

# May 2023 Newsletter



Dart Valley u3a

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



Thurs May 11th **Space for Inspiration** - David Norman

## A VIEW FROM THE CHAIR - Howard O'Keeffe [howardokeeffe49@gmail.com](mailto:howardokeeffe49@gmail.com)

Our next Thursday meeting at the Flavel will be on the **11th May** - details in this newsletter. Please note we wish to start promptly a few minutes earlier than usual at **10.25am**.

The reason is that we have the Chair of the Flavel Committee Ann Green coming to talk to us for a few minutes, and we do not wish to finish later than usual (parking anxiety!) - and we don't want to keep our guest speaker waiting too long. Your prompt arrival will be appreciated.

Members may be aware that the Flavel is under some financial pressure following the pandemic, and needs much support to ensure its survival. It is a hugely valuable asset to the town, not least to u3a - we are the envy of many others who do not have such an excellent venue in which to meet and conduct activities. We plan to be as supportive as possible over coming months.

The following monthly meeting will be on **Thursday 8th June at 10.15am**. Again, please note the earlier start time - this is because we will be holding the legally essential 2023 Annual General Meeting at that time, followed by our guest speaker and hopefully the usual finish time. We plan to conduct the AGM in 15 minutes or less, and again your prompt attendance will be much appreciated.

Please contact a member of the Committee if you are interested in joining the committee! Looking forward to seeing a good sized audience on the 11th May - and as always bring your own coffee cups if possible!

## SECRETARY'S REMINDERS - Peter Avis [peteravis1@mail.com](mailto:peteravis1@mail.com)

The title of the talk is **Space for Inspiration** by David Norman. The talk is a brief look at some recent and upcoming events in space, including the latest results from the James Webb Space Telescope. Also advance notice that our AGM will take place just before our June 8th meeting. I will send out full details in due course.

## MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY – 'Wiz' Tehel 07770 912100 [membership@dartvalleyu3a.org](mailto:membership@dartvalleyu3a.org)

A friendly reminder that renewals were due on **1st April**. Do contact me if you have renewed and not received a renewal confirmation from me. 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 then 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](mailto:suziedwong@gmail.com)

A very busy time for groups and conveners. Please check your attendees are members of the u3a as this means the group is fully insured in case of accidents or loss of equipment. Claire has started a second Gardening Group in response to the large numbers interested when attending the Open Morning. She is obviously hoping for a new Convener to emerge. Yvonne Cottam is trying to start a social swim group. Contact her direct for more information. See Sports Morning.

**We are having a very brief AGM on Thursday 8th June at 10.15am. The aim is 10 minutes.**

The Open Morning was a huge success with many groups signing up new members or even as in the case of Gardening creating a new group. **Well done one and all.**

**Yvonne Cottam has been chosen as a 'Coronation Champion'** which means she has had an invitation to the Coronation Concert at Windsor Castle next week. This is wonderful news for her and so well deserved for her hard work and contributions to the local community as you can see from the list of her contributions:

**u3a groups:** Spanish, Medau, Sports Morning, webmaster. **Other Sports** Groups I've started: Tennis (Mondays), Tennis Club, Walking Rugby, Pickleball. **Fundraising:** Main fundraiser for the Indoor Pool since 2009; Walks for Heart Radio Children's Charities - China Wall, Machu Picchu, Grand Canyon. **Aid Work:** Building a school for disabled children in Uganda; Building houses for Haitian refugees in Dominican Republic. **Volunteering:** The Fleet Care Home - chair based exercises; National Trust - environmental work at several of their properties.

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

A great collection of brief outlines from the groups showing what a vibrant and successful u3a we are. Still only £10 a year and £2 for the monthly meeting and talk. Please remember your own cups for this or 20p will be charged for the biodegradable cardboard cups. We wish King Charles well on his coronation.

**ASTROLOGY Geraldine Leigh [geraldine.e.leigh@gmail.com](mailto:geraldine.e.leigh@gmail.com) (3<sup>rd</sup> Tues, afternoon Convener's Home).**

Potential for social change when Pluto is in Aquarius. Pluto takes 248 years to orbit the Sun and has just entered and will be in Aquarius for another 20 years. Earlier similar cycles 1777-1798, a time of revolution in US and Europe, and 1532-1553, a time of religious change in England and Europe. Possibility of a new group for beginners.



