



### 📍 Summer Exhibition at Yate Library (8–29 June)

Our next exhibition will take place at Yate Library from **8 to 29 June**. Now in its third year at the venue, the exhibition will feature over 70 paintings by group members, covering a wide range of styles and subjects.

Many of the artworks will be available to buy, offering visitors the chance to support local artists and take home original work.

The exhibition will be open during normal library opening hours:

- Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday: **10am–5pm**
- Saturday: **9.30am–12.30pm**

Closed Wednesdays and Sundays

Do also look out for updates on our **Facebook and Instagram pages** in the run-up to the exhibition.

## CROCHET GROUP:

If you enjoy crochet or would like to learn how to do a new stitch why not come along to the Crochet group. At our February meeting one of our members taught those who wished to learn how to do Mosaic crochet and produce a mug rug.



We meet the 3rd Thursday of each month at The Old Grammar School, in Chipping Sodbury, 2pm—4pm. There is lots of talking, laughing and refreshments.

If you would like to come along and see if you would like to join us then you will be made very welcome..

Helen Thompson, Group Leader

## JUNE QUIZ:

This Quiz has quotations as its theme so who said the following?

1. `We are not amused`
2. `I believe it is peace for our time`
3. `Houston, Tranquility Base here. The Eagle has landed`
4. I have a dream`
5. `Dr Livingstone, I presume`?
6. `England expects that every man will do his duty`
7. `Come up and see me sometime`
8. `I have nothing to declare except my genius`
9. `Ballads and babies: that`s what happened to me`.
10. `In politics if you want anything said, ask a man. If you want anything done, ask a woman`

Lloyd Pellow, Joint Leader Quiz Group

## **INDOOR KURLING GROUP 2:**

Congratulations to Pauline & Bob Stefanovich who won the top scorers' trophies for the Ladies & Men's 2025—2026 season respectively in Kurling Group 2.



Dianne Williams, Joint Group Leader

## FAMILY HISTORY GROUP:

In February, thirteen of our newer members started a 6-week '*Getting Started in Family History*' course at the Armadillo Theatre. The course was devised by Brian Thomas, Group Leader, and supported by contributions from 5 of our more experienced members. The subjects covered across the six sessions included:

- What do we know and drawing a basic Family Tree.
- Accessing Births, Marriages and Deaths and obtaining certificates.
- Censuses and the 1939 Register.
- Researching Military Ancestors.
- Parish Registers, Wills, Local Archives, Newspapers and Burial Records.

This is the first time we have run the course, and it was very much a learning curve for all. As such we have learnt how to structure the course and timings for the next time we run the course. The new members found the course informative with one commenting:

*"Thank you & your very knowledgeable, dedicated & friendly team for planning, organising & delivering a very comprehensive course. I am amazed at just how many resources are available to further family history. There is no excuse now to go further & research!"*



Alongside the course, we have held our normal monthly meetings with talks on *Free Websites* (Brian Thomas), *WW2 Newspapers* (members), *Researching my Dad's Military Service* (Ian Merriman), and *Solving two family puzzles* (Ian and Michelle Merriman).

Ian Merriman, Joint Group Leader

## **DISCOVERING VILLAGES (GROUP 1) :**

Our Group is now into its 5<sup>th</sup> year and remains very popular. We have now visited over 40 Villages, Market Towns and even the odd city suburb....like Totterdown and Old Market...since widening the scope of places we are happy to visit. In recent months we have covered the market town of Thornbury and the tiny village of Lower Almondsbury. We believe in variety!

The photograph was taken at Lower Almondsbury by Sally Carpenter who also organised and led the visit. Sally is one of the stalwarts of the group having led or co-led no less than six since attending the very first one back in January 2022.

Over the coming months we are due to explore places as diverse as Mells (near Frome), Park Street and Surrounding area, then Clevedon.

The Group membership is full but we were pleased to recently help establish a "Group 2" under the leadership of Nigel & Teresa Cook. We wish them and their members as much enjoyment and camaraderie as we ourselves have found since forming our group.



**Sreve & Elaine Williams, Joint Group Leaders**

## HISTORY & SOCIAL STUDIES GROUP 2:

In March we welcomed Mike Hooper who gave us a talk about " A History of Adverts " Mike showed us slides of adverts through the years. There were articles from old papers which extended down through the years with all manner of subjects.

