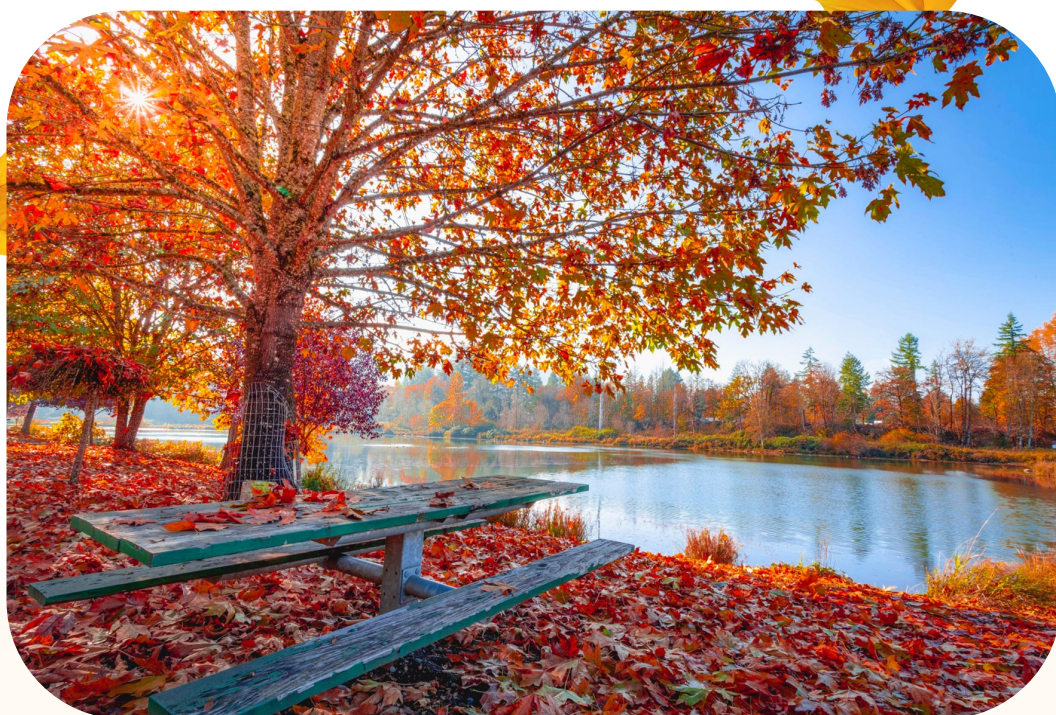


**learn, laugh, live**



## Chair's Hello

September for most u3a members, as with all school children and students, is usually a time of beginning, of restarting our groups, of meeting friends again and starting a new 'term'. This year it has also been a time of ending – the end of the seventy-year reign of the Queen and of the second Elizabethan age. For most 'third agers', whatever our views of royalty, it is an historic moment and a time of remembrance and reflection on the past and on our own personal past. As I write this, we are just a few days away from the Queen's funeral – by the time you read this, the new Carolean age will have well and truly begun and, as with the inevitable changes of the year, summer into autumn, an ending will lead to a new beginning.

For Swindon u3a, the beginning of September heralded one of the most significant events of our year – our Open Day. Held this year on September 3<sup>rd</sup> and magnificently organised by our Vice Chair, Linda Young, and an amazing team of volunteers, Open Day was in every respect a great success. At one point in the morning the main corridor resembled a mix of market day, Ascot and carnival time with people thronging through the stalls, talking animatedly with Group Organisers and marking their 'cards' with the activities that interested them. Thank you to everyone who helped to make this a success.

On the 24<sup>th</sup> September we held a morning event to say 'Thank You' to all our volunteers. Without volunteers our u3a could not exist. There are no paid members and everything that is done is done by one or more volunteers. The work of the Committee, the Treasury Team, Special Events, Monthly Meetings, Office administration, IT, Publicity, Group Organisers and much, much more relies completely on people being prepared to help out. Thank you to all of you and welcome to anyone offering to help out.

Inevitably, some things don't always work out. Mid-September has been marked by an irritating glitch on our web-site at an important time for enrolments, for new information and updating groups. I hope that by the time you read this we have resolved the issue.

The next major event in our calendar is the **AGM** on 14<sup>th</sup> November at 2.15pm in the Ellendune Centre. I hope to see many of you there. The business end of the meeting will be followed by a quiz to lighten the mood and bring in some fun! The **AGM** will be a summary of the last year, 2021-22, to give you an idea of all that has been achieved and how we have fared financially during the year. We are all aware, of course, that the next year 2022-3 will not be an easy one for many people. While we struggle with the downturn in the economy, rising prices, and anxiety over fuel bills, I hope that the pleasure we gain from our u3a activities and the friendships we enjoy there will help us all get through the months ahead.

