Tiverton u3a Newsletter

learn, laugh, live

Volume 8 Issue 5

May 2023



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FROM THE COMMITTEE:

Tiverton u3a welcomes five new members:

Anne Price June Gidney

Alan Dent Linda Compton

Fred Hall

March Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of Tiverton u3a was held on the 23rd March at Moorhayes Community Centre. Minutes of the meeting can be found on the website.

Following the general meeting, members listened to a very interesting talk by Rob Wilson-North, Head of Conservation and Access at the Exmoor National Park Authority, on the management, history and archaeology of the park.

If you missed this presentation, or would like to hear it again, a recording produced by Roger Gunn can be downloaded from this link: https://youtu.be/n8k4waw0 ec

Proposed visit a local gliding club

Gliding is a totally unique way to get airborne and very different to flying in a light aircraft or a commercial jet! If you'd like to know more about the sport, Devon and Somerset Gliding Club have kindly offered to show us how they operate at North Hill (near Dunkeswell).

This informal tour of the site will include a closer look at the aircraft and their launching methods. It will probably take place on a Wednesday or Thursday morning and is intended to be a free but informative visit. Whilst club members may well be flying on the day, you are not expected to do so! However, you can book a trial flight at a later date if the idea appeals to you.

At this stage I'm only looking for expressions of interest, so that I can estimate numbers. If you're interested in taking part, please respond to me by email - Tony - $\underline{lowe.tony@yahoo.co.uk}$

Jane Austen appreciation

Would you be interested in joining a short course to learn more about Jane Austen?

A member of Culm Valley u3a, Pauline, has offered to run this course in the comfort of her own home in Hemyock, EX15 3RJ. Pauline has previously delivered this course, very successfully, to another u3a group.

The course would start with Jane's life, some information on her background and family, as well as England during the period. Each member would read one of Jane's six novels, at home, then meet to discuss the book e.g., characters, plot etc. A film of the current book would be shown,

with refreshments available. The monthly meetings will be for a period of 8-9 months. Taking place on the 1st Tuesday of the month, starting on June 6th from 2-4pm.

Pauline would like anyone interested in joining the course to contact her at treetops81@gmail.com

This is a wonderful opportunity for anyone who enjoys the English language, history, reading or would like to challenge themselves to learning something new with a knowledgeable tutor!

April General Meeting Moorhayes Community Centre

Thursday the 27th April 10:00 for 10:30 am

Drinking Water - where does it come from and where does it go?

Charlotte Bacon, Southwest Water

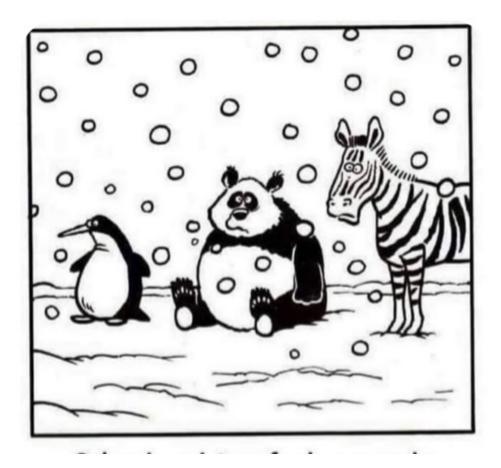
Where does our drinking water come from? What is the process for treating drinking water and wastewater? What is a storm overflow, and why do we have them in our networks? What are South West Water's commitments for the future? Wonder no more! My name is Charlotte and I work as a community engagement officer for South West Water. I deliver a presentation style session covering a range of topics including the above questions and also shares the work we do as a company, the challenges and opportunities we face and the projects we are delivering across the region. We are keen to continue talking to the communities we serve, and value the feedback we receive so we can continue to improve our services and understand our customers and communities better.

Click here for details What's On - Tiverton U3A

Tea, Coffee, Biscuits
Paper copies of the Newsletter
Membership renewals

Moorhayes Community Centre Lea Road Tiverton EX16 6SU

On Thursday the 25th May We will Welcome Tim Dyke with a History of the Music Hall



Something different this month – a colouring competition. Big prizes! Choose your colours carefully.



I'm trying a new mind-controlled deodorant. I think it makes scents

Patient: Doctor, I've got joint pain, a sore throat and a headache. Have you got anything....?

4

Doctor: No, I'm fine thanks.

