

At its heart, the U3A believe that continuing to learn, develop your interests, make friends and try something new, is a life-long passion.

**Edition:** SEVEN – March/April 2020

**UPDATE Editor:** Sue Hooper-Lawrie

**Email:** [cvu3aupdate@gmail.com](mailto:cvu3aupdate@gmail.com)

## More Crimes are committed in prison than anywhere else in the country!



At our meeting on Thursday March 5th 2020 Sir Neil Butterfield QC spoke on "Crime and Punishment". We were treated to a fascinating, insightful and at times humorous peep into the world of the legal and penal systems in England and Wales.

Sir Neil began by giving a warning about leaving your spare house keys in a "safe place" in your front or rear garden. He explained how easy burglars find keys in so called "safe places". One burglar he encountered in the court room even bragged that it took him just 30 seconds to find where homeowners left their spare keys!

We were also provided with some quite eye watering statistics from the latest annual crime figures for England and Wales, including ....

- Only 3% of burglary cases result in a conviction
- Only 4% of robbery cases result in a conviction
- Only 1.4% of rape cases result in an individual being charged
- In Exeter of the 3,700 crimes reported only 124 are solved resulting in a conviction, that is 4%!

We also learned that it costs the tax payer £43,000 per year to keep one person in prison and there are on average 86,000 people in prison – almost £3.7 Billion per year! Sir Neil went on to ask us what we considered to be the purpose of sending someone to prison; only to find out that in fact more crimes are committed in prisons than anywhere else in the country (per head of population), so does prison work? In sending someone to prison we are sending criminals to live with other criminals to learn how to do it better next time!

We heard comparisons between 18<sup>th</sup> century justice compared with the justice system today and Sir Neil role played a fascinating conversation between a judge from the 18<sup>th</sup> century and himself as a judge, as they discussed the difference in the systems they worked within and resulting affects on society.

All in all a very interesting and thought provoking way to spend an hour.

## Coming next ....

**On Thursday 2nd April 2020** we will hear about the work of 'daat' ... Devon Air Ambulance Trust. Our speakers will be Chris and Sara, two local 'daat' volunteers. Their presentation will cover why it is vital for us to have our air ambulances, how and why it started, their running costs and patients stories.



## Speakers and Topics for 2020 Monthly M

- May 14th 'Life in Russia' by John Dobson
- June 4th Culm Valley U3A Day (No speaker)
- July 2nd 'Mercy Ships' by Kay Rouse
- August 6th 'Devon Photo Quiz' by Robert Heskwith
- September 3rd AGM and 'The London Blitz' by Peter Morris
- October 1st 'Why did they invent that?' by Ian Barclay
- November 5th '21 years in the Tower' by John Keohane
- December 3rd Christmas Social and Quiz

## IMPORTANT - Membership Renewal

Our membership renewal time is the beginning of April to coincide with financial year. The annual membership fee for 20/21 has been set at person for full membership and £5 per person for associate

**ALL MEMBERS** will need to complete a new membership application

requirement of the Data Protection Act is that we ensure that we hold up to date information on all members. Having members fill out a new membership form each year is a way to achieve this. The form can be downloaded here <https://u3asites.org.uk/culm-valley/page/102005>

If you change any of the personal information you have given us, at any time during the year, please inform the Membership Secretary.

## National U3A Day

Thank you to all those who have offered to help with the arrangements and running of our National U3A Day event. If you would like to help please do get in touch with Ken Wood who is leading the working group. Ken can be emailed at [Ken38wood@gmail.com](mailto:Ken38wood@gmail.com)

**If you can help with:**

1. **Organising the day** – Please let Ken know
2. **Distributing posters and leaflets** to GPs, Library, community centre or any other public building in **your village/town** please let us know by emailing [Ken38wood@gmail.com](mailto:Ken38wood@gmail.com) so we can ensure that we order enough from national office.
3. **Baking** - If you are willing and able to bake scones or a cake, for our Afternoon Tea, please let us know by emailing [ken38wood@gmail.com](mailto:ken38wood@gmail.com) or [shlawrieu3a@gmail.com](mailto:shlawrieu3a@gmail.com)

