

# Tiverton u3a Newsletter

learn, laugh, live

Volume 9 Issue 2

December/  
January  
2023



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# FROM THE COMMITTEE:

**Tiverton u3a welcomes three new members:**

Linda McGinn  
Julia Brister  
Keith Dawson

and regrets to announce the death of member Allen Coe

## **October Meeting**

At the October general meeting, members listened to an inspiring talk entitled “Now I belong to me” by Christine Wallach. Christine described her life story - how she achieved the highs, and lows of her journey, and where she is now in her pathway to freedom.

if you missed the talk, or would like to hear it again, it can be downloaded at

<https://youtu.be/JZCDpbD7AsE>

**Pleas note that there will be no monthly meeting, or newsletter, in December**

## **From the Chairman**

You may have read in the November Newsletter that your Committee, at their meeting of 18<sup>th</sup> October, co-opted me as chairman of Tiverton U3A. It is with a mixture of pleasure and some trepidation that I accepted this endorsement. I have been a member of Tiverton U3A for seven years and have tried to play a part in general meetings and in a diverse mix of group activities including Economics, Philosophy, Skittles and Industrial Heritage. My background is Agriculture, both in this country and in Eastern Europe.

New to the chairman's job as I am, I shall need the help and guidance of your Committee and the forbearance and tolerance of you all in grasping this role. I am an avid believer in U3A and its aim of “encouraging older people to share their knowledge, skills and interests in a friendly environment.” What a privilege it is for us all to have a mixture of life experiences and still retain a thirst for further knowledge and new experiences. Earlier generations didn't enjoy such opportunities.

I shall commit myself to the role and I want to encourage, from all, ideas and feedback that will stimulate activities and development within Tiverton U3A. I am pleased to be accompanied by three other new Committee members – Wendy Bond, Maggie Roberts and Richard Truman.

Mike Warren

## Membership Renewals 2024

Subscriptions are due for renewal from 1st January 2024.

- The membership fee for Full Members remains at £8.00 pa per person, and includes an emailed monthly newsletter.
- The fee for Associate Members remains at £5.00 pa per person and includes an emailed newsletter. NB: you must be a full member of another u3a.
- The national magazine Third Age Matters (TAM) at £3.80 p.a.
- A posted copy of each newsletter is available at the additional cost of £25 per year and paper copies of the newsletter may be collected at monthly meetings at a cost of £1.50 per copy.

Please renew as soon as possible after 1st January 2024. The simplest way to renew is to do so on-line. Please go to the website: [tivertonu3a.org.uk](http://tivertonu3a.org.uk) click on the membership tab and follow the links.

There is no need to complete a form if you are already registered and if there are no major changes to your details.

If you do wish to complete a form, one can be downloaded from the website, or collected at the meeting on 30th November 2023.

Please identify yourself clearly with your payment. (Name, membership number (just click on the link or first line of address).

Don't forget to enter your details in exactly the same format as previously used (i.e. lower/upper case).

If any of your contact details have changed, please update this information too and don't forget to tick the Gift Aid box if you are a tax payer.

### Newsletter

Members are encouraged to receive their newsletter by email, which is included in the annual fee.

Posted newsletters are available at an additional cost of £25 per year. We are sorry that the cost has again increased. We do continue to subsidise the cost of posted newsletters, however, the low volumes and increased production costs mean that we have had to increase the price.

If you have cannot find your membership number, please contact Annie at [tivertonu3amembership@gmail.com](mailto:tivertonu3amembership@gmail.com)

If possible, please renew and pay via the website. PayPal is the simplest method. Bank transfers, and cheques (payable to Tiverton u3a) are also accepted. and of course, cash is accepted - at a monthly meeting.

Remember, you do not need a membership form if you renew online, but should you wish to use one, please download one from the website or collect at the next monthly meeting.

And finally, if you pay by standing order or direct debit, please check the amount is correct and make amendments if required. Thank you.

