



# u3a

# Dart Valley

## February 2024



### Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> February *Inventors and Scientific Heroes of Devon*

**A view from the Chair – Howard O’Keeffe** [howardokeeffe49@gmail.com](mailto:howardokeeffe49@gmail.com) We look forward to seeing you at the February talk at the Flavel, with our star speaker Adam Hart Davis !

**Secretary’s reminders – Christine Milsom** [christinemilsom@btinternet.com](mailto:christinemilsom@btinternet.com) The talk for the u3a members’ meeting is at The Flavel on 8<sup>th</sup> February on the subject *Inventors and Scientific Heroes of Devon*, presented by the well known writer and broadcaster, Adam Hart Davis. Coffee from 10am, please remember your mug if you would like coffee.

**Membership Secretary– ‘Wiz’ Tehel** 07770 912100 [membership@dartvalleyu3a.org](mailto: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. The annual membership fees are **£10** for Individuals, **£20** for Joint Memberships (ie, couples at the same address) and **£5** for Associates.

**Group Co-ordinator – Suzie Dodsworth** 01803 770134 [suziedwong@gmail.com](mailto:suziedwong@gmail.com)

A large number of people responded to the advertising for iPads for Beginners. The poster was sent to local u3as as well as being emailed to all members. The positive response means we now have a viable group of 12 plus. May I remind you that your u3a will be holding an Open Morning on March 23<sup>rd</sup> when Conveners will provide information about their group(s) and invite people to sign up who may wish to join or start a new group. Please volunteer in your groups to help man the stands, we would be very grateful for your help. The following groups are starting after the Open Morning: Bowling run by Tim Freeman, Book Group 3 and Gardening 3 run by Julia Churchley. Don’t forget to bring a friend as a guest to the talks.

**Newsletter editor – Julia Churchley** [julia.churchley@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:julia.churchley@hotmail.co.uk)

Reminder: Classics re-starts tomorrow, 1 Feb, *The Roman army in the West Country*. All welcome.

### Group reports

**U3a Art Exhibition at The Flavel DARTMOUTH**

FROM Tuesday 30th January to Friday 1st March  
Another opportunity to view the creative talents of local dedicated U3a members

If interested in joining us email [lespatwhite@icloud.com](mailto:lespatwhite@icloud.com)

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

**ARCHERY Colin Payne** 07919 933891 [colinpayne43@hotmail.com](mailto:colinpayne43@hotmail.com)  
(Tues am S F Cricket Ground). Archery awaiting improved weather!

**ARCHITECTURE Mike Trevorrow** 01803 752928/07470 484858 [mike.d.trevorrow@gmail.com](mailto:mike.d.trevorrow@gmail.com) (4<sup>th</sup> Thurs, 11.15 for 11.30am start, Flavel Studio – all welcome.) Architects are back in fine fettle with a talk from Mike Trevorrow on Lighthouses in January; this will be followed in February by a specialist talk from Wiz on the Sydney Opera House. March will be a look at the architecture of Transportation (when I’ve finished writing it!). So come and join our merry band on the fourth Thursday of each month in the Flavel Studio at 11:20 am for 11:30 start, clutching your usual £2 towards room costs. Look forward to seeing you.

**ART GROUP Pat White** 07929 271658 [lespatwhite@icloud.com](mailto:lespatwhite@icloud.com)  
(Monday 10am Townstal Hall). The Art group got off to a lively start in preparation for its exhibition at the Flavel during February, all members being busy finalising pieces, mounting and framing work. We invite all to come along and admire their talents and efforts.



We recently explored winter landscapes, with watercolours capturing subtle effects of light and colour. We also developed use of pastels building up colour and textural qualities. We will continue to enjoy our art and to explore a variety of media and techniques throughout the year.



**BOOK GROUP 1 Lindsay Charlesworth** 01803 834592 [lindsay@jpcharlesworth.plus.com](mailto:lindsay@jpcharlesworth.plus.com)

(10.30am – 3<sup>rd</sup> Mon Stoke Fleming) On 19th February we shall be discussing *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald, on 18th March it will be *We Are All Completely Beside Ourselves* by Karen Joy Fowler, and on 15th April *Me Before You* by Jojo Moyes. Discussion questions are always provided beforehand. In January we read and discussed *The Bee Sting* by Paul Murray which everybody except me had enjoyed!

**BOOK GROUP 2 Valerie Church** 01803 834280 [churchval2@aol.com](mailto:churchval2@aol.com)

(1<sup>st</sup> 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 December meeting 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, this book has many strands which help to maintain the suspense. Over Christmas we read *Gentlemen and Players* by Joanne Harris, an altogether darker affair.