## Thank you ...



We are very grateful to Barbie Bradford and Angie Cheshire for highlighting the fact that quite a lot of what we throw out still goes to landfill or is incinerated causing toxic pollution. Both Barbie and Angie are avid re-cyclers and have found various groups that will accept certain items that the council does not accept in their recycling. There is also much that can be recycled which the council does not accept. Not only does Terracycle accept much of what the council refuses to take but they also pay for it and the money is donated to Ellie's fund which is for Brain Tumour Research. You can read more about it here - <https://www.facebook.com/recyclingforelliesfundbtt> or

<https://www.btrs.org.uk/Support-Us/Recycling-in-Yorkshire>.

Our first experiment was to see if you would respond to a suggestion to recycle empty crisp packets and what a fantastic response you gave to our appeal for both individual size and multi bags. A whole box full and a carrier bag full. Thank you. The crisp box will be available at every monthly meeting so please continue to save and bring your empty crisp bags along to the monthly meeting. Please don't, fold, scrunch or tie up, lay them flat.

**We are now adding other items to collect, so at the next meeting you will also find boxes for.....**

**Toothbrushes and empty toothpaste tubes** - Used toothbrushes, empty toothpaste tubes, floss cartridges and packaging.

**Biscuit, cracker & cake wrappers** - Crackers, biscuits and cake wrappers from single and multi packs.

**Chocolate and sweet wrappers** - All brands of sweet and chocolate wrappers including multi packs and pouches.



the new £15 per membership form as a



## Interest Groups UPDATE...

Group Name	Organiser & Contact	Date/Time	Venue
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<b>Behind the Scenes</b>	Gill Sole <a href="mailto:Gill.sole@yahoo.com">Gill.sole@yahoo.com</a> Moira Wood <a href="mailto:moira@ruinsfield.plus.com">moira@ruinsfield.plus.com</a>	23 April 2020	Devon Valley Mill - Hele (Bradninch)
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We had a very interesting trip to Exeter, visiting The Royal Albert Memorial Museum [RAMM] in the morning, and Exeter's Underground Passages in the afternoon. Our tour of the permanent collection galleries at RAMM, ably led by tour guide Fiona, gave us a taste of what the Museum has to offer. Members were impressed and most felt they'd definitely wish to make return visits. The Underground Passages were extraordinary; they were built to enable clean drinking water to be taken into the heart of Medieval Exeter.

**A change to the Behind the Scenes 2020 programme:**

**April 23** - Devon Valley Mill - Hele (Bradninch) Historic papermill producing specialised paper for the food industry and laminates worldwide. Refreshments at The Antique Village, Hele (formerly Fagins/Old Whiteways Cider Factory) **This trip is full**

**June 19** - Britannia Royal Naval College, Dartmouth

**August 17** - Exeter Energy Recovery Centre - ERF operates under a partnership with Devon County Council and diverts non-recyclable household waste away from landfill each year to create valuable low carbon energy,

used to operate the facility and the excess electricity is fed into the National Grid.

**October** - Courtney's Orchard, Whimple

**December** - Devon Highways Traffic Control - Visit to the Traffic Hub, Sowton, Exeter

<b>Birdwatching</b>	Pete/Lyn Lucey <a href="mailto:palucey@gmail.com">palucey@gmail.com</a> or phone: 07811456417	2 <sup>nd</sup> Monday of month @ 14:00
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Well we had a fun morning birdwatching in February the day after storm Ciara!!! We had sunshine, strong winds, hail and cold rain!!! But 4 of us braved walking along the Exeter canal to the Turf Hotel and saw plenty! About 39 different species including Marsh Harrier, Brent Geese, snow goose, lots of avocet,

100s of lapwing, golden plover and Dunlin. The sky was alive with birds!! We got pretty wet and cold but had a great time!! Contact Lyn on 07811456417

<b>Boules/Petanque</b>	Richard Taylor <a href="mailto:richard@4bridgestreet.eclipse.co.uk">richard@4bridgestreet.eclipse.co.uk</a> Mobile: 07816337456	Weather dependent
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<b>Computer/IT</b>	Vicki Woodward <a href="mailto:vickijwoodward@gmail.com">vickijwoodward@gmail.com</a>	Hayridge Centre, Cullompton
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We had a good meeting and practised downloading photos to a PC. Our next meeting on 11 March we will do some work on social media and look at Outlook tips and tricks.

