## Tiverton u3a Newsletter

learn, laugh, live

Volume 9 Issue 1

# November 2023



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## FROM THE COMMITTEE:

#### Tiverton u3a welcomes three new members:

Iris Eppy.

**Robert Taylor** 

**Evelyn Handford** 

## **September Meeting**

Our speaker at the September meeting, 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 and featuring reluctant amateur sleuth and antique shop owner, Juno Browne.

Stephanie lives in Devon and had a varied career as a teacher, artist and antiques trader before becoming a writer. When not writing she is actively involved as an actor and director in local amateur theatre.

The latest book in the series, Death Comes to Dartmoor, is now out in paperback. 'A Devon midwinter Murder' comes out in November.

If you missed the talk, or would like to hear it again, it can be downloaded from this link

https://youtu.be/ILyaVuAlcwM

## **Chairman and Committee Members**

As many of you will know, our chairman, Robin Mayes, resigned on 12th September, for personal reasons, with immediate effect. The Committee are pleased to report that, at their meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> October, Mr Mike Warren was unanimously co-opted as chairman and Wendy Bond, Richard Truman and Maggie Roberts were co-opted as committee members, all effective November 2023. Roles and responsibilities will be decided at a later date.

Although this brings the committee currently up to full strength, other members are standing down at the forthcoming AGM. If you would like to be considered as a future committee member, please let me know

Nigel Vice Chairman

## Getting the most out of the national u3a resources

Our webmaster. John O'Connor writes:



#### Third Age Trust Online via Zoom

u3a members can join a wide range of online talks, workshops and courses for free with their membership via their website.

This includes Online Learning Events for all and Workshops providing guidance for those involved in running their u3a.

Click on the blue text for further information.

#### **Online help from WSCC Libraries**

The WSCC Libraries Digital Support Service provides help to people needing assistance using their computer.

Click on the blue text for further information.

Online resources

Catch up on activities being undertaken by other u3a's nationally from the Newsletter archive. r A plain text version of the u3a quarterly magazine "Third Age Matters" is also available free. Free online learning courses are called MOOCs (Massive Open Online Courses). They are short learning courses developed by universities and other organisations. There are hundreds available online, with a very wide variety of topics. You can study just parts of a course without obligation. All you will need is access to the internet, plus an email address. Although designed for individuals, it has been confirmed that they are suitable for group usage. The u3a offers a number of online courses that are updated on a regular basis

#### Shared learning projects (SLPs)

These are short, participatory learning activities lasting from several weeks to several months which can be at a local or regional level. They involve u3a members interested in researching or developing a particular subject. Other local parties such as schools or societies may also become involved. They usually culminate in a small publication, presentation or exhibition. SLPs can be created by one of our interest groups, working with other u3a groups or local organisations.

## This article also appears on our website (with clickable links) Getting the most out of the national u3a resources - Tiverton U3A https://www.tivertonu3a.org.uk/getting-the-most-out-of-the-national-u3a-resources/





They told him it couldn't be done. With a smile he went straight to it. He tackled that thing that couldn't be done... And couldn't do it

## October General Meeting Moorhayes Community Centre

## Thursday the 26<sup>th</sup> October 10:00 for 10:30 am

## Now I belong to Me

## Christine Wallach

The circumstances of my birth were to have a controlling influence over the first 50 years of my life.

I was born to two devoted people, wonderful parents, but who were also born into the religious movement that was to develop over my childhood and a great part of my adult life, into what most rational people would regard as a cult.

My escape was affected by default, as my two sons broke the strict ruling that members were not to visit worldly places of entertainment, they went to the cinema, and not just once.

We were summarily dismissed, cut off from our whole world and had to start afresh. Over the months and years, I found ME.

My story is how I achieved that, the highs, and lows of my journey, and where I am now in my pathway to freedom.

Further details on the Website at What's On - Tiverton U3A

Tea, Coffee, Biscuits Paper copies of the Newsletter Moorhayes Community Centre, Lea Road, Tiverton EX16 6SU

## On Thursday the 30th November (due to nonavailability of the Hall on the 23<sup>rd)</sup>), we will welcome Dr Todd Gray Devon Emancipation

See the website for confirmation.

## **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 Our next season is planned to start on Tuesday 7th May 2024, when we look forward to seeing friends old and new.

*Eric and Sandra.* Email: <u>e.richardson5@sky.com</u> Tel. 01884 - 253402



## **Devon Bus Travel**

Coordinator: Valerie Pocock There have not been any bus outings recently, due to my health issues. We have organised an afternoon meeting at my home in early November.

