

March 2023 Newsletter

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Dart Valley u3a

<http://www.u3asites.org.uk/dartvalley> Registered Charity No 1155200



Thurs Mar 9th **Does Foreign Aid Really Work - Roger Riddell**

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

I'm now back in Dartmouth after a memorable trip to Thailand, and once again returning home is not so bad when one is fortunate enough to live in such a lovely place. It is of course nowhere near as warm as the tropics, but there aren't any mosquitoes, and the tap water is drinkable!

Today as I write this the sun is shining and there is hint of spring in the air, so it's quite nice to be back and to be part of such a friendly community - of which I think Dart Valley u3a is an important part!

This month's Thursday meeting at the Flavel is on 9th March at the usual time of 10 for 10.30am (details elsewhere in this newsletter). Bring your own coffee cup or buy a disposable one as last time. I shall be there and am looking forward to it!

Also, a reminder of our Open Event on the morning of Thursday 30th March, again at the Flavel.

SECRETARY'S REMINDERS - Peter Avis peteravis1@mail.com

Our next General Meeting is on Thursday, March 9th. at the Flavel Arts Centre, Dartmouth 10.00 am. tea & coffee 10.30 am. £2. Please bring your own reusable cups. The talk is: **Does Foreign Aid Really Work'** by Roger Riddell

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

A friendly reminder that renewals will be due on **1st April**. If you already pay by standing order, you do not need to do anything. I will be sending a reminder email or letter in March.

Please use electronic payments or set up a standing order payment as this greatly simplifies membership administration, and make payments to **Dart Valley U3A**, Sort Code: **52 30 20**, Account: **06170102**, or alternately, a cheque made out to **Dart Valley U3A** and posted to Membership Secretary, 33 Clarence Hill, Dartmouth, TQ6 9NY. Membership forms are available on the u3a website: <https://u3asites.org.uk/dartvalley/home>

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

The display of work by the Art Group has been most impressive and many members have expressed their appreciation. It has to come down at the start of March so there is very little time left for a visit to the Flavel bar area and upstairs outside the Studio.

The Open Day is on Thursday 30th March from 10.30 to 12.30. Here groups can show the materials collected for the purpose and chat to visitors. If the group is full a list can still be taken and then an additional group created. This is not just an exercise in filling your group it is an opportunity to tell the world what the u3a truly stands for.

NEWSLETTER Editor Suzie Dodsworth 01803 770134 newsletter@dartvalleyu3a.org

As you can see this month's edition of the newsletter is a full one and it appears all the groups are gearing up for Spring and looking forward to showing visitors what a wonderful u3a we represent.



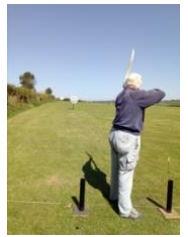
ASTROLOGY Geraldine Leigh geraldine.e.leigh@gmail.com

(3rd Tues, pm, at Convener's House)

Know yourself. Astrology describes personality traits indicated by the position of planets in a chart and any aspects (angles such as 90° or 45°) those planets make to each other. We are now working on how to understand the whole chart. Group meets at the house of the convener, see above for contact information.

ARCHERY Colin Payne 07919 933891 colinpayne43@hotmail.com (Tues am S F Cricket Ground)

Fleming Cricket Field. Introductory coaching given to help new archers hit the bullseye. Give archery a try!



ARCHITECTURE Mike Trevorrow 01803 752928 / 07470 484858
mike.d.trevorrow@gmail.com

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



view of the Galaxy SOHO, Beijing,...

Happy Spring dear architects (he said in hope!) Having spent a couple of months looking at revered and traditional architects - Edwin Luchens and Sir Christopher Wren - then enjoyed a complete change hearing about the design and building of a housing estate in North Devon we are about to turn to something completely different, firstly Zaha Hadid whose designs will blow your boots off, then hopefully a visit to Lupton House to see proper architecture! The April visit has been off, on, off and now needs to be changed, so I'll try for May. Just watch this space. We have to compete with other regular classes, weddings, tempests and all sorts of mean nasty things! In the meantime, enjoy the season, whatever hits us.

