

# Sidmouth u3a

## ~ SOCIAL UPDATE ~

### EVENTS & EXCURSIONS 2025

**Happy New Year to all Sidmouth u3a members, I wish you all a very happy and enjoyable year.**

After all the activity of our 30th celebration year we have already started making plans for some of the events for this year. Listed in this update are some of the first ones coming up in the Spring, some of which you can book now and some where booking opens on 11th Feb.

I hope you find something you are interested in. If you would like to join the Social Committee to help organised future events please contact the Chair of the Social Committee Jackie on [social.jackie@sidmouthu3a.org](mailto:social.jackie@sidmouthu3a.org)

Also included are some of the groups we have with vacancies, and new groups just starting up. Keep you eyes on the February newsletter as there will be information about groups we can join in local u3as such as Exmouth, Exeter, Seaton and Honiton.

Also, a reminder that for Sidmouth u3a to continue we need a Vice-Chair to take over as Chairman at the AGM in March this year. Contact for this is [chairman@sidmouthu3a.org](mailto:chairman@sidmouthu3a.org)

All my best wishes for 2025.  
Janet.

**Some of the Events & Outings being arranged by your Social Committee in 2025**

## EXCURSIONS

## Springtime Trips



### **NT Greenway: 11 April 2025**

Agatha Christie called Greenway 'the loveliest place in the world' and treasured it as a holiday home for her and her family. They filled it with items dear to them, brought to Greenway from Ashfield, Agatha's childhood home, and from their travels and extensive collections.

Discover the holiday home of Agatha Christie and her family. Find out more about the favourite rooms used by the family and the treasures they collected, Agatha's personal collection of books in the Library and first edition novels.

The price of the trip includes coach travel and entry to Greenway.

National Trust Members: £17.00

Non-National Trust Members: £34.00

Optional introductory garden talk: £2.00

#### **Note:**

- National Trust Members will need to produce their membership cards at entry
- Refreshments are not included: lunch could be a picnic, or taken in the cafe.
- The optional introductory garden talk is available for £2 for the first 20 people who request it.

The coach will leave Sidmouth about 9.30am and return from Greenway at approximately 3pm.

Contact [social.veronica@sidmouthu3a.org](mailto:social.veronica@sidmouthu3a.org)

Or make a reservation online at [sidmouth.u3asite.uk/u3a\\_events/greenway](http://sidmouth.u3asite.uk/u3a_events/greenway)



### **Gardens of Ireland: 18-23 May**

#### **Sidmouth u3a Ireland Tour 2025**

6 days 5 nights - from £1292\* per person

Summary of inclusions:-

- Accompanied by a Floral Tours representative
- Return Flights to Ireland:-  
Outbound:- Exeter-Dublin;  
Inbound:- Cork-Bristol plus Coach transfer from Bristol Airport to Sidmouth
- Executive Coach travel
- Bed & Breakfast on a shared room basis at the 4\* Maldron Hotel in Dublin and the 4\* Metropole hotel in Cork.  
Limited single rooms available at a supplement of £90 per person per night
- First night evening meal in Dublin and evening meal in Cork
- Visit to National Botanic Garden
- Visit to Powerscourt
- Visit to Hunting Brook - Jimi Blake
- Visit to June Blake
- Visit to Jameson's Whiskey Distillery
- Visit to Irish National Stud Japanese Garden
- Visit to Bantry House and Gardens
- Visit to Ilnacullin
- Visit to Blarney Castle and Gardens
- Optional Visit to The Whitney Experience at the 30lympia Theatre - Evening
- Optional visit to Murphy's Brewery in Cork
- Travel & Health Insurance is not included but u3a general indemnity insurance is

[Download the Leaflet & Booking Form](#)

# u3a Online Learning Events



## FREE Online Learning Events

u3a members can access a wide range of free online talks, workshops, and courses through their membership. Most sessions are led by fellow members, sharing their expertise, with additional talks from notable speakers and organizations.

All events are bookable via Eventbrite.

For more information: [u3a.org.uk/events](https://u3a.org.uk/events)

## More Sidmouth u3a Events & Excursions



### BOURNEMOUTH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

On Thursday 19th December the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra provided us with a musical performance in a slightly unexpected manner. Joe Stilgo, jazz singer (he played at Sidmouth's first Jazz Festival just after Lockdown ended), compered. Joe sang a medley of his usual jazz tunes. The BSO, in the second half, provided a more classic style of classical music.

