

## SKITTLES 2018

BLANDFORD vs STURMINSTER NEWTON U3A

at

THE OLD OX INN, Shillingstone

on

Friday 16 February 2018

6.30pm for 7.00pm



Come along and play or cheer on the B&D team at this fourth match against Sturminster Newton U3A.

!!!We lost last year and there is a trophy at stake!!!

£9.50 per person to include a buffet supper – drinks from the bar at own cost

Interested? We need a team of 12 players but also cheerleaders to lend their support - send your cheque made payable to **Blandford & District U3A**, plus a note to say whether you are a player or a cheerer, to Mark Morley-Smith, Brecon House, Alfred Street, Blandford Forum DT11 7JN by 8 February – no refunds after 10 February.

### 2018 Open Meetings at Durweston Village Hall

Friday 26 January – Open Meeting

Friday 23 March – Open Meeting & AGM

Friday 29 June – Open Meeting

Friday 28 September – Open Meeting

The committee regrets having to cancel the November meeting this year, but hopefully we will have some ideas for a pre-Christmas event in 2018 – or maybe you would like to help organise something? Give us a call!

## BLANDFORD & DISTRICT U3A WINTER 2017



### FROM THE CHAIR

I'm sure I'm not the only one who can't believe how quickly 2017 has passed! Is it really time to find a comfy chair and get the Christmas cards written and present lists finalised? Someone get me a large G&T!

B&D U3A has had a great 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year with a busy social calendar, new groups coming on line, plus an unprecedented increase in membership from 300 last November to 333 now! The committee are hoping this trend will continue into next year. Our open meetings this year have been extremely well attended and we have more of the same in 2018, with topics including the Dorset coast, the Roman army and NT's Stourhead estate. Free entry and parking - £1 for tea and homemade cake.

My thanks to all our group leaders, committee members and those that have helped at open meetings and social events during the year and to all members for their support in ensuring B&D U3A continues to offer everyone the opportunity to Live, Learn and Laugh!!

On behalf of the committee, I send very best wishes to everyone for a great Christmas and New Year with family and friends. See you in 2018!

*Christine Smith, Chairman*

### Group News

If there is an existing group you would like to join but it is full or needs a new starter group for beginners, let us know. Three or four people are the basis for a new group, so give Pam Rees a call (01258.451673) and let's get cracking! There are quite a few groups with spaces for more members so try something new this winter and make this the season you learn to swing a partner in a square dance or look up the history behind your family.

**Friday 26 January 2018**

**Open Meeting at Durweston Village Hall**

**Speaker:** John Combes – The Dorset Coast Naturally, II

John shared his beautiful photographs and music with us last year and we are delighted to welcome him back for part 2

**Timetable:**



2.00pm	Meet, greet and seat
2.15pm	Welcome and notices
2.30pm	Speaker
3.15pm	Tea, cake and chat

**£1.00 for refreshments**

**Book Exchange** – bring old paperbacks and exchange for a new read!

**Committee News**

This year the committee has sadly said ‘goodbye’ to both Thelma Wood and Val Hodge: Thelma continues with her writing and theatre groups but regretfully Val is moving to the Purbecks. Both have given freely of their time and energy and will be missed on committee – thank you ladies for all your hard work.

At the same time, Gill Jackson has decided to stand down from her role as Membership Secretary, which she has held for some 13 years, although she will remain on committee, and is handing the reins to June Lane – the committee is delighted to be working with June and extend a big ‘thank you’ to Gill for all her unstinting work over the years.

**The Committee is now:**

Christine Smith, Chairman	Gill Jackson
John Rees, Vice-Chairman	Jocelyn Jenkins
Richard Pearson, Secretary	Pam Rees
Jack Shonfield, Treasurer	Bridget Spiers
June Lane, Membership Secretary	Mark Morley-Smith

(June’s telephone number: 01258.458116)

**2018 Membership Renewals**

For the last two years we have been able to extend a 50% discount on the cost of the annual membership renewal to all existing members. Our bank balance is still healthy and so, after further discussion, the committee has decided to continue the current arrangement into 2018. Therefore, renewal fees for existing members, including those who joined this year, will again be £7.50 single and £14 for a couple. New members joining in 2018 will pay the full fees of £15 or £28. Membership renewal forms will be sent out by June Lane, Membership Secretary, in the New Year.

**Charity of the Year**

We have had a great year fundraising for the Friends of Blandford Community Hospital with money coming from the tea profits at open meetings and raffles at social events, plus members have been knitting for the patients, and we will be handing over a cheque to the Friends in the sum of £402.64, hopefully at our next open meeting in January. Following our September open meeting, a cheque for £79.65 was also sent to Macmillan Cancer Support as our contribution towards their World’s Biggest Coffee Morning. Thank you everyone for your contributions.

Our nominated charity for 2018 is the Riding for the Disabled Association (RDA), and more specifically the Bryanston Group which meets at Bryanston School – their horses and ponies provide therapy and fun to people of all levels of ability and offers a wide range of activities and equestrian disciplines. A few of our members are already volunteers helping with the horses and leading riders – maybe this is something more of our members would like to get involved with?

Don’t forget that contact details for all our interest groups are available on our website, plus lots of other news and information.

[www.blandfordu3a.co.uk](http://www.blandfordu3a.co.uk)

Charity no: 1092984