

SOMERTON u3a

Newsletter 41

September 2023



Chairman's message

Well, here we are at the start of another, what I'm sure we all agree, will be an exciting year in u3a. If you were able to be at the Open Day/Enrolment Day (*see below*) I hope you enjoyed it as much as I did! It was wonderful to see so many members and visitors attend, and the hall seemed to have a real 'buzz' about it. None of it could have happened without the hard work beforehand and I would like to congratulate Jane, our Groups Organiser, as well as the Group Leaders, the RUGS, committee members and all those involved in the preparation and help on the day, for making it such a success!

Please keep your eyes on the Newsletters and website for information about possible new Groups and, if you can get to the Edgar Hall, it would be lovely to see you at the Monthly Meetings where we have a fine selection of speakers booked.

Unlike University, we do not have a cut off date and, if you missed the Enrolment Day you won't have to go through 'clearing'! You are welcome to rejoin at any time - and why not bring a friend?

We look forward to seeing you soon.

Steve



Monthly meetings and talks

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

We are open from **9.30am** 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.

Don't forget to bring your stamps and coins for the Dorset & Somerset air ambulance

Fri Sep 22nd

Roger Browne Jazz pianist



Roger has spoken to our u3a before - but on Zoom.

We hope to have him with us in person this time.

Fri Oct 27th

Dr Francis Burroughs

Dr Burroughs gave us a fascinating talk on 'The Wonderful World of Glass' and we are thrilled to be welcoming him back for 'Part 2'!

Dr. Burroughs' talks are informative, interesting and...very amusing. He is not afraid to hand around glass, for closer inspection, to the audience and those of us there in 2022 will recall the piece valued at around £20,000 - which he only told us about afterwards!

Photos from Dr. Burroughs last visit can be found on the 'flickr' page of our website

Fri Nov 24th

David Boag

Wildlife Photographer

Iceland, a photographers view

David has been with us many times before and never fails to stun us with his amazing photographs. We are pleased to be able to welcome him back.

Fri Dec 8th

Christmas Lunch...This is replacing our usual Monthly Meeting. Full details will follow.

Fri Jan 26th 2024

Kay Townsend

"Fairgrounds at war 1939 to 1945"

Further details to follow.

Fri Feb 23rd 2024

Wayne Spilsbury

The Origins Of Modern Art

This talk explores the critical and contextual elements of the fundamental shifts in Art from the early 19th to the early 20th centuries.

About the speaker.

'I am a professional contemporary artist working in a range of genres and media. I am based in Bruton and have exhibited around the country as well as participating in Somerset Open Studios.

Most notably I have enjoyed a highly successful career in art education for over 40 years, running secondary school art and art history departments; tutoring to students and adults in colleges; participating in teacher training with UWE and examining. I have organised numerous art visits to galleries in the UK and around the world. I retired from teaching recently but am still an examiner with two boards.'

Open/Enrolment Day pictures



Group News

The **Local Discovery Group** met in Montacute on Wed 26th July for a guided walk and talk around the village. We met in The Kings Arms for coffee (and some couldn't resist the cake) before being joined by Becky our guide for the morning.

After an introductory chat we set out along Bishopston (which we learnt was once Montacute's name) and finished at The Phelips Arms. In between, Becky led us gently from Joseph of Arimathea's burial in the 1st century AD to some of the first council houses built just prior to the first World War.

We learnt why the Danes excavated St Michael's hill before the Normans came and put a fort on top. We saw the monastic influence during the Norman times – you should see the carp! As we progressed through the village, we heard that Montacute House was built in Elizabethan times for the Phelips family and some of it's history – is it a burning cradle or a flaming beacon on the gate posts? We saw the Victorians' influence such as the school (that Becky went to) and their "improvements" illustrated while we wandered in and around St Catherines Church.



Having satisfied our hunger for knowledge we adjourned to the The Phelips Arms for bodily sustenance – cod & chips followed by lemon meringue pie seemed a popular combination.