<b>Craft</b>	Vicki Woodward <a href="mailto:vickijwoodward@gmail.com">vickijwoodward@gmail.com</a>	Thursday 26 March 2020 @11:00	Willand Village Hall
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We continued with our project for the National U3A Day and discussed options for days out and new projects. The possibility of a Dressmaking Group was discussed.

<b>Creative ReThink!</b>	Sue Hooper-Lawrie <a href="mailto:Shlawrieu3a@gmail.com">Shlawrieu3a@gmail.com</a>	Wednesday 18 March 2020 @14:30	Janet's home
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Another good meeting looking at all things in and around our homes beginning with the letter "A" and thinking about what we could do with them rather than throw them out. Work on the A-Z Directory was discussed and we are hoping to get this started in the not too distant future. The directory will go onto the Creative Recycling page of website so that all members can take advantage of it and find alternative ideas for their rubbish!

We also discussed adding more wrappers to the monthly meeting collection of crisp wrappers. Please see what we have added further on in UPDATE. We look forward to being inundated with your packets, wrappers and pouches!!

<b>French Conversation</b>	Chris Gray <a href="mailto:Jack.gray@tinyworld.co.uk">Jack.gray@tinyworld.co.uk</a>	1 <sup>st</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> Monday of month @14:00	Kentisbeare
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The next meeting of the French Conversation Group is Monday 16 March at Priesthall, Kentisbeare. Our topic for discussion will be tv shows. I'm sorry that we are oversubscribed now, so cannot accept any new members.

<b>Gardening</b>	Margaret Chumbley <a href="mailto:allerbarton@btinternet.com">allerbarton@btinternet.com</a>
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Stone Lane Gardens - 2nd March 2020.



The first visit in March was to Stone Lane Gardens a full and enjoyable day. There were plenty of attractive trees, sculptures and spring flowers, the weather was lovely and sunny, but being on Dartmoor we were surprised by a couple of light snow showers! The lunch stop was Castle Drogo (NT) with azaleas, rhododendrons and Scilla siberica "in flower" then we drove home along the Exe Valley, the hedges dripping with catkins on the trees ready to burst into leaf.

**Tuesday 24 March 2020** - RHS Rosemoor, Torrington - suggested by Terry

This is a Free Open Day but you need to pre-book tickets on line. To car share meet top Head Weir Road by the play area at 9.45 am to leave 10.00 am sharp or by the Ticket Office, RHS Rosemoor at 11.30 am. If interested please contact Terry by email - [Terry.buse@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:Terry.buse@hotmail.co.uk)

April visits – Kia Ora, Cullompton and Plants Galore, Topsham, Lukesland Garden, Ivybridge

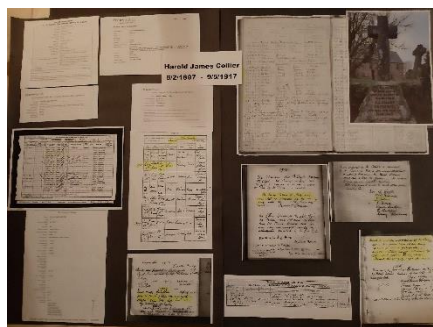
**Please remember to bring any plants for the “plant swap” to the Gardening Table at the monthly meeting. Thank you.**

## **Genealogy**

Pete Lucey [palucey@gmail.com](mailto:palucey@gmail.com)  
 Moira Wood [moira@ruinsfield.plus.com](mailto:moira@ruinsfield.plus.com)

Monday 23  
 March 2020

Heritage Centre,  
 Exeter



12 members attended our meeting at Cullompton Library on February 26, and looked at how a variety of records could be used for genealogical research. Taking a name from Sheldon War Memorial, H J Collier who died in 1917, we saw how military records, Census, Birth / Death records, Church Wardens and Parish Minutes and School Attendance Records could contribute to providing information and ‘a story’ about the life and family of the WW1 soldier.

