

## Chat from the Chair



Last month I mentioned that each year at our AGM all committee members stand down. We are in the fortunate position that some of our committee are willing to stand for re-election. You will have seen in the last newsletter and in an email to all members that we are looking for a **Vice Chair** (an Officer position), and the role description of this is on our website at <https://u3asites.org.uk/files/e/exmouth/docs/vicechair-roledescriptionexmouthanddistrictu3a20220301.pdf>. For information our committee currently meets on the first Tuesday in the month from 13:00 to 15:00 via Zoom. I know that our members have a great deal to offer and if you are interested in finding out ways in which you can help our u3a by standing as Vice Chair please contact me in the first instance on [chairperson@exmouthu3a.org.uk](mailto:chairperson@exmouthu3a.org.uk).

Also we are still looking for someone to manage our small set of equipment; loaning it out and ensuring it is returned. This is a non-committee position. If you feel you could help, please contact Ian McLauchlin, our Secretary, on [secretary@exmouthu3a.org.uk](mailto:secretary@exmouthu3a.org.uk).

**Please use your time, skills and enthusiasm to help make good things happen for our u3a.**

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Maureen Phillips who is stepping down from our committee. Some of you will know Maureen from our 'Connect on Thursday' sessions where she has given lovely presentations. Maureen was one of the members of our working party for National u3a Day and very usefully took the minutes. I was grateful for her support in undertaking a risk assessment for our return to Exmouth Pavilion and more recently she has helped to ensure that we will have two floral displays in Exmouth provided by Exmouth in Bloom for our tenth anniversary. Thank you Maureen.

**£2201.00** was collected for the Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC) Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal at our monthly meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> March (please see page 3). This is all thanks to your generosity and because of an initiative from Olwen and John Smith who suggested the idea to our committee and then organised the collection. Thank you Olwen and John.

John Hunt, our Newsletter Editor, always thanks the contributors of our newsletter but we all need to extend our thanks to John as it involves a lot of work and keeps us all so well informed and interested. Thank you John.

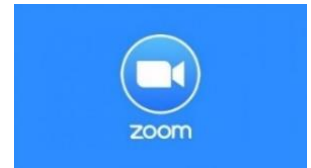
Lastly a plea. Please ensure that you help our u3a by reading all the material associated with our **AGM on 12<sup>th</sup> May 2022** (please see page 2) and importantly voting in advance or on the day so that we are quorate and can function for and by the members.

With best wishes,

*Christine Chittock*  
*Chair and Speakers' Coordinator*

## Next monthly meeting: Thursday 7 April 2022 – in Exmouth Pavilion and on Zoom

We are back in Exmouth Pavilion again for our next monthly meeting on Thursday 7 April 2022 (please note the earlier date) from 10:00 for a 10:30 start. We will also be streaming this simultaneously live on Zoom for any members who are unwilling or unable to attend in person and instead wish to join us from home. Zoom connection details are in the members' newsletter.



The subject is 'Devon Historical and Hysterical'. Folksinger/songwriter/poet **Maggie Duffy** will entertain us with her legends/poetry/dialect/songs and stories of Devon along with her guitar. Some of her songs have gained national recognition. Writing 'Peace for the Child' earned her a meeting with Sir Terry Wogan, and a session at the fabulous Maida Vale Studios in London.

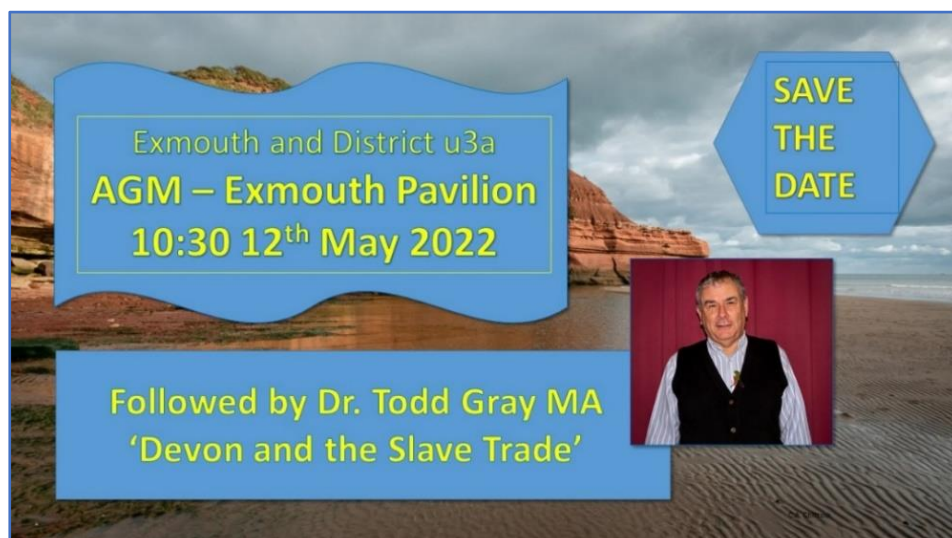
Maggie's website is <http://www.maggieduffy.co.uk/>.

