

SOMERTON u3a

Newsletter 47

March 2024



Chairman's message

Spring is in the air! However, as I've mentioned before in the Newsletter, this is written a week in advance of you receiving it, so forgive me if it's snowing! I think it must have been the thought of Spring, with longer days and the chance of warmer weather, that brought a record number of you to our February Monthly Meeting. Our new 'Meeter Greeter', John, was doing an excellent job welcoming members and visitors alike (obviously well trained by Paul and Glennis) and recorded 138 attendees. The speaker was excellent and the whole morning was a very lively and friendly affair so, if you haven't been to the Monthly Meetings for a while, why don't you come and join us?

Coming to the Monthly Meeting and mixing with others outside of your Groups, also reminds us that we are part

of a wider movement. We are just one of over a thousand u3as around the Country, and we are part of the Avalon Network. Our Network has a representative, Val Warren from Crewkerne u3a, who reports to and liaises with the Regional representative for the Southwest, Sue Parker. To find out more about the set up and working of the u3a and Third Age Trust, which is discussing ways, now, of changing and improving, then why not look at the National website? The site will also give you information about Subject Advisors, Insurance cover, and any other aspect of u3a that you may wonder about. Come out and get involved.

Have fun,

Steve



February meeting

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

Friday 22nd March 2024

A talk by Mike Denham

accompanied on the keyboard

Jazz Pianist

1924 was a big year for piano music. Ragtime was giving way to its younger cousin, jazz, and the careers of young pianists like Fats Waller, Jelly Roll Morton, James P Johnson and Duke Ellington took big strides forward. Mike will talk about some of the events which surrounded the music, and illustrate at the keyboard some of the new piano styles of a century ago.



Friday 26th April

Michael Malahon

"Can you hear me at the back??"

Friday 24th May

Somerton u3a AGM

Friday 28th June

Alex Ledger

"I bet this never happened to you"

Friday 26th July

Richard Benjamin and or Sarah Hayward from Silverline legal..

'Legacy the fortress for generations'

Friday 23rd August

Open Day / Enrolment Day

Date to be confirmed

Friday 27th September

Mr Ashley Jones

The Diken Medal for Animals

Ashley, a retired Police Officer, came to speak to our u3a a few years ago about 'Scams & scammers', a very well received presentation

“ Everyone in u3a should be an involved member, not a customer being served ”

Group News

Scrabble Group

At our first meeting in January we played just one game of Scrabble....then we got on with the important part of the afternoon.



We were celebrating Jenny Jones's 90th birthday with a balloon, cake and tea, chat and song. Jenny has been a member of this group since the beginning, about fifteen years.

Jenny's verdict, "the loveliest birthday party I can remember."



Unfortunately there is one small downside to this event. As all members of the group were present, we had the proof that we can not accept any new members for the time being. Not enough chairs!

However, if you would like to play Scrabble, let the group co-ordinator know. We can always try to find some like minded people to start a new group. Better still if you could offer a playing space.

Jane Redgrove

Repeat pictures from last month with correct article...Editor

Craft Group

Following on with Buttons and Beads, our theme in February was Owls ~ interpreted in 2D and 3D.

In the summer some of the Craft group will visit The Kiln Cafe in Langport- I'd like to open this up as an Event any u3a member could come along to (limited numbers)

I'd book a session for 90 minutes. You choose a piece of pottery to paint (minimum price £12) and purchase a drink and cake if you wish.

Please email me on events@somertonu3a.uk if you would be interested in this; definite numbers will be needed once we have a date.

Amanda



Group News

Cycling Group

u3a Cyclist is still going strong in Somerton. We have five u3a members at the moment, although we could do with a couple more members, so come on and take the plunge and join us.

We meet on a Wednesday and cycle from 2pm for a couple of hours. We normally stop off for a coffee or return to Somerton for a coffee.

