

## BLANDFORD & DISTRICT u3a

Charity no: 1092984 - Website: <https://u3asites.org.uk/blandford/home>

### SUMMER 2024

**WELCOME** everyone to our summer newsletter. This is the season for picnics, visits to the beach or our Dorset hills and dales with friends and family or perhaps lazy days in a garden with the fragrance of beautiful roses and lavender, the buzz of insects and tea and cake. Read on! B&D has it all for you to enjoy this summer. *Christine, Editor*

#### **MEANDERINGS FROM THE CHAIR .....**

Sunshine at last - but not sure for how long!

Our Treasurer, Jack Shonfield, and Membership Secretary, June Lane, will be retiring in the not-too-distant future and we need to find replacements. Neither post need be particularly time consuming or arduous but we do need to fill the posts (by law) if B&D u3a is to continue functioning.

Please, please do give some consideration to helping your u3a - just send me an email ([chair@blandfordu3a.org.uk](mailto:chair@blandfordu3a.org.uk)). We can talk about the roles over a cup of coffee. You neither have to be an accountant nor have a degree in HR management!

In addition, Bridget Spiers is looking for someone to help organize the Historic Visits group. We need a person who can work alongside Bridget to organize outings to historic places. Sometimes there will be a need to organize entry tickets whilst other destinations will require booking a coach etc. If no one volunteers, the Historic Visits group will have to close. Again, if you can help, do email me.

#### **Join us for “The Great Picnic in the Park”.**

**Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> July from 12.00 noon**

This is to be held at Upton Country Park (near Poole) which, for those that have never explored the park, comprises 32 acres of formal and informal gardens, over 1.6 miles of coastline and 2000 years of history . . . if that is not enough, they have a Tea Rooms and an ice cream kiosk. What more could you want! We are meeting in the Walled Garden. Just bring your own Marmalade sandwiches (other varieties are acceptable!) plus something to sit on and join us. There is no need to book and there is no entry fee (but there is a car park charge). See the poster for more details.

#### **B&D u3a Newsletter**

Last but not least, we have been asked to provide printed newsletters. The costs of printing and posting a copy to every member are now prohibitive but we will make a limited number of copies available (for a small charge) at the next few quarterly meetings. We may not get the numbers right, so it will be a case of first come, first served. We will learn from experience!

Enjoy the summer – hope to see you at the Picnic!

Rob Clarke

**JUNE OPEN MEETING**  
**Durweston Village Hall**  
**Friday 28<sup>th</sup> June 2024**

2.00-2.15pm – greet, meet and seat

2.30pm – speaker: Lilian Ladle – The Rise & Decline of Druce Farm Roman Villa. Luxury living Roman-style c.65-c.650AD in the heart of the Piddle valley

3.15pm – tea, cake and chat: £1.50 for homemade cake and tea/coffee

**EVERYONE WELCOME!**

### **IT'S QUIZ TIME!!**

The rescheduled Blandford and District u3a quiz will now be held on Friday June 7th in Blandford Parish Rooms from 2.00pm until 4.30pm. Peter Aldous has kindly agreed to be the quizmaster. The cost is £5 per head, payable on the door, and will include interval tea and delicious cakes.



To enhance this as a social occasion at which members can meet and make new friends, participants will be placed randomly in teams of six. Husbands, wives and partners will be allowed to join the same team, however. There will only be space for 60 quizzers in the Parish Rooms, so you are advised to sign up quickly. There will be a waiting list to cover last-minute cancellations.

If you would like to take part in the quiz, please give your name to committee member **Gerald Killingworth by phone (01258 458358) or email (gkllngwrth@aol.com).**

### **OBITUARIES**

**JOHN REES:** Very sadly John passed away in March. He had been a member of B&D u3a for sixteen years, during which time he ran various groups including Radio Comedy, Computers and Ancestry Research. John also served on the committee and was both Vice Chair and Chair, occasionally addressing the Open Meetings in Durweston where we appreciated his vocal skills. He will be remembered for his sense of humour and what a kind and helpful man he was, both as a group leader and as a friend.

**RICHARD PEARSON:** We are also sad to announce the recent death of Richard Pearson in April. Richard was well known in the area having been a much respected languages teacher at The Blandford School. He brought his skills to the u3a as he led various groups sharing his wide knowledge in an enthusiastic and fun way. Richard was a member for some ten years, during which time he was a member of the Committee and held the post of Hon. Secretary. He will be much missed.

Blandford  
& District  
u3a

Join us for . . .

Blandford  
& District  
u3a

# The Great Picnic in the Park!



When -

Wednesday, 3rd July

Time - 12:00

Where -

Upton Country Park.

Save the date !

Bring your own sandwiches (marmalade optional). Drinks are available at the café.

Take time to wander round the lovely grounds with bird hides and views out to Poole harbour.

Factor 50 sun cream and umbrellas are advised (it's England) + something comfortable to sit on !

Plenty of parking available (pay at machine) &, last but not least, there are loos available.

Please note: No playing on the swings . . . unless you lie about your age !