We look forward to seeing you on 7 April. And if you are attending in person, you are reminded that the Pavilion Café is now operating a loyalty card system, offering a free coffee or tea after 10 purchases. More details and the loyalty cards are available direct from the Pavilion Café.

## Our Annual General Meeting – Thursday 12 May

On 25 March, Ian McLauchlin, our Secretary, circulated a comprehensive bulletin about our AGM. This gives formal notice of the AGM, and notification that 12 April is the closing date for receipt of nominations for the committee and for submission of any items for consideration at the AGM. Most of the documentation is also on our website (at <https://u3asites.org.uk/exmouth/page/90369>) and on our Facebook Group.

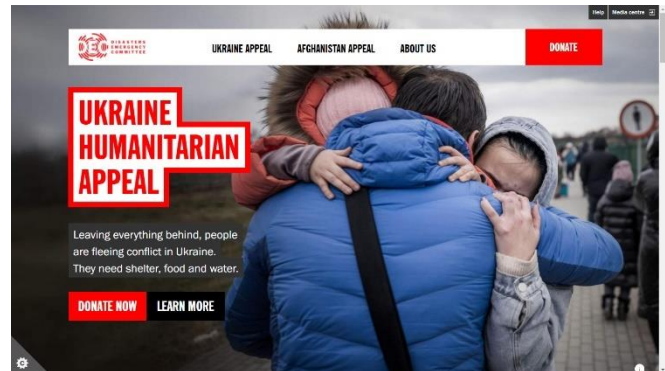
Please make time to read this as we need a good attendance at our meeting (either in person or via Zoom) to ensure that we are quorate. The bulletin and the supporting documents give you all the details.



## DEC Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal Update

I would like to thank all those members of Exmouth & District u3a who generously contributed to the DEC Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal at our monthly meeting on 10th March. I also received cheques by post and at the afternoon tea event, so people were still thinking about it long after the meeting.

I am pleased to tell you that a total of £2201.00 was collected and has been donated to the DEC appeal. In addition, the DEC should also be able to claim back Gift Aid to the value of £218.75. This would make a grand total of £2419.75. A fantastic amount.



<https://www.dec.org.uk/>

I also know that many of our members have made personal donations to this appeal and to many other charities on other occasions.

Thank you so much for your kindness and thoughtfulness.

*Olwen Smith, Membership Secretary*

## Covid-19 information

The incidence of Covid-19 is unfortunately at an all-time high, both nationally and here in East Devon. Here is a reminder of some relevant guidance:

**Government website:** The latest national information, guidance and support on Covid-19 is on the official government website – <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>.

As we now know, the government is removing the remaining domestic restrictions in England, but is advising everyone to take steps to reduce the risk of catching it:

- Get vaccinated
- Let fresh air in if meeting indoors, or meet outside
- Consider wearing a face covering in crowded, indoor spaces
- Get tested if you have Covid-19 symptoms, and stay at home if possible.



**Devon County Council website:** Guidance on Covid-19 from Devon County Council is at

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/coronavirus-advice-in-devon/>.



**Hybrid meetings:** For those who remain reluctant or aren't able to join groups which are meeting indoors, the option of running groups as hybrid meetings using Zoom is available and allows everyone to join in.

More details are on our Connect & Learn website at <https://sites.google.com/view/connectandlearn/video-calls>.

## Reminder for Membership Renewal – 2022/23

Many thanks to all the members who have paid or been in touch regarding their membership renewals.

We are looking forward to welcoming you back for another year as a member of Exmouth & District u3a.

If you have not already done so then please see below.

### Payment at Exmouth Pavilion

Payments can be made in person at the April meeting (Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> April) at the Pavilion either by cheque or cash or credit/debit card. **If you intend to pay by card you must have your membership number.**

If possible, please bring a covering note containing your membership number and address.

