



9th November *Human Wildlife Conflict* Simon Palmer–Billing

A view from the Chair – Howard O’Keeffe howardokeeffe49@gmail.com

By the time you read this the Food Festival and half term will be over and we settle into a quiet time locally for a week or two until the festive season. Personally I quite like Dartmouth during quiet times!

It’s a good time to enjoy u3a – good speakers on our second Thursday events at the Flavel (9 November and 14 December), and many groups meeting and learning as always!

A quick reminder to committee members and conveners (and any aspiring conveners and helpers!) of our meeting on Thursday 30 November at the Flavel Church – we hope to have to have a well attended gathering on that morning.

Hope all members have had flu/covid jabs and stay well as the colder months arrive!

Secretary’s reminders – Christine Milsom christinemilsom@btinternet.com

Simon Palmer–Billing will be giving the talk at the next monthly meeting to be held at The Flavel on November 9th starting at 10:30am. Simon was one of the conservation photographers at AfriCat and the Namibian Lion Trust recording the regular health checks of the predators within the reserve. He also worked in the wild to capture images of the lions south of the Etosha National Park. Gaining first–hand experience with the specialist vets and conservation team, Simon distils his experience into an educational and thought–provoking talk with stunning images about the impact of humans on the wildlife of Namibia.

Membership Secretary– ‘Wiz’ Tehel [07770 912100](tel:07770912100) 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 **£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](tel:01803770134) suziedwong@gmail.com

Thank you to Steve Greenham for his valiant efforts to get a chess group started. It seems Dartmouth is not ready to play such a challenging game. Anyone wishing to play chess could approach a group in Kingswear not associated with our u3a.

All conveners are invited to a coffee morning at the **Flavel Church on Thursday 30th November at 10.30am**. Of course, all committee members are also invited and will offer any help and advice they are able to provide. The aim is to pass on a few hints and tips while enjoying swapping stories and advice.

Group reports

ASTROLOGY Geraldine Leigh geraldine.e.leigh@gmail.com

(3rd Tues, afternoon Convener’s Home). The 12 signs of the zodiac fall into one of three groups and the signs in each group have some things in common. We are looking at this currently.

ARCHERY Colin Payne [07919 933891](tel:07919933891) colinpayne43@hotmail.com

(Tues am S F Cricket Ground). Archery continued through October, with the weather remaining quite mild, and we have managed to dodge the worst of the rain. Regrettably we do not have sufficient attendance to afford an indoor venue, but we will continue outdoors into November if possible.

ARCHITECTURE Mike Trevorrow [01803 752928/07470 484858](tel:0180375292807470484858) mike.d.trevorrow@gmail.com

(4th Thurs of month 11.15 for 11.30am start in the Flavel Studio – all welcome.) Hello fellow architects, and welcome back into the u3a fray again. October’s meeting was given by Valarie Key on the American architect to the stars, Williams, and on 23rd November we are going to enjoy our trip out to Torr Abbey which I know many of you are looking forward to. December is minced wine and mulled pies time again so we will not be meeting, but in January we’ll be back in the Studio at The Flavel when I will give a talk on lighthouses, which have proved to be

most fascinating (by request from wife Jan). Enjoy the tail end of autumn and let's hope for the nice warm spell that has been predicted.

ART GROUP Pat White 07929 271658 lespatwhite@icloud.com

(Monday 10am Townstal Hall). Members have enjoyed experimenting with both watercolours and acrylics in new and different ways to good effect. Making use of scrumpled cling film over damp watercolour and leaving it to dry allowed the creation of an interesting base on which to further paint landscape scenes.



We also experimented with application of acrylic paint to capture varied colour and textural qualities of trees and other landscapes. All this experimentation allows individuals to strengthen their own skills and confidence helping them to produce exciting and individual art works. Every session is an interesting challenge with often, quite unexpected, outcomes. We continue to explore these challenges.