May 2023

GROUP REPORTS

Unless they have specifically requested otherwise, group coordinators contact details have been omitted on the newsletter page of the website, as this is a public document. However, they can be found in the "members only" section of the website, which needs a password, already provided to members. - *Nigel*



The Croquet Group will commence playing again this season on Tuesday 2nd May and we usually continue until the end of September. We play on the outfield of the Heathcoat Cricket Club ground at Knightshayes Estate, Tiverton, usually on Tuesdays from 2.00 - 4.30pm, however the day and time may vary occasionally to accommodate cricket fixtures.

Anyone who would like to play and have not played with us before is welcome to enter their name onto the clipboard on the Croquet Group table at the U3A Monthly Meeting. Tuition will be available for those new to the game, and we have a pool of equipment for them to use There is a fee of £4.00 per session that includes refreshments in the pavilion during the tea break.

If you cannot attend the Monthly Meeting but would like to play, please contact Eric or Sandra Richardson. Email: e.richardson5@sky.com



Devon Bus Travel

Coordinator: Valerie Pocock

A free day out at Rosemoor Oh, this would be such fun My bus group should all go there They could come - everyone!

To Crediton in cars we travelled To cut the journey short The bus from Exeter came quite soon The 315 we caught.

The driver looked us in the face And said - I have bad news.. We're diverted from this route today Rosemoor you cannot choose!

You'll have to catch a taxi
To get you down the hill
And then another taxi back
You're have SOME time there still!

The bus was muddy as could be We could not see the views It rocked and bumped on every hill We had no time to lose!

The driver kindly changed his route So we could get there fast But then we worried how to leave? Would the road closure last?

I booked a taxi with some help We had two up to town Our stay at Rosemoor much curtailed We really felt let down.

And then we had the final straw... We waited. hours, not fun! The bus then drove us back again Past where the taxis had just come!

We all got home much later. After such a stressful day We could have had much longer And just enjoyed our stay!

So if you join the bus group Be prepared for what you find Things do not work out as they should – You may get left behind!

For our second trip, four of us risked travelling in the school holidays on a lovely sunny day in Dawlish. No problem with crowds at all, and no mass exit of college students in late afternoon!

After a good meal at a gluten free cafe (bliss for one of our members) we enjoyed the black swans and their signets, the gardens and the sea and sand of course! Two people found an open top bus but travelled down stairs!

- Valerie



Our creative writing group is worldwide at present, with one member in New Zealand still contributing, another just returned from Iceland. We meet once a month or send our poems and stories online. Last months topic My Favourite Place produced some interesting work from Greeks to Buckfast. This month's meeting is on 26th April all are welcome. Contact Annie at devonian2001@yahoo.co.uk



As always, our latest cryptic crossword is shown at the end of this newsletter. Please have a go at solving it if you can!

We'd be very keen to see some new members in our group, so if you enjoy cryptic crosswords, why not join us and put your expertise to good use? All communication is via email and you'll be given up to 4 words each month for which you have to provide appropriate cryptic clues.

Please get in touch if you'd like to try it — *Tony*



Mike Warren led a very interesting discussion on whether GDP was the right measure of a country's success or not. It clearly isn't perfect, and he reviewed a number of alternatives that have been mooted by various different organisations. These mainly included factors such those effecting the climate and those that measure quality of life.

The next meeting will be at Jane's house on Wed 10th May when we will look at Digital Currencies such as the one proposed by the UK Government. Let me know if you'd like to join us. ~ Mike



We have met twice since the last Newsletter. As usual, we had our "word of the week". There were several offerings including der Zaunkönig. This is literally "fence king". You might think that it is a bird. You would be right but would you think of a "wren"? An interesting expression was "Leben wie Gott in Frankreich". Literally, this means "to live like God in France" but is used to mean "live a life of luxury"!

We again played a game of "Wer/was bin ich?" (Who/what am I?) - a very useful exercise in framing questions. A new venture was a version of Richard Osman's House of Games which was very well received. I tried to persuade members to disclose an embarrassing moment but no one had the courage to confess (apart from me) to one. Perhaps they have never had one. I find they become more frequent as I get older. - John



Industrial Heritage Coordinator: Phil Stone

Tuesday 4th April - 12 of the group left Tiverton by mini-bus bound for the Gin Distillery of English Spirit at Tregudden, just south of Launceston.

The main distillery of English

Spirit is based in Great Yeldham in Essex, and was started just a few years ago by Dr John Walters. Tregudden was set up about 3 years ago when John bought the manor house and wanted to make use of the land.