### Payment by posting a cheque

If you wish to post your cheque now, please make the cheque payable to 'Exmouth & District u3a', and post to the address shown below, with a covering note, showing your address and membership number.

Post to: Membership Secretary at the address given in the Members' newsletter.

### Payment by Standing Order

If you wish to change to payment by standing order, forms are available from the Membership Secretary. Details of how to make contact are below.

### Subscription rates

The current subscriptions were agreed at our 2021 AGM:

**£12.00 (individual) or £24 (joint membership) or £8.50 (Associate membership)**



If you have any problems or questions, please contact me either by:

- Email: [membership@exmouthu3a.org.uk](mailto:membership@exmouthu3a.org.uk) , or
- By telephone

***Olwen Smith***  
***Membership Secretary***

## Exmouth & District u3a online

How recently have you looked at what we offer online? It's constantly changing. For details of our u3a website, Facebook Group (open to all), our YouTube channel for our videos and our Connect & Learn website, please take a look at the last page of this newsletter (page 15). Which of these do you find is the most useful? Which do you like the best? What more could we do online to meet your needs? All comments very welcome!

***John Hunt, Newsletter Editor***  
[newsletter@exmouthu3a.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@exmouthu3a.org.uk)

## Group news

This month has been very busy. At last we can all not only look forward to Spring but also to start resuming our Groups in the normal way, although online serves a purpose. In my opinion there is nothing nicer than meeting friends and colleagues in person and to follow our u3a ethos – live, learn and laugh together.

Here are the new groups that have started and other group news:

- **ExBalletCise:** Every Friday between 10am & 11am at Scott Drive Church Hall, Exmouth (top of Pound Lane) starting on Friday 29th April. This is a class based on ballet and stretching. ExBalletCise is a ballet fitness class to improve strength, tone, posture, balance and flexibility. Exercises are based on traditional ballet (Plies, Tendus, Ports de bras etc) but don't worry – the exercises are simple to follow and we also use easy terminology.  
COST: a very reasonable £6.00 per class, (if you then decide it's for you, payable monthly in advance). For more details, please contact: Jan Harper Shea by phone or email.
- **Urban Sketching Group:** A group of 6 to 8 artists who wish to improve their observance and drawing skills. To meet as a group in a public area, indoors or outside, dependent on weather with a small sketch book and pen. The aim is to sketch fast, observing the way people stand and angles of their whole posture, building with different shapes and angles. Generally, we would exchange ideas and skills as a group. The plan is to meet on the last Saturday of the Month. For details, please contact Beryl Leader by email.
- **Sailing: Dinghy and Water sports:** Please contact Roger Moseley by phone or email.
- **Book Group Topsham 3:** Meet once a month in Topsham in the comfort of a home, on a mutually convenient day and time, to discuss a chosen book. Library sets for book discussion may be used. Please contact Margaret Read by email.
- **iPad for New Users Group:** This group previously ran on an informal basis in my home (Topsham) but has not been running for the last few years. I am wondering if there would be any interest in its revival. The aim of the group would be to boost confidence in using an iPad (or iPhone). Complete beginners would be welcome as would those who have knowledge that they are happy to share. If this is a group you would be interested in joining, or if you came in previous years and would like to come again, please contact Liz Gayton via email or by phone.
- **Knitting Group:** To meet once a month 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday 2–4pm at Star Coffee. If you are interested in joining this new group contact Ailsa Buxton by email.
- **Italian for Beginners:** This group is restarting and if you would like to join or re-join contact Carol Blyth by email.
- **Bridge Group:** A member is interested in co-organising a Bridge Group. Please contact Russ Colledge by email if you are interested in joining him.
- **Outdoor Bowls** at Budleigh Salterton Bowls Club is starting 19<sup>th</sup> April, and they have vacancies.
- **Model Railway Group** have vacancies now.



Thank you to all the Group Organisers old and new.

*Lyn Holmes,*

*Groups Coordinator*

[groups@exmouthu3a.org.uk](mailto:groups@exmouthu3a.org.uk)



## Social Group News

Our recent coffee morning and tea afternoon, which were arranged as part of our 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations, were enjoyed by all who attended. The overriding feeling from members was that how much they had all enjoyed a) meeting up and chatting with existing friends but b) becoming acquainted with newer members. As far as the latter group is concerned, these events offered them an opportunity to talk in a relaxed way to current members and gain an informal view of what our u3a can offer.

