

Hello Everyone

This is just to let you know that we now have a listing on the Sidmouth Town Council Events page for our August Open 'Groups' Meeting. This includes a listing on their website, inclusion in a weekly 'What's On in Sidmouth' leaflet and inclusion in the weekly 'What's On' entry in the Sidmouth Herald.

Please See - [Sidmouth.gov.uk/events](https://sidmouth.gov.uk/events) and scroll to 12 August
sidmouth.gov.uk/event/sidmouth-u3a-open-meeting - a shortcut to our entry.

IMPORTANT

We still need a Vice Chairman to continue forward with Sidmouth u3a and a Groups Coordinator to help Angie as she is tackling every group on her own. Please come forward to help her.

We have 650 members, so someone could step forward for these positions. Neither position is an onerous job and there is plenty of help available. Thank you.

A reminder that articles for the newsletter must be received by 23rd of each month. Group news should be sent via the Group Coordinators in plenty of time:

As we are still awaiting a Group Coordinator for M-Z groups, Angie is trying to cope with all the groups. Please email as usual for A-L groups to Angie at groupsal@sidmouthu3a.org and for M-Z groups to groupsmz@sidmouthu3a.org

For those without email her Mobile number is – 07774 146209. However, the printed current list with the group contact details is usually available at the monthly meetings.

Thank You and Kind Regards.

Francetta Bridle - newslettereditor@sidmouthu3a.org

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Well, here we are, almost half way through the year! It will soon be time for the August meeting when, instead of a speaker, there is a chance to visit many different groups at their tables and maybe think about joining a new one. Alternatively, you might have thought of a new topic that we haven't covered and could have a word with our group coordinator. Pickleball may raise its head again and possibly short mat bowls.

Don't forget - if you would like to start up a new group, there will be plenty of support for you; we just need lots of enthusiasm.

We had such a good speaker in June; Dr James Taylor gave an amazing talk on Admiral Nelson, standing there with no notes and with a good spattering of humour. Again, if you know of someone who would be a suitable speaker, just let CaroleAnn, the Speaker Finder, know.

Until August.....Gail Richmond - chairman@sidmouthu3a.org

MONTHLY MEETINGS

Open Meeting - 08 July 2025; Chris Woodward, The Jurassic Coast

Stowford Rise Community Centre from 1.30-3.30pm. Refreshments served until 2pm.

Open Meeting - 12 August 2025. A special Open Groups meeting.

Stowford Rise Community Centre from 1.30-3.30pm. Refreshments served throughout.

SOCIAL EVENTS

Abbotsbury Swannery and Subtropical Gardens. Friday 15th August.

Join us on a summer visit to Abbotsbury Swannery and Subtropical Gardens.

The coach will leave Sidmouth Triangle at 08.30 a.m. with other pick up points available if requested. We will travel to the swannery for the morning where there is a cafe should you wish to purchase coffee etc. We will then head to Abbotsbury Subtropical Gardens for the afternoon. There is a larger cafe at the gardens where you will be able to have a light lunch. Arrival back in Sidmouth is around 5pm.

Cost of the visit to include return coach travel to both venues and entry into both is £32.

Please register your interest with Janet on social.janet@sidmouthu3a.org

Evening Social - A Drink & Chat at The Blue Ball, Sidford

7-9pm, 3rd Tuesday of the month.

All are welcome and it would be great if you could email confirming attendance please.

If you'd like to be added to the group mailing list, please contact me at

secretary@sidmouthu3a.org

Tuesday 23 September 2025 - Killerton House & Gardens

National Trust Killerton House & Gardens ~ A fine 18th-century family home and a great estate, with a glorious landscaped garden surrounded by parkland.

Cost: NT Members £9.50; Non-NT Members £25.65 - **Booking Required**

For further information contact Marian Gadian. social.marian@sidmouthu3a.org

November 19th 2025: Death on the Nile - Agatha Christie.

Torquay Princess Theatre - Matinee performance.

Ticket price - £50 including Coach from Sidmouth.

Further information from Jackie Cox. 07788255463. social.jackie@sidmouthu3a.org

Free Online Courses

u3a National Learning offers on-line courses on many varied subjects. Please see the link for details: u3a.org.uk/events/educational-event

GROUPS NEWS

Canasta Players & Rummikub

Changes to meeting days, times & venue + vacancies in both.

Please note the following changes.

Canasta Players is now at 10.30 - 12.30 on the 1st & 3rd Mondays of the month, meeting at Primley Church Hall. There will be vacancies in the group from June.

Rummikub is now on the 1st Thursday of the month from 14.00 - 16.00, meeting at Primley Church Hall. There will be vacancies in the group from June.

