

Tiverton u3a Newsletter

learn, laugh, live

Volume 9 Issue 3

February 2024



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FROM THE COMMITTEE:

Tiverton u3a welcomes nine new members:

- Chris and Linda Filmer-Sankey
- Val Burns
- Christine O'Brien
- Keith Bartholomew
- Linda Hall
- Margaret Chumbley
- Heather Bingham
- Steve Shrewsbury
- Paul Edwards

November Meeting

At the November meeting we welcomed Dr. **Todd Gray** FRHistS, MBE, a well-known historical writer on many aspects of Devon's history. He is based at Exeter University, and as of 2007 was Honorary Research Fellow of the University, Chairman of the Devonshire Association, 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. Dr Gray relayed many facts about the history of various parts of the county and emphasized the importance of evidence based study in his pursuit of historical facts.

Speakers at the Monthly Meeting

The speaker secretary would welcome suggestions for guest speakers to give a talk at the monthly meeting. Any members with interesting experiences, careers or hobbies would be very welcome. Don't be shy!

Help...

The main advantage of meeting at Moorhayes is that the room hire is substantially less expensive than the Tiverton Hotel, where we used to meet. This means that we don't have to charge members for entry. The downside is that we have to lay out (and put away) the chairs and tables. Any assistance with this will be very welcome. Just come along a little early and benefit from some exercise. Similarly, if you can help with the tea and coffee making, please sign up or talk to Angie.

Membership Renewals 2024

Thank you to everyone who responded so quickly in renewing their membership fees for the year. However, we still have around 100 outstanding members who have yet to do so.

If you are reading this and have simply forgotten - **please do it now !** The system lapses unpaid members at the end of February, and at that point, unpaid members will no longer receive information from Tiverton u3a or be eligible to attend the Groups.

If you have decided not to renew your membership it would be extremely helpful if you could let me know, as that will avoid further unwanted emails being sent. Any queries just get in contactThank you

Annie Foot tivertonu3amembership@gmail.com

Exe Valley U3A Quiz Night

Friday 22nd March at Calverleigh Village Hall, Tiverton EX16 8BB

Bring family & friends for a friendly evening of up to 8 per team. Supper of bread, cheese and pate. Bar opens 7 pm, start of quiz at 7.30 pm.

Tickets £7 available through Anne Bush, Social Organiser, Exe Valley U3A - 01884 257221

January General Meeting Moorhayes Community Centre

**Thursday the 25th January
10:00 for 10:30 am**

**The Royal National Institute for the Blind and Me
Trish Sail**

Trish works as a Community Connections Co-ordinator in the South West for the RNIB. She is no stranger to adventure and lives with sight loss.

Trish will talk about herself and her journey, how she came to work for the RNIB and what the RNIB can offer members and the wider Community.

Click here for details [What's On - Tiverton U3A](#)

Tea, Coffee, Biscuits

Paper copies of the Newsletter

Membership renewals

Moorhayes Community Centre Lea Road Tiverton EX16 6SU

**On Thursday the 22nd February
Your Telephone Service,
Your Options**

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

Members of the Bus Outing group enjoyed a lovely meal at the golf club in December. We never meet in January, but in early February, we are having a bring-and-share lunch and our usual annual planning meeting so that we can decide what we are doing the rest of the year. We have had two or three new members and

are now quite a large number.

However, it is very unusual for everybody to attend and so this suits us very well. - *Valerie*



Creative Writing

Coordinator:
Annie Hooper

Creative writing resumes after the Christmas and New year break. We extend a warm welcome our new member Heather and look forward to meeting together on the 17th January 2024. Do come and join us

The meeting day for creative writing is changed to the third Wednesday of the month .

Annie devonian2001@yahoo.co.uk



Cryptic Crosswords

Coordinator:
Graeme Cozens

As always, our latest cryptic crossword and its solution are shown at the end of this newsletter.

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.