A good time was had by all and thanks were given to The Kings Arms, The Phelips Arms and hugely to Becky. She said she would be happy to guide other groups and she has a fabulous website <https://www.becsnotes-montacute.co.uk/>.



Group News

'The Lincoln Highway' by Amor Towles

Last month the **Reading Group** read this latest book by Amor Towles, having read one of his previous books 'A Gentleman in Moscow' last year. Whilst 'A Gentleman in Moscow' was positively reviewed and thoroughly enjoyed by all, 'The Lincoln Highway' was not rated as highly. For most of us, Towles' wonderful, descriptive prose and his insight into America in the 1950's was the highlight of the book – it is definitely worth a read, 'though the size of the hardback copy might put off those who read in bed late at night!

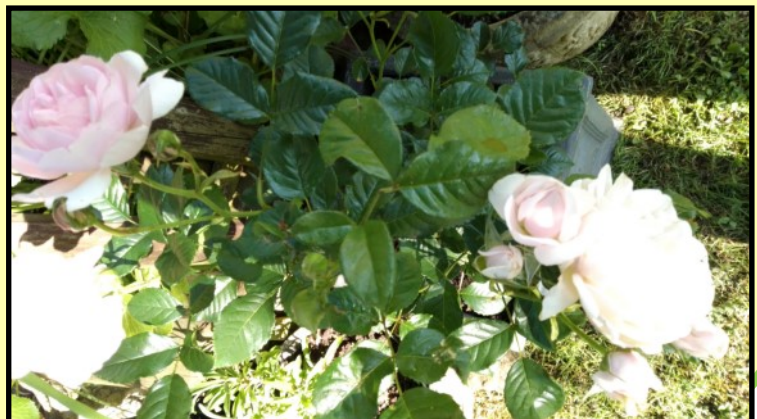
Following on from the book's theme of crossing America by car, you may like to have a go at the 'Highways of America' quiz.

This Reading group is full as we are restricted in size by meeting in one another's houses. However we shall be taking names of those members who would like to form another group at the Enrolment Day and, hopefully, someone will be willing to be the group leader.

Jane Skillicorn shares some photos of the lovely rose that she received at the AGM and to say 'thank you'.

She says it is growing beautifully.

It is lovely to see Jane back at the Monthly Meetings - and again, helping out.



Charity Theatre Trips

Chris Cox

Our May trip to see the hit musical 'Hamilton' is full. No surprise there. If there is enough demand to cover the coach hire we will run a second trip, probably in June.

Three new trips are: in November to the ever popular Annie starring Craig Revel Horwood (moonlighting from 'Strictly'), then in March to the revival of the Lloyd-Webber/Tim Rice musical Jesus Christ Superstar, and in April to the Royal Ballet production of Tchaikovsky's Sleeping Beauty with full orchestra .

The full list is:

Pretty Woman: Wed 1 Nov; Annie: Tues 21 Nov; Life of Pi: Wed 17 Jan; Wicked: Thu 22 Feb; Jesus Christ Superstar: Tue 12 Mar; Everyone's Talking About Jamie: 27 Mar; The Wizard of Oz: Wed 3 Apr; Sleeping Beauty Ballet: Fri 19 Apr; Hamilton: Thu 2 May (Full) & possibly in June; Come From Away: Mon 26 Aug.

The best way to keep up to date is at www.charitytheatretrips.com where there are full details and a booking form.

You can also book by e-mail to charitytheatretrips@btinternet.com, or phone Chris on 01458 273085.

All profits are donated to British Red Cross.

*Helen Hunt Jackson,
'September'.*

*The golden-rod is yellow;
The corn is turning brown;
The trees in apple orchards
With fruit are bending down.*

**Ships and Boat
Quiz answers**



All....

.....True!!!



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 October edition...20th September

Pictures welcome, but keep script brief

Minimum formatting please.