Tiverton u3a Newsletter

learn, laugh, live

Volume 8 Issue 7

July 2023



Coming to a tree near you

These Mediterranean bee-eaters are now resident in UK

Chairman	Robin Mayes	tivertonu3achair@gmail.com
Vice Chairman	Nigel Blandford	tivertonu3avice@gmail.com
Treasurer	Sue Robbins	tivertonu3atreasurer@gmail.com
Secretary	Irene Butler	tivertonu3asecretary@gmail.com
Membership	Annie Foot	tivertonu3amembership@gmail.com
Webmaster	John O'Connor	tivertonu3awebmaster@gmail.com
Social Media	Angie Cheshire	tivertonu3asocialmed@gmail.com
Technical & Speakers	Fergus McGilp	tivertonu3ameetings@gmail.com
Newsletter Editor	Nigel Blandford	tivertonu3aeditor@gmail.com
Committee Member.	Ivan Godfrey	ivangodfrey789@outlook.com

Website https://www.tivertonu3a.org.uk

Facebook https://facebook.com/tivertonu3a

Instagram https://www.instagram.com/tivertonu3a/

FROM THE COMMITTEE:

Tiverton u3a welcomes four new members:

Nicky Day John Homlin Hillsey and Lin Hillier

May Meeting

At the May general meeting, members were entertained to an amusing talk on the English Music Hall, by Mr Tim Dyke, in full Victorian regailia. Tim captivated us with the history of the music hall, up to the present day, illustrated with a wealth of pictures and plenty of live music. He even had the audience singing at the end of his talk.

If you missed it, or would like to hear it again, a recording can be downloaded here:

https://youtu.be/8FtyPgCss5U



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 inperson 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.

June General Meeting **Moorhayes Community Centre**

Thursday the 22nd June 10:00 for 10:30 am

Empowering Palestinian Children through Art and English. A Journey of Hope Ken Maharajah

Join us for an inspiring talk as we delve into the remarkable journey of one individual's mission to make a difference to the lives of refugee children, living under military occupation in Palestine. Discover how a charity's initiative sparked a transformative path, using art and English education as powerful tools of empowerment. Explore the challenges faced, the resilience exhibited, and the impact achieved through art projects, workshops, and English language programs. This captivating talk uncovers the real power of art and education in fostering hope, healing, and a future for these children. Be inspired to take action and create change in your own community.

Click 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 27th July Seaweed Refining - Sarah Hotchkiss

NEWS FLASH

I witnessed totally disgusting behaviour on the beach at Weston-super-Mare yesterday. A man and a woman were arguing in front of a load of kids. Then she smacked him on the head and it all kicked off between them. The police turned up and one of the policemen ended up using his baton on the bloke. He actually managed to get the baton off the copper and started hitting him, and the woman, with it.

Then a crocodile turned up and stole all the sausages and the man shouted "That's the way to do it"





I've got mice in my attic. I spray them with WD40. It doesn't kill them, but it stops them squeaking.

Good morning Reverend mother. I have to tell you that we have a case of COVID19 in the nunnery.

Oh, that's really good news sister. I'm fed up with the Beaujolais.

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*



This month our books were two fictional life histories, a murder mystery and a novel about the possible future after disastrous climate change.

'The Romantic' by William Boyd is loosely based on a real person, Cashell Greville Ross who was

born in County Cork in 1799. Ross experiences many different kinds of life including a drummer boy in the army, and a farmer in the US. The story moves from Ireland to London, USA, Europe and Zanzibar. It is cleverly interwoven with real life events and people such as Byron and Shelley. The author has meticulously researched each one of Ross's experiences and although the novel is very long it is absorbing and never boring. One critic described it as 'a fine story told very well'.

'Lessons' by lan McEwan tells the life story of Roland Baines beginning with his domineering father then being sent to an unusual boarding school in Suffolk where the music teacher, Miss Cornell, is attracted to him. This relationship causes him life long emotional scars. Described as a 'chronicle of our times' seen through the experiences of one man. Spanning the period from the end of WW2 through the Suez crisis, Cuban missile crisis, the fall of the Berlin Wall to the current pandemic and climate change.