Dr John, we were told is a graduate in Biochemistry of Corpus Christi College, Oxford, who combines his chemistry knowledge with enthusiasm for a good tasting spirit.

Our guide for the tour was a very informative Mike, who, together with apparently the total staff at Tregudden, holds 'Dr John' as Mr Walters is known in very high regard. Many interesting facts figures and myths about distilling was divulged during our introductory talk before the tour began.



We were shown the domes – in one is the distilling, others have the bionics- plants grown to flavour the gin -just like a mini Eden project.

Unfortunately, the tasting sessions followed the tour, and again after lunch, so most of these facts seemed to have gone. (Maybe a second visit could be an advantage?)

A few of the remembered facts: Gin is flavoured vodka. Vodka is the distilled spirit before flavourings are added. Legally the only ingredient necessary to make gin is Juniper berries, with no legal minimum amount. English Spirit distils ALL the alcohol it uses, whilst all other distilleries buy in ready-made vodka. John was the first person outside of Jamaica to make rum. He beat ALL competition (even the French) in a Brandy distilling taste. Gins,etc can only be purchased on site, or Internet

Well, considering the VERY GOOD tasting session I feel very pleased at having remembered any facts. (There are a lot more I can remember, but Reports must be kept to a reasonable length).

Who cares if Industrial Heritage does get reputation of alcohol-related visits?????????

And Dr John Walters seems to my sort of chap. - Mich



lead by Steve Graham and including Nick White on Clarinet and Jeremy Huggett unusually playing the

Practically a full house for Gordon's Algiers Strutters at Magelake saw some great trad jazz



Tuba. Some of the same people will, by the time you read, this have performed as Black Cat Jazz in Langford Budville.

Next up we'll see:

John Shillito's Riviera Ramblers on Wed 10th May in the Magelake Hall, Uffculme. Contact gordonsjazzclub@hotmail.com to reserve your seats John Maddocks Jazz Band on Fri 19th May in the Jubilee Hall, Langford Budville. The contact is dudleyedgar13@gmail.com

Contact mikeandsue.barlow@gmail.com if you'd like more information. ~ Mike



Despite change of dates, we don't seem to have 'lost;' anyone....a couple of good challenging sessions. Next month, change of dates again – sorry. May 1st and 15th



At the April 25 the monthly meeting PLEASE COLLECT TICKETS for the Dramatic Society production of "VICAR of DIBLEY" for Thursday April 25th 7-30 pm in New Hall or I will be in the bar area from 7-05 pm.

- Mich

Also those who have booked for THE SPRING

VARIETY SHOW May 13 th in aid of Devon Air Ambulance the same arrangements apply.

14 of us thoroughly enjoyed Willow Tree production of STORY BOOK last month. The 50-60 talented 4-21 year old energetic group told stories in dance, music & song from Mary Poppins, Peter Pan, Charlie and The Chocolate Factory, Blood Brothers to name but a few. Tiverton has its own Billy Elliott who entertained us throughout the performances as well as the main event. It would be good to see more u3a members supporting these very talented tots to 21 year olds.

A date for your Diaries: Thursday September 14 th Tiverton Operatic Society production of "9 to 5 " 7-30 pm New Hall, Tiverton

Betty 01884 242998 07972271524



At our meeting this month we discussed the challenging topic of philosophy and the climate emergency. The climate emergency has profound implications for how we think about our place in the world and the validity of the inner stories that underpin our sense of identity and guide our behaviour.

No solutions but a stimulating discussion as we noted how increasingly we think our ourselves as part of a complex ecosystem, and reliant on a multiplicity of interactions, rather than believing we can behave with impunity and disregard the impact on the natural world.

We will continue this theme in future discussions when we look at the influential work of Descartes in shaping the modern world view: viewing nature in a utilitarian way and an infinite resource that humans can draw on without qualms. What can we take from his insights that are still valid and useful and what should be modified?

Do come along to our meetings – the refreshments are good and a stimulating and wide ranging discussion is almost guaranteed. No prior philosophic knowledge or background is assumed or needed. *-- David*



Seven snappy citizens gathered at Ben's place to share photos of what was within 10 metres of the spot where the photographer was standing. For the first time we welcomed Sue to the group.