As we usher in the new, as summer turns to autumn, as new pleasures and challenges stray across our path, I wish you all well in the months ahead.

With warm wishes

**Gill**



Nag



Nag

Nag



As the deadline for the October edition of the Newsletter approaches, only **21** members so far have signed up for the **AGM on 14th November** and one of them is me! In order for the AGM to be valid at least 100 members must be in attendance. If we don't have a hundred members 15 minutes after the start time of 2.15, the AGM will have to be abandoned and another one arranged.

**Swindon u3a AGM, Monday 14th November, 2.15, at the Ellendune Centre, Wroughton, SN4 9LW**

To register for the **AGM** and **Quiz** go to [www.swindonu3a.org.uk](http://www.swindonu3a.org.uk) or ring the Office.

Whilst on the subject of the AGM, please consider becoming a trustee of Swindon u3a. If you or a member you know has skills in IT or admin, communication or listening, please start the nomination process. It only requires a click in a box on the home page of the website. Nominations for trustees can also be made by contacting the office and asking for a nomination form.

*Sue Carvey*

### **Wanted a Secretary for Swindon u3a**

All UK Charities **must** have a trustee in the role of **Secretary**.

The role is a varied one and amongst other things involves liaising with bodies such as the Third Age Trust and the Charity Commission, co-ordinating the updating of policies and procedures and organising the AGM.

If you would like more information please contact me by clicking on my name.

Nominations for trustees, including the role of Secretary, close on 8th October. Nominations can be made by clicking or tapping on the appropriate part of the box **Submissions for 2022 AGM** on the home page of Swindon u3a.

*Sue Carvey*

## An exciting opportunity to . . . reshape the Swindon u3a website!

We are looking for members who are prepared to review our current website and determine how it can be improved. This will involve researching and recommending appropriate packages and carrying the project through to completion.

**We are seeking to recruit someone prepared to stand as a Trustee and act as a Team Leader.** They will need a broad understanding of:

- Web hosting
- Email and email client capabilities
- Internet security and GDPR
- Browser capabilities
- Membership administration
- Financial administration
- Team management
- System integration

**We also need team members with expertise in some of these areas to work alongside the Team Leader.**

**Have you worked in IT development and support? Would you like to put your knowledge and experience to good use? Could you be one of the people we are looking for?**

To register your interest or request more information please contact

***Alex Cranswick*** by clicking on his name.



## u3a Concertgoers Group

We are pleased to invite you to join our first event of the new season!

### Details below:

**When:** Wednesday, 7<sup>th</sup> December 2022. Leaving Swindon approx. 9am, returning approx. 7.30pm. Pick ups from Ashington Way (Asda W Swindon), the Bus Station, and Downsview Road (off Marlborough Road)

**Where:** Birmingham Symphony Hall

**What:** Birmingham Symphony Orchestra's performance of:

Brahms Tragic Overture

Neilson Violin Concerto

Shostakovich Symphony no 5

We plan to stop off at the famous Birmingham Frankfurt Christmas Market in the morning before making our way to the Symphony Hall for the concert which starts at 2.15pm.

**Cost:** £50 per ticket to include concert ticket, coach travel and driver's gratuity. Price based on 40 people attending.

**Payment:** By bank transfer if you can. Otherwise by cheque, made out to **Swindon u3a**. Please pay by 24<sup>th</sup> October.

**Enquires/Booking:** Please contact:

***Nina Stimson*** or ***Cindy Matthews*** by clicking on a name.

Open to all u3a members – you don't have to be a member of the concertgoers group.



## Travel Group J

**Thursday December 1st 2022**

Visit to **Victoria and Albert Museum** in London

When leaving to return we will take a detour to see the  
**Christmas lights**

You may wish to visit one of the other museums in South Kensington or shop in the  
area.

