

Tiverton u3a Newsletter

learn, laugh, live.

Volume 9 Issue 6

May 2024



Chairman	Mike Warren	tivertonu3achair@gmail.com
Vice Chairman	Nigel Blandford	tivertonu3avice@gmail.com
Treasurer	Sue Robbins	tivertonu3atreasurer@gmail.com
Secretary	Irene Butler	tivertonu3asecretary@gmail.com
Membership	Annie Foot	tivertonu3amembership@gmail.com
Webmaster	John O'Connor	tivertonu3awebmaster@gmail.com
Social Media	Angie Cheshire	tivertonu3ameetings@gmail.com
Technical & Speakers	Fergus McGilp	tivertonu3aeditor@gmail.com
Newsletter Editor	Nigel Blandford	tivertonu3aeditor@gmail.com
Speaker Secretary	Wendy Bond	wendycbond@btinternet.com
Groups Coordinator	Maggie Roberts	maggie.rob@hotmail.co.uk
Committee Member	Richard Truman	richardtruman3@gmail.com

Website <https://www.tivertonu3a.org.uk>
Facebook <https://facebook.com/tivertonu3a>
Instagram <https://www.instagram.com/tivertonu3a/>

FROM THE COMMITTEE:

Tiverton u3a welcomes two new members:

Tony Jackson. Chris Patterson

March Meeting and AGM

The Chairman opened the meeting and presented his annual report. This has already been circulated to members, together with a financial statement. Please see the email sent by the chairman on 21st March for details.

This was followed by election of officers and committee members. A list of those elected is shown on page 1

April General Meeting Moorhayes Community Centre

**Thursday the 25th of April
10:00 for 10:30 am**

**Mercyships
Ruth Croome**

Mercy Ships is a faith-based international development organisation that deploys hospital ships to some of the poorest countries in the world, delivering vital, free healthcare to people in desperate need.

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 25th May
The Boer War Pauline Rosslee**

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

The Croquet Group will commence playing again this season on Tuesday 7th May and we usually continue until the end of September. We play on the outfield of the Heathcoat Cricket Club ground at Knightshayes Estate, Tiverton, usually on Tuesdays from 2.00pm - 4.30pm, however the day and time may vary occasionally to accommodate cricket fixtures.

Anyone who would like to play and have not played with us before is welcome to enter to enter their name on the clipboard on the Croquet Group table at the April Monthly Meeting. Tuition will be available for those new to the game, and we have a pool of equipment for them to use. There is a fee of £4.00 per session that includes refreshments in the pavilion during the tea break.

If you cannot attend the Monthly Meeting but would like to play please contact Eric or Sandra Richardson. Tel. 01884 253402.

Email: e.richardson5@sky.com



Creative Writing
Coordinator:
Annie Hooper

Some personal revelations and poetry graced our last meeting our gentle group brought compassion and empathy to the items, after a humorous poem from the chair, tea and biscuits were served and

Members went happily on their way home. Looking forward to....

welcome. Topics this month 1.Re arrange a fairy story 2. After the accident.

Contact Annie devonian2001@yahoo.co.uk



Cryptic Crosswords
Coordinator:
Graeme Cozens

As always, our latest cryptic crossword is shown at the end of this newsletter. Quite a few ambiguous anagrams this month, amongst a lovely list of cunning clues. Please do have a go at solving it!

I'd love to hear from anyone who does the puzzle regularly, to gauge how many crossworders there are out there. Do drop me an email. Also, let me know if you'd like a “quick” crossword as well as the cryptic one.

If you enjoy cryptic crosswords, why not join our small team of compilers and put your expertise to good use? You'd be given up to 4 words each month for which you have fun thinking up your own cryptic clues. Please get in touch if you'd like to try it –
Graeme. cozensg@yahoo.co.uk



Economics

Coordinator:
Mike Barlow

Our group has now grown to 8 regular members and we were fortunate to have a member who does survey work for the ONS (Office for National Statistics) give us an interesting overview of how the organisation collects data. He also showed us some of the detailed data that's available on Mid-Devon and in some cases Tiverton.

Our next meeting will be on Wed 1st May when we will look at "The Ageing Populations Worldwide. Contact me if you'd like to join our session that starts at 10am. Contact mikeandsue.barlow@gmail.com if you'd like to join us. ~ *Mike Barlow*



Gardens

Coordinator:
Margaret Chumbley

For our first Group visit we went to Knightshayes and were blessed with a gorgeous sunny day. We had a lovely wander - first through the formal gardens where the volunteer gardeners were out in force weeding and pruning. Then through the extensive woodland gardens which

were very pretty with lots of interest, including blossom trees, bluebells, wildflowers and tiny new leaves speckling plants everywhere. We ended it all off with a lovely chat in The Stables tearoom. Carol Haldon Grange suggested by Mon, who last visited in 2014, did not disappoint the eleven members of the group who went. With meandering paths through 19 acres of rhododendrons, azaleas, camellias, magnolias, lilac, streams and a pond, it was all very picturesque in the afternoon sunshine with great cakes and tea to finish off the visit.



