

## November 2023



### Important Dates & Information



- **Christmas – Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December – West Pennard Village Hall – 12noon-3pm**
- **Dates for 2024:**
  - **Week 1** ~ Starts Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January
  - **AGM** ~ Thursday May 9<sup>th</sup>
  - **Group Leaders Meeting** ~ Thursday July 11<sup>th</sup>
  - **Enrolment Day** ~ Thursday August 8<sup>th</sup>



### From the Committee



All of our activities: Groups, Venues, Coffee Mornings, Newsletters, Membership, Publicity, Communications, and Website, are arranged and administered by our small committee of volunteers. Some of the current committee will be leaving at the AGM in May 2024. The roles they are responsible for are: **Chair; Vice Chair; Events Organiser; Publicity; Newsletter Editor**. It is important that we fill these roles, otherwise some things will stop, and in the case of the Chair, if there is no replacement, the u3a must close (CC/TAT rules). Therefore, we are asking for members to volunteer to take on these positions from next May.

However, we would like new members to join the committee **asap** so that they become familiar with how we operate, and they can shadow the current committee member. (As an incentive, we meet, usually every 2 months, where we are provided with excellent coffee and biscuits!) Full details of the roles are available together with training if necessary. See email addresses at the end of this Newsletter.

### From the Chair



The harvest is taken in - the summer's fleeting sun melds into autumn and winter with shorter and darker days. However our u3a groups are providing pleasure and enjoyment together with fun and laughter! I trust our new members are enjoying their choice out of the many classes on offer. I give credit and thanks to our group leaders for their enthusiasm and planning of the activities or "lessons". You are all greatly appreciated. However we must not rest on our laurels or we risk becoming stagnant. We are in need of new input! New ideas to promote new growth. There is always work behind the scenes to help everything running smoothly. Anyone who feels they can contribute in any way, please be in touch. There is always plenty of help and advice available you don't have to be an expert, just have a willingness to help or become involved. I knew very little about the way things worked when I started out but the committee kept me on the straight and narrow! So, if you have any ideas, are willing to have a go – reach out to us on the contact page.

## Group News

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It was encouraging to see so many new and returning members on enrolment day in August. This day serves not just to sign up but to take a look at all that Street and Glastonbury U3a has to offer, talk to leaders about group activities, chat to other members and make new acquaintances. There was an encouraging buzz in the hall this year and I know that group leaders were pleased with recruitment and enthusiasm. We are well into the new term and I trust that you are all enjoying the group activities; keep an eye on the website, it's not too late to join something you fancy trying and there is no restriction on the number of groups you attend. We have 'Learning to Draw' about to be launched, anyone interested please get in touch at [groups@streetu3a.org](mailto:groups@streetu3a.org) Spread the word about our fantastic organisation to your friends and families.

## Membership

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I hope you are all enjoying the courses you've signed up to, especially our new members. Members are still signing up and if you know of anyone who would be interested in u3a please direct them to our website at <https://streetu3a.org> where they can see all that is available. It's been busy the last two or three months for me as the new Membership Secretary and thank you all for being patient with me as I found my feet. I've managed to resolve most queries, but may I remind you that even **if you are rejoining you must fill in a membership form**. There are a few non-payers that I'm chasing up. If you enrol online, you should receive two emails, one that is automatically generated once you have submitted the form. A couple of days later an email from me reminding you of the ways to pay your subs and giving your Membership number if you're new. Please look in your spam folder if it doesn't appear in your main inbox. We now have almost 400 members on our database, which includes 45 new people. Please make them welcome at your sessions.

## From Group Leaders

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**Walking:** We continue to have a range of well appreciated walks with good attendance averaging about 16 friendly participants. Our circular walk starting points are no further away than 30 minutes drive from Street and Glastonbury, and car sharing can take place, however, many of our walks are quite local. We always aim to have a pub or cafe at the end, for those who wish to lunch together. Group members are encouraged to lead a walk to assist the group leader, and yet again we have a really good number for our Christmas get together...this year at the Bear Inn in Street. Thank you to all those who have supported the group most weeks and to those who walk occasionally.

**Whist:** We play progressive Whist which means we change tables at the end of each game: the winning lady goes one way, the winning man goes the opposite way and the losing pair stay on the same table. This almost always results in cries of "Where do I go now?" even with only two tables to choose from! No-one minds this as we all have a good laugh and whilst playing we have a chat and general exchange of views and news. If you would like to join us we always welcome new players, whether experienced or new to Whist you are most welcome.

**Film Group:** We meet once a month at a member's house and pay 50p to pay for Alison's delicious refreshments. We are currently going through the list of Oscar winners in the various categories and also films that were nominated for Best Film but didn't win. We share our opinions and have a very entertaining discussion about the film, and usually end the evening talking about anything and everything. Because we meet in a member's house our number has to be limited and we are up to our full complement at the moment. However, should anyone decide to drop out for any reason we can make a waiting list so please get in touch if you are interested.

**Cycling:** Keep fit and enjoy the chat on short, easy cycle rides with some experienced, returning and novice cyclists. We set off from Glastonbury Market Place alternate Thursdays at 10am (u3a's week 2). We do a seven-mile ride, take a break at a cafe, then ride the seven miles back by 1pm. Don't worry about not keeping up. We adjust our pace to keep together. Don't worry about a mechanical. No one is ever left behind.

## Photos from Groups



Local History



Mah Jong



Painting for Pleasure



Tai Chi



Line Dancing



Cycling



Philosophy



Walking



**Ukulele Band**



**Reading Shakespeare**



**Badminton**



**Stroke Table Tennis**



**Ashcott Table Tennis**

# Your u3a Committee

**Chair**  
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**Sue Thurgood**

**Vice Chair**  
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**Malcolm Allen**

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**Gill Donkin**

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**John Roberts**

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**Linda Wilson**

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**Malcolm Allen**