

**learn, laugh, live**

**HAPPY  
BIRTHDAY**



**This year the u3a celebrates 40 years since its foundation.** As part of the celebrations Gill Brain will be giving a talk on the founding and history of the u3a. This fascinating story will be told at Coleview Community Centre on Monday 9th May starting at 2.00. You can sign up on the website or just turn up on the day.

Next month, a Summer Party will be held on Friday 17th June at The Ellendune Centre. An interesting programme of activities and fun with afternoon tea is being planned. You will need to reserve your place by booking on the [Swindon u3a website](#).

## Chair's 'Hello'

As yet another summer under the Covid cloud approaches, it can be hard to keep one's spirits high. Nevertheless, I sense that while we all continue to be careful there is a new determination not to have another summer 'cancelled'. People are visiting friends and relatives again, booking holidays, going to the theatre, singing in choirs and generally trying to regain some sense of normal life. Most of our u3a groups have restarted and are once again enjoying their activities amongst friends. We now have 149 active groups. Business as usual.

The Management Committee is also taking a (very short) breather after the tensions and anxieties of the last year. Some have been on holiday, some have had Covid, some have done both – who said we couldn't multi-task! Major decisions have been made and the task ahead is that of ensuring a smooth roll-out of the strategies we have agreed upon. There is still a lot of work to be done. At our latest Committee meeting we looked at a timetable for putting measures in place between now and September to enable the supplements system to be as effective and transparent as possible for the new u3a year 2022-23. There are still hurdles which might trip us up but we are trying to predict these wherever possible.

One major change which we will be putting into operation immediately is the extra support for Group Organisers. Three new Group Assistants, Christine Dixon, Bob Carvey and Michael Deegan have taken on the task of offering special support to Groups, each with a specific 'family' of groups to oversee. This extra support should facilitate all groups in understanding and coping with the changes we foresee in the future. Many thanks to Christine, Bob and Mike for taking on these roles.

The monthly meetings are to resume. At the first, **on 9<sup>th</sup> May**, I will be giving a talk on the **History of the u3a** – an interesting story to tell on this, the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary year of u3a nationally. If you'd like to know more about the origins and development of our organisation do join us at Coleview Community Centre. Please book via the web-site if you can or you can just turn up on the day. You will be very welcome.

**A Summer Party is planned for the afternoon of June 17<sup>th</sup> at the Ellendune Centre.** Do come and join us. Details for booking are on the web-site. An interesting programme of activities and fun and afternoon tea is being planned.

Later in the summer we will continue our monthly meetings with more Speaker events. Sue Cook has volunteered to organise these for us so if you know of any good, interesting speakers do let Sue know. .

While on the subject of volunteers, we are all so pleased with the wonderful response to our plea for more people to come and help us in the various tasks that need doing to keep our u3a running smoothly. A heartfelt thank you to all who have volunteered. We go into the new year with full, effective teams of people in all our major management functions. In particular, I should like to welcome our new Treasurer, Gordon Wilson, who takes on the major task of helping us to manage our finances in such challenging times.

[Gill Brain](#)

### **Monthly Meetings**

Following a rather long break, the monthly meeting is back!

**Monday 9th May, Coleview Community Centre, 2.00 for a 2.15 start. Happy Birthday u3a - This is your life.** A talk by Gill Brain on the history and the founding of the u3a movement.

Just turn up or book on line. You will be very welcome.

**Friday 17th June, Ellendune Community Centre 2.00 to 5.00.**

**Summer Party** with fun, games, music, afternoon tea and lots of good company. Book your place on the website.

**Monday 11th July, Coleview Community Centre, 2.00 for a 2.15 start**  
**“Where do novelists get their ideas from?”** A talk by Bobbie Darbyshire

[Sue Cook](#)

## u3a in Royal Wootton Bassett

Spaces available for new members.

Looking for a new hobby or to try again at one you did some time ago or an opportunity to meet and share some time with others? u3a in Royal Wootton Bassett may have the answer!

Every second Thursday we meet in the Cross Keys Pub between 2.00 and 3.30.

