

Happy New Year

Talk on Thurs Jan 12th is 'Climate Change – the Realities' by Brian Parker

A VIEW FROM THE CHAIR - Howard O'Keeffe howardokeeffe49@gmail.com

By the time members read this it will be January 2023, so a belated Happy New Year message! I am writing this just before the end of the old year, whilst staying in Madrid where our son, his partner and two daughters live, where the temperature is for once much the same as in the UK - but prices in the shops lower, so there's a consolation prize after the hassle of getting here through crowded airports etc!

Looking at the news from the UK it seems to be dominated by strikes - but the good news is that Dart Valley u3a is not on strike (as far as I know!), and we're looking forward to another excellent year's activities which will be hopefully informative and entertaining!

We have received an update about Steve Williams, our Classics Group Convener, who is making a slow but steady recovery from his serious illness, and we all send him our best wishes and look forward to having him back in action when he is ready during 2023.

I will be at our Thursday January 12th meeting at the Flavel (details elsewhere in this newsletter) - that is if I'm not still queuing at Border Control at Gatwick Airport trying to get home! Apologies for my recent absences, thanks to Vice-Chair Bill Riddell for taking over, and hope to see many of you then. Thanks once again to all who make our u3a what it is, and here's to another great year for us all!

SECRETARY'S REMINDERS - Peter Avis peteravis1@mail.com General Meeting 2nd Thurs, the Flavel

Enjoy the New Year with the following talk : 'Climate Change - the Realities' by Brian Parker. Global warming is a serious matter. The burning of fossil fuels is the primary cause of rising temperatures and if not checked as a matter of urgency will result in serious consequences for the ecosystems and human life on this earth. Many of you will know Brian and his multiple interests in Dartmouth and beyond. A one-time nuclear physicist, environmental scientist and woodland designer, a cartographer, local and military historian, for this talk he has applied his skills to understanding and explaining climate change and its mitigation, perhaps the major challenge facing humanity today.

Coffee at 10 am (bring your own cups or 20p for disposable one) talk starts 10.30, £2 entrance.

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY - 'Wiz' Tehel 07770 912100 membership@dartvalleyu3a.org

Membership forms are available on the u3a website. Payment made to Dart Valley u3a, Sort Code: **52 30 20**, Account: **06170102**. I would encourage you to set up a standing order payable on 1st April as this greatly simplifies membership administration.

GROUP CO-ORDINATOR Suzie Dodsworth 01803 770134 suziedwong@gmail.com

Our Conveners are very busy thinking up ideas for the Open Morning in March. Please help them with those ideas and perhaps providing any materials or objects you may have plus volunteering to take a turn on the morning.

As many of you know our wonderful Classics Convener Steve Williams has been very poorly and although recovering will be out of action for several months. We have sent our best wishes on your behalf. I hope he is well enough for the Open Morning as seeing him in a toga is a real treat!

Don't forget to view the lovely paintings, by our Art Group, displayed in the Bar area when you visit the Flavel and attend the General Meeting. As we move into 2023 let us all wish for a happier, healthier, more peaceful time while we continue to support our neighbours suffering terrible injustice in Ukraine.

ASTROLOGY [Geraldine Leigh geraldine.e.leigh@gmail.com](mailto:geraldine.e.leigh@gmail.com) (3rd Tues, pm, at Convener's House)

Astrology meets monthly. We look at charts as a guide to personality traits.

ARCHERY [Colin Payne 07919 933891 colinpayne43@hotmail.com](mailto:colinpayne43@hotmail.com) (Tues am Stoke Fleming Cricket Ground) We are currently in hibernation for the winter! I am looking forward to the Open Day in March with the possibility of finding one or two new faces to join us when we restart in Spring.