Our next social event is a coach trip, in May, to Delamore House on Dartmoor to visit the beautiful gardens and indoor and outdoor art exhibits. This trip is fully booked as many members had previously signed up to join the 2020 visit but, as you will all be aware, such events were unable to take place. Consequently the majority of those applying for this year's trip were given priority booking options. The Social Committee apologise to those members who feel disappointed at not being able to come along in May, but this will surely become an annual event due to its popularity.

A full list and details of forthcoming trips that have been arranged to take place over the coming months will be available at the next monthly u3a meeting on 7 April.

Members of the Social Committee look forward to meeting more of our members in the very near future.

*Alice Robson, Lyn Holmes, Clare Dawson and Jenny Comben*  
**Social Committee**

## 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Coffee Morning



***Photo courtesy of Christine Chittock, who enjoyed the get together but was very sorry to miss the session on 21<sup>st</sup> March.***

## Group News – Walking Group 1

In early March we celebrated ten years of our group with a damp and slightly wet anniversary walk to Lympstone organised by Christine and Maurice Chittock. This was one of our earliest walks when the group was first formed and we were joined for coffee in the Swan in Lympstone by the first leader of the group, Audrey Parry, and another original member John Petty. The group has flourished over the years and now has 25 members with several on the waiting list.



In the middle of the month we had our annual lunch this year at the Puffing Billy in Exton. This was our delayed December meal which was cancelled due to the difficulties caused by the covid situation at the time. Our usual two monthly walks resume for April.

**Mike Holbrook, Group Organiser (photos by Christine Chittock)**

## Important changes to all landline phones

At our March Computer and New Technology Group meeting and at recent Zoom Coffee & Chat sessions we have been discussing our concerns over the complex issue of phasing out and eventually ceasing the ageing copper cable connections currently used for our landline phones, replacing them with fibreoptic cables by 2025. Whilst this important changeover date will not be completed until 2025, at least one of our members has been notified of the change to their BT Landline in Exmouth and the change has already been carried out. This change is certainly a matter for our members to be aware of since it may affect them before 2025.

The change will affect ALL of us regardless of our telephone provider. BT and Virgin have already switched many customers (including those in Exeter) to the new Internet-based service known technically as "Voice over Internet (VoIP)". The "old" copper-line telephone cables connected to our telephone landline line box in our homes will have to be replaced with a connection to the Internet. There are several implications that this change may affect our members, for example, emergency calls when there is a power cut.

For more background and user-friendly specific information about the changeover of landlines, follow this AGE UK link where you can read about the changes and what this will mean for you – <https://www.ageuk.org.uk/information-advice/money-legal/consumer-issues/changes-to-landline-telephones/>. More details are at <https://www.futureofvoice.co.uk/home-phone-users/>. The very latest news on this is that BT has said that it is halting this removal programme for the moment following a number of complaints about it, but is hoping to resume it by the end of the year. More details about this are at <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/money/consumer-affairs/bt-halts-removal-landline-phones-vulnerable-unable-call-999/>

**Bryan Webb, Helen Lester and John Hunt, Members of the Computer & New Technology Group**



## Group News – Bird Watching Group 2: Guided Bird Watching Boat Trip on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> March

It was sunny and quite warm; the trip felt like a holiday cruise! This was the last bird watching trip of the season and we were a little concerned that there might not be much to see. In fact we saw around 28 different species of bird albeit in smaller numbers than are seen in winter. There were still plenty of dark-bellied Brent geese and black-tailed godwit. We even saw a few avocet, green shank, red shank and red-breasted mergansers. The sanderling looked striking in their winter plumage and there was even a grey seal. Thanks to Keith Urwin for the photographs.



*Shelduck*



*Redshank*



*Dark-bellied goose*



*Grey Heron*



*Avocets*

The guide, Derek Carter has posted a blog on the Stuart Line website, and you can read this at at <https://www.stuartlinecruises.co.uk/news/guided-bird-watching-thursday-17th-march/>

*Debbie Wright, Group Organiser*



## Group News – Natural History Group visit to All Saints' Churchyards, East Budleigh – Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> March

Members of the Natural History group were welcomed into a warm All Saints' Church for a presentation by group members Paul and Penny Kurowski about the management of the Churchyards. The "Living Churchyard" approach was adopted in 1995; however, over the years, without proper clearance of the autumn grass cutting 'arisings', the Churchyards became overgrown with tall, coarse grasses and hogweed. We were invited to take over the leadership of the Churchyard Working Party and the delegated management of the Churchyards in 2017. We kept the "Living Churchyard" approach but developed a new cutting regime with a local gardener empathetic to the aims of improving the biodiversity. One of the important things he does is to remove the "arisings" after the cut, so that the soil isn't enriched – this is important as rich soil leads to the coarser grass and plants taking over.