Any queries please contact Annie Foot at [tivertonu3amembership@gmail.com](mailto:tivertonu3amembership@gmail.com), tel: 07706 112569, or for technical issues, John O'Connor, Webmaster at [tivertonu3awebmaster@gmail.com](mailto:tivertonu3awebmaster@gmail.com)

# **November General Meeting**

# **Moorhayes Community Centre**

**Thursday the 30<sup>th</sup> November 10:00 for 10:30 am**

**“Devon and Emancipation”**

**Dr. Todd Gray**

Dr. **Todd Gray** FRHistS, MBE is a historian of the county of Devon, England, long based at Exeter University. As of 2007 he was Honorary Research Fellow of Exeter University, Chairman of the Devonshire Association and of Friends of Devon's Archives (retired 2014), and President of the Family History Society. He famously claimed that the Cornish Pasty was in fact invented in Devon in about 1460 which not only caused consternation in Cornwall, but was remarked upon as far away as China.

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

Tea, Coffee, Biscuits, Paper copies of the Newsletter

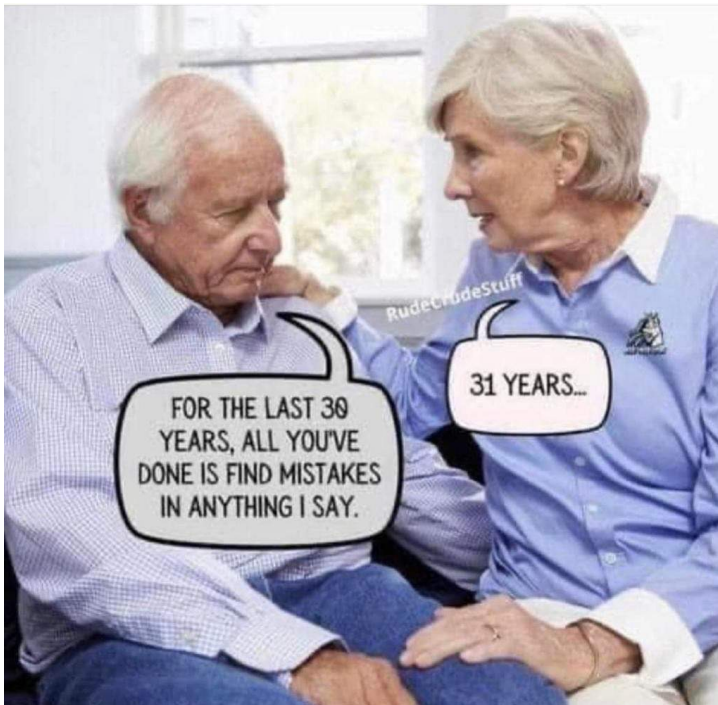
**Moorhayes Community Centre, Lea Road, Tiverton  
EX16 6SU**

**On 25<sup>th</sup> January 2024**

**We will Welcome Trish Sail**

**“The RNIB what is it?”**

See the website for more details.



## 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*



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

begin again in March, with a planning meeting in February.

A short bus outing report. ....

Although we have not been on many outings , due to my ill health, we had a ‘tea and cake’ get together in November and plan a ore Christmas lunch at the Golf Club, by car, in early December . Proper outings, hopefully, will  
 - *Valerie*



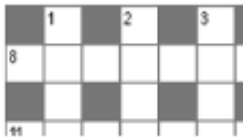


## Creative Writing

Coordinator:  
Annie Hooper

We extend a warm welcome our new member Heather Bingham to creative writing. Her first contribution is excellent, We look forward to meeting her at our next meeting, on November 22nd at 2.00pm

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



## Cryptic Crosswords

Coordinator:  
Tony Lowe

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

***Again, 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

After missing a few meetings we'll get together on **Wed 6th Dec** at Jane's house and discuss all that's happened since our September meeting. There'll also be a discussion on the **"UK Housing Crisis"** lead by Ian and on **"Wealth Distribution"** lead by Annie. Our next meeting details will be

confirmed closer at the beginning of January.

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.**

We have met on two occasions since my last report. As well as “word of the week”, we now have “fact of the week” and “joke of the week”. A rather nice word is “Kuddelmuddel” (m/n) meaning “mess” or “confusion”. Did you enlist that, if all the Lego bricks were divided equally between everyone on Earth, we would each have 86 bricks? How many do you have?

Our joke was “Mami, Mami, ich will nicht in die USA. Sei ruhig und schwimm weiter.” Quite easy to translate.

As usual we have talked about our recent experiences (including a trip to Krakow) and have also described a family member.

