

# July 2023 Newsletter



Dart Valley u3a

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



## 13<sup>th</sup> July *Devon Ghosts* Robert Hesketh

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

Thank you to all who attended our AGM at the Flavel on June 8th. We managed to keep it brief and all the necessary business was done without delay - for the benefit of absent members, the summary is that our finances are in an excellent position, membership is hovering near 500, and the committee was willing to be, and was, re-elected unanimously for another year. This is a good opportunity to say again that new ideas for groups, and new recruits to the committee, are always welcome! Thanks as always to all who do so much.

The next general meeting at the Flavel on 13th July will be the last until September, as we do not meet in August. I think we have had a great selection of speakers in 2022-23 and hope you have found the meetings enjoyable and have learned something!

I have been contacted by the Volunteer Manager of the RNLI (Royal National Lifeboat Institution) Visitor Centre Dartmouth. They are looking for volunteers to join their team. If anyone is interested please contact [tracey.lucas@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:tracey.lucas@hotmail.co.uk) for further information without obligation.

**Best wishes to all for a good summer, and let's look forward to another great year in 2023-24!**

### SECRETARY'S REMINDERS – Christine Milsom [christinemilsom@btinternet.com](mailto:christinemilsom@btinternet.com)

Our next general meeting is on July 13th at the Flavel, 10am for 10.30 start. The talk is on 'Devon Ghosts' by the writer Robert Hesketh. Robert will give us an illustrated tour of some of Devon's most haunted places and their stories, focussing on those that can be visited by the public. Devon has many supernatural phenomena, with haunted buildings spread liberally around the county plus lonely places on Dartmoor are also associated with the supernatural. Join us for the last talk before our summer break.

**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)

Thank you Alan Kerr for taking over as the group Convener for the French group. Joan has been a wonderful leader for a number of years and her efforts have been much appreciated.

Talking of stepping down, Mary and Michael Bell will enjoy their last session of running Coffee Cups this month. They have been highly efficient, arriving very early to set up and help volunteers - thank you both. Gwendolyn Alker will be in charge from September.

Conveners are invited to a coffee morning on **Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> November** probably in the Flavel Church. Invitations / reminders will be sent nearer the time.

### NEWSLETTER Editor Julia Churchley 07900 321681 [julia.churchley@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:julia.churchley@hotmail.co.uk)

A very big thank you to outgoing editor Suzie Dodsworth who has given me extremely helpful handover guidance and support. The next newsletter is for September, I will contact conveners in mid- August.

*Does anyone have a copy of an old u3a newsletter containing an article on **Roma Severne**? She is looking for the article and the original photo of herself and her sister when they were evacuated to the Cotswolds during WWII.*

### ASTROLOGY Geraldine Leigh [geraldine.e.leigh@gmail.com](mailto:geraldine.e.leigh@gmail.com)

(3<sup>rd</sup> Tues, afternoon Convener's Home). Astrology has old roots. An article thought to be for keeping track of moon phases is over 250,000 years old. The group meets monthly at the conveyor's house. We use more modern methods to work out the date. Contact Geraldine for details.

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

(Tues am S F Cricket Ground). We started the outdoor archery season on 25<sup>th</sup> April, quite late after the u3a Open Day, after awaiting more settled dry weather and purchasing extra equipment. 18 people had expressed interest in giving archery a try. The convener was worried that the new recruits would all turn up together and there would not be enough club equipment for everyone to have a go. In the event we had five people the first week, and we led them through the basics of safety and archery technique using our light beginner bows. In the second week, a different four people turned up. Over the past nine weeks, they have progressed to shooting accurately with heavier draw weight recurve bows and have learnt the oddities of the Archery scoring method. They are getting quite competitive.

Some, who initially expressed interest in archery, have been busy with other things, so they are yet to join us. We have the equipment and capacity to welcome more members and to get them started. Dependent on weather, we will continue the season into October.