CALLIGRAPHY [Gill Kidd gillkidd@btinternet.com](mailto:gillkidd@btinternet.com) (Thurs 2-4pm Members' homes)

We mainly practised the Foundational hand as the simplest script for beginners. One member had introduced Gothic which looks impressive and could be our next stage. Next meeting 12th January.

i P A D S for Beginners - [Suzie Dodsworth 01803 770134 suziedwong@gmail.com](mailto:suziedwong@gmail.com)

We are having an introductory meeting on Weds 11th January in the Flavel Church (in front of the Flavel) at 10.30am. For the price of a coffee, or tea, each we can use the café area and facilities which include a large screen TV for demonstrating the lesson on my iPad. I have chosen this as the cost of the Studio in the Flavel has doubled (plus) to £45 for two hours which for a small group is unaffordable. We have to pack up and be gone before 12.30.

NEWSLETTER Editor [Suzie Dodsworth 01803 770134 newsletter@dartvalleyu3a.org](mailto:newsletter@dartvalleyu3a.org)

The Jazz group is new, an introduction is included below. Enjoyment and appreciation of Jazz is the key to joining in, not great expertise or ability to play an instrument.

Members without email should have the newsletter posted to them.

ARCHITECTURE [Mike Trevorrow 01803 752928 / 07470 484858 mike.d.trevorrow@gmail.com](mailto:mike.d.trevorrow@gmail.com)

(4th Thurs of month 11.15 for 11.30am start in the Flavel Studio - all welcome)

Happy New Year fellow architects. This year we kick off with a talk on Sir Christopher Wren in January, in February our very own Tim Freeman will tell us all about a housing estate he designed and built, then the plans are for a visit, probably to Lupton House, a lecture on Zaha Hadid and other goodies yet to be thought of. Don't forget if anyone has an enthusiasm they would like to pursue or suggest please feel free to mention it to me. Until then have a very jolly festive season if you are able to and come back to us in January, boots blacked, bushy-tailed and eager for off>>.

ART GROUP [Pat White 07929 271658 lespatwhite@icloud.com](mailto:lespatwhite@icloud.com) (Monday 10.30am Townstal Hall)

Members of the art group have been preparing for the up and coming:-

Art Exhibition at the Flavel starting on Tuesday January 10th.

Do pop in and see the wonderful range of talent of our group, I have thoroughly enjoyed seeing how they have responded to challenges and eagerly explored new skills and techniques and just relished in being creative. We hope you all enjoy seeing some of our lovely works and appreciate the care and thought that has gone into their creation. We meet again to start a new year of creativity on Monday January 16th.



Art Exhibition

The Flavel

(in bar area)

From **Tues 10th January**

All welcome

BOOK GROUP1 Lindsay Charlesworth 01803 834592 lindsay@jpcharlesworth.plus.com 10.30-3rd Mon 16th January 2023 - we shall be discussing *Small Things Like These* by Clare Keegan. We shall also be considering what to read next.

BOOK GROUP 2 Valerie Church 01803 834280 churchval2@aol.com 1st Weds 2.30 - 4.00
For our December meeting we read *The Thursday Murder Club*. This funny, clever, first novel by Richard Osman was mostly enjoyed by the group and came as light relief after some of our recent reads. For our January meeting we are reading *Agent Running in the Field* by John Le Carre.

BRIDGE Judi Cotes 01803 834802 judi_grove@yahoo.co.uk (Flavel Studio Tuesdays 10 - 12)
u3a bridge group restarts on 10th January. 10 - 12. In the studio. £3 per session which includes tea/coffee and biscuits.

CHESS Steve Greenham 07590 567764 stevegreenham@icloud.com

Are you interested in playing chess? Maybe you played at school but not much since then, or maybe you are a complete beginner interested in learning.

We are hoping there will be sufficient interest in Dart Valley u3a to set up a beginners and improvers chess section. The idea would be to meet regularly - perhaps one morning a week? - for friendly and informal games. Depending on numbers we might run a monthly tournament where everyone plays everyone else during the course of a month. If you are of a higher standard you are still very welcome but we hope you will coach us!

At this stage what we need are expressions of interest so that we can establish what times and venues would be most suitable. If you are interested in learning to play or improving your game please contact me as above and we can take it from there.