Since late-2017, the cutting regime has helped to develop one section of the Churchyard into a Spring Meadow and other sections into a large Summer Meadow. The results have been significant – since 2020, over 120 flowers have been identified and recorded. Records have been kept for the birds, bats, insects, mammals, sedges, grasses, mosses, lichens and fungi seen in the Churchyards showing an increase in the biodiversity of species ... the work continues.

The Churchyard Working Party maintains the Churchyards once a month and paid contractors cut the grass – the cost has to be covered by grant applications, donations and All Saints' Church

(which does not receive any funds from the Church of England / Diocese). The work undertaken by the volunteers and contractors has resulted in awards from the Campaign to Protect Rural England Devon's Best Churchyard in all four years of the competition.

Despite the drizzle, we walked around the Churchyards to show the plan in reality, stopping to look at:

- The yew by the front door where a large branch had recently split off, revealing an old concrete repair!
- The lichens on the gravestones – these are left in place, despite the fact they hide the lettering in some cases
- The mosses in the grass near the church hall, and *Veronica serpyllifolia* (Thyme-leaved Speedwell) which Diane spotted – flowering very early this year!
- Dog vomit slime mould (yes, really!)
- The various trees including Norway Maple and Monterey Pine, and near the shed the *Thuja plicata* (conifer) with pineapple scented foliage
- The two different types of yew – English Yew with its spreading form, and the more upright Irish Yew
- The flint wall with maidenhair spleenwort and black spleenwort ferns, plus mosses and a barren strawberry
- The snowdrops and wild daffodils near the gate to Yettington Road
- A variety of mosses on the north side of the church.



We explained that churchyards are oases of unspoilt grassland that have remained untreated by chemicals or improved by fertiliser for hundreds of years, and the memorial stones are often the only place locally that large quantities of stone are available for lichens and mosses to grown on. This makes churchyards havens for all kinds of wildlife. If you want to find out more then Caring for God's Acre is a good place to start, and they have an interesting website: <https://www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk>



For more information about the Churchyards at East Budleigh including the Management Plan and the Churchyard Working Party, please go to: <https://www.raleighmissioncommunity.org.uk/our-churchyards.html>

**Paul and Penny Kurowski**

**Leaders of Church working party and Natural History Group members**

*Paul and Penny also took the photos except the photo of All Saints' Church which was taken by Peter Bowler*

## Exmouth Arts

Some of you may remember that a topic I covered in my Connect & Learn Group three years ago was 'Exmouth Arts'. This featured in a section on our Connect & Learn website (<https://sites.google.com/view/connectandlearn>), and it linked in with an initiative I had taken to establish Exmouth's own arts website. The



website is an online guide to [art](#), [music](#), [theatre and comedy](#), [literature](#), [poetry](#), [film](#) and [dance](#) in Exmouth, and also includes details of [organisations and groups](#) involved in the arts and cultural activities in Exmouth, details of [venues](#) in Exmouth, and other related things. Then a couple of years ago I established a public Facebook Group open to all also called Exmouth Arts, and something new is posted there usually every day (including news about local arts events). This had steadily grown and there are now 400 members. To see the website and the Facebook Group, just click or tap on these links:

- Exmouth Arts website: <https://www.exmoutharts.co.uk/>
- Exmouth Arts Facebook Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/exmoutharts>

I recently did a complete update of the Exmouth Arts website, and if you have a moment please take a look at this and tell me what you think. Is there anything left out? What else would you like to see on it? Is it useful? Would you recommend any changes? Any feedback on this would be most welcome!

**John Hunt, Newsletter Editor**

[newsletter@exmouthu3a.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@exmouthu3a.org.uk)



## Monthly meetings for 2022 – our 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year

You are most welcome to join us for our monthly meetings at **10:00 for a 10:30 start to approx. 11:45**. These are held in **Exmouth Pavilion**. When we meet there, we have a 'Link Up' table in the Pavilion Café for new and recent members; a chance to get together and have a chat and find out more about our u3a. Our Social Committee is in the main hall and you can find out about forthcoming activities and outings. We will keep you informed of any changes (see our website at <https://u3asites.org.uk/exmouth/events>), and we have a most interesting programme for our anniversary year including many references to Devon.

