



## Chat from the Chair



My last 'Chat from the Chair' and an opportunity to thank you, our one thousand members for your tremendous support, great encouragement and involvement. When I first moved to Exmouth with my husband Maurice in August 2011, we were disappointed that there wasn't a local u3a and so when we learnt of an inaugural u3a meeting in 2012 we made sure that we were there, in a packed Elizabeth Hall to sign up. The atmosphere was 'electric' and potential members were enthusiastic and keen to get involved. We offered to lead a u3a Photo Group and joined the first walking group which later became Walking Group 1, as more walking groups were set up. Please see page 5 illustrating one of our recent walks.

Looking back we were so fortunate and also most grateful to that original 'Steering committee' who worked so hard and with great vision to not only get an u3a established but to make sure it flourished, thrived and prospered with so much on offer. Importantly too, to have had the forethought to cover the 'District' as some of the villages are quite small and may have struggled to set up and keep an u3a going with sufficient support.

From those early days the number of Interest Groups has grown considerably. Our members now have an extensive range of Groups they can join covering arts, crafts, cooking, dining out, exercise and sports of many kinds, languages, literature, history, geography, sciences, transport, technology and Zoom sessions. Support too to set up new groups. Definitely one of the advantages of a large u3a; one of the largest in the UK and certainly in the south west. More recently with our newly set up 'Hubs' in different parts of Exmouth and our 'District' our members can meet locally, go to the cinema together, meet up in a local café, take a walk or whatever they choose to do but without having to travel a long distance.

Having retired from full-time work in August 2011, belonging to an u3a helped me to make that transition from full-time to part-time work up until July 2016 when I finally finished work. I gradually became more involved joining more Interest Groups, attending Study days, going on outings and joining in with all the social activity of Coffee mornings. Eventually I became a 'Meeter and Greeter' and loved being on the door at the Monthly meetings greeting members, potential new members and visitors. With the 2018 AGM approaching I responded to the call for a Speakers' Coordinator and joined the committee. I had gained so much from my membership of the u3a in terms of revisiting former interests, exploring new territory and making friends that I was happy to give something back.

At the March 2020 monthly meeting I thanked the speaker who was entertaining, informative and humorous with some idea that times were definitely changing in significant and dramatic ways but with no real perception that we would all go into Lockdown with everything that meant. Fortunately we were already well established as a committee and as an u3a and with a newly formed Technical team we were not only able to keep going but also able to move forward. From the early days of Lockdown we went from monthly meetings to weekly sessions and were able to invite speakers from further afield including abroad all via Zoom. This was a busy time for me as I was still Programme Secretary for Exmouth Photo Group but it kept me actively involved seeking out speakers for both organisations, relishing the challenge. It was reassuring to know that the volunteers who offered their technical skills so generously were there to help us deliver and make it all possible. It was absolutely wonderful to discover the many talents of our membership as they delivered presentations. There were definitely a lot of 'Wow' moments! During the Lockdowns and eventual easing of restrictions, bulletins as well as newsletters kept our membership updated.

Wherever possible we tried to phone members who didn't have access to the internet. We even managed to gather some of our Groups together to produce a Christmas entertainment with a difference over Zoom with poetry, storytelling, music, audio visuals and Spanish cooking! All made possible via a team effort; by and for the membership.

So much has evolved and come about because of the ways we worked together during the Pandemic; Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/exmouthU3A>); YouTube (<https://www.youtube.com/@exmouthu3a>); hybrid sessions and much more. Wherever possible our Interest groups kept going and once we could meet up again we took full advantage of every opportunity even if it was socially distanced, but we realised it was very important especially for our newer members. Able to meet up again 'in person' we were thrilled to arrange so many different events for our 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. A superb, brilliantly designed and expertly made 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary quilt was donated to our u3a by our u3a 'Quilting for Fun' group as a raffle prize to raise funds for 'accessibility' for our own members. Please see page 4. We seized the opportunity to thank our Group Organisers, Meeters and Greeters and other volunteers at a thank you tea. Activities organised by our Social Committee were well attended and very much enjoyed. Volunteers from Exmouth in Bloom set about arranging planters in the Strand, Exmouth to mark our tenth anniversary with colourful vibrant planting.

