

# SOMERTON u3a

## Newsletter 33

December 2022



## Chairman's message

Welcome to the final Newsletter of the year and as we prepare for Christmas, and look forward to the year ahead, I would like to reflect on 2022 in our u3a.

It has been quite a strange year for many of us as we have struggled to return to 'normal'. I think it would be fair to say that for most of us, we have enjoyed being back in our Groups, joining the Monthly Meetings and back socialising but, of course, this has not been the same for everyone and we will continue to support and encourage those who are finding things difficult still.

Our Monthly Meetings are growing in attendance, and we have had some wonderful speakers but, technology aside, we will continue to 'zoom' our meetings for those who are unable to attend.

Our AGM was a wake-up call to everyone when we came close to not having enough serving on the Committee to be continuing! It was a bit of a surprise for me to find myself back as Chairman after 9 years, but I am grateful for other members for stepping forward also and for the support that the Committee has shown us.

We have celebrated 40 years of u3a and, perhaps more relevant to us, 25 years of Somerton u3a! We

did this by holding a splendid Tea Party and awarded Life Membership to our 3 remaining founder members. We had a Barn Dance, which was very much enjoyed, and we are now (depending on when you read this) preparing for a celebratory Christmas Meal at Long Sutton Golf Club.

Our membership now is just over 400 and we are welcoming new members all the time. This is very important for the growth and sustainability of our organisation, and I would like to take this opportunity to wish our new members a happy future with us.

Of course, we have lost members as well and at this time I hope that we can continue to support relatives and friends of those no longer with us and remember the happy times that we shared together. Christmas can be a sad occasion for many so let us remember our u3a family at this time and give our support where we can.

What of next year? Well, our u3a is in your hands. The Committee, Group Leaders, those helping behind the scenes will do their very best for you, but it is up to every one of us to take part. So, let's go forward into 2023 with high hopes, a willingness to help, a sense of participation – and have fun!

*On behalf of the Committee, may I wish you all a very Happy Christmas.*

*Steve Davis*



During these hard times, when the cost of living is rising fast, I would like to bring your attention to a scheme associated with the u3a called Click and Save.

## **What is u3a Click and Save?**

u3a Click and Save is a scheme that gives you discounts when you shop with selected retailers. You could see annual savings of hundreds of pounds on a range of shops, supermarkets, restaurants, and services including big brands such as Sainsbury's, M&S, and Costa Coffee.

**What can I save?** Each retailer offers a designated percentage saving e.g., 5%. So, by way of an example: if you purchased a Gift Card or e-Gift for £100 on a retailer offering 5% saving, then you would only pay £95. You can then use the Gift Card or e-Gift to pay for goods and services.

**How does it work?** Once you are registered on the Click and Save site (provided by Parliament Hill), you can click through to the Blackhawk Network partner website and purchase your choice of retailer Gift Cards, e-Gifts or top up an existing reloadable card - note that existing Gift Cards can only be topped up with additional funds, if they were originally purchased through this programme.

Simply then select the retailer you wish to buy from, these can be physical or e-cards. Gift Cards & e-Codes are specific to each retailer. Once you've chosen the retailer Gift Card or e-Gift that you wish to purchase, simply select the desired value and quantity and go through the checkout process. Note that only debit cards transactions are accepted and that credit card payments are not permitted.

When you redeem your Gift Card or e-Gift (online or in store) the full amount is charged and debited from the value of the Gift Card or e-Gift.

### **Are there any costs?**

- We want to ensure that Gift Cards get delivered to you safely and securely. Therefore, there is a postage fee of £1.60 for Gifts Cards being sent with a value of up to £10,000.
- There is a £0.25 charge for dispatching each digital code and a £0.25 charge for topping up a reloadable Gift Card. (Reloadable cards can only be topped up if originally purchased through the Click and Save programme)

### **How do I see the remaining balance on my card?**

There are two options to find out how much you have left on your card.

- Visiting the retailer website
- If you are going into the retail store, you can ask the cashier for the remaining balance at the till and they can print it out for you

### **What happens if I lose a card?**

Members should treat Gift Cards & e-Gifts in the same way as cash. There is a £2.50 investigation charge - paid by the member for re-shipping if possible (dependant on retailer). This covers both online and offline orders. The cards are like cash and are not pin-protected.

**Can a member's Gift Card be redeemed by anyone else?** Yes, gift cards are treated in the same way cash would be.

**To find Click and Save here is the hyperlink: <https://www.u3aclickandsave.co.uk>**

# Group News



## Striding on the Levels

After gathering at the Bridge Café in Langport, nineteen Striders and three dogs set off for our walk through the Levels. We were lucky to have dry weather this time although some of the gateways and stiles were rather muddy. Some of us needed a helping hand over the stiles and all were safely negotiated.

As it was Armistice Day, we stopped walking at 11am to observe a 2-minute silence.

The four-mile walk took us on an interesting walk through the fields beside the River Parrett, some of which are already under water due to the recent rains. We then headed back to the Cafe for a warming drink and chat.

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



## Barn Dance

In October much fun, laughter, and even some dancing!, was enjoyed by Somerton u3a members. Plans are already in place to repeat Barn dances next year



## Gossip from the groups

## Group News

The Recorders Group had to cancel their proposed public performance when it clashed with the Queen's funeral. Now you are invited to drop in to the Pinney Room to listen to them on Monday 5th December. They will be playing a wide variety of music between 10.00 and 11.30. You will not be expected to sit through the whole recital but of course they will be delighted if you do want to.

Scrabble and Roast Potato Club had a surprise when they received emails intended for the other group. However, it was quickly sorted. The leader went off to Bristol and everyone else had a good time at Helena's. The RPC had lunch at the Rose and Crown in East Lambrook. This was at least 100% better than the last time we went there. Thank you for various recent reviews.

## Craft 2 or Scrapbooking

Linda Galley is very keen to get this new group up and running but she needs your support. The group meets on the 4th Saturday for 6 hours. Linda is very keen to get the group up and running. She needs your support and commitment now. Please phone her to discuss details. 07849 663725.



## New Groups

A few people have shown an interest Flower Arranging, Wine Appreciation and Wild Flower walks. However, not enough to set up groups yet. Please let Jane know if you would be interested in these or any other suggestions. redgrove@btinternet.com

Jane

## Thank you from Brian

Brian Pearson gave an interesting talk last month at our Friday meeting and wishes to thank member attendees for their interest and support and donations which amounted to remarkable £234 which will be applied to the Ukrainian Guest Support Fund....*editor*



## Friday Meetings and talks

Fri Jan 27th 2023

***Being a Magistrate***

A talk by Lorna Muffett

Lorna has been a magistrate on the Avon and Somerset bench for five years. This is a voluntary role which does not require any legal qualifications. Her talk will cover how and why she became a magistrate and a little bit about how the magistrate court works and what kinds of cases are heard there.

In this informal talk there will be the opportunity to ask questions, consider how you might approach some of the dilemmas faced by magistrates and hear about some of the cases Lorna has considered.

Lorna Muffett was born in Kent and has been living in the South West for over 20 years. She works full-time in the charity sector

## Future Events