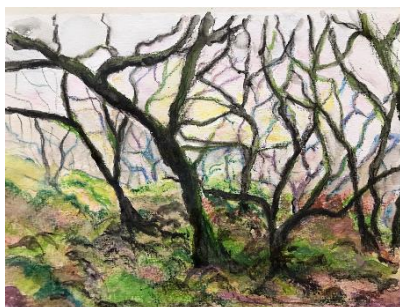
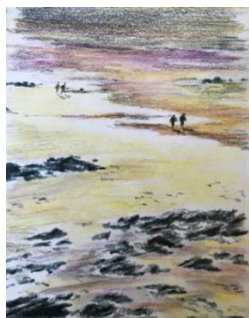
**ARCHITECTURE Mike Trevorrow 01803 752928 / 07470 484858 [mike.d.trevorrow@gmail.com](mailto:mike.d.trevorrow@gmail.com)**

(4<sup>th</sup> Thurs of month 11.15 for 11.30am start in the Flavel Studio – all welcome) Hello Architects and what a fun year we've had, a real mixture of the ancient and modern buildings that we all love, a visit to Lupton House and a window into how modern housing estates are planned and built. We finished at Robert Adam in June and will resume on the fourth Thursday on October 26<sup>th</sup>, at 11:20am for 11:30. This may be a visit if I can arrange it with the appropriate people, but I will let you know in good time. In the meantime have a lovely summer and come back refreshed and ready for action in October.

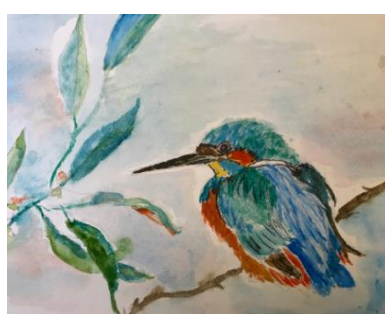
**ART GROUP Pat White 07929 271658 [lespatwhite@icloud.com](mailto:lespatwhite@icloud.com)**

(Monday 10am Townstal Hall) Over the past few sessions we have explored the use of watercolour pencils which are extremely useful as an outdoor sketching medium, entailing less to carry and giving many watercolour qualities.

We first explored landscape qualities...



Then went on to capture some of the textural qualities of birds combining both watercolour paints and pencils to good effect.



We will continue to meet at Townstal on Monday mornings until the end of July when we will go on to outdoor sketching expeditions throughout the summer when we can further explore use of watercolour pencils. Members skills and confidence have improved a lot throughout the year, and we have enjoyed the input of new members.

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

(10.30 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Mon Stoke Fleming). At our June meeting we discussed Tan Twan Eng's *The Garden of Evening Mists*. We had a great discussion but it was rather a 'marmite' book! On the whole too much detail making it difficult to keep track of the various characters and their connection to each other, plus all that was going on in Malaya at that time (the 1950s). Historically it was very interesting, but also horrifying to be reminded of the situation. In July we shall be discussing Sebastian Barry's *Days Without End*. No meeting in August so we have chosen Barbara Kingsolver's new book *Demon Copperhead* for our September meeting, with E.M. Forster's *A Room with a View* in October.

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

(1<sup>st</sup> Weds 2.30 - 4.00) During April and May we read *The Stranger Diaries* by Elly Griffiths and *The Rector's Wife* by Joanna Trollope. Two very different but excellent books and both enjoyed by the group. We are now reading *The Shack* by W Paul Young. Again, very different, and challenging. Good discussion material!

**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) Our group is having a summer break until September.

**CHESS GROUP Steve Greenham 07590 567764 [stevegreenham@icloud.com](mailto:stevegreenham@icloud.com)**

(Thurs 13.00 Dart. Yacht Club) The Chess Group have decided to take a summer break and return refreshed and reinvigorated in the autumn. We found that during the summer there are many other activities competing for members' attention. For anyone missing the opportunity to play, the Kingswear group continue to meet on Monday evenings and u3a members are welcome to join us. If you would like to do so please contact me and I will add you to the WhatsApp group through which we coordinate.