Our next visits will be Toby's Garden Festival at Powderham Castle, Holcombe Court, Holcombe Rogus and Dawn's garden in Tiverton to plant up hellebore seedlings, drink tea and eat cake! how the organisation collects data. He also showed us some of the detailed data that's available on Mid-Devon and in some cases Tiverton. - *Margaret*



German Conversation

Coordinator:
John Smith.

We have met on two occasions since my last report. As usual, we talk about our recent activities which, this time, included a trip to Albania by one member and a short break in Krakow for another. Neither produced many opportunities to converse in German! We continue to marvel at the many unusual words and expressions used by Germans and at their rather quirky sense of humour e.g. Was sagt ein

Krokodil, das einen Clown gefressen hat? Schmeckt komisch! (What did the crocodile say who ate a clown? "Tastes funny!").

Did you know that there are more than 1000 types of sausage in Germany? About 1300 breweries in Germany produce over 5000 brands of beer. Just some of the many facts we share about Germany and the Germans. - John



Going Places

Coordinators:
John O'Connor
Tony Lowe, Chris Steele

Coldharbour Mill

This event is scheduled for Tuesday 7th May and is now fully booked. However, if you'd like to go on the trip but haven't already reserved your place, please get in touch with John ASAP - jdo.oconnor@btinternet.com

Trip to Lyme Regis

The planned date for this event is Tuesday 4th June and we will be sharing coach travel with members of EV u3a. Unfortunately, we won't be able to fit in a guided fossil hunt on the same day because of adverse tide times. Consequently, this will be very much a 'do as you please' trip, allowing everyone to explore the town, harbour, shops, beach, etc at their pace.

If you haven't already responded to my earlier email and would like to go on the trip, please get in touch ASAP.

As far as the guided fossil hunting walk is concerned, we may reschedule this for later in the year - Tony lowe.tony@yahoo.co.uk

Future Events

We're planning to run quite a few more trips later in the year. These include:

- SS Great Britain
- Lundy Air Day
- The Big Pit
- Norman Lockyer Observatory



Trad Jazz
Coordinator:
Mike Barlow

As promised, we were given two excellent sessions in April with full houses at both.

In the Jubilee Hall in Langford Budville, **Spats Langham's Hot Fingers** gave us a brilliant evening. The three musicians and the singer playing more than a dozen instruments between them were very entertaining.



This was followed a week later by the **Sunset Café Stompers** seven piece group educating us on the jazz that originated around 1924. The great music was enhanced by Mike Denham's dry wit and interesting explanations.

planned as follows:

Hopefully May will prove as good with sessions

Wed 8th May Mississippi Dreamboat at the Jubilee Hall in Langford Budville

Wed 15th May Chris Walker's Pedigree Band at the Magelake Hall in Uffculme

There's more information on the Trad Jazz page of our website or contact me on mikeandsue.barlow@gmail.com Enjoy your jazz in good company! ~ *Mike Barlo*



Line Dancing

Coordinator:
Mich Bowers

April 8th - due to my being 'mobility challenged', dancers were requested to perform with little or no demonstration/instruction. At the end of the 2 hour session, a total of 21 dances had been completed, with only a short R&R break at half time.

Congratulations to everyone, you all did brilliantly & showed that you can do just as well without me! Many thanks for your understanding & enthusiasm. Just a reminder next session is April 29th when hopefully, full mobility should be restored. May date 13th. - *Mich*



Local Theatre

Coordinator:
Betty Thrall

Sweeney Todd The Demon Barber of Fleet Street by Tiverton Dramatic Society, whilst not being to every ones taste was extremely well acted. Tobias played by 16 year old James Mogford is a young man to watch out for in the future. His mother Vicky Mogford was the Director and did an excellent job. The

costumes were very authentic and the scenery beamed onto the back of the stage set the scenes perfectly.

A date for your Diaries is Thursday September 12th. The Tiverton Operatic Society production of KINKY BOOTS is based on a film with the same name which in turn was inspired by a true story.

Paid tickets for the SPRING VARIETY SHOW Saturday 11th May are available to collect at the monthly meeting April 25th.