- Valerie



Sorry, not much to report on creative writing this month I am in hospital for the next meeting, so it is cancelled just for this month. For reference meeting usually held on the third Wednesday of the month these days.

Annie devonian2001@yahoo.co.uk



As always, our latest cryptic crossword is shown in this newsletter.

Also, from this month onwards, please note that the

## solution to the current crossword will be shown at the end of the newsletter, so you don't have to wait a month for the answers!

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 didn't have a meeting in October but will have plenty to talk about when we get together on Wednesday 1st November at Jane's house. Inflation, Wage rises and Unemployment have all been in the news so will probably be part of the discussions. Let me know if you'd like to join us by contacting me

at mikeandsue.barlow@gmail.com ~ 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 - John



Following a late return to our studies following the Summer break, there have been clear signs of greater enthusiasm and commitment. We have met on three occasions since my last report.

Inevitably, after such a long break, much of our time has been spent on reminiscing about our many adventures over the Summer. We have also spent time talking about the environment and

what we should be doing to improve it especially with regard to our use of motor vehicles.

Last time, we talked about "my first job". These included helping a milkman, working in Pontins, delivering the post and slaving on a production line. The unfortunate member who had endured this described an amusing incident when black "flecks" appeared in a white powder which was being packed. It was believed that a black rubber washer was the culprit. When this was changed but the problem continued, the boss merely replaced the black washer with a white one.

John



#### **David Pipe Racing Stables**

On the 11<sup>th</sup> October twelve members made a visit to the David Pipe Racing Stables just outside Culmstock.

We were delighted to be greeted and taken on the tour of the stables by father and son, Martin and David Pipe, the owners of the stables. The time and patience given by Martin, David and all the stable staff was far beyond any of us expected and gave us a wonderful insight into the health, wellbeing and training that is involved with top racehorses.

I don't think any of us realised that there was such a large complex operation in our locality with upwards of 80 horses being



cared for and trained. We were shown around the stable block, taken to the gallops to watch some of the horses being exercised, watched one in the indoor schooling ring, and saw one swimming in the specially built pool. The health of the horses is continually monitored with their temperatures taken twice a day and blood tests done each week which are then analysed in their own on site laboratory. It was obvious throughout the visit that their motto 'Where the horse always comes first' really was the case.

The fact that both father and son have trained Grand National winners speaks volumes and I'm sure that there will be a much closer examination of the racing pages in future to pick out the horses where David Pipe is the trainer. The two hour tour finished with tea/coffee and biscuits and all at no charge to members! - *Chris* 

#### **Exeter Aerospace**

Visits are scheduled for November and February but are now fully booked.

#### Bird Watching Cruise on the River Exe

Following on from the success of the cruise we ran earlier in the year, this is advance notice of a repeat event I'm planning for February 2024.

Provided by Stuart Line Cruises, this trip will include a full commentary from local ornithologists and is ideal for those who would like to see the many thousands of birds that migrate to the area during the autumn and winter months. Each cruise lasts 3 hours and departs from Exmouth. Assuming we get sufficient numbers to form a viable group, the cost will be £11 per head.

Formal invitations and further details will be emailed to all members in November but in the meantime, please let me know if you are interested – *Tony* (*lowe.tony@yahoo.co.uk*)



Trad Jazz Coordinator: Mike Barlow After the "big birthday" celebrations at Magelake and Zoe Lambert at Langford Budville in October, we're getting closer to the end of the year. So you can plan ahead here are the remaining sessions for 2023:

15th Nov Devon Magnolia Jazz Band at Magelake,

Uffculme

17th Nov Dart Valley Stompers at Langford Budville Jubilee Hall

8th Dec Chris Walker's Pedigree Jazz Band at Langford Budville Jubilee Hall

20th Dec Gordon's Algiers Strutters at Magelake, Uffculme

As soon as the 2024 programmes are agreed I'll let you know but it looks as if both venues will have Wednesday sessions - but not clashing!

