

DORCHESTER and DISTRICT

u3a learn,
laugh,
live

AUTUMN NEWSLETTER August 2021



*Prickly visitor in the garden.
See page 8 for the story to go with this photo.*

Photo: Jane Huff

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Next Newsletter

*We plan to produce the next Newsletter at the end of November. The deadline date for articles will be **Monday 22nd November**. Group Leaders will be reminded nearer the time. Any contributions from Group Leaders or u3a members will be gratefully received. Thank you. Ed.*

Editor's Chat

Welcome to the third Newsletter of 2021.

As you can see from the enclosed timetable, we are starting to return to face-to-face Group meetings and First Monday Meetings in September .

Obviously, things may change again - so please check the website and the monthly Members' Updates (that you should receive by email from our Membership Secretary). We are following guidelines from the National u3a and guidelines from venues for face-to-face meetings.

We are still looking for a new Chair for our Committee. We have a very experienced Committee who will give their full support to anyone who volunteers. In the meantime, the Committee will share the duties.

A bit of good news is that the 50p attendance fee and the £1 First Monday Meeting fee have been waived for the rest of the year and will be reviewed again in December.

We hope that you enjoy reading this Newsletter. Thanks to all the contributors. If you have any queries, comments, suggestions or articles for the next Newsletter, please email me. Please note that this Newsletter was finalised at the start of August so the information was correct at that time.

Jane Huff, Editor

Join monthly meetings by Zoom

Following the successful use of Zoom to present the monthly meeting talks during Covid lockdown, we plan to use Zoom during the First Monday Monthly meetings.

We will have a webcam filming the meeting and make it available via screen sharing in Zoom link. Members can choose to attend the monthly meeting in person, or by Zoom. Those "Zooming" will be able to ask questions via the chat facility on Zoom but not address the meeting; at least initially. Members in the Hall who are hard of hearing can also link in to Zoom and use the headset cord on their tablet or mobile phone to get better reception.

If successful, we can also use the technology for group meetings at HTPC.

Group Leaders could have the camera in their class and have a Zoom meeting with classroom and remote attendees.

Look out for further news on the u3a web page.

Ian Blaby, Equipment Officer equipment@dorchesteru3a.org.uk

First Monday Meetings - September to December 2021

We have had three more successful Zoom First Monday Meetings (in May, June and July). We are planning to have a hybrid meeting in September (this will be face-to-face *and* on Zoom) - see below.

The **speakers** we have booked for next term are:

Monday 6th September - Brian Bates – Local Historian

“Dorchester Now and Then”

Monday 4th October - Ashley Jones - Regional Fraud Protection Advisor, Avon and Somerset Police, SW Organised Crime Unit –

“Scambuster – Beating Fraud Every Day”

Monday 1st November - Patricia Miller - CEO, Dorchester County Hospital – **“The Hospital’s Role in Social Value”**

Monday 6th December - Mark Tattersall – Director, Dorchester Arts -

“Developing a vibrant Scenario for the Arts”

Please note that:

*The **face-to-face** meetings will be at **10.30 am** (with the real door opening at 10 am). The **Zoom** meetings will start at **10.30 am** and will last about 1 hour (with the Zoom “door” opening at **10.15 am** - to allow people in to the “room”). You will be asked to mute yourselves when the talk starts - but there will be time for members to ask questions at the end.*

*Look out for further details/updates of these meetings and the Zoom invitation in the monthly **Members’ Update** (the email sent to you from the Membership Secretary) and on our website. We also try to resend the Zoom link a few days before the meeting.*

Watch this space in the next Newsletter for further details and names of speakers.

Group Leaders

*We had a successful Group Leaders’ meeting (via Zoom) in July. There were 30 Group Leaders and Committee members present. Minutes will be circulated to Group Leaders. The next meeting will take place on **Tuesday 23rd November at 10.30** (at DYA). A reminder will be sent to Group Leaders nearer the time.*

Membership

Membership Details

Please be reassured that your details held on our database are not shared with any outside organisations. All I ask is that you keep me up-dated with any changes, especially address, telephone number and email address. Our new Membership Form includes Terms and Conditions of Membership and a Privacy Statement.

As you know, I send out our Members' Update (formerly Chairman's Notes) once a month with up to date news after each First Monday Committee meeting. These are normally sent out by email, so please ensure that the Membership Secretary has your **current** email address as some of the emails bounce back to me. It is also useful to know if you are planning **not** to renew your membership for any reason.

Membership

If you have any queries about your membership, please do not hesitate to contact me or one of the other Committee Members.

If you stop attending a group for any reason, it is important that you let the Group Leader know as there may be other members on the waiting list wanting to attend. Likewise, do contact the Group Leader if you are interested in joining a group.

Subscriptions

The annual subscription for Dorchester and District u3a is £15.

I would like to remind you that all **subscriptions** should have been renewed by **1st April 2021**. For those that already pay by Standing Order, many grateful thanks. However, please could you check that your renewal standing order is with the correct date i.e. paying on **1st April** annually?

The payment choices for renewal are:

1. Cheque - if you are paying by cheque could I remind you that a stamp would be appreciated to enable me to send out your membership card.

2. Standing Order - this is set up via a form and saves the u3a time and money (as well as being an easy option for our members). Once set up, the Standing Order will continue to make an annual payment, until it is cancelled. I would be very grateful if those of you who do not currently pay this way would consider doing so.

3. BACS (Bankers Automated Clearing Services) - the monies are transferred from your bank account to Dorchester & District u3a bank account.

