



FROM THE CHAIR

As the old song goes, it's beginning to look a lot like Christmas! One of my favourite radio stations started playing Christmas carols this morning, about a week earlier than they usually do. But before we get to Christmas day, there is the small matter of the **U3A Christmas quiz!**

This popular annual event takes place on Tuesday 16 December, at 2:00 pm in the United Church Hall. Unlike at the monthly talk, the venue will be laid up with tables around which quiz teams can sit and on which their refreshments can be served. We are looking for teams of between four and six people; these are often drawn from our interest groups, but if you don't have a team and would like to take part, you will be allocated to one with a spare slot. At half-time, seasonal refreshments will be served. It is all free of charge to members, but no non-members are allowed on this occasion. I hope to see you there!

Alastair

Alastair Forbes,
Chairman

chair@bridportu3a.uk

GROUP NEWS

Would anyone like to join a new **book group**? Try out and discuss a range of genres, share your thoughts, and connect with fellow book lovers. This is the perfect opportunity to expand your reading horizons and enjoy lively discussions in a welcoming atmosphere. The meeting day and venue will be agreed to suit the initial members and everyone will have a chance to choose the next book. Email groups@bridportu3a.uk or call 07961333857

Another new group in the planning stage is called **Local Villages** and will visit a different nearby village each month looking at places of interest and discovering something of its history. If anyone can help with a particular village story please contact me groups@bridportu3a.uk. As with many groups, people are expected to do some research and choose a village to visit. We will arrange lifts so this will be a chance to get out of the town for a short easy walk.

Meanwhile you can find details of all groups on our website bridport.u3asite.uk If you want to join a group please contact the leader to find out if there is space. Please send me any ideas and suggestions for new groups.

Alison Williams – Groups coordinator groups@bridportu3a.uk

GROUP SPOTLIGHT

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 2 pm. Admission is free to members and £3 for non-members, with tea and biscuits provided after the meeting.

- On December 16th we will have our annual Christmas Quiz.
- Our next talk will be on January 27th when James Taylor will tell us about the voyage of the Beagle.



Did you know we ask everybody attending for feedback about our speakers, to make sure we keep speakers relevant and interesting? In response to a request, we will in future share the feedback here.

The November Talk on the 25th was really packed, with not a spare seat in sight. A total of 103 people attended with a mixture of 'Super- Keen' railway buffs & other listeners who were interested in the Bridport & Abbotsbury lines & their eventual closure. Colin gave us a very interesting talk on the lines, with their history & eventual, sad demise. The railway buffs appreciated the technical descriptions by the speaker with comments such as, "Excellent knowledge & presentation", "Thoroughly researched topic", "well delivered" etc .

The other listeners made comments requesting more pictures & photographs, more personal stories & more about the history of the Bridport line. Colin of course, had a lot to cram into 1 hour, so had to move quickly over his description of both branch lines.

Thank you, as ever, for your feedback. We had 50% of the forms returned, with 14 scoring 10 points, 5 scoring 9 points, 9 scoring 8 points & 6 scoring below. All in all, a very good, well received talk.

Don't forget. No talk in December, just merry making, at the Quiz, on the 16th December.

JUST FOR FUN

This month we focus not, as expected, on Christmas, but instead on the New Year.

1. How much confetti drops in Times Square on New Years Eve?



2. When did the practice of making New Year's resolutions start?
3. What happens during a popular New Year's Day event called the Polar Bear plunge?
4. Who started the tradition of the New Years Eve kiss?
5. Which country holds the tradition of throwing plates against friend's doors on New Years eve?
6. Where does the Royal family traditionally spend New Years Eve?
7. What word is used in Scotland for the last day of the year and its celebration?
8. What name was given to the predicted computer meltdown at the beginning of the year 2000?
9. Who wrote the song 'Auld Lang Syne'?
10. What is the first country to celebrate New Year each year?

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.

*There was a young girl from Trieste
Who decided to join a Love Fest
Unfortunately for her
Her mother was there!
Two's company but three's a pest
(TW)*

*There was a young girl from Trieste
Who liked to go out in her vest
Her Mother said "Sue
You know it wont do,
You're going to get cold on your chest"
(TJ)*

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

'Its time to welcome the New Year'

Also, remember that 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 Friday 26th December 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 is from our Chairman, entitled Autumn Leaves in St Andrews Road.



OUTSIDE u3a

I am a sucker for the great Christmas advertising videos, and this year a west country jeweller (Taunton, Exeter, Plymouth & Truro) Michael Spiers has created one for the very first time. All about searching for the perfect gift for your wife. You can see it on their website [here](#). Other jewellers are available!

And on the subject of adverts, did you know this is Kevin the Carrot's 10th year. I am loving the cauliflower dog (named Cauli-dog). Kevin is so popular this year, with Aldi creating a range of related items, including plush Kevin toy, that has caused chaos in stores with restricted purchasing and some taking it off sale completely. All of Kevin's adverts are available on [YouTube](#).

The **jewel heist at the Louvre** recently had me recalling the interesting tale of [a famous historical occasion](#)

I attended a great talk recently at **Crewkerne Museum** about when England ruled France, after Napoleon's defeat, and the eruption of Mount Tambora and the resulting unseasonal winter crisis across Europe in 1815. Fascinating true stories seldom told. For future events click [here](#)



That's all for this month, nearly everything in my inbox is about Christmas shopping, and already I am sooooo over it! Hopefully next month will bring more than just January sales.....

QUOTE FOR THE MONTH

'We are living in a period which all too readily scraps the old for the new.... As a people, we are in danger of forgetting that the new is not true because it is novel, and that the old is not false because it is ancient'
Joseph Kennedy

ANSWERS TO JUST FOR FUN

1. At least 3,000lb or 1,400kg
2. Some 4,000 years ago with the ancient Babylonians
3. People take a dip in cold water, typically in the northern hemisphere
4. The Romans
5. Denmark
6. Sandringham
7. Hogmanay
8. Millenium Bug
9. Robert Burns
10. Tonga

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