

FROM THE CHAIR

As you probably realise, our U3A is celebrating its 15th anniversary this year. We were going to have a party five years ago, but Covid got in the way.

I can now announce that we shall have a short celebration of this milestone after the monthly talk on 26 August. Original member Jenny Malyon will say a few words about the early days and a celebration cake will be cut and issued. There will also be non-alcoholic bubbly...

Alastair

Alastair Forbes,
Chairman

chair@bridportu3a.uk

GROUP NEWS



Now that it is light until late you might like to try a taster of one of our evening groups. On alternate Tuesdays a small friendly group meet at Liz Basker's house in Walditch to **play cribbage**. It is a bit different from other card games and quite easy to pick up the basics. Email groups@bridportu3a.uk and I will forward to Liz.

On Thursday 7th and alternate Thursdays – first and third – come along to the West Dorset Club on South Street at 7pm to play **informal skittles**.

Or come to the Lord Nelson on Tuesday 10th June at 7pm to chat over a beer or glass of wine.

Please send me any ideas and suggestions for new groups in 2025

Alison Williams – Groups coordinator groups@bridportu3a.uk

COACH EXCURSIONS

On 13th July Crossways travel are going to a tucked-away part of Devon for a scenic wildlife cruise on the river Yealm. Cost £58.50.

Crossways Travel have a programme of outings throughout the year. As a member of Bridport u3a you get a 10% discount on trips that pick up in Bridport. Book directly by contacting Crossways on 01305 851697 and quoting your membership number.



GROUP SPOTLIGHT

The Limerick Club would like to recruit some new members. If you might be interested in joining, please send your email address to limericks@bridportu3a.uk and we will include you in our Friday evening issue of the week's verses. This also includes the suggested "first line" for the following week. We are also inviting all U3A members receiving the issue to contribute their own Limericks. There is no compulsion but it would be great to receive some new contributions if the muse should come upon you.

*More Limerick writers are needed,
As the Group's future is somewhat impeded,
By a sad lack of rhymers,
Both new and old-timers,
So don't let this plea go unheeded.
(LR)*



Art Appreciation is the new name for the Exploring Art & Design group, which has moved to the second Wednesday of the month from 10:30 til 12:30, meeting at a member's house in Pymore.

Our manifesto is informal discussion of a wide variety of Arts, with some short presentations by members and others. Also sharing of news and reviews of local and national exhibitions, forthcoming Arts programmes on TV etc. We also organise visits to interesting galleries, sculpture parks etc. New member enquiries are very welcome. Our next meeting will include a presentation on the Glasgow School of Art given by Brian Sharp, on Wednesday 11 June 2025. For further details contact Pete Brown, the Group Leader (see website Group entry).

If you would like your Group featured here, please send information to newsletter@bridportu3a.uk

MONTHLY MEETING

Our monthly meeting is held at Bridport United Church Hall on the 4th Tuesday of each month at 2pm. Admission is free to members and £3 for non-members, with tea and biscuits provided after the meeting.

- On June 24th we will have Bob Rayner talking about **Dignity in Dying**.
- In July our speaker will be James Porter who will be returning to talk about the Channel Islands in WW2.

**THE GERMAN OCCUPATION OF THE
CHANNEL ISLANDS IN WW2**
Lieutenant Colonel (Retd) James Porter



INVITATION TO THE RACES FROM OKEHAMPTON u3a

Dee McVey, Chair of Okehampton u3a, has asked me to send this invitation to join them.

Okehampton u3a, has negotiated a discount at Newton Abbott race course for u3a members. Instead of £18 for an online purchase of Paddock tickets it's been reduced to £10 per person for admission on Tuesday 9th September. It would be great to meet up with members from neighbouring u3a's, and combine this with a day at the races,

If your members would like to go, please ask them to let Dee McVey know by email to chair@okehampton-u3a.org.uk or phone her on 01837 658590 by 25th August'.

JUST FOR FUN

1. How long is Chisel beach?
2. What is the name of the lagoon behind the tombolo connecting Portland to Abbotsbury?
3. One of Dorset's most photographed landmarks, what is Durdle Door?
4. What is the name of the large Iron Age hill fort south west of Dorchester?
5. Which Dorset harbour is the second largest natural harbour in the world after Sydney?
6. Name Dorset's only professional football club.
7. A former world record holder at 1.5 million SHU, what is the Dorset Naga?
8. What was the collective name given to the six 19th Century agricultural workers deported for forming swearing an illegal oath as members of a friendly society?
9. Which iconic 1973 advert, directed by Ridley Scott, was shot on Gold Hill in Shaftesbury?
10. What name is given to the 3 chalk formations located at Handiest Point on the Isle of Purbeck?

MONTHLY LIMERICK CHALLENGE

Each month the Newsletter will bring you a suggested first line for a limerick, and publish some of those submitted from the previous month (using contributors' initials only). Thank you to everybody who takes part.