Our **bank account details** are: Lloyds Bank plc, Dorchester branch, sort code 30-92-69 and our account number is: 01221849

(continued on next page)

Membership (continued)

Our **preferred payment option is by Standing Order** as it makes our records and our accounting planning simpler. As our membership stands at over 600 you can see how this payment method helps. Forms are available from the Membership Secretary or on the web site. Any questions please do not hesitate to ask.

Janet Kennewell (our Membership Secretary) has a **u3a post box** at the **United Church shop** (access from the Library side). The shop has obviously been closed during lockdown but from now, it will be open three days a week (Wednesday, Friday and Saturday) from 10am -12.30pm. You can use this box to send membership forms and cheques to Janet (and also collect your membership cards). You can also collect a Membership Application form and a leaflet about the u3a from here (for yourself or a friend).

Gift Aid For those of us that pay the equivalent amount of our subscription in tax, this is a good way of giving and supporting our u3a indirectly at **no cost** to yourselves. To register, please complete the form available from the Membership Secretary. Dorchester & District u3a manage to bring in more income this way via HMRC which keeps our costs (and therefore our Membership fees) down. *Pease consider Gift Aid, as it helps our funds.*

Membership and membership cards

Please ensure that you have renewed your membership before joining a group - including those on Zoom. When we get back to face-to-face group meetings, please have your membership card to hand. This is to avoid any awkwardness about proving that you are a current member. All Group Leaders have lists of current members - and are asked to check them. Please note that the Membership Card changes colour each year.

Newsletter Delivery

Whenever possible, our members deliver your newsletter by hand. We are very grateful for this - as it keeps our postage costs down (and therefore our Membership Subscription down). Anyone wishing to help would be more than welcome. If you are interested, please contact the Membership Secretary to check whether someone delivers in your area. At present we have 39 delivery areas! Many hands make light work! Thank you.

Janet Kennewell, Membership Secretary

Hedgehogs - cover story

At the beginning of May, there was a ring on our doorbell. It was a lady asking if she could release a hedgehog in our front garden - he had been found injured nearby, but was ready to be released. His name was Blossom!

I was delighted that she was asking us - but we were concerned that he may get injured again. So, we agreed to release him in our back garden (after checking that he could get under the fences/visit other gardens). She brought him round at dusk that evening.

Since then, we have been putting out hedgehog food and water every night. We have been lucky enough to see up to six hedgehogs in the garden at once! In fact, I now have two feeding boxes with water and food - as there was some fighting going on! I have a wildlife camera which I set up most nights - in different parts of the garden and I have lots of videos of the hedgehogs.

I am a bit obsessed about hedgehogs now and spend a lot of time watching them in the garden in the evening. I also have taken many photos. This week, I was excited to see a small hedgehog - he/she was in the feeding box already, before I had come out to put out the food! I have bought a hedgehog house and have put that in the garden too. There have been a few visitors in there, but no-one has taken up residence yet. Hopefully, one of the hedgehogs will use it to hibernate in the winter.

Maybe you are also seeing our prickly visitors in your garden too? If you want to encourage them to visit and want to help this endangered species, then put out hedgehog food and water at dusk. Unfortunately, the seagulls will try to eat the food too - so it is best to use a feeding box. We made one from a plastic box for this purpose.

If anyone would like some help or advice with encouraging hedgehogs into their garden, then please contact me.

My email address and phone number are inside the front cover of the Newsletter.

Maybe we need to set up a hedgehog u3a group!!

Jane Huff, Hedgehog lover



Young hedgehog Photo: Jane Huff

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National u3a Information

As part of your u3a Membership, members receive the national magazine Third Age Matters (TAM) automatically. It is mailed five times a year - in January, April, June, September and November. If you do **not** wish to receive this publication, please notify the Membership Secretary, (details on page 2 of this Newsletter).

Likewise, if you don't receive these please notify me as soon as possible. Please bear with us if you have indicated that you do not wish to receive the magazines as it does take a little time for the information to filter through! Details of national u3a activities and much useful information is available at:

www.u3a.org.uk You can also subscribe to the u3a National Newsletter.

Janet Kennewell, Membership Secretary

Country Walks

Since our April restart, all three Groups have seen a rise in numbers with members seeking to escape the confines of “lockdown” and enjoy group banter once again. In fact, “C” Group walkers even exceeded “A” Group walkers for the first time.

In May, the short walk groups met at Hardy's Monument for a circuit through The Valley of Stones to Little Bredy, and for June it was a return to Langton Herring and The Fleet (and “The Elm Tree” of course). In July, we revisited a previous Cerne Abbas and Minterne Parva route, although for the “A” Group, the Cerne walk was a case of “Mad Dogs and Englishmen” (well, “UK people” perhaps would be more politically correct these days) as it was already 25°C when the nineteen of us set out. Thankfully, the majority of the ascent was near the beginning as it was more like 30°C by the time most of us were replacing lost liquid in “The Giant” afterwards. A shady coffee stop overlooking Minterne House was a most welcome spot for a break.

The longer walks group decamped to Cranborne Chase in May for an encounter with Roman roads and Neolithic earthworks (enclosing the ruins of the 12th century Knowlton church from the). There were sadly no cuckoos this year. A sunny picnic overlooking the cruise ships in Weymouth Bay was one highlight of



Knowlton Church

Photo: Nick Priddle (GL)

their June walk around Ringstead and Osmington – although some may conjecture that the ice-creams at Craig’s on the drive home took pride of place.

