

### Editors Corner

Do you come along to the monthly Open Meetings? I know that for some it's not convenient but you are missing a treat. Over the last year we have had a 6 times Olympian, a producer from Blue Peter and the bloke whose name you won't remember but have seen for over 20 years on the Antiques Road Show. Those and many other interesting speakers make for an entertaining afternoon... all for £2 including tea and biccies.

In June, July and August we experience lower attendances and it's not financially viable to hire a large venue such as the Guildhall so we move to Horton Village Hall. This is a smaller venue but if we have another scorching summer has the advantage of air conditioning. We can only book this hall for Tuesday afternoons which I know is not always popular with regular attendees but does have the benefit of being available for those members who cannot attend on Mondays.

Transport to Horton can be a problem for some so once again the committee will be organising car share from the centre of Chard.

So I urge you to come along, learn new things and socialise with your fellow u3a members.

Best Wishes

Pete

**Peter Walmsley**  
Chair

cidu3achair@gmail.com



### Deadlines

**The following deadlines for content to arrive for the newsletters & monthly news sheet.**

The deadlines are NOT cast in stone but as a rule of thumb, the 21<sup>st</sup> of the month for the next months news sheet, or the quarterly newsletter, which are published at the start of February, May, September and December.

**Simon Thomson**

cidu3anewsletter@gmail.co.uk

## In the Spotlight

### Canasta

meeting at Ilminster Bowls Club

We regularly have between 30 to 40 people attending each week. We meet on the First Friday of each month then every Thursday for the rest of the month, all at 10am to 12 noon.



*Above is a photo from last week's meeting on the 16th April 2026.*

We are now running a waiting list for people wishing to join. We meet at the Ilminster Bowls Club, which is an excellent venue and the Club are so accommodating. Members must be a member of a u3a and the Ilminster Bowls Club.

We are open to another u3a Canasta Club starting up, and have asked existing members if anyone would like to head this up in Ilminster/Chard and surrounding area. So, if anyone inside or outside the Group would like to start a new Canasta Group then Chris and I would be willing to assist in this set up to get a new group started. There is very little involved in getting a new group up and running.

*Continued from last page*

You can contact Chris or Harry through the u3a Chard Group Leader.

We are in the process of beginning to organise our annual summer garden party, which will be held in July/August. We normally have about 40 plus people attending and have a bring and share lunch and BBQ. A great time to meet and get to know each other better.

Contact: **Harry Jacobson**  
harryjacobson653@gmail.com

## Past Times

### *Held in Horton Village Hall*

On Thursday 16th April, Past Times members enjoyed a private guided tour of the **Shoemakers Museum** at Clarks Village, Street.

The story of **Clarks Shoes** from 1825 to the present day was illuminatingly related by a very knowledgeable guide.



One of the interesting facts revealed was the last Clarks major manufacturing plant to close in the UK was located at Dowlish Ford, near Ilminster, at which desert boots were produced. See the 2005 BBC article, **Clarks' closure is end of an era**.

The site is now occupied by **Gooch and Housego**. Another sad revelation, rather typical of the times, was that Clarks Shoes is now majority-owned by Viva China Holdings, as of 2020.

Contact **Jim Loble**  
jim.lobley1950@gmail.com

## Trips

### *Held in various locations*

I am delighted to report the first theatre trip to Lyme Regis to see HG Wells's "The Invisible Man" was a great success. It was nice to support a theatre in our local area.



*The stage and lighting*

**Future Trips include:**

### **Seaside trip to Weymouth**

**Tuesday 30th June 2026**

Hopefully the weather will be good by the end of June so we can enjoy a day out. There's plenty to see and do from visiting the beach, the Sea Life centre, Bennetts Water Gardens are to name a few attractions. The day is your own to fill as you please. Coach pick up from Boden Street Chard and Stone Mason's Ilminster. Times to be confirmed. Please make contact with me to secure your place. Tickets cost £13.00pp if we manage to fill a coach with 41 members.

### **RHS Badminton flower show**

**Thursday 9th July 2026**

The flower show usually takes place at Hampton Court Palace but this year they have decided to try another venue which is more local to us in the SW. **The trip is now nearly full with just 1 ticket remaining.**

### **The Body Guard - Bristol Hippodrome**

**Wednesday 12th August 2026.**

We are all set for this trip, seats and coach all booked.

