



## Chat from the Chair



Thank you so much to all of our members who supported us in the organisation of our first 'hybrid' AGM and special thanks to Ian Bateman for stepping up at the last moment to ensure that the 'hybrid' system worked in the Pavilion with Ian McLauchlin, our Secretary, operating the system from his home, thus ensuring that the 31 members who logged on could join in.

Each time I write the Chat from the Chair I like to take the opportunity to thank you our members and this month I would like to extend thanks to our Meeters and Greeters: Ailsa Buxton; Bob Nicholls; Camilla Benyon; Carol Hitt; Diana Townson; Glenn Sismore-Hunt; Jan Twyman; John Smith; Kate Wilcox; Margaret Channon; Olwen Smith; Shirley Reid and Sue Rees. They are there each month to greet members and visitors, aid and assist as needed, all with a cheery smile and a warm welcome. At our AGM they were there supporting us so well and indeed helping with the count of votes. Thank you very much.

In this newsletter you will see photos of our new committee on page 3. It is good to know that we have members who are prepared to step up to the mark, supporting us all with their time, their experience, skills and expertise and their passion for our u3a and all it has to offer.

However we are a small committee for a large u3a and I would ask that if you are able to help in any way that you get in contact with us. In particular we are looking for a member with database skills. As this involves sight of members' details this is a committee position but not too onerous. Our committee meet on the first Tuesday in the month (except August) from 13:00 to 15:00 via 'Zoom'. We require someone to keep 'Beacon' (our membership database system) up to date to make changes for system users. Additionally to introduce new Group Organisers on how to use the system and to keep a watching brief on the committee email system and update users. If you would like to find out more about this role please contact me on [chairperson@exmouthu3a.org.uk](mailto:chairperson@exmouthu3a.org.uk).

One of our 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary events follows on shortly after you receive this newsletter on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> June in the Pavilion from 10:15 to 12:15. On the theme of 'Friendship' and by the members for the members this is an opportunity to entertain and be entertained.

With thanks to the volunteers from Exmouth in Bloom we have a planter to mark our 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year in the Strand opposite the cinema, so if you get the chance do go and have a look. Please see page 10. There are some wonderful planters, cared for by a number of volunteers helping to brighten up our town and important for insects of course.

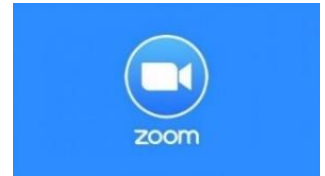
Looking forward to seeing you at one of our special events this year.

With best wishes,

**Christine Chittock**  
**Chair**

## Next monthly meeting: 'Friendship' – 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration: Thursday 9 June 2022 at 10:15 in Exmouth Pavilion and on Zoom

This is from 10:15 to 12:15 (doors open at 10:00) on Thursday 9 June: '10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations' Entertainment with the theme of 'Friendship' NB. Please note this is for all participants and members who booked a place up to 27<sup>th</sup> May. It is by and for our members with David Hemmings as Compere and opening by Roger Bourgein, our Town Crier.



It includes:

- Display of a 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary quilt by our own quilting group led by Clare Dawson. (Raffle tickets on sale and the draw will be 8<sup>th</sup> June 2023 – see poster below).
- Cutting of a 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary cake by Nick Ricketts, our first Chair, along with past Chairs Jan Harper Shea, Sandy McQueen and our present Chair Christine Chittock. Individual cakes by our Bake and Taste Group organised by Pam Day.
- Musical items with the Singing Group led by Wendy Groves and Jill Govier on the piano, Harry Atkinson with his 'Musical Contrasts'. Our Contraband Band Group led by Ian Goodwill in a recording edited by Ian Bateman: 'With a Little Help From My u3a Friends' audio visual, produced by Christine Chittock, with thanks to Harry Atkinson for his playing.
- A 'Fun' Quiz devised by David Hemmings and Linda Parsons.
- Latin Line Dancing led by Rosemary Walsh with audience participation.

As a vibrant, active and friendly u3a we certainly have much to celebrate thanks to our wonderful members and volunteers.

Once again there is the opportunity for members to join via Zoom for anyone who is unwilling or unable to attend in person and instead prefers to join us from home. Zoom connection details are on page 7. This may be a technical challenge, and so please bear with us if we have any unexpected difficulties!



### Exmouth and District u3a 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Quilt

Generously donated by our u3a Quilting Group to raise funds for our u3a for 'Accessibility'

Purchase **raffle tickets at £1 each** for your chance of **winning this magnificent quilt.**

**Draw to be held 8<sup>th</sup> June 2023**

Raffle tickets will be available at our 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration on June 9<sup>th</sup> 2022, at our monthly meetings and other events.