The coach (Stamps) and pre-concert meal were both good and everything worked to plan. Many thanks to all who attended and joined in the celebration.

**The next BSO concert - *Orchestral Pictures* - is on Thursday 10th April, see below for details.**



### FREE EVENT - 4 MARCH 2025: ENERGY FROM WASTE CENTRE, MARSH BARTON, EXETER

The Energy from Waste Centre operates under a partnership with Devon County Council and safely diverts about 60,000 tonnes of non-recyclable waste away from landfill from households within Exeter and local area each year and enough electricity to power the equivalent of 6,624 homes.

There is no cost for this trip, which includes Tea/Coffee and a Health & Safety briefing upon arrival.

The visit is limited to the first 20 applications on a first come/first served basis and members will need to arrange their own transport.

There is free car parking on site.

Bookings can be made from 14 January 2025



### THURSDAY 10 APRIL 2025: BOURNEMOUTH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

#### Orchestral Pictures: Debussy, Berlioz, Mussorgsky at Exeter University Great Hall, Exeter

Works include Mussorgsky's 'Pictures in an Exhibition' and Debussy's 'Prelude a l'apres midi d'un faune'.

BSO describe the works: Debussy's seductive painting of a languid, sun-drenched Sicilian afternoon. Mussorgsky's musical wander through a fictitious gallery of works. Ravel's genius for scoring. Picturing outdoor scenes drawn from the most vivid experiences of Berlioz' Italian stay.

Bookings can be made from 11 February



### ADVANCE NOTICE

#### 9 MAY 2025: NATIONAL TRUST TYNTESFIELD & CADBURY SHOPPING VILLAGE

National Trust Tyntesfield is an ornate Victorian Gothic Revival house with extensive garden and parkland. A Gothic Revival masterpiece, richly decorated and furnished with a collection of over 72,000 objects. The house is surrounded by 540 acres of historic land.

#### Cadbury Garden Centre & Shopping Village

An expansive store with wide range of products. The shopping village has multiple concessions, such as Lakeland, Cotton Traders, Jolleys Pet store and Maidenhead Aquatics.

Booking can be made from 11 February

## New Groups

### EXOTIC FLAVOURS

1st Tuesday (starting April with a limit of 10).

Each month will have a theme and each member of the group will prepare some food from that country or region to share at lunch with the rest of the group. Each member of the group will take turns to host.

For more information contact [Janet Bailey](#)

### HAND AND FOOT

1st Thursday of the month.

The group is currently full but contact the group leader to go on the waiting list.

Hand and Foot is a variation on the popular game of Canasta. Contact [Hil Parker](#) to go on the waiting list

### SHORT TENNIS

Fridays at Sidford Social Hall from 2-3pm

The game is played indoors on a badminton court, with short tennis racquets and foam balls.

For more information contact [Sharon Young](#)

### UKELELE

Never played the ukulele? That's OK because we can accommodate beginners. The ukulele is a great instrument to play, even if you have no musical background - you don't need to be able to read music as long as you can count...!

For more information contact [Elizabeth Robertson](#)

## Groups with Vacancies

### The following groups have vacancies

Details of each group and contact details for the group leaders can all be found on the website at:

[sidmouth.u3asite.uk/groups](https://sidmouth.u3asite.uk/groups)

#### 20th Century History

3rd Monday

#### 3rd Age Bookworms

4th Monday

#### A Good Read

3rd Thursday

#### Another Mahjong

1st Friday

#### Aviation

3rd Wednesday

#### Canasta for Beginners

2nd & 4th Thursday

#### Circle Dancing

1st Tuesday

#### Cribbage

3rd Friday

#### Debating

Periodic Thursdays

#### Drink & Chat

3rd Tuesday

#### Games & Puzzles

4th Friday

#### Life Stories

4th Thursday

#### Luncheon Club

4th Wednesday

#### Mahjong

4th Thursday

#### Modellers

Last Thursday

#### Music Appreciation

4th Thursday

#### Recorders (Experienced)

2nd Wednesday

#### Remarkable Women

3rd Wednesday

#### Scrabble

4th Wednesday

#### Science & Technology

1st Monday

#### Shakespeare's Plays

1st & 3rd Tuesday

#### Sid Nature Explorers

1st Wednesday

#### Strollers

3rd Tuesday

#### Ukelele

1st & 3rd Friday

#### Table Tennis

3rd Thursday

#### Vegetable Gardening

1st Monday