We were delighted that so many of our founding members and former Chairs and Trustees could be with us at a special anniversary event in June 2022; a chance to thank them via our entertainment and a piece of attractively decorated anniversary cake (<https://www.exmouthjournal.co.uk/news/20299775.exmouths-u3a-group-marks-10th-anniversary-style/>). Whilst the vast majority of our members could meet in person there were some of our members who couldn't and so we made sure that the June event was live streamed and in the autumn we celebrated our 10 years via Zoom (see our celebration leaflet - <https://u3asites.org.uk/files/e/exmouth/docs/exmouthdistrictu3a10thanniversarycelebrationsleafletsept22.pdf>). So much to look back on with fond memories and to look forward to, knowing that we can see our ten 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary heritage fruit trees at Lower Halsdon Farm grow and change throughout the seasons. (<https://www.exmouthjournal.co.uk/news/23280368.exmouth-u3a-plant-tree-celebrate-10-year-anniversary/>)

If you haven't already done so please read our **Trustees Report**

(<https://u3asites.org.uk/files/e/exmouth/docs/exmouthanddistrictu3atrusteereport2022-20231204231.pdf>) This is not only a summary of the last year but our way of thanking and acknowledging the work of our Trustees who cover vital roles using their skills and experience and who dedicate a great deal of their time for the benefit of our u3a, our hard working Social Committee, our committed Group Organisers, our fantastic Meeters and Greeters, and our wonderful members. We extend particular and most grateful thanks to Trustees and members who are standing down from roles. Essential roles too as you can see so clearly and effectively from this newsletter, our website, monthly meetings and much more including maintaining our database and taking minutes. You have made a positive difference to our u3a. **THANK YOU SO MUCH!**

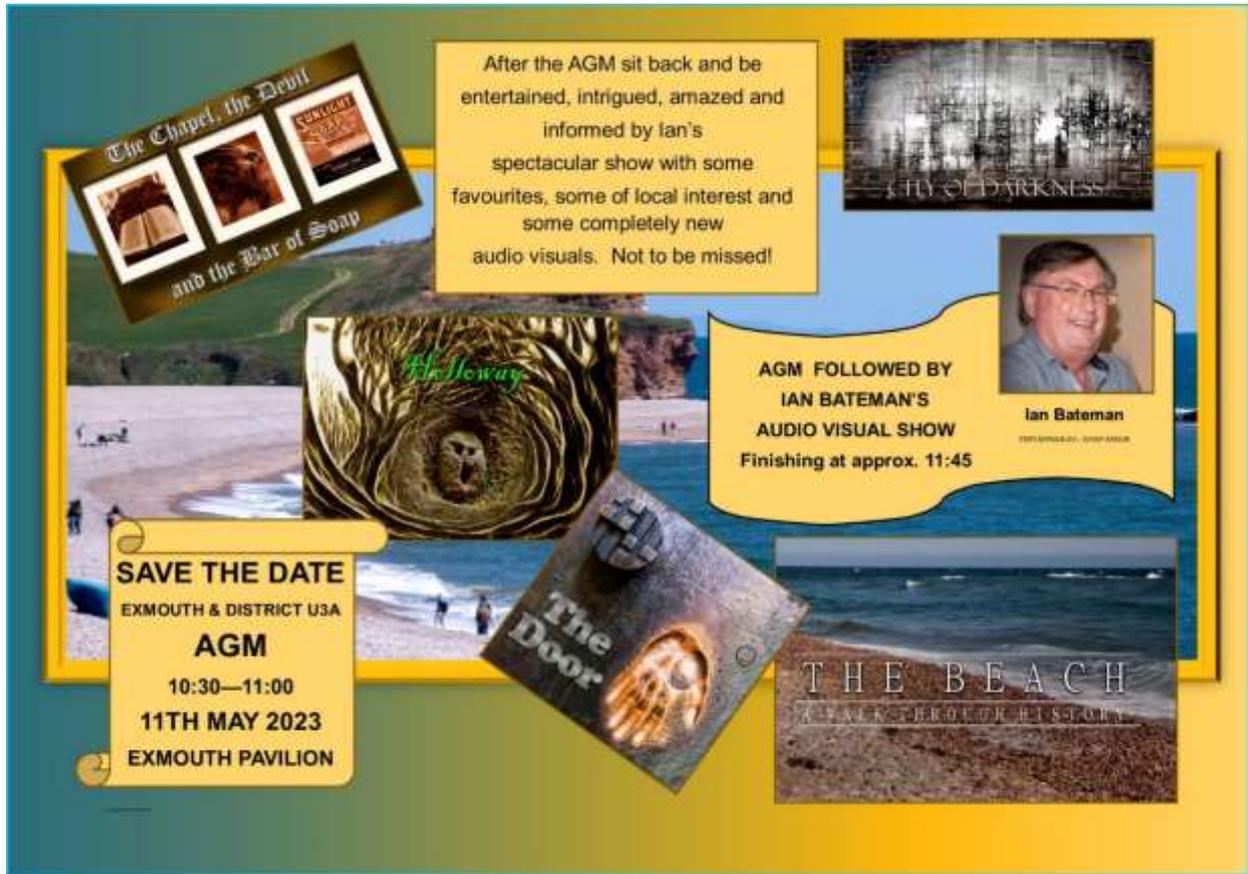
Our forthcoming **AGM at 10:30 to 11:00 on 11<sup>th</sup> May** gives us the opportunity to mark what has occurred over the last year and to anticipate what is to come with optimism. Please see **SAVE THE DATE** on the next page and sit back and enjoy Ian Bateman's Audio-Visual Show which follows our AGM in Exmouth Pavilion.

