# **Tiverton u3a Newsletter**

learn, laugh, live

Volume 9 Issue 4

March 2024



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## FROM THE COMMITTEE:

#### Tiverton u3a welcomes twelve new members:

- Monica Manning
- Liam Edwards
- Barbara Anderson
- Pauline Rosslee
- Michael and Fiona Langford Jackson
- Mary Goffin
- Moira Wood
- Linda Bone
- Sue and Mike Wragg
- Carole Eden

#### **January Meeting**

The January monthly meeting, held at Moorhayes Community Centre, was opened by Mike Warren, who introduced himself as our new Chairman.

Following this, Trisha Sail gave a most entertaining talk about her work with RNIB and her experiences during her epic adventure in the BBC programme, Race Across the World, set in Canada. Although the internet refused to behave, none of the adventure was missing.



If you missed the talk or would like to hear it again, it can be viewed by following this link. <u>https://youtu.be/Pi-9tK47LaU</u>

#### **February Meeting**

At the February monthly meeting, Fergus McGilp gave an interesting and informative talk on future developments in the British telephone service. Big changes are afoot .....

If you missed the presentation, or would like to hear it again, a recording will be sent to all members in the next few days.

#### **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!

## Street golf



Coming to a Devon road near you...

#### 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 contact ....Thank you

#### Annie Foot <a href="mailto:tivertonu3amembership@gmail.com">tivertonu3amembership@gmail.com</a>

#### 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

#### Third Age Trust

Mike Warren, Fergus & Mike Barlow attended a Zoom update about the future organisation of the Third Age Trust management structure. There was a request to ensure that all our members are kept informed as these proposals are refined

u3a's in the UK are managed by The <u>Third Age Trust Board</u>. This body has a responsibility to ensure that u3a's comply with a number of governance and financial regulations - mainly defined by the Charity Commission. This takes the majority of their time and effort and means they have little time to address other topics. With more than 1000 u3a's across the UK it has been obvious for some time that the existing management structure needs reviewing. There is a project called FFTF (Fit for the Future) which is making a proposal to split the Third Age Trust responsibilities into two bodies. There will continue to be a <u>Board</u> to address Governance and Financial issues and this will be complemented by a new <u>Council</u> that will improve two way communication of Members' issues and provide a forum for faster decision making.

More information will be provided as the proposals are refined, and later in the year Tiverton u3a will be asked to vote for or against the proposals. -- *Mike Barlow* 

#### AGM

The next monthly meting will be the Tiverton u3a Annual General Meeting. There is some uncertainty concerning the date and the location, but members will be informed by email in the next few days.

## **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 Unfortunately, the bus outing group has now been disbanded. This is mainly due to my poor health, although I was hoping that someone else in the group would pick it up.. However, the group has been going since 2006(!) and some good friendships have developed...although, few of the present

members have been there all that time!

We are going to continue to meet up regularly at my home, but not as an official group. - Valerie



Creative Writing Coordinator: Annie Hooper A warm welcome to Mike and Valerie our new members. We are looking forward to some exciting poetry and Mikes forthcoming book.

Topics this month are Winter and Risk to be explored at our next meeting on the 28th February at 2 pm

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

Annie devonian2001@yahoo.co.uk



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.

Graeme Cozens cozensg@yahoo.co.uk



Economics Coordinator: Mike Barlow We had an interesting meeting discussing a wide range of topics. One related to recent reports that in order to provide reasonable pensions people will need to work until the age of 70 or 71. Since currently more than 50% of the people aged 70 are unfit to work this could prove difficult to achieve. **Moral of the discussion:** Ensure your children and

grandchildren are investing substantially in their own private pension plans to ensure they are comfortable in their old age!

Mike Warren also lead a discussion about Government Tax revenues have changed over the years. Income Tax is the largest source of income (about one third) but Inheritance Tax is less than 1%.

