

New Thursday ART GROUP Launches Following Overwhelming Response

We're delighted to announce that our new **Thursday Art Group** will begin on **3 September**, following an overwhelming response from members.

The Thursday group was created after the Tuesday Art Group reached capacity and quickly attracted enough interest to make a second weekly group viable. Within just a few days of announcing the proposal, all available places had been taken and the group is now fully subscribed.

A special thank you goes to **Janet Smith**, our **Groups Coordinator (A-O)**, for her encouragement and support in helping turn the idea into reality.

The Thursday group will be led by **Sue Sellers**, who has enjoyed art from an early age. After returning to painting later in life through an *Art for Complete Beginners* course, she rediscovered her love of art and now paints mainly in acrylics, with people, birds and plants among her favourite subjects. Away from painting she is also an enthusiastic crafter, enjoying knitting, sewing, pottery and mosaics.

The Thursday group will follow the same friendly, informal approach as our well-established Tuesday group, with members encouraging one another, sharing ideas and enjoying painting and drawing together. The two groups will work closely together, sharing exhibitions, workshops, outdoor painting sessions and other activities wherever possible.

Mike Hayward will support Sue during the launch of the new group to help ensure a smooth start, after which Sue will take on the day-to-day leadership of the Thursday group.

Although the September group is now fully subscribed, anyone interested in future vacancies or joining the waiting list is welcome to contact Mike Hayward through the Art Group page at https://yate-sodbury.u3asite.uk/u3a_groups/art/.



IMPORTANT SECURITY MESSAGE

Beacon CRM has contacted their customers and put out a statement about a data breach. Beacon CRM and the u3a's membership management software, Beacon, are completely separate and unrelated products.

u3a Beacon is **NOT** impacted by this incident.



QUIZ GROUP :

The questions for this issue are all about **Space**.

1. Who was the first man in space?
2. `Space, the final frontier` is the opening line of which TV series?
3. Which comet can be seen from Earth roughly every 74-79 years?
4. Which planet is often called the Red Planet?
5. Who wrote `The Hitch-Hiker`s Guide to the Galaxy`?
6. How many stars make up the group of stars known as The Plough?
7. What is the name of the Galaxy which contains our Solar System?
8. What is the name of the Space telescope launched in 1990 and named after an American astronomer?
9. Which planet has the most moons?
10. In 1953 Belgian astronomers discovered a new asteroid but which cartoon-book artist did they name it after?

Thanks to Lloyd Pellow , Joint Group Leader, for compiling them.

FRENCH GROUPS:

All the French groups met at the end of July for the annual Boules match in Westerleigh playing field.

It was great to get together as it gives us a chance to meet the

other groups. Everyone enjoyed themselves. We finished the evening in Ye Olde Inne where we had supper.

The four French groups finished for the summer and will meet again in mid September.

Jean Powell, Group Leader



A selection of photos from the 20th Anniversary event , 6th June 2026. Founder members gave short speeches about the early days of our u3a. A delicious buffet, bar, a raffle and plenty of dancing to live music made the evening a memorable event.

Photos courtesy of Alison Bell from the Photography Group.



FRIDAY BADMINTON GROUP:

At the end of June Heather Denny retired as Group Leder of the Friday morning Badminton group having held the role for 18 successful years!

In its very beginning Heather was asked by a friend to form a badminton group, the rest is history.

Over the years friendships have been formed and the group has grown.

Heather wanted to relinquish her Leadership role so she can focus on enjoying playing badminton.

The Friday Badminton group held a collection and presented Heather with a card & gifts (photo)

The Group leader role has been taken over by Cheryl & Bob Cant, who plan to keep the status quo.

Heather said "When I first undertook the leadership role, I imagined it may last a year or two. Somehow, through a combination of your enthusiasm, persuasion, and perhaps nobody else making eye contact at the right moment, 18 years has flown by! "



Bob & Cheryl Cant, Joint Group Leaders

CREATIVE WRITING GROUP 1

The Creative Writing Group have had a busy year, with many exciting writing achievements from our members. These are just a few of them.

We are very pleased that one of our longest serving members, **Bronwen Williams**, has recently published her first book, *Sidney's Patch*, a character-driven story set in the rural Home Counties before and during WW2.

The novel follows Sidney Palmer, whose comfortable life changes dramatically as Britain enters the war.



