

FROM THE CHAIR

The barbecue summer goes on and on. The gardens are looking very dry, in particular the lawns which have turned an unfortunate shade of brown. As I write it is a little cooler here than it has been, but I do feel sorry for people in France and Spain who have been affected by wildfires. It is funny to think that when I was in Italy in early May, the locals considered it cold and half of them were still wearing coats, whilst we went around in shirt sleeve order!

Bridport is always a good place for festivals. We have had the food festival and the beer festival and most recently the Folk Festival. It will soon be time for the Melpash Show, a staple of Bridport's calendar since the 19th century. This year's show is on Thursday 27 August and unusually your committee will be represented there. We have a small stand in the Council's marquee, so if you are visiting the show, please come in and say hello!.

I have not yet received any expressions of interest in taking over from me as Chair in April. If you have ever considered such a role, which is not at all taxing, please contact me so that we can talk about it. It will be best if we do not leave the decision until the last minute. We also need a new Treasurer at the next AGM. Without a Chair and a Treasurer, our branch would not be able to continue, so it is really important that we have volunteers to take on these roles. Whatever you are doing, I hope you are having a good summer!

Alastair

Alastair Forbes,

Chairman

chair@bridportu3a.uk

A REMINDER...

Please remember that all roles in our u3a are filled by volunteers, and after years of dedicated service, eventually even they have to take a back seat. If nobody comes forward to replace them, what we have all appreciated will simply cease to be available to us. That is especially true in respect of the imminent Committee vacancies, as without a Chair and a Treasurer it will be a legal requirement that we close. Please help us to avoid that happening.

I would also remind everyone that all these volunteers give their time freely and with no expectation of reward, however they should not be required to tolerate unkind and abusive language or behaviour in any circumstances. If you feel unable or unwilling to volunteer, at least be kind to those who do, and who keep our u3a running for everybody's benefit. If you can do it better, step up and volunteer, you will be welcomed with open arms. If you have nothing kind to say, say nothing at all.

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.

Margie Barbour took this photo of the Coastguard in action at Hive beach on 8th July.



GROUP NEWS



2 new groups are up and running, **smartphone photography** led by Alastair Forbes and **BBC Study group** led by John Grantham.

Philosophy 2 is about to start a new programme of study of the early Greek philosophers, making it an opportune time for new members to join. Philosophy 2 is a self-study discussion group: a programme of study is agreed for, say, Socrates, members use the internet to do their own research and then meet monthly for discussion. Meetings are on the 3rd Tuesday morning of each month at Symondsburry kitchen. Contact Robert Bibby

Upcoming events:

- September 3rd the Group leader lunch will be held at the BUC hall with more details to follow. It is an opportunity to network with other leaders and for the u3a to thank people for the generosity of their time and effort in making it a success.
- On August 27th we will have an information table at the Melpash show with 4 committee members present to answer questions and promote the u3a.



- September 16th – a network meeting for u3a south west committee representatives to meet to share and discuss ideas will be held in Dorchester.

Attendance at The u3a Festival this year:

This was the first time I had attended this festival held in York at the university campus. Extremely well organised with a very good attendance on all 3 days, with lots of interesting groups, activities, sports, talks, dances and singing events to engage with. Food on offer cafeteria style was excellent and lots of interesting chat was had by all. Student accommodation on site was provided at a reasonable cost. A great opportunity to try something new and get ideas for group activities going forward. I will definitely go again.

Groups coordinator Jill Mohiki groups@bridportu3a.uk

GROUP SPOTLIGHT

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

A sad spotlight this month with the imminent closing of two popular groups because nobody has stepped forward to take them on.

First the **Rummikub Group**. Tony and Jill have been facilitating games of Rummikub at the Ropemakers for over 10 years! Numbers have fluctuated but they have always had an enjoyable time. Sadly they can no longer continue and send Gratitude and good wishes to Geraldine and crew who have always made them welcome, and the Morgans for their support.

Secondly the very popular **That's Interesting Group**, facilitated by Alan Hobby for several years. who had their final outing to see how Dorset Council treat and convert our garden waste into compost over at Bournemouth Airport. We expect them to be staring on [DC's Facebook page](#) imminently.

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

The Crossways discounted trips for September are

- an Exeter Shopper on 5th and
- visit to Port Elliot house & gardens on the 27th.



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 25th August when Pamela Simpson talking about the Scottish Colourists.
- In September our talk will be on 22nd when Rob Jayne will be talking about Trig points.



Did you know, if you click on each Speaker line on our website page you get much more detail about them and their topic?

JUST FOR FUN

I do not watch much TV, but a recent need to spend time indoors (sunburn) led me to discover fascinating programmes (Earth From Space & What On Earth) where satellite images of strange formations on the planet surface are explored. These programs are on Blaze TV, which also has questions and answers topping and tailing their ad breaks. So here are some of the Blaze questions.

1. What animal has fingerprints very like humans?
2. What country produces the most tomatoes?
3. What are the 2 main ingredients in a 'Dark & Stormy' cocktail?
4. What was the original name of the band Queen?
5. What country is wider than the moon?
6. What birds did Australia wage war on in 1932?
7. What are earth's largest living structures?
8. What substance do vampire squids eject when they are threatened?
9. What is the longest breath-hold on record?
10. What was the 'Whirlwind' an early model of?