Our monthly meetings in the Pavilion are now also streamed live on Zoom simultaneously for any members who don't want to or are unable to attend in person and instead wish to join us from home. Zoom connection details are below.

In addition to our monthly meetings in the Pavilion and on Zoom, we also have presentations on the fourth Thursday in the month, and these are at 10:15 for 10:30 to 11:30 via Zoom only.

The Zoom connection details for the monthly meetings and for the Zoom presentations and for all our other u3a Zoom meetings are in the Members' newsletter

This is for u3a members only, so please don't share these Zoom details with anyone else. If you experience difficulties, email John Hunt at [johnh@exmouthu3a.org.uk](mailto:johnh@exmouthu3a.org.uk). In the unlikely event that we are having problems with this link at the time, please keep an eye on your email inbox at the time for further information.

Date	Presenter	Description
Thurs 7 <sup>th</sup> Apr (please note the earlier date)	Maggie Duffy <a href="http://www.maggieduffy.co.uk/">http://www.maggieduffy.co.uk/</a> For details see page 2	'Devon Historical and Hysterical': Folksinger/song writer/poet Maggie will entertain us with her legends /poetry/dialect /songs and stories of Devon along with her guitar. Some of her songs have gained national recognition. Writing 'Peace for the Child' earned her a meeting with Sir Terry Wogan, and a session at the fabulous Maida Vale Studios in London.
Thurs 28 <sup>th</sup> April	John Hunt, Newsletter Editor, via Zoom	'Everything you need to know about scams': With the amount of fraud reaching a record high level, we all need to be constantly aware of scams. John will be presenting the very latest material about scams from the National Neighbourhood Watch movement.
Thurs 12 <sup>th</sup> May	AGM followed by Dr Todd Gray	'Devon and the Slave Trade': A welcome return by Todd Gray. As Todd says: "The history of Devon's involvement in African slavery can be contentious, mostly because of its legacy in race relations but also because we are still learning about it."
Thurs 26 <sup>th</sup> May	Members' Zoom presentation	Would any member like to volunteer to give a short presentation or talk at this Zoom meeting?

Christine Chittock, Chair and Speakers' Coordinator – [speakers@exmouthu3a.org.uk](mailto:speakers@exmouthu3a.org.uk)



## Zoom Coffee & Chat

These sessions are via Zoom and usually on 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Thursday mornings from 10:15 for 10:30 to 11:30.



Zoom Coffee & Chat sessions are open to all our members and are a good opportunity for a chat. You may have something you would like to share on a 'show and tell' basis, particularly any activities you have participated in as a group member. So why not make yourself a cup of coffee or tea and join us; you will be most welcome. The Zoom connection details are the same as shown at the top of the previous section on page 11. (Photo by Christine Chittock)

### Dates for April and May 2022:

14<sup>th</sup> April and 21<sup>st</sup> April; 5<sup>th</sup> May and 19<sup>th</sup> May

If you would like a reminder by email (with the link) the day before each of our sessions, please let me know and I will add you to our Zoom Coffee & Chat email circulation list.

*John Hunt, Newsletter Editor*

[newsletter@exmouthu3a.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@exmouthu3a.org.uk)

## Active Travel Day – and Getting Around in Exmouth

Active Travel Day was planned for 2020 but Covid scuppered it. It's now happening on **Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> April** and you can see more about this on the poster on the right.




It is being run jointly by Exmouth Town Council and Transition Exmouth and we hope we may have one, or two with luck, e-cargo bikes purchased as a result of the recent crowd-funding appeal to encourage an alternative to the family car and light delivery vans. They are electric assisted as Exmouth is far from flat and will be available soon for hire.

I gave a talk on one of our Zoom Coffee & Chat sessions about my work with Active Travel Exmouth on producing information on over a hundred pathways in Exmouth and they will be featuring their website [www.gettingaroundexmouth.org](http://www.gettingaroundexmouth.org).

It should be interesting and worth your support.