Bronwen's novel grew from a short story written by her many years ago, before she eventually developed it into a full-length book. She said, "Although the story is set during the war years, it is really about people and relationships, and how lives are changed by events beyond their control. Writing the book has been a long journey and I'm delighted to finally see it published." *Sidney's Patch* is dedicated to those who served in the armed forces and the civilians whose work supported Britain through the conflict.

The book launch event took place at St John's Church Centre in Chipping Sodbury, where Bronwen discussed the inspiration behind the novel with

Bristol author Ali Bacon.

Ali Bacon (on the left) Bronwen Williams (right)



Another of our members, **Hilary Smith**, has recently had two of her short stories accepted for publication. 'Speechless', a story about a little girl who doesn't speak, can be found in the Bristol School of Writing's anthology, Life and Death: <https://thebristolschoolofwriting.co.uk/life-and-death/>

She has another nature story 'The Nesting Wall' based on an encounter she had at Seaton Wetlands in East Devon, is about to be published in the anthology The Power of Place:

<https://www.wordkitchen.org.uk/powerofplace>

Hilary was also delighted that Chipping Sodbury's u3a Book Group chose a selection of her short stories to read and discuss at last month's meeting. After the event she said, 'As a writer, you always need feedback from readers to gauge how your work is being received and how to improve it. I was very grateful to the book group for their thoughts and reflections; their comments were really helpful.'

We encourage our members to enter a variety of writing competitions as they arise.

Recently **Rosemary (Rose) Dan** entered a non-fiction piece entitled 'The Rota Vicentina' into Writing Magazine's Natural World competition, which was short listed earlier this year. Rose was inspired to write the piece after walking the RV trail in southwestern Portugal last May, when she was struck by the contrast between the bucolic scenery of the route, with the industrial scale fruit farms that operate in the region (out of sight of tourists) and in particular the conditions migrant workers employed on the farms endure.

Wendy Gent writes the most amazing Japanese poetry and we are fascinated by her skill in producing such beautiful pieces of work. Wendy has recently had verses published in two journals, **Blithe Spirit** and **Quails Eggs**.

Stella Waller continues her success when entering competitions. **The Write Time Short Story Competition** is an international contest for writers. This year Stella has had her two short story submissions to Write Time 'Highly Commended'. Stella's successful submission to **Stroud Short Stories** in May 2025 will be included in Stroud Short Stories Volume 4 (2022-25), to be launched on 8 October 2026. **contd**

CREATIVE WRITING GROUP 1 contd:

Recently the group enjoyed an inspirational walk around **Kingsgate Park**, in Yate. We often wander through our local parks, but this time we took particular notice of its wildlife, its canopy of trees and the wonderful wood carvings created by Andy O'Neil. We talked about the fascinating history of the park and of Stanshaws Court. It was a pleasant morning and the weather was good to us. We ended the walk with coffee and cake in the Birdcage Café.

Our Creative Writing Group continues to be popular and we have a slow turnover of members. As we have a limit on the number of people who can join the group we do have a waiting list. If anyone wants to join our waiting list please contact Joy Charlton, Group Leader, via the u3a website.

Joy Charlton, Group Leader

BOOKENDS BOOK GROUP:

We have been reading two books about living in Nigeria. Fortunately, one of our group lived in Nigeria when she was a child and she was able to talk to us about her life there. It was most interesting and gave us an insight into how Europeans lived there before the civil War.

Our first book was 'And so I roar' by Abi Dare. This was about a young woman who had lived in a small tribal village in the interior of the country before running away because she had been forced into marriage by her family. It is the second book of a pair about her struggle to get an education and live normally. It revolves around the themes of gender equity, trafficking of women, patriarchy, education and climate justice. The story is easy to read and is informative about modern life in Nigeria. There was a mixed reaction to the book but generally most people enjoyed it and it engendered a lively discussion.

The second book was 'This Motherless Land' by Nikki May who is Anglo-Nigerian. It follows the story a young girl from Nigeria who is sent to live with her grandparents in England when she is nine. She is returned to Nigeria when she is eighteen. It is a story about displacement, cultural differences, alienation and privilege in both countries. The author loosely based the story on Mansfield Park. The group enjoyed this book more than the previous one and we had a great discussion on childhood, places and time.

The Book group meets on Monday evenings once a month but at present is full.