Our next meeting will visit the Heritage Centre in Exeter. Please contact Peter for further details and to book a place.

## **History**

Alison Waple [alisonwaple@hotmail.com](mailto:alisonwaple@hotmail.com)

Thursday 12  
 March @ 14:30

Padbrook Park

Many thanks to all who braved the wet weather for our tour of Bickleigh Castle. Several people have said how much they enjoyed it. I thought it was excellent and was amazed that we were there for 2 hours - the time flew by. If you have the time, it would be interesting if you could do a little research into something that was of particular interest from the tour and share with everyone at the next meeting.

## **Jazz**

Sue Tremeer [stremeer@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:stremeer@yahoo.co.uk)  
 Richard Taylor  
[richard@4bridgestreet.eclipse.co.uk](mailto:richard@4bridgestreet.eclipse.co.uk)

3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of  
 the month  
 19:30 – 22:30

Magelake  
 Pavillion  
 Uffculme

## **Lunch Out**

Vicki Woodward  
 email: [vickijwoodward@gmail.com](mailto:vickijwoodward@gmail.com)  
 mobile: 07966391042

Wednesday  
 1 April

Halfway House,  
 Willand.

At The Red Lion, Broadclyst 12 of us had a lovely meal, very good food and friendly staff. They have an extensive menu and also cater for smaller appetites. Well worth a visit. We decided to try somewhere a little closer next month so have booked the Halfway House in Willand.

## **National Trust**

Gill Sole [Gill.sole@yahoo.com](mailto:Gill.sole@yahoo.com)  
 Sally Hickmott [smhickmott@gmail.com](mailto:smhickmott@gmail.com).

We make trips to properties on either the 2nd or 3rd weekend of the month on a Saturday, Sunday or Monday.

**The visit to Montacute has been RE-SCHEDULED to Saturday 25 August 2020, eta 10.30.**

This avoids the Easter break (original date was Wednesday 8th April) and allows Sally, as Group Organiser, to be present on the trip. Please contact Sally if you wish to join us on this visit.

**Coleton Fishacre. Weekend of 16/17/18 May 2020 (day to be decided)**

We plan to go on one of 3 dates above depending which attracts the highest demand. Please let Sally know if you wish to go and preference of Saturday 18, Sunday 19 or Monday 20 May.

The National Trust group makes trips to properties on either the 2nd or 3rd weekend of the month on a Saturday, Sunday or Monday. Please see the U3A Update for information.

## **Quizzing**

Sue Hooper-Lawrie  
[Shlawrieu3a@gmail.com](mailto:Shlawrieu3a@gmail.com)

Friday 20 March 2020 Willand Village Hall  
 @10:30-13:00 Club Room

Once again we were subjected to 6 rounds of great quizzing from Richard Collier (aka half of the Collywobbles!). It was nicer being in a larger room but we did have a musical backing track for a while from the Zumba class in the main hall! Looking forward to our March quiz being set and delivered by Liz Johns and Andy Oakes.

Members of the quizzing group were informed about the East Devon Link inter U3A Quiz taking place in September, hosted by Culm Valley U3A. would be great if we could provide 4 teams of 4!

## Reading

Jane Bunting [s.bunting@sky.com](mailto:s.bunting@sky.com)

Thursday 19 March  
@ 14:00

Hayridge Centre,  
Cullompton

We welcomed Pat to our group and shared with her our reading to date. We enjoyed sharing our choice of reading and we all took away some enticing suggestions for future reading. We are going to explore 'Meet the Author' events around Devon and possible theatre/cinema visits.