At our next meeting (our last before Christmas), we will share a few German nibbles and drink a glass of Glühwein. Wir wünschen euch frohe Weihnachten und ein gutes neues Jahr.

*John*



## Going Places

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

### Exeter Aerospace

Visits are scheduled for 28th November and 27th February but are now fully booked.

### Bird Watching Cruise on the River Exe

This has proved even more popular than the one we ran last February, so unsurprisingly the event is now fully booked!

However, if you want to go but haven't already expressed your interest, let me know and I'll put your name on the reserve list – *Tony* ([lowe.tony@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:lowe.tony@yahoo.co.uk))



## Trad Jazz

Coordinator:  
**Mike Barlow**

Jeremy Huggett's "**Dart Valley Stompers**" provided an excellent evening's jazz at Langford Budville and "**Spirit of the Blues**" were also on form at Magelake in November.

The remaining sessions for 2023 will be:

- \* **Fri 8th Dec Chris Walker's Pedigree Jazz Band** at Langford Budville Jubilee Hall
- \* **Wed 20th Dec Gordon's Algiers Strutters** at Magelake Hall, Uffculme. Contact Jane at [gordonsjazzclub@hotmail.com](mailto:gordonsjazzclub@hotmail.com) for seats

In 2024 the dates will change slightly with the Langford Budville sessions moving to the 2nd Wednesday of the month and Magelake on the 3rd Wednesday.

- \* **Wed 10th Jan 2024 John Maddocks Jazz Band** in Langford Budville Jubilee Hall
- \* **Wed 17th Jan 2024 Three Good Men** in Uffculme Magelake Hall

For more information contact me at [mikeandsue.barlow@gmail.com](mailto:mikeandsue.barlow@gmail.com) or check our webpage. ~ -  
- *Mike Barlow*



## Line Dancing

**Coordinator:  
Mich Bowers**

At the time of writing, our next session is on Monday 27th, but by the time of publication, that's probably all over & done. I hope it was a good one....and I am looking forward to seeing y'all at the following session on December 11th. But, just in case - Merry Christmas and a very Happy, toe-tapping, heel strutting New

Year!

First sessions in 2024 (!) Jan 8th & 22<sup>nd</sup>. - Mich



## Local Theatre

**Coordinator:  
Betty Thrall**

The Junior Operatic production will be our next block booking Thursday February 15 th 2024 ,7-30 pm New Hall Tiverton, Tickets £10 each paid to me by January 25 th at the monthly meeting. Cheques may be paid to Tiverton u3a .

SYNOPSIS - Its 1955 and into a square little state rides a guitar- playing young man who changes everything and everyone he meets. Loosely based on Shakespeare's Twelfth Night. This hip-swivelling, lip curling musical fantasy will have you jumping out of your blue suede shoes such classics as "Heartbreak Hotel " " Hound Dog " and " Don't Be Cruel"

Do support this award-winning group. A list will be available from November 30th to put your named down - or phone me.

For the Tiverton Dramatic Society supporters there is a play to look forward to in April 2024. More details in the New Year.

Wishing you all a Happy and Peaceful Christmas

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](mailto:celiahicks13@gmail.com).



## Photography

Coordinator:  
Roger Gunn

After welcoming new member Phil to our group, we headed out to Watchet on a day of dubious weather forecasts to fulfil a long postponed field trip!

Arriving at the agreed meeting carpark some friendly local advice pointed us to two handy free spots adjacent to a lovely little pub, lunch sorted!

We split up briefly to seek out shots that would give next month's meeting a variety of different views of Watchet. The harbour, some "Cubist" style buildings that turned out to be possibly holiday type lets, and a pleasant community run cafe, were some of the rewards for under an hours driving.

I think we were all pleasantly surprised with the variety of little shops and hostelryes that Watchet had to offer, add to this a very welcome pint and snack in The Star Inn and as they say, " a good day was had by all"!

The next meeting is at Ben's place on the 14th December at 10am

- Roger



## Photography 2

Coordinator:  
Charlie Duke

Our meeting on 17th November had the theme "The natural world". This was a wide brief and provided a wide range of images from small toadstools, trees, landscapes, waterscapes, animals and storm surges at Lyme Regis. Our next meeting is due on 17th December.

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





## Philosophy

Coordinator:

Ian Kimber

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 than the normal life experiences of a mature person.

Come on have a go!

