

# Tiverton u3a Newsletter

learn, laugh, live

Volume 8 Issue 10

## October 2023



*View of Tiverton from Garlands Lane, Ashley*

Chairman	To be appointed	
Vice Chairman	Nigel Blandford	<a href="mailto:tivertonu3avice@gmail.com">tivertonu3avice@gmail.com</a>
Treasurer	Sue Robbins	<a href="mailto:tivertonu3atreasurer@gmail.com">tivertonu3atreasurer@gmail.com</a>
Secretary	Irene Butler	<a href="mailto:tivertonu3asecretary93@gmail.com">tivertonu3asecretary93@gmail.com</a>
Membership	Annie Foot	<a href="mailto:tivertonu3amembership@gmail.com">tivertonu3amembership@gmail.com</a>
Webmaster	John O'Connor	<a href="mailto:tivertonu3awebmaster@gmail.com">tivertonu3awebmaster@gmail.com</a>
Social Media	Angie Cheshire	<a href="mailto:tivertonu3asocialmed@gmail.com">tivertonu3asocialmed@gmail.com</a>
Technical & Speakers	Fergus McGilp	<a href="mailto:tivertonu3ameetings@gmail.com">tivertonu3ameetings@gmail.com</a>
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Website <https://www.tivertonu3a.org.uk>  
Facebook <https://facebook.com/tivertonu3a>  
Instagram <https://www.instagram.com/tivertonu3a/>

# FROM THE COMMITTEE:

## **Tiverton u3a welcomes three new members:**

Kelvin Peard  
Josephine Kearns  
Michael Stoneman

## **August Meeting**

Members were entertained with a talk from Mike Richards on Police Humour. This was a light-hearted and humorous talk, somewhat irreverent in places. Mike outlined why he joined the police, his teenage experiences as the only Police Cadet in Tiverton and as a young constable in Torbay and Exeter.

Unfortunately, Mike did not wish us to record his presentation, so there is no “watch again” feature this month.

## **Chairman**

As many of you will know, our chairman, Robin Mayes, resigned on 12th September, for personal reasons, with immediate effect. Constitutionally, we must have a chairman and the committee are actively searching for a replacement. Successful negotiations do seem to be in the offing, but further news will be sent to members in due course. Other committee positions are likely to become vacant at the next AGM, so please let me know if you are interested in being considered for appointment.

Nigel  
Vice Chairman

## **New Group?**

Plymouth U3A have an over 65's blues band and I was wondering if there would be any interest in forming a similar thing here in Tiverton and the Culm Valley ? I realise they probably have a much larger catchment area there but who knows, there are a lot of old bluesers everywhere. Is there any way this could be brought to the attention of members

Colin Britton

colinbritton951@yahoo.com

# September General Meeting Moorhayes Community Centre

Thursday the 28<sup>th</sup> September 10:00 for 10:30 am

## Turning to Crime in Retirement

### Stephanie Austin



Stephanie Austin is the author of the best-selling Devon Mystery Series, published by Allison and Busby, a series of contemporary crime novels set in the Dartmoor town of Ashburton. Stephanie lives in Devon and had a varied career as a teacher, artist and antiques trader before becoming a writer.

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

Complementary Tea, Coffee, Biscuits  
Paper copies of the Newsletter

**Moorhayes Community Centre Lea Road Tiverton EX16 6SU**

**On the 26<sup>th</sup> October**

**We will Welcome Christine Wallach**

**“Now I belong to Me”**



Are you going to have a party for your 80th birthday, tomorrow?

No, I gotta work the early shift the next day.

Yesterday I bought a pound of ham in a plastic bag, a loaf of bread in a plastic bag, a pint of milk in a plastic bottle, a pack of napkins in a plastic wrap, a plastic tub of olives and a plastic bottle of ketchup.

The girl on the checkout told me that they were no longer supplying plastic carrier bags, as they were bad for the environment.

OAP's, 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*



**Croquet**  
Coordinator:  
**Eric Richardson**

Due to weather conditions, there have been more days than usual this season when we have been unable to play, however seven members played between the showers at our meetings. Our last meeting is planned for Tuesday 26th September and our next season is planned to start on Tuesday 7th May 2024, when we look forward to seeing friends old and new.

Eric or Sandra.

