

Tiverton u3a Newsletter

learn, laugh, live

Volume 8 Issue 9

September 2023



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FROM THE COMMITTEE:

Tiverton u3a welcomes one new member:

Clifford Leaning

July Meeting

At the July general meeting, members were entertained to an interesting talk by Sarah Hotchkiss, entitled "Getting the most out of seaweed – the role of seaweed biorefineries". Sarah is a marine biologist with an interest in edible seaweeds. Her academic research focus encompasses many facets of marine biology, marine macro algal ecology, biology and taxonomy.

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

<https://youtu.be/8bQbL0z9s4w>



Message from the Chairman

You may remember that I joined Tiverton U3A in November 2022, after recently moving to this area from Kent, where I had been a U3A member. When I learned that the Tiverton branch desperately needed a chairman, as the previous incumbent had to stand down, in accordance with the Constitution, I reluctantly agreed to be the only nominee and was duly elected to the role at the March AGM. My feeling, then, was that I would "give it a go" for a year or so, enabling the branch to continue to function as it was in danger of closing. Since then, I have decided that I am not going to remain as chairman, for personal reasons, beyond the next AGM in March 2024 when I will be resigning, although I still intend to remain a member.

At the same time as my impending resignation, we will need to recruit a Membership Secretary and a monthly meeting Speaker Secretary, as they are also standing down from the Committee. The future of Tiverton U3A will be in the balance and the likelihood is that this branch will cease to exist without some new personnel coming forward.

If you want to see this branch continue to flourish, then please give the foregoing some thought and let me know, before it is too late, if you can fulfil one of these roles. - *Robin*

August General Meeting Moorhayes Community Centre

Thursday the 24th August 10:00 for 10:30 am

Police Humour

Mike Richards

Today's talk is a little different, light-hearted and irreverent in places (spot the euphemism!)
Mike outlines why he joined the police, his teenage experiences as the only Police Cadet
in Tiverton and as a young constable in Torbay and Exeter."

Further details on the Website at [What's On - Tiverton U3A](#)

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

Moorhayes Community Centre Lea Road Tiverton EX16 6SU

**On the 28th September
We will Welcome Stephanie Austin
"Turning to Crime in Retirement"**

FUNNY PAGE



An elderly Yorkshireman, recently widowed, is choosing a headstone for his wife's grave. Since she was very religious, he decides to include the words "she was thine"

When he returns to collect the headstone he sees that it says "she was thin"

He says to the stonemason: "Sorry, but you've missed out the 'e'".

"Apologies." says the mason. "Come back tomorrow and I'll have it fixed".

When the Yorkshireman returns the next day, the headstone reads: 'ee, she was thin'



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*



Croquet
Coordinator:
Eric Richardson

Weather conditions made our lawns unplayable for three weeks, but we did manage to play again this week. However, unless the season is extended, at the time of writing there are now only six more days when we can play this year. The first of these is Tuesday 22nd August and the last Tuesday 26th September.

Please contact Eric or Sandra. Email: e.richardson5@sky.com Tel. 01884 - 253402



Devon Bus Travel
Coordinator:
Valerie Pocock

As I was in hospital for two weeks, all outings were cancelled. Hoping to have a bring-and-share lunch in early September.

- *Valerie*



Creative Writing
Coordinator:
Annie Hooper

July's topic "A Wish" produced some humorous poems and other stories. One member has entered a prestigious writing competition. Hoping for great things! Next Meeting August 24th at 2.15 p.m.
Do join us if you feel inspired.

Details from *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

We had a very interesting August meeting mainly discussing two topics.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is creating a lot of interest at present with a mixture of concern and enthusiasm. John decided to ask one of the prominent AI systems called ChatGPT how it thought AI would benefit us. The detailed

answer it gave is on our webpage but the areas where AI could help include from **Healthcare, Language Translation, Manufacturing, Environment and Education.**

Government Major Projects Portfolio has been running since 2013 and currently includes 244 major projects in the UK. Jane showed us the latest review of these highlighting that they are in four groups: **Infrastructure and Construction, Government Transformation and Service Delivery, Military Capability, and Information and Communications Technology (ICT).** Many of these are multi year projects and include such things as Improving the Charging Infrastructure for Electric Cars, Streamlining the Pensions Credit process and a new Law Enforcement Data Service to allow better cooperation across Police Forces.

Our next meeting is on **Wed 6th September at 10am** and will include a discussion on "**The Economics of Development Aid**". Contact mikeandsue.barlow@gmail.com if you'd like to join us. ~ *Mike*



Folk Dancing
Coordinators:
John & Hazel Ridd

The folk dance group is an active and enthusiastic group who have a lot of fun with dances from the 18th century through to more contemporary ones.

