

Tiverton u3a Newsletter

learn, laugh, live

Volume 8 Issue 6

June 2023



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FROM THE COMMITTEE:

Tiverton u3a welcomes two new members:

Pete Chowings. Sally Waddington

...and regrets to announce the death of a long-standing member, John Selby

April Meeting

At the April monthly meeting, members listened to a very interesting talk by Charlotte Bacon from Southwest Water. Charlotte covered a wide range of water related topics. 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?



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/94c8lqhlSVA>

u3a Short Story Competition

The u3a Short Story Competition is back for its fourth year. The theme is 'Decision(s)' and the deadline is Monday 26 June. The full competition rules can be seen on [the u3a learning pages](#).

We want to hear from as many members as possible - so please share this with your u3a's creative writing groups and members.

Annual General Meeting of the Third Age Trust - Notification

The Company Secretary, Samantha Mauger, gives notification of the date of Annual General Meeting of the Third Age Trust 2023 in order to allow for member u3as to prepare for the meeting.

Notification is hereby given that the 40th Annual General Meeting of the Third Age Trust will be held on **Wednesday 18 October** as a hybrid meeting allowing delegates to attend in person or online. The in-person event will take place, **commencing at 11.15am, at Kents Hill Park, Milton Keynes.**

Details on how to access the meeting online for both voting delegates and non-voting delegates will be distributed to u3as in due course.

May General Meeting Moorhayes Community Centre

Thursday the 25th May
10:00 for 10:30 am

History of the Music Hall
Tim Dyke

The Great British Music Hall was a cultural phenomenon that thrived in the early Victorian era as an entertainment venue for theatre and musical acts. The popularity of the music hall made it a vital cultural and social institution embedded in British history.

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 22nd June:

u3a Cruise to Norway

Government Notice

To help save the economy in the current economic crisis, the Government will announce – next week – that the Home Office and Immigration Department will start deporting pensioners instead of asylum seekers, in order to lower welfare benefits and NHS costs.

A spokesman said:

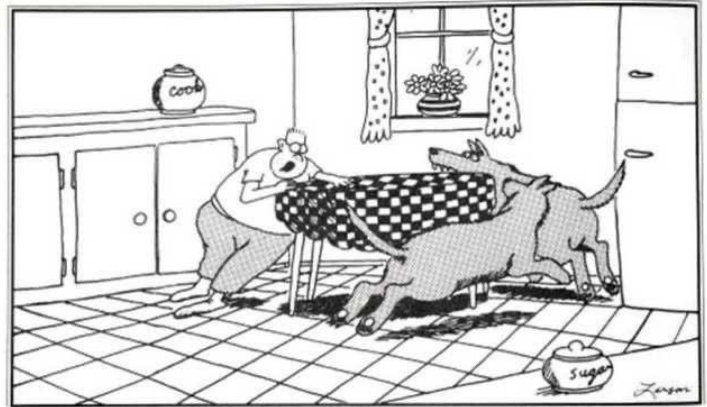
“Older people are easier to catch and will not remember how to get back home”

The police hammered on my door and demanded to know where I was between five and 11.

I said: ‘Primary school!’



After using up half a can of Raid Superpower, I realised that this was my daughter's hair grip. Should have gone to Spec....



Luposliphobia: The fear of being pursued by timber wolves around a kitchen table while wearing socks on a newly waxed floor.

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*



Book Readers

Coordinator:
Carol Blandford

Four books were reviewed by the group this month. A brief description is included to whet your appetite for further reading.

'Lessons in Chemistry' by Bonnie Garmus.

This is a multi-award-winning best seller, described as unconventional and funny. It is set in America in the 50s and 60s. The main character is Elizabeth Zott, a brilliant research scientist working in a facility where she is the only woman and is badly treated. She meets Calvin, a fellow scientist and becomes pregnant. There is an incident that leads to her leaving the lab, pregnant and alone. Surprisingly she becomes well known as a TV chef.

Monica Ali's book 'Love Marriage'

Set in England in the 70s and 80s, it is a story of two young lovers from two very different cultures. Yasmin, from a Muslim family, is a student doctor who becomes engaged to Joe. When her family meet his there is a struggle for them all to understand each other. Joe's mother Harriet, writes books and essays on liberal guilt, throws parties for the literati and once famously posed nude for a published photo. Yasmin's family are conservative and very traditional. At the first family dinner Yasmin's mother brings copious amounts of Indian food in Tupperware to Harriet's lavish catered dinner. The stage is set for misunderstandings and conflict. Yasmin begins to question what she wants from a relationship.