ART GROUP Pat White 07929 271658 lespatwhite@icloud.com (Monday 10am Townstal Hall)

The art group have been delighted with their exhibition at the Flavel and hope that many U3A members have taken the opportunity to see the work and marvel at the talent of our members, it will be up until March 3rd. We are now working hard to produce more masterpieces for future exhibitions with a renewed vigour and enthusiasm. Recent sessions have allowed us to experiment with use of complementary colours and other bold colour effects, developing a growing understanding of purposeful colour use and control. We will continue to explore this through a variety of media. **BOOK**



GROUP 1 Lindsay Charlesworth 01803 834592 lindsay@jpcharlesworth.plus.com (10.30 – 3rd Mon)

At our February meeting members celebrated the life of Eileen Whitelaw, a former member of the book group and its precursor the Literary Group. Eileen died on 2nd February at the age of 107. We then moved on to discuss Laurie Lee's, *Cider with Rosie* which had been hugely enjoyed by all of us - beautiful, poetic writing which brought back so many memories. One of our members had, in fact, lived

only a few miles away from Laurie Lee's house in the Slad Valley near Stroud. In March we shall be discussing Hilary Mantel's *An Experiment in Love*. April's book is *The Paris Library* by Janet Skeslien Charles.

BOOK GROUP 2 Valerie Church 01803 834280 churchval2@aol.com (1st Weds 2.30 - 4.00)

For our February meeting we read *The Girl on the Train* by Paula Hawkins. This is quite a good read but as a group, we felt the author attempted to cover too many important topics, such as motherhood, infant mortality, alcoholism, infidelity and depression in what is essentially a murder mystery. In February we are reading *The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry* (it couldn't be more different) by Rachel Joyce, and in March we will read *Beyond the Sea* (a WW2 biography) by Christian Lamb.



BRIDGE Judi Cotes 01803 834802 judi_grove@yahoo.co.uk (Flavel Studio Tues 10 – 12)

No need to have a partner. Beginners and improvers can come at 09.30 for a lesson. Tea/coffee and biscuits included for only £3! Half an hour 9.30 – 10, refresher bridge with Bill Riddell.

We are all very friendly. Bring a friend and enjoy a free session. The bridge lunch will be on Tuesday 4th October in the bridge room after the class. 12 - 1pm.



CALLIGRAPHY Gill Kidd gillkidd@btinternet.com (Thurs 2–4pm Members home)

The Calligraphy group has been commissioned by St Petrock's Church to re write a plaque with a verse from Laurence Binyon's famous poem 'For the Fallen'. We hope to rise to the challenge and do our best. In the meantime there has to be plenty of practice.

CHESS GROUP Steve Greenham stevegreenham@icloud.com (Alternate Thurs 1.00pm Dart. Yacht Club)

The U3A Chess group has got off to a good start with a dozen people on the mailing list and 6-8 members attending each session. This means we can have several pairs playing and rotate when each match finishes. We also have a few people who are complete beginners and learning the moves one piece at a time.

Our next meetings are on 2nd and 16th March at 1pm in Dartmouth Yacht Club, you can find us in the Gun Room and all are welcome.



CLASSICS 'Wiz' Tehel 07770 912100 classics@dartvalleyu3a.org (3rd Thurs 10.30 Flavel Auditorium)

First Thursdays. Coffee from 10.00. Live On Zoom from 10.00. Talk Starts at 10.30.

Classics will be restarting in May with tickets available from The Flavel in April. The group exists for people interested in the classical world and we look at Greek and Roman themes

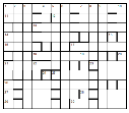
COFFEE CUPS Mary & Michael Bell mamibell2@gmail.com (Main Meeting Flavel 2nd Thurs)

Many thanks to the members of Music and Book Group 1 for helping in January, and to Barbara and Jenny in February. We really appreciate all their invaluable help. The next u3a talk will be held on Thursday 9 March and if you have put your name forward for the coming month's Coffee Cups, thank you very much. 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.



CRAFTS CLUB Joan Buscombe 01803 8832662 (Tues 10 -12 ring first)

All crafts from sewing and embroidery to patchwork & quilting plus crochet and knitting. Beginners will be helped and guided. Meet at Holdsworth House, Higher Street but ring first to ascertain how to obtain entry.

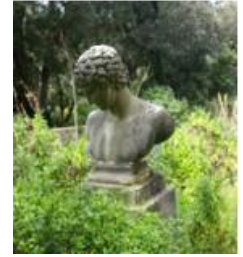


CRYPTIC CROSSWORDS Gwendolyn Alker 01803 833270 jagmaker@yahoo.co.uk (3rd Tues)
A successful meeting was held in February completing the crossword in record time with 10 members attending. Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 21 March at 10.30.

FRENCH CONVERSATION Joan Edwards 01803 833348
edwardsjchristine@outlook.com (Irregular)

We met on 8 March and the topic was what should be Retirement Age which is under much discussion in France. This was followed by the study a text to improve vocabulary and we ended with a Play Reading. We will meet again on 22 March. We are a small group and would welcome new members.

The image was taken in the charming Serre de la Madone gardens in Menton.