## Strollers

(Up to 3 miles)

Janet/Roy Harrington  
[Roy.Harrington2@ntlworld.com](mailto:Roy.Harrington2@ntlworld.com)

2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday in month  
@ 10:00

Our walk this month was the one postponed from January due to bad weather – taking us from Station Road, Cullompton, across the M5 onto the A373, ducking into the fields and woodland surrounding Cullompton in a circular route to bring us back to the rear of Tescos, about 2 miles(?).

As the weather was grim following storm Ciara, Heather walked it twice before walk day, the second time to take secateurs to cut down brambles which would hamper our progress! Thanks to Heather for her thoughtfulness. Eight of us did arrive for the walk and we think we saw all four seasons during it, nevertheless although it was still a bit muddy in places, we all agreed it was nice to meet up and come out for some fresh air. Afterwards we went to the Café Alexandra off Station Road for a very nice cup of coffee and more chatting.

Next month's walk, weather permitting, will be to start at Killerton and on to Sprydon taking in orchards and woodlands, about 2.5 miles. We will meet at Killerton car park near the toilet block on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> March to start at 10am.

**NB: Venue may change as the ground is very muddy and waterlogged**

## Theatre/Cinema/Music

Margaret Chumbley  
[allerbarton@btinternet.com](mailto:allerbarton@btinternet.com)

Saturday 28 March  
2020 @ 19:30

Made in  
Tennessee @ The  
Venue, Uffculme.

The Soundtrack of American Country. If interested you can either book tickets online yourself or contact Margaret to arrange payment and she will book your tickets for you.

**Saturday 4 April** at 19:30 - Monopole – Sounds of the 60's at The Beambridge Inn, Wellington  
Tickets in advance £10 please ring 01823 672223, or £13 on the door (in aid of The British Heart Foundation)

Group Leader - Margaret Chumbley – [allerbarton@btinternet.com](mailto:allerbarton@btinternet.com)

**Thursday 16 April** at 20:00 - Only Fools and Boyce – an intimate evening with Only Fools and Horses actor John Challis at The Venue, Uffculme. Bar open 18:30. If interested you can either book tickets yourself or I will book tickets for you.

Group Leader - Vicki Woodward – [vickijwoodward@gmail.com](mailto:vickijwoodward@gmail.com)

**Wednesday 13 May** at 19:30 - Ansell's Les Musicals - Jonathan Ansell (G4 Frontman and Jai McDowell (Britains Got Talent Winner) at The Pavillion, Exmouth. Seats already booked C5 and C6.

Possible lift available

Group Leader Vicki Woodward – contact [vickijwoodward@gmail.com](mailto:vickijwoodward@gmail.com)

**Friday 22 May at 19:30** - The New Jersey Boys at TCAT, Tiverton. If interested you can either book tickets yourself or contact me to arrange payment when I will book tickets for you.

Group Leader Margaret Chumbley – [allerbarton@btinternet.com](mailto:allerbarton@btinternet.com)

**Wednesday 10 June at 14.00** - Ma Ma Mia Here We Go Again at Bristol Hippodrome. We can travel to Bristol on the Falcon Coach from The Weary Traveller, Cullompton, Free with bus pass? Senior Midweek Matinee £36.15 row B. If interested you can either book tickets yourself or contact me to arrange payment when I will book tickets for you.

Group Leader Margaret Chumbley – [allerbarton@btinternet.com](mailto:allerbarton@btinternet.com)

**Friday 26 June at 19:30** - The American Four Tops at the Brewhouse, Taunton. If interested you can either book tickets yourself, or contact me to arrange payment when I will book tickets for you.  
Group Leader Margaret Chumbley – [allerbarton@btinternet.com](mailto:allerbarton@btinternet.com)

**PLEASE NOTE THAT SHOWS OFTEN SELL OUT AND THE BEST SEATS GO EARLY  
SO BOOK EARLY!**

**Walkers** (3-6 Miles)

Gill Sole [Gill.Sole@yahoo.com](mailto:Gill.Sole@yahoo.com)

