

FROM THE CHAIR

As I write, I am in Milan. Maria and I are on a three week holiday in Italy, travelling by train, starting in Venice and ending in Rome! Tomorrow we are moving on to Bologna.

We are enjoying good weather here and I understand it is also quite nice at home. When we return, it will not be long until the AGM, which takes place on Tuesday 26th May. You will have received the requisite papers from Karen, so please read them before coming along to the meeting. It should only take half an hour or so and the usual Tuesday talk will follow afterwards.

As I mentioned last month, there are many ways in which you can help the organisation without being a member of the committee. We are now setting up a group to give formal recognition to this band of unsung heroes. They are the ones who, among other things, make tea at meetings, put out and clear away chairs, or operate projection and PA, greet visitors, edit the monthly newsletter and prepare it for publication. The new group will be called the Really Useful Group (RUG). They will be able to network with each other more easily than they do at present and we shall reward them with at least one free lunch every year. More details on this later.

I hope to see many of you at the AGM.

Alastair

**Alastair Forbes,
Chairman**

chair@bridportu3a.uk

MEMBERSHIP DUES

Can I please remind everybody who has not yet renewed their membership for this year that it is now overdue. If you want to continue attending the monthly meeting or groups, please make payment as soon as possible. Thank you. Contact Maria Forbes, treasurer@bridportu3a.uk if you need details of how to pay.

AGM

Our AGM will be held this year on Tuesday 26th May at 2pm at the Bridport United Church. To be legally compliant we need a minimum of 70 members to attend, so we would be grateful if you could be there. You should also by now have received details of the AGM, so you will see that it will not be a long meeting. If you have not received that information, please let Karen Herbert (the other one) know asap secretary@bridportu3a.uk.

GROUP NEWS

Groups update: we had a meeting at the end of April for all new members to meet with the committee and talk to some group leaders, it was well attended with about 30 plus new members. Good feedback was given regarding networking.

A reminder to all group leaders to encourage any members who haven't yet paid their subscription to please do that so they can continue to attend the groups.

There is a proposed new group for **Family History** starting next month with an inaugural meeting soon.

If group leaders know they have a waiting list please encourage those waiting members to consider starting a new group, there will be support available from Groups Coordinators to do this if needed.

Groups coordinator Jill Mohiki groups@bridportu3a.uk

GROUP SPOTLIGHT

We are delighted to announce the start of 2 new groups.

U3A Band: We are looking for a few members to join us in forming a small band, to play relatively easy and cheerful music together. Perhaps you are somebody who once played a wind instrument, woodwind or brass, maybe at school but not since. Or perhaps you still play but have nobody to play with... If either of these sounds of interest, please contact Alastair and we shall organise an initial meeting to discuss the way forward. No obligation, but I should be interested to hear from you; chair@bridportu3a.uk will reach me.



Smartphone photography group: Many of us nowadays have smart phones, all of which contain cameras. These cameras are now quite sophisticated and take surprisingly good photographs. The object of this proposed group would be to get members together who take good photographs with their phones so that we can compare the results and share useful tips and advice. If you are interested in doing this, please contact Alastair at the same email that is shown above.

If you would like your group to be featured here, please send information (about 100 words and a photo if possible) to newsletter@bridportu3a.uk. If you would like your group to be featured here, please send information (about 100 words and a photo if possible) to newsletter@bridportu3a.uk.

CROSSWAYS TRAVEL

Crossways travel offer u3a members a discount of 10% off the booking price of days out as listed in the newsletter for our group members. You must state your membership number and Bridport u3a **at the time of booking** to get the discount. A variety of different days out, with a Bridport pick up, have been chosen across the year for this discount. For all bookings contact Crossways on 01305 851697 and look at their website for further details at: www.crosswaystravel.co.uk. Book directly with Crossways, not the u3a.

If members wish to go on a holiday with Crossways either independently or as a group, (minimum of 9 in a group) there is a separate discount available to the person paying for the tickets of £15, it's advisable to check first with Crossways stating your u3a membership number.

You can find all the information on a dedicated page on our website [here](#). Email trips@bridportu3a.uk

For May and June, the 3 excursions are:

- a Dartmouth river cruise May 7th,



- Osborne House IOW May 10th and
- June 16th a trip to Sidmouth Donkey Sanctuary and Seaton tramway ride. All of these will pick up in Bridport.

If you want a home pick-up, call Crossways to arrange it, which will incur an additional non-discounted cost (when I chose this option I got collected and returned by a shared taxi which considerably reduced the cost and hassle of organising something myself, so I can recommend it).

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.

- Our next talk will be on 26th May. it will be our AGM, followed by a talk from Alex Leger about the Disappearing Solomon Islands.



- Our June talk will be on 23rd June when Steve Belasco will speak on Confessions of a press photographer. Steve is a former front-line press photographer and moved to this area 31 years ago for a gentler life! (Born and bred next door in rural Zummerzet!)