C. A. Chittock

## Meet your new committee

**Christine Chittock**

Chair

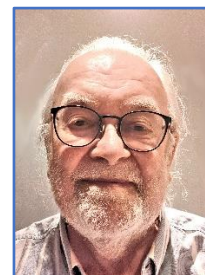
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**Olwen Smith**

Committee member,  
Membership

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*Ann, Lyn, Christine, Olwen and Alice at our AGM (photo by Maurice Chittock)*

Vice-Chair, Database Administrator and Publicity & Communications Officer positions are all currently vacant. If you would like to find out more about these committee positions and feel that you could help, please contact Christine Chittock ([chairperson@exmouthu3a.org.uk](mailto:chairperson@exmouthu3a.org.uk)) and/or Ian McLauchlin ([secretary@exmouthu3a.org.uk](mailto:secretary@exmouthu3a.org.uk)). The committee meets via Zoom on the first Tuesday in the month from 13:00 to 15:00.





*Christine Chittock presenting gifts to Richard Morgan (left) and Maurice Chittock (right) in appreciation of all that they did whilst serving on our committee (photos by Elaine Bateman)*

## Group news

Here is the latest group news. There are vacancies in:

**Badminton Group:** This group meets every Wednesday 2.00–3.30 at Cranford Sports Centre. Please contact John Smith by email.

**Canasta:** The Railway Club, our venue, asks that we become members. We do not teach Canasta; however rusty players are welcome. Every other Friday at the Railway Club at 2.00pm – one vacancy.

**Chat & Patch:** This group meets on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays between 2.00 pm – 4.00 pm at Radcliffe House in Withycombe. We are mostly a patchwork and quilting group but also incorporate many hand and machine needle crafts for beginners and advanced abilities. We are a very relaxed group filling the afternoon with progressing our own projects, workshops, hints and tips on techniques and of course “chatting”. We currently have a few vacancies on a first come basis. For more information, please contact either Ruth or Melanie by email.

**Dinghy Sailing and Watersports Group:** Within the Sailing: Dinghy Sailing and Watersports Group there are a few people interested in SUP (stand up paddleboarding). Roger Mosley doesn’t have the time to promote this as quickly as he would like, and asks if someone is willing to take on a leadership role for SUP please? Please contact Roger Mosely by email.

**Italian for Beginners:** This group has vacancies and is held on Mondays at 2.00 pm. Please contact Carol Blyth by email for information.

**Lunch Club 3:** This lunch club is run by its members, who take turns (alphabetically) to choose and arrange the venue. Third Wednesday of the month. One vacancy. Please contact me in the first instance.

**Music For Fun:** This group meets alternate Fridays 2.00–4.00 at Withycombe RFC Hall Exmouth. Please contact John Smith by email.



*Lyn Holmes,  
Groups Coordinator  
[groups@exmouthu3a.org.uk](mailto:groups@exmouthu3a.org.uk)*

## Social Group News

As far as the Social Committee is concerned the year's events are again in full swing but I am not sure whether the Met Office also realise this and that we should be into some much-improved weather by the beginning of June! However, regardless of heavy rain the u3a trip to **Delamore House** last month proved to be a great success. Both the grounds and the pre-arranged lunch were very much enjoyed by those members who braved the elements.

Our next venture on the **22<sup>nd</sup> July** is the very popular **Stuart Line Canal trip from Exmouth Docks along the river Exe and Canal to Exeter Quay**. There is then free time for all those going to enjoy their own interests around the area and a coach has been arranged to pick members up at 3.30 pm at the Quay in order to return to Exmouth by 5 pm. (Hopefully weather will be warmer and drier than last month!) However, ALL tickets for this trip have been sold.

Over the past ten years the Exmouth & District u3a has gone from strength to strength and now has nearly 900 members and at least 80 different groups running. So to celebrate this achievement, why not come and join our planned **evening party boat trip on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> September** which will cruise along the river Exe. Tickets for this trip will cost £18.00 and be on sale from 7<sup>th</sup> June, when an email will be sent out to all members detailing payment methods. Tickets will also be sold at our monthly meetings – the first being 9<sup>th</sup> June. However as this particular month there will be a restricted number of attendees, the Social Committee will still have an information table in the foyer of the Pavilion from where tickets can be purchased. So even if you are not coming to the official celebratory monthly meeting, you would be able to come along and buy a ticket.

On our 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this particular trip proved to be very popular as it is a great fun evening during which there will be appropriate music on board as well as a full buffet being served (cost of tickets is all-inclusive). The boat will leave Exmouth Docks at 6.00 pm and return by 9.00 pm. We anticipate this 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary trip will also be a very popular one and tickets, which must be paid for at the time of booking, will be sold on a "first come-first served" basis.