'This must be the Place' is by Maggie O'Farrel.

The two main characters are Claudette, a well-known film star and Daniel Sullivan, an Irish American from Brooklyn. Claudette has a mental crisis, leaves her career and husband and disappears with her young son. By chance Daniel meets her when her car breaks down in remote rural Ireland and a love affair ensues. Daniel has a family in America including his father and his children. After some years of happiness together Daniel goes to his father's funeral in America and makes the mistake of looking for a previous girlfriend from his past. Trouble follows.

'Annie Dunne' by Sebastian Barry

This novel introduces a family that he then writes about further in a series of books. Not a lot happens but the writing is beautiful.

Annie was born to a relatively wealthy family in Ireland, her grandfather was a senior policeman working for the English which causes some alienation from her Irish neighbours. Because of the political turmoil in Ireland in the early part of the 20th century the family wealth is lost. Annie is hunchbacked and had no suitors as a young woman, her family takes advantage of her and generally she is mistreated and bitter.

After being evicted from her brother's home, when he remarried, she goes to live with her unmarried cousin Sarah, also an old lady. The novel describes their hard life on a small holding in remote Ireland, milking cows, making butter, keeping hens and struggling financially. More insecurity for Annie threatens when Billy Kerr, a farmhand shows interest in marrying Sarah. - Carol



**Croquet
Coordinator:
Eric Richardson**

We commenced playing this season on 2nd May but the following week the session had to be cancelled due to waterlogged conditions. However, we will now work our way through to the end of September and you can all assume we are playing as set out on the list you have all received (including variations shown in red) unless you hear otherwise by email or telephone. Email: e.richardson5@sky.com

- Eric & Sandra



**Devon Bus Travel
Coordinator:
Valerie Pocock**

We had an interesting visit to Okehampton, so that we could travel on the new train route from Exeter. The return journey was by bus, and the views on this route on a lovely sunny day were spectacular! Travel on the top of a double decker to obtain the best views!

In Okehampton we enjoyed a lovely meal outside at the 'Victorian tea shop' by the museum. Incredible value! Afterwards we split up - two of us enjoyed the outstandingly beautiful park, others went round shops and one member looked around the town, which had interesting plaques with historical interest on them.

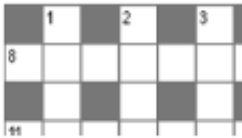
Next month we go to Plymouth on the Falcon bus from Cullompton..... - Valerie



**Creative Writing
Coordinator:
Annie Hooper**

Creative writing continues with a meeting to be held on 24th May at Sandie's house. the topic for May is Devonshire as one or two of our members are Devonians we look forward to some revealing contributions. Our overseas members are keeping us busy, as are some embers recovering from illness. If you would care to join us either online or in person contact

Annie devonian2001@yahoo.co.uk



Cryptic Crosswords

Coordinator:
Tony Lowe

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*



Economics

Coordinator:
Mike Barlow

Due to members other commitments, we've not had a meeting since the last newsletter but have potentially two new members which is good news.

Economics touches all our lives so if you'd like to join us let me

at mikeandsue.barlow@gmail.com and I can give you more information ~ *Mike*



Folk Dancing

Coordinators:
John & Hazel Ridd

We have been having loads of fun folk dancing recently, we dance a wide spectrum of dances from English Playford from the 18th century to American contras and squares.

We welcome new members, and as long as you can walk, you will be able to join in, and

you don't need a partner. Very friendly callers guide us through the moves, and we usually end up in the right place at the right time! Good exercise for the brain as well as the body.

We meet on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays at Halberton Village Hall at 2-4pm our next meetings are the 24th of May, the 14th of June and the 28th of June. - *John*



German Conversation

Coordinator:
John Smith.

We have met only once since my last report due to an excess of Bank Holidays this month. One of our members had recently returned from a tour of the "Stans" and described his travels by air, bus, train and taxi. One journey by taxi was some 500 miles!

Our "word of the week" was Kummerspeck. This means, literally, "grief bacon" but actually excess

fat due to comfort eating.