**Cost £24.00** to include driver's gratuity

**Pick up 8:30am** Ellendune Medical Centre

8:45am Coate Water

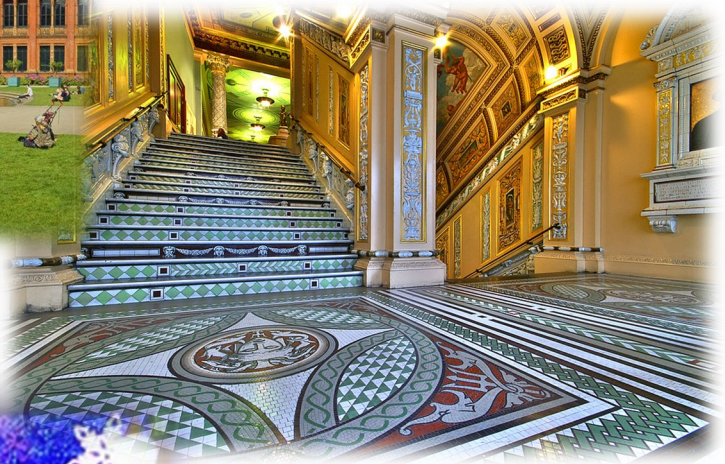
Our drop off and pick up will be at the V & A

**Leave V & A at 4pm**

**All u3a members welcome**

Please Contact

**Fiona Meredith** by clicking on her name



## Travel Study Groups C & G

### Visit to Waddesdon Manor Thursday November 17<sup>th</sup>

#### Departure times and pick up points

Ellendune promptly at 12.00

Ashington Way 12.15

Matalan 12.30

Stop at Bicester Avenue for a lunch break

Arrive at Waddesdon 3 pm

Our tickets will allow us to visit the outdoor Christmas market stalls, the Light trail and timed tickets at 4 pm prompt for the east wing of Waddesdon House which is dressed for Christmas.

Depart Waddesdon at 7 pm when site closes.

**Cost:** £44.00 pp (£20.00 pp if National Trust or Historic House member. **You must** bring your National Trust / Historic House card on the day) Cost includes coach and drivers gratuity, entrance fee.

No refunds after Wed 2<sup>nd</sup> November

Organiser **Jane Caudwell**. Please click on her name to make enquiries.



## Life, the Universe and Everything

Are you interested in sciences such as medicine, technology, climate, astronomy, scientists, etc?

Our science-related group had its first meeting on Friday 9th September, and it was very successful thanks to an interesting presentation from Pete Morris about pollution in the home.

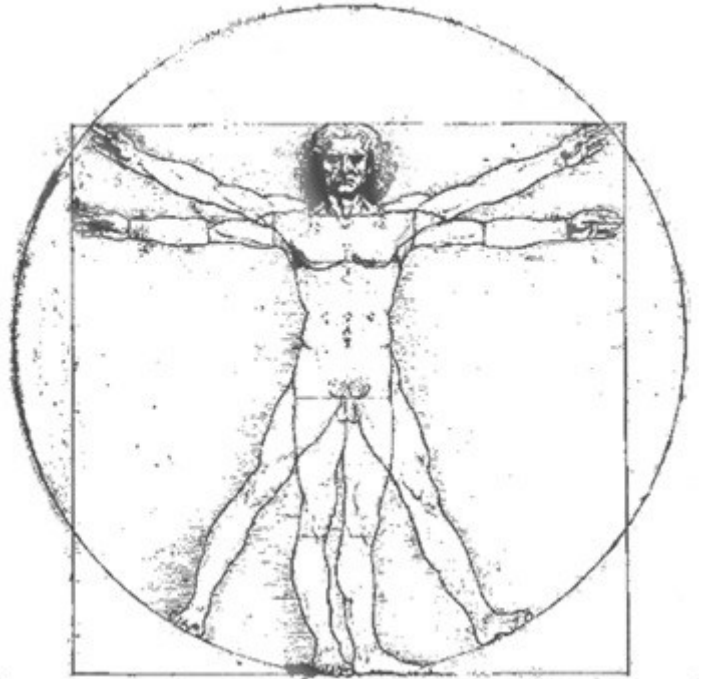
I'd also like to thank everyone who helped out with admin, in the kitchen and so on.

25 people attended which is a good start. We now have 36 group members, and we're looking for more.