We always welcome new people along and enjoy showing them the basic moves, and then putting it all together in a dance

The Folk Dancing group have decided to take a break through August. Our next date is the 13th of September.

For further information please contact John or Hazel our telephone number is 01884820438 and my email is johnridd220@gmail.com - *John*



German Conversation
Coordinator:
John Smith.

We are having a well-earned break from our studies over August with a view to returning fully refreshed in September. . *John*



Going Places

Coordinators:
John O'Connor
Tony Lowe, Chris Steele

A visit to the David Pipe Racehorse Stables has been arranged for Wednesday 11 th October.

The stables are located near Culmstock and therefore car sharing is recommended.

There will be no charge for the visit, but numbers will be limited to just 20 and it will therefore have to be a case of 'first come first served'.

If you would like to join this visit, please email me at chrissteele164@gmail.com Further details, directions, timings etc. will be provided closer to the date - *Chris*

Lundy Air Day

Unfortunately, our planned trip to Lundy on 30th July had to be cancelled due to adverse weather conditions.

Apparently, this is the 4th year that they've cancelled flying activities but somewhat surprisingly, the first time they've had to cancel the ferry. Clearly global warming isn't doing us any favours!

Thanks to all those who booked their tickets and maybe we'll try again next year...

- *Tony*



Trad Jazz
Coordinator:
Mike Barlow

La Vie en Rose Gypsy Jazz Band played at Magelake played to a packed audience. A mixture of café concert, old-school jazz standards, folk and pop-folk music, with Django Reinhardt and Stephane Grappelli strongly represented. Double bass gave the percussion rhythm, the two guitars and violin the melody, counterpointed with

the reeds of Nick White. The band's performance was well recognised with a standing ovation. ~ David R

We were also treated to a great evening of mostly 1920's and 1930's jazz by the Sunset Café Stompers in Langford Budville with pianist Mike Denham's dry wit added to the occasion.

For the enthusiast there's still time to get to the Bude Jazz Festival that runs from 29th Aug to 1st Sept. Apart from that there's the usual local selection:

* 15th Aug Nick Ward's Jelly Roll Quartet at Langford Budville Festival Hall - good

entertainment last time they appeared & will be enhanced this time by Spats Langham's fiddle playing.

* 20th Aug Dart Valley Stompers lead by Willand's own Jeremy Huggett at Magelake Hall, Uffculme. The last Magelake session was sold out so to avoid disappointment contact Jane at gordonsjazzclub@hotmail.com to reserve your seats.



Look at the Trad Jazz webpage for more details of future events or contact mikeandsue.barlow@gmail.com



Line Dancing

Coordinator:
Mich Bowers

Probably one of the few groups still going thru' August, but curtailed because of Bank Holiday on our normal day. No dancing on Monday 28th August.

Anyone wishing to join us will be more than welcome, - full instructions/guidance supplied!

Next session is changed, due to holidays – yet again....

Next Sessions. Monday 4th and 25th September. - *Mich*



Local Theatre

Coordinator:
Betty Thrall

Tiverton Operatic Society next production is 9-5.

Music and Lyrics by Dolly Parton, based on the book by Patricia Resmek and the 1980 movie of the same name. It centres on the down trodden working lives of 3 women at Consolidated Industries, presided over by

pompous Franklin Hart - come to the show to learn more. Our block booking is Thursday September 14 th 7 30 pm in The New Hall Tickets £10 each .cheques can be made payable to Tiverton u3a.

Willow Tree Dance and Theatre Arts Group's next production is SHREK THE MUSICAL Block booking is Thursday October 19th. 7 30 New Hall.

Payment is also due August 24 th monthly meeting

Please support these 2 very talented groups and you will be surprised by the stage effects and choreography, as well as their performances

To those of you who support the Dramatic Society I am sorry to inform you that there will not be another performance this year, so watch out for details next Spring.

Betty 01884 242998 07972271524



Mahjongg

Coordinator:
Celia Hicks

Please get in touch if anyone is interested in playing mah-jongg. for fun, in Bampton. -*Celia*

01398 332101 or celiahicks13@gmail.com.



Photography

Coordinator:
Roger Gunn

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



Philosophy

Coordinator:

Ian Kimber

We gather that Ian Kimber informed a recent meeting of our standing down from the leadership of the Philosophy Group. This is to confirm that we have - though we expect to continue as members of the group.