Our conversation inevitably included the results of the Eurovision Song Contest". The UK was clearly disappointed with its last but one placing but took some comfort from the position of Germany (last for those who do not know). I imagine there could be some comfort eating there to ease their grief.
- *John*



Going Places

Coordinators:

John O'Connor

Tony Lowe, Chris Steele

We have started a new group called "Going Places". It's a very "Ad Hoc" arrangement and as such, has no regular monthly meeting date or mailing list. The idea is to simply find events or locations, worth a visit and to organise these around numbers of members who might wish to attend.

To minimise costs, we are trying to do interesting things within a 60-minute car journey of Tiverton. Car sharing (organised amongst yourselves is encouraged). For more ambitious undertakings, further afield, we may engage with a local minibus company, details TBA. We will be circulating trip plans via "Beacon", as a general email notification.

Some of the interesting visits coming up (further details will be issued nearer the time):

- Devon & Somerset Gliding Club
- Lundy Air Day
- David Pipe Racing Stables
- Coldharbour Mill
- Lower Otter Restoration Project
- South Devon Railway Engineering
- Haynes Motor Museum (June 28th)
-

If any of these ideas appeal to you or you have suggestions of your own, please let us know at our monthly meeting at Moorhayes.

Our inaugural meeting will be a visit to Haynes Motor Museum in Sparkford. The entrance fee for the Motor Museum is £15 each which includes a guide for up to 15 people. We plan to charge £28.50 per person which includes the museum entrance fee, guide and minibus. Date for the trip - Wednesday 28th June leaving Elmore football ground at 9:30 am.

Interest in this outing will no doubt be high, so early expressions of interest are encouraged. Preference will be given to the first 15 to respond. A reserve list will also be made for those who didn't make the first 15, in case of anyone dropping out nearer the time.

Please email Chris Steele at chrissteele164@gmail.com



Trad Jazz

Coordinator:
Mike Barlow

The **Riviera Ramblers** played at **Magelake**, and was lead by John Shillito - trumpet & vocals, with Zoe Lambeth - clarinet, alto sax & vocals, Dale Whitlock - guitar & banjo, John Whitlock - guitar, and Isaac Gossage who travelled from West Cornwall on bass. The evening was predominantly Minor Swing,

Strut and Django Reinhardt tunes. My favourite part of the evening was when Dale got his banjo out and, assisted by his son, the whole room came alive. Both he and his son must be the best performers on strings in this part of the UK. ~ *David Rider*

Apart from the usual sessions shown below, you can also enjoy free **Jazz on the Exeter Quay** from 1230 each Sunday **from Sunday 25th June**.

Fri 16th June Richard Leach Street Band at Jubilee Hall, Langford Budville

Wed 21st June Gordon's Algiers Strutters at Magelake Hall, Uffculme. Contact Jane Mulholland to reserve seats on gordonsjazzclub@hotmail.com

Hope to see you there!

~ *Mike*



Line Dancing

Coordinator:
Mich Bowers

Our two sessions in May were both a week earlier than normal due to a rare event, a Coronation! Despite that everyone turned up, and we were lucky to welcome Jenny who normally has other commitments. At the last session, after taking One Step Forward we made our way across Texas to

Vegas where we got All Shook Up after a nice Black Coffee (no sugar). Anyone tempted to join us would be very welcome, and it may even be enjoyable!

- *Mich*



Local Theatre

Coordinator:
Betty Thrall

Tiverton Junior Operatic Club will be having a Summer Show "THANK YOU FOR THE MUSIC" for two nights in The New Hall on Friday & Saturday 21st & 22nd July .The seats will not be numbered. I hope to have some tickets for sale £8 each at the June 22nd monthly meeting. We heard a taster from this

concert at The Spring Variety Show which was very enjoyable and a very polished performance.

More details will be given for the Tiverton Operatic production of "NINE -to- FIVE" in next month's newsletter. Our Block Booking will be Thursday September 14th at 7-30 pm in The New Hall, Tiverton .

Last month's Dramatic Society production of The Vicar Of Dibley was impressive as the cast certainly portrayed the TV characters well. It would be unfair to pick anyone out and I must include the teams creating the lighting, sound, costumes and the friendly front of house team. As the Director, Pauline Farr, hoped we certainly all left with a smile on our faces.