CLASSICS 'Wiz' Tehel 07770 912100 membership@dartvalleyu3a.org (please use Wiz as contact)

Sending HAPPY NEW YEAR wishes to all Classicists!

Steve Williams would like to thank you all for your kind good wishes, Get Well cards and support for poor beleaguered Rose as he continues to recuperate in the magnificent Torbay Hospital, ready to get properly fit and well at home.

Just a reminder that Classics has been **postponed for the rest of the 2022/23 season (January to May 2023)**, but Steve hopes you'll enjoy all the other wonderful u3a groups, as well as everything that The Flavel and The Arts Society provide for us in Dartmouth.

Felix Sit Annus Novus!!!

COFFEE CUPS Mary & Michael Bell mamibell2@gmail.com Main Meeting Flavel 2nd Thursday
Last month was the Christmas celebration in which the committee generously provided wine/soft drinks and mince pies. This meant that the Coffee Cups stood down for the first time this season(!). January returns to normal with the first of the 2023 talks on Thursday 12 January so hot refreshments will begin again. If you have put your names forward for this month, thank you very much, and we look forward to seeing you on the 12th January. u3a members are reminded of the Committee's decision to move to using your own re-usable cups for refreshments. Therefore, cups will not be provided free of charge. If you wish to have a cup of tea or coffee please remember to bring your own cup or pay 20p for the disposable, environmentally, alternative.

CRYPTIC CROSSWORDS Gwendolyn Alker 01803 833270 jsgmalker@yahoo.co.uk (Monthly Tues 10.30am)

We had a very enjoyable meeting in December at Kathy's home finishing what at first seemed a difficult crossword, helped with coffee and mince pies. Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 17th



January at 10.30 venue to be decided. All new members welcome, contact Gwendolyn for more information.

FRENCH CONVERSATION Joan Edwards 01803 833348 edwardsjchristine@outlook.com 2nd+3rd Weds 14.30
Our December meeting was cancelled but we hope to meet on 4 January. There is normally a theme. We discuss topical events, read new texts to improve vocabulary and play silly games. We are an intermediate group and would welcome new members.

GARDENING GROUP Clare Ball ceball@live.co.uk (Irregular meetings)

We met at Gardentime in the 16th December for our last get together of the year. Most enjoyable catching up and discussing our gardens etc. The group have decided not to meet in January as the weather can be a bit unpredictable, so our next group meeting is on Friday 17th February with another quiz as everyone enjoyed the last so much.

GEOLOGY Tim Freeman 01803 832663 timfreeman61@googlemail.com (Irregular meetings)

As the convenor is away there is no geology group meeting in January. The next meeting will be on the second Wednesday in February at 2.30pm in the Flavel.



GERMAN CONVERSATION Ingrid Sidell 01803 770870 ingsid23@yahoo.co.uk (Thurs 10.00 am)

We had a lovely Christmas meeting in December with Gluehwein, Lebkuchen and Candles in Strete. Everyone seemed to enjoy the German Xmas quiz and sang along to the Weihnachtslieder! Our next meeting will hopefully take place on Thursday 19th Jan in the morning! Alles Gute fuer 2023!

Photo: Everyone busy doing a quiz in German!

HISTORY OF ART Julia Churchley julia.churchley@hotmail.co.uk (3rd Fri 2pm Studio, Flavel)

Happy New Year! As we start our new series of talks I do hope some of you will consider giving a short talk on a favourite art subject, as we cannot hire external speakers for every meeting. If you need help, for example, needing someone to do **all** the technical side for you, or source and arrange photos of artworks into a slideshow, I am very happy to do that. Please contact me if you want to discuss further details. Our next meeting is at the Flavel studio, Friday 20th January, 2pm for 2.15 start. Our speaker will be Nicola Wakeham on 'Collecting prints and drawings in 18th century London'. Nicola is working on her art history PhD at the University of Plymouth and her subject is a fascinating collection of prints and drawings known as 'The Cottonian Collection'. This is held at The Box in Plymouth and is of national significance all are welcome to join us for what promises to be a very interesting talk.

i P A D S for Beginners Suzie Dodsworth suziedwong@gmail.com 01803 770134 (see above)

i P A D S GROUP Convener Alan Machin alanmachin@aol.com (monthly)

Alan is attempting to restart at the end of January depending on the availability of Stoke Fleming Ron Harris room. He will be in contact with members when he has news.

