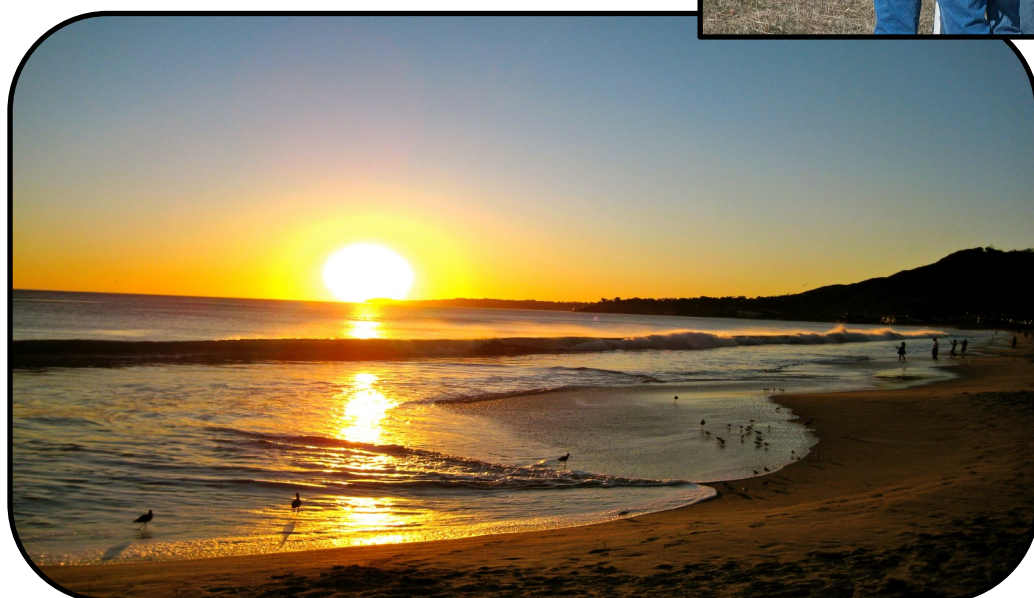


**learn, laugh, live**



## Chair's 'Hello'

Well, the holiday season seems to have started in earnest. Freed from the constraints of the last two years and boosted by the summer sunshine, many of our u3a friends are off and away, keen to spread their post-lockdown wings. Whether you are testing your wings abroad (flights permitting), taking a staycation at home or visiting family at last, I hope you are enjoying your summer. Many groups are winding down their activities during July and August and will hopefully return refreshed for the new u3a year in September.

Renewals of your 2022-23 u3a membership opened on the 1<sup>st</sup> July. You can renew on-line or through the Swindon u3a Office by telephone or in person at Gorse Hill. Whether on-line or in person, if at all possible, would you renew using bank transfers since banks now charge for the depositing of every cheque.

We are already looking forward to the new year in other ways also. Our Open Day will once again be held at St Joseph's College on the 3<sup>rd</sup> September. Old and new members are warmly invited to attend. u3a Groups, new and old, will be on hand to give information about what they do. Even if you are already a member of one or more groups you may find a new activity you would like to try. Do come along anyway – its always exciting to see the huge range of our activities and take pride in belonging to such a wide-ranging and interesting organisation. Since June last year we have attracted 218 new members and our Open Day should continue this trend.

In addition to our group activities we are pleased to have re-launched our monthly programme of speakers and other activities which are open to all members. We had a very successful and enjoyable Summer Party in June, attended by over 100 members. In July we have a really interesting speaker who will help us understand 'Where Novelists Get Their Ideas'. All you budding novelists should definitely attend. We hope to continue with monthly events throughout the year so keep an eye open for information.