'Murder before Evensong' is the first work of fiction by Rev Richard Coles. It is described as a cosy, charming mystery. It was an instant best seller with good reviews. The second one is already in the pipeline. It concentrates more on the effects of the murder on the local close knit community than on any gory details. Canon Daniel Clements is the solver of the mystery.

'The High House' by Jessie Greengrass is set in East Anglia in the future. Caro is the main character. Her mother has died and her father remarries a world renowned climate scientist and campaigner. They plan and prepare a place to go to in case of disaster from climate change. It is on high bluff on the Suffolk coast with an orchard, fields for crops and chickens, and a tide pool with water driven generator. At first there is a populated village nearby but a series of devastating storms lead to a somewhat depressing and hopeless situation.

- Carol



We commenced playing this season on 2nd May and we will now work our way through to the end of September. We play every Tuesday afternoon on the cricket pitch at Knightshayes. New members are always welcome. No experience required. Tuition given and we provide all the equipment.

Email: e.richardson5@sky.com

- Eric & Sandra



Unfortunately, our trip to Plymouth had to be postponed. We had decided we needed to travel by car to Cullompton to catch the Falcon bus. As all our drivers except one were away on holiday, we decided to do a shorter, simpler outing to Exmouth.

This, of course was on one of the lovely days we have had recently, and was very successful. After a good meal on the seafront, four of us went on the open top bus to Sandy Bay. Our main objective was to enjoy the views and have an ice cream! Our only male member wandered around Exmouth, looking at the local architecture. A good day was had by all!

- Valerie



Still going strong. May's topic of hobbies was fun. Articles from hobby horses, chess and flying littered the editors desk. This month's topic "Reflections" might inspire some more members to participate. Perhaps some Reflections on Tiverton u3a might come to light.

Annie 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*



We had an interesting discussion about "Central Bank Plans for Digital Currencies" - we couldn't see the need!

We will meet again on Wed 5th July at Jane's House at 10am.

The topics will be "The Business Cycle" and "The Housing Price Cycle".

Contact mikeandsue.barlow@gmail.com if you'd like to join us. ~ 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 14th of June and the 28th of June. - John



Due to a proliferation of Bank Holidays, we have only met once since my last report. As usual, we have talked about our recent activities and have played another "House of Games" in the manner of Richard Osman but auf Deutsch (of course).

We again had our "word of the week". There were some unusual offerings, the most topical of which was "Das Scheingericht". As usual, the Germans

have combined two words to make one. Der Schein means "appearance" and Das Gericht means "court". What has the appearance of a court? A kangaroo court, of course. - *John*



Going Places
Coordinators:
John O'Connor
Tony Lowe, Chris Steele

Gliding

Most airfields tend to be pretty windswept and slightly bleak but not so North Hill near Dunkeswell. This wonderful rolling field with it's surrounding woodlands and impressive

views is the home of the Devon and Somerset Gliding Club, which provided a warm welcome to 10 $Going\ Places$ members on 24^{th} May.

Following an introduction to the general workings of the club by our friendly guide, we then went to inspect some of the aircraft. Starting in the hangar we got a close look at a 2-seater advanced trainer and it's basic controls. Beautifully engineered and with a 20 metre wingspan, the Glaser Dirks DG 505 is an impressive machine with a price to match!

Following our tour of the hangar we strolled up-field to watch gliders being



launched. Although some were towed into the air by a tug plane, the majority were winch launched, which is quite an impressive sight. Gliders very quickly become airborne (0 – 60 in 3

seconds in case you wondered) thanks to the impressive pulling power of a winch located at the far end of the airfield.

Having enjoyed a couple of interesting hours learning more about the sport, it seemed only fitting that most of us should retire to the clubhouse for refreshments (I can recommend the bacon and egg rolls) to round off the day.

Thanks to DSGC for providing such a friendly and informative visit. If you'd like to know more about the club (and possibly take a trial flight?), see their website at https://www.dsgc.co.uk/

- Tony

Haynes Motor Museum

This trip has been arranged for 28th June is now fully booked. A report on the event will be printed in next month's newsletter.

Lundy Air Day

Every year Lundy Island is home to one of the UK's most unusual fly-in venues and this year organisers are hoping to break the current record of 75 visiting aircraft.

If you would like to take a closer look at the aerial activity or simply explore the island, the Going Places group is organising a day trip to Lundy on **Sunday 30th July**.