JUST FOR FUN

So I wasn't blown away by the latest moon rocket, and I didn't stay up to watch it. Was I the only one wondering if they would find the Mysteron's base on the dark side of the moon, and all that old Pink Floyd music was filling up my brain? But to celebrate doing some of what we all stayed up for 60 years ago, I decided a space quiz was in order. Have fun.

1. What astronomical phenomenon is depicted in the Bayeux Tapestry?
2. The Hubble telescope photographed the Comet Shoemaker-Levy 9 crash into which planet in 1994?
3. Name the first woman in space, and the first American woman in space?
4. What nationality was the first man in space who wasn't from either the USA or Russia?
5. Who was the commander of the Apollo 13 mission?
6. In 1971, which space probe was the first to orbit another planet, and which planet did it orbit?
7. Earth is located in which galaxy?
8. Launched by the Soviet Union in 1971, can you name the first ever space station (and can you imagine 55 years of a frozen toilet – sorry)?
9. Which space probe launched in 1990 gave us the first photograph of the whole Solar System, known as the Family Portrait?
10. Can you name the Russian dog that was the first animal to orbit the earth in 1957?

*Bonus Question – was the film of the first moonwalk filmed a) on the moon, or b) in a studio in Hollywood?
No points for this one folks, the truth is out there!*

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 Tralee,
Who sang Irish songs beautif'ly.
Her name it was Rose,
As everyone knows.
Adored internationally.
(CG)*

(The Rose of Tralee is an Irish song, the words dating back to 1846. Tralee is the county town of County Cork in Eire.)

*There was a young girl from Tralee,
Who didn't like the beach nor the sea.
Though she's partial to Crab,
And even a Dab,
But Eels are far too slippery.
(TW)*

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

'There was a young man from Belgrade'

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 Monday 25th 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.

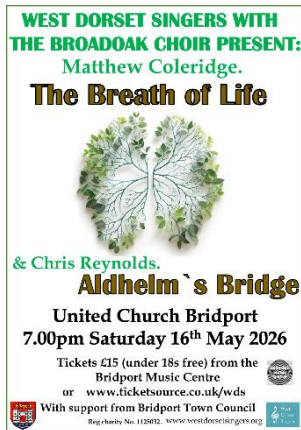
MONTHLY LOCAL PHOTOGRAPH

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.

Pete Brown sent in this shot of the short walks group enjoying a break on Burton Beach



OUTSIDE u3a



West Dorset Singers Concert In their 60th year, the singers will celebrate local composers in their upcoming concert with the Broadoak Choir. This event will bring together two choirs, two composers and two cantatas. Their Musical Director, Matt Kingston, is an internationally celebrated composer who composes under the name Matthew Coleridge. Long-standing members of the u3a Singers will remember him as their first Music Director, while u3a Membership Secretary, Diana Coleridge will know him better as her son. Esteemed local composer Chris Reynolds is the musical brains behind the u3a Music Theory Group. This concert will be held on Saturday 16th May at 7pm in the Bridport United Church. Tickets (£15, under 18s free) are available from Bridport Music Centre and online [here](#)

I got thrown out of the Physics class in school for playing table hockey, so I struggle to understand many everyday scientific concepts. I was delighted to find [this visual discussion about why, more than 120 years since the first flight, there is still no agreed explanation of how they fly](#).

I love fabrics, and enjoyed this [TedX Talk about how India has clothed the world for millennia](#), and it is their super-power!

This video is about [recreating a miniature royal portrait using enamelling](#)

And this one about [how an everyday object, a zip, actually works](#) (Its surprisingly complex engineering), plus how to fix a broken one.

20 years ago, Julian Hight set out on a global adventure to visit all of the world's great trees, and some of them are local to us. His book, **The Ancient Tree Explorer** is published on 15th May, and will be available online and from local bookshops, with lots of lovely photos of trees. Meantime you can visit the local trees;

- The Chilcompton Yew in the churchyard of St John the Baptist;
- Gog & Magog, which are on the trail from Wick Lane towards Glastonbury Tor and are all that is left of the Avalon Oaks;



- the Wyndham's Oak, which can be accessed by a public footpath from St Nicholas' Church at Silton; The Publow Oak which is now the centre of the Great Avon Wood, follow Parsonage Lane east from the A37;
- the Domesday Oak and the Fattest Oak are both in the grounds of Ashton Court near Bristol;
- Horner Wood, in Exmoor National Park on Somerset's north coast is a National Trust site, and maps can be accessed on the Trust's website.

Good walks for dry sunny days!

ANSWERS TO JUST FOR FUN

1. Halley's comet
2. Jupiter
3. Valentina Tereshkova and Sally Ride.
4. Czech
5. Jim Lovell
6. Mariner 9, Mars
7. The Milky Way
8. Salyut 1
9. Voyager 1
10. Laika

QUOTE FOR THE MONTH

'We don't stop playing because we get old, we get old because we stop playing'

George Bernard Shaw

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