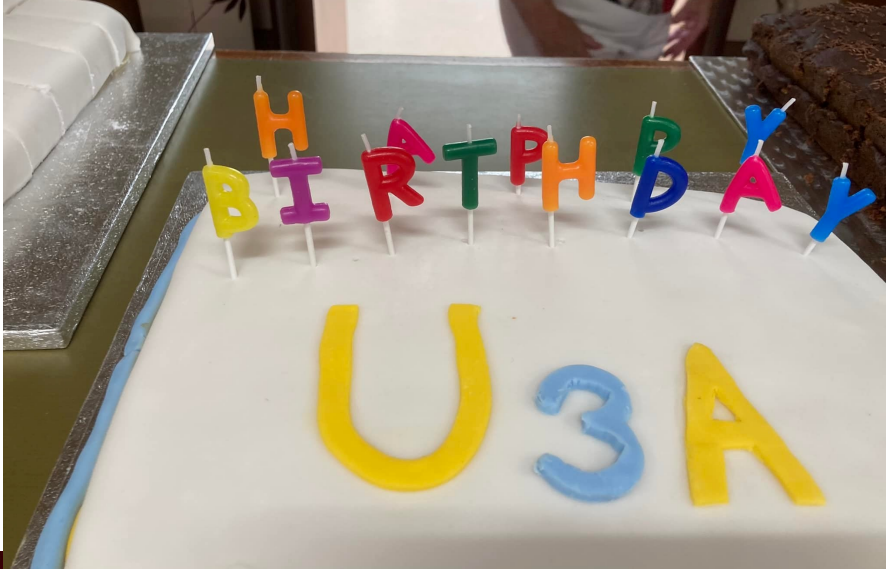
At our recent Committee meetings we approved the level of Group Supplements payable for this year. Most groups will not have to pay supplements and your Group Organiser will communicate with you on this. We have also been looking in detail at the responses from our Focus Groups held earlier in the year and noting which issues raised we have managed to address and which continue to need more work. We are planning to hold more Focus Groups in the autumn term so do think about joining one of these when the time comes. We do want to hear views from a representative number of our members.

Summer holidays or not the Committee continue to meet and plan ahead for the coming year. We are looking forward to welcoming new and existing members to a new academic year to Laugh, Learn and Live again. We wish you happy summer days. You can contact Gill by clicking on her name.

[Gill](#)

## Scenes from the Summer Party

On 17<sup>th</sup> June we held our Swindon u3a Summer Party at the Ellendune Centre. It really was Summer - a scorching day! About 100 members attended and a fun time was had by all. There was entertainment, music, quizzes and fun, not to mention the cake! A huge thank you to all those who contributed to the success of the afternoon – singers, Merribells, dulcimer player, quizzers, poets, tea and cake makers. It was a super example of our u3a ‘family’ all contributing to mutual enjoyment. Here are some photos.



## 40th Birthday Quilt

For the 40th birthday celebrations the National u3a asked local groups who were interested to submit a patchwork sample to be included in a 'National u3a Celebration Quilt'. Those judged 'best' were chosen to make up the full quilt. Here is the final quilt.

Gill



## Piece with no name

Why is this piece nameless? Well, if I'd put a meaningful title, many of you would probably have skipped straight to the next item, so I'm just going to whisper that the Swindon u3a AGM will be on Monday 14th November.

Question: Why mention something which won't take place for 4 months?

Answer: This year we are planning to hold the AGM as a hybrid meeting.

This means that there is a lot of additional preparation. Hybrid meetings in a work context have become commonplace in the wake of Covid, but these often consist of half a dozen or so colleagues in an office and maybe a similar number joining in from home. For the AGM to be valid, we need to have a total of at least 100 attendees. This presents more of a technical challenge than a simple office meeting in that the internet connection has to be able to support all those who choose to join the meeting remotely rather than in person.

Members who have a much better understanding of the technicalities than me are already testing things and experimenting with the kit needed to make this all work. If, for any reason, they are not 99% confident that the technical stuff will run seamlessly, we will go to Plan B, which is a fully in person meeting. I'll keep you posted. You can contact Sue by clicking on her name.

[Sue Carvey](#)

## Volunteers needed

Do you enjoy being helpful?

Do you like meeting people?

Do you use email?

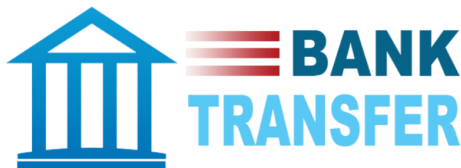
Would you like to find out how to enter data on the u3a system?

Can you see yourself becoming proficient with a credit/debit card reader?

Can you spare one morning a month or a fortnight?

If the answer to all these questions is yes, then you are just the sort of person we are looking for to help out in the office. For more information contact [Sylvia Alexander](#), the Office Manager by clicking on her name.

## Membership Renewals



It's July and as well as enjoying the summer weather, you can now renew your membership for 2022/2023. If you know anyone who isn't already a member, let them know that, if they join now, their membership will start straightaway and last until the end of August 2023.

As usual, the Office will be open for renewals and can accept payment by card or cheque and even cash at a pinch. By far the most convenient way to renew is online by bank transfer. Convenient for you as you can do it from the comfort of your own home and better for Swindon u3a, as bank transfers don't incur the bank charges which card payments, cheques and cash do.