Ian Kimber. Email. [ianksoulsurfer@gmail.com](mailto:ianksoulsurfer@gmail.com)



## Railway Group

Coordinator:

Jose Kimber

Attendance at our last meeting in October was slightly better with 8 of us attending including one new member. A couple of our regulars were unable to attend. We really need a minimum of 10 people to make use of the Willand Methodist Church venue viable. Pete Chowings brought

along a DVD about the Somerset and Dorset Railway. It turned out to be very interesting, telling the story of how the line developed, visiting many of the stations and telling of its decline after nationalisation when it came under the Western region and services were gradually withdrawn, till its final closure under Beeching. There was archive film, and also visits to the sites as they are now, with abandoned viaducts still standing but with their embankments gone so they cannot be used for anything. It seems that, after closure, the powers that be were determined to make it impossible ever to reopen it, which is sad as it leaves many towns with no railway connection and very poor public transport services.

A number of people have expressed interest in a possible visit to Leaky Finders, the heritage steam specialists near Exeter - see their website <https://www.leakyfindersltd.co.uk/>. If you are interested in going and have not already contacted me, please let me know and I will add your name to my list. I am hoping to arrange a visit in the new year, and will provide further details when I have confirmed a date for the visit.

Our next meeting is on **Friday 24 November at 10.30am at Willand Methodist Church** as usual. Please let me know if you are attending so that I know how many to cater for. We are not meeting in December, and the date for the January meeting is **Friday 26 January 2024** at the same time and venue. New members are very welcome to join us.

- Jose



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

Ten enthusiastic Ramblers ( the lunatic fringe ?) gathered at Calverleigh despite the promise of yet more rain. Owing to a ride of 25 horses up and down the steep bridleway on Saturday, it had been rendered impassable, so we pioneered a new route via the road and a pleasant uphill footpath. We abandoned three fields due to

standing water and went straight down to Hill farm and then had to cross a usually small stream which had become a deep torrent. Continuing with water-filled boots, apart from the welly wearers, we had to negotiate a slippery concrete lane, with only one minor accident then, via Lurley, we regained the car park.



Please note there is no ramble in December: details of January's walk will be published in due course. - Jenny



**Skittles**  
**Coordinators:**  
**John Carr**  
**Janet Loader**

The Skittles evenings will continue for the first three Mondays of December, ie 4th, 11th and 18th, as usual in the function room at Tiverton Football Club (7.00 to 8.30 pm) and will then break for the Christmas/New Year period. We will resume on Monday 8th January. We welcome new players and no experience is needed, if you would like to have a go please give one of us a ring beforehand so that we can look out for you. We wish all members a

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. *John Carr.*

*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**

The October Short Trek started from Withypool and went straight into an uphill climb to the west of Withypool Hill. From the high point it was more-or-less all downhill to a lunch stop at Tarr Steps, fortunately now

reinstated.

The advertised meander along the banks of the river Barle turned into a rather exhausting slog through ankle-deep mud, relieved occasionally by waterlogged meadows. A short climb at the end brought us back into the village and the welcoming cars. An extended debrief was enjoyed at the Anchor in Exbridge



*I think we go up there....*

The next Short Trek will be led by Jan Harvey on 24th November, starting from Otterton. There is plenty of parking on the Main Street adjacent to Otterton Mill and the pub. The walk will follow the River Otter to the coast, then on the coast path to Ladram Bay and from there, inland, back to the village. About 7 miles. 10am start. Bring a picnic lunch.

Looking ahead, the December Short Trek will be led by Roger on the 15th. The walk will start from Stoke Canon and follow a circular route via Bramford Speke. After a relatively short trek, we will adjourn to the Stoke Canon Inn for our "Christmas lunch" at around 12.30. **Numbers are limited, so please let me know if you wish to join the group on that day.** It will be necessary to pre-order lunch choices. Menus and further details will be circulated nearer the time to those who sign up. A 'walk only' or 'lunch only' options are possible, subject to availability of seats in the pub  
-- Nigel





## Table Tennis

**Coordinators:**  
**Katherine Green**  
**Lorne Loxterkamp**

The group meets every Monday from 10 am to 12 noon at Sunningmead Community Centre. We have four tables and generally play doubles to ensure that everyone gets as many games as possible during the session. There is a weekly charge of £3.00, which includes coffee or tea. Newcomers are welcome, and we endeavour

to help those with less experience of the game. Anyone interested in finding out about joining the group should contact one of us. - *Katherine and Lorne*



