

SOMERTON u3a

Newsletter 48

April 2024



Chairman's message

Happy Easter to you all!

It was a privilege to attend the funeral of Brian Tiffin earlier this month. Brian was a founder member and Life Member of Somerton u3a who made a huge contribution to its running and development over the years. I joined his family and many friends to pay tribute to him, to remember his contributions to Somerton life and to remember his humour. Two of Brian's passions in life were aircraft and trains and I can say, honestly, that I have never before attended a funeral where the coffin leaves the Church to the mighty roar of a Spitfire taking off, followed by a steam train!

Brian had seen a lot of changes within u3a, most I hope for the better, and things will continue to change as our numbers grow within Somerton and the u3a movement grows.

With over 1000 u3as nationally there has been a lot of discussion over the past 2 years about changes in the structure of our governing body, the Third Age Trust, in a consultation called 'Fit for the Future'. The consultation is ongoing and, it is hoped, that a resolution will be voted on at the October AGM. I attended a 'Zoom' presentation in March, led by our Regional Trustee for the SW, explaining the proposed change in the governance of the movement which I found extremely interesting. Can I invite you all, if you can, to look at the national u3a site, which you can find as a link button at the top of our website Home page, and log in to the Members area to find all the information regarding the proposed changes, including presentations and videos?

Out of the 135 u3as in the South West Region, only 38 have had a representative taking part in these presentations. The Committee is elected to represent you, so tell us what you think, and let us be prepared for the future.

And I am writing this on the first day of Spring. Glorious!

Steve



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 26th April

Michael Malaghan

"Can you hear me at the back??"

A humorous look at the highs, lows and pitfalls of public speaking. (Full details on the website.)

Friday 24th May

Somerton u3a AGM

An important meeting to hear a review of our year, the Treasurer's Report, and elect Committee members.

The meeting will be followed by a presentation, on our Chairman's involvement with Abbotsbury Swannery.

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

Response to the Christmas lunch survey.

Thank you very much to everyone who responded to the online survey, which we sent out to those who attended the lunch. We had a very good response rate, and the comments which you submitted have been very helpful. Overall, the majority of people enjoyed their lunch at the Golf Club, despite some shortfalls in the standard of service.

The events team is now busy planning our celebration of Christmas this year, and will be taking your views into consideration.

Details of the plans will be published in due course.

Annette and Amanda



u3a Coach Trip

to

SS Great Britain, Bristol

Total Cost £33.00 (Coach
£13.00pp, Entrance Fee £17.00pp, Tour £3.00pp)

Coach Leaves

- : Huish Church Car park - 9.00 am
 - : Bus stop opposite Gassons Lane - 9.10 am
 - : Market Square Somerton - 9.20 am
- Return 3.30 pm to arrive back in Somerton approx. 5.15 pm

Payment

Either – Bank Transfer to Somerton U3A

Sort Code: 30-18-16 Account No: 00958442 Ref :Ship Coach Trip

(Please note that this is a different Bank Account to that used for Groups)

Or By Cheque – made payable to Somerton U3A

Please email Ruth Thomas to obtain address of where to send cheque

Will also accept cash at the Monthly Friday coffee mornings

To book – contact Ruth Thomas

Email : ruthvthomas@tiscali.co.uk Phone: 01458 251687

You need to give your name, place you are getting on coach & a contact telephone number

Group News

Short Mat Bowls Group

The short mat bowls group were surprised and sorry to hear that Jean Chambers was attending her last session with us back in January.

She has moved to Portcullis House in Langport and we will miss her cheerful presence, good play and company. In February three of our members visited Jean and gave her a card and flowers from the group to celebrate her 80th birthday. She appears to have settled in well and enjoying joining in the activities.

Mike Fraser



*Members of the
**Photography
Group** were out
in Glastonbury on
a 'Magical
Mystical Tour'.*



April Moods

by Lenore Hetrick

April changes her sweet mind
Every other second.
With her many moods and minds,
Nothing can be reckoned.
I always carry an umbrella,
It serves for rain and sun!
I take my boots and out I go
To share in April's fun.



Somerton u3a Committee Members 2024

Chairman	Steve Davis
Vice Chairman	Jane Redgrove
Secretary	Annette Sparks
Treasurer	Barrie Davies
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

Note: TAM is to be increased in price from 1st April 2024from £3.30 to £3.80.

Fran Cook

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 May edition...20th April

Pictures welcome, but keep script brief

Minimum formatting please.