

IN TOUCH NOVEMBER 2024



Dear all,

Welcome to November edition of In Touch. As reported before, we will be having our AGM at the start of the November meeting, which will be followed by our speaker.

I have canvassed for some new committee members, so far without response, however if you would like to help in the running of our u3a, without being on the committee, this is also possible. In particular, we are looking for help in publicity, distributing promotional material, contacting local media etc, and also general admin/secretarial work. Please let me know if you can help.

The December meeting will be a slightly festive one, including a 'humorous' speaker. I Look forward to seeing you all at these meetings.

Roger Laidler
Chairman

u3a

Shaftesbury and Gillingham

Forthcoming Events

TALKS AT THE
CHARLTON
REMEMBRANCE HALL

Thurs 7 Nov
AGM
Followed by
Kam Stevens

The Journey to Rehabilitation and
Why It Needs Supporting

Thurs 5 Dec
Michael Malaghan
It Shouldn't Happen to a Writer

Next u3a Talks

Monthly open meetings are held on the first Thursday of the month at The New Remembrance Hall, Charlton, Shaftesbury, Dorset, SP7 0PL - opening at 10.00am for 10.30am start. A small charge of £2 per person is made, to cover the cost of speakers and refreshments.

Open meetings provide an opportunity to have a coffee, socialise and to enjoy presentations from invited speakers. Non-members are welcome to attend one open meeting, free of charge, to sample what is on offer.

Details of speakers for the coming year can be found on our website; the next two are shown below.

7 Nov – Kam Stevens – The Journey to Rehabilitation and Why It Needs Supporting

Kam Stevens is a powerful example of how providing the right tools and support can lead to successful reintegration into society. With over 20 years of lived experience in the justice system, Kam has overcome significant challenges and built a purposeful life. Now a senior digital consultant working in the justice system, his journey showcases personal growth and resilience and the possibilities of what can be achieved if those who are reentering society are supported. Join us as we explore and discuss his story.

5 Dec – Michael Malaghan – It Shouldn't Happen to a Writer

All about the funnier side of writing and based on Michael's working career as a journalist in local newspapers and having short stories published in *Best, Me, Chat, Take-a-Break*, and *Woman's Realm* magazines.

His writing led him to being a children's television scriptwriter with the BBC and ITV and finally as a novelist. He has been giving talks to u3as, WIs and many other groups for around 10 years.



Margaret Carter
Clare Cutler
Alan & Elaine Dickinson
John & Monique Goodliffe
Anna Lewington
Tom Perrett
James Spicer
Dougal Wilson-Croome

Committee Vacancies

We approach our AGM with news that Anne Jefferies, who has done a marvellous job promoting our u3a over the past year, is stepping down. The committee thanks her for all her hard work and wishes her well going forward.

That leaves a vacancy for someone, or a group of people, to take on the task of designing promotional material and getting it seen wherever possible, such as on community notice boards and in local publications like parish magazines and Blackmore Vale magazine. It could be a fun activity for two or three friends with design skills and a strong sense of community, so I hope you will think about whether it's something you could take on.

We also have a vacancy for a secretary. I've been recording the meeting minutes and our chairman, Roger Laidler, has been carrying out other secretarial duties, to ensure that committee business runs smoothly, but this isn't sustainable. If you have experience in a secretarial role, please consider volunteering to be our secretary.

You will have received your invitation to the AGM and seen that the nomination papers are on the website. The committee would welcome volunteers for the above roles, particularly, but we hope that all our members will give serious thought to whether they could play a part in the continued success of our u3a as committee members.

For nomination forms: <https://sgu3a.u3asite.uk/agm-other-related-documents/>

Barbara Hurst

01747 825646

barbara@pbhurst.com

Group News

International History

As usual the International History group has covered a wide range of topics during the last year, including the collapse of Yugoslavia, civil war in Ireland, and the first Opium War in China. But most of our time has been spent looking at, or in some cases reconsidering, the background of the current tragic course of events in the Middle East. So we have devoted four sessions to the development of the Palestinian problem and two to Iran (with a further one on Lebanon to follow). Needless to add, the videos we have watched have often made for difficult viewing.

Mainly because of numbers we continue to meet (on the third Wednesday of the month) on Zoom.

Richard Sims

BSO Concerts

Our first trip to the Lighthouse Theatre in Poole to see the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra perform was a great success, due in no small part to the hard work and determination of group leader Jennifer Day, who sadly couldn't join us on this occasion.



Happy travellers

Travel went smoothly, with prompt pickups, comfortable seating and an excellent driver, who coped well with drop-off difficulties at the theatre.

The concert comprised Beethoven's Symphony No. 6 'Pastoral', Shostakovich's Piano Concerto No. 1 and Stravinsky's The Firebird, a programme that wonderfully illustrated the range and ability of BSO. Conductor Elena Schwarz was utterly mesmerising, and soloists Martin James Bartlett, on piano, and Paul Bosworth, on trumpet, were very impressive. It was

confirmation, if confirmation were needed, that we are incredibly fortunate to have a world-class orchestra so nearby.