The Spring Variety Show played to a full house and lived up to its name with beautiful song, comedy and instrumentalists. The Ukulele Crazy certainly set our hands clapping and our feet tapping and the opening by Tiverton Ladies Choir and Mid Devon singers got us off to a good start. Rose is to be congratulated on another successful show.

Betty 01884 242998 07972271524



Philosophy

Coordinators:
David Hamer
Carol Hamer

Eight of us met to embark on our investigation of Descartes. We made use of paragraphs from the Stanford Encyclopaedia of Philosophy as an introductory text.

This put Descartes in his 17th century context, as well as giving a good indication of both the breadth and the depth of his thinking.

The text was in places technical, but we took our time to look at its complexity, with the aid of members of the group who are better informed about this sort of language. As usual the conversation was wide ranging and involving.

We will continue to investigate Descartes at the next meeting on July 19th. -- David



Railway Group

Coordinator:
Jose Kimber

Our last meeting was the April one where we watched the "great Western Steam Miscellany (Part 1), filmed between 1960 and 1965. This is another archive cine film production, featuring a wide range of steam locomotives operating over a lot of the old Great Western empire. It included

nostalgic visits to the Exe Valley and Culm Valley lines featuring the 0-4-2 14xx tank engines which mostly worked these lines until the diesel era. Although the quality of the DVD is not great by modern standards, it was an interesting watch.

Our next meeting will be on **Friday 26th May at 10.30am** as usual at the **Willand Methodist Church**, when we will watch another DVD from my collection, unless someone has something more interesting to show!

The June meeting will be on Friday 23 June at the same time and venue.

I am hoping to arrange another railway outing in June, probably later in the month, depending on finding a suitable date when there isn't a rail strike. We will probably travel by train from Tiverton Parkway to Looe. We will discuss this at our may meeting and I will notify group members by e-mail. Other U3A members are welcome to join us, and if you are not a member of our group and would like to be kept informed about our outings, please let me know and I will add you to my e-mail list.

If you are not a member of the Railway Group and would like to join us, please contact me. There is plenty of room at the church and it is a comfortable venue.

- Jose



Ramblers
Coordinator:
Jenny Bedford

Despite the terrible forecast, 7 hardy (misguided) souls assembled for Jane's walk at Rackenford. As promised, it was very muddy but, in compensation, the fields were a uniform beautiful green.. The fact that the grass was long meant we were able to wash off the mud almost as quickly as our boots acquired it. The first two fields were completely flat, then we negotiated a longish, slippery track, without mishap. After more fields and a drove road we did a brief part of the bridleway on Rackenford

Moor, walking from tussock to tussock to avoid the water, then returned - 5.3 miles in total. Thanks, Jane, for a good, easy walk, where we did have some good views as the rain mainly held off.

The June Ramble will be on 13th and will be led by Nigel. It will start and finish at Cadeleigh Village Hall (SS914081) and take in Round Wood, East Ridge, Little Silver and Yate Farm. There are two stream crossings which shouldn't be a problem unless there is heavy rain preceding the walk. Distance is about four miles, with just over 1000ft of ascent and descent. 10am start. To get to the start point, follow the signs for Cadeleigh from the Crediton Road at Bickleigh Bridge. Turn right immediately after passing the Cadeleigh Inn. The Village Hall car park is about 100yds on the left. Additional parking on the right- - *Jenny*



Snooker
Coordinator:
John Anderson

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



**WALK and
TALK**

**Strollers and
Twalkers**
Coordinator:
Chris Mumford

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



Short Trek

Coordinator:
Nigel Blandford

April's short Trek was led by Phil Akers. It started at Haddon Hill car park the southern end of Wimbleball reservoir. We walked down the lane to the dam, crossed it and followed the edge of the lake round to the sailing club. From there we headed across fields towards Brompton Regis. We followed the lane past Venn and Hartford to reach the very attractive village of Bury, where we stopped

for lunch. Haddon Lane. From there we ascended Haddon Lane, back to the car park. Thanks to Phil for an excellent walk.

May 26th's short trek will be led by Mike Barlow and is about seven miles. It will leave Crowcombe village 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!