On a somewhat different note, I've decided to take a break from cryptic crosswords after many years involvement at Tiverton and elsewhere. Consequently, I shall be handing over the reins to Graeme Cozens, who is one of our regular contributors and has kindly offered to take on the role of group coordinator from January of next year. I'm sure he'll do a great job and wish him well for the future – *Tony*

A Happy New Year, and a new start - for me as the co-ordinator of the U3A cryptic crossword! Tony Lowe has unfailingly provided us with a fun and challenging puzzle each month. I just hope I can "pursue hearts" (6,4). Our latest cryptic crossword is shown below, and the solution appears right 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? You may find you'll develop your solving skills too.

All communication is via email and you'll be given up to 4 words each month for which you provide appropriate cryptic clues. Please get in touch if you'd like to have a go!

Graeme Cozens
cozensg@yahoo.co.uk



Economics

Coordinator:
Mike Barlow

Inflation didn't continue going down as expected and energy prices went up! We didn't manage to meet in January to discuss these points but expect to be back with plenty to talk about at our next meeting on Wed 14th Feb starting at 10am. Let me know at mikeandsue.barlow@gmail.com if you'd like to join our enthusiastic group. ~ *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*



Gardens
Coordinator:
Margaret Chumbley

HELLO TO ALL GARDEN LOVERS!

I would like to co-ordinate a Tiverton u3a Gardening Group.

The aim would be to:-
- Visit various gardens, of any size, NGS or National Trust, our own gardens, or allotments

- Share gardening tips, successes, disasters!
- Help each other to develop our own garden spaces
- Swap plants between members
- Share gardening magazines, maybe group membership to a national organisation, eg RHS
- Help members to access events e.g. sharing lifts and information

The Gardening Group would be member led, with the members suggesting what they want from the Group, where they would like to visit and when. Visits would take place once a month, possibly twice during the summer months.

I will co-ordinate all suggestions and send out a monthly email to members, informing them of what is taking place.

Please do come and see me at the monthly meeting on 22nd February for a chat if you would like more information or join the Gardening Group. - *Margaret*



German Conversation

Coordinator:
John Smith.

We met in early December to enjoy a glass of Glühwein and a plate of typical German nibbles before our Christmas break. Having worked so hard during the past twelve months, we agreed that we deserved it. We tucked in to smoked cheese, garlic sausage, lebkuchen and stollen.

We resumed after Christmas earlier this month when we recounted our activities over the

Christmas and New Year period mentioning presents received and food eaten (auf Deutsch, natürlich). We are looking forward to another year practising our speaking German in very gemütlich company. -- *John*



Going Places

Coordinators:
John O'Connor
Tony Lowe, Chris Steele

Bird Watching Cruise on the River Exe

This trip has proved extremely popular and is now fully booked. However, we're happy to run another one next year if there's sufficient interest.

Exeter Aerospace

The next visit is scheduled for 27th February and is also fully booked.

Future Events

- The Big Pit
- Lyme Regis Fossil Festival

– Tony (lowe.tony@yahoo.co.uk)



Trad Jazz

Coordinator:
Mike Barlow

We had an interesting session at Magelake with "Three Good Men" pictured here. They played mainly Benny Goodman numbers featuring Nick White on clarinets and soprano sax, James Klemas on piano and Jim Newton on drums. We enjoyed their excellent musicianship whilst learning a

lot about the music of Benny Goodman and his contemporaries.

The next sessions are:

Wed 14th Feb Hotsy Totsy (a five piece all lady band) at Jubilee Hall, Langford Budville
Wed 21st Feb Gordon's Algiers Strutters at Magelake Hall, Uffculme



For more information contact me at mikeandsue.barlow@gmail.com or check our webpage. - *Mike Barlow*



Line Dancing

Coordinator:
Mich Bowers

It was good to get back into the swing of things following the festive break. Hearts and minds were willing, - pity the knees & legs weren't as co-operative.

Next sessions February 12th & 26th. - Mich



Local Theatre

Coordinator:
Betty Thrall

The block booking for Tiverton Junior Operatic Club's production of "ALL SHOOK UP" is February 15th at 7-30 pm New Hall. Tickets £10 each. Please pay me by January 25th monthly meeting .

Do support this talented group with music from the Elvis Presley song book and loosely based on

Shakespeare's Twelfth Night.