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

(1<sup>st</sup> Thurs 10.30 Flavel Auditorium) **Heracles - A Complicated Hero** Presented by: *Adrian Deeny*. Heracles (or Hercules as he is known by the Romans) is the greatest of heroes, but also the most savage and threatening. Examining Heracles through myth and drama. The Flavel Auditorium 6<sup>th</sup> July, 10:15am for 10:30, £4

**COFFEE CUPS Gwendolyn Alker 01803 833270 [jsgmalker@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:jsgmalker@yahoo.co.uk)** (Main Meeting Flavel 2<sup>nd</sup> Thurs) Many thanks to Linda, Ingrid and Terry, for their invaluable help in June. The next talk will be held on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> July 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 cups for refreshments. 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. As this will be our final meeting for organising The Coffee Cups, we would like to pay tribute to all the volunteers who have helped with teas and coffees over the past two years and have smoothed the transition to the new environmentally friendly arrangements for refreshments. Thank you all so much. *Mary and Michael Bell*

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

Our friendly group, which meets every Tuesday morning has been discussing the merits of knitting with large needles and the weight of wool needed for the jackets and throws that will look so effective when made. Also, Joan has been showing us the correct way to applique patchwork – so simple when you know how. We are sorry to say goodbye to June who is moving to be closer to her family. We shall miss her, and her coffee making skills, and wish her every happiness in her new home. We welcome back Chris, who broke her wrist recently. Her wrist has mended well, and she is building up the strength in her arm to return to plying her needle on her new project. Do come along if you are interested in any of the needle-based crafts, just get in touch with Joan who will be very pleased to welcome you.



**CRYPTIC CROSSWORDS** [Gwendolyn Alker 01803 833270 \[jsgmalker@yahoo.co.uk\]\(mailto:jsgmalker@yahoo.co.uk\)](mailto:gwendolyn.alker@btinternet.com)

(3<sup>rd</sup> Tues) The cryptic crossword group had an enjoyable meeting in June and completed the crossword in less than an hour. Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 18th July at 10.30. We are at our maximum of 10 but we do have a waiting list where people can join in if some of our regular members are unable to attend. If you are interested in having your name added to the list, please let Gwendolyn know.

**FRENCH CONVERSATION** [Alan Kerr 01548 531843 \[alanckerr@hotmail.com\]\(mailto:alanckerr@hotmail.com\)](mailto:alan.kerr@btinternet.com) (Irregular)

**GARDENING GROUP 1.** [Clare Ball \[ceball@live.co.uk\]\(mailto:ceball@live.co.uk\)](mailto:clare.ball@btinternet.com)

(3<sup>rd</sup> Friday) This group is going from strength to strength. We have a full complement of fourteen members so anyone wanting to join will have to join the new group starting in October. We have met the last two months in members gardens and with weather being so nice have been able to sit outside amongst the beautiful shrubs and flowers. Each garden is so different it is a treat to be able to see them in all their glory. I was unable to be at the last meeting but the members did sterling work and carried on with a successful get-together of the full membership and of course always manage to have a drink and biscuits or cake provided by the host and a good natter about any problems apart from sharing plants seeds or cuttings.

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

**GEOLOGY** [Tim Freeman 01803 832663 \[timfreeman61@googlemail.com\]\(mailto:timfreeman61@googlemail.com\)](mailto:tim.freeman@btinternet.com)

(Irregular Weds 2.30) This month we have a visit to Prawle Point on Wed 12th July. We will be there for the morning from about 9.30am and have a packed lunch on the beach. Finish about 2pm. Some coast path walking is part of the visit so you should be confident walking on this sort of terrain. This coastline has a very interesting story and has rocks quite unlike most of the rest of Devon. No charge made for this visit. To reserve a place please email [timfreeman61@googlemail.com](mailto:timfreeman61@googlemail.com) or phone 01803 832663.

**GERMAN CONVERSATION** [Ingrid Sidell 01803 770870 \[ingsid23@yahoo.co.uk\]\(mailto:ingsid23@yahoo.co.uk\)](mailto:ingrid.sidell@btinternet.com) [mob 07818208721](tel:07818208721) (for texts)

(Monthly Thurs 10.00 am in STRETE). We had an interesting meeting in my garden in Strete on June 29th, catching up and also reading a German text about Jersey, where I had been on holiday! The next meeting is scheduled for July 20th at 10 a.m. and we will be finding out about the German occupation of Jersey by looking at German texts! Please contact Ingrid if you wish to join.