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 once was young man named Paul,
Who thought that he quite knew it all.
He bragged day and night,
With all of his might.
We knew it would end in a fall.
(JM)*

*There once was a young man named Paul
Who excelled at playing football
He played for England at the World Cup
Played hard and never gave up
And 'football came home' to us all
(TW)*

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

'There was a young lady from Perth'

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 27th of August 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



The Third Age Trust has recently launched **u3a getaways** in partnership with The UK Holiday Group. Each break offers a unique opportunity to laugh, learn, and enjoy shared experiences on a range of individually designed holidays created exclusively for u3a members and their friends. The breaks are designed for independent travellers, but we know that many u3a branches prefer coach inclusive breaks for their members. Our **justforgroups!** brand organises bespoke group holidays, including coach travel, for more than 50 u3a branches throughout the country. We can replicate u3a getaways with transport from your local branch, for groups of 20 or more, or create entirely new holidays based on the interests of the local u3a group. We would love to hear from you the next time you are considering a holiday for your u3a branch. Not only are we the u3a holiday specialist, but the Third Age Trust also benefits from the partnership we have with them. We look forward to hearing from you.

The just for groups! Team. Group Sales: 01603 886 740

With apologies, news from the Third Age Trust has been very sparse since they decided to change their structure to make it more relevant, and have been focused on internal organisational (and re-organising) matters ever since. You can read all about it on the TAT website. We will bring you pertinent news when we get any.

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.

OUTSIDE u3a

The **44th Festival of Music and Art** will soon be underway in Burton Bradstock. Tickets for the concerts are available at the Bridport Tourist Information Centre or [online here](#). The full programme can be found at www.burtonbradstockfestival.com

We are fortunate to have so many good eateries in our town.

- The [Soulshine restaurant](#) in Bridport has just been voted in the top 8 in Britain by readers of Muddy Stilettos, and 34 in the Top 100 by the Good Food Guide. I haven't yet tried it myself, but I know people who are regular visitors, and I will be there soon...



- Muddy Stilettos are also singing the praises of [Rise in West Bay](#), as the best sundowner spot you could imagine, and is dog friendly (I still miss my frequent visits to their earlier Stable pizza chain both here in Bridport and my alma mater, Bath)

- And if you haven't made it into the revamped [Feast in the Arts Centre](#) yet, I can recommend their amazing home made cheese and chive scones, but please leave one for me! I am yet to pop in for coffee or lunch and not find someone I know in there (but the tourist buses haven't found it yet, Shhhh)



For the dog owners amongst us, taking them for a beach walk away from crowds can be fun for both dog and owner. Most of Chesil beach is dog-friendly from Cogden to Portland, although there are restrictions around Abbotsbury Swannery, for obvious reasons. West of Cogden, Hive beach (Burton Bradstock) is dog friendly except the immediate area in front the car park where you must keep them on a lead, but head around the corner on both east (towards Cogden) and west (towards Freshwater) sides and they can roam free. The National Trust have put up signs to say you can only use the East beach, but that is incorrect and is intended to prevent people walking under the cliffs, which is in itself a good reason not to go west. Just as it is sensible to keep them on a lead when you are walking on the cliff tops. If you head west from Bridport, Eype is also a dog-friendly beach, but please be aware of the private parking company restrictions there which are rigorously (and expensively for offenders) enforced.

[Sculpture By The Lakes](#) near Dorchester is 26 acres of lakes, wildflower meadows, and contemporary sculptures, with dogs welcome in the main park although the cafe is strictly humans only!

[Symondsbur Estate](#) can always be relied on to have plenty of child-friendly activities in the summer, and for anybody who has not been recently they have made serious road surface improvements, no potholes here! And there is plenty of room for you (and optional dog) to escape from children too. This year they have 3 family explorer trails, with Explorer Booklets (guides) available from the visitor centre. August Bank Holiday Monday is their free-entry Dog Show, complete with pop-up market featuring dog-friendly traders. symondsburystate.co.uk has information about adult-evening activities too.

Unlike, it seems, the rest of the planet, I have absolutely zero interest in the FIFA Football World Cup, but I did find this film about the groundbreaking combination of live action footage and stop-motion animation for the [titles for the FIFA world cup](#) fascinating.

ANSWERS TO JUST FOR FUN

1. Koala
2. China
3. Dark rum & ginger beer
4. Smile
5. Australia
6. Emus
7. Coral reefs
8. Bioluminescent mucus
9. 29 minutes and 3 seconds (Vitomar Maričić)
10. a vacuum cleaner

QUOTE FOR THE MONTH

'Almost everything will work again if you unplug it for a few minutes, including you.'

Anne Lamott

A FAREWELL MESSAGE

Dear u3a members,

You won't all know me but I would like to take this opportunity to contact those who do. After 4,5 years in Bridport I am leaving the UK to return to Vienna, whence I came! I got to know a lot of lovely people through the u3a and enjoyed my time with you in various groups. I wish you all the very best for the future and hope to see you again during visits to my sister.

Best regards,

Barbara Adams

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