**ARCHERY Colin Payne 07919 933891 [colinpayne43@hotmail.com](mailto:colinpayne43@hotmail.com) (Tues am S F**

Cricket Ground) This year the Archery Group is getting off to a busy start. Following the successful Open Day, we have a list of 18 new people interested in learning archery. Inevitably individuals do not always turn up for a given session, so I will probably cope with the large numbers. I was teaching the rudiments to five new people on this past Tuesday, and I expect a bigger turnout on the first Tuesday of May. We have bought an extra target and miscellaneous personal protective items for the extra numbers. Fortunately, I have my own collection of bows and arrows to make up the shortfall in club equipment.



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

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

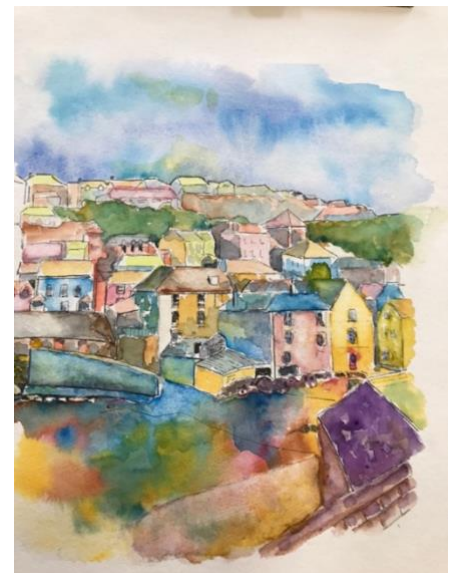
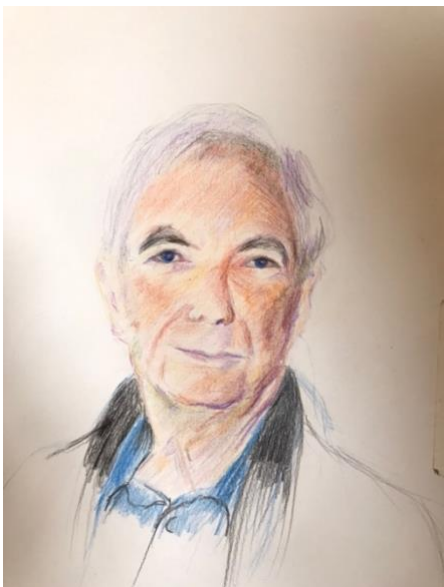
Well, hello fellow architects, by the time you read this hopefully we will have enjoyed our trip around Lupton House and be raring to go with the next scintillating study of a current architect hero. Strictly speaking, this is not an architect but a designer and technician, Thomas Heatherwick, who has a staff of 200 designing everything from ash trays to palaces, so I think we could call him an architect. Prepare to be amazed and horrified at the same time by his triumphs and failures. And we Brits love a failure!! See you, boots blacked and collars starched, on Thursday May 25th, with your £2 clutched in the customary sweaty claw, at 11:20 for an 11:30am kick-off. Until then enjoy the sunshine, and the gin!