The ride is not too onerous; we cycle between 10 and 20 miles in the local area visiting Langport, Pitney, High Ham or the Charltons. We avoid main roads whenever possible.

So, as you can see, we are quite an amateur group who enjoy the company of one another whilst getting some exercise and fresh air.



What are you waiting for? Come and join us. As I said we go on a Wednesday and meet up at 2pm in the car park of the sports club in Gassons Lane

Contact: D Robins for more details M: 07831 323 582

David Robins



Lithium Ion Batteries

Just before Christmas, I decided to stop buying non-rechargeable batteries to power our colourful house lights and buy rechargeable AA batteries. The former only last for one year but the latter, which are more expensive initially, last many years but they come as AA 1.2 volts or 1.5 volts. I have found the latter work much better. (particularly if used in clocks)

Then it comes to charging the new batteries.

I discovered the new batteries were no longer Ni-Cr or Ni-Mh as used previously but Li-Ion (Lithium Ion) so the old charger was not safe to use on the new batteries and purchased from a reputable vendor a Li-Ion charger.

You may have seen some of the incidents on TV recently with these Li-Ion batteries so please take care!

Mike Davis

Scam help

Identifying scams

Ofcom's research found that most people reported not recognising the caller or sender's number as a reason for thinking a call or text was suspicious.

This was followed by poorly written content, with half of respondents saying that this caused suspicion regarding messages received on their mobile phones.

For online channels, such as social media platforms, not recognising the originator's name or account and poorly written content were also the main signs that a message received was suspicious.

Classic signs of a scam

While scammers are becoming increasingly savvy, some reliable signs that a message or call you received or something you came across online could be a scam are:

- Being contacted out of the blue.
- Messages containing links.
- Being asked to share personal or financial information.
- Being asked to make an urgent payment.
- Being asked not to share any details with friends or family.
- Buying from a retailer with missing or vague contact details.
- Products or investments that are too good to be true.
- Poor spelling and grammar.

How to report scams

Ofcom's research also found that one of the most common reasons for not reporting a scam was that people didn't know where to report it to.

Reporting scams is important as it's the most effective way to get a scam taken out of circulation.

Depending on the type of scam you've received, there are different ways to report it:

Text messages: forward it to 7726. You can report scam WhatsApp messages by pressing and holding the message before selecting 'report'.

Emails: forward scam emails to report@phishing.gov.uk. You can also select 'report spam' on Gmail, 'report phishing' on Hotmail or send scam emails to abuse@yahoo.com if you're using a Yahoo account.

Calls: you can report scam calls received on your mobile to 7726. On WhatsApp, open the WhatsApp chat with the dodgy phone number and tap 'block.' You can report the contact by tapping 'report contact'.

Websites: suspicious websites should be reported to the National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC).
<https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/>

Social media: to report a scam group, page or profile on Facebook, select the three dots on the right-hand side of the page and click 'report'. On Instagram, you can press the three dots in the top right corner of a post or profile and select 'report'. On X, formally known as Twitter, select the three dots and then 'report.'

If you've lost money to a scam, contact your bank immediately and report the scam to Action Fraud.
<https://www.actionfraud.police.uk/>

Editor

The Blink of March

In the blink of an eye, March has arrived,
Gently nudging the earth to come alive,
With winter's white now fading grace,
The earth now warms its frigid face.
Robins chirp in sweet patterning sound,
Buds now swell and break their Earthy mound,
Marching forward to their own rhythm in step,
With spring to come, a chance to forget.
Oh, March, we welcome your sweet new savour.

Somerton u3a Committee Members 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
Barrie Davies	Co-opted Committee Member at Committee meeting in January

"You don't know what you've got till it's gone"

Joni Mitchell



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.

Website: <https://u3asites.org.uk/somerton/home>

Please send MORE articles for the Newsletter to the editor

mike.davis@silchester.org

Deadline for the April edition...20th March

Pictures welcome, but keep script brief

Minimum formatting please.