BOOK GROUP 1 Lindsay Charlesworth 01803 834592 lindsay@jpcharlesworth.plus.com

(10.30 – 3rd Mon Stoke Fleming) In September we discussed Barbara Kingsolver's new book *Demon Copperhead* which is a modern day American version of *David Copperfield*. All except one of our group had enjoyed it and there was certainly plenty to talk about. It was a hard read, very long (as is *David Copperfield*), but ultimately realistic and very moving. October's book was *Paris Echo* by Sebastian Foulkes and this wasn't a particularly popular read as, although historically interesting, it was rather long winded and detailed (too many Paris Street names for example). However, it was a good history lesson. On 20th November we shall be meeting in Dartmouth at Jill Payne's house when we shall be discussing *Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus. We shall also be deciding on our books for the New Year. No meeting in December.

BOOK GROUP 2 Valerie Church 01803 834280 churchval2@aol.com (1st Weds 2.30 – 4.00). We met at the beginning of October to discuss *The Lincoln Highway* which we had read during our summer break. Another wonderful book by Amor Towles which we all loved. His storytelling is superb, as is his characterisation. Read him and you will be hooked! Our present book is *The Crossing Places* by Elly Griffiths which we will be discussing in November.

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

(Flavel Studio Tues 10 – 12) No need to have a partner. Tuesday morning bridge. £3 per session. Includes tea/coffee and biscuits. Friendly non-competitive Bridge. New players very welcome. Bring a friend and enjoy a free session.

CALLIGRAPHY Gill Kidd gillkidd@btinternet.com

(Thurs 2–4pm Members home)

CLASSICS 'Wiz' Tehel [07770 912100 classics@dartvalleyu3a.org](mailto:07770_912100_classics@dartvalleyu3a.org)

(1st Thurs 10.30am Flavel Auditorium) **Life Before and After the Roman Empire**, presented by Wiz Tehel. Comparing life for people before and after the Roman Empire. Were people healthier, safer, and more comfortable after the Empire fell ... or not?

Date: Thursday 2nd November, The Flavel Auditorium. Doors open 10am, talk starts 10:30, finishes 11:45am with a 10 minute interval. **Tickets:** £4 on sale now from The Flavel website or from Flavel box office. Tickets can be purchased within the Auditorium on the day.

Please note that this is a last-minute change to our programme. If you have already purchased tickets for the original talk, they are valid for this talk, or a refund can be arranged.

Why not bring a friend along to try Classics for the first time?

COFFEE CUPS Gwendolyn Alker [01803 833270](tel: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 8832662](tel:01803_8832662) [c/o vcbest@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:c/o_vcbest@hotmail.co.uk)

(Tues 10 -12 ring first)_Our small group continues to meet on a Tuesday morning with lots of conversation on a variety of subjects and swapping of ideas on our projects. We continue with our projects while at the same time stopping for coffee and biscuits, or cake if it's someone's birthday! As this year progresses, we are thinking about making small Christmas decorations. There are so many ideas out there, what will it be....? There is still room around our table for others who would like to explore craft work. Please ring Joan and come along.

CRYPTIC CROSSWORDS Gwendolyn Alker [01803 833270](tel:01803_833270) jsgmalker@yahoo.co.uk

(3rd Tues). At our last meeting we tackled what seemed at first to be a tricky crossword but with everyone pooling their thoughts it was finished in an hour. Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 21 November at 10.30am. If you are interested in joining the group please contact Gwendolyn.

FRENCH CONVERSATION Alan Kerr [01548 531843](tel:01548_531843). [Mob:07402 276468](tel:07402_276468) alanckerr@yahoo.com

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

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

(3rd Friday) Last month we met at Gardentime. The sun shone and we were able to sit outside. We discussed the many sides of gardening at this time of year, pruning, protecting, mulching and feeding being some of the subjects. It was a most enjoyable meeting especially with a little warmth on our backs.

Next meeting will be the 17th November. 🌹 🍷 🥕

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

We have had our first meeting of the autumn which was held at my home in Pathfields. There were seven of us and we discussed quite a few things including the ever-present problem of slugs and snails and weeds which grow wherever they choose. A good meeting of like-minded people with lots of good ideas for the future. The members also have a preference to meet at 12 noon on the last Tuesday of the month in future.

GEOLOGY Tim Freeman [01803 832663](tel:01803_832663) timfreeman61@googlemail.com

(Irregular Weds 2.30) There will be no u3a Geology in November as the convener is away. Back to normal in December.

GERMAN CONVERSATION Ingrid Sidell [01803 770870](tel:01803_770870) ingsid23@yahoo.co.uk [mob 07818208721](tel:07818208721) (for texts)

(Monthly Thurs 10.00 am in STRETE).