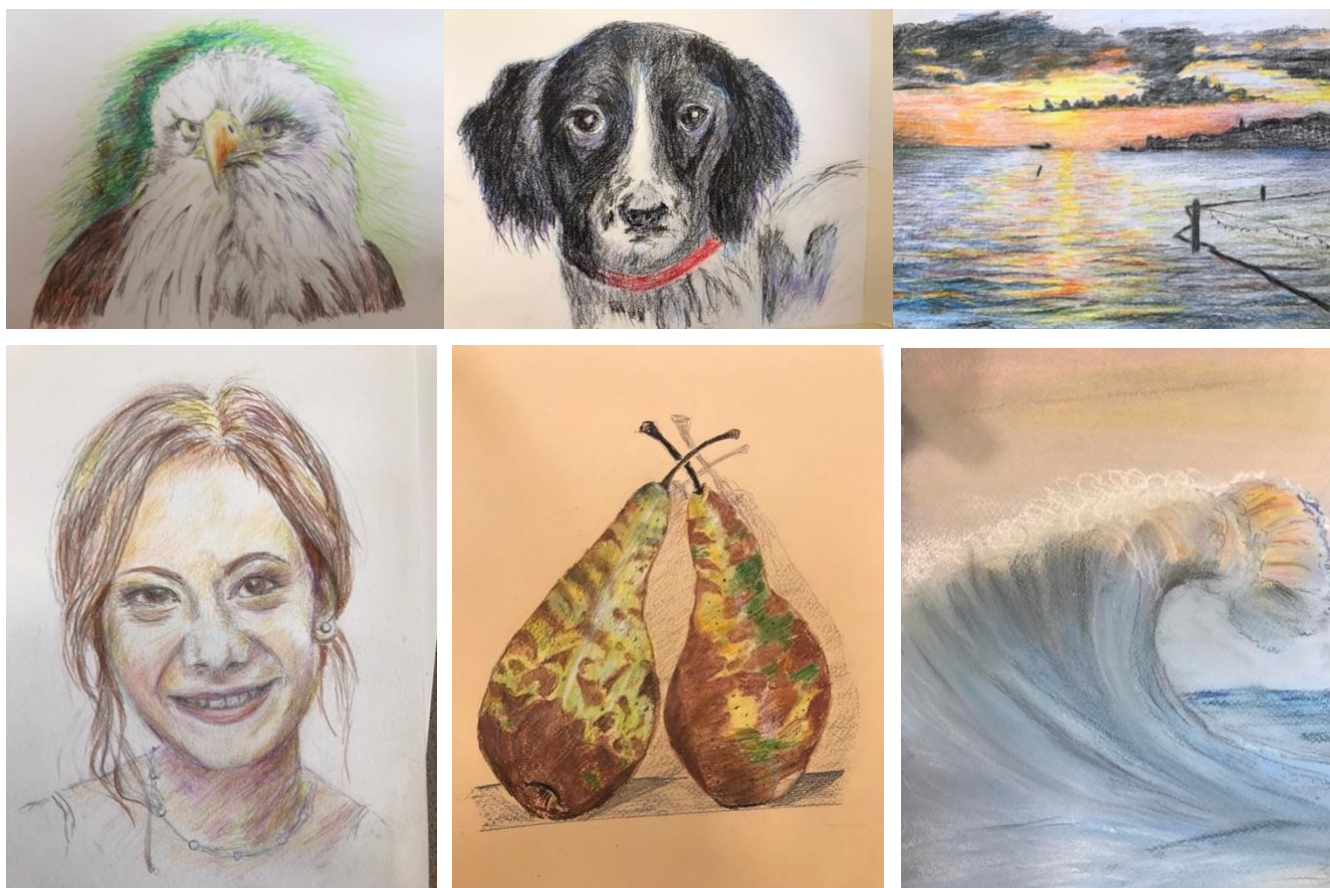
**ART GROUP Pat White 07929 271658 [lespatwhite@icloud.com](mailto:lespatwhite@icloud.com)**

(Monday 10am Townstal Hall)

Recently the group have been experimenting with the use of coloured pencils, and some pastel, through animal and human portraits. Then progressing into inclusion of drawing pen with studies of interesting features of architecture. Members have enjoyed some of the precision offered by use of both coloured pencil and pen along with the soft



colours available with watercolour paints, thus allowing individuals to find their own strengths and preferences. They have produced a variety of very pleasing results.

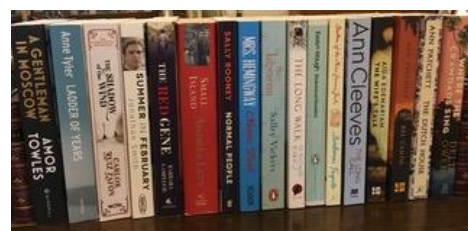


**BOOK GROUP 1 Lindsay Charlesworth 01803 834592 [lindsay@jpcharlesworth.plus.com](mailto:lindsay@jpcharlesworth.plus.com) (10.30 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Mon)**

Four of us managed to get together on 17<sup>th</sup> April to discuss *The Paris Library* by Janet Skeslien Charles. Potentially a very interesting book about the American library in Paris during German occupation in WW2, but interspersed and very let down by the second story set in America during the 1980s (v. Mills and Boone as one of our readers said). Shame, but the American library bit was interesting if nothing else. On 15<sup>th</sup> May (date tbc) we shall be discussing *Mr. Mac and Me* by Esther Freud; 19<sup>th</sup> June is *The Garden of Evening Mists* by Tan Twan Eng; and in July Sebastian Barry's *Days Without End*.