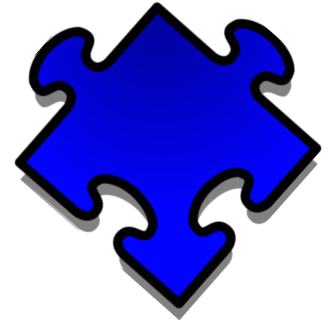
Swindon u3a uses the CAF bank. CAF stands for Charities Aid Foundation. It was founded in 1986 as the first and only bank to offer services exclusively to charities and not-for-profit organisations. CAF Bank is authorised by the Prudential Regulation Authority and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority and the Prudential Regulation Authority so you need have no worries about making a payment to our account even if your bank flags up a warning.

The membership fee for 2022/23 remains at £35 and you will have heard by now whether or not any of the groups you belong to will incur a supplement.

[Sue Carvey](#)



## Is there something missing? Jigsaw Library



Do you ever wonder what has happened to all the jigsaw puzzles which used to be available to borrow at the Monthly Meetings pre Covid? Wonder no more.

They are now housed in the u3a offices in the Gorse Hill Community Centre, Chapel Street, SN2 8DA. You can call in to borrow one between 10.00 and 12.00 on any Monday, Wednesday or Friday morning that the office is open. We look forward to seeing you.

[Sue Carvey](#)

## Proposal for a new science-based group

### Life, The Universe and Everything (LUE)

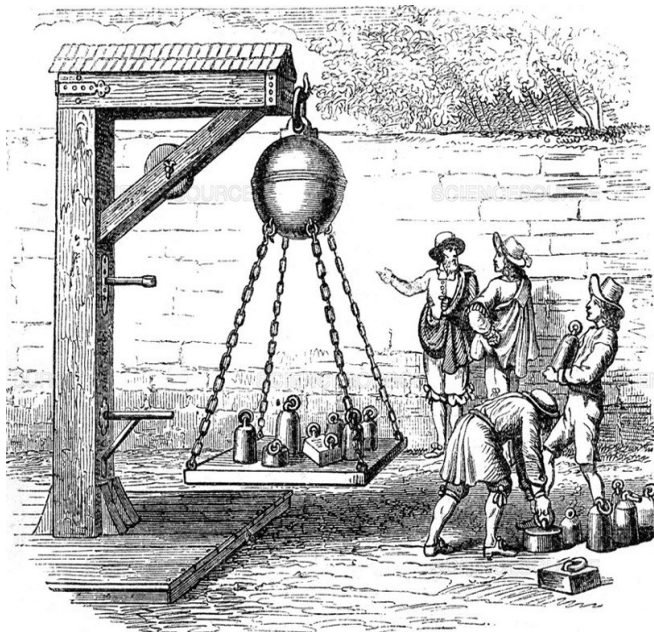
I'm looking into starting a new group similar to LUE which is sadly no longer with us.

LUE was enjoyed by many, and for those that don't know about it, we would normally have a speaker for the first 45 mins – an hour, followed by a tea break and discussions.

The subjects would be anything remotely scientific, and included biology, engineering, scientists, the weather, oceans, chemistry, and so on.

It was accessible to all, very interesting, and a lot of fun, and you didn't have to be particularly science-minded to enjoy it.

If you are interested, please email me and include any comments on venues, days/times to meet, frequency, meeting length, and so on.



My initial proposal is to meet on the first Tuesday of each month, from 2pm – 4pm.

We would have a presentation by a group member, occasionally an outside expert, or occasionally many short presentations by many members on a theme.

If there is sufficient interest, and I can secure a venue, I'll update you through the newsletter initially, to maximise the audience. Contact Chris by clicking on his name.

[Chris Brooks](#)

## **RWB Scrabble Group**

I have a couple of spaces for anyone interested in joining the RWB scrabble group. We meet on the first Monday of each month. The venue is the Cross Keys, meeting in the afternoon between 2pm - 4pm. Scrabble equipment is provided. The venue is free to use, all that we ask is you buy a drink from the bar. The aim is to have fun/social afternoon without it getting too competitive. For further information, if interested, please contact me by clicking on my name below.



[\*John Turner\*](#)

## **Painting for Fun - Joan Elder's Group**

We are a very friendly, sociable group who enjoy painting for fun. We meet every Tuesday between 2pm and 4pm at Liden Community Centre.

We have spaces for new members. No special skills are required and members are happy to support each other. If you would like to come and join us, you are assured of a warm welcome. There is no supplement payable for this group.