**HISTORY OF ART** [Julia Churchley \[julia.churchley@hotmail.co.uk\]\(mailto:julia.churchley@hotmail.co.uk\)](mailto:julia.churchley@btinternet.com)

(3<sup>rd</sup> Fri 2pm Studio, Flavel) We finished our series of talks with a very enjoyable afternoon with Prof Peter Edwards giving us an excellent talk on Canaletto. The studio was full to capacity so thank you to everyone who came. We will return to the Flavel studio on 15<sup>th</sup> September with a new series of talks.



*Photos from the History of Art holiday to Nice in April. We look forward to a talk on the trip highlights.*



**[i P A D S GROUP Convener AlanMachin alanmachin@aol.com](#)**

(Monthly 10.30 SF Village Hall) The final meeting of the season was held on 23rd June with 14 members attending. The main topics covered included details and discussions on all forms of suspicious emails. It was pointed out that any emails of genuine concern could be forwarded to [report@phishing.gov.uk](mailto:report@phishing.gov.uk).

The first two sessions of the Autumn are planned for 22nd September and 27th October. Members will be contacted by email to confirm arrangements. In the meantime it was suggested that the small number of members having an interest in looking further into the Apple spreadsheet App "Numbers" could meet up informally. Any member wishing to be further informed about this proposal should contact either tutor, Suzie, or convener, Alan.

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

(Alternate Weds 2pm Flavel Church) We are taking a break for the summer as holidays etc were taking their toll on attendance. I will be in touch with the group and those who put their names down at the Open Morning to inform everyone about the start date.

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

The Italian Conversation Group is meeting occasionally during the summer months, usually a Friday at 2.30pm. Please telephone Tasha with any enquiries.

**[JAZZ GROUP David Gent davidmgent@protonmail.com 01803 835464](#)**

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

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

(1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Fri 10am Stoke Fleming Hall) We meet at Stoke Fleming village hall.

First and Third Friday of the month from 10am-1pm. tea/coffee/biscuits mid morning, with the occasional cake. We have two more sessions on the 7th and 21st July, then return on September 1st after our August holiday break. New players always welcome at our friendly group.

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

(Townstal Hall – Weds 12.30-1.30) In recess until 6<sup>th</sup> September.

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

(2.30pm 3<sup>rd</sup> Weds, Flavel). On 21st June the group enjoyed David Gent's presentation on the history of Gospel Music. On thanking David for such an interesting talk, I enquired if he had any other ideas for a talk and he had! We can look forward to a talk on pianist James P. Johnson who, among other things, taught Fats Waller to play the piano. Meanwhile we are taking a break for July and August before starting again on 20th September 2023 with a talk from Paul McClure on a topic tbc.

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

(Occasional). A small group of five had a round of pitch & putt on 23rd June. Thank you Janette for arranging the game. Janette Geddes will co-convene the group as I have been unable to take the group out due to various commitments. Fortunately the weather was perfect, but it brought out other 'punters' so the course was fairly busy. This put pressure on to not take too long at each hole! We had a very enjoyable game and a very welcome visit to the garden centre restaurant next door to Cayman Golf for a drink and snack which rounded off the morning nicely. You don't have to be in the P&P group to play. Anyone from the Dart Valley u3a can go along for a game. The price of £6 covers the loan of two clubs and two balls and you can do 9 holes or 18, depending on your energy and commitment! If you go along with anyone who is not a u3a member the price is the same. The exercise, fresh air and challenge to get round without losing a ball in the trees or pond is well worth the effort! You need to be fairly fit and active as you are on the go for a full two hours with no resting time between, and other players coming up behind do not like to be kept waiting! I therefore recommend not to play at the weekend especially in the holidays.

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

(4<sup>th</sup> Weds Monthly) Our June lunch was at The Cricket Inn, Beesands. The food was good the service fair, however, we came-up against a problem when it came to paying our bills'. When I booked the venue I was asked to pay a deposit of £10 per head, which I did, as is usual our members attempted to pay individually, I asked them to pay in full and I would ask for a refund when I paid last of all. It proved impossible for the manager to do this "our system will not allow it!". All it would have taken was a few minutes of his time. Due to his intransigence non of us gave a tip, unfortunately, on a more detailed look at the bill a 10% service charge had been added. Members paid a rounded down sum and will, no doubt, reimburse me at a later date.