There are other plans afoot for later in the year but more about those later. However the Social Committee always look forward to seeing members and answering any questions they might have regarding our current and/or future events.

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

## Delamore Arts 22

Each year our u3a Social Committee organise a number of trips and on 11<sup>th</sup> May a number of our u3a members enjoyed a wonderful and most interesting trip to Delamore House near Plymouth, despite the rain. Besides having a great time, trips such as these give our members a taste of places they can visit again. Although I could not join them, listening to Clare Dawson from our Social Committee talking about the trip at the AGM I thought it would be well worth a visit. So on 22<sup>nd</sup> May I spent a good part of a day there admiring the amazing variety of sculptures and art work on show in the splendid house and gardens.

Delamore House has been hosting art exhibitions every May since 2002 and at the end of May the house returns to a family home until the following year. So a huge thank you to our Social Committee for taking the time and effort to organise trips such as these. I know from members who have spoken to me how much they appreciate such outings with the opportunity to socialise and discover new places knowing that they don't have to worry about how to get there!

*Christine Chittock, Chair*



*Photo collage by Christine Chittock*

## Zoom Coffee & Chat



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 next section on page 7 in the members' edition of this newsletter. *(Photo by Christine Chittock)*

**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.**  
**Dates for June and July 2022:** 2<sup>nd</sup> June, 16<sup>th</sup> June, 30<sup>th</sup> June, 7<sup>th</sup> July and 21<sup>st</sup> July.

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)

## Important information about scams

This is just a reminder that in last month's edition of the newsletter there was a write-up of the presentation on Zoom on scams given on 28<sup>th</sup> April. If you have not had the chance to read this article, you may wish to take another look at last month's newsletter (it's on our website if you cannot find it). One of the best resources is a free book called **The Little Book of Big Scams (5<sup>th</sup> Edition) (Metropolitan Police)** – just click or tap on these links to read it or download it: <https://www.met.police.uk/littlemedia> and <https://www.met.police.uk/SysSiteAssets/media/downloads/central/advice/fraud/met/the-little-book-of-big-scams.pdf>



## 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, usually 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 approximately 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' edition of this newsletter and in emails sent direct to members.

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 9 <sup>th</sup> June 10:15 – 12:15	Members NB. Please note this is for all participants and members who booked a place up to 27 <sup>th</sup> May. Details on page 2	<b>'10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations'</b> : Entertainment with the theme of 'Friendship' by and for our members with David Hemmings as compere and opening by our Town Crier. Display of a 10 <sup>th</sup> anniversary quilt by our own quilting group led by Clare Dawson. Cutting of a 10 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary cake Musical items with the Singing Group led by Wendy Groves and Jill Govier on the piano, Harry Atkinson with his 'Musical Contrasts'. Our Contraband Band Group recording edited by Ian Bateman. A 'Fun' Quiz devised by David Hemmings and Linda Parsons. Latin Line Dancing led by Rosemary Walsh with audience participation. <b>More details on page 2.</b>
Thurs 23 <sup>rd</sup> June 10.30	Members' Zoom presentation: John Petty	<b>'Belt Up: A personal involvement in the development of car seat belts'</b> . A fascinating presentation from John Petty, one of our members.
Thurs 14 <sup>th</sup> July	Janet Few  <a href="https://thehistoryinterpreter.wordpress.com/">https://thehistoryinterpreter.wordpress.com/</a>	<b>'Coffers, Clysters, Comfrey and Coifs: life at the time of the Mayflower'</b> Meet Mistress Agnes and Master Christopher and immerse yourself in 17 <sup>th</sup> Century life and discover the meaning of some rather unusual terms. A fascinating time in history. Janet Few enjoyed history as a child, writing long stories and dressing up. She has maintained and developed her interest in history writing two historical novels; 'Barefoot on the Cobbles' and 'Sins as Red as Scarlet'. She won the Trip fiction short story competition in 2020.
Thurs 28 <sup>th</sup> July	Members' Zoom presentation	Would any member like to volunteer to give a short presentation or talk at this Zoom meeting?

*Christine Chittock, Chair*

## Group News – Walking Group 1

Our twice monthly walks continued during May, the first led by Gill was around Woodbury Common taking in Bystock Pools and the second led by Melanie and John on Aylesbeare Common. Both walks had good walking weather and each managed double figures for the numbers walking and were circa five miles which is a suitable average for the group.



The walks in June will be on Tuesday 7th led by Phillipa and Tuesday 21st led by Esther, and our numbers walking will probably increase as the weather gets warmer.

We have welcomed a few new members recently which has reduced our waiting list.

