uk](mailto:treasurer@somertonu3a.uk)

or write to Liz Short to book a place

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Account Name: Somerton U3A

Sort Code: 30 18 16

Account No: 00958442





# Future Events

## u3a Coach Trip.....To Bristol

Monday 14th November 2022

**Cost : £18.00 per person**

*Payment : either by cheque (made payable to Somerton U3A)*

*Or Bank Transfer to Somerton U3A*

*Sort Code: 30-18-16 Account No : 00958442 Ref: Coach Trip*

*Will also accept cash at Monthly Friday Coffee Mornings.*



*The cost margins on this trip are very tight and if Ruth does not get enough passengers it will have to be cancelled. So please contact Ruth as soon as possible to confirm your place*

### Coach leaves

- Huish Church Car Park : 9.15 am - HE
- Gassons Lane Bus Stop : 9.25 am - GL
- Somerton Market Square : 9.30 am - MS

### There is a Choice of 2 Drop Offs

- 1) **Broadmead in City Centre** for those who want to visit the local attractions such as Museums, Art Galleries, Dock Area, MS Great Britain etc
- 2) **Cribbs Causeway** for Shopping

*To Book contact Ruth Thomas*

*Phone 01458 251687*

*Email ; ruthvthomas@tiscali.co.uk*

## Somerton u3a Christmas Cracker

*Come and join us at Long Sutton Golf Club*

*on Tuesday 6th December*

**Doors open at 12.45 for 1.15**

**Followed by our own entertainment and Christmas songs**

*Tickets available from 20 Oct.... £20/25 for a two/three course lunch and coffee*

*Drinks are available to purchase from the bar*

- Email [treasurer@somertonu3a.uk](mailto: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
- Let Liz have your choice of menu and a stamped addressed envelope to return your ticket
- Tickets will be non-refundable and for members only
- Places for guests will be dependent on numbers
- Starters: soup, pâté or brie
- Mains: roast turkey, roast beef or Mediterranean Wellington
- Desserts: Xmas pudding, chocolate cheesecake or apple & berry crumble



# Group News

## Somerton u3a Geology group

Continuing our Jurassic theme, the Geology group's focus in July and August was an examination of the history of Quarrying in the village of Kenton Mandeville – the "Home of the Blue Lias". Blue Lias Limestone is the principal material used in the traditional (and some modern) buildings of South Somerset, and residents of Langport, Somerton and a host of surrounding villages will be very familiar with its characteristic, charming, blue-grey hues.

Keinton Mandeville was the centre of extraction for this stone, the oldest rock in the Jurassic system, for nearly two centuries, with quarrying for stone for purely local use going back to Medieval times. At its peak, just before WW1, quarrying employed nearly half the workforce of Keinton Mandeville and the scars of extraction, often disguised beneath apple orchards can, be seen all over the village.

The last working quarries were at Lakeview on the west side of the village – now a housing development – and at Combe Hill, which is the last obvious quarry site. As this site now has permission to be infilled, the Geology group took this opportunity to make one last fossil-hunting trip; - the evidence is attached!

*Trevor Ryder*



*Members of the group at Combe Hill Quarry*



*Ammonites in abundance!*



*New members Coffee Morning*



*Group Leaders Meeting*



# Group News

## Local History Group Visit to the Low Ham History Hut

**On Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> September 15 members of the Local History group visited the Low Ham History Hut.**

For those of you who have never heard of it, the Low Ham History Hut is a unique collection of documents, personal records, publications and artifacts, relevant to the local area. The collection includes information about the Roman villa found in Low Ham, King Alfred, the Church in the Field, the Battles of Langport and Sedgemoor in the Civil War and World Wars I and II.

Farmer's wife, Karen Cook, who created this collection says,

" The main aim is to remind people of our local families affected by the two World Wars".

This is why there are so many original exhibits relating to local men who served, war memorials, the Home Guard as well as depicting what life was like during the wars for people at home.

Karen opened the hut three years ago, using one of the

five Nissan huts left over from the war, when they were used by the Gloucester Regiment and American soldiers manning searchlights.

The exterior is still a galvanised shell but Karen, with the help of her husband, has transformed the interior with wooden cladding which gives a warm welcoming atmosphere and allows a variety of documents and photos to be displayed on the walls.

As the photo shows, all the group became totally absorbed looking at this fascinating collection.

If you would like to visit, please look at the website for details of opening times.

Also, if you are interested in joining us in the Local History group, please contact Judi Powell or me.

*Kay Williamson,*

*Co-leader of the Local History group*





# Open Day pictures...9th September



# The Really Useful Group

**Many u3as in the UK now have a Really Useful Group, members who do not want to be on committees but are very willing to give an extra hand to the many events and activities where extra help is appreciated.**

As Somerton u3a continues to rebuild its membership and expand the number of interest groups, it would be a good time to formally set up a Really Useful Group of volunteers who would be happy to get involved in a variety of practical tasks to ensure the smooth running of the organisation.

