

# SOMERTON u3a

## Newsletter 42

October 2023



## Chairman's message

Welcome to a new year in u3a and especially to our new members. I hope you will find something to interest you within the many different Interest and Study Groups we have to offer, and we would love to see you at our regular Monthly Meetings. We have some excellent speakers lined up and it is a great opportunity to meet up with friends – and make new ones.

I have never been one for entering competitions, but that has now changed, and I have already entered the 'free to enter' competition in the latest issue of *Third Age Matters* (TAM). The reason? Well, for those of you who take TAM, and haven't seen the item, I would like to draw your attention to the bottom of Page 6, 'We are sailing...', announcing the winner of the previous competition. No one was more surprised than Mary Madgwick – from **Somerton u3a**, to be told that she had won a cruise, for 2, along the Douro river in Portugal! Congratulations Mary, we look forward to hearing all about it when you and Peter get back....*see picture*

Have fun and get lucky.

Steve



Mary and husband Peter

## The Really Useful Group

**From time to time Somerton u3a needs help with an assortment of tasks, all invaluable in helping our u3a run smoothly and enhance members' experience.**

Help can be on a regular basis or an ad hoc basis.

Useful Tasks:-

- Being part of a 'meeter and greeter' team at the monthly meetings
- Making new members welcome and ensuring they know of the learning and social opportunities available in Su3a
- Serving refreshments
- Manning stalls to recruit new members
- Being involved with the making and distribution of advertising materials such as posters and leaflets
- Helping members who might find it difficult to get to meetings

# Monthly meetings and talks

**Monthly meetings are held on the fourth 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 known 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 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

**John Higham** on 'Antarctica' ...more details later

## 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.'

# Group News

**Most groups are thriving and as a direct result of Enrolment Day I think we have 9 new groups.**

**Canasta** is a small group, meeting in Curry Rivel. I think it will quickly grow bigger and may have to move when word gets out.

**Coffee and Chat** at The White Hart at 10.30 on 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday has been revived.

**French Refreshers:** Anne Green has offered to start a second group which will follow on after her Wednesday morning sessions.

**Needlework:** Janet Holden has agreed to lead it. They will be meeting in the Pinney Room on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Friday afternoons.

**Playreading:** 12 people have joined this group. They will meet in Sue Parry's house, meeting once a month on 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday.

**Tap Dancing:** Tamra Mumby offered to run this group. A lot of ladies signed up for it on Enrolment Day but then the search was on for a suitable hall. Eventually the West Street Church agreed to let them use their hall. After a taster session they will now meet for one hour every Wednesday afternoon.

**Garden Model Railways:** David Munns has a track in his garden. ...see p4.

The group meets on 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday.

**Birdwatching 2:** This group is to run as a co-operative with Liz Maxwell acting as coordinator. To begin they will meet on 4<sup>th</sup> Friday of the month.

**New Adventures in Dining:** I hope to start this group in the near future.

**German Conversation:** We do not have our own group but several of our members have joined Martock u3a's group which meets in the Edgar Hall.

**The Group Leaders of all our groups can be contacted via the website.**

[u3asites.org.uk/Somerton](http://u3asites.org.uk/Somerton) or just type Somerton u3a into your search engine.

*Then click on Groups at the top of the page and the group you are interested in. Send your message via the link in the top right corner of that page.*

*If none of this works, contact the Groups Coordinator at [groups@somertonu3a.uk](mailto:groups@somertonu3a.uk) who will always be pleased to receive ideas for new groups.*

*Jane Redgrove*

## Beacon

Let me know if you want to know more...*editor*

## Somerton u3a Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100070538943417>



# Group News

## Somerton u3a Garden Rail Group

The Group got under way with the first meeting on the 8<sup>th</sup> September when we had 7 members present, with a second planned on the 15<sup>th</sup> September with around the same number.

The meetings will normally take place on the second or third Friday afternoon of the month at 14:00, venue will be David Munns' house at 14, Behind Berry in Somerton.