. - Mike Barlow. <u>mikeandsue.barlow@gmail.com</u>



Our bi-monthly dance sessions continue with the same enthusiasm, and rising to some more challenging dances keeps us on our toes. Change of date in November, 6th (replacing 13th) holidays, yet again!! But all will be explained in session on Oct 23rd.

remember, Dance like no-one is watching - they probably aren't anyway..... Next sessions November 6th & 20<sup>th. --</sup> *Mich* 



The Junior Operatic's next production will be "ALL SHOOK UP". Our block booking will be Thursday February 15th 2024 . "ALL SHOOK UP " is a 2004 American Juke Box musical with music from the Elvis Presley songbook and a book by Joe DiPietro. So all of you Elvis fans put the date in next year's diary and look out

for more details in the next Newsletter.

Eleven of us were enthralled by the magnificent performance of "SHREK" the Musical by Willow Tree Dance and Performing Arts. We were entertained with dazzling sets, numerous costume changes ,whimsical puppetry, high energy dance numbers and laughs by the minute .Shrek & Princess Fiona were a perfect match accompanied by Donkey who's facial expressions and antics brought many smiles and giggles.

Two of our group watched their 13 year old granddaughter as part of the 63 cast and 14 main characters. One of our members was heard to say as we left ,"why go to London with shows like this on Tiverton "

The Shrek crew, including the Musical Director Dan Kilshaw, must be congratulated. The show was fully booked for the 5 evening performances and Saturday & Sunday matinees

Betty 01884 242998 07972271524



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

01398 332101 or celiahicks13@gmail.com.



For the first meeting since the summer break we had six members attend with a large variety of images mostly depicting scenes from the summer although any favourites from the past were as always very welcome. Atmospheric scenes from Dawlish, almost B&W such was the ambiance captured,

Whitby, u3a walkers and trekkers, Whitby and Bigbury-on-Sea were also well captured. Short videos from Mike's travels in Germany and France were slightly marred by the incompatibility between laptop and HDMI1 of the TV, (too smart I suspect!!) but we did get the theme of them, also shown were some lovely images from high above Benidorm.

All of these brought about much discussion and chat amongst the group as well as finally managing to agree an outing to Watchet for a shoot next month. *Roger* 



The subject of our October meeting was "interesting architecture". This covered old, new and everything between.

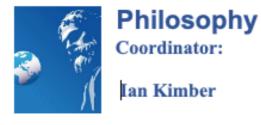
Members provided examples from mainly local places including Exeter, Exmouth, Sampford Peverell, Cullompton, Lyme Regis, Bradworthy and Tiverton. It was surprising to find what



building features exist in quite familiar places if the time is taken to look, particularly above ground floor level.

There was some discussion on ages of buildings as many had clearly been altered over their life and features updated.

Our next meeting is on Friday morning 17th November. We still have space for 1 or 2 new members. If you may be interested please contact Charlie Duke for a chat on 01884 256968.



At our meeting on Wednesday 18th October the group read through and discussed Renee Descartes' first and second meditations on philosophy.

At our next meeting on Wednesday November the 15th we will work through the third Meditation This is available via this link

https://www.earlymoderntexts.com/assets/pdfs/descartes1641\_2.pdf

The group will welcome new members and full catch up notes are available via the web the discussions are not difficult and no special knowledge is necessary other that the normal life experiences of a mature person. Come on have a go!

lan Kimber. Email. ianksoulsurfer@gmail.com



There were only six of us at our September meeting. We watched a Settle and Carlisle DVD, which was very interesting. It told the story of the building of the line, how it nearly closed, and its revival thanks to local support, with recollections from people who had worked on it. It covered the repair of Ribblehead

viaduct, which was nearly the cause of the closure, and the renovation of the stations, as well as video of some of the heritage steam trains that had run on the line.

Our October meeting had not taken place when this newsletter report was prepared, it will take place on the day after the main meeting, on **Friday October 27 at 10.30am at Willand Methodist Church**, when we will be watching another DVD from my collection, unless somebody brings something else of interest.

I am currently looking into the possibility of arranging a visit to Leaky Finders, the engineering works near Exeter where they carry out locomotive restoration and repairs, among other things. (https://www.leakyfindersltd.co.uk/). This visit would be open to any U3A members, so please let me know if you would be interested incoming along. It would need at least 10 people in order to be viable.

We are also investigating the possibility of a visit to an O gauge model railway located in three buildings in a garden in North West London, some time in the Spring. It would involve a train journey from Parkway to Paddington, then a trip on the Elizabeth Line to Hayes & Harlington, where we would be met and transported by car to the model railway. If anyone is interested in joining in this visit, again please let me know. Numbers for this would probably be limited.

If anyone has any ideas about other possible places of interest to visit, please let me know.