Nigel took some great shots of his very photogenic house and the contents of his

impressive riverside garden. Roger continued the theme with colourful shots of various flowers, pond, small trees and interesting nick-nacks from around his delightful garden. Tim got very lucky in Tewkesbury and in a short sequence snapped a grumpy looking heron spotting a fish, catching it and devouring it whole. Frisky French gambolling lambs also featured. Sue showed some super images taken on a walk near West Anstey which included woodland, a pond, desolate moorland and huge amounts of vibrant yellow gorse. There were a few from her garden too. Phil paid a visit to the Devon Railway Centre and photographed some of the 'attractions' there. Nobody was really sure of the link between gnomes and the railway. Mike kindly drew our attention to a useful piece of software from autosplitter.com.

Weather permitting, the next meeting (11th May) could be a trip out to Dawlish Warren. Roger will coordinate in due course. If not, the topic will be 'Photos taken from unusual angles'. So be prepared! - Phil A



a railway station took, with goods facilities and sidings, even in N gauge. We spent a pleasant morning looking at the model and chatting to Malcolm about the model and his future plans for it. For our second outing 9 of us braved the weather for a railway journey from Tiverton Parkway to Okehampton, via Exeter St David's. It is a very pleasant journey and well worth the trip. There is much of interest at Okehampton station, which has been well restored and has a museum, cafe, visitor centre and booking office, though it does not actually sell tickets! Due to the rather dubious weather

We had not one, but two outings during March. Our first outing since before Covid was to see Malcolm Kitchen's N gauge model of Tiverton station, which is under construction. It is a close to true scale model, and shows how much land



with showers and a rather cold wind, we opted to return on an earlier train, and most of us decided to stay around the station area and have lunch in the cafe, though someone did actually walk into Okehampton and back (it is quite a walk back up the hill from the town to the station).

It is perhaps fortunate that we took the earlier train back, as we found that the following one was cancelled. There were some problems on the line, as a result of which we were late returning to Exeter and missed our connection back to Tiverton. The next train was non-stop to Taunton, and the one after that was a Cross-Country train and we found our tickets were not valid on that, so we had to wait an hour for the next one. It was only when we were on the train that we realised one of our group was missing. We found out later that he had got on the Cross Country train, but fortunately he did not get caught, whereas on our train, our tickets were checked for the first time. Apart from that it was a thoroughly interesting and enjoyable experience and all the group said they wanted to do another outing, so I will have to get my thinking cap on.

- Jose



Sixteen of us gathered for the Uplowman walk which promised to be wet, windy and very muddy. In fact the rain held off till nearly 12 and the mud was less than expected. The route took us via Broadview farm, up

Paullet hill and thence to Whitnage where, though

we didn't have 'sunlit uplands', the views were spectacular.

The river crossing towards Murley farm was less deep than recent rains would have indicated and the downward path through Wood towards Uplowman was pleasantly easy. Thanks, Roger, for your 'old favourite' but ever popular walk.

May's Ramble on Tuesday 9th May will be led by Jane Keeley at Rackenford starting at 10 am. Parking is in the layby or roadside past the shop and near the end of the road. GR SS851 182, postcode EX16 8DU. The route takes in fields, woodland and some road walking. Expect some mud.

- Jenny





The last of our Monday evening Skittles sessions was on Monday 24th April. We do not run during the summer, hopefully the light evenings allow for outdoor activities/ gardening! We thank all those who supported the evenings and were pleased that numbers held up well allowing the last sessions to be free. It is hoped that we will be able to re-start in the Autumn but until then lets enjoy the Summer. There will not be any further entries until the August edition.

- John Carr. (01404 841367). Janet Loader. (01884 252116)



A small, social group catering for all levels of Snooker ability (up to "average"!).

Our normal meeting dates at Halberton Village Hall are the 1st and 3rd Friday each month. Our start time is 3.30pm. Conveniently, buses from Tiverton stop at

the door, so you can use your bus-pass to get there. I am a keyholder for opening up, so give me a ring beforehand if you would like to join in and have a game or two. *John.* Tel: 07947 000757



TWALKERS - These walks are out in the countryside, generally within 10 miles of Tiverton. The maximum distance is no more than 3.6 miles and take no more than 90 minutes. The venue changes weekly.

STROLLERS - Venue changes monthly for a gentle walk lasting no more than 60 minutes

around the streets of Tiverton.

For more details and a programme, please contact Chris Mumford: chris.mumford21@gmail.com



The March Short Trek was led by Tony Lowe starting at Molland Church. The route will took us through the village and across several fields before reaching a moorland bridleway leading to Anstey Gate. Unsurprisingly, this first

section was pretty much uphill all the way but not overly demanding. We

then followed the ridge line along West Anstey Common before looping back over Guphill Common to return to the village

April's walk will be led by Phil Akers on Friday 28th. It will start at Haddon Hill car park on the B3190 between Bampton and Watchet and above the southern end of Wimbleball reservoir.