At our next meeting on Wed 6th March we will look at the way Government expenditure has evolved in different areas - let me know if you'd like to join us. ~ *Mike Barlow* 



## **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 <u>Chumbley</u>

#### HELLO TO ALL GARDEN LOVERS!

I will be co-ordinating a Tiverton u3a Gardening Group. The aim will 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 will 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 contact me if you would like more information or join the Gardening Group. - Margaret



We continue to meet twice a month and start with our "word/fact/joke of the week". Germans love joining their words together to form sometimes very long words which can become a "tongue twister" (Zungenbrecher - lit "tongue breaker"). We sometimes struggle to raise a smile at some of their jokes (eg Two Martinis, bitte. Dry? Nein. I said "Two"! - a play on the word "drei").

If you can stop laughing or have not given up at this point, we then talk about our recent activities and other interesting topics such as hobbies in childhood - lots of different "collecting" eg train numbers, stamps, beer mats, cigarette packets/cards.

Our meetings are well attended and so enjoyable that, last time, one member was in Italy in the morning and joined our group in the evening. Such dedication! --- John



**Going Places** Coordinators: John O'Connor Tony Lowe, Chris Steele A birdwatching cruise on the River Exe and a trip to Exeter Aerospace are both scheduled for later this month. A report on both events will appear in next month's newsletter.

Trips to Coldharbour Mill and the Lyme Regis Fossil Festival are planned to take place

during the next few months. Details of these events will be circulated to all members shortly.

If there is anywhere you'd particularly like to visit, please let me know!

Tony lowe.tony@yahoo.co.uk



**FREE CD'S !** I was recently asked to help dispose of an extensive collection of **CD recordings of Trad Jazz and Big Bands**. There are probably more than 1000 in total covering most periods from the 1920's up to the 1950's. Some of these will be available for anyone to take at the February and March general meetings but if you're not able to attend you can let me know if you have

any favourite bands and I'll be pleased to try and locate some appropriate CD's for you.

There's also of course the regular live jazz sessions in the area:

\* Wed13th March - Panama Band at the Jubilee Hall in Langford Budville \* Wed 20th March - Gordon's Algiers Strutters at the Magelake Hall in Uffculme

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



The Tiverton Dramatic Society's next play will be "SWEENEY TODD the DEMON BARBER of FLEET STREET" Our block booking will be Thursday April 11th 7-30 pm in the New Hall. Tickets are £10 each ,please put your names on the list provided from February 22nd or phone or email

me. I will require final payment by March 28th ,any cheques to be made payable to Tiverton u3a. In this story Sweeney Todd and Mrs Lovett were at first just thieves and later became grisly business partners . So do come to the play to learn more .

The Tiverton Junior Operatic Club are to be congratulated on their production of "ALL SHOOK UP ", Twenty five 11-21 year olds sang and danced their way through the performance with great enthusiasm. Starting with Jailhouse Rock. Many of Elvis Presley songs were featured and brought into the storyline, soloists and small groups singing were very good but the song "Can't Help Falling in Love " was sung just before the interval by the whole 25 was outstanding and memorable .14 of us were taken back to our teenage years for a fun evening of entertainment. This could not have happened without the dedication and talent of the Director Dan Kilshaw,,choreographer Katie Hawkins ,Musical Director Lydia Fitton ,the Orchestra and everyone else up to the scenery movers .

Betty 01884 242998 07972271524



Mahjongg Coordinator: Celia Hicks Mahjongg (or Mahjong) is a collecting game, played for money by the Chinese but played individually by us for fun!! Instead of collecting hearts, spades, diamonds or clubs as in acard game or people as in Happy Families, by simple exchange we

collect bamboo,

circle, character, wind and dragon tiles!

Want to see it played? Phone 01398 332101 or e-mail <u>celiahicks13@gmail.com</u>. I live in the centre of Bampton but am willing to visit you especially if there is a group of 2 /3 who would like to know more. - *Celia* 





Photography Coordinator: Roger Gunn The theme was Winter. Nine of us, including a surprise guest, Carol, made ourselves comfortable on Mike and Sue's sofas and enjoyed photos, coffee, banter and Brexit beating bikkies!

The range of photos came from around the globe to very local and from the depths of

time to very recent.

Nigel regaled us with exceptional wintry scenes from, Bickleigh, Culmstock Beacon, Wellington and Waterow to the depths of Suffolk and the Mackinnon Pass (1154m) on South Island, New Zealand.