Contact **Carolyn Paulls**  
carolynpaulls27@gmail.com

## Not Quite Authors

*Held in various homes & venues*

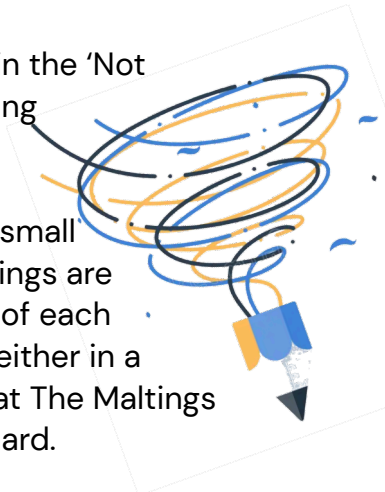
We have vacancies in the 'Not Quite Authors' Writing Group.

At present we are a small group and our meetings are on the 2nd Monday of each month at 10.30 am, either in a member's home or at The Maltings Meeting Room in Chard.

We write short stories, around 500 words but it doesn't matter if a bit shorter or longer than this, on a subject decided the month before. Occasionally we write a poem instead. We may comment on the stories but we are not there to criticise, as we do this purely for interest and fun.

If anyone is interested in joining us please contact

**Denise Farrington**  
denisefarrington@gmail.com



## Folk and Acoustic

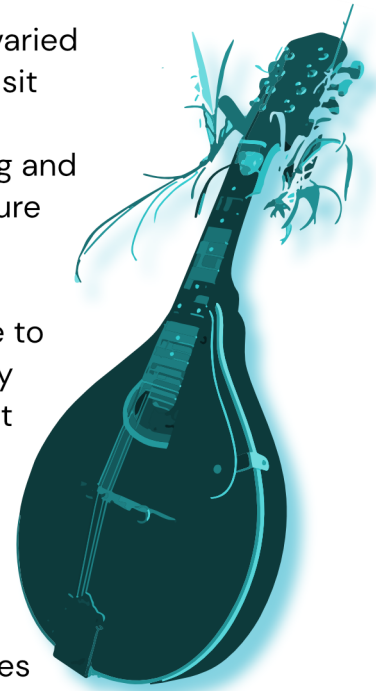
*Held in leaders home*

We are a select and varied group of people who sit around in relaxed surroundings and sing and play an eclectic mixture of folk and acoustic music, without amplification. A place to practice, listen or play with help and support if needed.

Any genre of music is acceptable with everything from Guitar and Tin Whistles to a cappella singing and harmonies.

We meet on a 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month and welcome any u3a member with open arms. Why not pop us an email to find out more information.

Contact **Simon Thomson**  
simonthomson1958@gmail.com



## Cartoon



## Windy Folk CLUB

### Singers and Musicians night

2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday 7.30 - 11.00hrs

singers, musicians, poets and audience always welcome, in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere



**The Squirrel Inn**  
B3162 - TA20 4NT



For more information contact [windyfolkclub@gmail.com](mailto:windyfolkclub@gmail.com) or visit [sites.google.com/view/windyfolkclub/home](https://sites.google.com/view/windyfolkclub/home)





## 4th Birthday Hub Exhibition



**Saturday 30 May  
9am to 1pm**

Always wondered what we do at Chard Community Hub? Come and join us in celebrating four years of CCH with an exhibition of the services we offer.

For more info: [tgreynoldse@holyrood.bep.ac](mailto:tgreynoldse@holyrood.bep.ac)

Kindness | Collaboration | Positivity

## Newsletter

Meeting in your own home

The new Newsletter Group is a group of people who rarely meet, but will be doing a grand job of proof reading, photographing and sourcing information for this newsletter.

**If you have time to proof read the newsletter before it goes out or would like a go at reporting or photography, or may be you would like to share something and feel up to write a regular gardening or model railway column... the opportunity is here for you to shine!**

Get in contact for more information by emailing me.

**Simon Thomson (Editor)**  
[cidu3anewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:cidu3anewsletter@gmail.com)

## Barn Dance

Held in Thorncombe Village Hall

This is promising to be a fantastic shin-dig with a superb Ceilidh Band and caller, food, drink and all held in a wonderful venue.