To conclude it has been a great privilege to be your Chair for almost three years and Speakers' Coordinator for four years and I would like to wish the new committee and volunteers all the very best for the future to:

"Learn, laugh and get the most out of life; meet up with friends and make new ones; be part of a strong supportive community; share ideas, knowledge, experience and enthusiasms in a friendly atmosphere; develop the fun and passion we have for whatever interests us; find the inspiration for new ideas, hobbies and interests and participate in a variety of social activities".

Signing off for the last time with very best wishes and sincere thanks,

*Christine Chittock, Chair*



*Collage by Christine Chittock*

## Our Monthly Meetings

On the **13<sup>th</sup> April**, we were treated to a selection of audio-visuals (AVs) from one of our own members, **Sheila Haycox**, a very talented award-winning photographer – see the review on page 10.



on **Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> May at 10.00 for 10.30** we have our Annual General Meeting. A good attendance is essential to ensure that the organisation of our u3a can continue and we look forward to seeing as many as possible of you there. This will be followed by 'An Audio-Visual Show' by **Ian Bateman**, another member and an award-winning photographer and judge, nationally and internationally. Many of us who have seen some of his previous AVs before know how stunning they are, combining music, narration and sound effects to tell a story. Not to be missed.

Our talk on **Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> June** entitled "Trick or Treat? Fakes & Forgeries in the Art World" will be given by Richard Kay of Lawrences Auctioneers and promises to be fascinating.

We look forward to seeing you at Exmouth Pavilion on 11<sup>th</sup> May and 8<sup>th</sup> June.



There is again the opportunity for members to join our AGM and to see our speakers **via Zoom** for anyone who is unwilling or unable to attend in person and instead prefers to join us from home (or from anywhere else in the world!). Zoom connection details are on the next page.

**Ann Newby**  
**Speakers' Coordinator**  
[speakers@exmouthu3a.org.uk](mailto:speakers@exmouthu3a.org.uk)

## Meetings on Zoom

In addition to streaming the AGM and our monthly meetings on Zoom, everyone is very welcome to join us on other Thursdays **for our Zoom Coffee & Chat sessions**. They start at 10.30, but we suggest everyone logs in from 10.15, and it will be for about an hour. They are open to all our members and are a good opportunity for a chat. You may have something you would like to share, particularly any activities you have participated in as a group member or any topic which might be of interest to others. So why not make yourself a cup of coffee or tea and join us then; you will be most welcome. The Zoom connection details are in the box below. And if you want to receive a reminder email about this the day before, please email me so that I can add you to our circulation list - [newsletter@exmouthu3a.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@exmouthu3a.org.uk).

The dates for our next Zoom Coffee & Chat sessions are **Thursday 4 May, Thursday 18 May, Thursday 25 May and Thursday 1 June**.

**The Zoom connection details** for the monthly meetings, for the Zoom presentations, for our Zoom Coffee & Chat sessions and for our other u3a Zoom meetings remain the same as before.

Details of this are in our members' 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 [newsletter@exmouthu3a.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@exmouthu3a.org.uk).



*Photo by Christine Chittock*

## Group news

This is the end of another year for u3a and I would like to thank the Group Organisers for all their hard work and time in giving us such a varied group portfolio.

### New Groups

#### Petanque/Boules

The sport is fully inclusive, accommodating participation from all, regardless of age, sex, background, mobility or ability. It is a moderate physical exercise ideal for remaining in good physical form, keeping healthy joint flexibility and allows for socialising. A sociable group activity, sometimes called 'Boules', played for "competitive enjoyment"! The rules are simple, and players of all levels of expertise are welcome to play together. A game is played with two teams, where each team consists of one, two or three players.

We will use the gravel pathways on the front lawn at the Imperial Hotel (by the Clock Tower) to play. Efforts are currently in hand to secure a formal playing area (terrain) in that vicinity, but much still hinges on site availability and finances. If you do have any metal boules of your own, please bring them along, but we will have a few trial sets we can lend out. Suggested times are Friday 10.30–12.00 approx.

Please contact Graham Deasy by email.

#### 10 Pin Bowling

We are having our first session on Thursday 18th May at The Ocean at 10.30 am – 12pm. Just come along and we will take it from there. The cost is 1 game for £3 or 2 for £5.

### Groups with Vacancies

**Pickleball** at Cranford Sports Centre has a few spaces on Thursday 2pm–3.30pm. Please contact Bob Nicholls by email for information.