**BRIDGE Judi Cotes** 01803 834802 [judi\\_grove@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:judi_grove@yahoo.co.uk)

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

**CALLIGRAPHY Gill Kidd** [gillkidd@btinternet.com](mailto:gillkidd@btinternet.com)

(Thurs 2–4pm Members home)

**CLASSICS 'Wiz' Tehel** 07770 912100 [classics@dartvalleyu3a.org](mailto:classics@dartvalleyu3a.org)

(1<sup>st</sup> Thurs 10.30am Flavel Auditorium). The next talk will be **The Roman army in the West Country** presented by **Dr. John P. Salvatore**, 1<sup>st</sup> February 10:30am The Flavel.

7<sup>th</sup> March – **The Emperors' Building Stone – The Life and Afterlife of Porphyry** presented by **Val Maxfield**, 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](mailto:jsgmalker@yahoo.co.uk)

(Main Meeting Flavel 2<sup>nd</sup> 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](mailto:c/o_vcbest@hotmail.co.uk)

(Tues 10am – 12 noon ring first) It was good to meet again in the New Year and catch up after our break Christmas break. Patchwork and quilting are done by most of us. One is hand quilting a sailing-themed quilt for her grandson, another finishing a quilt started sometime ago, whilst a third is working out her pattern made of 'flying geese' templates. Joan is going through her extensive collection of patchwork and putting together a colourful quilt. Working out how to use tweed fabric offcuts to make a jacket is taxing another member. Crochet and knitting also make an appearance. Several of us are helping to make blankets for different charities – much needed at this time of year. Joan is able to help all of us with our work and encouragement from all is much

appreciated, as well as chatter on all kinds of topics. We are always hoping to welcome new members. Do get in touch with Joan if interested.

**CRYPTIC CROSSWORDS Gwendolyn Alker** 01803 833270 [jsgmalker@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:jsgmalker@yahoo.co.uk)

(3<sup>rd</sup> Tues). Our next cryptic crossword meeting is on Tuesday 20 February at 10.30am. If you are interested in joining the group please contact Gwendolyn .

**FRENCH CONVERSATION Alan Kerr** 01548 531843. Mob:07402 276468 [alanckerr@yahoo.com](mailto: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](mailto:ceball@live.co.uk) (3<sup>rd</sup> Friday) & **GARDENING GROUP 2 Clare Ball**

(12 noon on the last Tuesday). In November a trip to the Orchid paradise centre was arranged so it was decided to involve both groups. There were twelve members who enjoyed a very informative talk and tour around the centre after partaking of a coffee first which was included in the price. For December I held a drinks and nibbles meeting for both groups again at my home. The weather was fine and dry, so we had a fire in the pit in the garden, hot mulled wine to keep the chill out mince pies etc and after a good old chat we had a gardening quiz. Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves and it was so good to be outside.

**GEOLOGY Tim Freeman** 01803 832663 [timfreeman61@gmail.com](mailto:timfreeman61@gmail.com)

(Irregular Weds 2.30pm). We meet in the Studio at the Flavel. The geology of the Algarve, Portugal. This month's topic is the south of Portugal where your convenor has been avoiding the January weather, a trip into a deep underground salt mine was one highlight. **Wednesday 14th Feb** 2.30pm. Cost £2, please bring this in coins.

**GERMAN CONVERSATION Ingrid Sidell** 01803 770870 [ingsid23@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:ingsid23@yahoo.co.uk) mob 07818208721 (for texts)

(Monthly Thurs 10.00am in Strete). Our next meeting will take place in Strete on Thursday Feb 22nd at 10am when we hope to host a German lady, Anita Ulrich who is staying in Dartmouth. Our last meeting was interesting – we read an article about the current state of the German railway system (not great apparently!) and this led to a lively discussion.

**HISTORY OF ART Julia Churchley** 07900 321681 [julia.churchley@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:julia.churchley@hotmail.co.uk)

(3<sup>rd</sup> Fri 2pm Studio, Flavel) Our next talk is on Friday February 16<sup>th</sup> in the studio. All welcome.

**i P A D S GROUP Alan Machin** [alanmachin@aol.com](mailto:alanmachin@aol.com)

(Monthly 10.30am Stoke Fleming Village Hall)

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

(Tuesdays, Stoke Fleming Village Hall). The new course started on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> January at 2.30pm in the Ron Harris room in Stoke Fleming Village Hall. 12 people arrived and participated and seem to enjoy the experience. The group learned a great deal about the type of iPad they had, its capacity, size, memory and iCloud storage. We are meeting every Tuesday for 15 weeks.

**ITALIAN CONVERSATION Tasha James** 0795 750 9351 [nataliarh9@gmail.com](mailto:nataliarh9@gmail.com)

**MAHJONG Elaine French** 01803 832304 [frenchfamily1@live.co.uk](mailto:frenchfamily1@live.co.uk)

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

**MEDAU Yvonne Cottam** 01803 835251 [ycottam@live.co.uk](mailto:ycottam@live.co.uk)

(Weds 12.30pm–1.30pm, Townstal Hall) £1 per session (to cover cost of hall) but to commit for half a term.

