

u3a in Totnes

THE THIRD AGE TRUST

April 2023



Newsletter

Welcome to the April Newsletter. Many members will be looking forward to the Coronation on Saturday (as well as the extra Bank Holiday). Whether you are watching it on the television or attending an event, enjoy it. There is even some bunting in Totnes High Street! No doubt some members will remember the last Coronation all those years ago. Celebrating or not, enjoy the holiday weekend. Also, enjoy the other May Bank Holidays.

CONTENTS

Programme.....	2
Announcements.....	3,4
Group News.....	5-9
Group Meeting Dates ...	10
Totnes u3a Groups	11
Your Committee.....	12

PROGRAMME

Speaker table for U3A Totnes

THE MONTHLY TALKS take place on the 4th Thursday of each month at St. John's Church, Bridgetown TQ9 5AD. Invited speakers, who cover a broad range of interests, can be seen on the list below.

Timing, 09.45 for tea and coffee with the meeting starting at 10.15. The talks, including questions for the speaker, usually last for about an hour.

Totnes U3A SPEAKERS 2022/2023		
May 25	Roger Saunders	A cabinet of curiosities – the original museum
June 22	Robert Hesketh	Festivals of Devon
July 27	Ian Gasper	Refugees and Asylum in the UK - charity DCRS
September 28	Angela White	Hong Kong – life as an ex-pat
October 26	Mike Cooke	Sharpham Rewilding
November 23	Adrienne Hesketh	Christmas themed music presentation

Speaker Thursday May 25th. Roger Saunders, a cabinet full of curiosities.

Curiosity cabinets are either items of furniture or complete rooms containing usually large numbers of curiosities (i.e., objects that tell stories) They started appearing during the Renaissance and served those interested in the natural world and other human cultures. They were also ways of effecting soft power and social climbing. These cabinets eventually morphed into museums. The most impressive Cabinet was made in Augsburg in Germany but ended up in the Gustavianum, in Uppsala in Sweden as part of the spoils of the 30 Years War.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & NEWS

Membership

The total membership of Totnes U3a currently stands at 258, 9 of whom are associate members. A warm welcome to our two newest members, Sarah Marsh from Dartington and associate member, Heather Hanrott, from Ivybridge.

AGM

The AGM was held on April 23rd at St. Johns, followed by the speaker, Kirsty Peakes's fascinating talk 'The Wolves of Yellowstone'. I am sure that all members would like to join me in thanking Bob and the committee for all their hard work and enthusiasm over the past 12 months. Their efforts have been central to the continuing success of the Totnes U3a. Also, thanks to those members of the committee who are stepping down from their roles, as well as the members who have volunteered to join.

Subscriptions

A gentle reminder that subscriptions are due on May 1st. the cost is £17, or £30.50 for joint membership. Monies are payable by

bacs, sort code 77-10-07, account number 37022968

OR

cheque, made payable to Totnes and District U3A sent to Richard Scheffer, Garrett's Meadow, Station Road, Totnes, TQ9 5HW

CVs

We know that many of our members have led (and continue to lead) varied and fascinating lives. Following the CVs submitted by members of the committee here is an open invitation to send in your own CV. It can be as long or short as you like, and photographs are, of course, optional!

Discounts and offers

At the last committee meeting we discussed what discounts may be on offer to 'seniors' and U3a members. A couple of websites that are worth having a look at; www.agemobility.co.uk and MoneySavingExpert.com, but there are many more available online. These feature not only the more obvious offers available, such as bus passes and railcards but also businesses such as Iceland, which gives over 60s a 10% discount on Tuesdays. Lawsons, in Totnes, gives a 10% discount to seniors on a Thursday (excluding electrical and special offer items), but check to see if this is still the case. If members know or **more local** discounts for cafes, restaurants, shops etc. please let the committee know and we can feature these in the Newsletter. As a well-known supermarket says, 'Every Little Helps', especially now.