It's off to Up Sydling and Batcombe for the “B” Group next, and to West Knighton and Broadmayne in August for the “A”s and “C”s.

Nick Priddle, Group Leader

Geology

Our last Zoom session for the Summer Term covered “Geological gems of the Dorset Coast”. This included the chimes of Bournemouth, the spits of Poole Harbour, Lulworth Cove, Durdle Door and Chesil Beach. We are certainly lucky to live in such a wonderful place but I feel it’s so much better if you can understand the landscape and scenery you are looking at!

That was the theme of July’s geowalks. Over 20 members took part, exploring this time, the inland scenery of the Portesham area. Setting off from the Hardy Monument, we were lucky with the weather on both occasions. Black Down is covered by Eocene sands and gravels, producing an acidic soil with heathland vegetation. Walking south-west to Portesham Quarry, we crossed the Chalk downland before emerging onto the Portland-Purbeck ridge. Only a mile or so, but covering 100 million years of Earth’s history. After inspecting the ‘fossil log’ at Rocket Quarry (in reality an algal sheath) we enjoyed excellent views of the Weymouth Anticline and the landscape to the south. We enjoyed a picnic lunch at Corton Chapel, a hidden gem if you haven’t visited, built from a variety of local stone. The steady climb back to Black Down was through Hell Bottom, one of Dorset’s most distinctive Chalk dry valleys. All this without seeing scarcely another soul, and within a few miles of the crowded coast.

Hopefully, we’ll soon begin meeting face-face, which has the advantages of looking at real specimens and more discussion. Whatever happens, we are looking forward to investigating more geological topics, there’s certainly no shortage of interesting themes to engage and inform.

Kelvin Huff, Group Leader



At the Hardy Monument
Photo: Trish England

Quiz - Musical Numbers

- Q1.** '54321' was a UK top 10 hit in 1964 for which British Band?
- Q2.** 'Ode To Joy', written by Friedrich Schiller, is probably best known for its use by Beethoven in the final (4th) movement of which of his symphonies?
- Q3.** 'Three Times a Lady' - a US and UK hit in 1978 - was written and performed by the lead singer of which American soul group?
- Q4.** 'Bless your beautiful hide' and 'Goin' Courtin'" are songs from which musical?
- Q5.** Which British Bands only number 1 hit on the UK Singles Chart (in 1965) was the song "Concrete and Clay"?
- Q6.** '76 Trombones' is a show tune from which stage musical and film (of the same name)?
- Q7.** Jackie, Tito and Jermaine founded which group in 1965? – they were joined shortly after by their brothers Marlon and Michael.
- Q8.** The Adagietto from Gustav Mahler's 5th Symphony was used in the opening and closing sequences of which 1971 film, starring Dirk Bogarde, based on a novella by Thomas Mann?
- Q9.** According to the lyrics of the Beatles 'A Day in the Life', how many holes are there in Blackburn Lancashire?
- Q10.** '54321' (see Q1) was the theme tune for which ITV pop music programme?

Ray Dickerson, Group Leader

[Answers on page 33]

Dates for your diary

Tuesday 7th December - Christmas Lunch 12 for 12.30 pm at The New Inn, West Knighton. More details will be available in September.

Travel Tales

Lockdown may have restricted our travel plans, but lockdown has also given some of us the time and enthusiasm to revisit our trips from the “good old days”.

Members have unearthed photos, dug out diaries, discovered pamphlets, ticket stubs; a miscellany of memorabilia – buried in boxes years ago and deemed to be “rubbish/not what our kids will keep” to be sorted and chucked when one had the time! Thank goodness our speakers delayed that act. For, once again, we have been treated to three more wonderful excursions – relayed to us via Zoom.

In April, Joy Wallis gave us the most marvellous tour around Cuba and in May, Mary Cantrille treated us to some fabulous photography when she spent some of the winter in Yellowstone Park. Our last speaker for the summer term, John Pennington, whetted our appetites, broadening our horizons, by sharing his Caribbean Cruise and Walk that he had enjoyed with The Ramblers group.

Our meetings have finished for now. On September 27th at 3 pm (possibly face-to-face or continuing with Zoom), we kick off with a talk from Richard Purvis. This will be fascinating - particularly for those who enjoyed Mary’s talk - as his presentation will be on his experiences when in Yellowstone Park – but during the summer.

As you can see, our monthly meetings are dependent on people who are prepared to spend some time preparing a presentation. All our speakers have thoroughly enjoyed going down memory lane and sharing special times (good and bad) with other like-minded people.

Most speakers have never spoken to an audience before – and, usually, they finish “on a high”. There is no set formula for the presentations; and no payment either!

We are always looking for new speakers who are prepared to have a go. Do please contact me if you would like further information.

Jackie Cape, Group Leader



Beach on Tortola, British Virgin Islands
Photo: John Pennington

Modern Russia

Not long before lockdown, I had begun to lead a Russian language group with u3a. It was designed for beginners and had what seemed to be a promising beginning. However, unfortunately there were only a couple of sessions before lockdown struck and meetings ceased. We did attempt some Zoom sessions, but they had limitations and did not suit some of the group. In short, we folded quite quickly. I think we assumed that we might restart eventually, but no-one anticipated the length of time during which everyday u3a activities would go on to the backburner. But now we can see light! Hopefully, face-to-face meetings will begin again in the autumn.