The Tiverton Dramatic Society next production will be "Sweeney Todd the Demon Barber of Fleet Street" Our Block Booking is Thursday, April 11 2024. Look out for more details in the next newsletter

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

Five group members met at Tim and Val's place to share our Journey photos.

Nigel transported us from Ashley up to Hilltop Farm, negotiating a soggy green lane, crossing streams and stiles, passing all weather sheep and using an impressive new gate to get to the viewpoint near the farm.

From the top there were splendid views across Tiverton, the Exe Valley across the top of the sewage works to Gogwell and beyond.

Roger relived a very wet and muddy long trek from Salcombe Hill car park in Sidmouth. There were rain-soaked views from the Coast Path, muddy gateways, the precarious cliff edge, damp(soaked!) donkeys at the sanctuary and the sodden group of trekkers lunching in the entrance to Sidford Church and enjoying the experience of getting back to the cars and the prospect of being in the warm and dry. We were also taken from Bolham on a familiar journey through part of the Knightshayes estate.

Tim took us on a tour of Tiverton through the old Workhouse, down into Bampton Street, which prompted interesting and informative discussion about the area in the past. We were taken through the market place to the old Town Hall, over the bridge, down past the shopping trolley in the river to Aston Manor and Howden Road and along the footpath and stream behind the industrial estate to the old railway bridge.

Phil S delved into the archive and we time travelled back to 2016 and a twinning trip to Buccino and Salerno in Italy. The ruins of Greek Temples and the Archaeological Museum provided plenty of warming, exotic photographic material.

Phil A visited Rackenford on a cold and frosty morning. His journey took him down muddy lanes, past frozen puddles and ponds, the wind turbines near Knowstone, crisp views towards the North Devon coast, hungry sheep on a mound of hay and an impressive display of lit up reindeer illuminating a long driveway.

The theme for the next meeting is 'Winter'. Mike and Sue will be hosting at their place in Bampton on Thursday 8th February 2024 at 10am. - Roger



Our last meeting before Xmas had the theme of "Modes of transport".

Members provided photos of many types of vehicles, planes and boats. More bizarre types submitted were wind surfers, roller boots, skate boards and similar non mainstream items.

Our next meeting has the subject of "Winter scenes" so scope for using imagination as to what happens only in winter.

We still have space for one or two new members if anyone is interested in joining our friendly group. Contact Charlie on charlieduke@sky.com



Philosophy

Coordinator:

Ian Kimber

The discussion on Descartes meditations on a proof a God was very lively. It is interesting to note that although this was around the time of the Stuart Kings in the UK it was quite amazing how close his definition of the properties of God was to what a modern cosmologist could agree with. The only difference was an intelligence in the design rather than evolution.

Our February meeting will be hosted by David and Carol Hamer on Wednesday 21st at 10:30 when we will be reading and discussing Descartes fourth meditation on Truth and Falsity.

As always New members will; be welcome but contact me by email or phone so that I confirm numbers to them before the meeting.

As we will be reading and discussing the text as we go there is no need for any previous knowledge or homework but it is available via this website.

https://www.earlymoderntexts.com/assets/pdfs/descartes1641_2.pdf

Email. ianksoulsurfer@gmail.com - Ian Kimber



Railway Group

Coordinator:
Jose Kimber

The Group did not meet in December.

Our next meeting will be the day after the U3A general meeting, on **Friday 26 January at 10.30am at Willand Methodist Church** as usual. We will be watching another DVD from my

collection. I would recommend wrapping up warm as it can be rather cold in there at this time of year.

Our February meeting will be on **Friday 23 February** at the same time and venue. We will continue watching DVDs from my collection unless anyone fancies giving a talk or wants to bring along another DVD which might be of interest.

I am hoping to arrange a visit to Leaky Finders after Easter, and am waiting for them to come back to me to confirm the date. Anyone is welcome to join this visit, with a maximum of 15. I already have a list of interested people but if you are not a member of the Railway Group, have not yet registered your interest and would like to join the visit, please contact me and I will add you to the list. If it is oversubscribed I will allocate places on a first come first served basis.