The adverts started before 1900 to more or less the present day, no television ads though. Subjects covered were tea, coffee, chocolate, cocoa, marmite ,mustard, dancing and fashion , under-wear , hats, cigarettes and tobacco. The slides were black and white for the older ones going to coloured ones which were more modern.

The members found lots of funny points and we had quite a lot of hilarity. The talk was received very well by the members attending this meeting and there was lots of applause.

In April, Roy Ackrill came and gave us a talk called " 'elf and safety - Myth or fact."

He had lots of information to share about several decades of so called health and safety myth or fact items. One section of his talk was a serious look at what health and safety is about.

He then showed us a lot of pictures of silly and misspelt signs and a lot of things with cranes and all sorts of things which would not be acceptable now! Some were incredibly dangerous and the members uttered a few gasps - on the other hand he also showed us some things that were very humorous in the way they were portrayed so we also had some laughs as well. He covered many fields from industry to hospitals and lots of other subjects.

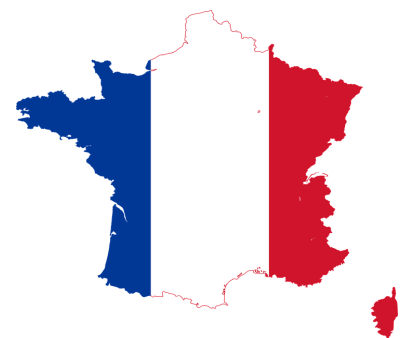
A good entertaining talk.

Moving on to May and the talk was titled "The Gloucestershire Mummy" with speaker John Putley.

The first part of his talk explained how the mummy came from Egypt and what happened along the way. In 1848 an Englishman named Edmund Hopkinson was exploring in Egypt and, whilst he was there, the story goes that he won the mummy in a raffle! He decided to ship it home to Cirencester where acquaintances from Gloucester and surrounds were invited to view the mummy at Manor House. Curiosity got the better of them and they tried to cut the bandages off and proceeded to do almost a post mortem on it! However it was very carefully re-assembled and put on display in the museum with nobody realising what had happened!

## FRENCH GROUPS :

All four French groups meet regularly. There are spaces in both Beginners groups and the Conversation group. Details are available on the u3a website.



Jean Powell, Group Leader

## **BOOK GROUP 1:**

In March we welcomed Hilary Smith, an author, to our group who came to talk about her writing. Hilary writes short stories, some of which have been published, some read by her on the radio and some which she reads to an audience. The stories are varied. She writes about her life, historical events and other things which catch her eye. We were able to question her about her ideas, about how she wrote and about the themes in which she was interested. We had a good discussion and Hilary was pleased with the way we were able to give positive feedback.

In April we were able to congratulate one of our members Bronwen Williams who has published her first book. It's called 'Sidney's Patch' and is about a family's life in the rural Counties in the Second World War.

Our book for that month was 'The Dictionary of Lost Words' by Pip Williams. This was a most interesting book about how the Oxford English Dictionary was put together in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. It was about how the words were chosen and although it is a fiction book it is historically accurate and real people are included in the story. The discussion around the book was lively.

This month's book is 'There are Rivers in the Sky' by Elif Shafak. As with all her books it is fascinating but a long read and quite difficult in parts. It describes the lives of three people. A Victorian boy born into poverty, a girl in the 21<sup>st</sup> century who is a Yazidi who lives by the River Tigris and a young woman scientist who lives on the River Thames. Worth reading.

The book group is still full and there is a waiting list. If anyone is interested in setting up another book group I am willing to give you help.

Jean Powell, Group Leader



## **CYCLING GROUP:**

Even though we're in May, the weather has often been unseasonably cool so one week we're in shorts but the next we're back in tights (apart from some brave souls).

Still, summer must be round the corner!



The group had some sad news earlier in the year.

In January we lost Mac, who had been an active and enthusiastic member of the group since 2009.

The funeral took place at Memorial Woodlands and five of us cycled to the event as shown in the picture.

We felt that Mac would have appreciated seeing us turn up in our cycling gear. Several other cycling group members attended so we were able to join in giving Mac a good send off.