In the meantime, I have had a rethink. I should explain the rationale. My own interest in Russia began when I was a history teacher. One of my specialisms was modern Russian, including Soviet, history. I indulged this interest by travelling extensively around the old Soviet Union. I also became a principal examiner in Russian history, wrote several books on the topic and began to learn the Russian language at night school. Because there was considerable interest in Russia at the time of the break-up of the Soviet Union in the early 1990s, I ran evening classes in Devon on all aspects of Soviet society.

What I am now proposing is a u3a group, called for want of anything better 'Modern Russia: Russia, its history, culture and language'. What will this comprise?

The parameters will be Russian and Soviet history from the late nineteenth century to the present day. The history will include significant aspects such as late Tsarist Russia, the Russian Revolution, Russia and the War, the development and break-up of the Soviet Union and post-Soviet Russia up to the present day. But alongside the history, we will explore key areas such as Russian politics, culture, society, the economy and anything else of interest.

There will also be a significant language component, running alongside this. We will explore the Russian language, one of the major languages in the world, given the number of speakers.

We will quickly learn the basics of the language, including the alphabet (not as difficult as many people imagine!), gradually working onwards at the pace we want. For those who may be keen to develop their interest and competency in the language further, as we go on, I will provide the opportunity to work towards a higher level of proficiency. We will use various resources.

Modern Russia (continued)

At this stage I cannot specify exactly when and where the group will meet, although it is likely to be 2 or 3 times a month in 90 minute sessions. Practical details will depend on the level of interest, and there may well be a preliminary meeting to discuss the practicalities. Of course, if anyone wishes to raise questions or make comments beforehand, feel free to contact me.

John Laver, Group Leader

Timetable: Autumn Term Programme

The following four pages provide the programme for the various activities and locations.

Members new to any activity are advised to contact the Group Leader to confirm vacancies. Some popular groups hold a waiting list.

Key to locations:

DCC = Dorchester Community Church, Liscombe Street, Poundbury, DT1 3DF

DRC = Dorchester Rugby Club, Coburg Rd, Dorchester, DT1 2HX

DYA = Dorset Youth Association, Lubbecke Way, DT1 1QL

HTPC = Holy Trinity Parish Centre, Culliford Road, Dorchester, DT1 1QG:

Hall = Main Hall

DC = Downstairs Classroom

UC = Upstairs Classroom

Junc = Junction Hotel, Gt Western Road, DT1 1UF

LB = Dorchester Library, Charles Street, DT1 1EE

MH = Members Home, by arrangement

PAV = Pavilion in the Park, The Great Field, St John's Rd, Poundbury, DT1 2FG

SBC = Sandringham Bowls Club, Armada Way, DT1 2TN

SC = Sandringham Court, off Balmoral Cres, DT1 2BL (nr. Trumpet Major Roundabout)

UCH = United Church Hall, South Street, DT1 1BY

VL = Vivo Lounge, Brewery Square, DT1 1QR

Please note that this timetable is correct at time of going to press (August 1st 2021). Please always check the online timetable, the group website or with the Group Leader that this information is correct.

Due to Covid and or unexpected circumstances, meeting times and dates may change.

PROGRAMME page 1

Autumn 2021	Day	Times	Place	September	October	November	December
1st Monday Meeting	Mon	10.00 - 12.00	Hall	6	4	1	6
Antiques/Collectables	Fri	10.30 - 12.30	SC	10	8	12	10
Archaeology	Mon	2.00 – 4.00	DCC	27 Outside visit	18 Outside visit	15	13
Architecture	Mon	11.00 - 12.45	DYA	13 Outside visit	11	8	13
Art	Thur	11.00 - 13.00	DC	9,23	14,28	11,25	2,16
Badminton	Fri	2.00 - 4.00	UCH	17	1,15	5,19	3,17
Bird Watching	Mon	9.30 - 10.45	Various	Contact GL	Contact GL	Contact GL	Contact GL
Booktalk	Tues	2.30 - 4.00	Junc	14	12	9	14
Bridge	Wed	09.15 - 12.00	SC	1,8,15,22,29	6,13,20,27	3,10,17,24	1,8,15,22
Chess	Thur	2.00 - 4.30	UC	9,23	14,28	11,25	9
Computing Club	Thur	3.00 - 4.30	DC	2	7	4	2
Country Walks A	Tues	10.00 - 13.00	Various	21	19	16	21
Country Walks B	Fri	9.30 start	Various	24	29	26	No meeting
Country Walks C	Thur	10.00 - 13.00	Various	9	14	11	9
Creative Writing	Wed	11.15 - 12.45	DC	8,22	13,27	10,24	8

PROGRAMME page 2

Autumn 2021	Day	Times	Place	September	October	November	December
Cryptic Crosswords	Tues	10.15 - 12.00	VL	14,28	12,26	9,23	14
Digital Photography	Mon	3.00 - 5.00	DC	13	11	8	13
Dining Club				Contact GL	Contact GL	Contact GL	Contact GL
Family History	Tues	2.00 - 4.00	DC	21	19	16	No meeting
French-Get by in	Mon	13.30 - 15.00	UC	6,20	4,18	1,15	6
French Conversation	Mon	9.30 - 10.45	DC	Contact GL	Contact GL	Contact GL	Contact GL
Gardening	Wed	11.15 - 12.45	DC	1, Outside visit	6	3	1
Geology	Wed	9.30 - 11.00	DYA	10	22	19	1
German Beginners	Wed	10.00 - 12.00	DCC	8,22	13	10,24	8
German Conversation	Wed	10.00 - 11.30	MH	1,15,29	13,27	10,24	8,22
History	Wed	9.30 - 11.00		Contact GL	Contact GL	Contact GL	Contact GL
History of Art	Wed	3.00 - 5.00	DYA	No meeting	6	3	1
Italian Post-Beginners	Wed	11.00 - 12.30	UC	29	13,27	10,24	8
Italian Improvers	Mon	11.00 - 12.30	UC			22,29	
Italian Improvers	Mon	9.15 - 10.45	UC		11	8	13
Italian Level 3	Thur	10.30 - 12.00	UC	30	7,14,21,28	4,11,18,25	2,9,16