Mike was a bit more local with great shots showing contrasting colours and a beautifully shot rainbow over Anstey Common and images of trees and flora around Knightshayes.

Tim's time machine didn't disappoint. A rare 1965 photo of farmland around Higher Moor Farm, now Moorhayes housing, and a fallen tree blown over by storm Eunice in 2022 which has righted itself and continues to grow!

Phil A dug out a watery scene across Sidmouth Bay at sunset, frosty Exmoor, frosted windscreen, wet and windy Sale Fell and some snowy alpine shots from Italy (2018). Roger showed an interesting short movie he shot in 2018 illustrating the difference in the weather over a few days and locations. From the sun and bright skies over Teignmouth and the turbines at Knowstone to the colder scenes around Rackenford, Exe Head and Rockford to complete whiteout over Tiverton after Storm Emma met the Beast from the East.



Phil S went back to the winter of '78. A snowbound Tiverton, clearing the road, the frozen Exe, helicopter operating from the Rugby Club taking supplies to outlying villages and lots of sledging. Ben took us up to the Quantocks with views of Hinkley Point, daring deer unafraid of Ben's presence and the sun descending in the West. We also cast a critical eye over his Watchet video.

Sue started very local with an arty shot of the woodpile outside their back door, shots of the garden, Knightshayes and a frosty Tiverton Golf Club. Then took us further afield with fantastic photos from northern Sweden and Finland of dog sledding, ski bob, skidoos and a pub made of ice and snow with the bar constructed from blocks of ice!

Overall a very interesting meeting.

The task for next time will be to make a short movie on ANY topic. Explore your device! Meeting at Roger's place, 10am Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> March. - Roger



Our last meeting was on the subject of winter scenes. We had various views of the local area with bare fields, tree silhouettes, ice/snow on canal, emerging snowdrops and other spring flowers. Next meeting is on "bits of trees" looking at bark, branch shapes, mosses, knots etc. Which should Contact Charlie on charlieduke@sky.com

show some interesting close-ups and composition.

Philosophy

**Coordinator:** 

Ian Kimber

At our February meeting hosted by David and Carol Hamer we read and had a lively discussion

on 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.

The March meeting will be back at my house and to will be on Wednesday 20th March starting at 10:30

We will be moving on to Descartes fifth meditation available via this link

https://www.earlymoderntexts.com/assets/pdfs/descartes1641 3.pdf

lan Kimber ianksoulsurfer@gmail.com. 01884 252460 07966159240



We had a rather small turnout for our last meeting in January, due to illness and a couple of people having dropped out for various reasons, so in the end only six people attended. Hopefully we will be back to normal numbers next time! We watched two GWR DVDs, each containing

three short programmes which had been collected from other archives, but they were quite good quality, with a good commentary. They covered the GWR large and small Prairies and the GWR Mogul, with a couple of extras from the British Film studios, one on timetables and one on trainspotters specials. These DVDs are part of a series and I am hoping to find some more from the same collection.

Our March meeting will be on Friday 22 March at the same time and venue.

For the railway modellers amongst you, the Nailsea Model Railway Exhibition is taking place on the weekend of 23/24 March. This is usually a very good local show and we will be going. We will have a couple of spare seats in the car if anyone is interested.

I have finally managed to fix a date for our **visit to Leaky Finders** on **Friday 10 May**, so please put the date in your diaries! If you 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 you have registered an interest but cannot make the date please let me know so I can offer the place to someone else. If it is oversubscribed places will be allocated on a first come first served basis. Further details of the visit will be given nearer the time.

We welcome new members to the group. The more members we have, the less the monthly cost will be! - *Jose* 



A small group of eight ramblers met at Lowdwells car park at the eastern end of the Great Western Canal. Whilst the plan was to walk north east then west to Appley, a recce the previous day showed the footpath to be completely waterlogged in places so a decision was made to do a different walk.

We welcomed Jenny Vinter to the group and set off in

the drizzle, west, along the canal tow path to Burlescombe. After a brief stop we joined the footpath that took us past the remains of the Augustinian Abbey at Canonsleigh and across the fields to Whipcott Farm. We re-joined the canal towpath and ambled past the lime kilns. At Waytown tunnel we joined the lane towards Greenham and made our way back to the car park.

