

November 2021



Important Dates & Information

- **CHRISTMAS PARTY** ~ Friday December 10th, 7pm-9pm,
Compton Dundon Village Hall, with live Ceilidh Band ~ see page 7.
- **SPRING GROUP PROGRAMME** ~ Week 1 starts Monday January 10th.

From the Chair



By the time you read this the new U3A year will be well under way. Some people are understandably still nervous about meeting in public, but the Group Leaders of those groups which have re-started are doing everything they can to follow the rules and ensure members' safety.

During the past year we have lost 2 committee members. One responsible for booking Venues and the other our Publicity officer. We would like to fill these two vacancies as soon as possible. If you think you fit the bill we'd love to hear from you.

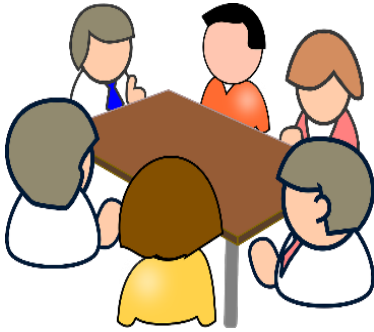
Christmas isn't far away and all being well our Christmas Party is on 10th December. We are doing things a little differently this year and you will read more details later in the newsletter. It does seem a little early, but since this is the last newsletter of 2021, I'd like to wish everyone a Very Happy Christmas! I hope the New Year will be both healthy and happy for all of us.

From the Editor



In this issue we are reporting on the groups that have re-started this term, and also looking forward to events to come. We hope that as time goes on more people will join groups, if not this term, then from January, so please let your friends know we are back! Later in this Newsletter there are reports with photos from some of this year's Groups.

From the Committee



Most of our Groups have started again, although it looks like numbers are down on previous years. However, the committee have decided to support all the groups this term even if they run at a loss. We are still looking for committee members: Venues Booking Secretary; Publicity; and an Events Organiser. Please get in touch if you wish to help to keep our u3a active.

Group News



After such a long break we have had a tentative start to our new year which is to be expected. Many groups are down in number, but those attending are pleased to be back and we have agreed to support all groups. Chess, German Conversation and Latin Group B are not running due to lack of members. We have had a change of venue for some groups due to the concern of the Group Leader over social distancing and the previous venue not being suitable. We are pleased that all seem to be working well. Short Mat Bowls was offered to us at Ashcott Village Hall and advertised on the website, however there was very little interest so this did not go ahead. We look forward to our year ahead.

Membership



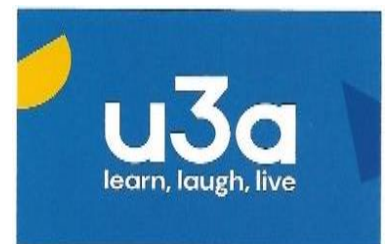
We currently have 387 members, and I expect this number to increase as the year progresses. Don't forget to let your friends know about our u3a and the enjoyment they can have by being a member.

We now have a new four colour u3a membership card. If you would like a new membership card, please send your name and membership number, along with a stamped self-addressed envelope to:

u3a Membership Secretary, 1 Eglinton Road, Street, Somerset, BA16 0RJ

Please let me know if during your membership your contact details change as we do not want you to miss out on any u3a information. At times we send members the occasional email on u3a related matters so please make sure to add my email address to your email address book to help avoid the emails being filtered out as SPAM. The email address I use to inform members is: *sandgmembers@gmail.com*

If you have any query relating to your membership, please don't hesitate to contact me, Paul Vernoum, by using the email address above or by phone on 01458 447975.



Groups starting again!

News from some Groups that started in September:

Line Dancing. We try to combine dancing with a happy social occasion. It may feel at first rather daunting, however if you persevere it is a great way to move to a variety of music learning a pattern of steps for each dance. It focuses the mind to enable you to coordinate your feet. It is for both men and women. Our group ranges from absolute beginners to those who have been coming for a long time, and this can be challenging to get the right balance for all. It is important to wear the correct footwear. Your shoes should enable you to be able to turn easily without falling over. Please take a look at our webpage on the U3A site for photos and videos. Elaine.



