

SOMERTON u3a

Newsletter 34 February 2023



Chairman's message

In the last issue of the Newsletter, we reflected on our achievements and activities of 2022 but now, with a belated 'Happy New Year' to you all, it is time to look forward to another exciting year.

David Robbins has lined up some exciting speakers for our **Monthly Meetings**, including David Boag (Wildlife Photographer) and Dr. Burroughs (History of Glass) who have entertained us so wonderfully in the past. I would encourage all members, especially those who have perhaps not been to one of our meetings before, to join us for what is a fun morning among friends. Why not bring a 'non-member' as a guest?

Our **Events Team** are busy planning a 'Coronation Tea Party', a Barn Dance and already thinking ahead to next Christmas for our lunch. You must start early! All these events will be in publicised in the Newsletters and on our web site.

Jane Redgrove is working closely with the **Group Leaders**, making sure that there is room for new members to join or, if not, trying to set up new Groups. Remember, it is up to all of us to get involved. Along with this, Jane is planning another trip for the Holiday Group, details of which you can find on the web site and hear about at our Meetings.

Our **AGM** will take place in May and this is where we *really* need your help. Sadly, we will be saying 'goodbye' to Doug Skillicorn and Marilyn Muffet from the Committee and we would welcome anyone to join us. Without a committee, we cannot continue so, if you are interested or curious then please get in touch with any member of the Committee to find out what is involved.

So, with just a glimpse of what is being planned, we have a lot to look forward to. Here's to a happy and healthy new year in Somerton u3a.

Steve Davis.



Monthly meetings and talks

Fri Feb 24th

David Youll " the scale of the universe"

Fri Mar 24th

Brian Freeland "The Charente...a trip down the river"

King Henri IV described the River Charente as "the most beautiful river in my kingdom" but it is much more than that. A border between warring forces; the invasion route for the Vikings; a main transportation route until the arrival of the railways, carrying cannon, paper, brandy, salt and building materials. It now plays an increasingly important role in the tourist industry of two French departements, Charente and Charente Maritime. Discover all this, and more, with this presentation.

BRIAN FREELAND

SPEAKER, PLAYWRIGHT, and AUTHOR

Brian's theatre career started in 1959, direct from National Service, and has taken him to forty-three different countries including three residencies in the Middle East; eight tours of the Indian sub-continent and two circumnavigations of the globe.

He has worked with the Royal Shakespeare Company, the National Theatre, Scottish Opera,

Sadler's Wells and London Festival Ballet Companies, Nottingham Playhouse,

Manchester Library Theatre and Joan Littlewood's Theatre Workshop Company.

Approaching retirement he started to 'branch out' - directing; writing scripts, and giving Talks.

Details of his Talks and Presentations, Scripts and Books, fill the pages of his website.

Fri Apr 28th

Janet Seaton and Barry Winetrobe - "Town Criers"

Janet, Chair of Langport & District History Society, and Barry are well known in the area and have given many talks to Somerton History Society.

Fri May 26th

Somerton u3a A.G.M

The meeting will consist of the Treasurers Report, the Chairman's Report, the election of the Committee and other business. An Agenda will be available beforehand to all members. Two members of the Committee will be leaving and there will obviously be vacancies.

Our u3a cannot operate without a full committee so, if you feel that this is something that you would like to get involved with or you would just like some information about what being a committee member entails, then please speak to any present member as soon as possible. We would love to have you join us

Fri Jun 23rd

David Boag - wildlife photographer

ICELAND, A WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHERS VIEW

There is such a wild, remoteness to most of Iceland that it is a photographers dream. So much space, so much air, so much rain! Lush vegetation clothes great sweeps of mountainside right down to the beaches of black, volcanos sand. A multitude of birds, many of which are British rarities, choose Iceland as a perfect nest location where they can safely raise their young. Comparatively few land mammals are found on Iceland but they have unique wild horses that have that are part of their Viking heritage. The landscape is awesome with some of the most magnificent waterfalls I have every seen.

David has been to our u3a on 2 previous occasions and is a very popular speaker with outstanding photographs.



Future Events

Happy New Year.

You may like to know of 3 Events which are being planned so far.

Tickets won't be issued this year, we will do a check list at the door although places will still need to be booked in advance.

Please note that the Barn Dance is the only Event where cash will be accepted.

The Committee always like to receive feedback and suggestions for future Events. Thank you for the positive and constructive comments made about the Christmas lunch.

- **Barn dance**

Friday 21st April

£5.00 by cash/ cheque to Amanda or Liz or Bank transfer

Somerton u3a 30 18 16 00958442



- **Coronation**

We will have an afternoon tea on Sunday 7th May

If Members could offer some entertainment (music, poetry, monologue etc) of about 5 minutes duration they will be considered by the Events team.

- **Christmas lunch**

We are planning to return to Long Sutton Golf Club again for a sit down Christmas dinner...details to follow.

Amanda and Events team



Group News

Table Tennis

Mike Beeson says the table tennis group is currently running at, or very close to full capacity most weeks. If anyone wants to join us, I will do what I can to fit them in, but they really must speak to me before turning up.