GARDENING GROUP Clare Ball ceball@live.co.uk (Irregular meetings) The Gardening group is out and about digging, weeding and viewing each other's gardens. Spring brings new visits and activities.

GEOLOGY Tim Freeman 01803 832663
timfreeman61@googlemail.com (Irregular Weds 2.30)

The next meeting will be on Wed 8th March in the Studio at the Flavel; cost £1. The topic will be East Africa - this part of Africa is on the move and is saying goodbye to the rest of the continent.

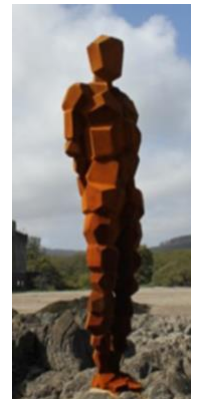


GERMAN CONVERSATION Ingrid Sidell 01803 770870
ingsid23@yahoo.co.uk (Monthly Thurs 10.00 am)

The next meeting is scheduled for 23rd March and we will continue to focus on the history of Vienna .Please contact Ingrid if you wish to join.

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

At our last meeting we had a talk on art in and around Glasgow, with a focus on the Kelvingrove Museum and Gallery. We also heard the story behind the Lewis Chessmen at Stornaway and looked at *Grip, a* sculpture by Antony Gormley in Saddell Bay, Kintyre. Next meeting is in the Flavel studio, 17th March, 2pm. Claire Humpage and Sally Walley will present an illustrated talk on art with a winter theme, 'Walking in a Winter Wonderland'.



i P A D S GROUP Convener Alan Machin alanmachin@aol.com (Monthly 10.30 SF Village Hall)



A meeting at SF Hall concentrated on how to use Pages, the free word processing package available free with every iPad. WE created a letter using a template provided and looked at the different methods of formatting the page and text as well as adding photos and images. Next month we shall cover Numbers the spreadsheet package provided by Apple.

iPAD Beginners Tutor Suzie Dodsworth 01803 770134 suziedwong@gmail.com (Weds 2pm Flavel Church)

Starting the course, we have been looking at how to use setting and formatting the iPad exactly how we need it to operate. Looking at and adapting widgets, creating wallpapers for the home and lock screens; using the Control Centre; adjusting brightness and allowing dark mode; then use of the Dock and the drop down menus from each corner of the screen.



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

We are a small group who chat in Italian and learn more as we go along. Since our meeting times and days vary, please contact me if you are interested. We are a very relaxed and friendly bunch

JAZZ GROUP David Gent davidmgent@protonmail.com [01803 835464](tel:01803 835464) (Dartmouth Yacht Club)
Jazz is being enjoyed in the YC, contact David to ascertain at which time and day.

MAHJONG Elaine French 01803 832304 frenchfamily1@live.co.uk

(1st & 3rd Fri 10am Stoke Fleming)

New players welcome, come along and join are friendly group 10am to 1pm with tea/coffee mid-morning. Great fun and good for the grey cells.



MEDAU Yvonne Cottam 01803 835251 ycottam@live.co.uk (Townstal

Hall – Weds 12.30-1.30)

We continue to flourish with around 20 members currently. This term is 22nd February - 29th March - 6 weeks

MUSIC Lindsay Charlesworth 01803 834592 lindsay@jpcharlesworth.plus.com

(2.30pm 3rd Weds, Flavel)

In February the group was entertained with an afternoon based on legendary Jazz pianists thanks to Jim Bentham (keyboard) and John Key on bass guitar. All very foot tapping! Our March meeting will be another presentation from Lindsay with music she has been enjoying recently, and in April Norman has 'discovered' the Norwegian soprano Sissel Kyrkjebø which I am sure will lead to another enjoyable afternoon. Everybody welcome, members and friends, so do join us.

Sissel Kyrkjebø (Norwegian pronunciation: [\[ˈsʲisːl̩ ˈçʲɪʁçə bøː\]](#); born 24 June 1969), also simply known as **Sissel**, is a Norwegian soprano.

Sissel is considered one of the world's top crossover sopranos. Her musical style ranges from pop recordings and folk songs, to classical vocals and operatic arias. She sings mainly in English and Norwegian and has also sung songs in Spanish, Swedish, Danish, Irish, Italian, French, Russian, Icelandic, Faroese, German, Neapolitan, Māori, Japanese and Latin.



PITCH AND PUTT Jennifer Wright 01803 445247 jenniferm.wright@hotmail.co.uk (Occasional).



Any member of the u3a can go along to Cayman Golf at Churston for a round of pitch and putt. Discount for u3a members. Discount also applies to other visitors you may take . Only £6 per person to include clubs and balls. Parking on site, and garden centre/restaurant next door to enjoy refreshments afterwards! Do have a try - it can be great fun and you are exercising at the same time!