Last Tuesday of each  
month @ 10:00

Our normal walking day is the last Tuesday of each month, meeting around 10am for approximately a 4-6 mile walk finishing with a pub or cafe stop for refreshments. So far the programme looks like this:-

March's walk is on Tuesday 24 from Silverton, led by Tony Ross. For more details contact [gill.sole@yahoo.com](mailto:gill.sole@yahoo.com)

28 April - no walk planned - any suggestions/offers to lead?

26 May - Castle Drogo led by ALAN GOSWELL

30 June - Exford, Exmoor led by JILL REED

## Proposed NEW Interest Groups

Proposed new interest group is **dressmaking/textiles**. We have someone who is willing to teach. Group will be open to all abilities.

Still trying to set a **photography** group going too, so again open to all abilities and levels of equipment from mobile phones to digital SLRs.



### Cullompton Bowling Club

David Clode from Cullompton Bowling club has been in touch to ask if any members would be interested in setting up a bowls group. The season will be starting soon and he has several members who would be happy to teach/mentor. If you are interested in this please contact Vicki.

Anyone interested in any of the proposed groups above please contact Vicki.  
[vickijwoodward@gmail.com](mailto:vickijwoodward@gmail.com)

**If you have an idea for an interest group please get in touch with  
Groups Co-ordinator - Vicki Woodward.**

## From National Office....

### Riviera Travel

Finance Manager Kevin Traynor said, "Whenever members booked a holiday with Riviera Travel (RT) their U3A received an unrestricted donation from RT which the U3A could spend in accordance with its objectives as per its constitution.

"However, in order to comply with the Charitable Institutions (Fundraising) Regulations 1994 as amended by the Charitable Institution (Fund-Raising) (Amendment) Regulations 2009, Riviera Travel would have had to enter into legally binding agreements with every U3A whose members used Riviera Travel.

"This presented Riviera Travel with a significant administrative problem and so Riviera Travel have entered into such an agreement with the Trust to administer these donations on behalf of the U3As.

"We want the U3As to continue to benefit from these donations and so following discussions with Riviera Travel, the Trust has agreed to administer these donations that become due after 1 April 2020.

"With Riviera Travel's agreement the Trust will deduct a 10% handling charge to contribute towards the cost of administering the scheme".

Riviera Travel has asked us to include the following offer as a result of this change:

**\*\*\*\*\*New for U3A members\*\*\*\*\***

For all Riviera Travel river cruise bookings of 7 nights or more, that are confirmed in March or April 2020 to travel in 2020 and where a local U3A is nominated at the time of booking, an additional bonus of €100 on board credit per cabin (based on two sharing, so solo travellers receive €50) will be honoured.

## Guests and Non-Members at meetings

Non-members, who are either guests of a member or who have found our information and decided to find out about us, are welcome to attend one monthly meeting and/or one interest group meeting to find out more about us. They are then required to apply for membership of Culm Valley U3A if they plan to continue attending meetings. If a payment is required to attend a meeting the non-member is required to pay the required amount.

## Your Steering Committee members...

Sue Hooper-Lawrie	Chair and Newsletter
Carol Mitchell	Vice Chair and Speaker Co-ordinator
Gill Sole	Business Secretary and Speaker Co-ordinator
Kevin Woodward	Treasurer
Sue Tremeer	Membership Secretary
Vicki Woodward	Groups Co-ordinator
Marian Luck	Webmaster and Database (Beacon)
Catherine Boyack	Minutes Secretary
Richard Taylor	Assistant Treasurer
Susan Greenhough	Assistant Membership Secretary

You can contact the editor of **UPDATE** on

[cvu3aupdate@gmail.com](mailto:cvu3aupdate@gmail.com)

Follow Culm Valley U3A on **Facebook**

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/694650274342487/>

**Culm Valley U3A Website**

<https://u3asites.org.uk/culm-valley/home>