**Line Dancing** at Littlemead Methodist Church on Mondays 10am. Contact Rosemary Walsh by email.



*Collage by Christine Chittock*

## Local Hub Groups

Listed below are our local hub groups where you can go for a coffee and chat and meet local u3a members. Please contact the local organiser for information or just go along to the meeting where you will be made very welcome.

A member sent me a email saying ‘I’m really surprised we don’t have one of these groups in **Brixington** as it is such a huge part of Exmouth. If no-one has yet suggested one is formed, would it be possible please for you to mention this in the next newsletter and ask for a volunteer to set one up?’ So if there is anyone in Brixington that would like to start a Hub group I would be very happy to help you. If you would like to start a new hub group please contact me, Lyn Holmes at [groups@exmouthu3a.org.uk](mailto:groups@exmouthu3a.org.uk)

Potential new group in **Lympstone** in the evening. Please contact Jenny Moon by phone by email for details.

- Budleigh Salterton and surrounding areas: email Alice Robson.  
Meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday monthly (to be arranged).
- Exmouth – Dagmar Road area (bordered by The Beacon, Louisa Terrace, Trefusis Terrace and Rolle Road): email Sally Parnell.  
We meet on alternate Fridays at the Imperial Hotel at 10.30am.
- Exmouth – Littleham area: email Susan Hall.  
We meet on various days and times, so please email Susan for further information.
- Exmouth – The Marina area: email Victoria Newhouse.
- Exmouth – Mount Pleasant area: email Anne Howard.
- Exmouth – Rivermead Road area: email Nicola Antoni.  
Nicola and Anne have joined together. We normally meet on a Tuesday at 10.00 am. Please email for information and location.
- Exmouth – Salterton Road and The Avenues area, email Jan Harper Shea.  
We meet alternate Tuesday mornings at 10.30am in The Devoncourt Hotel.
- Exmouth – Withycombe area; email Jan Collett.  
Our venue at present is the Tennis Centre Cafe but we plan to return to Phear Park Cafe on 9<sup>th</sup> May when it reopens. Otherwise our arrangements have not changed. Tuesdays 2.00 – 4.00 fortnightly.
- Ottery St Mary area; email Ronnie Harwood.
- Topsham area: The revised core times for our bimonthly meetings are now:  
The first Thursday in the cafe at St Bridget’s Nursery, Sidmouth Road, Clyst St Mary between 12.30 and 2.30 pm  
The third Monday in the café at Nancy Potter House, Nelson Close, Topsham between 11.00 am and 1.00 pm.  
All u3a members are welcome.
- Woodbury, Woodbury Salterton and East Budleigh: email Lin Milsom–Ashby.  
The next meeting is at the Maltsters Arms on 9<sup>th</sup> May at 10.30 am.



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

## Group News – Birdwatching Group 2

Martin Ash led a group of 5 u3a members from Stantyway Farm near Otterton out to the coast and back on Wednesday 19 April. The walk started with a sharp shower but then the sun shone for the rest of the time. We saw herring gull, blackbird, skylarks flying and singing, linnet, carrion crow, magpie, cirl bunting, great tit, wood pigeon, goldfinch, chaffinch, robin, and house sparrow. We also saw a peacock butterfly.

*Liz Geach, member*

## Social Committee News

As this is being prepared, some of our members have just returned from a wonderful trip to Charmouth and Lyme Regis – see the next page.

Our next outing is to **Delamore House**, Cornwood, Dartmoor. This is on **Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> May** with the cost being £30 per person. The coach will pick us up from Exmouth coach park – behind the railway station at 9.30 am. The coach will then pick us up from Delamore at 3.30 pm and return to Exmouth at around 5.00 pm. There is a small tea-room with cakes etc on sale. The sculptures are all very well displayed in their gardens and although there are paths everywhere there is a fair amount of walking. It can, however prove to be a little slippery in wet weather so substantial footwear is advisable. Payment details are below.

**Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> June** is the date for the trip to **Abbotsbury Swannery** in Dorset and the cost here is £32 per person. Again with tickets having gone on sale at the April monthly meeting this trip has proved to be very popular. There are, however, still some available and, as usual, full details, including the day's itinerary, are printed on the tickets, including the requirement for members to register details of somebody who could be contacted in the unlikely case of an emergency arising. More information is on its website – <https://abbotsbury-tourism.co.uk/swannery/>



**Details for payment for BOTH these trips are as follows.**

1. Send a cheque to Mrs L. Holmes, 6 Swiss Close, Exmouth EX8 4QF. Cheques should be made out to 'Exmouth & District u3a', and PLEASE send a stamped addressed envelope together with details of an emergency contact with your cheque. Your ticket will then be sent to you.
2. Pay via internet banking to: Name: Exmouth & District u3a  
Reference: Delamore or Abbotsbury (according to your trip request)

If paying by this method, please email Lyn Holmes at [groups@exmouthu3a.org.uk](mailto:groups@exmouthu3a.org.uk) to confirm your payment, and again please ensure an emergency contact number is included.