**BOOK GROUP 2 Valerie Church 01803 834280 [churchval2@aol.com](mailto:churchval2@aol.com) (1<sup>st</sup> Weds 2.30 - 4.00)**

Since my last contribution we have read 2 very different books. Firstly *The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry* by Rachel Joyce, which will be showing at the Flavel at the end of May, and was thoroughly enjoyed by most of the group. And *Beyond the Sea* by Christian Lamb, judged by most to be too long, badly written and rather boring! Our current book, *The Stranger Diaries* by Elly Griffiths, is of a completely different genre. A mixture of modern and gothic, an elegant and intelligently written murder mystery.



**BRIDGE Judi Cotes 01803 834802 [judi\\_grove@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:judi_grove@yahoo.co.uk) (Flavel Studio Tues 10 – 12)**

No need to have a partner. Tuesday morning bridge. 10 - 12 £3 per session. Includes tea/coffee and biscuits. Friendly non-competitive Bridge. New players very welcome. Bring a friend and enjoy a free session. The Bridge lunch will be on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> October in the bridge room after the class. 12 - 1pm.

**CALLIGRAPHY Gill Kidd [gillkidd@btinternet.com](mailto: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](mailto:stevegreenham@icloud.com) (Thurs 13.00 Dart. Yacht Club)**

From May the 4<sup>th</sup> (Star Wars Day!) we are planning to increase the frequency of our chess meetings to every Thursday at 1pm at Dartmouth Yacht Club. The regular players are happy to meet weekly and the occasional players will have twice as much opportunity to come along. We may also start an informal tournament in which everyone tried to play everyone else over the

course of a month. More players of any standard are most welcome. Please contact me if you wish to be added to our mailing list and WhatsApp group. May the fourth be with you!

**CLASSICS 'Wiz' Tehel 07770 912100 [classics@dartvalleyu3a.org](mailto:classics@dartvalleyu3a.org)** (1st Thurs 10.30 Flavel Auditorium)

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

**Introducing the Greek Gods** - Thursday May 4<sup>th</sup> 10:15 for 10:30am start in The Flavel.

Tickets £4 available from the Flavel website and box office.

**COFFEE CUPS Mary & Michael Bell [mamibell2@gmail.com](mailto:mamibell2@gmail.com)** (Main Meeting Flavel 2<sup>nd</sup> Thurs)

Many thanks to Linda and Pat, together with Jennifer for their invaluable help in March and April. The next u3a talk will be held on Thursday 11 May 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 or you will be charged 20p for a disposable cup.



**CRAFTS CLUB Joan Buscombe 01803 8832662** (Tues 10 -12 ring first) c/o [vcbest@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:vcbest@hotmail.co.uk)

It was so good to meet lots of people at the Open Morning who showed an interest in Joan's display of patchwork, quilting and crochet. Joan has great knowledge of any craft using a needle – large or small. She would welcome any new members who would like to come along, either as beginners or to share their interest. In past years the group has exhibited their work at the annual craft exhibition held in September in St. Saviours Church. We are a small friendly group at the moment, mainly quilters, but would love to enlarge our sessions with knitters, embroiderers and crochet enthusiasts. Please phone Joan who will be delighted to give you more information.

**CRYPTIC CROSSWORDS Gwendolyn Alker 01803 833270 [jagmaker@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:jagmaker@yahoo.co.uk)** (3<sup>rd</sup> Tues)

Enjoy taxing your brain while enjoying a cup of coffee. The group join forces to solve the clues. Next Cryptic crossword meeting is on Tuesday 16 May at 10.30.



**FRENCH CONVERSATION Joan Edwards 01803 833348 [edwardschristine@outlook.com](mailto:edwardschristine@outlook.com)** (Irregular)

At the recent Open Day event, several possible new members expressed interest in the group and they are very welcome. We met on 12 and 26 April. Participants prepared short essays, we discussed topical events and how to make a *Flan au Citron*.

**GARDENING GROUP Clare Ball [ceball@live.co.uk](mailto:ceball@live.co.uk)** (3<sup>rd</sup> Friday)



Having had such a successful open day with three new members joining this group I am now at full capacity. We met last Friday, being the third Friday of the month, our usual date, at our member's home in Stoke Fleming. It was a lovely day but still a bit chilly. We had plenty of time to discuss any problems with tea/coffee and biscuits and then head off to look around their beautiful garden. On leaving we were offered geranium/lavender plants if wanted. It was lovely to meet the new members and welcome them to the group. 🌱🍷💡