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

## Group News – Bird Watching Group 2: Aylesbeare Common: 18<sup>th</sup> May

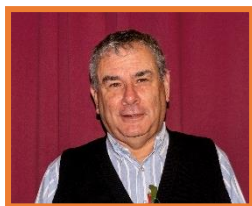
Eleven of us met up at Aylesbeare in the hopes of seeing a Dartford warbler. The trees are in full leaf now which made spotting birds difficult but we certainly heard them. Our first find was a couple of goldcrests constantly on the move, then a stonechat perched up and looking very smart. We walked slowly around and eventually we found a Dartford warbler; some had close views but we all saw it in the distance. Birds seen: goldcrest, blackbird, robin, stonechat, linnet, buzzard, carrion crow and Dartford warbler.

Unfortunately there are no photos because the Dartford warbler was too far away; so most of us had to take its appearance on trust. Just a blob really, but a definite one as four people were close when they first saw it.

*John and Melanie Parker  
Members, Bird Watching Group 2*



## Review of Dr Todd Gray's presentation on 'Devon and the Slave Trade' – Exmouth Pavilion, 12<sup>th</sup> May 2022



A welcome return by Todd ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Todd\\_Gray\\_\(historian\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Todd_Gray_(historian))); we have been most fortunate to listen to and see Todd's work in the form of presentations both at the Pavilion and via 'Zoom' and once again it was a privilege to learn about his important work. Todd kindly agreed that we could run the session as a hybrid meeting and with 33 members logging on we were pleased that members could join us from their homes.

Throughout it was so good to see the results of Todd's methodical and conscientious approach; examining written documents, visual images and artefacts. A 'true' historian at work looking for evidence for his subject and in this instance not an easy task. There is a fair amount of published work on the slave trade in London, Liverpool, Bristol and Glasgow but less known about Devon's links. In the early 90s Todd had a conversation with the writer Maya Angelou. She was interested in whether there were any documents relative to slavery in the local archives. Todd showed her some documents and his research and books followed on from there. Then in 2007 The Black History Foundation awarded his book 'Devon and the Slave Trade' 'Outstanding Contribution to Black Studies'; very well deserved.

As Todd stressed it is all about the evidence and backing up what you say with notes of your sources and in Todd's case he has trawled through thousands of handwritten documents, some of them not that easy to decipher as age has taken its toll. Future historians will have Todd's vital work to look at and examine and their task will be much easier because of the vast extent of his work.

As Todd explained in his presentation the name 'Devon' was first used as a personal name when slave owners 'named' their slaves. Almost 190 years ago Devon had 34 slave owners with 5,000 men women and children serving as slaves with names such as 'Devon' given to them.

Devon has a number of huge houses and indeed mansions but how many were built and sustained with money from the slave trade? Todd set out to find out being careful to mention "It would appear that ....." if the evidence wasn't completely solid. Millcombe Villa, Rockbeare Manor, Stoodleigh Court and Winslade House being places that from the evidence were financed with money from the slave trade.

Todd started and ended his talk by mentioning the challenge of researching such a topic, not so much about the amount of material you need to locate, examine and analyse but more about the sensitivity of the subject. It is history that hurts, there is no escaping that when you present the evidence; the slave trade was brutal, exploitative and racist. Todd has been confronted by some people who are not comfortable with his work and indeed have argued with what he has said and published but as he explained he is determined that it is history that must be told, particularly as very little has been written about the lives of people who were slaves and associated with the county of Devon.



As I thanked Todd it was so good to acknowledge his essential work knowing that his descriptions of Devon's links with the slave trade were not related to personal bias and unsubstantiated claims but rather based on solid evidence and importantly if questioned or challenged Todd can quote his sources and explain his reasoning and analysis. Indeed one of his sources relating to the Devonian Swete family who were associated with the slave trade in sugar, was currently displayed under glass at the 'In Plain Sight' exhibition in the RAMM, Exeter until 29<sup>th</sup> May 2022. See <https://rammuseum.org.uk/in-plain-sight-resources/> for exhibition texts, articles and films.

Once again Todd, many heartfelt thanks for a superb presentation. We look forward to Todd joining us again at 10:45 on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2022 with his 'Christmas in Devon'.

*Review and photo by Christine Chittock, Chair, Exmouth and District u3a*

## Exmouth & District u3a online – our digital world

When you are not actively involved in our u3a meetings, can we remind you that 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!). As well as our face-to-face meetings and events, 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!

## Our next edition

I hope you have enjoyed reading this newsletter, and thank you to our contributors this month.

Do you have any views or comments about this newsletter? What other things would you like to see in future editions of the newsletter? Does the newsletter 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 July?

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 25<sup>th</sup> June**.



Thank you very much.

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

*The photo on the right shows one of the flower displays that Exmouth & District u3a has sponsored this year as part of our 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary year. The photo was taken by Christine Chittock.*