*A fellow who lived by the sea
Would dream of a far destiny
I've got a small boat
But it doesn't float
So it's snoozin' not cruisin' for me
(TW)*

*A fellow who lived by the sea,
Used to fish from the end of the Quay,
But an extra large cod
Swallowed hook, line and rod,
So he's only got chips for his tea.
(LR)*

If you want to participate, please create a limerick with the first line

'There was a young Miss from Mayfair'

Also, remember that the Monthly Challenge is open to ALL u3a members and not just the members of the Limerick Club.

Please send your contributions to limericks@bridportu3a.uk by 31st May and a selection will be printed in the next Newsletter.

If you would like to view the weekly Limericks on our new u3a website, type 'limericks' in the search space on the website, then click 'Limerick Club'.

NATIONAL u3a



Did you know that Third Age Matters is also available as a text-only download that can be read by text-readers, so anybody with a visual impairment can still enjoy the national magazine? The link is available [here](#). You can also access previous editions.

More information about national online groups, projects, research and much more can be found in the national u3a Newsletter, which you can sign up to [here](#). You can also access previous Newsletters.

MONTHLY LOCAL PHOTOGRAPH

Each month we will publish a photograph of a local scene. Please submit your photographs to newsletter@bridportu3a.uk and let me know when and where it was taken, and if you want to be acknowledged as the photographer or remain anonymous. Please note, we may use photographs published in the Newsletter on our website – please advise if you do not want this to happen.

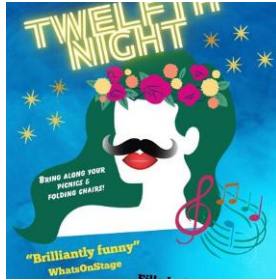
This “Small is Beautiful’ photo was taken in the grounds of Bryan Court by PP.



OUTSIDE u3a

Blankets, picnics and brollies at the ready for the outdoor theatre season.

- No monks at [Forde Abbey near Chard](#), the former Cistercian Abbey but the South Lawn is a beautiful setting for Folksy Theatre's Twelfth Night, Sat 12 July and Robin Hood, Weds 6 Aug



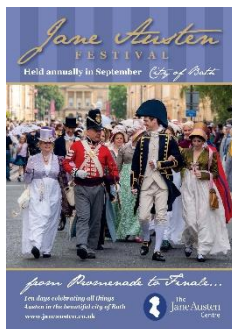
- At [Montacute House, near Yeovil](#), The Pantaloons ponder whether to be or not to be in Hamlet in the grounds of an Elizabethan manor house on Fri 25 July – how apt! The house was built at the end of the 16th century, around the same time that Shakespeare wrote the play.
- In the grounds of [Athelhampton House](#), the historic house near Dorchester, The Lord Chamberlain's Men put on Shakespeare's best-loved romantic comedy, Twelfth Night, Thurs 5 June. Ratty, Mole, Badger, and Toad have adventures in Immersion Theatre's The Wind in the Willows, Sat 21 June. Jane Eyre meets Mr Rochester in Chapterhouse Theatre Company's Jane Eyre, Sat 2 Aug (Spoiler: reader, she married him). Find out whether The Big Bad Wolf really is as bad as his PR, Sat 16 Aug.
- At the [Marine Theatre, Lyme Regis](#), cycling Shakesperean troupe The Handlebards head to the Jurassic Coast to put on Much Ado About Nothing, Tues 17 July. Folksy perform Twelfth Night Sun 27 July and Robin Hood, Sat 2 Aug. The Three Inch Fools' Tudor romp, The Most Perilous Comedie of Elizabeth I, Thurs 4 Sept.



- The upcoming [Beaminster Festival 28 June – 6 July](#), with some wonderful classical music; folk with Steve Knightley, jazz with Lizzie Ball and James Pearson and the famous Fairey Brass Band. Al fresco theatre with the Three Inch Fools takes place at Beaminster Manor on 3 June and there is an Art Exhibition throughout the main week, 28 June to 6 July. Of particular interest to book groups may be the literary events with some local interviewers.

The [National Trust](#) is running a series of free guided walks along the coast from Hive Beach to Cogdon and back, reviewing the changes along our coastline; booking is essential.

Fans of Jane Austen can celebrate her 250th anniversary with a series of events planned in and around Bath this summer. [The Festival programme](#) is available now or you can watch all her novels in one night (90 minutes) at the [Mission Theatre](#)



QUOTE FOR THE MONTH

'Be thankful for the bad things in life. For they opened your eyes to the good things you weren't paying attention to before.'

Kermit the Frog

ANSWERS TO JUST FOR FUN

1. 29km
2. The Fleet
3. A natural limestone arch in the sea
4. Maiden Castle
5. Poole Harbour
6. A F C Bournemouth
7. A Chilli pepper
8. The Tolpuddle Martyrs
9. Hovis (Gold Hill is a steep cobbled street)
10. Old Harry Rocks

CONTACT US

Thank you to everyone who has taken the time to comment on our Newsletters, and we welcome all suggestions. If you have anything you would like included in future Newsletters, please send your submissions to newsletter@bridportu3a.uk and we will do our best to use as many as possible.

Until next month

Stay safe

Bridport U3A Committee