The ferry will leave Ilfracombe at 10am and return at 6.30pm (car share advised for travel from Tiverton). The crossing time is approximately 2 hours and the return fare is £40 per head.

Lundy is a rugged island with limited disabled access but good facilities once you reach the 'village' (i.e. pub, shop, etc). For further details about the island, see https://www.landmarktrust.org.uk/lundvisland/day-trips/

If you're interested in joining us, please let me know ASAP - Tony



A small number of us enjoyed a great evening with the "John Maddocks Jazz Band" and by the time you read this there'll have been other sessions and the July ones are all listed on our Web page.

They include sessions at Langford Budville, Uffculme and every Sunday lunchtime on the Exeter Quay. ~ *Mike*



Despite the rather warm weather we had a goodly number for our latest session, and it was good to see a couple of new brave souls. We all managed to walk out at the end, even if a few of us felt it in the knees, and what-evers....

Due to 'popular demand' the sessions will be running right thru' July and August.

Next sessions: June 24th, July 10th & 24t. - Mich



The Junior Operatic Clubs Summer Show is "THANK YOU FOR THE MUSIC" Friday & Saturday July 21st 22nd July ,our block booking is for Saturday July 22nd 7 30 pm New Hall .Tickets £8 each each, please put your name on the list and pay by June 22nd monthly meeting and support this very talented group.

The Tiverton Amateur operatic Society next Production is "9 to 5", Music and Lyrics by Dolly Parton from the book by Patricia Resnick .Our block booking is for Thursday September 14th in The New Hall 7 30 pm Please put your names on the list and pay me by August 24th monthly meeting

9 to 5 is based on the 1980 movie of the same name and features music and lyrics by Dolly Parton .It centres on the downtrodden working lives of three women ,Violet,Judy and Doralee.They all work at Consolidated Industries,which is presided over by the sexist ,lecherous and pompous ,Franklin Hart.After much intrigue in the show ,The Chairman sends Hart to head up the Bolivia office and promotes Violet to the first female CEO .With Hart gone the company reprise 9 to 5 in the happy knowledge that times have changed for the better . Do support this award winning group and enjoy a good evenings entertainment .

Willow Tree Dance and Performing Arts are performing "SHREK" the Musical in The New Hall 7-30 pm .Our Block Booking is Thursday October 19th tickets £9 .Cheques to be made payable to Tiverton u3a .Please put your names on the list ,phone or email me and pay by August 24th monthly meeting .

Those of you who have seen past performances of Willow Tree will that the stage effects ,lighting costumes,singing chorography are outstanding so please support this local talent .

Betty 01884 242998 07972271524



The Photography group is having a summer break. We will resume our meetings in September. - Roger



Railway Group
Coordinator:
Jose Kimber

We had a good turnout for our may meeting, with nine people, though two were away. Pete Chowings had brought along a DVD called "The Way West", so we watched that. It was all about the line from Salisbury to Exeter Central, and the

branch lines in between, most of which have gone now, with the exception of the Weymouth and Exmouth branches. It was very interesting, and the video was better quality than a lot of the ones we have been watching, as many of the DVDs contain archive footage filmed on old cine film of variable quality.

Our next meeting will be on **Friday 23rd June at 10.30am** as usual at the **Willand Methodist Church**, when we will be watching another DVD from my collection called "Fire and Steam", which is about the history of the railways and their impact on unless someone has something more interesting to show!

On Tuesday 29 June we have arranged a railway outing to Looe, travelling by train from Tiverton Parkway, with a change at Liskeard. Any U3A member who would like to come on the visit is welcome to join us. Please contact me for the details.

Our normal July meeting is scheduled for Friday 28 July but I may not be available on that day, so I will confirm at our meeting next week whether the date needs to be changed or whether someone else will take over for that meeting. I will as usual update group members by e-mail.

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



A varied, four mile walk in typical Devon rolling countryside. Starting at Cadleigh we walked past Round Wood, then traversing East Ridge to the small picturesque hamlet of Little Silver. With the able help of our leader Nigel we safely crossed a steeply sloping path with no-one slipping into the beckoning pond.

Those who

walked back along the River Dart were rewarded with sightings of herons.