The friendly group is very happy to support and share with others hand crafts such as loom knitting, embroidery, hand sewing, drawing, crochet and knitting. This may be showing another way to cast on stitches,

explaining a pattern, sharing patterns or materials or even new ideas for projects. Many of the items made are donated to charities such as the children's Project Linus UK, care homes and the Brighter Futures Project among others.



Those who struggle to actively participate often donate materials and come along to enjoy seeing the results of a completed project.

As group organiser, from time to time, I demonstrate a different hand craft and if feasible will run a small workshop for those willing to participate.

The use of the venue is free and to support the pub it is understood that we each purchase a drink of our choice. Well a great deal of talking does go on!

Interested? Curious? You are welcome to drop in and share the experience. Contact the organiser by clicking or tapping on her name.

[\*\*Kathrina Fairgrieve\*\*](#)

## Information about Groups and Activities

Since it has become uneconomic to produce a Yearbook, some members have commented that it is not always easy to find information about what groups are running, how they operate, when and where they run and who to contact for further information.

For those able to access the website, information can be found by clicking on the word “Activities” which is in yellow on the blue bar at the top of the page. By then clicking on “Activities by Category” you can see the more detailed information and send an enquiry to the relevant group organiser. More detailed guidance is given after the table of activities in this Newsletter.

We understand that not everyone is able to easily access or use the website. As part of the response to focus group feedback, we are exploring ways of making the process clearer and simpler. This will take time.

In the meantime, there have been requests for a basic list of groups and activities to be made available. A list of groups currently running is shown on the next page of this newsletter.

Anyone unable to access the information they need via the website should contact the office in the first instance.

Opening hours 10.00 -12.00 Mon, Wed, Fri. Tel: 01793 614629

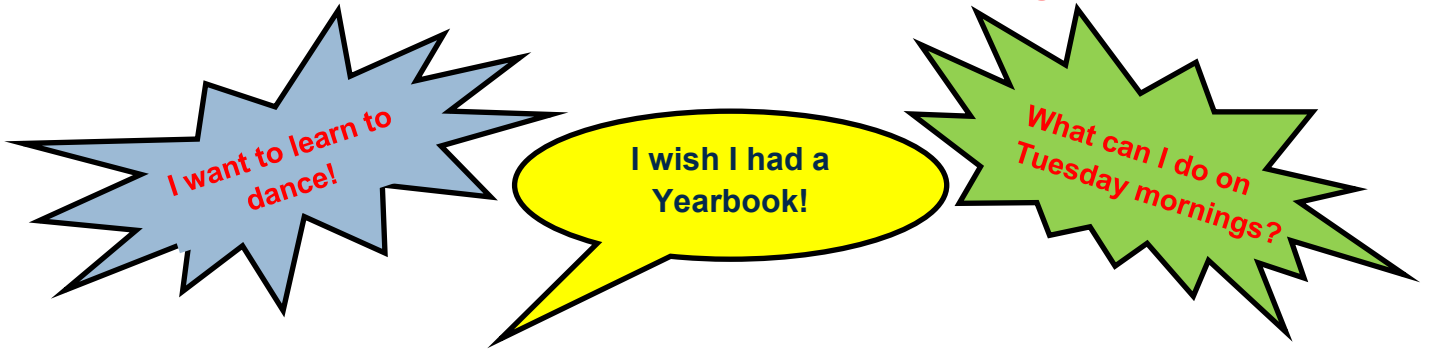
**Jill Kelly**  
**Membership Liaison**  
**Secretary**