David and Carol Hamer



Railway Group

Coordinator:
Jose Kimber

First, an apology for missing the August Newsletter, so this covers our activities since June!

Only four people participated in the group visit to Looe in the end, but we had a very enjoyable day. The railway journey was interesting, we travelled by train from

Tiverton Parkway to Liskeard, and then changed trains onto the local branch line from there to Looe. It is a weird arrangement at Liskeard because the Looe line is at right angles to the main line and it is quite a walk from the main line to the Looe platform. It is done like a heritage line with the building done out as a museum of sorts, with boards telling the history of the line. It was due for closure under the Beeching cuts, but was eventually saved by Barbara Castle, who said that it was not a good idea to close it because it would force more tourists onto the roads, which were not suitable to take more traffic.

It is a very interesting line because it has to descend from a high level at Liskeard right down to sea level, which results in an interesting curve back under the main line, and then a reverse manoeuvre at Combe Junction to create a sort of zig-zag. It is quite a pretty ride though a lot of it is in a deep valley which is quite heavily wooded at this time of year.

We spent a pleasant couple of hours on Looe having lunch and walking to the beach, before making our leisurely way back to the station and returning home.

Due to the lack of interest, I have not arranged any further outings at present, but may do so if enough interest is expressed. Group trips are not restricted to Railway Group members, anyone is welcome to join in.

For our July meeting it was back to DVDs, and we watched a DVD Pete had brought along, about Old Oak Common, followed by a Steam to Mallaig DVD, which was a driver's eye view from a Stanier Black 5 from Fort William to Mallaig, and it covered more or less the whole journey.

There is no meeting in August, so our next meeting will be on **Friday 22 September at Willand Methodist Church, at 10.30am.**

As always, all are welcome to join in our meetings, but please let me know if you are coming so I know how many to cater for. - *Jose*



Ramblers
Coordinator:
Jenny Bedford

Ten Ramblers turned up in the Oakford Village Hall car park all raring to go, scuffing their boots impatiently on the tarmac. I couldn't hold them back any longer and we set off up the road turning off into the fields opposite Oakford Manor. The grass was long and wet, and we soon got covered in grass seeds. This track led to a road which went downhill for quite a way until we turned off left

onto quite a long wooded rough road which went to a few lonely cottages the last of which led through the owner's garden.

Then out into the fields which led to a wood where we had to descend a bit carefully to a bridge at the bottom which crossed a small stream. The other side which was very overgrown went up to a main track which was where the 210-step staircase began. I had found a way which looped around to avoid these although it was very muddy. Out of the woods and into the fields again to make our way back although I did go off route a bit due to the very overgrown paths and detoured through a field with a very lively horse, but soon back on track and back to the car park. - *Ben*

Photos of the ramble can be downloaded here:

<https://www.relive.cc/view/vRO78YAxEK6>

The next Ramble on Tuesday 12th September, 10.00 am start, will be led by Jenny from Chimney Down Common (TA 21 0NL)

The walk is fairly easy – one long and one short climb, otherwise undulations: tracks, fields and some lane walking. - *Jenny*



Skittles
Coordinators:
John Carr
Janet Loader

The recent 'autumnal' weather has prompted this advanced notification! The Skittles Social evenings will re-start on Monday 2nd October, again at 7 pm playing until 8.30. We are returning to play at Tiverton Town Football Club in their function room which is accessed through the revamped Sports Bar. The charge will remain at £3 per person as last year. There is plenty of parking at the Club, drinks

will be available at the bar but there is no food available on Mondays. We hope previous players will be happy to return and we will welcome any new members to join us on a Monday evening. Please contact Janet if you are interested to play, no experience is necessary.

Janet Loader (01884 252116) and John Carr (01404 841367)



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**

July's Short Trek was led by Roger and Ben. We set off from the Simonsbath car park wearing a variety of waterproofs and hats, in an attempt to keep out the drizzle that had descended and surprised us all. No points for style. The walk sampled some of The Two Moors Way and started through some atmospheric beech woods, then out into beautiful undulating countryside. Easy walking underfoot and good company as always. Cow Castle

(remains of an Iron Age hill fort) could be seen across the moorland from us, which we skirted

at the base of on our return. At the banana break, the rain stopped and we continued damp but in good spirits. Our return was along the beautiful River Barle valley. Beautiful peaceful scenery all around and Roger guided us to a perfect lunch spot with old tree stumps as seating. Next stop, the popular debrief in the pub at the end. - *Dawn*



The **August Short Trek** will be on **the 28th**, from Countisbury, led by Jenny.