This was one of the hottest days of the year and with temperatures approaching 30 degrees a long cold drink was appreciated at the Fisherman's Cot, while relaxing in the shade with excellent views over the Exe weir at Bickleigh. - Peter Hall



Next month's Ramble on Tuesday July 13th, starting at 10am. Will be led by Jackie from the Beam Bridge. Parking is in the layby next to the pub, where we shall be having lunch. Distance is approximately 5 miles. - *Jenny*



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



May's short trek was led by Mike Barlow and was about seven miles, starting from Crowcombe village car park in the Quantocks. There was a variety of scenery – peripheral parkland, open moorland, woods, streams with fords – in addition to excellent views to three sides of the Quantocks. To get the views there were some hills!

The short trek on Friday 23 rd June will be led by Ben and will start, from Staple Plantation car park, near Bicknoller in Somerset, on the Quantock Hills (ST-117-410). It's just over 7.5 miles and will be in puzzle form. (If quizzes are not your thing then come along and just enjoy the walk). The Quantocks are an area of outstanding natural beauty with far views over the Bristol Channel and surrounding countryside to Wales, with pretty Combes leading to wooded sylvan glens.

For those taking the quiz option you will need a rudimentary knowledge of the points of the compass, (i.e., north being 0 or 360 degrees and also 12o'clock as on a clock face, East 90 degrees and 3 o'clock etc), and some American military slang. Your map will be orientated north up and each square is a Kilometre. The idea will be to use the six clues which are mildly cryptic to discover where your next target point will be and decide which way to go, if you start to go astray, I can put you back on track. The contours are not very demanding, and the tracks are good with hardly any mud. I did two in 2017 and 2018 and everybody returned safely.

10am start. Bring a picnic lunch. More details to follow - Ben



The table tennis group continues to flourish with membership numbers remaining high. This month, for the first time ever, we hosted a session with another club. 7 members from the U3A South Molton table tennis group joined us on Friday 2nd June for

a 2-hour session. Tiverton U3A members paired with our guests for a number of friendly doubles games, with a break for refreshments halfway through to socialise. It was considered a great success and something that might be repeated in the Autumn.

- Katherine and Lorne



all enjoyed a lovely meal, the food was delicious and the staff very pleasant and efficient.

Our meal next month, on 13th July, is at The White Horse Inn, Bradford-on-Tone, organised by Wendy and Peter. Please contact me if you would like to attend and have not already signed up. We have to pre-order. Go to www.whitehorseinn.pub to see what's on offer.

On Thursday 8th June 21 members of our lunch group went to the pretty Martlett Inn in Langford Budville near Wellington. It was a lovely day and we were seated in the conservatory. We



Angie. angelacheshire@hotmail.com 07743 184 980



Long Trek - 1st June, Brendon Hills

Stampeding cattle, multiple stiles, risqué statues and steep inclines... Sound familiar? If so, you've probably been on one of Gordon's walks in the Brendon Hills!

Our June trek (led by Gordon) started from Clatworthy Reservoir, which if you've never been, there is a delightful spot with excellent facilities but discreetly located to avoid too many pesky tourists. Despite the fact that the weather forecast predicted wall-to-wall sunshine, we started with overcast skies and a keen easterly wind. Fortunately, the weather soon cleared, and we were treated to some fine views as we progressed towards the remains of the Comberrow Incline (part of the old West Somerset Mineral Line).

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July 2023

Gordon carefully led us to a point part way up the incline, so that we could enjoy the challenging walk up its 1 in 4 slope to the ruins of the old Winding House, where we enjoyed a well-earned lunch break. Clearly this area has a fascinating industrial heritage and would be well worth investigating in a more leisurely fashion.

However, we needed to press on... Having replenished our energy supplies and reached the highest point of the walk, it was then a fairly straightforward return towards the starting point. Or it would have been if it



weren't for the herds of highly strung and inquisitive cattle, which seemed to occupy every other field. There were also some intricately constructed stiles to slow down our progress and challenge the most nimble of our team. Some unexpected light relief was provided by a minor detour to see the Naked Boy Stone on Brendon Hill. Unfortunately, those hoping to see an example of renaissance sculpture were somewhat disappointed. Local sculptors of medieval times clearly had much to learn (it's actually an ancient boundary stone, so the name is somewhat misleading).