## Groups Listed by Category

<b>Active</b>	<b>Arts and Crafts</b>	<b>Discussion</b>
Air pistols and Rifles (2 groups) Badminton (2 groups) Ballroom Dancing (2 groups) English Country Dance Field Archery (2 groups) Latin Line Dance Line Dancing (3 groups) Pétanque (8 groups) Sequence Dancing Short Mat Bowls (5 groups) Stretch and Balance (2 groups) Table Tennis (3 groups) Tai Chi (2 groups) Walking (10 groups) Yoga (4 groups)	Art Appreciation Cartonnage Craft in Royal Wootton Bassett Craft without Rules (Highworth) Crochet and Knitting Easy Painting Digital Photography Dressmaking Flower Arranging Gardening (2 groups) Painting for Fun Painting Together Papercraft (2) Patch and Chat Patchwork and Quilting Pins and Needles Scrapbooking Sewing for Pleasure Upholstery Wroughton Embroidery	Current Affairs
<b>Games</b>	<b>Health and Wellbeing</b>	<b>History</b>
Board Games Plus Bridge Canasta (2 groups) Mah Jong R Wootton Bassett Scrabble Scrabble Quizzing (3 groups)	Use it or Lose it : Memory programme (3 sessions usually held twice a year)	Archaeology British History Family History Military History Social and Cultural History Family History
<b>Languages</b>	<b>Literature/ Performing Arts</b>	<b>Music</b>
French (5 groups) German (2 groups) Italian (2 groups) Spanish (6 groups) Welsh	Book Groups (4) Creative Writing Literature Play Reading Poetry Appreciation Theatregoers	Concertgoers Folk singers Guitar Jazz Appreciation Merribells (3 groups) Ukulele (4 groups) u3a Singing Group
<b>Natural History</b>	<b>Science and Technology</b>	<b>Social</b>
Birders (2 groups)	Astronomy Modern Technology	Coffee Morning RWB Afternoon Tea RWB Pub lunch groups Monthly meeting
<b>Transport</b>	<b>Travel Study</b>	
Aviation Railway Interest	3 groups	

## How to . . . find out about Swindon u3a groups



Yes, it is handy to be able to pick up a booklet but the cost of printing and distribution is prohibitive and information soon becomes out of date. The Home Page of Swindon u3a website not only has up to date information on all the groups available but also allows you to contact the group organisers.

How?

It really is easy - in Google or Edge or whatever you use to browse the internet, type [swindonu3a.org.uk](http://swindonu3a.org.uk) and follow the link - the Home Page will appear and you will see a blue box, **Our Activities**.

### Our Activities

Explore our groups and activities - click here opens in a new tab

Where on the page the box appears will depend on whether you are using a smartphone, tablet or a much larger screen. You don't need to login, you don't even need your name or u3a number. Just click or tap on that box.



This is what you will see.

If you want to dance for example, click or tap on the

word **Dance** in the **Active** category. This will give you a list of all the dance groups and useful information about where and when they take place. If you would like to join or would like more information, just click on [email the group organisers](#) to the right of the information. Beware - clicking in the middle of a category box with several groups listed will take you to a list of the sort of groups closest to where you clicked, so you could get a list of all the Italian groups when you really wanted to see what Spanish groups are on offer.

Looking for something to do on a specific day of the week? Click or tap on **All Activities**. If you are looking for something you might enjoy on a Tuesday afternoon for example, scroll down and check out the Tuesday groups with a blue background. Morning groups have a peachy coloured background. Clicking on a group will give you more information and a chance to email the group organisers. If you have internet access but don't use email, you will need to ring the Office, 01793 614629, give your name and telephone number and ask the office volunteer to pass these on to the organiser of the group you want to contact so that they can ring you.

**Sue Carvey**

Swindon u3a | Activity Summary | Activity Summary

https://www.swindonu3a.org.uk/activity\_summary.php

### All Group Activities organised by Day & Category

**Notes: Not all groups run each week - click on an individual activity below to see details of places, times & frequencies. Activities have different approaches to Breaks and Holidays - click here for more details. (Tips on using this page)**  
[This is the background for a morning activity](#) [This is the background for an afternoon activity](#)