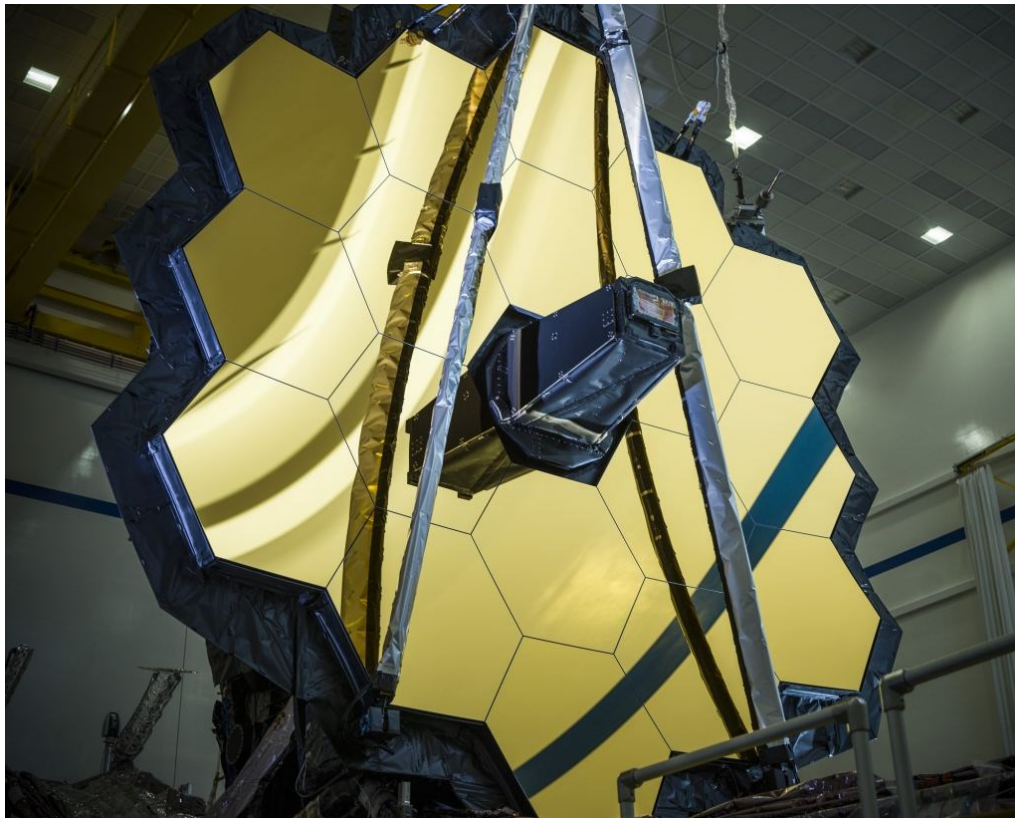
Upcoming meetings are on the subjects of antibiotic resistance, The James Webb Telescope, water, and aircraft simulators.

Meetings are at Meadowcroft Community Centre, Upper Stratton, SN2 7JX, on the second Friday of every month (except August), from 2pm – 4pm.

Please contact **Chris Brooks** by clicking on my name if you're interested in joining us.



Vitruvian Man  
by Leonardo da Vinci c.1490



## 24/7 Open Day

Potential new members only have a once a year opportunity to easily “see” our groups and find some which may pique their interest. Wouldn't it be good if they could also do this from the comfort of their own home at a time of their convenience? Thanks to modern technology, this can be achieved! We have a YouTube playlist just waiting to be expanded:

<https://tinyurl.com/4wwsn7tt>

What I would like is for as many groups as possible to make a promotional video of their activities. Explain and show what they do and when they do it, with the aim of encouraging new members.

Here's something similar from national u3a:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q6ashRatN8k>

Don't worry, I'm not expecting anything as slickly produced as that! If any groups aren't familiar with video technology or the internet then I am willing to help them make a video.

If you'd like to promote your group online then please let me know.

**Joe Tully**

Publicity Manager

swindonu3a.media@gmail.com

## Memory Café

A new monthly **Memory Café** is being launched on **18<sup>th</sup> November** at the **Prospect Hospice** for those living with dementia and their carers.

The reason for this request is that at each session, we are looking to provide an activity. This could be singing/musical, craft demonstration, exercise, historical interest, etc. We are asking our lovely u3a family for help in running such an activity. Something musical for the launch would be fantastic! If you or your group have something to offer this worthy cause please get in touch with fellow u3a member, **Anna Pike** by clicking on her name.

A Memory Cafe is a safe and comfortable space where caregivers and their loved ones can socialise, listen to music, play games, and enjoy other appropriate activities. They provide mutual support and exchange information.





## u3a Use It Or Lose It Living Longer Living Well

This course comprises of 3 two-hour sessions held on consecutive weeks. In it we consider various aspects of living longer and living well. We'll look at natural ageing and cover the latest thinking on how to keep our minds and bodies active.

The next course will be held on Thursday afternoons between 2.00 and 4.00 on 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> November. Costs are £2.00 per person per course to cover the cost of photocopying and refreshments.

There are still a couple of places available on the November course and we are taking bookings for the course running on Feb. 16<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2023.

If you are interested in joining either course, please contact our course administrator, **Marla Carroll** by clicking on her name.