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

(3rd Fri 2pm Studio, Flavel) A celebration of light and colour was the common theme in members presentations in September. Nick Saunders talked about the new Velarde Gallery in Kingsbridge, Jan Barwick – the Penlee House Gallery & Museum in Penzance, Julia – The Box at Plymouth, and Wendy Rayment took us to an extraordinary sculpture Garden in New Zealand, The Giant's House.

On **November 17th** 2pm at the Flavel, Penny Bowles will be giving us a presentation about the Nice art trip. Artists discussed will include Picasso, Renoir, Matisse, Chagall, and Jean Cocteau.

We have a special event on **Wednesday 6th December** (pm) when we are meeting the Devon based artist Frances Gynn RWA at her exhibition in the Velarde Gallery, Kingsbridge. She has an impressive and diverse portfolio, most recently exploring human effects on the environment in her work. All welcome but I will need a rough idea of numbers, so please email me or let me know if you would like to come. (No charge for this event).

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). A depleted number met at the Flavel Church and we covered tidying up the iPad, deleting apps not completely closed, removing unwanted web pages and emails. We also looked at reducing the memory use by deleting unwanted or poor-quality photos. The next meeting is on Wednesday 8th November 2.00pm in the Flavel Church.

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

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

(1st & 3rd Fri 10am to 1pm Stoke Fleming Village Hall) With refreshments mid morning, come along and join our friendly group. This month we are planning our Christmas lunch at Stoke Lodge Hotel on the 15th of December following our last session of the year. *Best wishes for a Happy and Healthy Christmas and New Year to all U3A members.*

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

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

Remaining dates for 2023 as follows: 1st November to 13th December.

Not just an exercise class – Medau is a method of movement training that helps with balance and co-ordination particularly important as you get older. Why not give it a try?

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

(2.30pm 3rd Weds, Flavel). No meeting in December. We had a wonderful October meeting with Ian and Mark of the Greenwood Consort. They have recently completed a course on music of the Middle Ages and they brought with them a selection of ‘medieval’ instruments including an organetto, a Gemshorn, various recorders, a lute and a couple of drums which looked rather like tambourines, all of which they proceeded to play for us (and Mark sang as well). Music wasn’t written down as such during those early times and it was interesting to see how it all evolved to the printed music we see today. All in all, a truly fascinating afternoon.

Our last meeting this year will be on Wednesday 15th November 2023, 2.30 p.m., in the Flavel’s studio. Our Russian pianist friend, Ekaterina (Kate) Shetliffe, spent the summer in Russia and visited Tchaikovsky’s house with her family. She has come back with new musical ideas, bits of history, lots of pictures, plus a recording of her playing his piano, all of which she has put together as a presentation for the u3a Music Group. I am sure this is going to be an absolutely delightful and original afternoon for us so do please come and, of course, bring any friends who you think might be interested. The charge on this occasion will be £4.00 each.

PITCH AND PUTT Jennifer Wright 01803 445247 jenniferm.wright@hotmail.co.uk (Occasional) The group has not been on an outing for some time. However, any member of the u3a can go along to Cayman Golf at Churston and play a round of pitch and putt for £6. This includes the hire of clubs and balls. Please state you are a member of the u3a to get the discount. If you go with a non-member the discount will still apply.

PUB LUNCHES GROUP (A) Alan Cole 01803 752902 alan5cole@icloud.com (4th Weds Monthly). October’s lunch was taken at The Floating Bridge, Dartmouth, nine of us attended. As usual the food was very good, large portions at not large prices with no pre-ordering or deposit required. November’s lunch will be organised by Ken and Jan Wood, venue to be decided.

PUB LUNCHES 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) Business as usual resumed in October when 10 members revisited The Floating Bridge after a lengthy absence. Choice of November venue imminent and thoughts are now turning to the annual Christmas lunch. Relevant dates are November 14th and December 12th.

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

(2–4pm 2nd & 4th Fridays Flavel Studio). We are a small friendly group who meet in The Flavel. We welcome beginners and more experienced players. Tea, coffee and biscuits are provided between games. November’s dates: – 10th and 24th.