*John Petty  
Member*


EXMOUTH CLIMATE EMERGENCY ACTION


# ACTIVE TRAVEL DAY




CYCLING. WALKING  
PUBLIC TRANSPORT




SAT 30 APRIL 10AM-4PM  
THE STRAND

BIKES + E-BIKES  
FREE BIKE CHECKS\*  
WALKING GROUPS  
ADVICE ON LOCAL ROUTES  
AND PUBLIC TRANSPORT







\*Please phone 07950 222672  
to book a free bike check up


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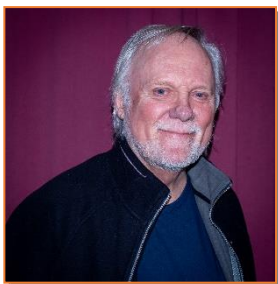


www.gettingaroundexmouth.org



**Exmouth**  
Town Council

## Review of Professor Peter Edwards on 'Cataclysmic Italy' in Exmouth Pavilion on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2022



Last year Professor Edwards delivered two presentations for us via 'Zoom'; 'The Death of Venice' and 'The Greek Temples of Italy' which were full of illustrations, maps and diagrams. This time 'in person' we could clearly see the many images Professor Edwards had selected and annotated so well on the Pavilion's large screen, so that by the end we were more knowledgeable about the geo physics of Italy.

Professor Edwards started by recommending Melvyn Bragg's Radio 4 programme 'In Our Time' on 'Seismology' <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m00154gh> which had been broadcast earlier in the morning. That programme covered the study of earthquakes and in the Pavilion we were shown an excellent series of diagrams and maps and the impact of earthquakes for the inhabitants of Italy and the resulting destruction of buildings including churches and clock towers.

The audience responded in shock when we were shown the moment part of the beautiful, vaulted ceiling of St Francis' Basilica in Assisi came down during the 1997 earthquakes. A tragic event for those who had gathered in the church to inspect the damage to the ceiling's 13th century frescoes. Four people were killed, including two government scientists who had been called in to make the survey and two of the basilica's Franciscan friars. A film crew just happened to be in the building to record the ongoing inspection. As Professor Edwards sat in the basilica some years later it was with some trepidation as he noted a large vertical crack on an adjacent wall through one of the many 13th century Giotto frescoes. As the Richter scale was explained to us we noted some quaking text on the left of the screen; little touches like this brought the presentation to life together with our refuse collectors outside the Pavilion providing us with sound effects.

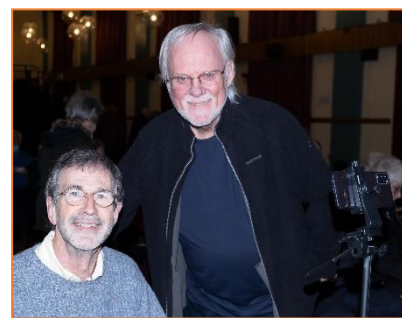
Volcanoes were listed as 'active', 'erupting', 'dormant' and 'extinct'. A map of dots looking like smarties showed us the extent of volcanoes across Italy. Fortunately the 'active volcanoes' are closely monitored. Vesuvius near Naples last erupted in 1944 (and as an aside this had been observed by my father-in-law in the 2<sup>nd</sup> WW along with many other British troops) Mount Etna in Sicily shows continuous activity as do two other volcanoes Stromboli and Vulcano in the Aeolian islands.

Not so well known is Mount Somma, the remnant of a large volcano out of which grew the peak of Mount Vesuvius. However once we were shown a relief map of the area we could see the significance of the landscape with the resulting destruction but also the rich fertile soils created by volcanic eruptions. So out of tragedy there were some benefits as well.

In answer to a question asking about local interest groups in Geology, Professor Edwards mentioned approaching the Geology Department at Exeter University. However, a valuable source of information is a series of lectures on a YouTube channel from Central Washington University given by Nick Zentner to his first-year students during lockdown. Anyone with an interest in volcanoes and earthquakes would benefit from viewing his easy-going style of informative lectures via <https://www.nickzentner.com/#/geol-101/>

Following the superb questions by our audience I mentioned our own active u3a Geology group with visits to local sites of geological interest. Plus a recommendation to visit Professor Edwards' interesting and informative website <https://italianreflections.wordpress.com/> created during the lockdowns and well worth a visit.

With thanks to Professor Edwards for allowing us to 'live stream' his presentation to our members; 28 of whom had logged on via Zoom and facilitated by John Hunt in the Pavilion and by Ian McLaughlin at home.