**GARDENING GROUP 2 Clare Ball [ceball@live.co.uk](mailto:ceball@live.co.uk)** (Irregular meetings)

As a result of such a large large sign up for membership at the open day I felt it necessary to start a new group. The best time to meet and fall in line with other groups seems to be the fourth Tuesday of the month at 12.30pm. This can be discussed if not convenient Having been in touch with those interested, we had a small group meet at Gardentime last Tuesday just to say hello and talk about what is good for this group. Hopefully at the next meeting a few more will be able to attend. 🌱🍷🧠

**GEOLOGY Tim Freeman 01803 832663 [timfreeman61@googlemail.com](mailto:timfreeman61@googlemail.com)** (Irregular Weds 2.30)

This month's topic is titled A Trip to Bude. I have been fortunate to spend two days on the coast at Bude with local geologist Roger Higgs. Bude is a bit too far for a day trip from Dartmouth so rather than try to take a group there I will show photos and some rock samples from the trip. Bude is much visited for its geology. Dates for your diary for the months ahead are as follows.

Monday 5th June Trip to Prawle Point

Wed 12th July Trip to Exeter Cathedral to look at building stones with Kaz Donovan (Totnes) guiding us

Wed 9th August Walk starting at the Flavel in Dartmouth to look at the geology of Dartmouth.



**GERMAN CONVERSATION Ingrid Sidell 01803 770870 [ingsid23@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:ingsid23@yahoo.co.uk)**

(Monthly Thurs 10.00 am)

At our April meeting we watched King Charles speech at the Bundestag in Berlin on You Tube --it was mainly in German (!) and covered a wide range of issues. We were very impressed and discussed both his German and the content. We also read a couple of German articles about the State visit to Germany and King

Charles' German heritage! Our next meeting is scheduled for May 25th at 10.00 am in Strete! Please contact Ingrid if you wish to join!

**HISTORY OF ART Julia Churchley [julia.churchley@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:julia.churchley@hotmail.co.uk) (3<sup>rd</sup> Fri 2pm Studio, Flavel)**

In March we enjoyed a talk by members Claire Humpage and Sally Walley, who spoke about winter themed paintings ranging from Brueghel to Monet. April took us to sunnier climes with Rosalind Spears talking about Lady Ann Balcarres, a feisty Scottish aristocrat who produced watercolours recording her life in South Africa. Our next meet will be on May 19th and will be an outing to Delamore Arts Sculpture Garden - we will all meet just inside the grounds at 1.30 pm and work our way around as we wish. Our next talk at the Flavel studio will be on June 16th, (2pm) with Prof Peter Edwards talking about Canaletto.



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

A meeting at SF Hall concentrated on how to use Numbers, the spreadsheet package available free with every iPad. We explored how to use various functions on a simple spreadsheet. This was very mind bending and will be explored further next session. The next session is not now until Friday 23rd June, as above

**i P A D 4 Beginners Tutor Suzie Dodsworth 01803 770134 [suziedwong@gmail.com](mailto:suziedwong@gmail.com) (Weds 2pm Flavel Church)**

We have now looked at how to fully use all the characters and symbols on a screen keyboard including accented letters for different languages. Dictating text proved to be great fun. As we had a short session and light on numbers, we explored painting on an iPad using Notes and demonstrating ArtRage. Those who signed up for the next course please email me.



**ITALIAN CONVERSATION Tasha James 0795 750 9351 [nataliarh9@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:davidmgent@protonmail.com) 01803 835464 (Studio, Flavel)**

Jazz is meeting in the Studio at 6.30 on a Friday contact David to ascertain how often.



**MAHJONG Elaine French 01803 832304 [frenchfamily1@live.co.uk](mailto:frenchfamily1@live.co.uk) (1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Fri 10am Stoke Fleming hall)** After a very successful open day we had several people interested to know about the game and two have been along to our last session and joined us. We now have 26 on our MahJong register. MahJong is played over a three hour session with mid morning coffee/cake and friendly chat.



**MEDAU Yvonne Cottam 01803 835251 [ycottam@live.co.uk](mailto:ycottam@live.co.uk) (Townstal Hall – Weds 12.30-1.30)**

Our display at the Open Day appeared to be well received and we have gained a couple of new members from it. This term is 10 weeks long, starting on 12<sup>th</sup> April and ending on 14<sup>th</sup> June.