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

(Mon 11.30am – 1.00pm) The group is continuing in its usual format and unfortunately currently has no room for new members. If anyone would like to start a second group then 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) The group continues to flourish with around 16 members. You don't have to be an expert player to join us – just willing to have a go and have a bit of fun! If you have racquets/bats (badminton/table tennis) please bring them otherwise equipment is available at the Leisure Centre. (£3.50 per session payable to the Leisure Centre).

SUNDAY LUNCH Anne Taylor 01803 363257 jonquil_shapley@hotmail.com

(2nd Sun month 12.30.) Visited one of our favourites, The Pie Shop in Totnes. There was a seasonal pie, venison, orange and juniper, very tasty, with their usual *al dente* cabbage, and choice of beef fat chips (very good), chips or fresh baby potatoes. Four sauces to choose from, white wine and mushrooms, my choice! An excellent family run restaurant, and very good value.

WALKING Hilary Cranmer 01803 835812 hilarycranmer@hotmail.co.uk (Mon 9.30am Ivatt Rd, Townstal)

What a lovely late summer we had in September, it was such a joy to see the sun and to return from a walk without muddy boots. Our familiar routes took us to Slapton, Ashprington and Sharpham woods, a Kingswear circular walk, Brixham and Dartington, with plenty of autumnal colours to enjoy as October progressed. A few of us branched out and took a coach trip to Cornwall for a change of scenery at Tintagel and Boscastle – it was a wild and windy day, real Poldark weather.

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

(4th The Royal Castle Hotel – Library Room) The Noble Rotters met for a tasting of seven English wines on 26th October. 11 members attended. We kicked off with a Bramble Hill Sparkling Wine. (£14 – M and S). This was a very drinkable bubbly enjoyed by all. However, £14 was thought to be a bit pricey for an everyday fizz.

We then sampled a Balfour Chardonnay. (£14 – M and S). Generally this was not a hit. Felt it was lacking depth, tasted watered down and certainly overpriced.

Next was a blind tasting of a Nettle Wine. (£12.50 – Inspirations Brixham). A few hints were needed before nettles were mentioned. This was a fairly sweet wine mostly enjoyed for the novelty value.

The fourth bottle was a Pink Lily Rose (£12, but on offer for £6 – M and S). This was very well received. It was fruity and fresh with a lot of flavour and at £6 a great price.

We then tried a Little Bee Orange Wine (£18.95 – Dartmouth Wine Company). This was a Sharpham *pinot gris*. For most this was a disappointing wine with an unusual taste and certainly not value for money.

The sixth wine was a Sharpham *Pinot Noir*. (£20 – Michael Sutton). We all liked this wine. Definitely one to buy if you'd like a treat.

Last was a blind tasting of a Black Beer and Raisin Wine (£13.50 – Inspirations Brixham). There were very mixed opinions about this wine. Cough mixture, port, sherry and caramel were all mentioned.

WINE TASTING Bill Riddell 01803 752049 billriddell75@gmail.com

Members homes (1st Mon pm) Paul Noonan, our host for the October Tasting, chose as his theme “*Wines of Italy*”. As an introduction to the evening Paul selected an upmarket *Valdobbiadene Prosecco Superiore* from the Dartmouth Wine Company – a lightly sparkling wine with an elegant finish. This was followed by two excellent Wine Society still dry white wines, – a fruity *Langhe Favorita* from Piemonte and a *Zibibbo* (aka Muscat!) from coastal Sicily with an unusually salty minerality.

We then tasted seven red wines from across the length and breadth of the country – a *Negroamaro* and a *Susumaniello* from Puglia, a *Montepulciano D’Abruzzo* from Pescara on the Adriatic, a *Cannonau* (aka Grenache) from Sardinia, a *Sangiovese* from Toscana, and finally a *Barbera* and a *Barolo Riserva* (2014) from Piemonte. The *Barolo*, available at the bargain price of £16 from Lidl, and the *Santodeno Negroamaro* (2021) from Sainsbury’s at £9 were the favourites.

WRITERS Val Depledge 01803 834323 valdepledge@hotmail.com

Mon pm. Members homes.

Talks at the General Meeting

Thursday 9th November *Human Wildlife Conflict* Simon Palmer-Billing

Thursday 14th December *The Wit and Songs of Noel Coward* by Peter Gill