## Thursday Lunch

**Coordinator:**  
**Angie Cheshire**

Fifteen intrepid lunchers travelled to the Stoke Canon Inn on 9th November. Some even braved the 55 bus to get there. Although the food was of variable quality, the reception from the local staff was friendly and welcoming. Interestingly, this is a community pub,

bought and managed by the village. We were given a fascinating talk by the Director, Gray, on how local people clubbed together twelve years ago to buy the building and now staff it with local volunteers. - *Carol & Nigel*

Our Christmas lunch will be at The London Inn, Morchard Bishop, Crediton, on 14<sup>th</sup> December. Fully subscribed as I write, but I will be starting a reserve list if needs be.

On 11<sup>th</sup> January 2024 we will be dining at Ponte Vecchio, Bampton Street, Tiverton. organised by Joy and Ken. I will be putting out the sign-up sheet at our Christmas lunch, but group members, do get in touch in advance if you would like to be added in advance.

Wishing all group members and other readers a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

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



## Trekking

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

### The November Trek

Unfortunately, for the first time in many years, the planned November Trek to Woody Bay and the

Valley of Rocks had to be postponed. This was because of the dire weather warnings associated with Storm Ciaran for the area we were planning to walk in. Luckily the trekkers do have the services of a dedicated weather watcher, who diligently observes from his lookout post !!





## The December Trek

Thursday 7th December – Washfield, Ennerleigh and Loxbeare

An interesting Tiverton trek will be led by Dawn and Simon taking in some of the quieter villages, lanes and paths to the north west of the town. It will take place on Thursday 7th December starting at 10am.

Start point, grid reference SS 945138, on Washfield Lane, (signposted to Washfield and Stoodleigh) immediately before it goes over the A361. Parking options are on the lane, or in either of the housing estates flanking the lane. There is a pedestrian cut through next to 53, Gale Way as part of the Exe Valley Way. Distance is just 10 miles with an ascent of about 460 metres.

**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. [arcleaver54@gmail.com](mailto:arcleaver54@gmail.com)**



**Wednesday Pub Lunch**  
**Coordinator:**  
**Trevor Ellmore**

We decided to eat locally on the 1<sup>st</sup> November and plumbed for the recommendation of the Globe Inn at Sampford Peverell. Because of the Exeter Rd closure at Ashley, it meant a long detour for some, however, everybody arrived on time. I parked on the road outside, which was easier to alight a

member with crutches, but most parked in the car park. Unfortunately one member found the entrance to be rather narrow and damaged her car on the way in. Be warned if you intend to park there.



The restaurant area décor was mentioned by some as being quite bland, and the table layout could have been better, as chairs had to be re arranged to allow personal space for eating. Although we will not, and had not pre payed or pre ordered, we did not have to wait too long for the entrées to appear. Members had mixed feelings for the food though, some thoroughly enjoyed what they had, several others were disappointed with their lasagne and fish dishes. I enjoyed the steak pie I had, but was amazed that everybody had no choice, other

than having chips and peas as the vegetable.

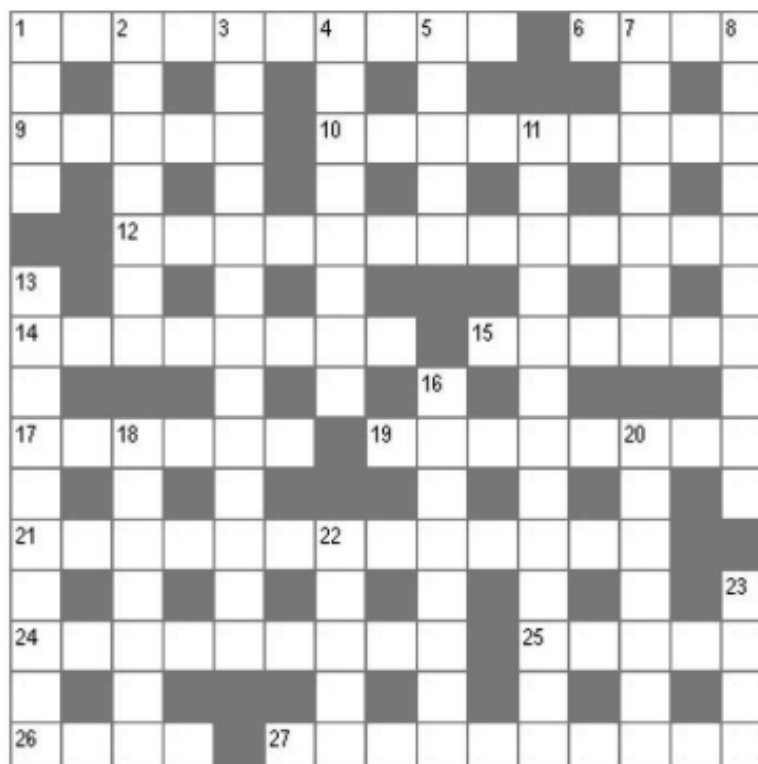
Would we go again? That is on the back burner, as they say.