Parking, by permission of the manager, is in the Blue Ball Inn car park (GR. SS 747 496 postcode EX35 6NE). The de-brief will be in the pub after and I have assured him that we will go in after the walk. Please share cars in order to reduce the number of vehicles and there is parking for 4 cars on the grass verge just outside the car park.

The walk is approximately 7.5 miles and goes via the churchyard and Butter hill, Cadow Combe, then following the coastal path through Chubhill Wood to the permissive path back to Countisbury. At this point it is possible to go back to the pub, otherwise the walk continues via the Roman fort steeply downhill, returning via the coastal path. - *Jeny*



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

Seventeen of us gathered at the Carriages Brasserie at the Devon Hotel in Exeter on 10th August. Many arrived early for a coffee or drink and natter in the lounge area before the meal. The Brasserie offered an

excellent carvery or good options from the menu. Staff were welcoming and efficient and most people thoroughly enjoyed their meal and the ambience at this new venue to the group.

Our next lunch will be at The Lamb, Silverton, on 14th September, organised by Ray and Vera. We have been asked to pre-order. The menu will be available a week before.

If you would like to join in, please email me asap.

Angie. angelacheshire@hotmail.com 07743 184 980



Trekking
Coordinator:
Gordon Cleaver

The August Trek

It was a typical August morning on Exmoor (i.e. wet, misty and grey) when Ben started his trek from Brendon Two Gates with 9 hardy walkers in tow. His first aim was to take us to a memorial on Hoccombe Hill dedicated to wartime rocket engineer, Colonel R.H. Maclaren, who inadvertently killed himself

whilst demonstrating an explosive device that went wrong (a tragic example of lighting the blue touch paper and not retiring immediately).

Following this rather sombre introduction to our walk across some very soggy ground, the weather started to improve, and it wasn't long before gently perspiring walkers started to disrobe. This proved more challenging to some than others! Once the group were more comfortably attired, we pressed on to Badgworthy Water before looping back and around Shilstone Hill. Using the time-honoured technique of increasing the mileage by ignoring any signposts that might provide a speedy return to our cars, Ben eventually led us to Farley Water, a delightful spot and ideal for our second lunch break (apparently, multiple lunch breaks are the new norm). It was then a steady trek along the edge of Cheriton Ridge, with some great moorland views, before recrossing Farley Water and heading back uphill to our parking spot. Despite the fact that the walk included several river crossings and a few wet feet, nobody fell in! Thanks, Ben, for another excellent walk.

- *Tony L*

The September Trek – A trek to the top of Dartmoor-Thursday7th Sept.

September's Trek will be led by Gordon and will start from the Granite Way car park near Okehampton Station (on the left just under the railway bridge – Grid ref SX592 944) at 10.00am on Thurs 7th September.

We will take a steady uphill route to the highest point in southern England – High Willhays , by following the East Okemont River and the Two Moors Way footpath to Culliver Steps. We will then make the final ascent to the 2039-foot summit and then descent via Yes Tor and Okehampton Common. The route is some 10.4 miles long and is mainly on well surfaced tracks but it is Dartmoor where the summer weather can be very unpredictable so please have appropriate clothing and footwear to cover all eventualities!!

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

It was about a thirty-mile drive in not such good weather to the Duke of York, Iddesleigh, which was our venue for 2nd August, which delighted those that attended. The quality of the food is always in the forefront of being the best, as was the end result of empty plates. The venue is situated in War Horse Country, but due to

the weather, we were not able to venture far, especially to War Horse Valley Country Farm Park, just down the road, perhaps next time.

Our next venture on the **6th September** is more to home, at **Carriage's Brasserie Exeter**. Due to the current situation where some restaurants want booking up front , which we will not entertain, we have arranged to have a **Carvery Only**, that does not have to be pre booked. We last visited here a year ago under and was enjoyed by all. So if you did not book when at the Duke of York, and would like to take advantage of a Carvery in one of the Brend Hotels please call me ASAP.