We covered the 4.2 miles fairly swiftly. We didn't get too muddy or too wet as the rain that had been forecast stayed away. - *Phil* 

The next Ramble on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> March will be led by Jenny from Broadhembury, starting at 10.00. The best place to park is on the road by the Drewe Arms (EX14 3NF) but, if full, there is plenty of other roadside parking in the village centre. The walk, 4.5 miles, goes through the village, then climbs steeply through fields, possibly muddy, on to a ridge, from where there are good views. The route then follows a path to the Gliding club, then on to a lane and via a bridleway through fields and woodland to the road which leads downhill for a mile back to the village. If you would like to book lunch at the Drewe Arms, could me know so that I can book a table.



The Monday Social Skittles evenings are continuing through March and April (with the exception of Easter Monday). We play at the clubhouse of Tiverton Town Football Club from 7pm until 8.30pm and welcome any members to come along and have a bit of fun. Please give either Janet or myself a ring if you have any questions or need more information. No experience is necessary!. - *John Carr.* 

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



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>



15 of us joined the Trek from Tiverton on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> January, slightly shorter than originally intended walk owing to the need to avoid an unacceptably muddy track. After a short stint on the railway line we joined the canal for a scenic march to the basin before proceeding via Tumbling fields on to the Exe Valley Way. Turning left , we tramped uphill on a concrete track followed by steep

muddy fields. Arriving at Gogwell, following our diverted route, we turned left down the track to cross Newtes Hill and down fields to lower Warnicombe. A long but easy walk down the lane took us back to the railway line to return to the car park. *Jenny* 

On 23<sup>rd</sup> February, 17 brave souls met up at **Newton St.Cyres** recreation ground and set off for the 8 mile (some say it was 9 miles) walk despite the initial pouring rain. We did encounter more rain, hail, a little sun and a rainbow but not one complaint was heard - by the leader at least. . The walk included several lanes and roads avoiding many, but not all, of the very muddy fields. Plenty of good views despite the clouds, particularly as we walked the crest of the Raddon Hills (inhabited since at least the Bronze



Age) and then down to the valley near Shobrooke. Luckily the excellent Beer Engine pub was open for a liquid debrief.

A special thanks to **Mitch** for the delicious cake, baked for Roger's birthday and enjoyed by all of us with our morning coffee. --- *Elisabeth* 

The **March Short Trek** will be led by Dawn, starting from Dulverton. Meet in the car park behind The Bridge Inn (pay and display). Steep uphill, and then go via Lower Chilcott, through to Hinam Farm, before joining the River Barle and walking back to Dulverton. I make this 9.5km/5.9 miles with a good pub. I'm afraid it's not as interesting as some of the walks that we've done with the group, but it's pretty good underfoot at this time of year, apart from the first climb up through the woods. *-- Dawn* 



The group meets every Monday from 10 am to 12 noon at Sunningmead Community 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* 



Having enjoyed our first visit to the Blue Ball at Christmas with a walking group, we wanted to arrange the February u3a lunch there and it proved to be a popular choice. On enquiring,

Fiona and her team confirmed they would open especially for us, since their normal hours are Friday to Sunday, and 20 diners were afforded a very warm welcome on a dull damp day. The a la carte menu is quite small but the food is of an excellent standard and beautifully presented. We had pre-booked starters and m ains, but few resisted the selection of gorgeous desserts on offer to follow! Many thanks to Paul, our attentive waiter, and to Fiona and Hannah for making the booking process seamless and our visit so enjoyable and successful. We'll be back! ~ Di and Simon

Our next outing is to The Catherine Wheel, Hemyock, organised by Tony and Liz. If you would like to attend please let me know asap.



Angie. angelacheshire@hotmail.com 07743 184 980



#### The February Trek

After our recent wet Treks, the North Devon coast delivered a fine weather February Trek that was full of interest. Nine Trekkers set off from the layby above Woody Bay for a 10.7 mile trip around Woody Bay, Lee Abbey,

the Valley of Rocks, Lynton and back over Six Acre Wood to the cars. We saw wild goats, did a spot of mountaineering /rock scrambling on Castle Rock and even said hello to Radio DJ Tony Blackburn who was walking the Valley of Rocks path.