Our November meeting will be on **Friday 24 November** at the same time and venue. There will not be a meeting in December as it is too close to Christmas.

Attendance at our meetings has been dropping off recently and the cost of hiring the venue has increased, so unless we have more people attending regularly, we will have to consider an alternative, smaller venue, perhaps meeting in each others' houses. We need a regular attendance of 10 people in order for it to be financially viable.

New members are always welcome to join our group, please contact me if you would like to come along to one of meetings. - *Jose* 



Ramblers Coordinator: Jenny Bedford A group of 18 intrepid ramblers assembled in Holcombe Rogus on a balmy October morning for a gentle 4.5 mile "figure 8" stroll past quarries, along the Great Western Canal and a disused railway line and through the grounds of a ruined Augustinian Abbey.

We watched as farm workers harvested a field of maize with amazing speed and organisation. The Canal never

ceases to provide interest and relaxation. Our progress was temporarily halted by the unexpected closure of an old railway bridge but a short detour soon returned us to our intended route along a disused railway line used years ago to transport quarry spoil to the main line.

We then passed the remains of Canonsleigh Abbey built about 1170 but partly demolished by that well-known royal demolition expert in 1539. After a close encounter with a rather excitable

horse, we made our way back to the start. On our return, as we exited a gateway and saw a sign at the entrance "No Stupid People Allowed", we realised that, had we been about to enter, many of us would have had to turn back.

There was a short incline towards the end but, otherwise, no undue difficult terrain was encountered. - *John* 

I shall be leading the next Ramble on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> November which starts from Calverleigh Village Hall (EX16 8BB) at 10am. The moderate walk is 4.2 miles and starts with a long steep hill, some undulations and ends with an easier hill - overall ascent 700 feet. Tracks, fields and some lane walking. *- Jenny* 



A good number turned out to get the Skittles sessions underway at the beginning of the month but we always welcome more members to come and give it a try. We meet every Monday evening at 7pm and play until 8.30 in the function room at Tiverton Town Football Club. There is plenty of parking at the Club and the bar is open for drinks. Should you be interested to play, please contact Janet on 01884 erson. - Janet

252116. The charge is only 3 pounds per person. -



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: <u>chris.mumford21@gmail.com</u>



Eleven Sturdy soles met in Landkey car park for the September Short Trek on a cloudy rain threatening morning, although it wasn't quite raining ...yet ! This was to be Jan's debut walk to lead, ably assisted (or was it devised ?) by Jenny.

We started off through the town aiming upwards toward Codden Hill, seen in the distance. This was to be the start

of a number of challenges - The first and unexpected of the day was finding ourselves in a large Maize field...apparently there was a footpath through but since the recce and rain the maize had grown and grown so much so that it was now impossible to see a way through. Some of the more vertically challenged members of the group found themselves totally immersed among the towering wet and drippy plants, fighting their way through the green jungle. Not to be thwarted, the more able of the group got us all through! On we went upwards toward the summit of said Codden Hill, trudging through a flooded road trying hard not to get feet soaked, to seat ourselves around the memorial placed by former MP, Jeremy Thorpe, for his wife Caroline.

A very quick coffee stop followed as we were joined by a party planning to scatter ashes for a loved one...we quickly departed our spot in respect. The next challenge was trying to find an invisible gate going steeply down and then back up the hill. Stunning views emerged as the sun came out with other memorable moments of rain, a flooded road and clambering over piles of fallen trees. We did however find a nice dry spot for lunch after which, we then turned back down toward Landkey with a small extension - just so we felt we had a good stretch and covered enough miles sufficiently well !. At least 10+ miles.

Debrief at the lovely Castle pub followed with the majority of the group stopping for a quick drinks, lots of banter and laughs.

A great day out - thank you Jan - we look forward to your next walk !!- - Annie

The next Short Trek will be on **27th October**. 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.



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* 



Sixteen members enjoyed a first-class meal at the 15 century York Inn, which is situated at the centre of the quiet village of Churchinford. Due to road closures the journey was somewhat longer for some!

It is a

traditional country pub with friendly staff serving a varied selection of food, too big portions for some of our members, all at very reasonable prices.

The owner shared some interesting facts with us including how they were voted "Best Somerset pub of 2023". Many commented it was a great find and will definitely be returning. ~

Mo

Our next outing is to Bittiscombe Inn, Upton, organised by Carol and Nigel.

Members - let me know asap if you would like to attend. A link to the menu will be sent in order to pre-order.