ITALIAN CONVERSATION Tasha James 0795 750 9351 nataliarh9@gmail.com (Fri 2:30)

Buon anno, al momento il gruppo italiano non ha nulla da dire.

JAZZ David Gent 01803 835464 davidmgent@protonmail.com (to be discussed)

Jazz - now there's a word that can provoke controversy. Jazz is dead, some people tell me. In fact it's going through a renaissance courtesy of a new breed of young British musicians. The London Jazz Festival celebrates its 30th birthday in November and will feature over 100 acts in 23 different venues over 9 days. A magazine I buy each month reviews over 50 records in each issue.

Jazz is for old people. Jazz is for young people. It's for both. Or all! The music doesn't have a tune, some say. Why not see - and hear - for yourself? In January the u3a jazz group will revive from its slumbers and spring back to life. For the first meeting, I invite you to bring along some favourite CDs:

we can listen to them and you can tell us why you like them. Or you can come along and listen to some of my collection. In time we may have talks on jazz, but that will develop organically - improvisers, just like the best jazz. All styles will be catered for. Just bring your ears to listen and a foot to tap. First meeting at The George and Dragon to be announced. Cost is your purchasing a drink.

MAHJONG Elaine French 01803 832304 frenchfamily1@live.co.uk (1st+3rd Fri 10am Stoke Fleming)
We resume on the 6th of January 2023, 10am - 1pm in the Ron Harris room, tea/coffee and biscuits mid-morning. We ended the last term with a lovely Christmas lunch at the Stoke Lodge Hotel, enjoyed by all. Wishing you all a very happy and healthy New Year.

MEDAU Yvonne Cottam 01803 835251 ycottam@live.co.uk (Townstal Community Hall)
Medau - continues to flourish with several new members. Dates for 2023 are as follows:-
4th January - 8th February - 6 weeks - cost £6 for the half term
22nd February - 29th March - 6 weeks

MUSIC Lindsay Charlesworth 01803 834592 lindsay@jpcharlesworth.plus.com (2.30 pm 3rd Weds)
We ended 2022 with a wonderful lecture/recital from Ekaterina Shetliffe, in the main hall on the grand piano, introducing Tchaikovsky's Childhood Album. On 18th January 2023 - Jane Carrington Porter and chamber music friends with a varied programme from Bach to Jonathan Dove (including Mozart and Schubert of course) - live music with oboe, piano, flute, viola, violin and voice. Only three of them but they are a talented group! We plan to have Jazz on 15th February. Jazz piano and double bass with Jim Bentham and John Key (programme tbc). Everybody welcome - just turn up.

PITCH AND PUTT Jennifer Wright 01803 445247 jenniferm.wright@hotmail.co.uk (Occasional)
We are looking forward to having some outings to Cayman Golf when the weather brightens up. Meanwhile if any u3a members wish to have a round at any time the price is £6 (including a small u3a discount) for the hire of clubs and balls. You don't have to be a golf player, just enjoy the fresh air, exercise and challenge. However, if you would like to join the P&P group please contact Jennifer as above. Very best wishes for a healthy and peaceful 2023.

PUB LUNCHESES GROUP (A) Alan Cole 01803 752902 alan5cole@icloud.com (4th Weds Monthly)
As usual the group didn't gather for lunch in December - members too busy so close to Christmas. Our next lunch will be on the 25th January - venue to be confirmed.

PUB LUNCHESES GROUP (B) Alan Drew 01803 833219 asdrew@btinternet.com (Last Thurs Monthly)
During the last quarter of the year the group enjoyed an excellent lunch at the Sportsman's Arms and a splendid Christmas feast at the Stoke Lodge hotel during December. We hope to get the New Year off to a flying start by visiting the Cott Inn, Dartington which will be on Thursday 26th January. I hope all in our group had a wonderful Christmas and I'm looking forward to enjoying many excellent lunches with dear friends during 2023. Happy and prosperous New Year to you all.