One of our group, whist we were passing a pretty little pond on the way back to the cars, decide that the weather had been too dry and so found some swimmers in his

bag and did a spot of wild swimming. Definitely a first on a trek !.

The debrief was held in the Blackmoor Gate Inn where Roger was thanked for leading a great Trek in proper trekking weather.



#### March Trek – Thursday 7th March

The March Trek will be led by Tony Kidd and starts at 10am from the Sidbury village carpark, SY139919.

We will head west along the East Devon Way, climbing up to the walk's highpoint, with fine views, at White Cross. We then continue via Harpford Common and Burscombe Farm to Sidford, before turning northwards, and upwards, through Buckton Farm, and eventually above Lower Sweetcombe Farm. We complete the walk after rejoining the East Devon Way, downhill back to Sidbury. The walk is just under 11 miles, with 1800 feet (550 metres) of ascent.

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

For those that attended on Wednesday the 7<sup>th</sup> of February to Tiverton at the Ponte Vecchio were glad they did as it turned out to be an excellent choice.Most had traditional Italian Pasta dishes however one or two had the Griliata menu, whichever, all said it was very tasty. When you see plates going back without a single

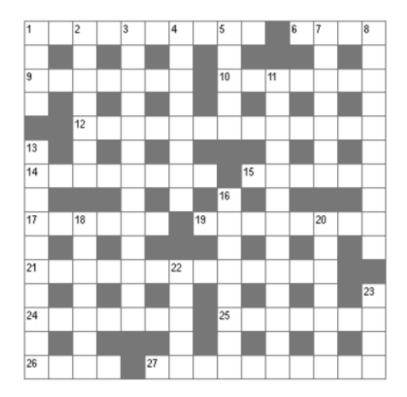
piece of food left, you know that members have absolutely enjoyed the meal. The staff were happy and gave wonderful service to all throughout.

Our next venture on **Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March is to an old favourite in Morchard Road, the Devonshire Dumpling** just the other side of Crediton. The pub is owned and managed by Laura & Garry who have been in the trade for over 20 years. If you did not put your name down to come whilst at the Ponte Vecchio and would like to attend now is the time to contact me.



- Trevor

#### Cryptic Crossword #32: February 2024



#### You can find the solution at the end of this newsletter

#### Across

- French father comes before right wing parliamentarian, insisting on immediate attention (10)
- 6 Request a parking place on field (4)
- 9 The article was a performance (7)
- 10 It's a walkover for Boots! (7)
- 12 Squashed countenance? (10,3)
- 14 Hate the river that joins a box (8)
- 15 Anita R ran the country (6)
- 17 Aargh, the French rogue deceives so charmingly (6)
- 19 Hope and lean together for the present desire (8)
- 21 Let's go. Reporters free, we are told (5,8)
- 24 Witnesses puzzled about SAT test (7)
- 25 First spring into a mud bath, then get the bird (7)
- 26 You never need to look inside for an eagle (4)
- 27 Finally made it but it needed the acnes to be mixed up before the ball (10)

#### Down

- 1 Trim the fruit (4)
- 2 Bin a repeat of the Tour de France (7)
- 3 Rework some trash poem to make structural changes (13)
- 4 Put up with Attlee or else! (8)
- 5 Sibilant-confused drink concocted for woodland breaks (5)
- 7 Lamb with starters of a delicious Avocado - then see 'Dirty Dancing'? (7)
- 8 Stern old queen has judgement but bad flavour persists (10)
- 11 Attending nosh makes for a single performance (3-5,5)
- 13 Right, Leo can help to cover the food (10)
- 16 Does one permit ecstasy? (8)
- 18 Surplus caused by international body, UK regulatory organisation and two hands (7)
- 20 Sounds like two short girls are after a pub that sends a signal to your liver (7)
- 22 Please say partly it'll be better (5)
- 23 Sweet bird's unfinished song (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.





Industrial Heritage Coordinator: Phil Stone





Croquet Coordinator: Eric Richardson

Solution to Cryptic Crossword #32 February 2024

Down

12
92
25
24
51
61
21
12
14
15
10
6
9
٢

Across