## GROUP NEWS

### HISTORIC VISITS – Holbein Exhibition at Buckingham Palace

In a gap between cloud bursts we congregated at the Tesco bus stop. Promptly the coach arrived and after a comfortable, smooth journey we arrived outside Buckingham Palace Mews. With the tickets for the exhibition scheduled for 2.15pm we split into small groups to search out lunch.

*Holbein pictured right.*



Regrouping later, we entered the exhibition: a visual feast awaited us. Many of Holbein's renowned works, that I have only seen reproduced in books before, were there to be enjoyed. The most wonderful elements for me were the numerous preliminary chalk, ink and water colour sketches, which showed the true depth of his skill, the subtle use of pencil strokes and lightly applied chalk bringing the faces of five centuries ago truly alive. A magnificent exhibition, a well organised and shepherded trip. Thank you Bridget for organising and Rex and Lesley for keeping us in order.

Melanie Wyles

## MUSIC APPRECIATION

Regularly we have about a dozen members enjoying a couple of hours together to listen to/watch a variety of musical offerings, with time for convivial conversation during a break for coffee and biscuits. At our last meeting (first Friday of each month) we had a most interesting talk by Richard Hall (former director of Dorset Rural Music School) about Gustav Holst, learning that he did write much more than The Planets! A warm welcome awaits anyone who would like to join us.

Marion Tonge

## CYCLING

Unfortunately, the inclement weather this winter continued into Spring, so has had a significant effect on the number and range of our outings. One ride was cancelled due to rain and two altered due to conditions. We still enjoyed our journeys, though, completing six rides and 108 miles up to the beginning of May, two of which were 'foreign'.

Lately, it has been a great pleasure to observe the countryside burgeoning into life once again, with bluebells, cowslips, dandelions (yes – lovely flowers!), etc. and fresh green tree foliage hiding a myriad of small birds, some of which we recognised!

No cuckoos or swallows yet, though. We have just celebrated our 8<sup>th</sup> birthday, averaging over 400 miles per annum. There are now 18 of us on the books, though maximum on a ride so far is 10 (sometimes dropping to 2 in the winter). We are all OAPs (Outstandingly Amazing Pedallers!)

**JOIN US!!** E-bikes very welcome. Peter Aldous



## CRYPTIC CROSSWORDS

The group meets at the Brewery Tap each Monday from 10.30 to 12 noon, completing four crosswords, sharing ideas and generally being social. We do have room for one or two more members, so if anyone keen on crosswords should be interested to join us, even if only for a trial period, please do get in touch via the website..

Chris Poole

## DANCING

Get yourself ready to step out onto the dance floor at a local D-Day celebration in June and come along to Charlton Marshall Village Hall on the second Monday of the month and get *'In the Mood'*. Beginners welcome and you do not need a partner.

Pat Luke

## SPANISH

We are currently exploring the many different countries in South America where the language diverges greatly from mainland Spain. It's challenging but really interesting. We are learning a great deal about the variety in each country's culture, politics, music, dance and customs, all of which are fascinating, especially the bit about women's wrestling. I wouldn't mess with those girls for anything!

Lin Bett

## TABLE TENNIS

The Table tennis group continues to thrive. We are a sociable group and went for an Easter drink in the White Horse, Stourpaine after one of our sessions. Unfortunately, we are full at the moment, but if anyone is interested, contact the group and your name will be added to the waiting list.

Elaine Huntriss

## CRAFT

We continue to meet twice a month for a relaxing afternoon of needlework and chat. Once again the group represented B&D u3a by decorating a windowsill in Blandford St Mary church last Christmas, with a scene depicting the carol "O Tannenbaum".

Recently, some very talented members (alas, not this scribe) knitted some delightful little elephants that were presented in April to Jenny, Fundraising Co-ordinator, from MOSAIC, a local charity that supports bereaved children. The elephants are given to the children that attend one of their residential weekends – why an elephant? It represents the 'elephant in the room' and helps the children talk about the death of the loved one. Anyone who'd like a knitting pattern for an elephant, please get in touch. And, if you fancy a convivial afternoon of crafting, we will happily welcome more members.

Diana Berridge



## A light hearted look at growing old

Everything hurts . . . and what doesn't hurt, doesn't work !



Your back goes out more than you do.



A glass of red wine a day is good for you – just think how much better the whole bottle would be !



Your "Little black book" only contains names starting with Dr.

Your mind makes contracts your body can't meet.

You know all the answers . . . but nobody ask you the right questions.

You walk with your head held high – trying to get used to your new bi-focals.

You are quite capable of painting the town red, but need a long rest before you give it a second coat.

You can't stand people that are intolerant !

Your Knees buckle . . . but your belt won't.



A "Hip Joint" meant something totally different when you were 21.

. . . And finally,

Age is just a number, it's totally irrelevant

. . . unless you happen to be a bottle of wine.

There is, within you, a fountain of youth: it is your mind, your talents, the creativity you bring to your life and the lives of people you love.

- Sophia Loren