Email: [e.richardson5@sky.com](mailto:e.richardson5@sky.com)

Tel. 01884 - 253402



**Devon Bus Travel**  
Coordinator:  
**Valerie Pocock**

The bus outing group has not been active since July. There are no plans for another outing currently because of my ill health. However, there is a planned 'Bring and Share' meal on Tuesday 3rd October at my house.

- *Valerie*



# Creative Writing

**Coordinator:**  
**Annie Hooper**

It has been a quiet time this month with members away enjoying their holidays. The topic of Fire has triggered some devilish imaginations. Meetings are held on the third Wednesday in the month. All are welcome.

Annie [devonian2001@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:devonian2001@yahoo.co.uk)

Meanwhile, hear is a poem from one of our members.

## Too thin

There's a skeleton in my bathroom,  
I'm afraid it belongs to me.  
Although it keeps me upright,  
It's something I'd rather not see

So I've put myself on a diet;  
I'm eating as much as I can,  
Till the skeleton in my bathroom  
Becomes a cuddly old Gran!

She's got a bit fatter, in all the wrong places.  
So I've added some padding to fill up the  
spaces!

But still the mirror on the wall  
declared her the thinnest of them all.  
The fault, she decided, lies not with me.  
'Tis just a reflection that I can see.

The mirror's got a warped point of view.  
Its flat where it needs a bulge, or two.

The hall of mirrors offered correction,  
Reflecting her image to share perfection  
A cuddly Gran is the target no more  
She's now a supermodel - aged 74



## 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**

Tony lead an interesting discussion on "The Economics of Development Aid" looking at where, why and how much is spent by the UK government and others. Whilst there is a lot of publicity about charities' appeals for disaster and other ongoing difficult situations, in practice this is dwarfed by the government spend. Despite recent reductions in the

amount of aid the UK provides we are currently the sixth highest contributor in monetary terms to international aid. Much of this has been to assist poorer countries to improve their economies, but the numbers for 2022 have been heavily skewed by the need to support Ukraine.

We won't be meeting in October but feel free to join us at our next meeting on the morning of Wed 1st Nov

Contact [mikeandsue.barlow@gmail.com](mailto: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

For further information please contact John or Hazel our telephone number is 01884820438 and my email is [johnridd220@gmail.com](mailto:johnridd220@gmail.com)

- John



## German Conversation

**Coordinator:  
John Smith.**

The commencement of the new academic year has been delayed. Excuses such as "I will still be on holiday" have, of course, been used. I would not have been surprised if I had been asked to carry out surveys to assure everyone that there is no RAAC in our places of learning just to postpone their return to their studies. However, there will be no excuse for anyone not to appear on Monday 25th . *John*



## Trad Jazz

**Coordinator:  
Mike Barlow**

The sessions for October are as follows:

Wed 18th Oct Gordon's Algiers Strutters at the Magelake Hall in

Uffculme. Contact [gordonsjazzclub@hotmail.com](mailto:gordonsjazzclub@hotmail.com) to book your seats for Fri 20th Oct Zoe Lambeth's Vintage Jazz

Collective at the Jubilee Hall in Langford Budville.

Hope to see you all there. - Mike Barlow.

[mikeandsue.barlow@gmail.com](mailto:mikeandsue.barlow@gmail.com)



## Local Theatre

**Coordinator:  
Betty Thrall**

Nine of us enjoyed the Tiverton Operatic production of **9-5** by Dolly Parton. We were surprised by a larger than life talking Dolly Parton, projected onto the scenery, to start the show.

It was a show full of fun gags and amazing vocals and music. It is for the first time being supported with professional backing tracks which enhanced the performance of the 17 strong cast, supported by another 7 in backing roles. An amazing production team added to their success under their director, Pauline Farr. They played to almost full houses most evenings, even though I sadly did not get a good response to join our block booking.

Twelve of us will be going to The Willow Tree production of "SHREK" on October 19th .

The next block booking will be for the Junior Operatic Club's production of "ALL SHOOK UP " on Thursday February 15th 2024 .

*Betty* 01884 242998 0797227152



## Mahjongg

Coordinator:  
Celia Hicks

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

01398 332101 or [celiahicks13@gmail.com](mailto:celiahicks13@gmail.com).



