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**u3a Dart Valley General Meetings – Programme for 2024**

**At the Flavel Arts Centre, Dartmouth 10.00 am - tea & coffee; 10.30 am - Talk.**

# January 11th

## Thomas Telford, Colossus of Roads

**Martin Farrant**

Thomas Telford did more than anyone else to allow the development of transport and the industrialisation of Britain in the late 1700s and into the 1800s. He was the orphan son of a Scottish shepherd who died when Thomas was a few months old but went on to carve out an amazing career and became the first president of The Institution of Civil Engineers.

# February 8th

**Inventors and Scientific Heroes of Devon.**

**Adam Hart Davis**

Biographies of the heroes from Thomas Savery to Eleanor Coade.

# March 14th

## Life on the Licence Fee: Hot Rocks and High Places

## Alex Leger

Luck played its part when Alex joined the Blue Peter programme in 1975. He describes pivotal events in broadcasting and memorable encounters with an erupting volcano, gorillas in Uganda and a life-threatening storm at sea. These and other events secured his position as a producer for 36 years. Other events caused a stir like Lulu the baby elephant who ran amok and created the funniest moment in Blue Peter history.

# July 11th

**Gold Rushes of the Pacific**

**Katrina Gulliver**

This talk looks at the history of the gold rushes of Australia, California, and Alaska.

# August – No meeting

# September 12th

**Galileo and the Roman Inquisition**

**Janet Diamond**

A world renowned scientist, astronomer and engineer, the inventor of the thermoscope, various military compasses and more, Galileo developed the telescope for scientific observations of celestial objects which confirmed the phases of Venus, observed the four largest moons of Jupiter, the rings of Saturn and more. He was appointed mentor of the Medici Princes but even with the mighty Medici’s behind him he was imprisoned by the Roman Inquisition, his books banished, and he faced torture. The story tells of the rise and fall of one of the greatest names of modern science.

# October 10th

**Magnificent Women and Flying Machines**

**Sally Smith**

Just 18 months after two Frenchmen made the world’s first flight in 1783 a fearless British woman hopped into a flimsy balloon and flew across the London sky for nearly an hour. Since then, many British women have followed their dreams into the sky. This talk describes these women who achieved firsts in various forms of aviation right up to the first woman in space focussing on personalities social history and what the women did.

# November 14th

**Topic to be confirmed.**

**Jung Chang**

Jung Chang is the best-selling author of “*Wild Swans”* and “*Mao: The Unknown Story”* which have sold more than 15 million copies worldwide, except in China where her books are banned.

Her books have been translated into more than 40 languages and have won many awards. Jung has a PHD in Linguistics and has received honorary doctorates from a number of universities in the UK and USA.

# December 12th

**A Biologist in Antarctica**

**John Spicer**

What it is like to live and work in Antarctica, the wildlife that influences your daily life, and why the question “what direction is the wind coming from?” is more important than “how cold is it?”

# April 11th

**The Wonderful World of Glass**

**Dr F E Burroughs**

From his own collection, he brings historic and valuable items of glass for members to examine for themselves, to illustrate the history of glassmaking from 3,000 B.C. to the present day. Francis is an acknowledged expert, and often asked to lend pieces and speak about them for various television antique programmes.

# May 9th

**The Heritage of Gilbert and Sullivan**

**Bernard Lockett**

A historical background, assessment and overview of their works; to consider the vast amount of social and political satire in the shows, the reasons and a wry look at how much is relevant today; Finally, to consider the world-wide popularity of G & S in the 21st Century.

# June 13th

**The Secret Lives of the Elements**

**Kathryn Harkup**

The periodic table appears as an orderly row of elements which never break the rules. Kathryn reveals that there are personalities, passions, quirks and historical oddities behind those ordered rows. It is a sprawling family tree with its own black sheep, wayward cousins and odd uncles. She tells weird and wonderful stories of discovery, inspiration and revolution. Some elements are relatively anonymous others are seen in a new light and old friends have surprising secrets to share.