3. Buy your tickets at the May monthly meeting which will, this time be our AGM, on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> May. We accept cheques, credit card or cash. If paying cash it would be very much appreciated if you would bring the correct amount.

Finally, as mentioned last month, the Social Committee are making enquiries regarding future outings and members will, of course, be notified as and when these become available.

We again look forward for meeting as many of you as possible at our AGM on 11 May.



Best wishes from the Social Committee

*Alice Robson, Lyn Holmes, Clare Dawson, Jenny Comben, Pam Day and June Cook*

## Social Committee – Day in Charmouth and Lyme Regis: 20<sup>th</sup> April



Lovely warm, sunny weather contributed to the success of this trip, and from responses received it would appear to have been a very enjoyable day. Two members of the Social Committee went along and they too enjoyed it very much.

*All photos were taken by Angela Broadberry*



*Lyme Regis*



*Mary Anning statue*



*Bellamites*



*Fools Gold*



*Fossilised shells in a rock*



## Group News – Music Performance Group



The Exmouth & District u3a **Music Performance Group** is made up of seven local musicians who meet fortnightly to rehearse and play a varied repertoire of Soul, Rock, and Blues numbers. The Music Performance Group, aka ContraBand, led by our vocalist and musical ‘front woman’, Wendy Groves, has a standard instrumental line up consisting of drums (Paul Hiley), bass guitar (Pete Duke), guitar (Ian Goodwill), tenor sax (Trevor Reynolds), alto sax (Sue Lawson), and trumpet (John Smith).

Sadly, we lost our other guitar player, Dave West, in late 2022, after a sudden heart attack. Dave had been with us right from the start of the band in 2017, a stalwart founder member, a great guitarist, a very nice man. We miss Dave a lot. As a group, though, we press on.

Our repertoire has certainly grown and evolved over time. We enjoy playing classic ‘standards’ such as Autumn Leaves, Summertime, and also rock and soul numbers including Route 66, Proud Mary, Midnight Hour. What is so good to see and experience, however, is when the audience really get involved, singing along and dancing to classic ‘feel good’ numbers such as Sweet Caroline, Hold On, and River Deep!



When Wendy Groves suggested the possibility that the band might perform at the Blackmore Theatre, Exmouth specifically for the many loyal patrons and ‘friends’ of the Theatre, needless to say we jumped at the chance. So, on the evening of Friday 14th April, ContraBand assembled on stage and played through our basic ‘set’ to a really appreciative Blackmore Theatre audience for a good couple of hours. The atmosphere was really relaxed, the feedback positive; eventually, the night ended with the band and the audience mixing and chatting on stage, in the auditorium, and at the bar.

We are hoping to repeat that format again, hopefully later this year, so we would recommend, indeed urge, members of Exmouth u3a to not forget the Blackmore Theatre and indeed to think about how we can support this really valuable ‘social asset’ that sits right at the heart of our community.

Best wishes from Contraband, looking forward to performing in and around Exmouth later this year.

*John Smith, Group Leader, u3a Music Performance Group  
(Photos by Sue Davies)*

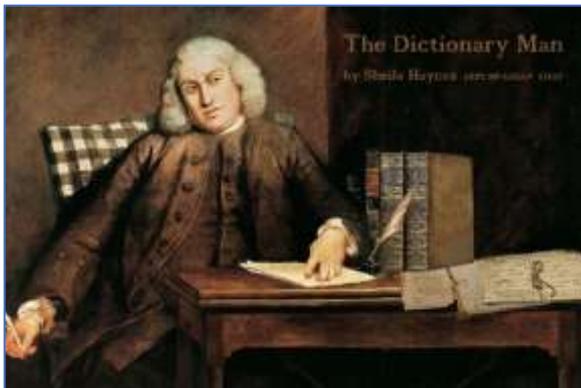
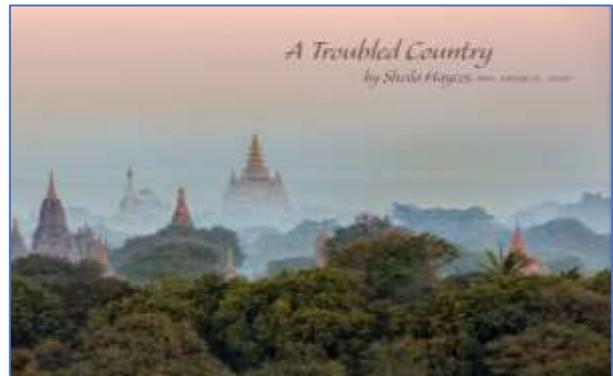
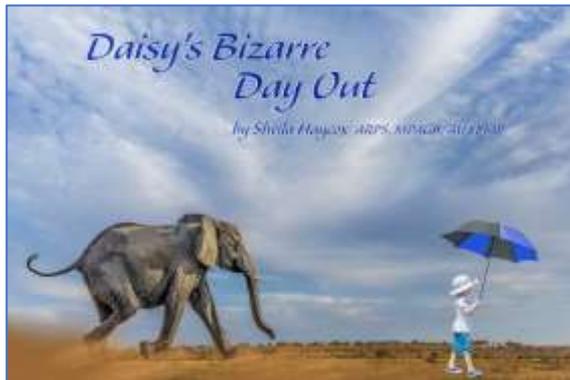
## Review – Monthly Meeting in Exmouth Pavilion, 13 April: Sheila Haycox’s Audio-Visuals



