

# U3A Taunton Newsletter — December 2011



U3A Committee		Dates for your Diary	
Jane Dickson Chairman/Newsletter Editor	284626	9th Jan. Meet and Greet with some convenors present. Coffee from 10.30 as usual.	
David Berry Treasurer/Vice-Chairman/ Database Manager	326969	13th Feb. Celebration of 100 <sup>th</sup> Birthday.	
Michael Seage Secretary	350470	12th Mar. Talk by Don Ruffell: "France, The End of an Era"	
Joy Abnett Membership Secretary	332860	<b>Mini Outings</b>	
Jack Freeman Publicity	330996	8 Dec. Ilminster (to see Charity Trees in the Minster)	
Sandy Davies Groups' Coordinator	321038	No30 Bus from the Bus station .9.30am.	
Gwenan Jones Information Secretary	275226	24 Feb. STREET, to visit Clarke's Shoe Factory	
Marianne Freeman FMH	330996	No29 Bus from the Bus station 10.05 am.	
Dorothy Ingram U3A Link/Meet&Greet	251625	Look forward to seeing you on our free bus excursions	
Nigel Smith Website Manager	667221	Contact Dorothy Davis on 01823 334174	
Liz Dean Ex-Officio Committee Member	01278 732206	-----	
SUNDAY LUNCH CLUB		<b>Deadline for March Newsletter: 27th Feb</b>	
Mary Whitehead 1st Sunday	282387	<b>email Jane Dickson: <a href="mailto:jd018u6702@btinternet.com">jd018u6702@btinternet.com</a></b>	
Ruth Adams 2nd Sunday	368093		
Mary Richards 3rd Sunday	334646		
Jack Freeman 4th Sunday	330996		

Please note that 'Meet and Greet' is now on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each Month at 'The Lawns' the new name of the Royal British Legion Hall in Mary Street, Taunton.

## NOTES FROM THE CHAIR

Jack, you are going to be a hard act to follow. It was your warmth and energy which helped Max and me feel so welcome when we came to our first meeting about a year ago. We had been enthusiastic U3A members in Tunbridge Wells, and I wore many hats during my time on their Committee. Let us hope all I learned there will help me guide our U3A here in this lovely, fascinating town. Please don't hesitate to contact me. After all, we ex-professional musicians are only eccentric human beings. JD.

## TREASURERS REPORT

### Annual Subscription

It's that time of year again when I offer those members who have not paid their £9 a gentle reminder. Our constitution says that you must pay by 31<sup>st</sup> December or you are considered a non-member. Please send a cheque for the above amount to Joy Abnett, Membership Secretary, 47 Greenway Avenue, TAUNTON TA2 6HY. If you are having or will have difficulties, for whatever reason, please let me know and I will endeavour to assist you.

My contact details are: telephone (01823) 326969 Email; [david@daveminuspeg.plus.com](mailto:david@daveminuspeg.plus.com)

Post: 9 Killams Green, TAUNTON TA1 3YQ

### Local & National Mailing Lists

In order for you to receive either our newsletter or the national magazine we must have your latest address. I would therefore ask that if you are thinking of moving either locally or away please let either Joy or myself know so that we can update our records.

Thank you

### Membership Numbers

You may like to know that last year we ended up with 330 members at the end of August.

So far this year we have a membership of 275,

David Berry (Treasurer)

## GROUPS NEWS

Please see separate insert together with the following.

## **NEWS FROM THE GROUPS – Sandy Davies**

I am sorry to report that both Spanish 2 and Patchwork and Quilting are no longer functioning. Thank you to Michael and Ann for their work.

On 9th January, at the Meet and Greet, I hope to have representatives of Art, Gardening, Scrabble and Tranca to talk informally about their groups.

Please note that when the Meet and Greet switches from 1st Monday to 2nd Monday, the computer improvers Group will switch from 2nd and 4th Mondays to 1st and 3rd Mondays.

If the 1st Monday happens to be a public holiday a separate arrangement will be worked out at the time.

Mick Grigg

## **Science Group. Alan Johnson (Convenor) Tel 2284504.**

Great Scientific Ideas that have changed the world.

Just a reminder to the 20 people who have registered to join the group that the first meeting will be held at 6 Birch Grove Taunton on 5<sup>th</sup> January, starting at 2pm.

## **SPECIAL INTEREST DAY – Sandy Davies**

This is a day when all the local U3As take it in turns to organise a special event. Our turn will be in 2013. This seems a long time away but organising such a day takes a lot of work so we have already started on it. The committee is made up of Dorothy Ingram, Joy Abnett, Janet Jones, Ron Cann and myself. We have booked St. James's Church Hall for Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2013 and are now in the process of organising speakers and visits. We intend keeping you up-to-date with our progress although, once the preliminaries have been settled, there will probably be a bit of a gap until closer to the time when we will be asking for help from members to assist with the actual running of the day.

## **History Walks round Taunton.**

If you are interested in Taunton's buildings and the stories behind them, how about joining the history walks starting in April 2012, Second Thursday afternoon in the month, 2.15- 3.15 approx.

Please ring Jane Dickson 01823 284626 if you would like to join the group.

## **2012 Swimathon Paul Gilley**

Further to the entry in the June 2011 newsletter, please note that the dates for the 2012 Swimathon organised by the Taunton Soroptimists have been changed to **Saturday & Sunday February 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> 2012**. The event will take place at **Taunton School** in their 25 metre indoor pool. It is hoped that Taunton U3A will enter a team again. A team of six plus 2 reserves is required. Each member of the team swims two lengths of the pool in a relay. This is repeated with the aim of the team to swim as many lengths as possible in 50 minutes. Each member of the team is responsible for organising sponsorship, which will be entered on a form provided by the Soroptimists.

One of the above dates will be allocated to the U3A team and will be announced nearer the time by the organisers so, for now participants are requested to keep both dates free.

Four local Charities have been chosen to benefit from the 2012 Swimathon and are St. Margaret's Somerset Hospice, Citizens Advice Bureau, SANDS (Still Birth Neonatal Death) and SURE (Somerset Unit for Radiotherapy Equipment).

I appear to have been designated swimming captain (!) so please may I have some volunteers. Anyone interested in being a member of the team and/or would like further information should contact me either by 'phone **01823 352119** or e-mail, **paul.gilley@virgin.net**

**My thanks to Carol Hobson and Mick Grigg who have provided much of the computer skill for the compilation of this, my first Newsletter.**