PROGRAMME page 3

Autumn 2021	Day	Times	Place	September	October	November	December
Jazz Appreciation	Mon	10.30 - 12.30	SC	13	11	8	13
Kings Cribbage	Mon	2.00 - 5.00	DC	Meetings will resume in January			
Mah Jong	Thur	2.00 - 5.00	DC	No meeting	No meeting	No meeting	No meeting
Maths and Physics	Wed	9.30 - 11.00	DC	8	13	10	8
Modern Russia			MH	Contact GL	Contact GL	Contact GL	Contact GL
MOTO	Wed	1.45 - 2.45	DC	1	6	3	1
Music Appreciation	Fri	10.30 - 12.30	SC	17	1,15,29	5,19	5
Pétanque	Wed	2.00 - 4.00	SBC	1,8,15,23,30	6,13,20,27	3,10,17,24	1,8,15
Philosophy	Tues	10.30 - 13.00	DYA	7	5	2	7
Pins & Needles	Tues	2.00 - 4.00	MH	Contact GL	Contact GL	Contact GL	Contact GL
Play Reading	Tues	2.30 - 4.30	PAV	7	5	2	7
Poetry Appreciation	Thur	1.00 - 3.00	DC	16	21	18	No meeting
Quiz	Wed	2.00 - 4.00	DC	15	20	17	15
Reading for Pleasure	Tues	2.00 - 3.30	DC	14	12	9	14
Reading for Pleasure 3	Thur	10.30 - 12.00	LB	16	21	18	16

PROGRAMME page 4

Autumn 2021	Day	Times	Place	September	October	November	December
Science	Wed	9.30 - 11.30	DC	No meeting	20	17	No meeting
Scottish Country Dancing	Tues		DRC	Contact GL	Contact GL	Contact GL	Contact GL
Scrabble	Mon	2.00 - 5.00	UC	13	11	8	13
Singing for Pleasure	Tues	9.45 - 11.30	SBC	Contact GL	Contact GL	Contact GL	Contact GL
Spanish Conversation	Wed	3.00 - 4.30	UC	8,22	13,27	10,24	8
Table Tennis	Fri	2.00 - 4.00	UCH	10,24	8,22	12,26	10
Topical Issues	Thur	9.30 - 10.45	DC	23	28	25	Contact GL
Travel Tales	Mon	3.00 - 5.00	DC	27	25	22	No meeting
Weaving	Tues	9.00 - 1.00	DC	No meeting	No meeting	No meeting	No meeting



DORCHESTER AND DISTRICT u3a

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

NOTICE

**Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting
of**

Dorchester and District u3a

will be held at

**The Holy Trinity Parish Centre,
Culliford Road North, Dorchester**

on

Monday 4th October 2021 at 10.30 am.

**for the purpose of conducting the business
as laid out on the Agenda
included in the Autumn Newsletter**

**A nomination form for election to the Committee
is available with the AGM details in the Newsletter
or available from Les Mould, Secretary**

Any nominations for the Committee and
any Items for the Agenda are to be sent to:

Les Mould, Secretary,
23 Ashley Road, Dorchester, DT1 2DL

or email: secretary@dorchesteru3a.org.uk

Before Monday 13th September 2021

Julia's House

The u3a has a long history of support for Julia's House, the children's hospice for Dorset and Wiltshire, through the monthly raffle at the



Monday meetings and also through the sale of gardening books written by a local supporter. As you can imagine, fundraising by the charity has been a real challenge during the past year but I thought that a forthcoming fundraising event might spark some potential interest from the u3a Country Walks Groups. In partnership with Osprey, Julia's House has cherry-picked nine of the very best hiking routes across Dorset and Wiltshire for **Hike for your Hospice**, from 10th-12th September. Each promises unforgettable views, legendary landmarks and distances and terrain to exhilarate every level of hiker. These guided hikes take place in groups of 30, starting and finishing at a country pub where you can celebrate your achievements with a delicious meal. Raise £200 and not only will you be supporting local children and their families but you will also be entered into the chance to win an Osprey daypack.

For more information please visit the Julia's House website:

<https://www.juliashouse.org/hike-hospice>

Or contact the Events Team:

challenge@juliashouse.org or 01202 644 220

Gillian Slade, u3a member and Julia's House supporter

Science

For family reasons I have to postpone the first meeting to October. Covid regulations permitting, there will be a meeting on Wednesday 20th October from 9.30 -11.30 in the downstairs classroom at Holy Trinity Parish Centre.

To ensure social distancing, please notify me by email or phone your intention to attend. In the unlikely possibility of too many, I will request the latest notifiers not to come. If possible, please come to the meeting :

1. Prepared with a book or title you have found helpful.
2. Websites you have found helpful.
3. Ideas for future meetings.
4. Offers to present a session.

Ron March, (acting) Group Leader

Trips and Outings (October to December 2021)

Crossways Travel will continue to offer u3a Members a 10% discount on **ALL** day trips until the end of September. If you need a copy of their Day Excursion Brochure or would like to book a day trip, please phone them on 01305 851697. From October onwards, we will revert to the system of Group Bookings through u3a. These can be made at the First Monday Meeting, or by cheque or by Bank Transfer. You are still very welcome to book any of the other day trips through Crossways Travel, but you will not get the 10% group discount.