The plan is to discuss members model railway experiences, and also real steam vintage, narrow-gauge and mountain railways in this country and abroad with descriptive narrative, photos and DVDs.

We will be running trains on the garden railway layout with around 8 locomotives available (not all at once) and many carriages and goods wagons. The locomotives are electrically controlled but are all models of real steam train locos, mostly of Swiss origin, with steam sound and some with smoke. The scale is 1:22.5 with track gauge 45mm, representing one metre scale narrow gauge.

There is room for more members and if you are interested please contact David Munns via e-mail [david.munns@btinternet.com](mailto:david.munns@btinternet.com) or telephone 01458 272573.



# Group News

## Somerton u3a Ukelele Group

have been playing throughout the Summer for various 'regulars' as well as special events, including a Wedding in Glastonbury. The donations raised for the Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance now total £4,738.80: a considerable sum, as most of the donations are relatively modest, although the Wedding contribution was very generous. Bookings are coming in for Christmas so we hope to continue to increase the amount donated, whilst also having fun!

*Marilyn Muffett*



## Yee-haw!!

**Come and join us for a Barn Dance**

**on Friday 3rd November**

**in the Parish Rooms from 7pm to 10pm**

**You can bring your own drinks and nibbles**

**Tickets are £5 each in advance by 21st October**

**Names to be checked off at the door (i.e. no tickets to be issued)**

Email [treasurer@somertonu3a.uk](mailto: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

**Don't forget your cowboy boots**

**Members only**



As autumn leads into winter, tonight is the night to put on your dancing shoes and dance the night away to the celebrated musical dexterity of accordionist Chris Toyne. This is the third Somerton u3a barn dance and as before, all you need to bring is your enthusiasm - caller Dick Carlyon will walk you through each dance, be it a rustic reel, a jovial jig or even a dance with Somerton links. There will be a short break so remember to bring any drinks or refreshments you might want for the interval.



# More Open/Enrolment Day pictures





## Christmas lunch .....Fri 8th December

£20 for two courses or £25 for three courses by cheque or bank transfer only.

Payment and meal choices are required by Monday 13th November please.

If you pay by bank transfer please email Liz... [treasurer@somertonu3a.uk](mailto:treasurer@somertonu3a.uk)

to tell her what you have chosen to eat. If you pay by cheque please write your food choice on the envelope and send to Liz at...