But we press on with our endeavours – most of us intend to cycle as long as we can. You don't stop cycling because you've grown old – you grow old because you've stopped cycling (as Bob would say, quite rightly).



Bill Bretherton (Cycling Group Leader)

## **U3a Walking Exchange**

With over 1000 u3as in the UK walking is one of the most popular activities, from striders and mountain walkers to short social ambles.

The u3a has established a Walking Exchange Scheme which connects u3a walking groups to give members a chance to explore new routes and regions. It can be a short visit, a day walk with a neighbouring u3a or a longer holiday.

The u3a Walkers Exchange allows one u3a walking group to request guided walks from another u3a.

If your group is interested in walking in a different part of the UK, the Walking Subject Adviser Team will try to match you with a suitable host u3a. Once that match is found the team will share contact details so you can liaise directly.

For lots more information and FAQs visit the website [subjectadvisers.u3asite.uk](http://subjectadvisers.u3asite.uk)

## ANSWERS FOR THE JUNE QUIZ:

1. Said by **Queen Victoria** to a courtier who had told a risqué joke, although she later denied ever having said the words.
2. Prime Minister, **Neville Chamberlain** after returning to England in 1938 having signed the Munich Agreement with Adolf Hitler.
3. Said by **Neil Armstrong** on July 20<sup>th</sup> 1969 confirming the first human landing on the Moon.
4. **Martin Luther King** in a speech delivered during the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom on August 28, 1963.
5. American journalist **Henry Morton Stanley** greeting explorer David Livingstone near Lake Tanganyika in 1871. Stanley had been sent by the New York Herald to find Livingstone, who had not been heard from in over five years while exploring Africa.
6. A flag signal sent by Vice-Admiral **Horatio Nelson** from his flagship HMS *Victory* at the start of the Battle of Trafalgar on October 21, 1805.
7. **Mae West** in the 1933 film `She Done Him Wrong` although what she actually said was `Why don't you come up some time and see me`
8. Allegedly said by **Oscar Wilde** to a US Customs official upon arriving in New York in January 1882.
9. **Paul McCartney** in a 1992 *Time* magazine interview to explain his shift from a rock-and-roll lifestyle to that of a domesticated family man
10. **Margaret Thatcher** in a speech to the National Union of Townswomen`s Guilds Conference in 1965.

Lloyd Pellow

## APPEAL FOR THE NEXT NEWSLETTER EDITOR

### We need your help!

My roles as Newsletter Editor & Publicity Officer come to an end in April 2027, as does my tenure as a trustee on the Executive Committee and so we need someone to take on these roles.

When I took over in 2024 I found it very useful to shadow Pauline Mullholland, who was then the Editor, for a year. I have enjoyed both roles.

You will be provided with a u3a laptop and software to use.

If there is anyone who would be interested please

contact me on [paulayoung1957@gmail.com](mailto:paulayoung1957@gmail.com)



## ART GROUP contd:

### Art Group Update: From Cass Art Bristol to Yate Library

The Yate & Sodbury u3a Art Group has continued its run of successful exhibitions with a recent show at Cass Art in Bristol.

Located in the heart of the city on Park Street, the exhibition gave members the opportunity to display their work in a busy and well-known gallery space. It was an exciting experience for the group, attracting a steady flow of visitors, and we were particularly pleased with the very positive feedback received. Staff at Cass Art commented on the high quality and variety of the work on display, and we would be very welcome to exhibit there again in the future.



Alongside exhibitions, the group continues to enjoy a varied programme of activities. Recently, Beth led a very successful animal drawing workshop, which was thoroughly enjoyed by members. It was a relaxed and supportive session, and it was great to see everyone come away with a finished piece of work.

Looking ahead, we are also planning our **first life drawing session in June**—a new challenge for many members and something we're all looking forward to trying.

We would like to thank Alison Bell from the Photography Group for the excellent photos we are using for publicity including two in this article.

## **👤 Looking ahead – a second Art Group?**

The Art Group continues to be very popular and currently has a waiting list of around nine people.

If anyone might be interested in taking on the role of **group leader for a second Art Group**, please do get in touch. Without a leader we can't move this forward, but it could be modelled closely on the existing group and we would work together to get it established.

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## **🧠 Thinking of joining us?**

Although our group is currently full, we do operate a waiting list, and there is usually some turnover across the year.

