

SOMERTON u3a

Newsletter 32 November 2022



Chairman's message

This year, apart from being the 40th Anniversary of u3a, Somerton u3a celebrates its 25th Birthday! We will always be grateful to those who took the time to join at that initial meeting, form a committee, become Group Leaders, give general help, with the organising of Groups and other events – and stay with us. We started with a nucleus of 40 and now have a membership of over 400!

We celebrated our 25th birthday with a party and my thanks go to all those involved in making it the success it was. We still have 3 founder members, and it was an honour to award them 'Life Membership' to mark their continuing service and support. Long may you continue to enjoy your membership!

In 2022, the need for volunteers to join the committee, become Group Leaders, support the organisation, not just here in Somerton but Regionally and Nationally, has not changed since those early days. Your u3a is a 'self-help' organisation and what you are prepared to put into it will determine what you get out of it. I do hope you can join in, we hope you can help out but if, for whatever reason, you are unable to, then – as members over the past 25 years have done, I hope you have fun!

Here's to the next 25 years.

Best wishes,

Steve.

Volunteer positions vacant

2 vacancies exist on our IT team

Can you or someone you know join Doug Skillicorn and David Slocombe
presenting our Monthly Friday Meetings
to our audience in Edgar Hall and those at home.

- The ideal volunteer will be comfortable working with a laptop computer, using Zoom for meetings, and multi tasking as sometimes several things will need controlling at once.
- No specialised computer knowledge is required, as the systems used are well established and proven.
- Common sense and the ability to work logically with the equipment in use after training are more important.
- Doug and David need to pass on their knowledge so that if ill or on holiday, the Show Can Go On.

Contact Doug, David, Steve or Jane to respond!

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

Monthly speaker programme

Friday 25th November

With preparations for Christmas creeping ever closer, just for an hour **Brian Pearson** invites you to set aside thoughts of the turkey, the tree, the tinsel and all the trimmings as he presents:

Christmas but (maybe) not as we know it!

As he asks: What do we really know about Christmas?

Given the 'Christmas Story' is so well known, could it be a story that is too well known?

During his talk Brian will present and examine crucial evidence as he leads an investigation to explore and seek answers to six key questions.

WHO WHERE WHEN WHAT WHY HOW

And then, as we replace the turkey, the tree, the tinsel and all the trimmings in our thoughts, maybe we will have gathered some fresh insights into our great annual celebration.



Future Events

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 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



**payment and
meal choice is
requested by
12th
November
please.**

The following dietary alternatives are available if needed to help you select your meal. If there are any other requests please let **Amanda** know prior to booking:

Coeliac ~ Soup

Turkey or Beef (G/F Yorkshire Pudding), no stuffing

Christmas pudding or Cheese & Biscuits

Dairy free ~Soup

Turkey or Beef

Vegan brownie with Vegan ice cream or Fruit Salad

Diabetic desert ~ Fruit salad or Cheese & Biscuits

Group News

The Craft group

started Christmas preparations early with silk painting in October!

In their own time, members produced a square 25cm x25cm (with 25 embellishments) to celebrate 25 years of Su3a.

Amanda



Striders group ... walking in the rain

The weather forecast apps had predicted an overcast morning, but as we got out of our cars at the Quarry Inn car park it started to drizzle. Fourteen intrepid striders and two dogs set off hoping that the drizzle would soon clear but it was not to be!

The four-mile walk took us through the fields beside Keinton Mandeville village up to Kingweston Church, where there should have been stunning views of Glasonbury Tor, but instead there was a white mist shrouding everything. After a quick photo stop and undeterred by the weather, the group headed on to Barton St David Church through the fields before heading back to the Quarry Inn for a warming hot chocolate drink and a chance to dry out.

If anyone would like to join us for our monthly walk, please contact group leader Ruth Thomas for more details.

Annette Sparks



Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance

Could I remind members that we collect used postage stamps for the Air Ambulance.

If you attended the talk about their work you will know what a wonderful job they do and entirely funded by voluntary contributions. You can bring your stamps along to

the monthly meetings and hand them to Marilyn, Membership Secretary. They also accept old coins if you have some tucked away in a drawer somewhere!



Royal Mail

Know where your old stamps are?

Use them up by 31 January 2023, or swap them out.

<https://www.royalmail.com/sending/barcoded->

Most people are at the age where they are using their phones to document the good times in their lives.

I am at the age where I use my phone to take pictures of labels that I can't read and use my phone to enlarge the print so that I can read it.

We are sorry to hear of the recent passing of Sunday Roasties member Diny Marshall.

As group leader may I send our thoughts and condolences to Diny's family and friends.

We will miss her contributions at group meetings, and also tales of her cruising activities.

RIP Diny Marshall

John Day



Group News

Somerton U3A Local History Group

Our latest visit was to the Somerset Rural Life Museum in Glastonbury on October 5th 2022.

This visit was ably led by the inimitable Marion Mander. Having departed from Somerton our visit started with a conducted tour by two members of the museum staff. The tour included the extensive wonderfully preserved barn and the small farmhouse.

Time was allowed to examine the farmyard galleries displaying hundreds of items of farming equipment and memorabilia.

Words are not good enough to describe how interesting the museum is so a few pictures accompany this article.

The museum also has a very good tea room which was utilised by several of our members.

Jeff Bailey.



“ 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 November edition...20th November

Pictures welcome, but keep script brief

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

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