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

(Last Thurs Monthly) **The** group enjoyed a superb lunch at the Cott Inn near Dartington during the month. The Cott is a favourite of the group and the food and service on this occasion certainly did not disappoint. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday 27th July. The venue as yet is to be decided.



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

(2<sup>nd</sup> Tues month) An excellent June lunch at Britannia on the Beach at Beesands was enjoyed by a good attendance. Thanks to those who offered lifts to those otherwise unable to attend. Plans for July are not yet finalised, but we will be taking the traditional month off in August and possibly extending it into September.

**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). Meetings are on the 14th and 28th of JULY. Cost £3 to include tea and biscuits. Please note there will be no meetings in August.

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

(Mon 11.30am – 1.00pm) In recess until September

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

(Weds 10am Dart. Leisure Centre) Still in progress to 26<sup>th</sup> July - then a break for August and return on 5<sup>th</sup> September.

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

(2<sup>nd</sup> Sun month 12.30.) We lunched at Greek Delight in Dartmouth. Lovely home cooking, fresh and tasty. As it was a sunny Summer's day we sat outside with wonderful aromatic smells emanating from the kitchen evoking great memories of holidays in Greece. Reasonably priced, too.

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

Summer at last - the walkers have had absolutely no cause for complaint about unsuitable weather. We have enjoyed the Jubilee walk, Beesands, the lovely Avon Woods, Kingswear circular walk and Slapton. The highlight was a walk to Dittisham via the woods overlooking the Dart, a strenuous climb to the top of the hill and on into Dittisham for refreshment at the FBI and a beach cookout kindly provided by Tim. The group then embarked for a short river cruise and return to Dartmouth in boats provided by our volunteer boatmen Tim and Teddy. Our thanks to you both.





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

(4th The Royal Castle Hotel – Library Room) Another gorgeous summer day, when we visited Calancombe Wine Estate. Drove through deepest, darkest Devon on very beautiful little roads to reach the winery in its idyllic setting. There are two walking routes through the south facing vineyards, orchards and plantings of blackcurrants. We tasted 4 wines and their Cassis which was liked by all, earthy not too sweet and good depth of flavour. We stopped for lunch at the Cellar Door Cafe. And we were sorely tempted by the extensive selection of cheeses and interesting items for sale. A thoroughly enjoyable outing.



*Very healthy berries on Madeleine Angevine*



**WINE TASTING** [Bill Riddell 01803 752049 billriddell75@gmail.com](mailto:Bill.Riddell@billriddell75@gmail.com)

Members homes (1<sup>st</sup> Mon pm)

How do New Zealand wines compare with those from Devon/The West Country? On Tuesday 6th June the Group addressed this question in a blind tasting of 5 wines from the Marlborough region of the South Island and their exact equivalents made from identical grape varieties grown in this part of the UK. The local wines were:

1. A sparkling wine from the Champagne grapes -Chardonnay, Pinot Noir, Pinot Meunier - Huxbear Classic Sparkling Brut NV from Chudleigh in the Teign Valley.
2. 2022 Pinot Gris from The Calancombe Estate near Modbury.
3. 2022 Sauvignon Blanc from Woodchester Valley in the Cotswolds. (Hardly any Sauvignon Blanc is grown in the UK - Woodchester have won gold medals and the top prize for their SB in Global competitions).
4. Sharpham Vineyard's 2022 Pinot Rose.
5. Sharpham's 2021 still red Pinot Noir.

Whilst all agreed that there was little to choose in quality between the respective wines, without exception the NZ wines were significantly cheaper than their UK counterparts. The standout wine of the evening was the Woodchester Sauvignon Blanc (No change from £20!) Members were asked to select which from each pair they thought was from NZ. Paul and David each scored 5/5.

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

Mon pm. Members homes. The Writers' Group will be having a summer break. I will let you know when we are starting up again.

**The next talks at the General Meeting**

Thursday July 13th **Devon Ghosts - Robert Hesketh**

August – no meeting

Thursday September 14<sup>th</sup> **“Time Gentlemen Please” - Barry Hamblin**