On the 13<sup>th</sup> April, we were treated to a selection of audio-visuals (AVs) from one of our own members, Sheila Haycox, a very talented award-winning photographer. The selection of AVs that we were shown included beautiful and atmospheric landscapes from Scotland and Slovenia, local interest with surreal images from Exeter Cathedral and the histories of Cold Harbour Mill and Poltimore House, together with more exotic destinations such as Venice and Myanmar. We are very grateful to Sheila for stepping in at short notice and showing us her brilliant photography.

*Review by Ann Newby, Speakers’ Coordinator*

*Above photograph of Sheila and Christine by Ian Bateman; posters below by Sheila Haycox*



Sheila kindly let us record all of it, and Ian McLauchlin has done some brilliant editing with Sheila’s introductions to each one being followed by the original video in stunning clarity. These include the four AVs above, plus Cathedral, Loch Ewe Arctic Convoys, Poltimore House, Scenic Slovenia, Coldharbour Mill and Rethatching.

You can watch this recording at any time on our own YouTube channel by just clicking or tapping on this link:

<https://youtu.be/whySniWWBq8>

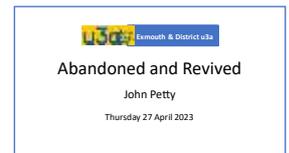


## John Petty – Member’s Presentation on ‘Abandoned and Revived’



On Thursday 27 April at our member’s presentation session on Zoom John Petty, treated us to a wonderful presentation on ‘Abandoned and Revived’. This was the fascinating story of his personal involvement around the 1980’s to bring the Kennet and Avon Canal back to life, and he went on to tell us all about projects which nobody (apart from him and his group) thought would work – including the unique BOTO-X events. All in all, this was a key part of the work that led to the re-opening in 1990 after its virtual abandonment in the late 1950’s.

John kindly let us record his presentation, and Ian McLauchlin has once again done some brilliant editing. You can watch this recording at any time on our own YouTube channel by just clicking or tapping on this link: <https://youtu.be/IGIApVCgUuw>



There is also a website and video which gives more detail at <https://devizine.com/2022/09/11/the-queen-some-footbridges-and-wiltshireswackiest-race-chatting-to-the-creator-of-devizes-boto-x/>



*Image above by Christine Chittock. Photos below from John Petty*



## A Second Cyclone by Lesley Sutton



I visit my daughter in New Zealand at February annually to see her and the family, enjoying the benefits of two summers in one year, but Lockdown put paid to this until this year. From Heathrow it took two days to travel 12,000 miles to Auckland via Kuala Lumpur. I arrived at Auckland Airport to be met and driven home in the sunshine. Along the verges huge blue and white blooms of Agapanthus wave amidst palm trees, grasses, fir and native trees and strange lumpy hills caused by the volcanic eruptions that formed this country. The only family changes were more rescued animals they care for, that all suffer various health problems so the vets are often called!

A new water tank near the house extends their collection of rainwater that most rural houses use for their drinking and household use. All were 100 per cent full. Usually they have a drought with fields brown and grass yellow as families save water, in buckets and containers and wait for hay to be cut for the horses and delivered. But this year the fields were green, or muddy, so the animals have plenty of grass. Accessing hay was difficult as it could not be cut or dried so the cost had risen along with everything caused by the financial situation world-wide.

On Friday, it poured with rain: constant, incessant cloudbursts. Surprisingly we kept electricity, TV and internet connections. The main road was underwater and cars were backed up in either direction. To abandon their vehicles people would have to swim and we heard of someone getting out of his truck only to see it washed away. TV news showed areas of Auckland underwater, including the airport. People were rescued from their homes. Major landslips occurred and further down the coast houses were evacuated and slipping down to the beaches. The Coromandel peninsula was badly affected with roads being washed away.