- Jose



Ramblers

Coordinator:
Jenny Bedford

Thirteen of us assembled at the Knightshayes lower car park, and, led by Mike, set off at a cracking pace up the fields. The sun shone and the ground was frozen which was a bonus as the top fields, which had been a quagmire the week before, were quite

solid. Additionally, the track past the farm has been improved so a very pleasant walk. On the way down, we met three of our group who had been at the wrong car park and they decided to continue further. A few people decided to do the Impney walk as an extension; don't know if they did but we all met up at the cafe and a good time was had by all - thanks Mike .



February Ramble, Tuesday 13th

The next Ramble on Tuesday 13th February will be led by Phil Akers starting from Lowdwells car park - postcode TA21 0JY - starting at 10am. The route, 4.2 miles, takes us via Greenham Weir and Cothay Manor across the fields to Appley on the West Deane Way; thence downhill on the road back to Greenham Weir to retrace our steps back to the car park. - Jenny



Skittles

Coordinators:
John Carr
Janet Loader

Skittles resumed 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. *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*



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

December's. Short Trek was led by Roger starting from the car park in Stoke Canon and following the Devonshire Heartland Way on a circular route via Brampford Speke. An

unusually short and level walk ended at the Stoke Canon Inn for our "Christmas Lunch", which included crackers, jokes and funny hats. The inn is a community project, staffed by volunteers and is worth supporting. - *Nigel*



The Queen's Award
for Voluntary Service

Stoke Canon Inn

We are very proud that our volunteers have been awarded
The Queen's Award
for Voluntary Service

The MBE for Voluntary Groups

The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service is the highest award given to local volunteer groups across the UK to recognize outstanding work done in their own communities

The next Short Trek on Friday 26th January will be led by Jenny starting at 10am. from Old Road car park in Tiverton, nearest postcode, Horsden garage, EX16 4DX. The route leads down to the Exe Valley Way then turns left up a track on to fields (probably muddy) to cross a lane and follow a track to Gogwell, then down fields to Seckerleigh and uphill to White Down Cross to take the

muddy track to Thurlescombe Cross and down the lane to the disused railway track back to the car park. 7 miles approximately; quite a bit of up but not very strenuous. - Jenny



Table Tennis

Coordinators:
Katherine Green
Lorne Loxterkamp

The Table Tennis Group continues to thrive with excellent attendances.

Unfortunately, due to the high numbers, we are unable to admit new members at this time.

But the Coordinators would be pleased to hear from anyone who would like to have their name put on a waiting list.

In November the second inter-club friendly session with the U3A South Molton group took place. It was enjoyed by all, and there is a strong wish to arrange more meetings in 2024.

. - Katherine and Lorne



Thursday Lunch

Coordinator:
Angie Cheshire

For our first lunch of 2024 we visited a local restaurant in Tiverton, Ponte Vecchio. It did not disappoint with food

and service. Unfortunately, their till could not separate the bill, so good old maths came in handy. The members worked out their bills. We wish to thank you all, the end balance worked out to the penny.
~ Joy and Ken



Our next lunch, organised by Simon and Diane, is at The Blue Ball, Samford Moor. It is already fully subscribed.

Angie. angelacheshire@hotmail.com 07743 184 980



Trekking
Coordinator:
Gordon Cleaver

The December and January Treks -

Well the Long Treks longstanding reputation for good luck with dry weather was well and truly dampened by the December Trek in the north-west of Tiverton and the January Trek to the Sidmouth Area which to be frank were a test of both the trekkers

resolve and the waterproofing of their Gear!. Both the December Trek, led by Dawn and Simon and the January Trek, led by Phil will be worth repeating in dry, sunny weather when the views can be appreciated. However at the end of both Treks , the” Debrief” was greatly appreciated by the wet Trekkers who steamed nicely in front of the hostelrys open fires.



**February Long Trek – Thursday 1st Feb 24
– 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 1 st Feb 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.

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



**Wednesday Pub
Lunch**
Coordinator:
Trevor Ellmore

We had a very good turn out by members, as we started the year off on Wednesday 3rd January with a typical venue favourite of the past, Keepers Cottage Inn Kentisbeare. A varied spectrum of meals was ordered with the food presentation & quantity up to their normal excellent standard.

