



11th January *Thomas Telford, Colossus of Roads* by Martin Farrant

A view from the Chair – Howard O’Keeffe howardokeeffe49@gmail.com Wishing our u3a members a very Happy New Year and we look forward to seeing you at the next monthly talk at the Flavel.

Secretary’s reminders – Christine Milsom christinemilsom@btinternet.com The talk for the u3a members’ meeting is at The Flavel on 11th January at 10:30am. Our first talk of the year is ‘*Thomas Telford, Colossus of Roads*’ presented by Martin Farrant. Coffee from 10am, please remember your mug if you would like coffee.

Membership Secretary– ‘Wiz’ Tehel 07770 912100 membership@dartvalleyu3a.org The annual membership fees are **£10** for Individuals, **£20** for Joint Memberships (ie, couples at the same address) and **£5** for Associates. For new members who have or intend to join during the year, the membership fee per person is **£7.50** between July and September, **£5** between October and December and **£2.50** January to March. Membership forms are available on the u3a website or from me.

You can join or renew by an electronic payment made to **Dart Valley U3A**, Sort Code: **52 30 20**, Account: **06170102** or by cheque made out to **Dart Valley U3A**, and posted to Membership Secretary, 33 Clarence Hill, Dartmouth, TQ6 9NY. 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

As I write this the wind is blowing a hoolie outside, let us hope for more settled weather and a safer more settled world for 2024. In the meantime, I hope you have had an enjoyable Christmas. We have many activities continuing to provide enjoyable ways of learning new things and socialising with people we perhaps would not normally meet. Are you going to try something new for 2024?

I have five pieces of news. Firstly, Tim Freeman is starting a **new bowling group** in Dartmouth in the Spring. Secondly, I’m starting a **new course of iPads for Beginners**, which is open to newcomers and those who would like a refresher – we should begin at the end of January. Thirdly, Julia will be starting a **new book group** and a **new gardening group** in the spring as the ones operating currently are full. Fourthly, **the art group** is staging an exhibition in the Flavel bar area from late January to the beginning March. Lastly, there will be an **Open Morning** on March 23rd where Conveners provide information about their groups and invite people to sign up who may wish to join or start a new group. So much is going on so please read the newsletter and look at the website. Don’t forget to bring a friend as a guest to the talks.

Newsletter editor – Julia Churchley julia.churchley@hotmail.co.uk

Art Group Exhibition

You will have seen some of the fabulous art produced by the u3a art group in our newsletters. Do take the time to view their exhibition which will be at the Flavel from **January 29th until March 4th**.

Group reports

ASTROLOGY Geraldine Leigh geraldine.e.leigh@gmail.com
(3rd Tues, afternoon Convener’s Home).

ARCHERY Colin Payne 07919 933891 colinpayne43@hotmail.com

(Tues am S F Cricket Ground). Archery still shooting into winter on fair Tuesdays 10am Stoke Fleming Cricket Field **but contact Colin first**.

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

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

ART GROUP Pat White 07929 271658 lespatwhite@icloud.com

(Monday 10am Townstal Hall). We will be having our exhibition this year at the Flavel from **January 29th until March 4th**. Please come along and admire the talent of our enthusiastic group.

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

BOOK GROUP 2 Valerie Church 01803 834280 churchval2@aol.com

(1st Weds 2.30pm – 4.00pm). In November we met to discuss *The Crossing Places*, another great book by Ellie Griffiths. Spooky and smart, her books are intensely atmospheric. A wonderful mix of ancient and modern, this one is set in the Norfolk marshes, a delicious combination of abduction, murder, mysticism, archaeology, Nordic legends and neolithic ritual, it is hard to put down. For our meeting in December, we read *Canal Pushers* by Andy Griffe. Another page turner and enjoyed by the majority of the group. It is the first of a trilogy of murder mystery books set along the English canals. Involving an out of work and homeless journalist, a mysterious stranger who understands narrowboats, a cannabis farm and a serial killer (amongst others) this book has many strands which help to maintain the suspense. Over Christmas we are reading *Gentlemen and Players* by Joanne Harris, an altogether darker affair.

BRIDGE Judi Cotes 01803 834802 judi_grove@yahoo.co.uk

(Flavel Studio Tues 10am – 12 noon) No need to have a partner.

CALLIGRAPHY Gill Kidd gillkidd@btinternet.com

(Thurs 2–4pm Members home)

CLASSICS 'Wiz' Tehel 07770 912100 classics@dartvalleyu3a.org

(1st Thurs 10.30am Flavel Auditorium). No talk in January, our new series of talks will start on **Thurs 1st February**. Doors open 10am, talk starts 10:30, finishes 11:45am. Tickets: £4 from The Flavel website or Flavel box office. Tickets can be purchased within the Auditorium on the day.