## u3a Barn Dance

Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> August  
2pm till 5pm



You and your families are invited to join us in  
**Thorncombe Sports and Social Club,  
Horseshoe Road. TA20 4PS.**

**Bar**

a wonderful opportunity to see you all and have some fun.

**£5**  
under 16's  
**FREE**

**u3a** Chard Ilminster & District  
Registered Charity 109663

scan to email or ring Julie on 07507 397007

**Grand Raffle**

Help needed: If you know anyone who can loan some hay bales to add to the ambiance, please let me know:

**Julie Young**

[cidu3acomms2@gmail.com](mailto:cidu3acomms2@gmail.com)

## Talent Show

Held in The Guildhall, Chard

The Chard, Ilminster and District u3a are back again with another 'star' filled show, full of fun, laughter, song, dance and spoken word. November 4th. **We are looking for back stage help as well as more and varied acts.** If you want to participate, or you want more information, contact me.

**Simon Thomson**

[simonthomson1958@gmail.com](mailto:simonthomson1958@gmail.com)

## Monthly Open Meetings

We are pleased to bring you an amazing selection of speakers with wide and varying topics to tantalise your imagination and titivate your senses.

**18<sup>th</sup> May – Guildhall**

**Neil Hanson**

**Inn & Out at the Top**

an amusing and Popular Author

**9<sup>th</sup> June – Horton Village Hall**

**Laurie Burn**

**Ilminster Share and Repair**

Local recycling and repair with amusing anecdotes that go with some of the items.

**21<sup>st</sup> July – Horton Village Hall**

**Alan Jenkins**

**Royal Visit that went wrong!**

All in the title, what could possibly go wrong!

**18<sup>th</sup> August – Horton Village Hall**

**Alistair Forbes**

**How to be a good tourist**  
Choose the GREEN way

The speakers are selected by a subgroup of the committee, we try to offer you varied and interesting topics. Why not come along and give it a try. I will cost you just £2 to get in and you can bring a friend if you want to. The meetings are open to anyone who wants to come along, you don't need to be a member of the u3a.

If you would like to get involved with selecting speakers for future years, or have a suggestion, please contact me

**Simon Thomson**  
cidu3aspeakers@gmail.com

## The Committee

**Meets every other month**

**in Horton Village Hall**

The committee is made up of members of this u3a, to make sure things run smoothly, but also offer you new and interesting things to do.



Each committee member can only stay in a role for a maximum of 3 years, except for the treasurer who has the unenviable task for a maximum of 6 years. As you can imagine, while we currently have a good working committee, there are a number of people coming to the end of their time in their committee roles and we are always looking for new blood to bring interesting and lively ideas to make this u3a fun and friendly.

A committee member does not have to hold a role, in fact we encourage new committee members to not take on a role until they have settled in to the group and get a feel for things as we wouldn't want to give you too much to do. (*editor: I know that it's all too easy to volunteer!*).

If you would like to find out what's involved or have any questions, please speak to any of the committee listed on page 8.

## New to Writing

How often have you wanted to tell a good story to more than just one person? Join this group and find out how to do it. We will meet at The Gamesmaster Cafe in Ilminster at 10.30 on the 1st Friday of the month. You would be most welcome.

Contact: **Liz D'Alton**  
01460 259163



## Groups

We have a large number of active groups here in Chard, Ilminster and District u3a, all run by members who do not get paid for their tireless work.

If you can't see what you are looking for, or would like to start a new group, which is really easy to do, just get in contact with one of the committee members who would be more than happy to guide you through the simple process of starting one up.

So whilst some of the following groups are full, there is usually scope for starting another to run alongside the existing one.