PUB LUNCHES GROUP (A) Alan Cole 01803 752902 alan5cole@icloud.com (4th Weds Monthly)

Gone out to test another eatery will report later.

PUB LUNCHES GROUP (B) Alan Drew 01803 833219 asdrew@btinternet.com (Last Thurs Monthly)

The group enjoyed two excellent lunches in the first quarter of the year. In January we visited the Cott Inn near Dartington, where the food and service were both superb. This place has to be the best eatery in the South Hams. In February we ate at the Start Bay Inn at Slapton. The pub has old world charm and the food very good and reasonably priced.

PUB LUNCH GROUP (C) Mike Dodsworth 01803 770134 mike1.dodsworth@btinternet.com (2nd Tues month)
Two lunches since the last report – firstly at the Start Bay Inn in January where an impressive number of different fish were on offer on the “specials” board, a good sample of which were enjoyed by the assembled membership.

February proved interesting in that our usual day (2nd Tuesday of month) was Valentines Day and many venues were closed for lunch owing to “prep” for expected evening bookings. We switched to the 3rd Tuesday to get round this and had an enjoyable meal at The Bear & Blacksmith in Chillington. Hope to see some of you at the Open Day on 30th March by which time we hope to have eaten somewhere on March 14th.

SCRABBLE Sue Manley 01803 41477 susancmanley2004@yahoo.co.uk (2-4pm Fri 2nd & 4th Flavel Studio)
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. March meetings are on the 10th and 24th. Looking forward to seeing old faces and new.

SPANISH CONVERSATION Yvonne Cottam 01803 835251 ycottam@live.co.uk (Mon 11.30am – 1.00pm)
We're back on track! We meet once a fortnight - next meeting Monday 6th March

SPORTS MORNING Yvonne Cottam 01803 835251 ycottam@live.co.uk (Weds 10am Dart. Leisure Centre)
Continues to flourish with around 16 members. You don't have to be an expert player to join us - just willing to have a go and a bit of fun!

SUNDAY LUNCH Anne Taylor 01803 363257 jonquil_shapley@hotmail.com (2nd Sun month 12.30)
We lunched at Bayards Cove, as it was local and most people were able to walk home. Good Sunday traditional roast. Very busy, buzzy and friendly staff.

WALKING Hilary Cranmer 01803 835812 hilarycranmer@hotmail.co.uk (Mon 9.30 Ivatt Rd, Townstal)
Winter is not the walking group's favourite time of year and some of us have taken the opportunity to seek warmer climes during the last few weeks. However, we have re-visited some of our tried and tested favourite walks such as Beesands, upriver to Galmpton and Greenway, a coastal walk in Brixham and the lovely Avon Mill railway walk. We are looking forward to the longer and warmer (we hope) days of spring.

WINE GROUP-NOBLE ROTTERS Anne Taylor 01803 363257 jonquil_shapley@hotmail.com
(4th The Royal Castle Hotel – Library Room) [Still enjoying their tastings.](#)

WINE TASTING Bill Riddell 01803 752049 billriddell75@gmail.com Members homes (1st Mon pm)
The Wine Tasting Group met on Monday January at Gary and Teri Larson’s for an evening entitled “Scents and Sensibility”. Gary had assembled a collection of vials containing extracts of 15 different substances such as vanilla, gooseberry, grass, and citrus. We were then invited to sniff and taste 5 white wines and 4 red wines to see whether we could match the aromas claimed for each wine with the scents of individual extracts. Sauvignon Blanc is variously described as having the flavour profile of Asparagus, Gooseberry, Cut grass and Tomcat spray (!). Needless to say, our performance was somewhat sketchy but the evening was both educational and entertaining.

For her tasting on Monday 6th February Jacky Neild presented a selection of 9 wines from The Wine Society. Members particularly rated the crisp, fruity Geyerhof Stockwerk Gruener Veltliner Kremstal 2021 (£13.95), and the deliciously smooth Crozes-Hermitage La Matiniere Ferraton 2019 (£15.50).

WRITERS Val Depledge 01803 834323 valdepledge@hotmail.com Mon pm. Members homes.
We had a mtg earlier today where the topic to write about had been either 'A Stitch In Time' or a Beatles song title. Quite amazing how different all the pieces were, and we certainly had fun reading out all our critiques.

The next talk at the General Meeting:

Thurs Mar 9 th	Does Foreign Aid Really Work	- Roger Riddell
Thurs April 13 th	The Exponential Age	- Richard Haycock
Thurs May 11 th	Space for Inspiration	- David Norman