**MUSIC Lindsay Charlesworth 01803 834592 [lindsay@jpcharlesworth.plus.com](mailto:lindsay@jpcharlesworth.plus.com) (2.30pm 3<sup>rd</sup> Weds, Flavel)**

We had an interesting April meeting with soprano Jane Anderson-Brown, accompanied by pianist Daphne Levy and Jane's husband Stephen providing introductions to each of her pieces, in a programme of French, German and English song. Norman returns on 17<sup>th</sup> May with a presentation about Norwegian soprano Sissel Kyrkjebø – absolutely not to be missed (I have seen the programme!!). In June, David Gent will be telling us about Gospel Music before we take a break in July and August. Everybody welcome – £3 to cover costs, please.



**PITCH AND PUTT Jennifer Wright 01803 445247 [jenniferm.wright@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:jenniferm.wright@hotmail.co.uk) (Occasional).**

The outing to Cayman Golf on 28th April was cancelled due to very wet weather. We are hoping for a spell of fine weather to rearrange a future outing. Meanwhile any member of the u3a not in the p&p group can go along, in their own time. Discount for u3a members also applies to any visitors you may take along who are not a member. £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](mailto:alan5cole@icloud.com) (4<sup>th</sup> Weds Monthly)**

Following the recent open event to encourage new members group A now has a further six new members. So far one new member has attended - Peter Baylis. Although the new members have swollen our group numbers to twenty seven, recently we have not exceeded twelve at any one lunch. Hopefully this will continue, enabling the group to enjoy lunches at some of the smaller, local pubs.

The groups' April lunch was enjoyed at the Cott Inn, Dartington, eight attended and all were impressed with the service and food. The Cott is one of our most reliable pubs and I try not to use it too often - but it is always a temptation. The May lunch destination has yet to be decided.

**PUB LUNCHES GROUP (B) Alan Drew 01803 833219 [asdrew@btinternet.com](mailto:asdrew@btinternet.com) (Last Thurs Monthly)**

The group enjoyed an excellent lunch at the Royal Castle hotel. 15 managed to attend, the food was very good, reasonably priced and the service was more than acceptable considering they have staff shortages. Next month's meeting will be on Thursday 25th May.

**PUB LUNCH GROUP (C) Mike Dodsworth 01803 770134 [mike1.dodsworth@btinternet.com](mailto:mike1.dodsworth@btinternet.com) (2<sup>nd</sup> Tues month)**

Our most recent lunch was on 14<sup>th</sup> March at The Seven Stars, Dartmouth, attended by a record attendance. The likelihood of this happening because of a Dartmouth venue rather than out-of-town seems quite high!!! The venue was particularly good, for although made up of 4 tables, they were all within non-shouting distance of each other. So often a large group is on one long table making group interaction awkward.

April's lunch was cancelled being so close to Easter and May's is yet to be confirmed.

Thanks to the three new members who expressed an interest in joining us at the Open Day at the end of March – too late for them to join us at the Seven Stars Lunch. This means that we are unlikely to find a venue which can accommodate the whole group, so attendance "rationing" may become a reality.

**SCRABBLE Sue Manley 01803 41477 [susancmanley2004@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:susancmanley2004@yahoo.co.uk) (2-4pm Fri 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> 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. Meetings are held in The Flavel on the second and fourth Fridays of the month from 2-4pm. Cost £3 to include tea and biscuits.

**SPANISH CONVERSATION Yvonne Cottam 01803 835251 [ycottam@live.co.uk](mailto:ycottam@live.co.uk) (Mon 11.30am – 1.00pm)**

We meet once a fortnight but because of the plethora of Bank Holidays in May our next meeting will be on 15<sup>th</sup> May. There was a great deal of interest in the group at the Open Day - in fact enough to start another class. If there is anyone out there who would be willing to act as a convener, we'd welcome you contacting the Groups Co-ordinator Suzie Dodsworth 01803 770134 [suziedwong@gmail.com](mailto:suziedwong@gmail.com).

Unfortunately, we are not able to teach Spanish from scratch. Members need to undertake individual learning which they can bring to a group and practise what they're learning. I personally use a programme called *Spanish with Paul* which costs around £80 a year but for me is the way I like to learn. Here is a link: [Spanish with Paul mini course 1-10 - YouTube](#). Some of his modules are free so you could just try it out to see how you get on. There are many other courses available and I guess it will be a case of finding the one that suits your way of learning best.

**SPORTS MORNING Yvonne Cottam 01803 835251 [ycottam@live.co.uk](mailto:ycottam@live.co.uk) (Weds 10am Dart. Leisure Centre)**

We've had a couple of new members as a result of our Open Day. Anyone else wanting to come along and give us a try will be very welcome. £3.50 per session payable to the Leisure Centre.