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Monthly Meeting (currently suspended)				Office Volunteers		
	Pétanque at Broome Manor Tuesday	Pétanque at Broome Manor Wednesday	Stretch and Balance			Sunday Strollers
Short Mat Bowls 6	Tai Chi	English Country Dance	Pétanque at Broome Manor Thursday	Pétanque at Highworth		
Pétanque at Broome Manor Monday	The Happy Wanderers	Line Dancing	Line Dancing	Field Archery 1		
Iyengar Yoga	Tuesday Easier Walks	Short Mat Bowls 1	Pétanque at Highworth	Line Dancing for Beginners		
Short Mat Bowls 3	Latin Line Dance & More	Chair Yoga	Thursday Yoga at Park South	Friday Walking		
Air Pistols & Rifles		Fair Weather Short Walks	Thursday Yoga in Rodbourne	Air Pistols and Rifles		
Barn Dancing 1		WOW! Walking on Wednesdays	Thursday Trekkers	Table Tennis - Friday		
Field Archery 2		Town & Village Social History Walking Group (TOSH)	Pétanque at Broome Manor	Badminton Friday		
Table Tennis - Monday		Wednesday Wayfarers	Ballroom Dancing Intermediate			
		Badminton Wednesday	Sequence Dancing			
		Short Mat Bowls 2	Table Tennis Thursday			
		Short Mat Bowls 4	Tai Chi Qigong			
		Orienteering				
		Sociable Short Walks				
		Ballroom Dancing for Beginners				
		Pétanque at Broome Manor Wed				

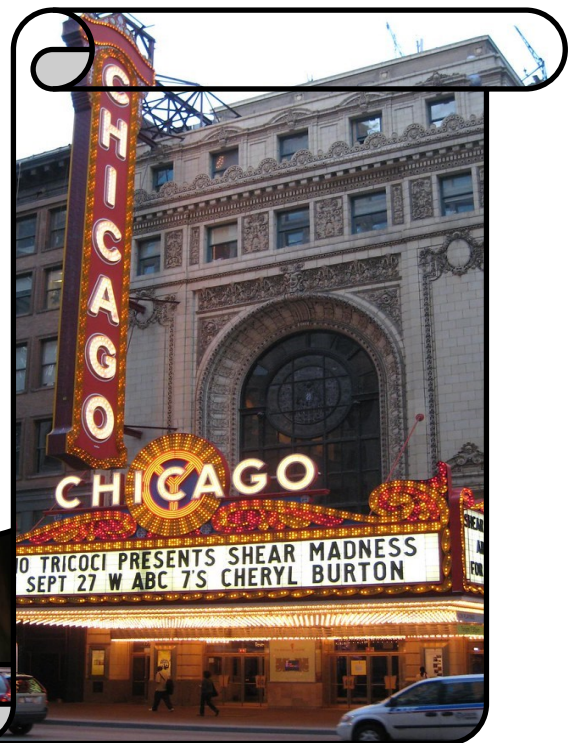
## Proposed New Group - Musicals

Interested in musicals? Love the singing and the dancing? I am looking to set up a new u3a group that would meet in members' houses to watch, learn about, and discuss musicals. This could be musicals on the stage or films. We might start with the history of musicals.

The group could focus on scriptwriters, directors, choreographers or themes. For instance, I would like to learn more about Stephen Sondheim. The group might decide to go to see a theatrical musical once a year.

I am proposing that the meetings would be monthly on a Monday afternoon or a Thursday morning, or - revolutionary idea – meet one evening! To start us off we could meet for the first time at 2.00pm on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> June, at my house in Wanborough. We would need to restrict the group size to fit in people's lounges, so 8 would probably be the maximum. First come first served. Contact me by phoning the office on 01793 614629 and asking them to contact me.

[Wendy Hall](#)



## Help!

Thursday Yoga in Rodbourne Group needs more people willing to help lead its sessions.

We currently have two individuals regularly leading, but inevitably there are times when neither is available.

Several members are leading warm ups and/or relaxation and so it is just an hour of asanas (poses) that we would need you to cover.

I know there are lots of you out there enjoying u3a yoga – might you welcome the opportunity to lead our enthusiastic group maybe once a month? If so, please contact the organiser by clicking on her name.

[Jean Thatcher.](#)



### **Welcome to our new Data Protection Officer Sharon Finch**

I am very pleased to be able to announce that Sharon has volunteered to take on the role of DPO. She is well qualified having been a data protection officer during her working life.

If you have any questions or concerns on Data Protection issues, you can contact Sharon by email, [dpo@swindonu3a.org.uk](mailto:dpo@swindonu3a.org.uk). or by ringing the u3a office on 01793 614629. If you give your name and phone number one of the volunteers will ask Sharon to get in touch with you.