Jean Powell, Group Leader



TAI CHI GROUP:

Tai Chi is a form of exercise that combines gentle physical exercise and stretching with mindfulness. It is safe for people of all ages, as the low-impact movements are gentle on your body without putting stress on the muscles and joints. More and more people have joined because their GP has recommended the benefits of Tai Chi which include improved balance, pain management, and cognitive function in people.

There are 4 groups that run back to back on Tuesday mornings from 9.15 – 1.15. There is a maximum of 13 per group and the sessions are in the Old School Building on Chipping Sodbury's High Street. It costs £6 per session as we have a professional instructor. Three groups are for those people who have done Tai Chi before and the beginner's/newest group at 9.15 is full with a waiting list of 14 people.

The four Tai Chi groups joined together for our fourth annual social BBQ. It was a hot day but fortunately there was just about enough shade for everyone. Each group provided a specific type of food which meant we had a feast! It was a great opportunity for the different groups to mix and get to know one another.

Amanda Stuart, Group Leader



HISTORY & SOCIAL STUDIES 2:

William Evans gave a talk about the Beauforts of Badminton. He started by telling us about Henry, Marquis of Worcester who, in 1612, had property across Raglan, Dorset, Lincoln & London. He gifted King Charles I £900,000! He was a Catholic Royalist until Oliver Cromwell arrived. In 1657 Henry married Mary Capel and converted to Protestantism. Mary was a good manager of all his financial matters.

In 1660 Henry joined the Convention of Parliament to successfully bring Charles II back from the Netherlands. He was rewarded by being made a Warden of the Forest of Dean & Lord Lieutenant of Gloucester. Henry Somerset became the first Duke of Beaufort in 1682 and set about developing Badminton House. Meanwhile James II, who was tolerant of Catholics, fled to France and William III received Beaufort coldly as he refused to swear the Oath of Allegiance. Henry retired to Badminton and was removed from public office. He died in 1700. There is a memorial to him in Badminton church.

In 1702 the 2nd Duke was installed and welcomed Queen Anne to Badminton. He died in 1714 aged only 30.

William showed us many photos of Badminton House through the ages and all members enjoyed the talk.

Sue Maloney—Berry, Group Leader

MOTOR CYCLING GROUP:

Guess that most reading this will not be that close to motorcycling, and probably even less aware that the largest free to enter meet in Europe recently took place pretty much on our doorstep.

Well, the date was Saturday July 25th and the location was Calne.

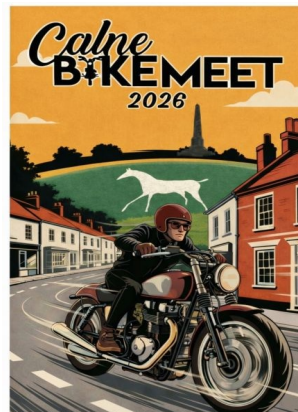
So, with the continuing good weather, a few from the u3a motorcycling group headed west.

We made our way through Castle Combe, Biddestone and past Lacock Abbey before tackling Bowden Hill so as to approach Calne from the south with an aim to park up on the "green".

From there it was a short walk past the Church, which was also crammed with machines, toward the centre of town.

Every inch of space was taken up with an amazing selection of new and old bikes from far and wide, complemented with a live music stage and club stands representing a wide range of specialist machines.

Can't say that all of our ride outs will take in such numbers, but if you have an interest in two, or three-wheel machines, please do get in touch.



Green Parking



The church



Bikes everywhere!

Richard Sansom, Group Leader

Update from u3a friends Newsletter:

19th—27th September will be celebrating u3a week with a programme of online events including

Mon 21 Sept—Secrets of the human brain : Sleep & dreams

Tues 22 Sept—The Enchanted Archipelago—a journey through the Galapagos with HX

Thurs 24 Sept—Promoting brain health : from evidence to action

Fri 25 Sept—Live cookery demonstration—try something new

Visit the u3a week page at www.u3a.org.uk to book a place or discover other events.

THEATRE AND CLASSICAL CONCERTS GROUPS:

All members of Yate and Sodbury u3a are welcome on our Theatre and Classical Concerts trips, but we do ask members who are interested in the trips to join the group mailing lists, and we send out a newsletter with details of bookings for the current season to group members.