Having exhausted the cultural delights of the area and survived the threats of bovine engagement, it was a simple downhill walk to the reservoir for a brief chat with one of the local anglers before making a hasty retreat to the Swan for the mandatory debrief. Despite the fact that I didn't spot Susan George, who allegedly lives nearby, this was an excellent walk of 11.3 miles with 1337 of elevation gain. Thanks, Gordon for a great day — Ton**y**

The July Trek -Thursday 6 th July - Blackdown Hills

The July Trek will be led by Annie and will start at 10.00 am from the car park of the Holman Clavel Inn, Culmhead (OS map ref-ST222161 / Post Code TA3 7EA). We will be trekking around some of the quieter parts of the Blackdowns in an anti -clockwise direction. We will make our way through Luxhay Wood, the Quants Nature Reserve, Garlandhayes, Churchstanton and then back to Holman Clavel. A 10.5 mile trek with some lovely views and some deep rural scenery.

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



Our Venue at the Blue Ball Sampford Moor once again excelled for food quality. Fiona the owner normally only opens Fri, Sat, Sun, but opens up just for us on a Wednesday. As she is the Chef you can always Guarantee the food to excel. The food choice was from the normal menu which covers a spectrum of choices. I had

the Hunters chicken which seems to have the sauce like no ne else, and others who had the same dish also agreed. The ones that had the sea bass also said excellent quality.

Our next Venue will be at The Black Venus Challacombe, Exmoor on Wednesday the 5th July at 12.00pm. A historic 16th Century Building renowned for its home cooked food prepared from local produce. Situated on the western edge of Exmoor at Challacombe, near Barton Town, worth a visit for its outstanding scenery.

Directions: Take the A361 North for 19 mls, at the roundabout, take the 4^{th} exit onto A399, for 10.5



mls. Turn right onto B3358 for 2.3 mls.. The Black Venus Inn is on the left, the car park is on the right. EX31 4TT, tel. 01598 763251.

The last time we visited was a year ago to the month. If you did not book at our last venue and would like to attend please contact me ASAP. - *Trevor*

Tiverton u3a Cryptic Crossword No. 024 - Solution

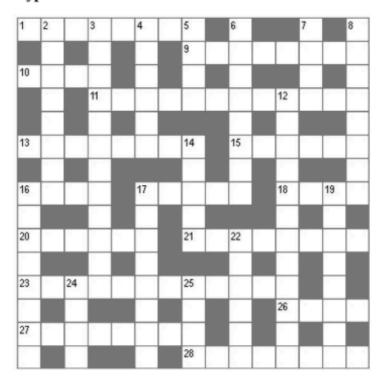
Across

- 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
- 9 Unfortunately Rita got mixed up with this defender of the people (8)
- 10 I'd easily thought of part of that (4)
- 11 Is this clue sounding familiar? (7,1,4)
- 13 Income gained by famous football club capitalising on early selection transactions (8)
- 15 If you put tea on this coin, you will have something to worry about (6)
- 16 Some alfresco parties include something to eat (4)
- Suburban Joanna has a guitar family member(5)
- 18 Why are reckless youths initially cautious? (4)
- 20 Go Gail to the Verandah (6)
- 21 Reread chitty as it indicates virtue (8)
- 23 The eye of the camera on hand in some memories (12)
- 26 Some buffalo in Kentucky making grunting sound (4)
- 27 South East Asian equus lives in the ocean (8)
- 28 Former US president named by article about rodeo (8)

- 2 The florid dancer has the action of getting rid (8)
- 3 Less than a half and hidden under a bushel for a little ventilation (12)
- 4 Make Vincent Van Gogh reveal his presence within (6)
- 5 Thanks to the team for the ride! (4)
- 6 Courts down under! (8)
- 7 Stare when Miss Peep is removed from awning (4)
- 8 Lord Lery makes jokes (8)
- 12 Ouch, wild belt is exposed to the cold for too long (4,4,4)
- 14 Gin drinkers like to think this gives them a lift! (5)
- 16 Mist at the Pole eventually reveals the journey's progress (8)
- 17 Show-off British soldier and Garfunkel straddle horse (8)
- 19 About blot losing first, hesitation, then getting payment to stay (8)
- 22 Stick your promotional notice in this place (6)
- 24 It's alright to begin operating kayaks all year(4)
- 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.









Industrial Heritage Coordinator: Phil Stone