## Photography

Coordinator:  
Roger Gunn

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



## Photography 2

Coordinator:  
Charlie Duke

The subject at our last meeting was Chimneys, Turrets and Rooflines. This definitely had us looking skyward and seeing all sorts of interesting features on buildings we would not normally notice. Examples of roof features were mainly taken in Crediton, Cullomton, Tiverton and Dulverton. One

member was able to visit the Tudor era Hampton Court Palace which has over 700 chimneys, some of them very elaborate.

When looking at the images we found that we were also interested in various architectural features of the buildings and this will be the subject of our next meeting.

We now have space for a couple of new members. If you are interested in learning about or improving your photography please think about giving our friendly group a try.

Contact Charlie on [charlieduke@sky.com](mailto:charlieduke@sky.com)





## Philosophy Coordinator:

**Ian Kimber**

The philosophy group is particularly looking for some new members.

Unfortunately, in the UK the subject has a bad reputation for being very academic and difficult. However, this is far from the truth, in fact every one of you is a philosopher in your own way and you do not realise it. Please get in touch with

me if you fancy attending a sample meeting or two.

For the time being the meetings will be at:-  
5 Cudmore Park EX16 4QJ. Phone 262460  
Email [ianksoulsurfer@gmail.com](mailto:ianksoulsurfer@gmail.com)

On the third Wednesday morning of the month, October 18th at 10:30

The September group meeting was somewhat depleted, but we had a lively and interesting discussion some of which was about our autumn programme!

This will start with Lorne leading a presentation and discussion about Renee Descartes "Meditations". Experience shows that this can lead us in many directions in subsequent discussions.

Descartes (1596 -1650) was one of the originators of "modern" philosophy and really started with basic ideas of what he could see hear and understand about the world around him and the other people that he interacted with and what he could trust. Remember this was before science and technology was able to extend our senses and understanding of our universe way beyond these limits. - *Ian Kimber*



## Railway Group Coordinator: Jose Kimber

The group did not meet in August as our usual date fell just before the Bank Holiday. Our September meeting unusually takes place a week before the main meeting, on 22 September, after this report goes in but before the newsletter is published.

Our October meeting will be on **Friday 27 October** at the usual time and venue, **Willand Methodist Church at 10.30am**. We will be watching another DVD either from my collection or one brought by another group member. All are welcome to attend, you do not need to be a group member and we are a small and friendly group. We have plenty of space and comfortable seating, Our meetings take place on the fourth Friday of each month. - *Jose*





## Ramblers

**Coordinator:**  
**Jenny Bedford**

14 ramblers assembled for the walk and, even before starting, were impressed by the amazing views from the Common. We walked down the lane to Luckleigh Farm where everyone was pleased to note that the rickety stile had been replaced by a double gate.

Sadly, as we passed through the deer farm, the Sika deer were hiding in the trees, though we did see two on the return journey. The long, steep hill turned out to be quite leisurely as I needed to do a bit of gardening with the secateurs. Arriving at the top in bright sunshine, the views were, once again, spectacular and remained so for much of the rest of the walk. After a refreshment stop, we had an easy stroll up two fields and along the road back to the Common.



### Next Ramble

The next Ramble on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> October will be led by John Smith from the roadside outside the Prince of Wales pub ( TA21 0PN ) in Holcombe Rogus, 10 am.start. The 4.5 mile walk takes in the canal path to Burlescombe, then Dunkeswell Abbey and the Lime Kilns. Lunch could be at the Globe, Sampford Peverall, or the Waterloo Cross. There will be a more detailed outline in the email reminder.

If you are interested in having lunch please let me know. - 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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](mailto:chris.mumford21@gmail.com)



## **Short Trek**

**Coordinator:  
Nigel Blandford**

Unsurprisingly, owing to the terrible weather forecast, only six hardy trekkers assembled for the Countisbury walk .

We set off at a good pace up Butter Hill to the Trig point, then downhill via Coddow Combe to the lighthouse road thence uphill to meet the coastal path, which wound, often steeply, through woodland. Arriving at the permissive path back towards Countisbury,

we saw the first of many spectacular views of the cliffs and the sea. Crossing the undulating fields of Countisbury Common, we stopped for a damp lunch on the 'luncheon logs' then it was all downhill on the coastal path to Lynmouth unfortunately losing Nigel on the way due to a painful toe. After a steep, three quarter mile slog, in pouring rain, we finally reached the car park and, dripping, made a dash for the pub opposite to find that Nigel had kindly been testing the beer for us.