Happy concert goers

We had a wonderful evening that was extremely good value thanks to the significant discount Jennifer secured on the concerts, and by filling the coach.

Future visits will rely on sufficient numbers booking well in advance. While that may seem risky, Jennifer was able to find replacements for several people who found themselves unable to attend, so it's well worth taking a chance. For details of forthcoming concerts, contact Jennifer via the S&Gu3a website.

Barbara Hurst

Church Visits

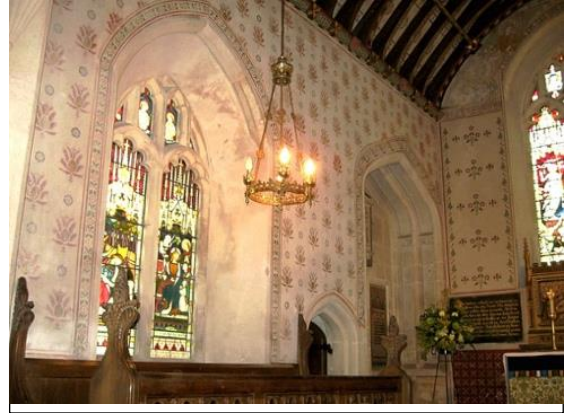
Our next church visit will be on Thursday 21 November, when we shall go to the Church of St George in Langham and St Nicholas Church in Silton. The first is the only thatched church in Dorset, a WWI memorial chapel, and the second is Grade 1 listed, dating back to the 13th century. We will meet at 10.30am at St George's, which is in Queen Street, Langham, SP8 4DX, for a tour of approximately one hour.



Church of St George, Langham

We will then, make our way to St Nicholas, in Church Road, Silton, SP8 5PR, for a tour beginning at noon. The parish secretary has invited us to take a picnic in the church afterwards, which would certainly be novel and something to think about.

Both churches are absolute jewels. If you would like to join us, please contact Barbara Hurst: 01747 825646 or barbara@pbhurst.com.



Garden Visits

Our last garden visit proved to be most interesting and some have said the best of the year.



October was a stunning visit to Barcroft Hall, South Petheton. A ten acre estate owned and hosted by Richard and Tracy Killen who were justly proud of their garden and gave us a wonderful tour.



Outstanding were the 1000 trees of different varieties, starting to change colour already, wild life areas and a large orchard with our hosts encouraging us to take as many apples as we liked. Several small lakes and water features, topiary and large shrubs given freedom to develop and grow.



We ended our tour with generous amounts of cake of all varieties along with copious quantities of tea and coffee. I hope our photos give you some idea of what a lovely morning we had.

Irene Gordon

Other Items of Interest

Neighbourhood Watch

My name is Veronica and I am the Project Manager for the Neighbourhood Watch. We are collaborating with the BT group in order to inform hard to-reach communities about the Digital Switch over that is happening Nationwide.

In order to do that, Neighbourhood Watch has booked some venues around England and Wales in order to give BT customers a drop in session where they can come and find out more about the Digital Switch Over. In order to run the events, we rely on volunteers. We have 1 event that is closed to you: Chantry Community Office, Chantry Fields, Gillingham, SP8 4UA on the 21 November 2024, Thursday 10:00-13:00.

We would like to see if any u3a members are interested in helping us out. We will provide training and expenses. Please let me know if it is something that can interest you, I can send more information, like a role description. Moreover, if you think you would like an event closer to you, as you know that there are many of your members than may find it useful, please let us know.

We will be running more events in 2025.

Veronica Ghobert

Veronica.Ghobert@ourwatch.org.uk

Trading Standards

Battery safety

Binned batteries and electricals containing batteries caused more than 1,200 fires over the last year, and many local authorities say the problem is getting worse. Dorset Council Waste Services are urging people to remove batteries from devices before binning them and to recycle them at the correct places. Batteries in bins can cause fires in both collection vehicles and at facilities where the vehicle contents are delivered to. These fires can be challenging for fire services to deal with, and they endanger the lives of staff working on lorries and at waste plants.

In addition, it is estimated that 1.6 billion batteries were thrown away last year as opposed to being recycled. Recovering valuable raw materials from batteries, such as nickel, zinc, cadmium and lithium can be turned into new products. For example, the lithium collected from batteries could power thousands of electric cars.

If your electrical item contains batteries, they may cause a fire if not recycled properly, so don't bin them. If possible, remove the batteries from your electricals and recycle them separately. Batteries can be recycled at many local retailers, household recycling centres, or you can put them in a small plastic bag and leave them on top of your recycling bin on collection day. If you can't remove the battery, then recycle the whole item at your local household recycling centre next time you visit.