**If you would like to find out more, please contact:**

✉ [mikehayward0@gmail.com](mailto:mikehayward0@gmail.com)

or find us on Facebook: **U3A Yate & Sodbury Art Group**

## HISTORY & SOCIAL STUDIES 1:

After virtually 25 years as Yate's community Heritage Officer, **David Hardhill** came in March to deliver his personal version of the **Emergence of the town of Chipping Sodbury**. He acknowledged the perceived wisdom which had been handed down by accomplished hard workers, particularly the likes of Murray Downing, Percy Cousins and the late Jim Elsworth, but he had also been influenced by the draft findings of the Victoria County History study which has taken a more data driven approach. After citing Sodbury's evolution from being closely associated with the extensive Iron Age hill fort on the edge of the Cotswolds escarpment (**Photo 1**), he quoted the Domesday's reference in 1086 to there being a population of less than 100 (which included 18 slaves) centred on Old Sodbury. This was located on the Eastern edge of a Royal Deer Park; hence the establishment of both Kingswood and Yate nearby.

The British population's significant fluctuations included the golden period known as "Merrie England" when the huge population expansion saw the establishment of 2,000 new market towns. While it is commonly acknowledged that William Crassus, the local manorial lord was, by 1180, was responsible for changing our small town's crossroads on an important salt path, into a prime location with a weekly market and an annual fayre. It remains unclear whether Chipping Sodbury's emergence as an initially successful market town was occasioned by his financial greed, or possibly even established as a vanity activity undertaken for status enhancement.

By the early 13<sup>th</sup> century, the street plan with which we are still familiar (**See next page**) was already established. On the North side of the High Street, burgage plots with a 33 foot frontage to the market and significant depth of 119 feet reaching the watercourse (just called the ditch) had been provided, almost certainly furnished with wooden framed buildings and plenty of space for trade activities producing goods for sale. Subsequently in 1284, St John's Church was shoehorned into the ends of the first few High Street plots and provided with access from Wickwar Road.

The preservation of this initial street plan is unique in the UK, and bears testimony to the tough times suffered when the handsome profits available from the wool, meat and cheese from the hardy Cotswold sheep came to an end and the town had to withdraw from its newly established status as a borough. Moreover, because it gradually reverted to subsistence activities, there was no demand for significant changes such as the creation of new access roads.

Several centuries with challenges both from famine and the black death passed before the town re-emerged, eventually based on agriculture, subsequently quarrying and finally transport. Although the frontages visible in the current thoroughfares, High Street, Broad Street and Horse Street have all been rebuilt with stone in a style appropriate to the period in which the task was undertaken, examples of wooden framing do still remain, notably the Tudor House in Hatters Lane (**photo3**) which, with its overhanging first floor, is acknowledged to be the oldest example of the town's medieval heritage.