- *Jeny*



The next Short Trek will be on 27th October, led by Tony L. Starting from the car park in Withypool SS 844 354 – spaces limited), we'll head up Worth Lane before branching off to skirt Withypool Hill. This will be followed by a steady pull up to Porchester's Post before turning south-east to cross Old Barrow Down and use a few permissive footpaths to reach the main track down to Tarr Steps. It's then a gentle meander along the river bank back to Withypool, via the stepping stones, if passable. Approximately 8 miles, 10am start, bring a picnic lunch.



## 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**

We had 14 diners sit down to an appetising lunch at The Lamb Inn, Silverton, for our September meet.

Our October meet is yet to be organised. Watch this space, or for an email. When I know you will know!

Angie. [angelacheshire@hotmail.com](mailto:angelacheshire@hotmail.com) 07743 184 980



## Trekking

**Coordinator:**  
**Gordon Cleaver**

### The September Trek - Dartmoor

Nine Trekkers set off from the Granite Way Car Park, all of us slightly in trepidation of the likely heat on what was predicted to be the hottest day of the Year. However our route taking us up to the highest peaks of Dartmoor proved to be a good one as there was

a cooling breeze and a sun shielding haze that kept the temperatures down.

The Leader (me) took an error route of an extra mile on the way up the East Oke River (sorry!) but tried to get back in the groups good books by having two very pleasant breaks at lovely picnic and paddling spots on the river on our ascent to the top of Dartmoor. Lunch was taken at High Wilhays and Yes Tor was bagged before our descent back to the cars.



We saw all manner of wildlife on our 11.8 mile Trek including an encounter with an Adder. The very welcome debrief refreshments were taken at the White Hart Hotel.

### October Long Trek – Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> October – North Devon Coast

October's trek will be led by Tony L and start from the National Trust (Baggy Point) car park, Moor Lane, Croyde EX33 1PA (SS432 397) at 10am on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> October. Parking is free for NT members and £6 per day for non members.

Leaving the car park via the coastal path, we'll pass through the village of Croyde before ascending Saunton Down for some fine views of the beach beyond. It's then downhill towards Saunton Court before a steady climb to the top of Lobb Hill. After following the line of the ridge, we'll descend into Georgeham village before continuing to Pickwell Down, which should make a good lunch spot (weather permitting). From this point it's a simple case of following the coastal footpath through Putsborough and round Baggy Point back to the car park.

Approximately 10.5 miles with some spectacular scenery and most of the uphill work is in the first 5 miles!

**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](mailto:grcleaver54@gmail.com)**



### Wednesday Pub Lunch

**Coordinator:  
Trevor Ellmore**

The weather was in our favour when we went to Carriages Brasserie Devon Hotel Exeter on Wednesday the 6<sup>th</sup> September which made a change from the previous month. As we have experienced before the ambience, service, and food, all excelled to the delight I believe of everyone that attended. It was unfortunate that others

could not take advantage due to the lack of transport this is why we need further members with transport that can help existing members to attend.

Our next venue on the 4<sup>th</sup> October will be at The London Inn Morchard Bishop. We have been there many times before which is run as a family business. We know that the two sisters who manage the pub always present down in Exeter and would like to attend, or if you have transport, and would like to join our friendly group, please contact me asap. 01884 254837. *Trevor*



**Directions** :- From Tiverton, Take Long Drag A3137 through Witleigh, after approx 5.5miles bear left towards Puddington / Black Dog. In Puddington village bear right and follow signs to Morchard Bishop. On reaching Black Dog, go straight across main Rd, sign post Morchard Bishop. On reaching Morchard Bishop, Inn is on the left. Total approx 14 miles. Tel 01363 877222