Common household batteries include lithium-ion 'button' batteries from watches, hearing aids, toys, etc. as well as standard barrel-type batteries such as AAs and AAAs.

Button' batteries should never be left in reach of small children, as if swallowed, they could badly injure or kill a child. Larger lithium 'coin cell' batteries (about the size of a five pence piece) are the most dangerous. Smaller batteries can be inserted into places such as ears and noses, causing serious injuries for children if undetected. By taking care of batteries and recycling them properly we can prevent fires, help recover valuable material and keep young children safe.



**Gillingham Christmas
Community Lunch**

Three Rivers Community Partnership

Charity No. 1106977

christmaslunch@threeriversgillingham.org

Dear u3a members

We are writing to you in the hope you can support us with our plans to provide a free lunch at the Scout hut in Milton on Stour for up to 60 elderly, vulnerable and lonely local residents on Christmas Day.

Christmas can be very difficult for many people who have no family or friends to share the holiday. And this year could be particularly hard financially. As you may know, Gillingham has several areas of deprivation and rural areas that are very isolated. It is our intention to reach out to everyone who might miss out on a Christmas lunch due to cost or isolation and provide much-needed festive cheer.

This project has been running for many years (run by different groups) and has been well supported previously. Regrettably, it proved too much of a challenge last year and didn't take place, but Three Rivers Partnership has now stepped in to oversee the project and guarantee that it is well-run and successful. In addition, Gillingham Car-Link will be overseeing transport to and from the venue.

With the organisation firmly in place, we are approaching the community for donations and volunteers. Donations can be small gifts for our guests to take home, cash or vouchers. Volunteers are needed on Christmas Eve, to decorate the hall and for food preparation, on Christmas Day to cook and serve lunch and provide transport, and on Boxing Day to clear up the hall.

If you would like to make a donation or volunteer to help, please get in contact via the email address above. We look forward to hearing from you.

The Management Committee

Group	Date	Leader	Website
Art Appreciation	Monday 2-3.30pm – week 2	Gil Watkinson	click here
BSO	To be arranged	Jennifer Day	click here
Canasta I	Monday pm – weeks 1 & 3	Hazel Baker	click here
Canasta II	Wed p.m. – weeks 2 & 4	Barbara Watkinson	click here
Canasta III	Thursday am – weeks 2 & 4	Pam Hooker	click here
Churches/Places of Worship	To be Arranged 4 visits/year	Barbara Hurst	click here
Digital Photography	Thursday – am – week 3	Andy Newton	click here
Embroidery	Wednesday – pm week 2	Lesley Frost	click here
French for Fun 1	Tuesday/fortnightly - 10am	Ron Beard	click here
French for Fun 2	Wednesday /fortnightly-pm	Chris Stotesbury	click here
Garden Interest	Monday – am - week 2	Irene Gordon	click here
Genealogy	Monday – pm – week 4	Liz Greenway	click here
German Conversation	Wednesday - fortnightly-pm	Robert Light	click here
International Folk Dancing	Tuesday -pm – week 2	Barbara Robson	click here
International History	Wednesday–am week 3	Richard Sims	click here
Italian - Beginners	Tues 10am–11am weekly	Alison Rigby	click here
Italian Intermediate	Tues 11.15am–12.15am weekly	Alison Rigby	click here
Knitting/Crafts	Tuesday – pm – week 2	Irene Gordon	click here
Literature	Monday-am on Zoom Weeks 1 & 3	Peter Rolfe	click here
Lunch Club	Friday – week 4	Michael Pittman	click here
Mahjong	Friday – 2pm weeks 2 & 4	Marion Pace	click here
Medieval World	Monday 10.15am – week 4	Denise Sims	click here
Music for Pleasure	Thursday – pm – weeks 2 & 4	Eileen Haddleton	click here
Natural History	Wed - 10-12.30pm – week 2	Janet Fenton	click here
Philosophy	By arrangement	Chris Spencer	click here
Planets & Exoplanets	Monday 2-4pm – week 2	Denise Sims	click here
Poetry & Play Reading	Thursday – pm – week 1	Janet Botterill	click here
Reading Group	Friday 11-12pm – week 1	Colin & Anne Marsh	click here
Really Useful Group	Anyone who would like to help	Barbara Hurst	click here
Scrabble	Friday – am - weekly	Jill Page	click here
Shared Interests	Varied	Barbara Hurst	click here
Spite & Malice	Thursday – 2.00pm – Week 3	Sue Walker	click here
Table Tennis	Thursday 2.00pm - weekly	Elizabeth Lewer Chris Stotesbury	click here
Walking	Tuesday – am – week 1	Barbara Robson	click here
Writing for Pleasure	Monday 10.30am Weeks 2 & 4 via zoom	Peter Rolfe	click here

Registered Charity No 11078452

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