Betty 01884 242998 07972271524



Philosophy

Coordinator:

Ian Kimber

I must apologise to our members for having to cancel our April meeting at short notice because of another commitment I had forgotten to entry in my diary.

Our meeting on 15 May will discuss the sort of things we plan to do after we complete our work on Descartes Meditations at our June meeting.

This means that the May meeting will be a particularly appropriate meeting for new members to join the meeting even if it only for the single meeting. It will allow you to express your own interests even if you are new to this subject. Please contact me by email or phone so that I confirm numbers before the meeting.

The term Philosophy means a lover of wisdom and the questions of what is wisdom and how should we live together are vital fro the future of humankind and our planet as a whole.

Ian Kimber. ianksoulsurfer@gmail.com. 01884 252460 07966 159240



Photography

Coordinator:
Roger Gunn

Exe-estuary.org refers to Dawlish Warren as an incredibly rich area botanically, with 620 species of plant including the Early Meadow Grass and the Warren Crocus. The site also supports over 2000 different species of invertebrates including the Ruddy Darter, Hairy Dragonflies, and the Scarlet and Jersey Tiger Moths.

Seven of our group descended on Dawlish Warren on a rather dull Thursday with our box Brownies, 'kiss me quick' hats and knitted bathing suits. No one took a dip but the weather was kind and it actually stayed dry. Not sure how much of the flora and fauna we managed to photograph collectively but I'm pretty sure we're a bit short of the numbers mentioned above. I don't recall seeing a Ruddy Darter but did have an encounter with an infuriating ruddy parking meter! In the confusion of trying to pay for parking one of the group even managed to pay for parking for their car.... which was on the drive at home!

The light may not have been the best but we all had a pleasant time ambling around the beach, (storm battered) dunes and the surrounding area photographing whatever came into view. The results will be viewed and reported on next time.

The Atmospheric Railway served as a suitable, convivial lunch stop and watering hole. Thanks to Roger and Mike for driving.

The next meeting will be at Ben's house on Thursday 9th May at 10am.

- Phil A



Photography 2

Coordinator:
Charlie Duke

At this month's meeting the theme was "shapes" concentrating on structures.

Members showed a wide variety of subjects which had

interesting shapes incorporated in them some of these were bridges, canal lift mechanisms, doors, windows, roofs, shadows, gates, twisted plant stems etc. Probably the most unusual were angled cube houses in Amsterdam, each surmounting its own access tower. Please see picture.

Our next subject, thinking about spring growth, is "flora and fauna". - Charlie



Railway Group

Coordinator:
Jose Kimber

At our March meeting we welcomed a new member, Gerard, from Culm Valley U3A, and welcomed back Terry now that Peter, his driver, is now better and allowed to drive again, so we had a good turnout with 11 of us. After a couple of problems with the projector,

we watched two more of the British Railways DVDs, one about Royal Scot, which included

several short films but also included the famous “night mail” film with the WH Auden Poem. We then watched one which Pete had brought, about the Duke of Gloucester, the only Class 8 Passenger loco. It was the only loco built in Britain with British Caprotti valve gear, and it was not initially a great success. However it was rescued from Barry and restored, and has a successful mainline career in preservation.

Our next meeting is **Friday 26 April at 10.30am at Willand Methodist Church** as usual.

On **Friday 10 May** we are going on our visit to Leaky Finders, the locomotive workshop. I have 15 names so far. If you have not yet told me and would like to join the visit, please let me know by no later than the Railway Group meeting on 26 April. If you have told me and find you are unable to go, please also let me know so I can offer your place to someone else. If you are not a member of the railway group and are going on the visit, please let me have your contact details so we can finalise the details.

Our May meeting will be on **Friday 24 May** same time and venue. - Jose



Ramblers
Coordinator:
Jenny Bedford

"The ramble that never happened"! Seven of us turned up for the ramble at Clatworthy Reservoir only to find the gates locked. Well, it was very windy and, on enquiry, the ranger confirmed it was closed because of the weather but we were welcome to walk at our own risk as he had not had a chance to check the paths. After a short discussion we all decided that coffee and cake at a cafe in nearby Bampton was a far better idea. We'll try

again later in the year". - Jan P

May's ramble will be led by John Smith on the 14th May in the area of the Raddon Hills. The walk will start at 10.00am at GR SS889032. Take the A3072 Crediton Road from Bickleigh. Turn left at Coffintree Cross in the direction of Shute. Continue along this road passing Stockleigh Pomeroy on your right. The road then goes uphill and, at the top, take the road to the left. This is signed as a “no through road” and is, in fact, a road leading to Kitlake. After about 100 metres, there is a small car park (not marked as such on the OS Map). It is shown as a small triangle just above and to the right of the number 194 on the OS Map. The walk is about 4 miles with some ups and downs (the clue is in the title) but nothing too strenuous. Some excellent views if the weather is good. - Jenny



Skittles
Coordinators:
John Carr
Janet Loader

It was our intention to end the Skittles sessions on the last Monday of April. However a large proportion of regular attendees were not going to be available so we brought forward our last session/party evening. Therefore, there will be **NO Skittles on Monday 29th April.** We thank all the members that came throughout the winter - it is planned to re-start the Skittles sessions on Monday 7th October, again at Tiverton Football Club.