Any bookings made will be fully refundable should Government guidelines change and the trips cannot go ahead. Crossways Travel always follow these guidelines and are happy to reassure you should you have any concerns.

The trips booked until the end of this year are:

Monday 11th October - National Trust **TYNTESFIELD** - Victorian Gothic Revival House near Bristol with extensive gardens and parkland. Cost £45 (NT discount is £15).

Wednesday 20th October - Autumn Colours in **HIGH BEECHES WATER GARDENS**. One of the most wonderful woodland gardens in the south-east (near Haywards Heath, West Sussex). A botanical treasure trove and a photographer's paradise. Cost £44.

Please note: Both of the above trips need to be booked and fully paid for by **September 10th**. Hopefully our first monthly meeting will take place on 6th September.

Saturday 13th November - **OAKHAM TREASURES** near Bristol. The largest privately owned museum of retail and farming history. A wonderful trip down Memory Lane. Cost £35. Visit their website for more details. [Booking to be made by **October 8th**].

Saturday 4th December - **CARDIFF SHOPPER**. Cardiff Market, quaint Victorian arcades and Cardiff Castle (entrance to castle not included). Cost £29.

Thursday 16th December - **ROMSEY ABBEY CAROL SERVICE**. A wonderful carol service and a lovely afternoon tea. A hugely popular excursion so early booking is highly recommended. Cost £38. [**Bookings for December Trips** to be made by **5th November**].

Any queries - Please contact **Anna Shapter (Group Leader)** 




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Italian Improvers and Post-Beginners

Italian Improvers 9.15-10.45 (2nd, 4th and sometimes 5th Mondays)

In the autumn of 2021 we hope to start Chapter 4 of *Al Dente 2*. The book comes with CD, DVD and a wealth of written exercises. We are using it as a spring board for conversation, grammar revision and extension, plus more practice in all four language skills using a wider vocabulary. Other appropriate materials and activities are brought into the course in response to needs and interests.

Italian Post-Beginners 9.30-11.00 (2nd, 4th and an odd 5th Wednesday)

In the autumn of 2021, we should complete *Talk Italian 2* starting from Chapter 9, while also revising verbs in the past tense (*passato prossimo*). In 2022, we will need to start a new course book which will be decided after discussion and assessment of individual needs and objectives.

José Hinton, Group Leader

A visit to the dentist

“Yup, both of them - double extraction, let’s be done with them.” This was in answer to my hesitant enquiry as to whether it was absolutely necessary to remove both molars - wouldn’t one perhaps be enough, I had added plaintively.

My dentist fixed me with a glassy stare. “If it was me, I wouldn’t hesitate,” he said “those two little so and so’s have had enough, they’re showing the white flag, time to rip them both out.”

At this point in proceedings I felt the chair arch backwards taking my head with it, my feet now in line with my chin. Ten inches above my face Philip, as he insisted I call him, grinned down at me. He had donned some kind of binocular contraption, making him look a bit like Batman. I realised any further resistance was hopeless and tried to grin back.

“See this little blighter,” said Philip pointing at the Xray screen “he’s on the point of collapse, I’m going to rip him straight out of your head together with his chum alongside. Might take a little while but don’t worry if I have to put my knees on your chest.” I attempted a chuckle at what I hoped had been a joke and swivelled my eyes towards the nurse to see if she was joining in. She had her back to me, staring at the computer.

“Now then,” continued Philip, brandishing a needle, “I’m going to send those little fellows to sleep - tell me when you feel a little tingle.

I waited. No tingle.

“Can you feel the left side of your tongue,” he asked.

For some reason I felt an absurd desire to apologise for the fact that I still could.

“Right,” said Philip and plunged the needle in again. Panic started to set in. What if the anaesthetic won’t work? Will he go ahead without it?

“I’m so sorry,” I mumbled, “but everything seems normal.”

“This should do it,” said Philip and plunged the needle in for the third time. The atmosphere seemed to have turned a little chilly.

At last I began to feel that illusive tingle and my tongue start to thicken. I gasped with relief.

“Right Ho,” said Philip, “off we go.”

My appointment had been for one hour; by which time one tooth had thrown in the towel. The other though was still fighting a rearguard action and showing no sign of hoisting the white flag.

“Better tell Mrs Bridges there’ll be some delay,” Philip muttered to the nurse. I

A visit to the dentist (continued)

couldn't help noticing beads of perspiration on his forehead. A dazzling array of instruments lay in a jumble on his little work station. Any minute now, I thought, he's going to reach for the pliers.

"Got him," Andrew almost shouted forty five minutes later as he waved the last molar in my face. "What a little sod pot. Full marks for effort though." I staggered to my feet, looking around for the door. Philip handed me a small packet. "You may get some bleeding - perfectly normal - put one of these over the wound and hold it in place by biting down gently."

Thanks very much, I thought, most helpful and just what exactly am I supposed to use to bite with.

As I teetered over to the reception desk a lady in a red coat, Mrs Bridges I presumed, shot me a look: of annoyance or pity I wasn't quite sure. I nodded to her, not trusting myself to speak. The receptionist looked up and gave me a wide smile, "that will be two hundred and seventy five pounds," she said.