Looking ahead, June's Short Trek will be led by Ben, in the Quantocks, and will incorporate a quiz. Intriguing! Details to follow ~ Nigel



Table Tennis

Coordinators:
Katherine Green
Lorne Loxterkamp

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

joining the group should contact one of us. - Katherine and Lorne



Thursday Lunch

Coordinator:
Angie Cheshire

A warm welcome greeted 17 of us when we arrived at The Mount Pleasant Inn, Nomansland on a cold May day. They had 3 open log fires burning brightly and seated us comfortably in the room with the Old Blacksmiths Forge, perfect for large

groups.

The pre-ordered meals, of which we had a wide selection to choose from, were very efficiently dealt with.

The food was of good quality and plenty of it. The gammon was praised and the liver and onions very tasty. All enjoyed their chosen meals.

We were well looked after by the friendly family-run team.

A place that is well worth returning to again and again, and never disappoints. ~ Jane

Our next outing is to The Martlett Inn, Langford Budville, on 8th June, organised by Gine and Mike. Let me know if you would like to come.



Angie. angelacheshire@hotmail.com 07743 184 980



**Trekking
Coordinator:
Gordon Cleaver**

The May Trek

Well before the start time of 10am, enthusiastic trekkers started to trickle into a very windy car park on Dartmoor, two ladies and seven men in total, a good turnout considering the forecast. Although the promised rain hadn't arrived yet, it was extremely windy and a job to

stand up. With everybody chomping at the bit to be off, and with a slightly misty vista, Roger led us off in a southerly direction to join and walk for a short distance along the Grimstone and Sortridge leat to Moortown and on to Pew Tor. Swinging South Annie Foot and I who had stopped to admire the scenery hurried to catch up with the group in the distance and as we passed the hamlet of Sampford Spiney they disappeared completely. Not knowing they had stopped at the church for lunch we hurried on thinking they must have increased their pace. I then received a phone call from Roger wondering where we were, it was nice to be missed. Now there was quite a bit of road walking as we marched on to Daveytown past Hucken Tor and Merrievale quarry where we could have taken a quick way back, but we stuck to the planned route back on the open moor. The wind had dropped now but the mist was getting thicker as we looped around Cox Tor to return to the cars to finish the ten and a quarter miles. Although it never actually rained we were, a little damp so the two hundred year old continuous wood fire at the Warren Inn was most welcome, as well as the other necessities of life. -- Ben.



The June Trek –Thursday 1st June - Clatworthy and the Brendon Hills.

The June Trek will be led by Gordon and will start at 10.00 am from the Clatworthy Reservoir Car Park (ST042 311). We will start on the familiar Reservoir track but then divert off northwards into the little walked Brendon Hills. First along Tripp Bottom and then exploring some of the remains of the mineral railway incline and winding house. We will then trek via the source of the River Tone and back to the car park via another section of the reservoir track. This is a trek of around 10.5 miles with an ascent of 1527 ft. It is on some little used paths and can be a bit muddy if we have had wet weather.

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



**Wednesday Pub
Lunch
Coordinator:
Trevor Ellmore**

Our venue at Holman Clavel Culmhead turned out to be difficult for some to find, and lesser of a problem for others. This had been arranged by Anne Brady to which I don't recall having visited before. However we will certainly put it down for a return visit as the food was excellent, with the vast majority of plates completely

empty at the end, which is what we like to see. We can always rely on Anne coming up with interesting additions.

Our Venue for the 7th of June is back at our old favourite **The Blue Ball –Samford Moor**. Fiona has agreed once again to open the pub up just and only for us on a lunchtime Wednesday. Since Covid they normally only open on Fri, Sat, Sun. She knows we won't let her down and accepts our booking. We will see you there from 12pm.