We will walk down the lane to the dam, cross it then follow the edge of the lake round to the sailing club. From there we head towards footpaths across fields towards Brompton Regis. Left onto the lane past Venn and onto Hartford and Bury via Hartford Bottom. Cross the bridge at Bury by the ford and shortly afterwards turn left onto Haddon Lane. Follow the lane back to the car park. The only significant up is along Haddon Lane. About 7 miles. 10am start Picnic lunch. *Nigel*

Looking ahead, May 26th's short trek is about seven miles and will leave Crowcombe <u>village</u> car park (ST140 366) at 10.00. There's a variety of scenery – peripheral parkland, open moorland, woods, streams with fords – in addition to excellent, although weather dependent, views to three sides of the Quantocks. To get the views there are some hills! ~ *Mike*



joining the group should contact one of us.

The group meets every Monday from 10 am to 12 noon at Sunningmead Community Centre. We have four tables and generally play doubles to ensure that everyone gets as many games as possible during the session. There is a weekly charge of £3.00, which includes coffee or tea. Newcomers are welcome, and we endeavour to help those with less experience of the game. Anyone interested in finding out about

- Katherine and Lorne



appreciated. The staff were welcoming and efficient, bearing in mind our number and that we didn't have to pre-order.

Our next outing is to Mount Pleasant Inn, Nomansland, on 11th May. There is a limit in numbers of 24, first come first served, so if you have not already signed up, please do so asap by emailing me. We have to pre-order.

Angie. angelacheshire@hotmail.com 07743 184 980

Twenty-three diners enjoyed time at the Villa Verdi restaurant in Rockwell Green. A widespread menu covered all tastes. Mains and puds galore were





The April Trek

12 Trekkers gathered at Porlock Weir for a Linear Trek from Dunkery Beacon back to Porlock Weir led by Tony L. This of course meant a car shuffle taking the 12 trekkers in 3 cars up to the top of Exmoor and leaving 3 cars at the Porlock car park to get us all back to

our own vehicles. Whilst this did take a bit more time and thinking about rather than the usual circuitous route, it all worked splendidly and enabled us to trek 11.5 Miles from the summit of Exmoor to the Bristol Channel.

The Long Trek's good weather reputation held once again and whilst rather chilly on Dunkery Beacon it became warmer and sunnier the further we went. The route entailed several stream crossings that were all successfully undertaken and a walk through the beautiful Hawkcombe Nature Reserve and down through the rather upmarket Hawkcombe village. Taking advantage of a plant stall in the village, the group were joined by a rather large pot plant which came with us down through Porlock and then across



the very damp but bleakly beautiful Porlock Marshes where a number of eerie Skeleton tree were seen . On reaching Porlock Weir the return car shuffle was performed and it was then to the debrief at Wheddon Cross where Tony was thanked for an excellent Trek through some of the lesser known parts of Exmoor.

The May Trek –Thursday 4 th May - Merrivale, Dartmoor

The May trek will be led by Roger and start at 10.00 am from the car park at SX539750 which is just past the Merrivale Inn coming from the east. Then we head out to the leat that runs south and pick up Pew Tor, from here we pass through Sampford Spiney and turn for our return at Ward Bridge. Finally going anti clockwise around Cox Tor we return amid fine views, to the carpark. Distance is a little under 10 miles and ascent 1369 ft.

Please let me know if you are planning to come on this Trek or if you are interested in joining the Trekking Group - Gordon. 01884 242563. grcleaver54@gmail.com



I arranged with Laura the owner of the Devonshire Dumpling, near Crediton, for us to visit on the 5th April, to which the majority of our members had not previously been. We had many comments "What a nice clean looking place", What a wonderful choice & variety of food, fantastic" "The food is terrific". The menus ranged from the

weekly menu, to the specials menu, but also a smaller plate menu, two courses for £12.95. I am also pleased to say that if you ordered from the normal menu you did not come away hungry – just the opposite, but what ever you ordered the quality did not waiver. Laura arranged the conservatory just for us, where we could here the rain, but we were in the dry eating excellent food, what could be better.

Our venture for **3rd May** has been arranged by Anne Brady at the Holman Clavel. Culmhead to which we have 18 members booked so far. So if you have not booked, please contact me asap.