THEATRE

We send out Theatre Newsletters twice a year, in July and December. We try to include a wide variety of shows, including Dramas, Comedies, Who dunnits, Shakespeare, Opera and Musicals, and regularly travel to Bristol, Bath, Cardiff, Cheltenham, and Malvern by coach from Chipping Sodbury and Yate, also picking up at Coalpit Heath and Downend on Bristol trips.

All the bookings for the current season have been finalised – the theatres insisted on very early payment – but we usually get a few last minute cancellations, so if you are new to the Theatre Group and would like details of the current programme to perhaps be waitlisted for some of the shows, or would like to be added to the list to receive future programmes, please contact Jane Climpson

janeclimpson@btinternet.com 01454 228672



CLASSICAL CONCERTS

The Concerts newsletter goes out once a year, in July. Most of the concerts are in Bristol – both Bristol Beacon and St Georges, but we do travel further afield, particularly for opera performances.

Our July booking deadline has passed, but bookings open until mid October for three concerts:

Sunday 3rd January 3.00 Viennese Gala – Bristol Beacon £62

Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra, Conductor Tom Fetherstonhaugh and Soprano Claudia 'An afternoon of swirling majesty and joyous music to spin you into 2027!'

Wednesday 10th February 7.00 Orchestre Philharmonique de Strasbourg Bristol Beacon £68

Saint-Saëns Danse Macabre Prokofiev Violin Concerto No. 1 Rachmaninov Symphony No. 2

Thursday 15th April 7.00 Düsseldorfer Symphoniker with Johannes Moser Bristol Beacon £68

Beethoven Coriolan Overture, Dvořák Cello Concerto, Tchaikovsky Symphony No. 4

Prices include coach transport, picking up from Chipping Sodbury, Yate, Coalpit Heath and Downend.

If you are interested in any of these tickets, or would like to be added to the Concerts list for future programmes, please contact Jane Climpson:

janeclimpson@btinternet.com 01454 228672



SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY GROUP Goes Behind the Scenes at Air Salvage

International

Most of us see an aircraft's life beginning when it rolls out of the factory and ending when it disappears from airline service. However, for retired aircraft there is an important and highly specialised industry dedicated to giving them a productive second life. Seventeen members of the Yate & Sodbury District U3A Science & Technology Group discovered exactly what happens when an aircraft reaches the end of its flying career during a fascinating visit to Air Salvage International (ASI) at Cotswold Airport, Kemble.

Our host was CEO Mark Gregory, whose enthusiasm and knowledge made for an absorbing presentation. He described how Air Salvage International was founded in 1997 with the aim of providing professional end-of-life management for commercial aircraft. Since then, the company has grown into one of Europe's leading aircraft recycling and asset management businesses, working with airlines, aircraft leasing companies, insurers and manufacturers from around the world.

Mark explained that ASI's business is far more than simply dismantling old aeroplanes. Every aircraft that arrives at Kemble is treated as a valuable collection of assets. Before any cutting begins, engineers carefully inspect and remove thousands of components that can be refurbished, certified and returned to service. This process extends the working life of many parts while reducing the need for new manufacture, making an important contribution to the aviation industry's sustainability.

Following the presentation, we were taken into one of the company's hangars where the scale of the operation became immediately apparent. Shelves and storage areas contained an astonishing variety of aircraft components, all meticulously identified, catalogued and packaged for shipment to customers across the globe. From cockpit instruments and avionics to hydraulic systems, landing gear components, cabin fittings and flight controls, every reusable item is tracked through a rigorous quality system to meet the demanding safety standards required by the aviation industry.

The highlight of the visit was undoubtedly the tour of the aircraft disassembly area on the airport. Walking among aircraft in various stages of dismantling offered a unique perspective that few aviation enthusiasts ever experience. We saw several different aircraft types, each representing a carefully planned engineering project rather than simply a scrapyard operation. It was fascinating to observe how methodically the aircraft are stripped, with valuable systems removed long before the airframe itself is cut apart.

One of the most interesting topics discussed was the changing nature of aircraft construction. Older airliners, built largely from aluminium alloys, are comparatively straightforward to recycle, with most of the metal being recovered and reused. Modern aircraft, however, increasingly rely on carbon fibre composite materials to reduce weight and improve fuel efficiency. While these materials deliver significant environmental benefits during an aircraft's operational life, they present a major challenge at the end of it because carbon composites cannot yet be recycled economically on the same scale as aluminium. As more composite aircraft enter retirement over the coming decades, finding sustainable solutions will become one of the aviation industry's biggest environmental challenges.