Richard Mann, member of the Creative Writing group



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Philosophy

It has been a long, difficult and stressful time since the various lockdowns started on 23rd March 2020. Although the Philosophy Group has had quite a few discussions via email and a couple of successful Zoom meetings, they haven't made up for the more personal meetings we normally have. It is u3a's intention to start face-to-face meetings again in September, and I hope that will be the case.

What with all the restrictions and stress Covid has caused and the fact that life has changed, is a good reason to listen to Plato's (c. 427-347 BCE) words of wisdom:- *Before the age of 50, people should just get on with living, but after 50, it is time to stand back, reflect **and** develop an interest in philosophy.*

Philosophy is distinguished from other forms of thinking by its critical, systematic approach and its reliance on rational argument. Given that we live in such thought-provoking times, it is opportune to be able to take some time out and consider the thoughts of both ancient and modern philosophers and their relevance to modern life. What could be more fundamental than deciding what counts as knowledge as opposed to mere belief or superstition? Over time we have examined various arguments trying to prove the existence of God. One such is called, The Cosmological (or Causal) Argument. In a nutshell:- *St Thomas Aquinas (1225 – 1274) argued that everything in the cosmos has a cause. If you track things back through a series of causes, there must have been a 'first cause'. He said that this 'first cause' is God, whom he described as a 'necessary being', eternal and transcendent, existing outside of our space and time, but able to act within it, needing no explanation and having no cause.*

Various philosophers have pointed out various short comings with the Cosmological Argument, but Stephen Hawking *et al* put forward an interesting thought, he said:- *"You can't get to a time before the Big Bang because there was **no time before the Big Bang**. We have finally found something that doesn't have a cause, because there was no time for a cause to exist. For me this means that there is no possibility of a creator, because there is no time for a creator to have existed in."*

Obviously a point for discussion sometime.

Philosophy (continued)

Here are more reasons to come along to the Philosophy Group, a few quotations from the past:-

"Life is never made unbearable by circumstances, but only by lack of meaning and purpose." Victor Frankl (neurologist and Holocaust survivor).

"The highest activity a human being can attain is learning for understanding, because to understand is to be free." Baruch Spinoza.

"The happiness of your life depends upon the quality of your thoughts."
Marcus Aurelius.

No prior knowledge or experience is required – just the desire to be open to how others think. Come along and see, there are so many levels at which philosophy can be enjoyed. We believe that everyone, whatever their background, will benefit from joining in what we hope will continue to be an intellectually stimulating and enjoyable group dynamic.

Clive Topper, Group Co-Leader

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Computing Club - Reboot

The Computing Club has been a part of Dorchester u3a since 2006 when Doug Lazenby set it up to provide a forum where members could swap ideas and talk through problems relating to their use of computers.

Since then the iPhone, other smart phones, tablets and various digital devices have been launched. In 2011, the number of adult “internet non-users” made up 25% of the adult UK population. By 2020 this dropped to 6.3%. Government and health services, banking, retail companies and the entertainment industry increasingly assume their customers have digital devices, email and internet access. Those of us without these are disadvantaged and miss out. Unfortunately, in our age group (55+), this makes up 20%.

With this changing environment, the Covid sabbatical and Doug Lazenby passing me the baton, it is opportune to restate the scope of the Computer Club. Its purpose is to support u3a members’ interests in computing and their capability to use their computers. We take computers to mean PCs, tablets and smart phones running Windows, Android and Apple software, the various applications in normal use, as well as the internet.

At each meeting, we will explore issues and questions raised in the room. We have all levels of capability attend meetings, including some regulars who collectively have a broad experience and are happy to share their knowledge. We will also cover a topic of interest to members in greater depth either via a presentation or a structured discussion.

If you would like to know more about the Computing Club, please contact me.

Alan Hopwood, Group Leader

Topical Issues

The Topical Issues group has carried on during lockdown by using Zoom. Fortunately, this is not very different from our normal discussions sat in a circle at HTPC. As group leader, I will choose 2 or 3 topics for discussion from that week's papers and TV articles, and pose a question or two to explore what people are thinking and why. I try to make the questions open ended and inviting, for example: "What do you think of STAND?" (this is the lobby group against development to the north of Dorchester), or "Do you think the triple lock on state pensions should stop?". We then take turns to give our views. The group does have strong opinions and will question each other or go off at tangents from time to time to develop a thread. However, members never cease to amaze me with their experience and insight on any topic.

I try to ensure that everyone has a chance to comment, and let conversation develop; if necessary by asking a provoking question. For example: "Will you be wearing masks in public even after restrictions have been lifted?" Most say yes so I ask why? – Is it to protect yourself (you've had two jabs), or to protect others (you've had two jabs), or to show support for mask wearing in general? It is often useful to throw a "curve ball", e.g. "Should two billionaires competing to promote space tourism be a cause for concern?!" (Yes – think of all that wasted money and carbon dioxide when they could be doing something more useful. No – it's their money and they might help develop new technology which will help us all.) Or, I can just ask a simple question and get a surprising answer; e.g. "When lockdown is over and you are declared dictator for life which group of people or organisation will you make the first to be put up against the wall and shot?!" Surprisingly, politicians was not the answer!

Topical Issues will be meeting in person again from September, so if you like a lively discussion and are prepared to hear different opinions, then please join us; especially if you have a candidate for the wall!

Ian Blaby, Group Leader

Being a Group Leader/Group Contact – What Does It Entail?