Our groups are going strong. Please contact the group leaders directly to find out more details. The full groups list (with group leaders' details) can be accessed here tinyurl.com/ytipzu4p or full details of all groups, with group leader contact details, can be found on our website: sidmouth.u3asite.uk/groups

Starting a New Group

If you need support to start a new group, particularly in the case of very long waiting lists for a group you wish to join, please speak to the Group Leader for help with this, or speak to the Groups Coordinator.

New Group - Ready to join a new "Group" group?

Calling guitarists, keyboard players, drummers, singers, musicians of all kinds . . . my name is Chris and I'm looking for others to join me in a new "Group". I've just moved to Sidmouth from Chorleywood in Hertfordshire.

I used to play guitar on my own and then discovered lots of others in the u3a doing the same thing. So, a few of us got together to play some songs and before we knew it we were a 9 piece band. We played pop, rock and roll, modern day songs, anything we liked - for fun. And it was great fun.

I've jammed with a mandolin player, played in an acoustic 5 piece and also with a fully electric group. But all just for fun . . . although we did perform at the u3a Walking group Christmas lunch.

Drop me a line at csmith7670@gmail.com and let's see if we can get a new "group" off the ground.
Chris Smith

Tyntesfield House and Cadbury Garden Centre Visit.

A successful visit took place on Friday 9th of May. 30 members went to National Trust Tyntesfield House, Wraxall, Bristol. The journey was about an hour and a half, which went quite quickly as it was a lovely sunny day and the views out of the coach were pleasant.

The house itself was quite interesting but very Gothic. It was richly decorated and contained a lot of furniture. I found the ceilings interesting as they were quite unusual, often very high with wooden beams. I especially liked the chapel which was very ornate.

We then moved on to Cadbury Garden Centre, which is part of the Blue Diamond group. It is a very large garden centre with plenty to look at and purchase. There was a choice of cafe or restaurant to eat at, which most members used. The plant centre was very well stocked and many of us made purchases. I myself bought several plants. In addition there were other shops, a cook shop, extensive garden and homewares and a very nice clothing section. I would thoroughly recommend a visit.

I believe from the feedback I received that this was a very successful day out.
Jacqueline Cox. social.jackie@sidmouthu3a.org

Segway Safari: 17 June 2025



9 of us took part in a 'Segway Safari' at the Escot Estate (now world famous for the amazing honey-pilfering escapee bears). Segways are a 2-wheeled self-balancing mode of transport which look a bit daunting at first but are surprisingly easy to master after a short instructional session (see our perfect balance...and the Baileys showing off on the left hand side of the photo).

The most difficult part was donning the elbow pads, knee pads, helmets and ‘turtle shell’ padding.

Our 75 minute Safari took us around the Escot estate along paved roads, unpaved tracks, woodland paths and crocodile infested lakes. The original intention was to Segway through Black Aller Covert when the bluebells were in full bloom (much better and much less crowded than Blackbury Camp) but unfortunately the timing was not right. Maybe next year.

TECH CORNER WITH TONY WARREN

LOFT AERIALS

We do love our tellies, don't we? They're getting so smart these days too, leading us to all sorts of on-line services like Netflix, BBC iPlayer and many others, which send us stuff through our WiFi routers.

However, we still need to receive high quality digital signals for the normal live channels, so that we can watch masterpieces like David Attenborough documentaries and travel programmes, which transport us to places we never dreamed of seeing.

For these wonderful programmes, and for drama and films with super surround sound, we necessarily have to have great TV aerials and correspondingly great aerial installation companies, of which there are oodles.

This is all about what I got away with when we lived in a two story house. Our TV aerial was on top of the chimney stack, serving several purposes: Providing a perch for incontinent seagulls; creating an interesting whistle in high winds; providing ample supplies of rust flakes; oh, and catching TV signals.

When age, wildlife and weather changed beautiful TV channels into snowy scenes, it was time to get a new aerial. We got quotes. Some over £400.

As a result of these, I looked on “our favourite on-line retailer” and found a really excellent aerial, with all the fittings, for under £20 (these days £33). I fixed it to a wooden beam in the loft, after the mandatory banging of my head on other beams, pointed it at the nearest transmitter for the area and moved all the “might come in useful one day” stuff that was in front of it, so that it had a clear view through the roof tiles. Yes, THROUGH the roof tiles. I connected it to the aerial cable that went down to the telly and it was absolutely perfect. They even come with filters already fitted so that 4G and 5G signals don't interfere.

Who'd have thought that would work so well, and if it doesn't, you are only £33 out of pocket!

CONTACTS

Contact details for the main committee and social committee can be found on our website: sidmouth.u3asite.uk/contact