Angie. angelacheshire@hotmail.com 07743 184 980





## Trekking Coordinator: Gordon Cleaver

## The October Trek - Croyde

Twelve Trekkers set off from the Baggy Point Car Park ,to be Led on a coastal and country Trek by Tony Lowe. We started off by traversing Croyde beach before climbing up Saunton Down which afford some great views

of the North Devon coast. It was then past the hidden away but very impressive Saunton Court before climbing up to the village of Georgham ,where blue plaques dedicated to the author Henry Williamson seemed to abound.

Lunch was taken on Pickwell Down looking down over Putsborough Beach. We then rounded Baggy Point where one of our sprightly youngsters did a spot of "Pole Dancing" by climbing up the coastguard lookout pole.

We concluded the trek after 10.6 miles back at



the car park, where some of the group went surfing at Croyde and a thirstier group enjoyed a welcome debrief at the Williams Arms.

## November Long Trek – Thursday 2nd November – Woody Bay and the Valley of Rocks

An interesting and varied trek will be led by Roger Gunn taking in Woody Bay, Lee Bay and the Valley of the Rocks. It will take place on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> November starting at 10am.

Start at the roadside car park, SS675 486, and then it's down to Woody Bay and then following the SW Coast path to Valley of Rocks and Lynton. We then climb up through Six Acre wood with magnificent views down to our right and onto Croscombe Barton and back to the cars. Distance is just 10 miles with an ascent of about 700 metres. - Gordon

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. <u>grcleaver54@gmail.com</u>



## Wednesday Pub Lunch Coordinator: Trevor Ellmore

Our visit to the London Inn on the 4<sup>th</sup> October met all expectations. When we arrived we had to wait 10 minutes as they open at mid day, however once inside the end room was reserved and laid out just for us. The renovations which we have seen before have transformed the bar and restaurant area into a more modern array,

with comments from members indicating they have never seen such a clean pub and well presented toilets that would be an asset to up market hotels. Getting back to the eating side, the food as usual was exemplary. Because of our numbers it took a little time for it to arrive, as we don't order prior to visit, but once the food was served it was worth waiting for, as indicated by many, probably by all.

Our next visit is on the **1**<sup>st</sup> **November** to a venue that we have not been to before, certainly not in the last few years. However, the **Globe Inn, at Sampford Peverell,** was recommended by one of our members, so we have decided to give it a try. Coffee is available from 11.30am.

Trevor. . Tel 01363 877222



## Tiverton u3a Cryptic Crossword No. 028 - Solution



### Tiverton u3a Cryptic Crossword No 29

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#### Please note: the solution is shown at the end of this newsletter!

- 1 Criticise compliance? But that's sheer defiance! (12)
- 9 Wear down animal doctors going the wrong way to find dock worker (9)
- 10 Serve up part of a ballad (5)
- 11 Initially map maker is hunted for rare bird (6) 5
- 12 Retreats in time-dictated fashion! (8)
- 13 Red and fruity, or is it veggie? (6)
- 15 Some factors evidently affect the weather (8) 7
- 18 An astronomical view oddly realised (8)
- 19 Initially a poem with an exam would be most 8 appropriate (6) 14
- 21 British Rail holds untidy salute by one of a row supporting Banister (8)
- 23 Pester nocturnal beast (6)
- 26 Electric or awful, its reverse, determines his reception (5)
- 27 Publicity speech inspires love and awe (9)
- 28 The nerveless are in spite of everything (12)

- 1 The dirt sot gets twisted out of shape (7)
- 2 Gather up in a small, wee pan (5)
- 3 Carnivore at the Tower? (9)
- 4 Snakes flee confused and wicked city, furthering its awful fate (4)
  - Lift the Spanish lady on a Cornish peak (8)
  - The tempting basket of bread justifies this charge (5)
  - The triage river partially organised to supply water (8)
  - It turns out to be the best he could order (6)
- 14 Change rocker's adversary, then sounds like you departed (8)
- 16 Deep nasal breathing for a bracing seaside walk (9)
- 17 Soak in liquid to make spice speed (8)
- 18 Does this help you cross the road? No, pass under it! (6)
- 20 The right g-string would cause crowds! (7)
- 22 Minister to split moving right to centre (5)
- 24 Show man's broadcast (5)
- 25 Rambo utilises strength within part of wrestling contest (4)

6

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



Book Readers Coordinator: Carol Blandford

Tiverton u3a Cryptic Crossword No. 029 - Solution