Directions :- From M5 junction 27 go south 15.5 miles to Junction 30. At the Sandygate roundabout take the 3rd exit A379 and follow for 3.2mils, taking sliproads and two roundabouts with directions to Marsh Barton. When nearing the final quarter mile lookout for a slip road into Brasserie on your left, with plenty of parking. The Devon Hotel, Old Matford Lane EX2 8XU 01392 259268 - Trevor

Tiverton u3a Cryptic Crossword No. 026 - Solution

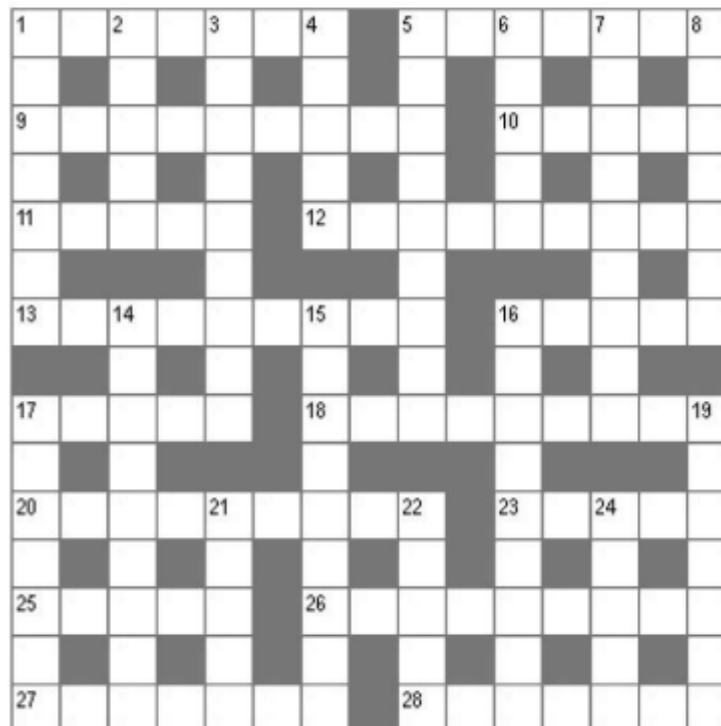
Across

- 1 BUMBAG
- 5 OPAQUEST
- 9 SALAMANDER
- 10 BABY
- 11 REDPANDA
- 12 MINUTE
- 13 MAZE
- 15 HANDLING
- 18 INFERIOR
- 19 NEED
- 21 ALCOVE
- 23 HOUSESIT
- 25 JERK
- 26 COMPETITOR
- 27 STUNNERS
- 28 SLYEST

Down

- 2 USAGE
- 3 BLASPHEME
- 4 GRAINY
- 5 OLDFATHERTHAMES
- 6 ACRIMONY
- 7 URBAN
- 8 SUBSTANCE
- 14 ANNULMENT
- 16 LONGEVITY
- 17 WISEACRE
- 20 DURESS
- 22 OAKEN
- 24 IRONS

Tiverton u3a Cryptic Crossword No 27



- | | | | |
|----|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | Text you are with a money bag to become a follower (7) | 1 | See spot and find the rhymester (7) |
| 5 | Marvel as vehicle reversed in distance (7) | 2 | Going up the stairs (5) |
| 9 | Great geese (not English) have all the makings of a seasonal treat (6,3) | 3 | Discover the journalist is just not grounded (9) |
| 10 | Sad song in Matrix about Neo's heart (5) | 4 | Successfully interprets orchestral sound (5) |
| 11 | To err or to be perfect holds a mistake (5) | 5 | Mt. Enigma's strange attraction (9) |
| 12 | Watch twins? (3,6) | 6 | Queen needed this to be completely gaga! (5) |
| 13 | A western junction in the Midlands (9) | 7 | Island group formed from calcium, bone and vegetable (9) |
| 16 | Top wave whitener? (5) | 8 | Peak some climb in severe storm (7) |
| 17 | Little Edward follows orange seed sent by tube (5) | 14 | New program for Fitzgerald & the National Trust to try again in a higher court (9) |
| 18 | Odd home workers - they chew the cud (9) | 15 | Tra-la! Aunt messed with a big spider (9) |
| 20 | Patience for a payment with more east than left and a farm with more east than high (9) | 16 | New class in school following rules (9) |
| 23 | Zero area of the atmosphere (5) | 17 | Two girls have one knee bone (7) |
| 25 | Get knowledgeable about your renal condition (5) | 19 | After game, fifteen backed reserve into sweat room (7) |
| 26 | In controlling a tumult I'm making a final demand (9) | 21 | Half the runner into here is in a conflict (3-2) |
| 27 | Girl drops her aitches but easily embraces decimal - a promising receiver (7) | 22 | My former partner makes more by working at art (5) |
| 28 | Examiner makes German car hit Cornish hill (7) | 24 | In tote, carry, you can find the band (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.



Psychology

Coordinator:
To be appointed



Industrial Heritage

Coordinator:
Phil Stone



Book Readers

Coordinator:
Carol Blandford



Photography 2

Coordinator:
Charlie Duke