PUB LUNCH GROUP (C) Mike Dodsworth 01803 770134 mike1.dodsworth@btinternet.com (2nd Tues)
Our Christmas lunch was taken at a new venue recently discovered - The Railway Inn at Churston Ferrers. The length of the lunch was a testament to its quality and value. It was thoroughly enjoyed by all the attendees (not to be confused with all our members!)

We look forward positively to a mixture of old favourite and new discovery venues in 2023. Tuesday lunch seems less of a problem to find than it did a year ago. The same cannot be said for the cost thereof!

SCRABBLE Sue Manley 01803 414774 susanmanley2004@yahoo.co.uk (2-4pm Fri 2nd & 4th Flavel Studio)

Happy New Year. We are a small friendly group who meet in The Flavel on the second and fourth Friday of month from 2-4 pm. We welcome beginners and more experienced players. Tea coffee and biscuits are provided between games. Our first meeting will be January. Looking forward to seeing old faces and new.



on Friday 13th

SPANISH CONVERSATION Yvonne Cottam 01803 835251 ycottam@live.co.uk Mon 11.30am-1.00pm

A bit of a faltering start to last term but hopefully we're back on track. We meet once a fortnight. Next meeting Monday 9th January.

SPORTS MORNING Yvonne Cottam 01803 835251 ycottam@live.co.uk (Weds 10am Dartmouth Leisure)
Also continues to flourish with several new members. You don't have to be an expert player to join us - just willing to have a go and a bit of fun! We start again on 4th January!

SUNDAY LUNCH Anne Taylor 01803 363257 jonquil_shapley@hotmail.com (2nd Sun 12.30)
What with illness, icy weather and consequent dodgy roads, it was decided to cancel the proposed lunch at The Cellar Door and some of us ended, after much deliberation, at Rosa's. Delicious roast with a good selection of vegetables, Yorkshire pudding and crispy roast potatoes.

WALKING Hilary Cranmer 01803 835812 hilarycranmer@hotmail.co.uk (Mon 9.30 Ivatt Rd, Townstal)



The November weather was unkind to the walkers and we were rained off completely a couple of times (we are not masochists!) However, we have been getting out on local walks around Dartmouth and Kingswear and also the lovely walk from Ashprington into Totnes. It is a scenic route through Sharpham woods and offers views of the river Dart snaking its way into Totnes. It was a cold day and we were rewarded with a break by the roaring log fire at the Steam Packet before starting on the way back. To get us into the Christmas spirit we enjoyed

lunch at the Church House Inn at Stokenham (left).

WINE GROUP-NOBLE ROTTERS Anne Taylor 01803 363257
jonquil_shapley@hotmail.com

(4th Thurs pm at The Royal Castle Hotel – Library Room) No meeting in December.

We celebrated by going out for a meal at Rosa. Meetings starting up again in January, 2023



WINE TASTING Bill Riddell 01803 752049 billriddell75@gmail.com (1st Mon Members homes)

In December our tasting had a Spanish theme. The aim was to taste some less well known grape varieties used in Spanish wine, but also to keep to wines that are readily available in the UK. We managed a total of 18 different grapes in various combinations. The wines included a pink made in the champagne method; whites from Galicia in the west, rioja and the eastern coast; a pink rioja; and reds from Alicante, Duero, and rioja.

WRITERS Val Depledge 01803 834323
valdepledge@hotmail.com (Mon pm) Currently plotting a novel which is obviously going to be very long and detailed therefore well worth waiting for.

Members please help your conveners by suggesting materials to display or by taking photos and of course taking turns to look after the stalls, for a while, during the morning.

U3A Art Exhibition at The Flavel

Come to an exciting exhibition revealing the talents of local retired people who now have the time to pursue their creative talents

Starts Tues January 10th

OPEN DAY

THURSDAY MARCH 30TH

10.30am

IN THE FLAVEL.