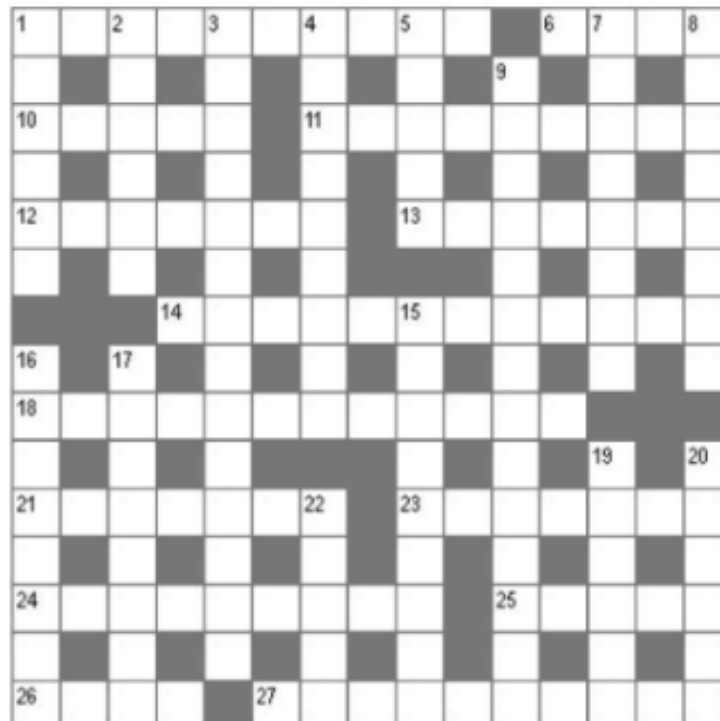
The only adverse comment made by some, was that the heat could have been turned up a notch or two, not the food, as that came suitably hot.

The weather may not be to our advantage for our venture on February 7th, so we decided to opt for something different. Instead of pubs we propose to try a restaurant in Tiverton, Ponte Vecchio, an Italian restaurant relatively new to the area, but highly recommended by members and the press. If you did not put your name down at the Keepers Cottage and would like to attend, please contact me ASAP. - Trevor



Tiverton u3a Cryptic Crossword No 31

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



- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 Manage the MP in charge of publicity? (10) | 1 The urn with part of Abu Dhabi is reddish brown (6) |
| 6 Enthusiasts recall interesting crew familiar with guitarist Brit (4) | 2 Tough man of the sea (6) |
| 10 Sounds like flying insect, queen and French hat (5) | 3 Write a patriotic song (8,6) |
| 11 Willing to place again & become respectable (9) | 4 Haven for gnu, giraffe, absorbed by ingenious composure (9) |
| 12 Analysis: tired and neglected (7) | 5 Former tap man living abroad (5) |
| 13 Miss Rita Tor betrays (7) | 7 In short, you are battle ready sadly with your counter argument (8) |
| 14 Failed to hit the mark? Certainly not! (4,3,5) | 8 Cheer, Sir, it is stoned and dark red (8) |
| 18 Air Raid Precaution siren goes mad for vocal performers (5,7) | 9 Edges of adjacent weapons illustrated in furious face-off (2,7,5) |
| 21 Inept, primarily rolling rubbish out, he spews out texts (7) | 15 The answer to this clue is the most interesting (9) |
| 23 The old God, Ling, finding a place to live (7) | 16 Opus pro? (8) |
| 24 Spray a display at a short man with a circle (9) | 17 Part of a Somerset river gives the smallest musical interval (8) |
| 25 This kind of male is a powerful guy (5) | 19 Spot the politician in the jumble (6) |
| 26 The entire effort has a ridge of jagged rock (4) | 20 Ah! Stag running amok? Taken aback in shock! (6) |
| 27 Content with gin but becoming dependent (10) | 22 If I had ground the horn up I'd be roaming the grasslands! (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

Tiverton u3a Cryptic Crossword No. 031 - Solution

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