Dates for 2024 as follows: 21st February to 27th March – 6 weeks – £6

10th April to 12th June – 10 weeks – £10.

**MUSIC Lindsay Charlesworth** 01803 834592 [lindsay@jpcharlesworth.plus.com](mailto:lindsay@jpcharlesworth.plus.com)

(2.30pm 3<sup>rd</sup> Weds, Flavel Studio). On Wednesday 21st February I shall be giving a presentation on recently enjoyed pieces of music including a rather sweet animated musical birthday card I received in January. In March Norman will be doing something similar but will be rather more focused on a particular composer or piece of music. Everyone welcome and if anyone wants to get together with a friend or two to produce a similar programme please let me know – we will help with finding videos and recordings. Admission £3 to cover room hire and use of equipment.

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

(Occasional, Cayman Golf, Churston)

**PUB LUNCHE GROUP (A) Alan Cole** 01803 752902 [alan5cole@icloud.com](mailto:alan5cole@icloud.com)

(4<sup>th</sup> Weds monthly) January's lunch was at the Cott Inn, Dartington, as usual we were not disappointed. Only six of the group attended but it was good meeting up again with a couple from pre-covid days. February's lunch venue is 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 Rockfish in January. The food was very good and the ambiance the restaurant offers is superb with lovely views of the river. Next month the plan is to visit the Sportsmans Arms on the outskirts of town which will be on the 29th of February.

**PUB LUNCH GROUP (C) Mike Dodsworth** 01803 770134 [mike1.dodsworth@btinternet.com](mailto:mike1.dodsworth@btinternet.com)

(2<sup>nd</sup> Tues month) A very well attended (best in the short history of this group) enjoyed lunch at the Royal Castle in January. We are looking forward to welcoming two new members to our February lunch – probably to be at The Sportsman as this is one of the few venues that can accommodate a group of our size. The implications of the new size of the group will be assessed on an ongoing basis dependent on future percentage attendance!

**SCRABBLE Sue Manley** 01803 414774 [susancmanley2004@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:susancmanley2004@yahoo.co.uk)

(2–4pm 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Fridays Flavel Studio).

**SPANISH CONVERSATION Yvonne Cottam** 01803 835251 [ycottam@live.co.uk](mailto:ycottam@live.co.uk)

(Mon 11.30am – 1.00pm) 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 it is 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) Start the day with a warmup and then have a go at badminton, table tennis, pickleball. £3.50 payable at Leisure Centre reception.

**SUNDAY LUNCH Anne Taylor** 01803 363257 [jonquil\\_shapley@hotmail.com](mailto:jonquil_shapley@hotmail.com)

(2<sup>nd</sup> Sun month 12.30pm) Pleasant lunch at Dartmouth Arms this month. Decent home cooked roasts and plenty of fresh vegetables, including tasty cauliflower cheese. Washed down with a good Madri lager. One of the nicest places to have Sunday Lunch in Dartmouth.

**WALKING Hilary Cranmer** 01803 835812 [hilarycranmer@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:hilarycranmer@hotmail.co.uk)

(Mon 9.30am Ivatt Rd, Townstal) It has been a quiet time for the walking group since our Christmas lunch at the Floating Bridge. A combination of bank holidays, very poor weather and commitments elsewhere have taken their toll on our Monday excursions lately. Further difficulties ahead are anticipated with two of our three ferries out of action for refit and maintenance and the coast road being closed at Stoke Fleming. However, we will find a way with local walks for the time being and look forward to the first signs of spring.

**WINE GROUP–NOBLE ROTTERS Anne Taylor** 01803 363257 [jonquil\\_shapley@hotmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:billriddell75@gmail.com)

(1<sup>st</sup> Mon pm. Members homes) For our January tasting we met at the home of Teri and Gary Larson to sample a selection of wines from the West Coast of the United States. We started by comparing two 2021 California Chardonnays – a powerful, rich wine from Santa Barbara and a lighter, fruitier example from Clay Creek, just east of San Francisco Bay. This was followed by a refreshing 2022 Washington State Riesling and a vibrant, crisp 2022 Sauvignon Blanc from the Napa Valley. All the red wines we tasted were from California: – a cool climate 2021 Pinot Noir from Monterey, a rich 2020 Merlot, two Cabernet Sauvignons – an elegant example from Sonoma County and a more generic approachable Apothic, then to finish two classic 2020 full-bodied Zinfandels.

Whilst all the bottles were of a high quality it was intriguing to see how wines made from the same grape in the same year in the same state had such contrasting flavours. Thank you, Gary and Teri for a delightful evening.

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

(Mon pm. Members homes)

## Talks at the General Meeting 2024

Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> February *Inventors and Scientific Heroes of Devon* by Adam Hart Davis

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

Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> April *The Wonderful World of Glass* by Dr F E Burroughs