**SUNDAY LUNCH Anne Taylor 01803 363257 [jonquil\\_shapley@hotmail.com](mailto:jonquil_shapley@hotmail.com) (2<sup>nd</sup> Sun month 12.30)**

We did not meet this month due to Easter falling on our usual Sunday.

**WALKING Hilary Cranmer 01803 835812 [hilarycranmer@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:hilarycranmer@hotmail.co.uk) (Mon 9.30 Ivatt Rd, Townstal)**

The walking group have been venturing out this so-called Spring, although still hoping for some warmer weather. We have been through Sharpham woods to Totnes, to the coast at Beesands and along the SW coast path from Broadsands, finishing April with a dash to Blackpool sands and just getting back to Dartmouth ahead of the rain. The u3a Open Day generated some significant interest in the group and we hope to be welcoming some new members in the near future.

**WINE GROUP-NOBLE ROTTERS Anne Taylor 01803 363257 [jonquil\\_shapley@hotmail.com](mailto:jonquil_shapley@hotmail.com)**

(4th The Royal Castle Hotel – Library Room)

We enjoyed a very convivial evening, tasting a variety of wines with the theme 'French Connection' (with the exception of one wine - a Spanish Rioja). We also welcomed one or two new faces to our friendly group.

1. Very well received was the Bouvet Saumur Brut, 'the go-to appellation if you like Champagne but not the high price tag'. A lively, zesty fizz with a crisp, fresh finish. £9.99 reduced from £13.99 Majestic.

2. Also very well received by all was a Piquepoul- Sauvignon, 2021, produced in the Languedoc, cotes de Thau, S.West France. Nice mixture and good value. Nice with oysters apparently! £6.99 reduced from £9.99, Majestic and Waitrose.
3. Disappointing was a New Zealand, Marlborough 2021. £8.99 reduced from £10.99 Majestic. An unusual but nice aroma, with citrusy notes, but sharper taste than usual.
4. Very well received was a Rose, Pure Mirabeau en Provence, Maison Mirabeau, appellation protege, 2022. Very tasty but lacking on the nose, although notes of melon were detected! Good as an aperitif and with Mediterranean cuisine. £11.99 reduced from £15.99, Waitrose.
5. A red Burgundy - Bourgogne Gamay Latour, 2021 was very much enjoyed by all, with notes of fresh red fruits and a kick of white pepper - a smooth, soft and refined red wine. £14.99 reduced from £16.99 Majestic.
6. Finally, a Spanish Rioja, 'El Duque de Miralda- Rioja - Gran Reserva'. 2015. With notes of vanilla, coconut, red berries, spice and raisins. 'A smashing Rioja.' £15.99 Marks and Spencer's

**WINE TASTING Bill Riddell 01803 752049 [billriddell75@gmail.com](mailto:billriddell75@gmail.com)** Members homes (1<sup>st</sup> Mon pm)

For April's tasting our host, Ann Eaglesfield, selected eleven wines from Sainsbury's Taste the Difference range. We began with a Crémant de Loire, a refreshing blend of Chenin Blanc and Chardonnay which, at £10.50, could hold its own against several higher priced Champagnes. This was followed by five still white wines of which the crisp, delicate New Zealand Sauvignon Blanc (£8) and complex, elegant Chilean Viognier (£9) were the favourites of the group. After refreshments we sampled red wines from S. Europe and the New World. Whilst all were perfectly acceptable, the standouts were a bold, spicy Californian Zinfandel (£9) and a rich, fruity Cotes du Rhone Villages (£8).

**WRITERS Val Depledge 01803 834323 [valdepledge@hotmail.com](mailto:valdepledge@hotmail.com)** Mon pm. Members homes.

The Writers' Group met up today for a very enjoyable and helpful session to share our critiques on our latest submissions. This month's topic was 'I can DO this...' which produced the usual eclectic mix of very entertaining pieces - no two are ever the same! Next month's topic is 'I Wish', which should prove to be equally challenging/interesting.

#### The next talks at the General Meeting:

Thursdays:-

May 11 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Space for Inspiration</b>	<b>- David Norman</b>
June 8th	<b>The Preservation of Paddle Steamer 'Kingswear Castle'</b>	<b>- Jeremy Gold</b>
July 13th	<b>Devon Ghosts</b>	<b>- Robert Hesketh</b>