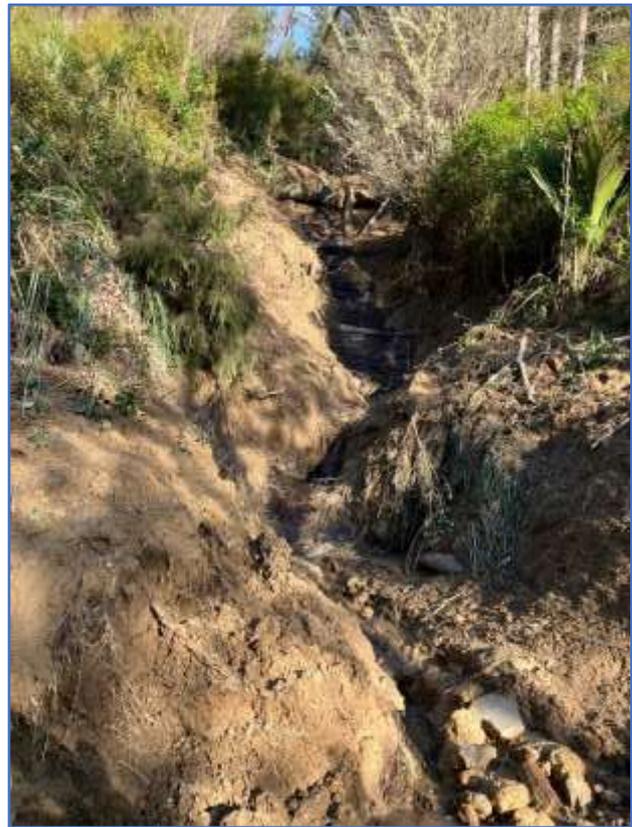
The next day dawned brighter and homeowners cleared ditches, rebuilding the gravel roads washed away the previous evening. The main road was reopened when the water subsided. Monday Bank Holiday brought more rain with warnings of more to come and then a short power cut.

Better weather brought the sun and you wouldn't know that there had been a problem. TV showed pictures of the devastation. The family vet had been killed whilst on call out as a volunteer fireman when a property slid down in the mud.

We were then warned of approaching Cyclone Gabrielle due to make landfall late Saturday or Sunday. Regular warnings were issued on mobile phones warning people not to go out. Parts of the main road were washed away, trees uprooted and soil covered the roads. The gales persisted. A state of emergency was called, all schools closed. The power was eventually completely off. Now we had no water from the taps, were unable to flush the toilet, had no TV or internet connection. With calor gas for the hob, we lit the wood burner heating pans of water, with candles and torches for light. The Barbeque outside was used to cook meals. Full water tanks but we had to go outside to collect it. The animals needed care and rugs were put on the horses, who seemed safe in their paddock.

Later we ventured out to look. Huge trees had fallen, the road and river were brown with mud. A landslip on the hillside opposite a friend's property left gaping areas of clay soil, trees hanging by their roots and paddocks covered with branches and debris. We shared a generator to power the freezers and charge devices. The local fire station offered showers with internet for those in need. The East coast, Napier, Hastings and Gisbourne had borne the brunt of the cyclone where many properties were lost, roads washed away.

The main road was closed for major temporary repairs, trees taken down and slicing into the hillside to widen the lanes. The only way to work or school was a massive hour-and-a-quarter detour. The authorities cleared the roads within the week, opening them with traffic controls and cones in the worst places.



*Landslides – photos by Lesley Sutton*

Many people were made homeless with no power or facilities facing a difficult future. TV programmes showed people helping each other, shifting layers of silt from school playgrounds and properties. The build-up of debris from fallen trees clogged the rivers and streams causing dams and excessive flooding.

The plight of the kiwi, New Zealand’s bird, might be a warning to us all. As it had no predators it did not need to fly becoming easy prey to the animals brought by humans over the years. Should humans take the past year and consider that these conditions are likely to re-occur and prepare themselves for the future?

*Lesley Sutton, member*

## Exmouth & District u3a online – our digital world

Here’s a reminder of all our online resources. We have such a lot to offer to all our members, so why not find time to take a look? What do you think? How can you contribute? Please let us know.

- Our Exmouth & District u3a website: <https://u3asites.org.uk/exmouth/home>
- Our u3a YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/@exmouthu3a>
- Our u3a Facebook Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/exmouthU3A>
- Our u3a Connect & Learn website: <https://sites.google.com/view/connectandlearn>, and see especially our u3a What’s On guide at <https://sites.google.com/view/connectandlearn/whats-on>

Have you seen the most recent videos posted on our YouTube channel? The latest are Christine’s Chittock’s video ‘What’s Up Next – April to December 2023 & Interest Groups’, plus the recordings of the presentations in April by Sheila Haycox and John Petty. Please take a look (and see the image on the next page). Just click or tap on this link to view these videos at any time: <https://www.youtube.com/@exmouthu3a>



## My final newsletter - and a warm welcome to our new Newsletter Editor and Assistant Editor

After over three years as Newsletter Editor, I am stepping down at our AGM on 11 May, and so this is my last newsletter. It has been a privilege to have had the opportunity to edit your newsletter as I have continued to be so impressed with the very wide range and variety of the contributions from members of our committee and also from so many members of our u3a. We are fortunate to have such talent amongst our membership! I am very grateful to all the contributors to the newsletter over the years. I was particularly pleased that despite various pressures over the past three years – especially with Covid and lockdowns – I have been able to produce a newsletter nearly every month over this entire period. Thank you to you all for all of your support and your loyalty.