- John Carr. (01404 841367). Janet Loader. (01884 252116)



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



Short Trek
Coordinator:
Nigel Blandford

On a cold-ish 22 March, 11 of us gathered in the carpark in **Dulverton**. After some struggles with parking payment, we set off, immediately steeply uphill. The steep climb was over reasonably quickly, and we settled down to a tramp through beautiful countryside to the west of Dulverton, much of it with no manmade structures in sight. We descended to the River Barle, with our photographer coming

to grief, crossing a stream (but, apart from wet legs, no great ill-effects), to continue along the river all the way back to Dulverton. The temperature went up as the sun came out, and we were accompanied through the fairy-glen surroundings by four paddleboarders descending the river, occasionally enlivening the situation by falling off. At the Bridge Inn debrief (conveniently next-door to the carpark), we were able to sit outside in the sunshine, for the first time for some months. Many thanks to Dawn for leading this very pleasant 6.5 mile walk. - Tony



The April Short Trek will be led by Andrea on the 26th. The walk will start on Varle Hill and walk to Caractacus Stone, then left at Spire Cross and down Watery Lane. Turning right we walk to the foot bridge over the River Barle and turn left to Tarr Steps. Crossing over this ancient clapper bridge we return to our cars by way of a moderately steep climb up Ashway Side. On a clear day there will be excellent views.

Varle Hill is reached by taking the Tarr Steps B3223 road, signposted after Dulverton. After about 4 miles go over a cattle grid and shortly after that take a small road on the left marked with a brown sign "Tarr Farm Inn". Parking is about 100yds down this road. There is a cattle grid and parking for about 9 cars either side of it. There is also room on the road for parking.

The walk is approx 6.5 miles. The first mile is very muddy at the time of writing. Picnic lunch. Further refreshments are available at The Bridge Inn Dulverton. Please let me know if you would like to eat there. -- Nigel



Table Tennis

Coordinators:
Katherine Green
Lorne Loxterkamp

joining the group should contact one of us.

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

- Katherine and Lorne



Thursday Lunch

Coordinator:
Angie Cheshire

a history of the pub and provided a sheet of information for each diner.

Our next luncheon will be at the Rainbow Restaurant in Willand, organised by Liz and Colin. A fabulous carvery is on offer, I understand. Contact me by email if you would like to be included and are not already signed up.

Angie, angelacheshire@hotmail.com

Twenty two diners were welcomed for lunch at Keepers Cottage, Kentisbeare, for our April meeting.

The dishes were plentiful and of generous proportions, enjoyed by all. The proprietor had very kindly prepared



Trekking

Coordinator:
Gordon Cleaver

The April Trek

Seven brave Trekkers met at Prewley Moor for a very wet, windy and misty Dartmoor Trek.

Starting from the cars we headed up into the mist at Sourton Tor but we did manage a dry banana break at Noddern Gate. The fog and rain then

returned as we made the steep ascent to Great Links Tor via Widgery Cross- it was truly the Dartmoor experience as portrayed by Conan Doyle ! We then had a "moist" lunch at altitude on Great Links Tor

before taking a more direct and sensible return route to the cars down the trackbed of the old Rattlebrook Peat Railway. Led by Gordon, thankfully no-one got lost in the fog, fell into any mires or got chased by any Baskerville Hounds.



May Long Trek – Thursday 2nd May 24 –

May's trek will be led by Roger G and starts at the car park on North Hill, Minehead at grid ref. SS 953 474 on the road to Selworthy Beacon. From the car we take "Jim's path" opposite the carpark and eventually pick up the landward side of the SW coastal path to Hurlestone Point, we then return via the seaward side of the coastal path and the carpark. This walk is a little under our normal 10 miles but more than makes up for it with the spectacular views and Combes!

Please let me know if you are planning to come on this Trek or you are interested in joining the Trekking Group.

Gordon- 01884 242563 grcleaver54@gmail.com



Wednesday Pub Lunch

**Coordinator:
Trevor Ellmore**

For those that attended the Mount Pleasant Inn Wednesday 3rd April fully enjoyed their meals as has always been in the past, provided by a family run business intent on giving service and quality. The weather was even quite kind to us only the odd drizzle.