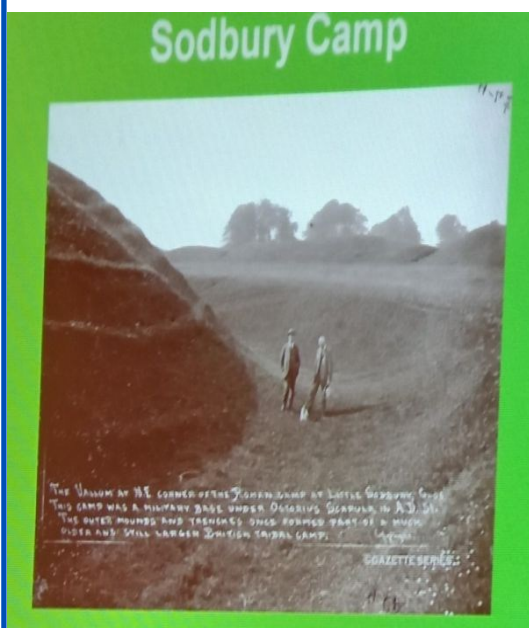


Photo 1

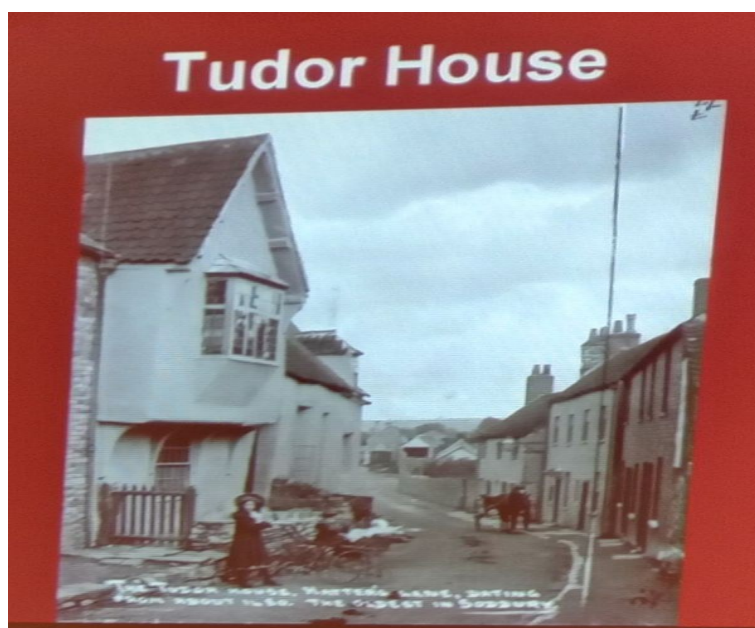
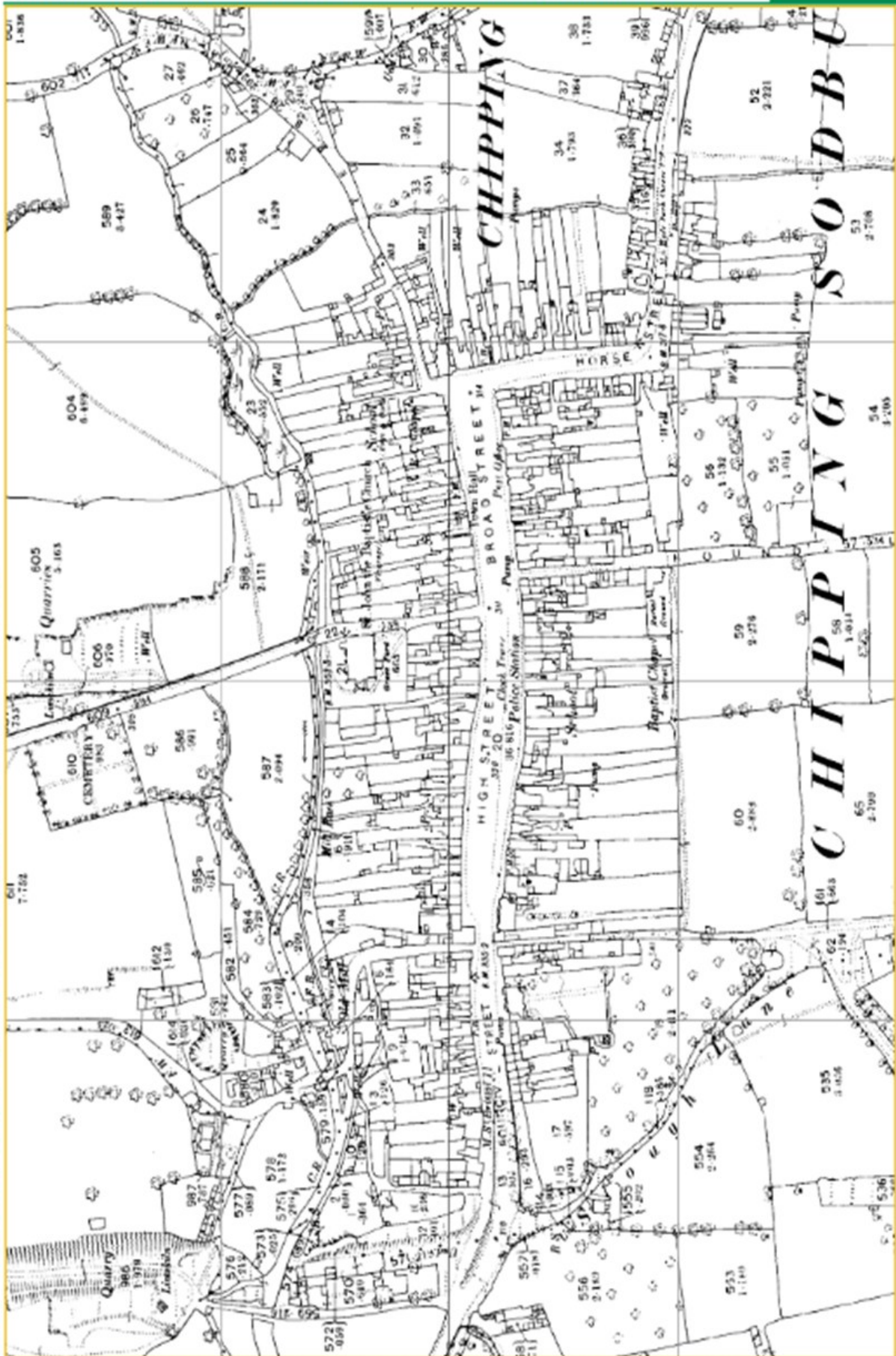