### Monthly Speaker's Meeting

On Monday 10<sup>th</sup> October at 2.00pm at **Coleview Community Centre** - our topic will be '**Archaeology - it's not just digging**'. A team from Wessex Archaeology will present an overview of how we bring heritage to life using ecology, art, science and technology. The multi-disciplinary team will demonstrate the diversity of skills needed to interpret heritage in the 21st century with input from the Environmental, Marine and Art Studio teams. Short talks will be followed by opportunities to handle artefacts from 10,000 BC to the Second World War and members will be invited to step into a virtual reality experience where they can explore a Roman Villa, Anglo Saxon Hall or Second World War Aircraft Wreck.

**Monthly Speaker's Meetings** are open to all u3a members. They provide an opportunity to listen to interesting speakers and meet up and chat with other members over a cup of tea. A good opportunity to make new friends and there is no need to book. Please just turn up on the day and you will be very welcome. However, if you are able to book online, this will give us a guide for numbers attending.





**September Monthly Talk**  
**The Miracle of Bletchley Park**  
**by Gillian Cane**

MI6 needed a safe place to be during the second world war and Bletchley Park seemed ideal but was deemed too expensive by Whitehall, so Admiral Hugh Sinclair, the man in charge of the operation, spent £8,000 of his own money to acquire it for “the spies”. Recruitment of personnel began with a trawl through the professors of Oxbridge but this source was quickly exhausted. When recruiting from “ordinary” people, the recruiter, Dilly Knox, asked one question. Which way do the hands of a clock move? The answer he was looking for was “It depends on whether you are looking from the inside or the outside”. This answer indicated a different way of thinking and looking at problems.

Recruitment also included a fake hunting party to disguise the activities at Bletchley Park and a top chef from The Savoy in London. Eventually, it was realised that it would be necessary to recruit women. This caused difficulties because of concern for their safety when working with the men and so the women had to work in groups of 6. These women mostly came from the WRAFs and the WRENs. One such recruit was Gwen Davis, who was 18. To ensure secrecy, she was not told where she was going but was taken to another military base first before being put in the back of a blacked out van and driven to Bletchley Park where she was dropped off outside the gate in the middle of the night. The guard wouldn’t let her in at first because she didn’t have “the right paperwork”. He described the place as “the biggest lunatic asylum in the UK”

The staff levels at Bletchley Park eventually exceeded 10,000 and included the father of Olivier Newton John amongst many others and of course, Alan Turing, who used to swim naked in the lake.

Our thanks go to **Gillian Cane** for such an interesting and amusing talk on this important subject which contributed so much to the war effort and which shortened the war and saved countless lives.

**Bob Carvey**

## Life in a Poem

submitted by **Lesley Basu**

Award-winning poet Simon Armitage is our current poet laureate. He was born in West Yorkshire and is Professor of Poetry at the University of Leeds and a Vice President of The Poetry Society. He writes extensively for television and radio, and is the author of two novels. His theatre works include *The Last Days of Troy*, performed at Shakespeare's Globe in 2014. Some of you may have been lucky enough to catch his engaging lectures from his time as Professor of Poetry at the University of Oxford. In 2018, he was awarded the Queen's Gold Medal for Poetry.

You will see that his poem marking the death of the Queen is written as a double acrostic.

### **FLORAL TRIBUTE**

**E**vening will come, however determined the late afternoon,  
**L**imes and oaks in their last green flush, pearled in September mist.  
**I** have conjured a lily to light these hours, a token of thanks,  
**Z**ones and auras of soft glare framing the brilliant globes.  
**A** promise made and kept for life – that was your gift –  
**B**ecause of which, here is a gift in return, glovewort to some,  
**E**ach shining bonnet guarded by stern lance-like leaves.  
**T**he country loaded its whole self into your slender hands,  
**H**ands that can rest, now, relieved of a century's weight.

**E**vening has come. Rain on the black lochs and dark Munros.  
**L**ily of the Valley, a namesake almost, a favourite flower  
**I**nterlaced with your famous bouquets, the restrained  
**Z**eal and forceful grace of its lanterns, each inflorescence  
**A** silent bell disguising a singular voice. A blurred new day  
**B**reaks uncrowned on remote peaks and public parks, and  
**E**verything turns on these luminous petals and deep roots,  
**T**his lily that thrives between spire and tree, whose brightness  
**H**olds and glows beyond the life and border of its bloom.

**by Simon Armitage**



## List of Email Addresses

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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>
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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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Telephone: 01793 614629

(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 **November** Newsletter must be received by  
**19th October**

Items for the **December** Newsletter must be received by  
**18th November**

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.