To join a group, either talk to a committee member listed on the next page or visit our website:

[chardilminster.u3asite.uk](http://chardilminster.u3asite.uk)

### Badminton

Tuesdays 10:00  
Wednesdays 12:30  
Fridays 10:00  
Broadway Village Hall

### Board Games

Tuesdays 14:00  
Ilminster Bowls Club

### Book Choice

3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday 10:00  
Leaders' home

### Bridge Improvers

Tuesdays 14:00  
Leaders' home

### Bridge Intermediate

Mondays 10:00  
Ilminster Bowls Club

### Canasta

Thursdays 10:00  
Ilminster Bowls Club

### Chess

Friday 14:00  
Leaders' home



### Circle Dancing

Friday 14:00  
Chard Guildhall

### Crafting

3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays 10:00  
Leaders' home

### Cricket

Wednesdays 17:00  
Holyrood Academy

### Discussion

1<sup>st</sup> Monday 14:15  
Member's home

### Family History

2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday 10:00  
Leaders' home

### Folk and Acoustic

1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays 14:00  
Leaders' home

### Friends of Chard Museum

Various times  
Chard Museum

### German Conversation

1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday  
Eleos Cafe

### Golf

Occasionally  
Cricket St Thomas Golf Club

### Guitar

Alternate Tuesdays 14:00  
Alternate Wednesdays 14:00

Horton Village Hall

### Harmony-Us

Tuesdays 19:00

Tatworth Memorial Hall

### Music Appreciation

2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday 10:00  
Horton Village Hall

### Natural History

4<sup>th</sup> Thursday 10.30

Various Venues

### Needlecraft

2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday 13:00  
Eleos Cafe

### New to Writing

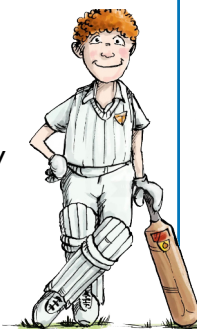
1<sup>st</sup> Friday 10:30  
Gamesmaster Cafe

### News and views

2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday 10:00  
Members' homes

### Not Quite Authors

2<sup>nd</sup> Monday 10:30



Members' homes

### Past Times

3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday 14:00

Horton Village Hall

### Play Reading

1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday 11:00

3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday 11:00

Eleos Cafe

### Poetry for Pleasure

3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday 14:00

Members' homes

### Rambling

1<sup>st</sup> Friday 10:00

3<sup>rd</sup> Friday 09:30

Countryside

### Reading for Pleasure

Last Wednesday 14:30

Members' homes

### Scrabble

4<sup>th</sup> Thursday 19:00

leader's home

### Short Tennis 1

Thursdays 14:00

Wednesdays 10:00

Broadway Village Hall

### Skittles

3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday 10:30

4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday 10:30

Haymaker Inn, Wadeford

### Spanish

2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Mondays 14:00

Members' homes

### Sunday Lunch Club

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday

Various Venues & times

### Table Tennis

Tuesdays 10:00

Thursdays 10:00

Fridays 10:00

Mondays 10:00

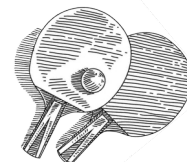
Tatworth Memorial Hall

Thursdays at 10:00

Broadway Village Hall

### Trips

Various



# Your local u3a Committee

**Chair:**



Peter Walmsley  
[cidu3achair@gmail.com](mailto:cidu3achair@gmail.com)

**Business Secretary:**



Michelle Miller  
[cidu3abussec@gmail.com](mailto:cidu3abussec@gmail.com)

**Communications and Publicity:**



Pat Kyte  
[cidu3acomms@gmail.com](mailto:cidu3acomms@gmail.com)



Julie Young  
[cidu3acomms2@gmail.com](mailto:cidu3acomms2@gmail.com)

**Groups Coordinators:**



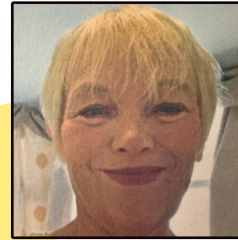
Lilly Sell-Dunkley  
[cidu3agroups@gmail.com](mailto:cidu3agroups@gmail.com)

**Groups Coordinators: continued**



Lynda Le-Taylor  
[cidu3agroups2@gmail.com](mailto:cidu3agroups2@gmail.com)

**Membership Secretary:**



Patricia Hounsell  
[cidu3amemsec@gmail.com](mailto:cidu3amemsec@gmail.com)

**Treasurer:**



Cathy Wallis  
[cidu3atreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:cidu3atreasurer@gmail.com)

**Vice Chair, Facebook, Newsletter & Speakers Secretary:**



Simon Thomson  
[cidu3aspeakers@gmail.com](mailto:cidu3aspeakers@gmail.com)

The committee is made up of volunteers and they do not get any recompense for the work they carry out.