Music Jamming. Hurrah! 'Music Jamming' is back and in a new location at the refurbished Street Football Club. This location gives us rather more elbow room than in our pre-Covid location. This is just as well as we have attracted more members and we hope that they become just as loyal as our founder members. One thing that perhaps need some attention is the term 'Jamming'. Strictly speaking this is not an entirely accurate description

of how the group has developed. Whilst some members could no doubt jam along with what others play, we do tend to rely on sharing music with each other in order to generate a coherent sound. Perhaps '**Music Making**' would be a more accurate term. Maybe next year will be time for a new name. Tony.

Yoga. After months without meeting we have finally managed to re-start classes this September. About 30 people signed up, which was a lot, even for the Victoria Hall. It is really superb to be in such a wonderful hall and doing yoga with a happy group. We are still trying to work out what is best re ventilation, doors, windows, fans etc, but I am sure we will work out the best



combination. About half of the class used to come to the group before the pandemic and the other half are new to my group if not to yoga. The thing that delights me most is that here we are, none of us "spring chickens" but all having a really sensible attempt to look after our bodies and to enjoy it. Thank you to all participants. Ursula.



Ukulele Band. Well, the ukulele band is back and in full swing. With 32 members this term and social distancing, we are certainly filling St Mary's Hall and are at full capacity. We have had two sessions at the time of writing and have made a fairly gentle start in terms of song difficulty, due to the long enforced break (little practice!) and because we have several members who are not only new to the group but new to the ukulele. These people have

been rather thrown in at the deep end, but are coping wonderfully well. We continue to work from our very own song folder which now contains 136 well known songs which the majority of members sing with gusto! We certainly can make some noise when we want to and it seems to be a happy couple of hours on a Friday afternoon. Wendy.

French Conversation. We have reconvened in the Mission church meeting room and we're very glad to see each other after so long. We feel a little rusty but are gradually remembering the French words we used to know. We have welcomed a couple of new members and now number ten which seems enough for the time being. Jenny.

T'ai Chi. Well, after 12 months or more here we are, 3 T'ai Chi classes and a reserve list, all bursting at the seams, have recommenced. We have welcomed back many familiar faces along with those new to T'ai Chi. Our classes started a little later than some in the u3a but this hasn't dampened the enthusiasm of the students. T'ai Chi is recognised more and more for the health benefits it brings also, there is no restriction of age or ability to practice this art. Put these benefits together with the friendship and fun we all have our classes are enjoyable all round (and good for you!). Steve.



Whist. The Whist Group has started again and is going well. Although we only have 11 members, when all members attend we are able to play at 3 tables with the help of a 'dummy' player. Even when numbers are depleted we can still play at 2 tables which, even though not ideal, is better than not playing at all. We now meet at Lime Close Community Centre. Everyone uses the hand gel when they enter the room and that's the only thing

we take seriously. New members are always welcome so come along and give it a go – we'd love to see you. Helen.

Check out the audio/video of some of our Groups in action on the website:

<https://streetu3a.org>

Photos from other Groups starting again



Quilting for All



Reading Shakespeare



Singing for Pleasure



Tudor History



Chinese Brush Painting



Croquet

A date for your diary!

Christmas Party – Friday December 10th, 7pm-9pm, Compton Dundon Village Hall.



We have decided to change the format this year.

Our annual get-together will be an evening being entertained by

**The Somerset Levellers
Ceilidh Band.**



We enjoyed them at our 30th Anniversary celebrations in 2019.

Another change, to reflect the times we live in, means there will be **no sharing of food**.
Please bring your own food, drink, and crockery etc.

The kitchen will be CLOSED, which means you cannot wash/wipe up your plates etc.

This event is open to current members and their partners only.

Useful Weblinks (Web users can click the website name)

~ **u3a Head Office**

Web address: <https://www.u3a.org.uk/>

~ **S&G u3a Facebook**

Web address: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/467804163409114/>

~ **u3a Head Office YouTube Radio Podcasts**

Web address: <https://youtu.be/9zGNxpUSUAc>






~ **u3a Head Office Monthly Newsletters**

Web address: <https://us9.campaign-archive.com/home/?u=656ad5962b370cc9e2731d1ed&id=40791d727a>

S&G u3a Committee Members

To contact a committee member please use the email given.

For general information email: info@streetu3a.org

Chair	Helen Hickman		chair@streetu3a.org
Vice Chair			vicechair@streetu3a.org
Secretary	Martin Kennard		secretary@streetu3a.org
Treasurer	Gill Donkin		treasurer@streetu3a.org
Membership Secretary	Paul Vernoum		members@streetu3a.org
Venues Booking Manager			venues@streetu3a.org
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