I am delighted to welcome Rachel Cockell who will be taking over as Newsletter Editor after our AGM and Celia Jenkins who will become Assistant Editor. Rachel can be contacted on the same newsletter email address after our AGM – [newsletter@exmouthu3a.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@exmouthu3a.org.uk)

I hope you have enjoyed reading this newsletter, and a big thank you to our contributors this month. Would you like to contribute anything for our next newsletter in June? Photos and articles about anything that has happened in your groups would be especially welcome, and photos, art, short articles and stories and poems from more members would be really appreciated. The deadline for receipt of copy for the next edition is Thursday 25 May 2023, and items should be sent to Rachel via the newsletter email address please.

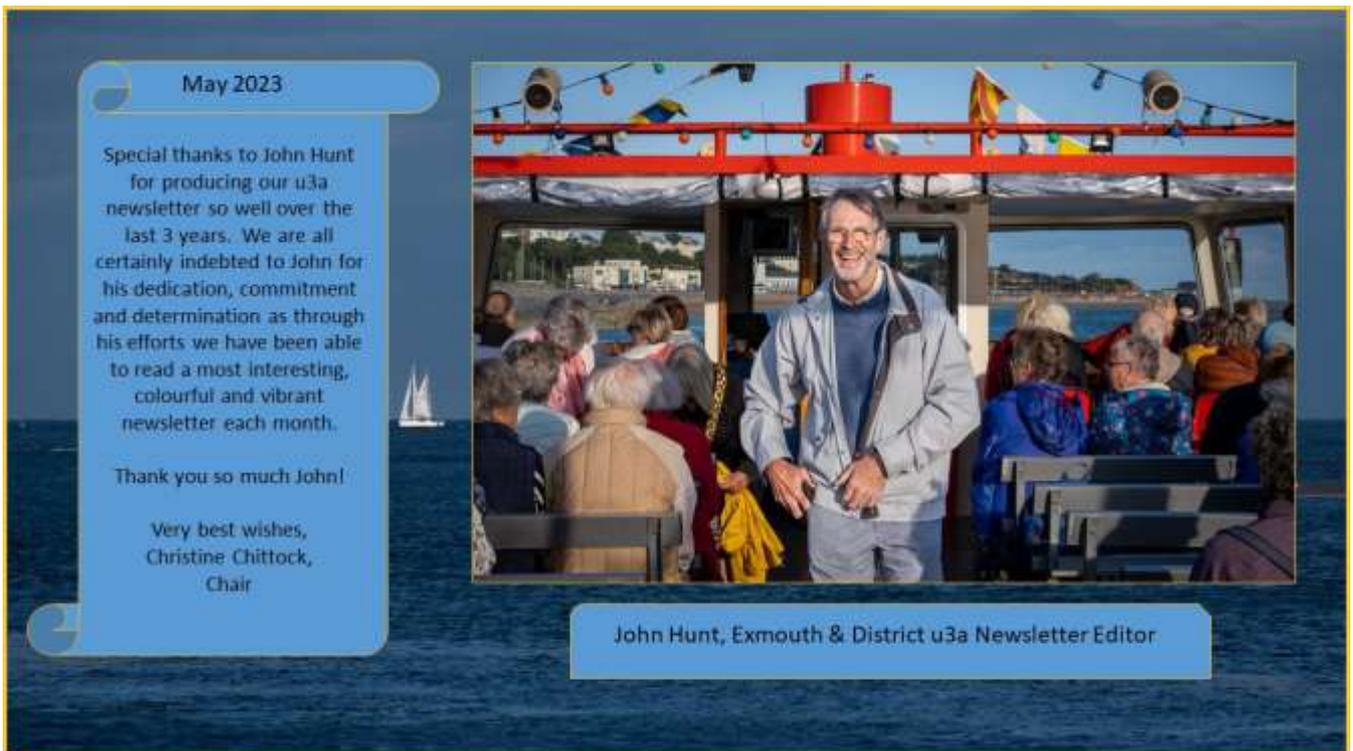


Thank you very much.

**John Hunt**

**Newsletter Editor**

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



May 2023

Special thanks to John Hunt for producing our u3a newsletter so well over the last 3 years. We are all certainly indebted to John for his dedication, commitment and determination as through his efforts we have been able to read a most interesting, colourful and vibrant newsletter each month.

Thank you so much John!

Very best wishes,  
Christine Chittock,  
Chair



John Hunt, Exmouth & District u3a Newsletter Editor