Our u3a has approximately 50 different Groups and relies upon a number of our members volunteering to act as a Group Leader or a Group Contact. The role of a leader will differ depending upon the nature of the group, some can run almost as a collective, others like the language groups, often need a teacher who prepares the lessons on a regular basis. There are some administrative tasks involved, getting members to complete the attendance sheets, collecting the 50p fees (when we are back to normal), sending in attendance sheets and liaising with the Venue Booking Officer about room hire. There is no reason why these tasks can not be delegated to other members of your group. A Group Contact is normally someone to answer enquiries about the group for any potential new members and do the admin work, where the group operates without too much planning being involved. A Group Leader will normally prepare something for each group meeting. I am not going to pretend that it is all plain sailing but it is probably not as daunting as you might think.

I am always happy to consider suggestions for new groups, particularly if you think you might be able to act as the Group Leader/Contact. The procedure is that I, as Group Co-ordinator, test the water and see if there is sufficient interest to get a group started. Then potential members meet with myself, the Group Leader (if we have one) and agree dates, times and venues for meetings.

Since the start of the pandemic, we have said farewell to several of our Group Leaders. A few have been replaced and I would like to welcome Niall Simpson (Bridge), Ray Dickerson (Quiz) Jean Croot (Scrabble) and Hilary Watkins (Antiques and Collectables). Also, Alan Hopwood, our new Webmaster, has taken on the Computing Club.

However, we are still looking for Group Leaders/Contacts for Welsh Beginners, Spanish Beginners, French Post-Beginners and Wine Appreciation. If you think you might be able to help out with any of the following subjects, I will be pleased to hear from you.

I am sure there are other interests that members might have where we don't have a group at present. I'm happy to hear from you with suggestions.

Peter Scaife, Group Co-ordinator

National u3a Day



On June 2nd, we took part National u3a Day. The aim was to promote the positives of living life in the Third Age,



counteracting ageism, and telling our local community what the u3a does and what it means to be a member of an organisation that “learns, laughs, and lives”. The day started early - I took part in an interview at 7.30 am for BBC Radio Solent! We also had a publicity stall near the War Memorial (at the bottom of South Street).

We had twelve willing volunteers, who all wore a u3a lanyard and a u3a cap. Some of us walked around the town and handed out leaflets and some of us stood at the stall and gave out information and answered questions. It was great to meet existing u3a members, prospective members and spread the word to other members of the public. Several people joined our u3a on the day - and others took away forms to complete later.

Display for u3a day
Photo: Chris Knight

It was a successful and enjoyable morning.

Jane Huff, Committee Member

News About Members

We would like to congratulate some of our members on their recent achievements:

Birthdays and celebrations

Congratulations to **John De Nordwall** who was 90 in June!

Congratulations to **Sue and Ian Locke**, who celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary at the end of July.

Those who are unwell Our thoughts and sympathies are with those of our members who are unwell at this time.

In memoriam

Finally, we would like to offer our condolences to all the bereaved in these difficult times. Sadly, **David Fry, Mavis Davies, Aileen Grassby, Ann Beck, Christine Burke** and **June Aird** have passed away. Our condolences go to their family and friends.

Our thoughts are with all members who are unable to visit family and/or find the present situation very difficult. For further information on any of the above and/or ex-members, please contact me. **Vivienne Allan, Welfare Secretary**

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Help wanted for electrical certification

Electrical equipment used by Dorchester and District u3a needs to have a safety check every 12 months. The member who used to do this is no longer available.

I am looking for a qualified electrician to certify and label our electrical equipment for this year. This includes laptops, DVD players, power plugs and leads, kettles, music and PA systems, etc. There are 20 -30 items in all.

The plan is to bring them to a central place (probably HTPC classroom) and do them all in one session - preferably before we restart in September. I also could use a second pair of hands to move things around on the day.

If you are able to help, or can give me a contact of someone who can, please contact me. Thank you.

Ian Blaby, Equipment Officer

☒ equipment@dorchesteru3a.org.uk

Situations Vacant

We are looking for the following:

- A **Chair** (the Committee are currently sharing the role)

Group Leaders for: Italian Beginners, a second Creative Writing Group, Wine Appreciation, French Post-Beginners, Welsh Beginners and Spanish Beginners.

Please contact Peter Scaife (Group Co-ordinator) for more information.

Contact details on Page 2.

Answers to MUSICAL NUMBERS QUIZ (from page 12)

A1. Manfred Mann

A2. 9th

A3. The Commodores (with Lionel Richie)

A4. Seven Brides for Seven Brothers

A5. Unit 4 + 2

A6. The Music Man

A7. The Jackson 5

A8. Death in Venice

A9. 4000

A10. Ready Steady Go

Ray Dickerson, Quiz Group Leader

Holiday Bookings with Riviera Travel and Ramblers

If using Riviera Travel for your next holiday, please mention your Dorchester and District u3a membership at the time of booking in order for our u3a to receive 10% of the final cost of your trip. Bookings need to be made directly with Riviera Travel and not via a third party. In addition to Riviera Travel, Dorchester and District u3a can now receive commission from Ramblers Walking Holidays for anyone booking a Ramblers Holiday. This is £10 per person for UK holidays, £20 for short-haul holidays and £30 for long-haul bookings. Again, please mention your u3a when making the initial booking. Thank you. Holidaying with **Riviera Travel** and **Ramblers** helps your u3a!



The Geology group at Rocket Quarry, Portesham
Photo: John Scott



A Melodius Warbler at Middlebere (Bird Watching) Photo: Nick Priddle



Our u3a Day stall in June Photo: Les Mould



Virtual coffee and cake at the u3a Day (thanks to the Pins & Needles group) Photo: Chris Knight



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