Here are some examples of activities where help might be useful.

- Providing teas/coffees at the monthly meetings or other events
- Help with meeting and greeting at monthly meetings, including looking after new members
- Supporting u3a members who may have difficulty in getting to group meetings, monthly meetings or other events
- Helping with the Christmas lunch arrangements

- Designing/making posters
- Distributing newsletters, posters, leaflets
- Making cakes for special events
- General help at Enrolment Day
- Collecting display boards
- Chair duties

Ideally the group would comprise a group of people with different skills for the various tasks. Members can choose whether to offer help either on a one-off or a regular basis.

If you are interested or would like to know more, we are holding a meeting at the White Hart on Friday 14th October at 10.00am.

Why not come and meet us and each other?

*Kay and Joan*

*Group Leaders for the Really Useful Group.*

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## Important Information About Refreshments at the Monthly Meetings at the Edgar Hall.

As many of you already know, Maggie Beeson has stepped down from providing members with teas and coffees at the monthly meetings at the Edgar Hall.

Maggie ran a very efficient service for over six years and, on behalf of all the members, I would like to give her a big thank you.

I have now taken over providing this service and I would like to tell you about some changes that have been made.

**Firstly**, you will now be able to serve yourself. There will be the usual choice of drinks to choose from and, as well as the two urns, we have purchased a catering sized thermos flask in case there is a queue.

**Secondly**, there will be a donation box so that we can

cover the costs of providing this service. Biscuits will still be served and on some occasions, we hope to offer cake as well.

**Thirdly**, the service will finish at 10.20 am so that we can clear the tables before the speaker starts. It would be very helpful if you could return the mugs to the table when you have finished.

**Finally**, we are hoping to get a **Really Useful Group** up and running, providing essential support at events, so we will not have to ask volunteers from different groups on a rota basis every month.

*Kay Williamson*

*Tea Lady*



## 2023 u3a Diaries

I am now taking orders for 2023 u3a diaries. They cost £3.50 each – the same as last year.

I am quite happy to order for you, but they must be collected from me at a u3a monthly coffee morning or collected from my home in Somerton i.e. they will not be delivered! Payment in cash would be preferred.

If you would like to order a diary my email address is [j.banbury@mypostoffice.co.uk](mailto:j.banbury@mypostoffice.co.uk). I shall also be at the October coffee morning and will take orders there too. Last date for orders is 31st October.

*Joan Banbury*

## Membership cost explanation/TAM

Third Age Matters (TAM) magazine is published five times a year and posted directly to members' homes in an environmentally friendly paper wrapper. It is packed with stories about members and u3a activities, plus celebrity interviews and features on technology, recipes, travel, competitions, and a lively and popular letters section.

The magazine is free but we must pay for the postage.

Some members enjoy this magazine and some do not wish to receive it, so we have decided it best for those who wish to receive it pay for their postage, freeing up funds for those who opt out. This postal cost is therefore now part of the membership fee, as an option, as indicated on page 10 of this newsletter.

*Mike, on behalf of Su3a committee*

THIRD AGE  
**matters** u3a

*Thank you to those who have sent me articles.*

*Let the members know how **your** group is doing...*

*Mike, Editor*

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

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

**Deadline for the November edition...20th October**

Pictures welcome, but keep script brief

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

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

# SOMERTON

# u3a



## Membership Form

I wish to become a MEMBER of u3a

The Annual Subscription is £18 per member plus the postage for Third Age Matters magazine at £3.30 per year

This is reduced to £14.00 if you have full membership of another u3a

You can pay your subscription either by cheque, made payable to Somerton u3a, or online to

Account No: 82483286 Sort Code: 09 01 53 giving your name as a reference

Whether paying by cheque or online, you **must** complete this form and send it to

**Marilyn Muffett, Membership Secretary, 4 Meadow Close, Somerton TA11 6AS**

I am paying by cheque / I am paying by bank transfer - please delete as applicable

**Cash will not be accepted**

Please remember to provide a **Stamped Addressed Envelope**

### TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF MEMBERSHIP – THIS SECTION MUST BE COMPLETED

#### All members must:

Abide by the Principles of the u3a movement.

Act in the best interests of the u3a and never do anything to bring the u3a into disrepute.

Abide by the terms and conditions of the constitution.

Treat fellow members with respect and courtesy at all times.

Comply with and support the decisions of the elected committee.

Advise the Membership Secretary of any change in your personal details.

I permit you to use my information according to the principles of GDPR:

(This may include sharing information with Group Leaders of groups I am a member of.)

If I wish to retract this permission, I will also cease to be a member.

I wish to be added to the direct mailing list for the Third Age Matters magazines

I want to Gift Aid my subscription and any subscriptions I make in the future or have made in the past 4 years to Somerton u3a

I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

**Please print your details below in block capitals**

Title: ..... Name: .....

Address: .....

.....

Post Code: .....

Email: .....

Tel. No: .....

Signed.....

Date .....