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We also learned where the real value of a retired aircraft lies. Contrary to what many of us expected, the airframe itself is worth relatively little once it has reached the end of its operational life. The engines are by far the most valuable assets, often representing the majority of an aircraft's residual value because they can be overhauled and returned to service. After all reusable components have been removed, even a giant Boeing 747 has a scrap metal value of only around £80,000—a surprisingly modest sum for such an iconic aircraft and a reminder that knowledge, engineering expertise and careful asset management are worth far more than the metal alone.

Throughout the visit, Mark Gregory emphasised that Air Salvage International is part of the growing circular economy within aviation. By recovering, certifying and reusing aircraft components, the company helps airlines reduce costs while minimising waste and making the best possible use of valuable resources. It was an excellent example of engineering, logistics and environmental responsibility working together.

The visit proved to be both educational and thoroughly enjoyable. It gave us an insight into a remarkable industry that most passengers never think about, yet one that plays an increasingly important role in modern aviation. We left with a far greater appreciation of the complex journey an aircraft takes after its flying days are over.

Our sincere thanks go to Mark Gregory and everyone at Air Salvage International for their generous hospitality, informative presentation and memorable behind-the-scenes tour. It was an outstanding visit that was greatly appreciated by all seventeen members of the Science & Technology Group.

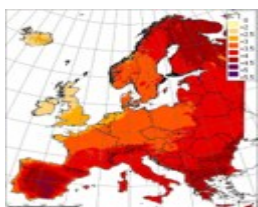


Lutie van der Park, Joint Group Leader

EARTH SCIENCES AND GEOLOGY GROUP :

Autumn Programme Sept, Oct, Nov 2026

We meet first Tuesday of every month at 3pm in Westerleigh Village Hall, contribution £2 each. Come join us and share knowledge on climate, volcanoes, floods, oceans, glaciation, drifting continents, meteorites, minerals, origin of plants and animals plus celebrated biographies. We do not assume prior knowledge of earth-science but ask you to bring and discuss items of interest. Non-u3a members are also welcome to sample our meetings.



Tuesday 1st September The 2026 Super-El Niño and the European Climate.

El Niño is part a regular climate oscillation in the Pacific Ocean. Current climate models suggest a strong El Niño event in late 2026, perhaps developing into a "Super" El Niño. Pat Mills will talk about this phenomenon and also how the European climate has changed in the last fifty years, noting the temperature and sea-level rise in the context of the geological record.



Tuesday 6th October

Meteors, meteorites, asteroids and comets – what's the difference?

This talk by Chris Greef will explain the answer and also what they are made of, where they come from and why they have always been of interest throughout history.



Tuesday 3rd November James Hutton, the founder of modern geology 1726–1797

A talk by Dilys Harlow on the Scottish geologist, agriculturalist, chemical manufacturer, naturalist and physician. His 'Theory of the Earth' was the first

to correctly explain our geological processes and the first to introduce the concept of Deep Time.

Patrick Mills, Chris Greef and Dilys Harlow, Joint Group Leaders

MONTHLY SPEAKER MEETINGS:

Meetings are held in Chipping Sodbury Town Hall, doors open 1:30pm for a 2pm start.

Seats at the front are reserved for those with any disabilities.

4th Sept: Neil Hanson, a successful author, talks about 'The Ghostwriter : Stories about his many famous clients'

2nd Oct: Paul Isherwood—'A child gambler's story'. A 10 year old boy overcomes his gambling addiction.

9th Oct : u3a Open Day, 2:00pm—4pm. An opportunity to see many groups and activities available.

6th Nov : Martin Lloyd on becoming a famous author. His path to achieving this goal with all the ups and downs!