In addition to playing table tennis. we try to arrange the odd social event to which most of the members come along. Last year we did a couple of evening events at a local pub, an Elvis Presley tribute concert and the Christmas meal. We will be holding a skittles evening as a starter for 2023 at some time in March.

Scottish Dancing

Continues to meet at the Scout Hall in Somerton on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays but the starting time has changed to 2 p.m. More members will be welcome.

Walking

Both of the walking groups have reported well attended outings, weather permitting.

There may be scope for a third walking group, perhaps concentrating on seeking out wild flowers.

If you are interested, contact Jane.

Kurling and Skittles

In the past we have had very active groups for both of these sports led by Jean and Pat. Since their retirement I have struggled to find new leaders. If you would like to take part in either of these activities, please contact Jane Redgrove.

Astronomy

After several years, Adrian Zielonka has decided to stop publishing his emails about Astronomy.

Many thanks to Adrian for his dedication and enthusiasm.

Of course, if someone else would like to lead an astronomy group, in any format, Welcome.

Jazz Appreciation

This group is thriving and also enjoying extra-curricular activities. This will include a visit to Cossington Village Hall Jazz Club on 27th January to hear Roger Mark's Cornish Armada, followed soon afterwards with a visit to the Tacchi-Morris Theatre to hear A.J.'s Big Band Classics. (4th February to be precise).

Quiz Group

The Quiz group meets in the Sports Club, Gassons Lane, Somerton on the 3rd Monday at 2 p.m.

They are always looking for new members.

Craft 2

Linda Galley has been working very hard to get this group established and would welcome several more committed members. They meet in the Pinney Room on the last Saturday of each month, starting at 10 a.m. and continuing until 4 p.m. Linda prepares a Scrapbooking project for the morning and in the afternoon, they often make cards.

Linda will welcome other crafts, perhaps you need some space to spread out a larger project, or just would enjoy the company of like-minded people.

Unfortunately, they will not be able to meet in January, so the next meeting will be

25th February. Please contact Linda a.s.a.p. if are interested in joining this group.

Mahjong

We have two Mahjong groups and they both have vacancies. The beginner's group meets in Langport, fortnightly on Thursday afternoons. The more experienced players meet in Curry Rivel on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday mornings. So if you have a set on your shelves but never knew what to do with those interesting looking tiles, or you just haven't had anyone to play with for a while, join us.

Scrabble.

Would you be interested in joining a new Scrabble group? Please contact Jane Redgrove.

Upwords

We are still looking for someone to lead an Upwords group. Please contact Jane for more details.

French Conversation

Ann Barrow now leads this group. She is anxious to emphasize that this is a self help group rather than being led by one teacher. Recently they each translated the first paragraph of a favorite book and the others tried recognize the book.

They meet on the 2nd Thursday, in each other's houses, and could take two new members. Contact Ann for more information.

Spanish Conversation

The Spanish Conversation group can also accommodate a few more people. Please contact David Robins for details.

Garden Visits

A program of visits for 2023 will be available shortly.

Travel

Our next u3a holiday will be to County Durham and Northumbria. I hope the colour brochures will be available at the Coffee morning on Friday 27th January or you will be able to download a copy from our website. More details available from Jane Redgrove.

We have many more groups than are mentioned here. Details on the website.

You can contact all the group leaders via the website, www.u3asites.org.uk/somerton

Or you can contact Jane Redgrove by replying to this email or redgrove@btinternet.com

Jane Redgrove, Groups Co-ordinator

Group News

Craft Group



"In the last Craft session of the year some of us took part in a Secret Santa...most people wanted to wait till Christmas before opening though!"



Jazz Appreciationh Group

Tacchi-Morris Theatre at Monkton Heatfield to see A.J.'s Big Band with a swinging big band concert.

We hope to arrange more visits to live concerts in the coming months.

Dave Munns



Table Tennis

"Table tennis group having a lovely early Christmas dinner instead of running around hall ."

Mike Beeson





Somerset Integrated Care System

NHS Somerset is currently engaging on the Integrated Care Strategy (ICS) & Five Year Forward Plan. The aim of the strategy & plan is to ensure that people in Somerset live healthy independent lives, supported by thriving communities with timely and easy access to high quality and efficient public services, when they need them.

Following on from lessons learnt in Covid, NHS Somerset wish to listen and understand what is important to people in Somerset, to help inform Somerset's health priorities to ensure an inclusive healthcare strategy that is fit for the population.

Please would you consider completing the following questionnaire and inviting others (for example colleagues, friends, social contacts) to do so as well.

Help shape Somerset's health and care strategy & plans – what matters most to you?:

<https://response.questback.com/nhssomerset/cb/dz7kpzsnk>

*The closing date for is **Sunday 5th February 2023.***

*Thank you Brian Pearson
for a copy of this....editor*

Somerton u3a website

If you require more information concerning entries in this newsletter or other points of interest, take a look at the Somerton u3a website, address below.

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

**“ 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 March edition...20th February

Pictures welcome, but keep script brief

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