Our next venture is not too further afield but in Sampford Moor at the Blue Ball

Wednesday 1st May, so if you have not previously booked and would like to attend now is the time to contact me.

The Blue Ball sits in the pretty hamlet of Sampford Moor, just 3 miles from Wellington, 9 miles from Taunton.

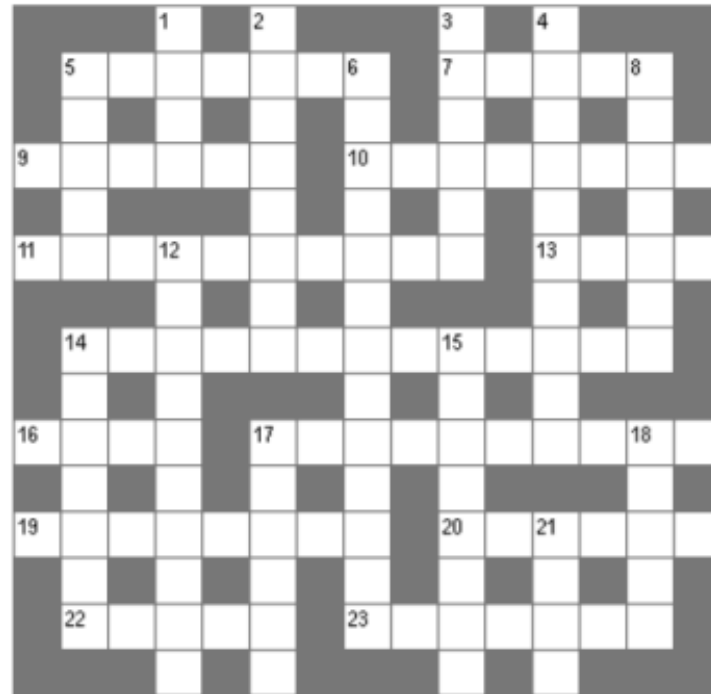
Directions:- Take the A38 from Jct 27 towards Wellington for 3.1 miles and turn right onto B3391. Continue for 0.9 miles, then turn left, and continue through Nicholashayne for 1.9 miles. The pub is on the right, the car park on the left. TA21 9QL



- Trev

Cryptic Crossword #34: May 2024

You can find the solution at the end of this newsletter



Across

- 5 Broken short walker follows a card game (7)
- 7 Alleges that at the beginning it is a very equal rights subject (5)
- 9 Is the bloke a lumberjack? (6)
- 10 When you refrained from taking action, we got that gist (3,5)
- 11 Often moans but includes ordinary in an arriver (10)
- 13 All short, south-western church doctor miss revealing ailments (4)
- 14 Prankster is a creator of chaos (8-5)
- 16 Dismantle a French event (4)
- 17 Animal feeling shows good judgement (5,5)
- 19 Challenge against forward facing side (8)
- 20 Retreat for those in disgrace! (6)
- 22 Ada Charles has a country residence in Russia (5)
- 23 The birthplace of Motown was dotted in the 1960s (7)

Down

- 1 Twenty-first letter in backward legislation makes a call (4)
- 2 Carhop with your dad to "get" his tactics (8)
- 3 The Art Sop is i/c of the congregation (6)
- 4 The piwi kernel has a lovely shade of blue (10)
- 5 Narrowness based on medical notes (5)
- 6 Exploded it rated signed (13)
- 8 School area with nothing missing holds prize student (7)
- 12 Put on social media workplace which falsely accused employees (4,6)
- 14 Male head covering comes of age (7)
- 15 Streak - me? That confused the mongooses (8)
- 17 Approval displayed and attributed to Henry (6)
- 18 Short, however (5)
- 21 It's around lunchtime (4)

Solution to Cryptic Crossword #34 May 2024

21 NOON
 18 SWEET
 17 HOORAY
 15 MEERKATS
 14 MANHOOD
 12 POSTOFFICE
 8 SCHOLAR
 6 DISINTEGRATED
 5 STENO
 4 PERIWINKLE
 3 PASTOR
 2 APPROACH
 1 WAUL
Down

23 DETROIT
 22 DACHA
 20 KENNEL
 19 CONFRONT
 17 HORSESENSE
 16 UNDO
 14 MISCHIEFMAKER
 13 ILLS
 11 COMPLAINER
 10 SATTIGHT
 9 FELLER
 7 AVERS
 5 SNAPPED
Across

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.



Folk Dancing

Coordinators:
John & Hazel Ridd



Industrial Heritage

Coordinator:
Phil Stone

