

SOMERTON u3a

Newsletter 37

May 2023



Chairman's message

Hello, and welcome to the May Newsletter. Where did that last month go? As we, hopefully, get into the warmer weather and longer days I'm sure we will all feel like venturing out a bit more? The Monthly Meetings are being well attended but if you have been hesitant in joining us, for whatever reason, then I would urge you to come along. We have had some marvellous speakers and there really is nothing like meeting together.

Our first social event of this year, the Barn Dance, went extremely well and we are now looking forward to, and preparing for, the Coronation Lunch. The Committee have been working hard behind the scenes to prepare for these events (and Christmas, believe it or not!), as well as the day to day running of our u3a. Later this month we have our A.G.M. and I hope that as many of you as possible will attend to hear the reports for the past year, our plans for the future and to show your appreciation to the Committee, the Group Leaders, and all the volunteers among our membership, who have made our u3a what it is.

See you soon.

Steve

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This is a wonderful sight of a Barn Owl feeding during the day. The picture is taken by Jesse at the Brown and Forrest Smokery

Monthly meetings and talks

Monthly meetings are held on the 4th. Friday of the month at the Edgar Community Hall, Somerton.

We open at 10am for refreshments and the chance for members to meet and chat.

The refreshments will finish at 10.20 in order to clear away before the meeting.

The meeting starts at 10.30 with notices, announcements and any other business and will be followed by our guest speaker.

The meeting closes at 12 noon.

Please join us. Visitors are always welcome at our meetings for a small charge of £2 so please come along and see who we are and what we are about. If you are visiting for the first time then please just make yourself know to one of our Committee members or 'Welcomers' who will be happy to tell you a little bit about us and help you feel at home.

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.

Following the sad death of Doug Skillicorn and Marilyn deciding to stand down as Membership Sec. at the AGM, the Committee will be needing volunteers to fill the 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.

Fri Jul 28th

Author, Brian Wright

"The Dragons of Somerset."

An illustrated Talk

In Somerset traditional stories about dragons date back 1,000 years in some cases. We will explore the origins of dragons, their symbolism, and look at some of the many images of these fabulous creatures to be found in this county from the Saxon period onwards, as well as hearing some of the traditional local stories about them.

About the Speaker

Brian Wright.

Brian is qualified as an archaeologist, and worked on a number of excavations in London and Surrey, as well as at the Roman city of Wroxeter in Shropshire. He specialised in the microscopic examination of pottery, but is now primarily an historian. His experience in archaeology, science and historic research enables him to present subjects in what, he feels, is a unique way. He has run courses on Archaeology, Folklore, British Mythology and Antiques for a number of colleges. He has written a number of books on both folklore and other historic subjects, as well as many articles. At present, he gives individual talks to a wide range of groups

Fri Aug 25th

Enrolment Day

Enrolment Day will revert to it's old spot in the Su3a calendar this year.

It will be an opportunity for Groups to showcase their activities, for members to sign on and to meet with friends.

This is an event that is open to all

Future Events

Coronation Lunch Monday 8th May 1.30-4.00 Edgar Hall

Doors will be open 1.30 for our Coronation lunch. The buffet will be from 1.50pm, followed by some entertainment from Su3a members, a raffle and table quiz (please bring a pen!)

Competition entries, any media, of something associated with King Charles or the Coronation will be checked in near the entrance.

If you enter the crown making competition you may wish to wear your crown(!) or that can be checked in too.

These entries will be judged by visual impact and/or use of recycled materials.

Not a competition, but any 2d crowns (postcard size or

smaller) can be handed in too to make a commemorative, collaborative display.

If you wish to have your crown back, please indicate.

By the time you read this Newsletter the caterer will have been informed of numbers; however, if you would like to come please contact me on events@SomertonU3A.UK and I'll advise you of any spaces.

Amanda

PS..... If you would like to come but haven't booked your place yet, we've extended the date by which you need to pay till Wednesday 3rd May

Charity Theatre Trips to Bristol Hippodrome

Chris Cox

With several sold-out trips to get 2023 off to a flying start it has been a busy time recently. We are now booking into 2024 but payment is rarely due until two months before the trip date and the earlier you book the better your seats.

New ones just reserved are Blood Brothers (in our top five musicals), Pretty Woman (mixed reviews), The Wizard of Oz (very well received) and a rare chance to see Benjamin Britten's opera 'Death in Venice' with the wonderful Welsh National Opera company.