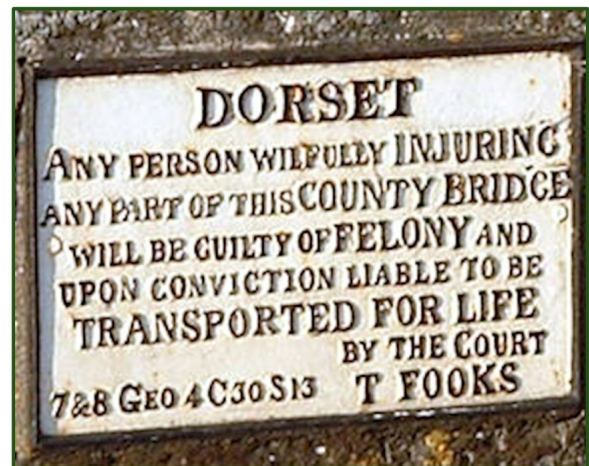
HISTORY & SOCIAL STUDIES 1:

On 20 May we were fortunate to be addressed by Tom Williams, who since retiring as Governor of Leyhill prison has made a study of the development in the UK of crime and punishment. He was able to provide an insightful explanation of the development of the significant role that transportation originally played in England, being initially favoured by Queen Elizabeth I as a means of ridding England of dissenters who were causing her concern. Walter Raleigh had also been an early advocate of using prisoners to assist the early settlements which were being promoted on the East coast of America. Between 1718 and 1775 over 52,000 convicts from the British Isles went to America, with as many again travelling as indentured servants and even children "Kid-napped" from the streets of ports, especially Bristol, where avaricious merchants were not slow to capitalise on the profits from this alternative form of slavery.

Although precise numbers are disputed, by common consent they are well in excess of 100,000. These ideas found support when the use of transportation had become a more favourable option due to juries being unwilling to convict individuals accused under several of the 200 offences many of which would nowadays be regarded as relatively minor misdemeanours, but many of which were also identified under the "Bloody Code", as warranting the death penalty.

Tom pointed out that prisons were not initially available as an option, with corporal or capital punishments being the only two options used as deterrents during the 16th and 17th centuries. The prisons which did exist just served as somewhere to retain the accused, with severe punishments such as branding or beating also seen as both retribution and a powerful deterrent. Clearly the fact that the actual process of transportation itself could serve as a lucrative enterprise not only for the providers of the vessels, but also the ship captains who were able to sell their human cargo to help satisfy the desperate need which the early American colonists encountered in scratching out a living on an inhospitable shore. This was especially true when goodwill with the natives, which might originally have been encountered, had been worn out. In fact, very few of the early colonists who voluntarily travelled to Virginia had the necessary skills to survive the harsh continental weather – too hot in summer and desperately cold in winter. Hence the arrival of ready supplies of fresh recruits created a supply of workers who, unlike most of the religious dissenters or seekers after a new life, were both able bodied and used to having to work hard. Although a form of indentured servitude might have been advertised as an incentive with attractive options, such as the promise of land after perhaps seven years or so of service, this was more commonly breached than observed.

Tom drew a telling comparison between attitudes to transportation's legacy in Australia, where it is celebrated and modern America where the contribution made by criminals is studiously ignored in favour of the lionisation of the role of the Pilgrim Fathers. This studiously ignores the fact that half of their number died in the first winter and that this colony really only flourished due to the manual labour of transported convicts.



ART GROUP Goes from Strength to Strength:

The past few months have been a busy and successful time for the u3a Art Group, with members exhibiting their work, trying new artistic challenges and celebrating the launch of a second weekly group.

Our annual exhibition at **Yate Library** ran from **8–29 June** and once again attracted plenty of interest from visitors. **Eleven paintings were sold**, and members received many positive comments about the quality and variety of the work on display. Despite a few interruptions caused by the exceptionally hot weather, including the library closing early on a couple of afternoons, the exhibition was another great success.



On **23 June**, members also enjoyed our first **Life Drawing** workshop, led by **Lauren**, the local **ARTventurers** franchisee who has recently begun running life drawing classes in Chipping Sodbury. For many members it was their first opportunity to draw from a live model and the session was thoroughly enjoyed.

Several members have also entered work for this year's **Yate Art Open**, which will be held at **Yate Heritage Centre** from **1 September to 3 October**. Although members enter as individual artists rather than as the u3a Art Group, it is an excellent exhibition showcasing the work of local artists and we would encourage u3a members to visit if they have the opportunity. The Heritage Centre is normally open Tuesday to Thursday, 10.00 am–4.00 pm, and Saturdays, 10.00 am–1.00 pm, although opening times may vary, so please check the Heritage Centre website before travelling.