Sue Carvey

## **Jazz Appreciation Group – Back In The Swing**

Sadly, over the Covid shut-down period, the Jazz Appreciation Group lost its entire leadership team, all to causes unrelated to Covid.

However we are back “under new management” thanks to a group of keen volunteers stepping up, and although our combined knowledge of jazz can’t compare to our lost leaders, it’s all about learning.

We resumed, in the Autumn of 2021 with sessions on:

Jazz and blues music we know to have been favourites of our late group leaders, as a tribute to them.

An appreciation of the great jazz clarinet players.

A review of some of the great British Swing Bands of the ‘20s and ‘30s after a further Covid

lay-off either side of Christmas:

In February, Len Morpew (of Swindon 105.5’s Jazz Break show, amongst other things) provided a live music session at which Len played Alto Sax and a Roland Aerophone (blown like a sax but capable of producing a good likeness of a number of instruments) accompanied by Martin Lowe on keyboards.

In March, a presentation of the bottleneck guitar blues of Rory Block.

See the Swindon u3a website for our program for the forthcoming months.

We are also trying to maintain, and publicise amongst the group, a list of ‘live’ jazz and blues gigs around the Swindon area (a number of members of the group are also players in local groups and bands).

We have a strong core of current members but new members to the Jazz (and Blues) Appreciation Group will be welcomed. We normally meet on the 4th Friday of the month at Liden, and if you would like to come for the first time as a guest with a view to becoming a member, please contact the Leadership Team by phoning the office on 01793 614629 and asking for a message to be passed on or click/tap on the name below.

**[Ed Sexton](#)**

## Travel Group J

Thursday June 16th 2022

Visit to Old Portsmouth & Southsea to include guided tour of Spice Island and free time to explore Cathedral, Old Portsmouth or Southsea in the afternoon.

Cost £28.00 to include drivers gratuity.

Pick up 8:30 Ellendune

8:40 Pipers Way

8:50 Coate Water

Leave Old Portsmouth / Southsea 4.15 to 4.30 pm

All u3a members welcome.

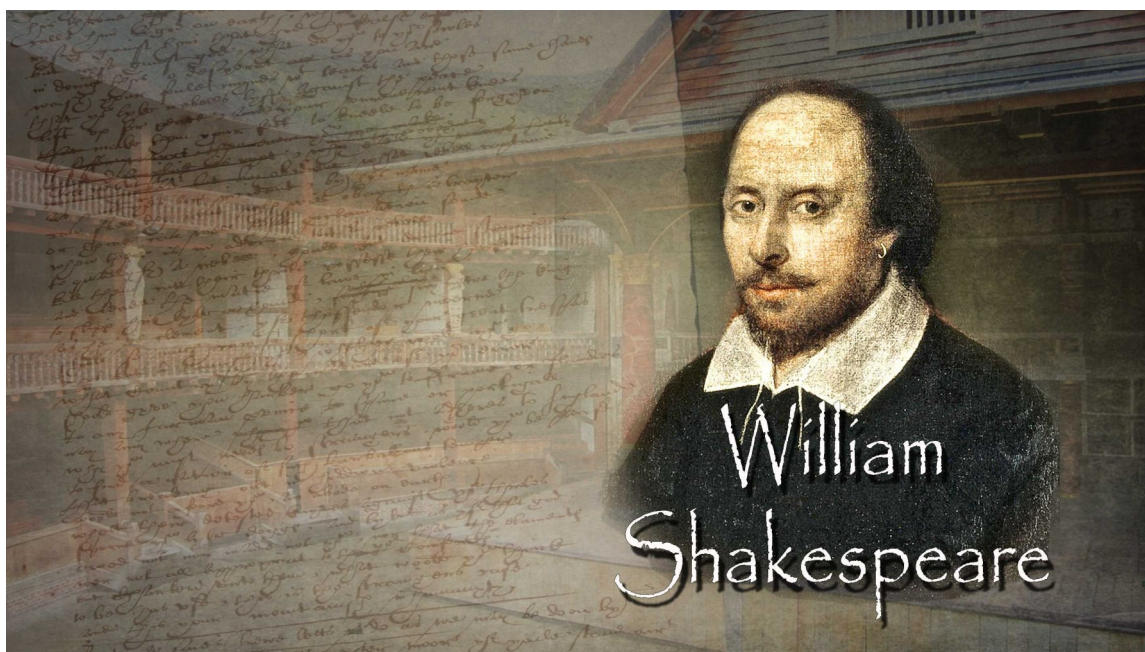
Please contact the organiser by clicking or tapping on her name.