Our venue for 6<sup>th</sup> December is at Bickleigh Mill, Bickleigh, for the Christmas Lunch, which has a varied menu, not just Christmas Turkey. If you did not put your name down previously, and would like to attend, please contact me ASAP. -Trevor

Directions:- Head south on the A396 from Tiverton for 3.5 mls, cross the bridge, bare slight left. The mill is on the left. Bickleigh Mill, EX16 8RG, 01884 855419

## Tiverton u3a Cryptic Crossword No 30

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



- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1 I leave railway carriages. Writer to record my speech (10)         | 1 Bibliodensus makes no sense to me (4)                             |
| 6 Some aid can make blue litmus paper change to red (4)              | 2 Evoke 3T's and a motoring organisation (7)                        |
| 9 Maxim meant only to touch Olive initially (5)                      | 3 25ml of mead in a nutshell (5,3,5)                                |
| 10 Holy one rushed artist and late queen to Scottish ferry port (9)  | 4 Former US president follows girl in garden, maybe (8)             |
| 12 My own story of the motor car? (13)                               | 5 In burrowing your head in the sand you become a jackass (5)       |
| 14 Roughly on Atlantic Standard Time? No way! (8)                    | 7 Pass the parcel, without the fool, makes someone who applauds (7) |
| 15 A woman goes into the jacuzzi and comes out an expert climber (6) | 8 Famous styles but a bit mucky (5,5)                               |
| 17 The US Exec can justify the fault (6)                             | 11 Don't go south to sing in a carol for a state (5, 8)             |
| 19 Raider gave my eardrum a bashing (8)                              | 13 Shoulders bags discovered when rave shacks were turned over (10) |
| 21 Suitor scrambled into messy EU strip, not wanting to be seen (13) | 16 Art is in charge! Take right away for old North African city (8) |
| 24 Screwed up a tired face without daughter to reach the canteen (9) | 18 Attention, fill vehicle properly! (7)                            |
| 25 Answer's in an empty-headed fashion (5)                           | 20 Prescribed statin includes a far away meaning (7)                |
| 26 Singular Spanish sun adds a vitamin (4)                           | 22 You heard - he was shown how to make a cake (5)                  |
| 27 Had been consideration but became a patron (10)                   | 23 River Don (4)  |

As usual, I include a list of groups and contacts who are not reporting this month. Co-ordinators contact details can be found on the “members only” page of our website.



**Psychology**  
 Coordinator:  
*To be appointed*



**Industrial Heritage**  
 Coordinator:  
**Phil Stone**

**Tiverton u3a Cryptic Crossword No. 030 - Solution**

R	O	C	A	F	E	N	B	E	L	O	S
A	N	N	G	L	U	K					
E	N	I	A	R	E	T	E	F	A	C	
W	T	L	H	O	E	E	A				
	S	U	I	T	I	P	R	E	R	S	
Y	I	R	R			W	A			R	
R	D	U	A	R	A	M	S	E	C	X	E
R			C		C	H	D				V
A	P	R	E	H	S	H	S	I	N	O	S
H	E	T									H
Y	H	P	A	R	G	O	B	I	O	T	A
T	P	O	R	E			R	R			E
R	E	R	A	N	A	R	A	S	T	O	M
I	L			U		O	H	T			O
D	C	A		E	B	I	R	C	S	N	A