8 Wheeler Barton, Somerton TA11 6FE.

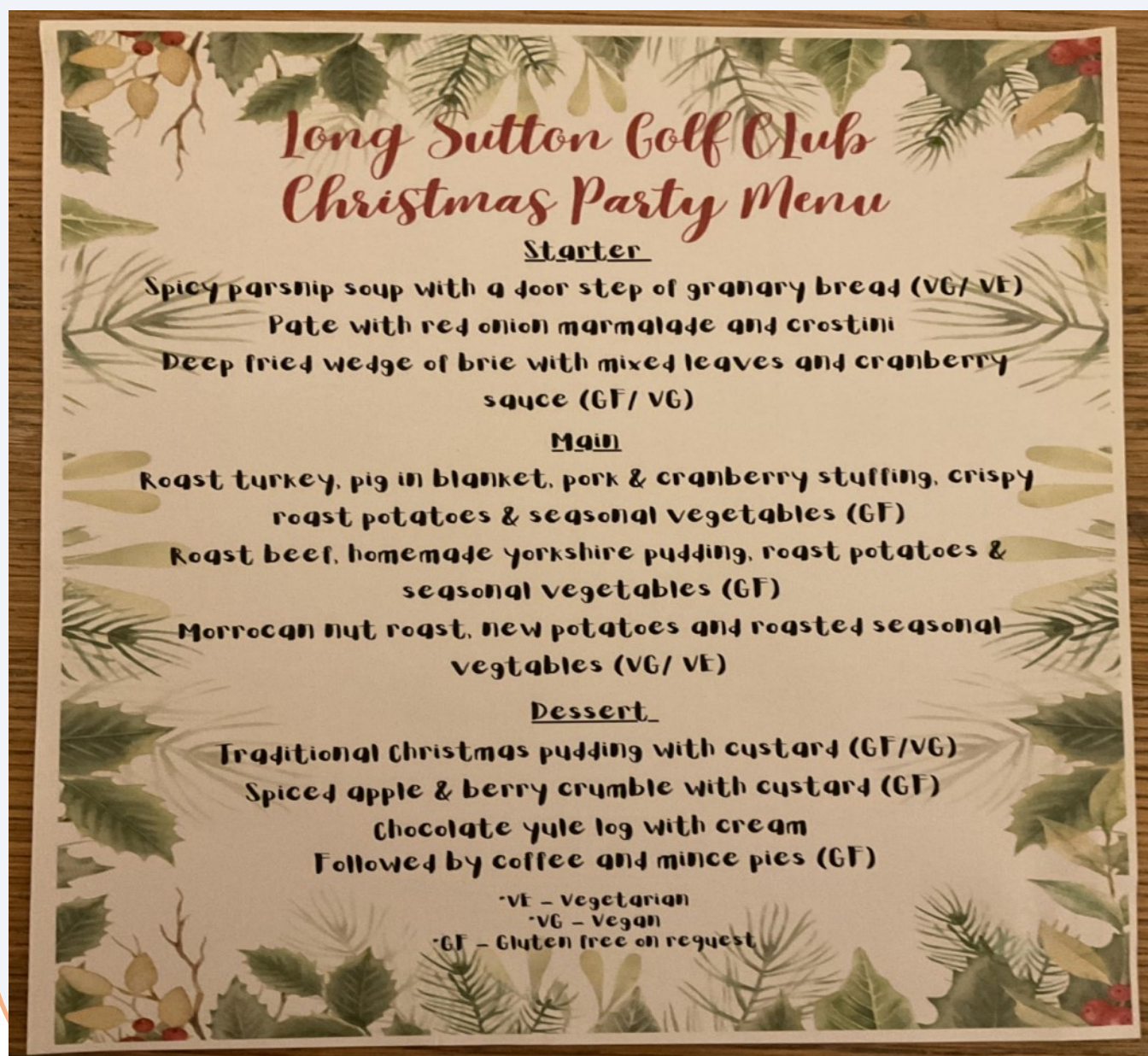
Names to be checked off at the door (i.e. no tickets to be issued)

There is also the option of fruit salad and vegan ice cream

If gluten or dairy free items are required we need to know when you place your meal choice with us, please. On the menu, gf or vg indicates that these options are available if requested in advance.



Amanda



## u3a Diaries

Joan Banbury is going to order 50 x u3a 2024 diaries.

The cost will be £4 and people can order from Joan direct by email -  
j.banbury@mypostoffice.co.uk

The diaries must be collected at the October or November Monthly Meetings, at the Christmas Lunch or, as a last resort, from Joan's home in Somerton

## *Helen Hunt Jackson,* **'A Calendar of Sonnets: October'.**

*The month of carnival of all the year,  
When Nature lets the wild earth go its way,  
And spend whole seasons on a single day.  
The spring-time holds her white and purple dear ...*

## Somerton u3a Committee Members 2023/2024

Chairman	Steve Davis
Vice Chairman	Jane Redgrove
Secretary	Annette Sparks
Treasurer	Liz Short
Fran Cook	Membership Secretary
Mike Davis	Newsletter Editor
Amanda Hooper	Events Co-ordinator
Laurence Reeves	Beacon Administrator
David Robins	Speaker Co-ordinator
Sarah Terry	Committee Member

## 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>

***Group Leaders.....tell me how your group is doing....with pictures please!!! ...editor***

***Please send all articles for the Newsletter to the editor***

***mike.davis@silchester.org***

***Deadline for the November edition...20th October***

*Pictures welcome, but keep script brief*

*Minimum formatting please.*