

SOMERTON u3a

Newsletter 52 August 2024



Chairman's message

August is an exciting time within our u3a as, in place of our usual Coffee Morning on the fourth Friday, we have our Open/Enrolment Day! The Group Leaders and the Groups Coordinator are busy working behind the scenes to showcase their particular crafts, interests, sports, games, hobbies and every other opportunity for us to learn and to have fun.

The morning is not only a chance for our members to re-enrol, but also an open day to all those in Somerton and the wider area to come along and see what we do. In order to grow and develop our u3a we need new members, so can I ask each and every one of you to think about asking a friend, a neighbour or just 'spread the word' to anyone you think u3a may be of interest to?

I look forward to seeing you and, hopefully, welcome new members, on Friday 23rd.

Steve Davis

Open/Enrolment Day 2024

Friday 23rd August

10am at Edgar Hall

OPEN because it is open to the public, so please tell your friends and neighbours.

ENROLMENT because it is an opportunity for you to enrol in new groups.

Refreshments will be provided, and a majority of our groups will be there so please come and support them.



You may also renew your membership for 2024-2025

WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!

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 23rd August

Open / Enrolment Day

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

Friday 25th October

Danny Johnson MVO

'Fit for a King'

The Symbolism of a Coronation

(More information on the web)

Friday 22nd November

Simon Barfoot

Election of new Chair to the Third Age Trust

Last month I sent out an email to all members, asking for their views and comments on the approaching election for the next Chair of the Third Age Trust. I would like to thank all of you who took the time to read about the 3 candidates that were standing for election and getting back to me. Out of the replies I received, the overwhelming majority supported Allan Walmsely, the current Vice Chair of TAT, so that is who I voted for on your behalf.

It was announced on the u3a website, on 24th July, that Allan Walmsley had been chosen as the Chair elect, with over 50% of all votes cast. Let us all wish him well.

Steve Davis
Chairman Su3a



Group News

Music Appreciation

I joined the Music Appreciation group in 2016. It was then run by the late and much missed Margaret Schofield. We became very friendly, due in the most part, to our shared love of music. As she got older Margaret worried about what would happen to the group if she became too incapacitated to carry on so I assured her that, if no-one else wanted to lead the group, then I would. I was already beginning to help Margaret when Covid came along and stopped everything. Sadly, during the Covid stoppage, Margaret passed away. During lock down I had emailed, each week, a musical video to the members of the music and opera groups to keep us in touch. I used opera one week and general music the next. After Covid we began the meetings again at my house but with a

much reduced membership. We listen to music of all genres which, usually, I choose from my extensive recorded music collection although sometimes I dip into YouTube. I admit it is mainly classical but we have also heard or even, in some cases, watched, vintage pop, film and video game music, folk and jazz – sorry Jazz group!. Two months ago we had a members' choice meeting which led us to Mozart, Vaughan Williams, Rod Stewart, Mike and the Mechanics, and Celtic Thunder. Such a broad spectrum which included, in the case of Celtic Thunder a vocal arrangement of music for the video game *Elder Scrolls V: Skyrim*. I do have some vacancies for anyone who would like to explore the world of music and, perhaps, introduce them gently to classical music which so many people think they dislike.

Enid Thresher

Music Appreciation went back to the 50s with mixed results.

The early 50s music was still very much ballads and 'crooners' and we began with Connie Stevens, Pat Boone and Dickie Valentine. Slight change of mood with Frankie

Vaughan's Garden of Eden and Hernando's Hideaway from The Pyjama Game. Some novelty songs including Hoots Mon (remember the moose loose about the hoose?) led us to Jimmy Young and Shirley Bassey and we finished truly in the

rock era with Tommy Steele Singing the Blues, Buddy Holly and Bill Haley. August: film music

Sarah

Walking Group

Friday 12th July

The Walking Group ventured out to Frogmary Green Farm, South Petherton, a new area for the group. A 4 mile, dry, walk around fields, an orchard and down South Petherton High Street was followed by coffee and cake at the Field and Farm café

Sarah



Local History Group

Group News

The Local History visited the Avalon Archaeology Museum at the Avalon Marshes site.



We had serious rain while we gathered (inside) over a pleasant cuppa and lunch from the Marches Hub Tea Shop before being welcomed to the site by Dr Richard Brunning, an archaeologist and academic.

The first structure was the iron age dwelling known to be circular from the compacted earth plus the ring around it created by years of rain running off the roof.

Next was the Roman dining room complete with underfloor heating and the classic mosaics and painting. If you look at the picture you may think it is built out of blocks. You'd be wrong as it was rendering with grooves etched and painted to look like a high-class construction.

Then to the impressive Saxon Long Hall so beautiful and tactile. From feasting in the Hall to sitting in the Viking Trading Ship named The Walrus.

And finally, to the oldest surviving Archaeological Excavation Hut in the world having been used since the 1890s.