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**Dart Valley**

**Registered Charity No. 115520**

**2024 Programme**

**Committee**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Howard O’Keeffe** | **-** | **Chairman** |
| **Bill Riddell** | **-** | **Vice Chairman** |
| **Peter Avis** | **-** | **Secretary** |
| **Liz Helyer** | **-** | **Treasurer** |
| **Suzie Dodsworth** | **-** | **Groups** |
| **Wiz Tehel** | **-** | **Membership** |
| **Iain McCall** | **-** | **Speakers & Talks** |
| **Chris Milsom** |  | **Minutes Secretary** |
| **Gwendolyn Alker** | **-** | **Devon LinkCoffee Rota** |
| **Jennifer Wright**  | **-** | **Marketing& Publicity** |
| **Julia Churchley** | **-** | **Newsletter** |
| **Non-Committee Support** |
| **Yvonne Cottam** | **-** | **Web-Master** |
| **Pat White** | **-** | **Front Register** |

**For further information visit:**[**http://u3asites.org.uk/dartvalley**](http://u3asites.org.uk/dartvalley)

**For membership call Wiz Tehel on
07770 912100**

 Special interest groups contact conveners for further information or visit :- [**http://u3asites.org.uk/dartvalley**](http://u3asites.org.uk/dartvalley)

**Geology** Irregular

Tim Freeman 01803 832663

**German Conversation** MonthlyThurs

Ingrid Sidell 01803 770870

**History of Art** 3rd Fri pm

Julia Churchley 07900 321681

**iPad for Beginners** Alternate Weds

Suzie Dodsworth 01803 770134

**iPad Grads** Monthly

Alan Machin 01803 833849

**Italian** Tues pm

Tasha James 0795 750 9351

**Jazz**

David Gent 01803 835464

**MahJong** 1st & 3rd Friday

Elaine French 01803 832304

**Medau** Weds pm

Yvonne Cottam 01803 835251

**Music** 3rd Weds pm

Lindsay Charlesworth 01803 834592

**Pitch and Putt** Occasional am

Jennifer Wright 01803 445247

**Pub Lunches**

**‘A’** 4th Wed. **‘B’** 3rd Thurs **‘C’** 1st Tues

**‘A’** Alan Cole 01803 752902

**‘B’** Alan Drew 01803 833219

**‘C’** Mike Dodsworth 01803 770134

**Archery** Tues am

Colin Payne 07919 933891

**Architecture** 4th Thurs am

Mike Trevorrow 01803 752928

**Art Group** 2nd/4th Mons am

Pat White 07929 271658

**Astrology** 3rd Tues pm

Geraldine Leigh07590 646653

**Book Group 1** 3rd Mons am

Lindsay Charlesworth 01803 834592

**Book Group 2** 1st Weds pm

Val Church 01803 834280

**Bridge** Tues am

Judi Cotes 01803 834802

**Calligraphy** 3rd Thurs pm

Gill Kidd 07792 645543

**Chess Group** 1st+3rd Thurs pm

Steve Greenham 07590 567764

**Classics** 1st Thurs am

Vince ‘Wiz’ Tehel 07770 912100

**Cryptic Crosswords** Tues am Monthly

Gwendolyn Alker 01803 833270

**French Conversation** Irregular Wed

Joan Edwards 01803 833348

**Garden Group** Irregular

Clare Ball 01803 833292

**Scrabble** 2nd + 4th Fri pm

Sue Manley 01803 414774

**Singing for Pleasure Inactive**

Avril Dowding 01803 712440

**Spanish Conversation** Mon am

Yvonne Cottam 01803 835251

**Sports Morning** Weds am

Yvonne Cottam 01803 835251

**Sunday Lunch Group** 2nd Sun

Anne Taylor 01803 363257

**Views on News** Occasional

Chris Milsom 01803 843834

**Walking** Mon am

Hilary Cranmer 01803 835812

**Wine Tasting (1)** 4th Thurs pm

Anne Taylor 01803 363257

**Wine Tasting (2)** 1st Mon pm

Bill Riddell 01803 752049

**Writers** Monday pm

Val Depledge 01803 834323

**Also, a most interesting talk every second Thursday of the month.**

**See over for details.**