

FROM THE CHAIR

It seems unreal that the long, hot summer has finally drawn to a close. The nights are certainly drawing in now that we are in October and, for better or worse, Christmas is already on the horizon! Following on from what I wrote last month, Maria and I did indeed go on a river cruise on the Rhine. However, owing to a water shortage, we were unable to cruise upstream to Switzerland. Instead, we went downstream and visited Antwerp, Amsterdam, Ghent Nijmegen and one or two other places. Although it was not what we booked, we had a good time anyway.

The next exciting event on our U3A calendar is our annual open afternoon. This will take place on Sunday, 25 October in Saint Mary's Church Hall, South Street, from 2 to 4 pm. You are most welcome to come along to see what many of our groups actually do and to establish whether you would be interested in joining them (if you haven't already). Refreshments will be served and the cake was very good last year!

Many of our members go on holiday at this time of year and if this is you, I hope you have a very good time. Whatever you are doing this month, look after yourselves and I hope to see you soon.

Alastair

Alastair Forbes,
Chairman

chair@bridportu3a.uk

ANNUAL OPEN DAY



Our annual Open Day is on Sunday 25th October from 2pm to 4pm at St Mary's Church Hall, Bridport. Refreshments will be available, and many of our Groups will be represented, so come along, bring your friends and find out what new interests you can try in the coming year. Members of the committee will also be available to answer general questions about our u3a, and to encourage new members to join us.

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.

Nobody sent me a photo this month, you are all too busy enjoying the weather perhaps? So here is one I took of a bug crawling up the outside of my windscreen recently, he was fascinating.



GROUP NEWS



Groups coordinators Janet Dunn & Jill Mohiki groups@bridportu3a.uk

The annual Group leaders lunch was well attended with over half the groups represented. Committee members gave an input on specifics concerning their areas, in addition to interesting conversations over the buffet lunch. Thanks go to the members who gave their time to help set up and serve food.

Groups are all back up and running after some having taken a summer break. A new Cryptic crossword group has started, most groups are continuing with their venues and leaders but do look out for any minor changes that may have taken place, if unsure check the website and contact the leader.

West Dorset half yearly U3A Network meeting took place in Dorchester recently, it was attended by our groups coordinator Jill with interesting reports presented for discussion.

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

Nobody wants to publicise their group this month as we all get back to meeting again after the summer break, or getting away ourselves after being on grandparent duty! If you could do with a few new members, please email me details.

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 November are

- 7th, Bridgewater Carnival and
- 26th, Cats at Bristol Hippodrome.

A new brochure from Crossways has just been released for trips in 2027. Contact them directly to get a copy of the brochure, or visit their website where all the trips are listed.

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 on 27th October talk will be Chris Western about the 1893 to 1896 North Polar expedition led by Jansen.



- Our talk on November 24th will be Marcus Paul on the life of John Buchan.

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

1. What is celebrated on 2nd February and is also a film?
2. What planet is closest to the sun?
3. What is the largest organ in the human body?
4. Who wrote the book Chitty-Chitty-Bang-Bang: The Magical Car?
5. In which part of your body would you find the cruciate ligament?
6. What is the most populated city in Australia?
7. What is the name of the main protagonist in the Shakespeare play Othello?
8. When was the film Titanic released?
9. What is the capital of Qatar?
10. What element is denoted by the symbol Sn in the periodic table?

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 Marseilles,
Whose in-laws were coming to stay.
Anne Marie and Pierre
And his old grand-mere.
She hoped they would soon go away.
AB*

*There was a young girl from Marseilles
Her taxes she refused to pay
"Fonciere, TAV,
You'll get nothing from me."
She screamed as they took her away.
DCI*

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

'There was an old man from Bombay'

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 25th October 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 is holding its AGM on Wednesday 14th October at 11am. If you would like to attend virtually, you can find out more and book your place [here](#)

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

If you can't wait until **the Red Dress** comes to Bridport next year, you can see it, for one day only, at [the Craft4Crafters](#) at the Bath & West Showground on Sunday October 31st, plus of course visiting the rest of the show. Please note it is only on display for one day, not the 3 days of the show.

The hat festival is over for another year, but who doesn't want a witches hat for Halloween? You can find a free crochet pattern [here](#) in both child and adult sizes, or if you already have your hat, there is a free pattern to crochet a spiders web [here](#)



Now the weather has changed, we can get back to carbohydrate overload. **The Oxfords Bakery** In Sherborne run tours of the bakery on a Thursday lunchtime, with lunch included (Ploughman's or pasty). You need to [pre-book tickets @ £15 pp](#)

At this time of year we are split for choice for local literary festivals. Browse programmes of events:

- [Taunton](#) 15th September to 4th November;
- [Wells](#) 16th October to 24th October;
- [Dorchester](#) 17th October until 24th October;
- [Yeovil](#) 22nd October until 27th;
- and of course our own local festival in [Bridport](#) 6th November to 14th November

ANSWERS TO JUST FOR FUN

1. Groundhog Day
2. Mercury
3. Skin
4. Ian Fleming
5. Knee
6. Sydney
7. Iago
8. 1997
9. Doha
10. Tin

QUOTE FOR THE MONTH

'Wise sayings often fall on barren ground, but a kind word is never thrown away'

Arthur Helps

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