[Fiona Meredith](#)

## Proposed new Shakespeare Group

Is there anyone out there interested in joining a Shakespeare Reading Group? By reading out loud the things he wrote, we will help each other to understand and appreciate his amazing works. If you are interested in Shakespeare please contact me by clicking or tapping on my name.

[Virginia Griffin](#)



## List of Email Addresses

Chair	Gill Brain	<a href="mailto:chair@swindonu3a.org.uk">chair@swindonu3a.org.uk</a>
Vice Chair	Linda Young	<a href="mailto:vice_chair@swindonu3a.org.uk">vice_chair@swindonu3a.org.uk</a>
All members of committee		<a href="mailto:committee@swindonu3a.org.uk">committee@swindonu3a.org.uk</a>
Accommodation	Chris Ockwell	<a href="mailto:accommodation@swindonu3a.org.uk">accommodation@swindonu3a.org.uk</a>
Data Protection	Sharon Finch	<a href="mailto:secretary@swindonu3a.org.uk">secretary@swindonu3a.org.uk</a>
General enquiries		<a href="mailto:office@swindonu3a.org.uk">office@swindonu3a.org.uk</a>
Groups' Coordinator	Linda Young	<a href="mailto:group.coord@swindonu3a.org.uk">group.coord@swindonu3a.org.uk</a>
Health & Safety		<a href="mailto:secretary@swindonu3a.org.uk">secretary@swindonu3a.org.uk</a>
Membership Liaison Secretary	Jill Kelly	<a href="mailto:membership@swindonu3a.org.uk">membership@swindonu3a.org.uk</a>
Newsletter contributions		<a href="mailto:newsletter@swindonu3a.org.uk">newsletter@swindonu3a.org.uk</a>
Office manager	Sylvia Alexander	<a href="mailto:office.manager@swindonu3a.org.uk">office.manager@swindonu3a.org.uk</a>
Office administration		<a href="mailto:office@swindonu3a.org.uk">office@swindonu3a.org.uk</a>
Secretary	Sue Carvey	<a href="mailto:secretary@swindonu3a.org.uk">secretary@swindonu3a.org.uk</a>
Speaker organiser (Monthly Meetings)	Sue Cook	<a href="mailto:speaker.organiser@swindonu3a.org.uk">speaker.organiser@swindonu3a.org.uk</a>
Treasurer	Gordon Wilson	<a href="mailto:treasurer@swindonu3a.org.uk">treasurer@swindonu3a.org.uk</a>
Treasury Team for Accommodation Banking Visits		<a href="mailto:treasuryteam@swindonu3a.org.uk">treasuryteam@swindonu3a.org.uk</a>
Webmaster	Alex Cranswick	<a href="mailto:webmaster@swindonu3a.org.uk">webmaster@swindonu3a.org.uk</a>

## Office

Swindon u3a Office, Gorse Hill Community Centre, Chapel Street, Swindon, SN2 8DA  
(entry is by middle door on right hand side of building)

Hours: Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 10am until 12 noon

Telephone: 01793 614629

(Answerphone operates when the office is closed)

Email: [office@swindonu3a.org.uk](mailto:office@swindonu3a.org.uk)

Web: [www.swindonu3a.org.uk](http://www.swindonu3a.org.uk)

Charity Number 298853

### Copy Dates

Items for the June Newsletter must be received by

**3rd June**

Items for the July Newsletter must be received by

**1st July**

All contributions must be sent to the Editor using the Newsletter contributions e-mail address:

[newsletter@swindonu3a.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@swindonu3a.org.uk)

**Geoff Bryan**

The Editor reserves the right to amend or abbreviate any entries submitted.  
We should also like to point out that any views expressed are not necessarily those of the organisation or of the Editor.