Photo 3

Bob Keen, Group Leader

Circa 1880 First Edition Ordnance Survey Plan of Chipping Sodbury



Chipping Sodbury's 12th Century Plan is exceptionally well preserved highlighting its national as well as local importance.

**For more on history** Visit [Chipping Sodbury Tourist Information Centre](#).

## ROCK N POP MUSIC GROUP RE-LAUNCH:

The Rock Appreciation Group is re-launching as the Rock n Pop Music Appreciation Group. See below for details of meeting days, times, fee and up-coming features. It looks like a fun time will be had by all who attend. Please see u3a website for contact details if you are interested.

**R P**

**YOU**

JOIN IN PARTICIPATE AND ENJOY

LIVE MUSIC WITH GUEST GROUPS AND ARTISTS AND OF COURSE YOU QUIZZES. MUSICAL & GENERAL KNOWLEDGE

WHEN MONDAY JUNE 8  
EVERY MONTH SECOND MONDAY  
TIME 2 TIL 4  
WHERE ARMADILLO CLUB, YATE

U3A ROCK N POP  
MUSIC APPRECIATION GROUP JOIN the U3A

**THE STRANGLED KATZ**

**ROCK N POP**  
ARE PROUD (MAYBE) TO PRESENT MUSICAL GENIUSES (POSSIBLY)  
AFFECTIONATELY KNOWN AS THE STRANGLED KATZ  
WITH GUEST GUITARIST AARON WILLIAMS  
PURRRING THROUGH 60s to 90s ROCKISH MUSIC  
IN DISGUISE IT'S KIT AND THE MP3s

**QUIZMEISTER**  
MUSIC AND GENERAL KNOWLEDGE QUIZ in GROUPS

**AI GENERATED MUSIC**  
WHAT IS IT AND HOW DO YOU DO IT

ALL THIS FOR £3 each CONTRIBUTION at the door

## The u3a Festival Fringe—from the comfort of your own home!

From 25th June—10th July 2026 there will be a series of on-line events in the lead up to, and following on from, the u3a Festival in York on 1-3 July.

Thurs 25th June, 2pm — 'Wessex versus the Vikings' with Charles Boundy

Tues 30th June, 11am— 'The role of wind energy in the UK's electricity system' with Chris Vogel

Wed 1st July, 11:30am— 'The technology built into modern cars and trucks  
John Butler

Thurs 2nd July, 2pm— ' Mrs Charles Dickens tells her story'  
with Annie Elliot

Mon 6th July, 10am— 'Watercolours with Tony' Tony Burke

Wed 8th July, 2pm— 'The history of shoes' with Robin Taylor

Thurs 9th July, 10am— 'Fusion tai qi gong'

Thurs 9th July, 2pm— ' Artemisia—vision or vengeance' an event looking at one of history's most amazing female painters.

Fri 10th July, 2pm—'The role of women in ancient Egypt' with John Neil Stevenson

There are lots of other interesting online events covering a wide range of subjects from drones, AI, food technology, Victorian painting, Pascal's triangle, mindfulness, a tour of the brain, islands of the Venetian Lagoon, Frida Kahlo and many more.

Full details about online learning events and how to book are available on the website [www.u3a.org.uk](http://www.u3a.org.uk)

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Lloyd Pellow