Some of us then returned to the Marches Hub Tea Shop for a relaxing cuppa and browsed the Craft Gallery before wending our way home.

Thank you Su3a Local History.



Wanted!

Cribbage Boards

Is there one gathering dust in your loft or resting in the back of your sideboard?

The very popular new Cribbage Group would be delighted to re-home your retired cribbage board.



Please contact Groups Coordinator, Sarah
on groups@somertonu3a.uk or
07711 342710 to arrange drop off or collection.

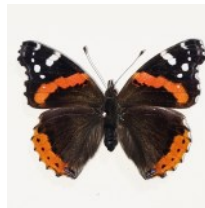
Note

If one of you has experienced a good speaker recently, let me know and perhaps we can arrange for them to come to speak on one of our Friday coffee mornings/meetings at Edgar Hall

.....*Editor...address on p6*



*Remember....avoid using pesticide
.....think of the bees and the butterflies*



Somerton u3a Committee Members 2024/5

We have a strong enthusiastic committee but many hands make light work.

If you would like to contribute, contact one of us to seek more information and perhaps join us.

Editor...address on p6

Chairman

Vice Chairman

Secretary

Treasurer

Fran Cook

Laurence Reeves

Sarah Terry

Mike Davis

Steve Davis

Jane Redgrove

Annette Sparks

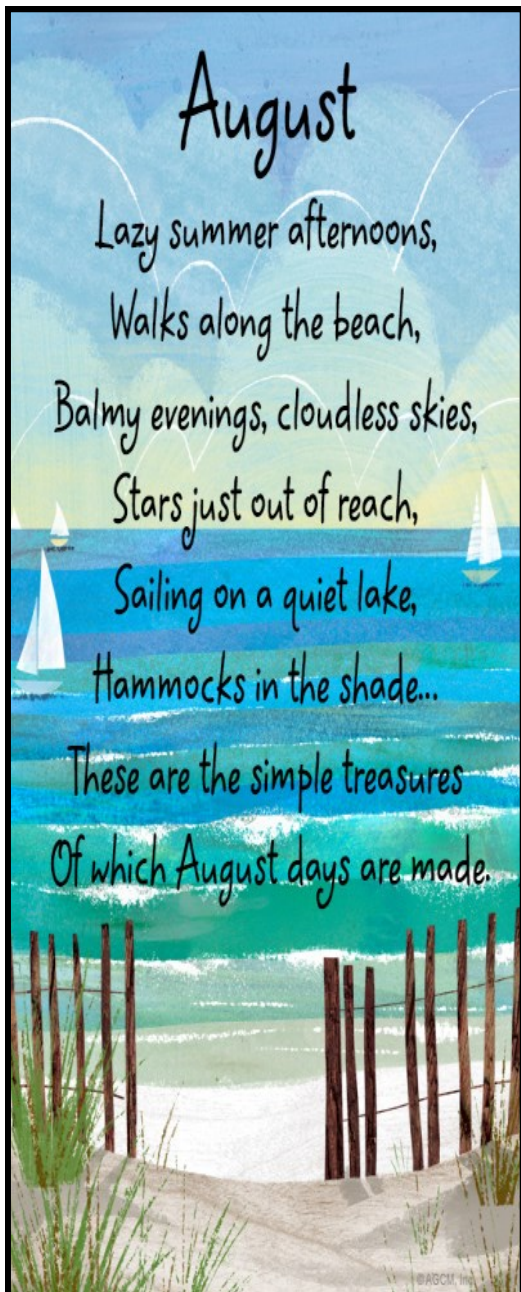
Barrie Davies

Membership Secretary

Beacon Administrator

Groups Co-ordinator

Newsletter Editor



The Times They Are A-Changin'

A Song by Bob Dylan 1964

Come gather 'round people
Wherever you roam
And admit that the waters
Around you have grown
And accept it that soon
You'll be drenched to the bone
If your time to you is worth sav-
in'
And you better start swimmin'
Or you'll sink like a stone
For the times they are a-changin'

Come writers and critics
Who prophesize with your pen
And keep your eyes wide
The chance won't come again
And don't speak too soon
For the wheel's still in spin
And there's no tellin' who
That it's namin'
For the loser now
Will be later to win
For the times they are a-changin'

Come mothers and fathers
Throughout the land
And don't criticize
What you can't understand
Your sons and your daughters
Are beyond your command
Your old road is rapidly agin'
Please get out of the new one
If you can't lend your hand
For the times they are a-changin'

The line it is drawn
The curse it is cast
The slow one now
Will later be fast
As the present now
Will later be past
The order is rapidly fadin'
And the first one now
Will later be last
For the times they are a-changin'

***Bob was awarded the Nobel
Prize in Literature in 2016***

Please send articles for the Newsletter to the editor

mike.davis@silchester.org

Deadline for the September edition...20th August

Pictures welcome, but keep script brief

Minimum formatting please.

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>