*Review and photos by Christine Chittock, Chair and Speakers' Coordinator*



## Review of Ella Young's 'Winter Holiday in India' – 24<sup>th</sup> March 2022 on Zoom



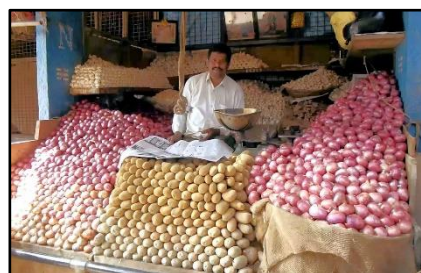
We were very fortunate that Ella agreed to give us yet another talk, telling us about her 'Winter Holiday in India'. She modestly told us she was just reliving her holidays! This time it was part holiday and part work as she was teaching science in a children's home.

First of all, Ella set the scene by telling us that she came from quiet, cool, civilised Prague where she was living at the time to a noisy, chaotic and very poor Puttaparthi. The streets were full of traders with stalls piled with colourful fruit and vegetables, clothing, footwear, garlands and more, and very noisy with a few hooting cars but many more polluting three-wheeled vehicles. You had to be aware of animals wandering around and monkeys would sneak onto your balcony and steal bananas if you weren't careful. They did the same with unfinished food in restaurants!



She showed us photographs of some famous buildings including the local ashram and the impressive Maharaja's Palace at Mysore. She recounted sitting on a hard floor for hours in the temple where she sang in a Christmas concert. Men and women were strictly segregated in the stadium

and in queues for food. She realised that because people's personal space tended to be zero, they would often touch you, without being aware it was offensive to some people.



The school provided neither syllabus nor teaching equipment. Ella managed to improvise and taught about such things as solubility using sand and salt and about chemical indicators using red cabbage juice. To illustrate how unstable a bus is when people sit on top, she taught about centre of gravity using differently weighted cardboard boxes. The children sat on the floor and found it all captivating. Teaching biology was difficult until she had the brilliant idea of dissecting 'roadkill' in the form of a crow. This fascinated and revolted the children in equal measure.

We learnt that ironing clothes was done using a charcoal-heated iron and solar cookers were available but they weren't very useful preparing an evening meal.



We were captivated by the stories and photographs and didn't want the talk to end. Her talk stimulated many questions and plenty of discussion – including reflections from a new member who had spent time in another part of India and who may be persuaded to give us another talk about India in the future!



Thank you very much Ella.

Ella kindly agreed once again to allow us to record her talk, and this presentation is now up on our YouTube channel (click or tap here: <https://youtu.be/pwrc52Fgr40>), along with her previous presentations, so you can look at these at any time.

**Ian McLauchlin, Secretary**

*Photos courtesy of Ella Young*



## Exmouth & District u3a online – our digital world





When you are not actively involved in our u3a meetings there is always a lot to see and do online at any time that suits you – and from the comfort of your own home (or wherever else you happen to be in the world!). There are a number of ways we can connect with each other (as well as by email):

- Our Exmouth & District u3a website: <https://u3asites.org.uk/exmouth/home>
- Our u3a YouTube channel: [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCC\\_Wy5Vkb2C1itp1JhKtxAA](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCC_Wy5Vkb2C1itp1JhKtxAA)
- Our u3a Facebook Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/exmouthU3A>
- Our u3a Connect & Learn website: <https://sites.google.com/view/connectandlearn> (and especially our Ideas and news page – at <https://sites.google.com/view/connectandlearn/ideas>).

Which of these do you look at? Which is the most useful or the most interesting? Are there any ways we can improve what we offer? Your comments are always most welcome!

Here are the latest videos we have posted on our YouTube channel – three of which are from Ella Young (see previous page). She gave the talk on 'Birdsong and the Dawn Chorus' last year, but it is good to see this again because it is particularly relevant at this time of year!

Uploads
▶ PLAY ALL

 55:25	 51:56	 5:45	 49:40
'Winter Holidays in India' by Ella Young.	"Birdsong and the Dawn Chorus" by Ella Young.	What's coming up next In Exmouth & District u3a -...	'A Walking Holiday in the Sahara' by Ella Young.

## Our next edition

I hope you have enjoyed reading this newsletter, and thank you to our contributors this month. What other things would you like to see in future editions of the newsletter?

Do you have any views or comments about this newsletter? Does it meet your needs? Can you suggest any ways in which it could be better? Would you like to contribute anything for the next newsletter in May? I get very little response to my pleas – so now's the time to respond!

Please contact me using the email address below. Photos, art, short articles and stories and poems from more members would be especially welcome. The deadline for receipt of copy for next month's edition is **Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> April**.



Thank you very much.

**John Hunt**

**Newsletter Editor**

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