The best way to keep up to date is at www.charitytheatretrips.com

where there are full details and a booking form.

Programme

Strictly Ballroom: Tue 13 June 23

42nd Street: Thu 3 Aug 23

Blood Brothers: Tue 29 Aug 23

Charlie & The Chocolate Factory: Wed 27 Sep 23

Pretty Woman: Wed 1 Nov 23

Peter Pan Pantomime: Wed 6 Dec 23

Life of Pi: Wed 17 Jan 24

Wicked: Thu 22 Feb 24

Everyone's Talking About Jamie: Tues 27 Mar 24

The Wizard of Oz: Wed 3 Apr 24

Death in Venice (Opera): Sat 27 Apr 24

Group News

Photography Group

The Photography group is welcoming new members who wish to learn or improve their digital photography. The subjects covered are decided by the group so it is very centred on group needs. We also have site visits during the warmer months to various places of interest.



So it does not matter if you use a mobile phone for photos or a camera there is something for everyone.

We meet at the Pinney Room Somerton on the third Thursday of the month at 10:00 until 12:00 except when we are on a visit.

Contact David Slocombe on 0797 967 0358 or email davidslocombe@gmail.com for more information.



Local History Group

Group News

Earlier in the year, David Maclean gave a talk to the Local History Group about Lytes Cary Manor House.

Maybe another day...

Judi and Kay

Photos

Jeff and Judi

I am sure many of us have already visited this little gem. However, David's insight into the history and contents of the house arouse so much interest we arranged a new trip to the property. So, on a VERY WET and windy Wednesday, 11 of us hardy members met at Lytes Cary.

This is a medieval Manor House, home to Henry Lyte and restored by Sir Walter Jenner in the early 20th century. The chapel was completed in 1348 and predates the house. The manor sits within a 350 acre estate with farmland, woodland and meadows. The Arts & Crafts inspired garden with a collection of topiary, herbaceous borders, croquet lawns and orchard were not included in our day out as we tried to avoid the downpours.



Somerton u3a Facebook

<https://m.facebook.com/people/Somerton-u3a/100070538943417/>

Barn Dance April 2023

Following the success of the Autumn Barn Dance, another was held to celebrate Spring! A fabulous fun evening with much laughter



Somerton u3a 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.

Kay and Joan

Group Leaders for the Really Useful Group.

News from Martock u3a

A new dance group proposed for Martock U3A.

Circle/World dance draws on community dances from various cultures, Greek, Bulgarian, Romanian, Israeli and modern choreographies to music ancient and modern.

The dances are simple, each one walked through. No experience or partner needed. I shall arrange a free taster session in Ash village hall. If interested please contact me. Monamace1@outlook.com/07837695359

For about three years now, an inter-u3a German Conversation group has been meeting at various venues in Somerset.

We draw members from several different u3as across Somerset. There are 18 members in the group, but usually 6-12 attend each meeting, including two native German speakers. All members have some proficiency in German, although this varies somewhat. We discuss various topics, usually connected with the culture or politics of German speaking countries, and also read and discuss a book. This is currently "Zonenkinder" by Jana Hensel. Up until now we have met in members'

houses, but have now decided to meet in a central venue, Edgar Hall in Somerton. We meet monthly on the third or fourth Friday of the month, 2-4pm. There is a small charge (£3 to £4) to cover room rental. The next meeting is 26th May. Members of Somerton u3a with some proficiency in German would be very welcome to join us. More details can be obtained from Greg Atkins at: chairmaru3a@gmail.com

Best wishes,

Greg Atkins

Chair, Martock and District u3a

May Is Pretty, May Is Mild

by Annette Wynne



May is pretty, May is mild,

Dances like a happy child:

Sing out, robin: spring out, flowers:

April went with all her showers,

And the world is green again:

Come out, children, to the glen,

To the meadows, to the wood,

For the earth is clean and good,

And the sky is clear and blue,

And bright May is calling you!

May is pretty, May is mild,

Dances like a happy child,

On a blessed holiday,

Come out, children, join the play!

How Well Do You Know Agatha Christie?

Answers

1. b
2. c
3. c
4. c

5. b
6. a
7. c
8. c
9. b
10. c 1976

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>

Please send all articles for the Newsletter to the editor

mike.davis@silchester.org

Deadline for the June edition...20th May

Pictures welcome, but keep script brief

Minimum formatting please.