Directions:- Take the A38 from Jnct 27 towards Wellington for 3.1 miles and turn right onto B3391. Continue for 0.9 miles, then turn left, and continue through Nicholashayne for 1.9 miles. The pub is on the right, the car park on the left. TA21 9QL



- Trevor

Tiverton u3a Cryptic Crossword No. 024 - Solution

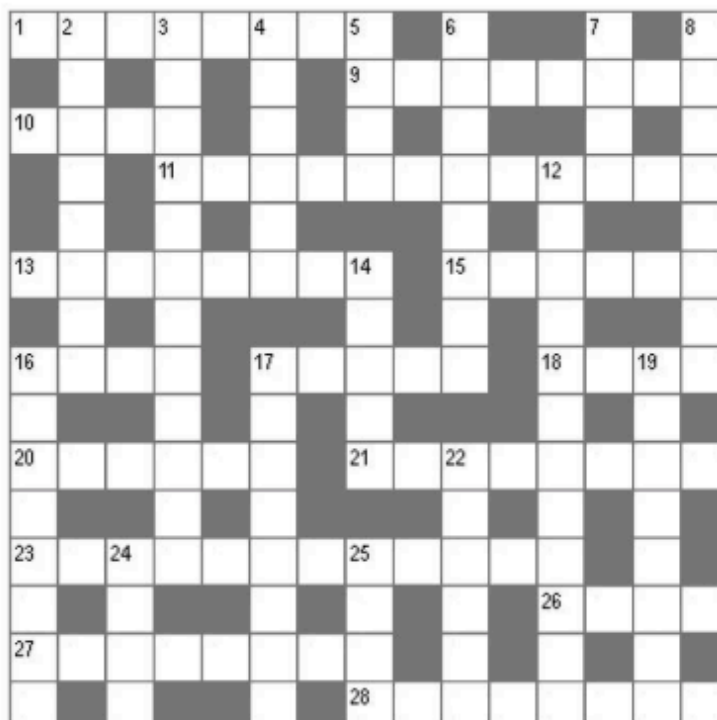
Across

- 1 DIGEST
- 4 ERUPTS
- 8 ALLERGEN
- 10 GARDEN
- 11 AVID
- 12 INNUMERATE
- 13 PRECARIOUSLY
- 16 RECAPITULATE
- 20 OBSESSIONS
- 21 SOLO
- 22 SETTLE
- 23 SPECTATE
- 24 THRUSH
- 25 ASIDES

Down

- 1 DELIVERY
- 2 GREED
- 3 SOGGIER
- 5 REGIMES
- 6 PORTRAYAL
- 7 SIESTA
- 9 NINCOMPOOPS
- 14 CARPENTER
- 15 ATHLETES
- 17 CASHEWS
- 18 TESTERS
- 19 OBJECT
- 21 SATED

Tiverton u3a Cryptic Crossword No 25



- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 To occur many times when you visit often (8) | 2 The florid dancer has the action of getting rid (8) |
| 9 Unfortunately Rita got mixed up with this defender of the people (8) | 3 Less than a half and hidden under a bushel for a little ventilation (12) |
| 10 I'd easily thought of part of that (4) | 4 Make Vincent Van Gogh reveal his presence within (6) |
| 11 Is this clue sounding familiar? (7,1,4) | 5 Thanks to the team for the ride! (4) |
| 13 Income gained by famous football club capitalising on early selection transactions (8) | 6 Courts down under! (8) |
| 15 If you put tea on this coin, you will have something to worry about (6) | 7 Stare when Miss Peep is removed from awning (4) |
| 16 Some alfresco parties include something to eat (4) | 8 Lord Lery makes jokes (8) |
| 17 Suburban Joanna has a guitar family member (5) | 12 Ouch, wild belt is exposed to the cold for too long (4,4,4) |
| 18 Why are reckless youths initially cautious? (4) | 14 Gin drinkers like to think this gives them a lift! (5) |
| 20 Go Gail to the Verandah (6) | 16 Mist at the Pole eventually reveals the journey's progress (8) |
| 21 Reread chitty as it indicates virtue (8) | 17 Show-off British soldier and Garfunkel straddle horse (8) |
| 23 The eye of the camera on hand in some memories (12) | 19 About blot losing first, hesitation, then getting payment to stay (8) |
| 26 Some buffalo in Kentucky making grunting sound (4) | 22 Stick your promotional notice in this place (6) |
| 27 South East Asian equus lives in the ocean (8) | 24 It's alright to begin operating kayaks all year (4) |
| 28 Former US president named by article about rodeo (8) | 25 Help alphabetise clothes (4) |

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.



Psychology
Coordinator:
To be appointed



Photography 2
Coordinator:
Charlie Duke



Photography
Coordinator:
Roger Gunn



Industrial Heritage
Coordinator:
Phil Stone



Skittles
Coordinators:
John Carr
Janet Loader