The continuing popularity of the Art Group has also enabled us to launch a new **Thursday Art Group**, ensuring that even more members can enjoy painting and drawing in a friendly and supportive environment. Anyone interested in joining either group or being added to the waiting list can contact **Mike Hayward** through the Art Group page https://yate-sodbury.u3asite.uk/u3a_groups/art/.

HISTORY & SOCIAL STUDIES 1:

In June the Chairman's Member's Day address was entitled **Cyanide Scares** and, under the Social Studies section, it raised the question whether academic scientists had a moral duty to society to be totally objective about the real extent of any relevant risks.

Bob explained that he began as a Student Sanitary Inspector, a task which culminated in his move to Bristol to train what had now become Environmental Health Officers. During his transfer to an academic role, he had studied for an MSc and obtained relevant information about risk management. He cited cyanide as one of those terms like asbestos, arsenic, and radioactivity which are associated with unpleasant fatalities so that even a mention is capable of initiating widespread panic in the population.

He went on to illustrate examples which underline that the concerns of the wider population, when cyanide is mentioned, are totally justified. Its use in gas chambers by the Nazis providing the clearest example, and also the mass suicide by 600 members of an American religious cult. The panic which accompanied the first UK cyanide scare when drums were dumped in Nuneaton in 1972 swiftly resulted in the Deposit of Poisonous Waste Act. (photo 1)

However, whilst this made very little impact on the control of hazardous wastes, it did generate enough statistics to underline the extent of the problem, and began to change attitudes towards the government's acceptance of the dilute and disperse policy of hazardous waste disposal. Bob's six-year study for his PhD and his close involvement with the scientific press placed him at the sharp end of the topic and allowed him to be objective when the second cyanide scare erupted later in the 1970s. **Contd.**

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Naturally the news media were somewhat less interested in the objective figures which his studies were generating via the use of gas generation experiments and dispersion tracing in wind tunnel studies, preferring to sensationalise the pay dispute involving Redland Purle and its drivers. This revealed that indiscriminate dumping of potentially very hazardous waste had been widespread.

Armed with his data, Bob was invited to address the EEC Policy Committee who had realised that lack of expenditure on policing such abuses was handing an unfair advantage to less discriminating governments, which included the UK. His article in the New Scientist (Photo 2) cited the amounts of hazardous wastes which were being imported from Europe, and it wasn't long before the UK fell into line and outlawed procedures whereby domestic waste was being used as blotting paper to soak up the hazardous emanations from industry.

This was also a crucially important step to protect workers, but he had subsequently found that dilute and disperse was still being tolerated in our Hong Kong colony well over a decade later (Photo 3). Bob's final comments underlined the ease with which rich pickings are still available to individuals willing to flout the law and strongly underlined the need for the public to report unauthorised dumping of solid waste, along with the appointment of sufficient numbers of enforcement officers to control this abhorrent practice.



Bob Keen, Group Leader

QUIZ ANSWERS:

1. Yuri Gagarin
2. Star Trek
3. Halley`s comet.
4. Mars
5. Douglas Adams
6. 7
7. The Milky Way
8. The Hubble Space Telescope (Named after Edwin Hubble)
9. Saturn (with 285 moons)
10. Herge (who created The Adventures of Tin Tin)

Don't just delete Your u3a Friends Newsletter email from Iain Cassidy when it drops each month. It is full of interesting and useful information about the wider u3a community, travel opportunities and on-line learning.



There is a whole online learning community featuring talks, workshops and courses and it's **FREE!**

September offers Wild, edible Autumn seeds; Drones huh? What are they good for? ; Exploring World Faiths; Introduction to cryptic crosswords; Mindfulness & Meditation series; The Titanic sails at Dawn—punk in 1970s; Four years of AI Chatbots and many more.

October starts with Mods versus rockers: a 1960s 'moral panic'? Or perhaps a History of the world according to sheep gets your interest. Browse on the www.u3a.org.uk online learning events pages.

If you are not able to go to a group meeting you may like to join an online group, the virtual equivalent of a local u3a but entirely online. Groups are member led and run offering the same friendliness and informal learning space as an actual group. Search www.u3a.org.uk for the National Online Community to view the offer. It is £12/year to join and there are so many to choose from— most have no waiting lists!

An exclusive holiday partnership was launched in June 26 between the u3a and The UK Holiday Group. The bespoke trips are designed to allow members from across the UK to learn, discover and explore together. Again, explore on www.u3a.org.uk