COFFEE CUPS Gwendolyn Alker 01803 833270 jsgmalker@yahoo.co.uk

(Main Meeting Flavel 2nd Thurs) Thank you for remembering to bring your own coffee cup. Disposable cups are always available for 20p at the counter. Volunteers serving coffee at the meeting have free entry to the talk.

CRAFTS CLUB Joan Buscombe 01803 832662 c/o_vcbest@hotmail.co.uk

(Tues 10am – 12 noon ring first)

CRYPTIC CROSSWORDS Gwendolyn Alker 01803 833270 jsgmalker@yahoo.co.uk

(3rd Tues). Our next meeting is on Tuesday 16th January at 10.30am. Contact Gwendolyn for more details.

FRENCH CONVERSATION Alan Kerr 01548 531843. Mob:07402 276468 alanckerr@yahoo.com

(2:30pm 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month, at Brown's Hotel, Bar & Bistro, Victoria Road.)

GARDENING GROUP 1 Clare Ball ceball@live.co.uk

(3rd Friday)

GARDENING GROUP 2 Clare Ball ceball@live.co.uk

(12 noon on the last Tuesday)

GEOLOGY Tim Freeman 01803 832663 timfreeman61@gmail.com

(Irregular Weds 2.30pm). Geology is on for Wed 10th Jan at 2.30pm. John Alker will be talking about the geology of New Zealand. He may throw in a few other things as well. John started the Geology group in Dartmouth and ran it for 8 years prior to handing it over to Tim who is away in Portugal. We meet in the Studio at the Flavel at 2.30pm. Cost £1, please bring this in coins.

GERMAN CONVERSATION Ingrid Sidell 01803 770870 ingsid23@yahoo.co.uk mob 07818208721 (for texts)

(Monthly Thurs 10.00am in Strete).

HISTORY OF ART Julia Churchley 07900 321681 julia.churchley@hotmail.co.uk

(3rd Fri 2pm Studio, Flavel)

i P A D S GROUP Alan Machin alanmachin@aol.com

(Monthly 10.30am Stoke Fleming Village Hall)

i P A D 4 Beginners Tutor Suzie Dodsworth 01803 770134 suziedwong@gmail.com

(Alternate Weds 2pm Flavel Church). Starting again late January. Please contact Suzie for details. We currently meet alternate Weds at 2.00pm in the Flavel Church

ITALIAN CONVERSATION Tasha James 0795 750 9351 nataliarh9@gmail.com

JAZZ GROUP David Gent 01803 835464 davidmgent@protonmail.com

(Studio, Flavel) Jazz group is having an extended break.

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

(1st & 3rd Fri 10am to 1pm Stoke Fleming Village Hall)

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

(Weds 12.30pm–1.30pm, Townstal Hall) £2 per session (to cover cost of hall) but to commit for half a term.

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

(2.30pm 3rd Weds, Flavel).

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

(Occasional, Cayman Golf, Churston)

PUB LUNCHE GROUP (A) Alan Cole 01803 752902 alan5cole@icloud.com

(4th Weds Monthly)

PUB LUNCHE GROUP (B) Alan Drew 01803 833219 asdrew@btinternet.com

(Last Thurs Monthly)

PUB LUNCH GROUP (C) Mike Dodsworth 01803 770134 mike1.dodsworth@btinternet.com

(2nd Tues month)

SCRABBLE Sue Manley 01803 414774 susancmanley2004@yahoo.co.uk

(2–4pm 2nd & 4th Fridays Flavel Studio).

SPANISH CONVERSATION Yvonne Cottam 01803 835251 ycottam@live.co.uk

(Mon 11.30am – 1.00pm) The group currently has no room for new members. If anyone would like to start a second group, please contact the Groups Co-ordinator Suzie Dodsworth 01803 770134 suziedwong@gmail.com

SPORTS MORNING Yvonne Cottam 01803 835251 ycottam@live.co.uk

(Weds 10am Dart Leisure Centre)

SUNDAY LUNCH Anne Taylor 01803 363257 jonquil_shapley@hotmail.com

(2nd Sun month 12.30pm)

WALKING Hilary Cranmer 01803 835812 hilarycranmer@hotmail.co.uk

(Mon 9.30am Ivatt Rd, Townstal)

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

(4th Thurs, Royal Castle Hotel Library Room/members homes/gardens weather permitting!)

WINE TASTING Bill Riddell 01803 752049 billriddell75@gmail.com

(1st Mon pm. Members homes)

WRITERS Val Depledge 01803 834323 valdepledge@hotmail.com

(Mon pm. Members homes)

Talks at the General Meeting 2024

Thursday 11th January *Thomas Telford, Colossus of Roads* by Martin Farrant

Thursday 8th February *Inventors and Scientific Heroes of Devon* by Adam Hart Davis

Thursday 14th March *Life on the Licence Fee: Hot Rocks and High Places* by Alex Leger