## Tiverton u3a Cryptic Crossword No. 027 - Solution

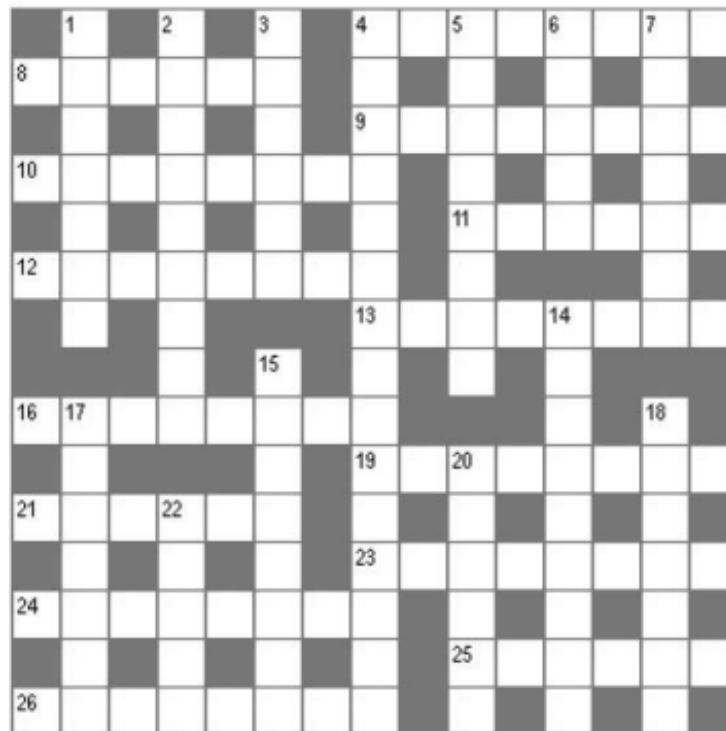
### Across

- 1 PURSUER
- 5 MIRACLE
- 9 EASTEREGG
- 10 DIRGE
- 11 ERROR
- 12 SEEDOUBLE
- 13 SPAGHETTI
- 16 CREST
- 17 PIPED
- 18 RUMINANTS
- 20 TOLERANCE
- 23 OZONE
- 25 LEARN
- 26 ULTIMATUM
- 27 ANTENNA
- 28 AUDITOR

### Down

- 1 POETESS
- 2 RISER
- 3 UNEARTHED
- 4 REEDS
- 5 MAGNETISM
- 6 RADIO
- 7 CARIBBEAN
- 8 EVEREST
- 14 APPELLANT
- 15 TARANTULA
- 16 CONFORMED
- 17 PATELLA
- 19 STEAMER
- 21 RUNIN
- 22 EXTRA
- 24 OCTET

## Tiverton u3a Cryptic Crossword No 28



- |    |   |    |   |
|----|---|----|---|
| 4  | I follow vehicle check with tax on energy to stimulate action (8)           | 1  | The lummoX took an f... to greatly perplex (7)                                    |
| 8  | Makes furrows softly before an Irish lake (6)                               | 2  | Model Avril , cute after her make over, now makes a lot of money (9)              |
| 9  | Trainers used to take out the bits (8)                                      | 3  | The lady has loveless love to put away (6)  |
| 10 | Held up because of the rain (8)   | 4  | Misunderstanding caused by seizing on a haccident in Eastenders (15)              |
| 11 | If you expended wastefully you may be tawsed (6)                            | 5  | Discard trout - who is involved? (5,3)  |
| 12 | With raised courage, conceal your feelings (6,2)                            | 6  | Ben's cooking's sometimes rich, sometimes lumpy (5)                               |
| 13 | Electric troughs juddered in the most uncouth way (8)                       | 7  | Fasten up but not too much to be fashionable (7)                                  |
| 16 | Finally this race was won by one horse (2,6)                                | 14 | Horribly fleece Open University? Crafty! (9)                                      |
| 19 | Pokémon criminal master mind split by his lair would be useful in court (8) | 15 | Knows nothing but holds forth after short burning love (8)                        |
| 21 | Six English kings and half an alien empire sheltered here (6)               | 17 | National Health Insurance for the arts clearly doesn't do it's image any good (7) |
| 23 | Hidden clue includes daughter in SE direction (8)                           | 18 | Some kitsch European merchants include one who plots and plans (7)                |
| 24 | I let Rita meet the famous book critics (8)                                 | 20 | The firm in the mine has earned money (6)   |
| 25 | The Tamil Derby proved not so severe (6)                                    | 22 | He met the subject (5)  |
| 26 | Northern theatre issues a warning (8)                                       |    |   |

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**



## **Going Places**

**Coordinators:**  
**John O'Connor**  
**Tony Lowe, Chris Steele**



## **Line Dancing**

**Coordinator:**  
**Mich Bowers**