For more information or to join the group click on Janet's name.

[\*Janet Conway\*](#)



## Ukulele Improvers Group

### A Farewell Party For Stan and Peggy

On June 28th, members of the u3a Ukulele Improvers Group gave a small party during their session, to say thanks and farewell to founder members Stan and Peggy Byers. Over many years, Stan who is about to celebrate his 90th birthday, has taught lots of Swindon people to play and enjoy the ukulele in his u3a groups.

[Shelagh Williams](#)



## Pétanque at Broome Manor

It was the mixed pairs tournament at Broome Manor Pétanque this Friday. Everyone had a great day with lunch taken in the clubhouse cafe. Winners were Vince Osgood and Liz Tolman, silver went to Maurice Watson and Maggie Murphy and bronze went to Peter Latham and Nikki Bennet. The plate competition for the runners up was won by Gerry Charity and Monica Brian with Bob Carvey and Lynne Fox taking the wooden spoon.



## Painting Together 2

We are a small, very friendly group which meets every 2nd and 4th Friday afternoons in a lovely light room.

If you'd like to join us or need any more information please click on [Caroline Towers](#) or [Anne Hembery](#) our joint group organisers or come and find us on 3rd September at the open day.

[Caroline Towers](#)



## List of Email Addresses

Chair	Gill Brain	<a href="mailto:chair@swindonu3a.org.uk">chair@swindonu3a.org.uk</a>
Vice Chair	Linda Young	<a href="mailto:vice_chair@swindonu3a.org.uk">vice_chair@swindonu3a.org.uk</a>
All members of committee		<a href="mailto:committee@swindonu3a.org.uk">committee@swindonu3a.org.uk</a>
Accommodation	Chris Ockwell	<a href="mailto:accommodation@swindonu3a.org.uk">accommodation@swindonu3a.org.uk</a>
Data Protection	Sharon Finch	<a href="mailto:dpo@swindonu3a.org.uk">dpo@swindonu3a.org.uk</a>
General enquiries		<a href="mailto:office@swindonu3a.org.uk">office@swindonu3a.org.uk</a>
Groups' Coordinator	Linda Young	<a href="mailto:group.coord@swindonu3a.org.uk">group.coord@swindonu3a.org.uk</a>
Health & Safety		<a href="mailto:secretary@swindonu3a.org.uk">secretary@swindonu3a.org.uk</a>
Membership Liaison Secretary	Jill Kelly	<a href="mailto:membership@swindonu3a.org.uk">membership@swindonu3a.org.uk</a>
Newsletter contributions		<a href="mailto:newsletter@swindonu3a.org.uk">newsletter@swindonu3a.org.uk</a>
Office manager	Sylvia Alexander	<a href="mailto:office.manager@swindonu3a.org.uk">office.manager@swindonu3a.org.uk</a>
Office administration		<a href="mailto:office@swindonu3a.org.uk">office@swindonu3a.org.uk</a>
Secretary	Sue Carvey	<a href="mailto:secretary@swindonu3a.org.uk">secretary@swindonu3a.org.uk</a>
Speaker organiser (Monthly Meetings)	Sue Cook	<a href="mailto:speaker.organiser@swindonu3a.org.uk">speaker.organiser@swindonu3a.org.uk</a>
Treasurer	Gordon Wilson	<a href="mailto:treasurer@swindonu3a.org.uk">treasurer@swindonu3a.org.uk</a>
Treasury Team for Accommodation Banking Visits		<a href="mailto:treasuryteam@swindonu3a.org.uk">treasuryteam@swindonu3a.org.uk</a>
Webmaster	Alex Cranswick	<a href="mailto:webmaster@swindonu3a.org.uk">webmaster@swindonu3a.org.uk</a>

## Office

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(entry is by middle door on right hand side of building)

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(Answerphone operates when the office is closed)

Email: [office@swindonu3a.org.uk](mailto:office@swindonu3a.org.uk)

Web: [www.swindonu3a.org.uk](http://www.swindonu3a.org.uk)

Charity Number 298853

### Copy Dates

Items for the **August** Newsletter must be received by

**19th July (please note earlier date)**

Items for the **September** Newsletter must be received by

**21st August**

All contributions must be sent to the Editor using the Newsletter  
contributions e-mail address:

[newsletter@swindonu3a.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@swindonu3a.org.uk)

**Geoff Bryan**

The Editor reserves the right to amend or abbreviate any entries submitted.  
We should also like to point out that any views expressed are not necessarily those of the  
organisation or of the Editor.