The pub certainly has character aplenty, and ghost tales aside it's a delightfully cosy nook. As far as first impressions go, one could assume that its outlying location may beget a narrow-eyed welcome, but this couldn't be further from the truth - the pub hosts all manner

of characters. The transient nature of the pub seems to hark back to days of halfway houses. Afterall, it sits between Honiton and Taunton – both well-established market towns in their heydays - and would've been an important stop for farmers and market traders; it still is, in fact.



The food is very well thought of, with the pub using local food producers for meats and vegetables wherever possible. - *Trevor*

Directions:- Take A 361 to Jnctn 27, go north on M5 to jnctn 26, and take the 4th exit onto Gerbstone Lane for 0.5mls and then turn left signposted Budgetts cross for another 0.5mls. At T jnctn turn right signposted Blackmoor for 1.7mls to next T Jnctn and turn left onto Blackdown Hill rd for 3.2mls. The Holman Clavel. Culmhead, Taunton, TA3 7EA is on the right. 01823 421070.

Tiverton u3a Cryptic Crossword No. 023 - Solution

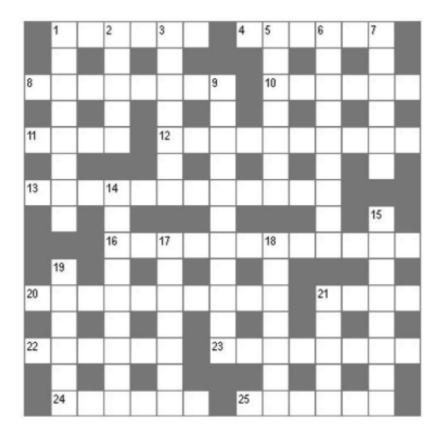
Across

- 1 IMPERISHABLE
- 8 NONAGON
- 9 DOCTORS
- 11 HERRING
- 12 MISHEAR
- 13 SODAS
- 14 DESTROYER
- 16 ARRIVISTE
- 19 CARDS
- 21 TAPERED
- 23 TREASON
- 24 CASHIER
- 25 NUMERAL
- **26 REMONSTRANCE**

Down

- 1 IGNORED
- 2 PIGGIES
- 3 RENEGADES
- 4 SODOM
- 5 ACCUSER
- 6 LOOSELY
- 7 ENTHUSIASTIC
- 10 SURPRISINGLY
- 15 SWEETENER
- 17 RIPOSTE
- 18 VERTIGO
- 19 CREWMAN
- 20 RESERVE
- 22 DARTS

Tiverton u3a Cryptic Crossword No 24



- Hard to comprehend how a car dies with fuel 1 injection (6)
- 4 Mr Elliot initially follows former queen up and bursts forth (6)
- 8 A smaller generator has components likely to provoke a bad reaction (8)
- 10 Where danger grows (6)
- 11 The opera singer takes a turn to show enthusiasm (4)
- 12 Ruminate with energy and nous, strangely it just doesn't add up for me! (10)
- 13 Before the auto I have to repay money surreptitiously (12)
- 16 Make a connection around top Intensive Therapy Unit to repeat the main points (12)
- 20 Preoccupations with a short observation about serious drinking time (10)
- 21 Sighed over lost opportunities when initially determined to go freelance (4)
- 22 Bench stay and pay (6)
- 23 A cep taste is overturned to observe (8)
- 24 Bird which can be found in the Corinth rushes (6)
- 25 He dies as they made innuendos (6)

- The act of bowling one of six (8)
- 2 Firstly, gluttony results-' excessive eating disorder' (5)
- 3 The contents of this oggie really became mushier (7)
- 5 These dictate. Follow them! Slim down! (7)
- 6 Left two men to get a picture (9)
- 7 The seats I find for an afternoon rest (6)
- 9 Spoon goes west round first six incompetent idiots (11)
- 14 Complain before you go in or he'll finish the woodwork (9)
- 15 One sounding fleet of foot joins others (8)
- 17 Nuts processed as chews? (7)
- 18 Examiners, "are the rest set to be tested?" (7)
- 19 French "I" with a scan follows Old Bill, initially to oppose (6)
- 21 Full? Tasted weird without initial T-bone (5)

As usual, I include a list of groups and contacts who are not reporting this month. Co-ordinators contact details can be found on the "members only" page of our website.



Folk Dancing

Coordinators:

John & Hazel Ridd