GROUP NEWS



Around the world in 80 Bites (3)

On Monday, April 3rd, this group met to share 'Peruvian dishes' and experiences. The food was all extremely good and enjoyable to cook as well as eat! There was a spicy soup, followed by two very different beef dishes, stuffed peppers and 'aji de gallina' (a Peruvian spicy chicken recipe)



Lots of laughter accompanied the meal and it was followed by a quiz on Peru and a PowerPoint Presentation. We listened to Peruvian music and looked at pictures taken around the country. All in all, a lovely occasion!

Walking Group

U3a April walk

The Walking Group decided at the planning meeting early in the year that our walk in April would be local to avoid having to drive over the Easter weekend. We had hoped that we would be able to walk out of town towards the Mare and Foal Sanctuary but that walk becomes very muddy with rain and we had had considerable rainfall in the days preceding our outing. Consequently, a small group met at the Leisure centre in at Borough Park and set off to walk through the Dartington Estate. The weather was kind, and we enjoyed a stroll along the banks of the Dart. We knew that three others had said they would join us along the way but to our surprise, and delight, we were met unexpectedly, at the hydroelectric plant, by another three members. We made our way past the swimming platform and admired the skill of the paddle boarders out enjoying the warmer weather too.

At the estate entrance gate we were joined by another two of the group. The walk up the Dartington drive is always a pleasure with the beautiful mature trees and the views down onto the river as one climbs the incline. We stopped a couple of times to enjoy the view (and get our breath!) Our aim was to stop at the Green Table for a coffee break but when we arrived it was rather busy, being a Bank Holiday. However, we were able to all get an excellent coffee at the cinema cafe bar opposite. A couple of the group decided to make a detour at this point and visit the Dartington garden. But the rest of us continued our progress along the drive as far as the cricket ground where a few more peeled off to their homes nearby.

After walking around the cricket field we went through the Cider Press car park and met up with the last group member to join the walk who had bussed to that point as they did not feel able to do the full length of the walk. The last leg of the walk was back along the footpath alongside the water meadows to the drive, where we re-traced our steps to Leisure Centre.

Although a well worn path, it proved to be a lovely walk in warm spring sunshine. As always, a pleasure to catch up with U3A friends and enjoy the wonderful countryside in which we are so privileged to live. Please join us if you enjoy easy walking, in terms of distance, terrain and pace. We would love to see you.

Richard Scheffer

Choir

The choir is coming to the end of the current period and our final session at Quayside, the Guinness building at Longmarsh, will be on Wednesday 19th April prior to singing at the Totnes Caring Pop-up Café on Friday 21st April. We will be singing a selection of the songs that we have learned, comprising a range of jazz, folk and pop songs, and the general public, including you, dear reader, are most welcome to come along. We will be singing at 12:30 after which you can buy a light lunch, and at about 1:30 we will also be leading everyone present in a sing-along based on older style music hall numbers: Daisy Daisy, Side by Side and the like. Totnes Caring will provide song sheets so do come along if you can. The choir will then have a break until September when we will start again, meeting weekly at Quayside from 10:00-12:00, and all are welcome to join in. There is no weekly fee; just a small amount (£5.00) paid occasionally to cover the cost of the fee charged by Guinness to rent the space that we use. I have always described the choir as a jolly bunch and that remains the best description; we meet to sing, of course, but we have a very enjoyable time doing so and we all look forward very much to every Wednesday morning. Since Richard and Annette Toll handed over the reins of the choir last year, we have developed a very pleasant repertoire and we add more throughout the year. You could come along, have a (very good!) coffee from The Bistro and just listen as we practise; sit back and let the music transport you back to your



younger self! Amongst other songs (and this is a spoiler alert since the current members don't know it yet) we will be doing Island of Dreams and The Lion Sleeps Tonight, so if these take your face you know what to do: come and join us!

Jeremy Doyle



Geology Group

U3A Natural History group is now active and over the winter visited Slapton and Sharpham. Our Berry Head visit earlier this month was cancelled because of bad weather but is re-scheduled for 3rd May meeting at 10.30 in the car park. We are being led by one of the rangers and hope to see nesting birds and early purple orchids.

Geology group has been active with indoor meetings over the winter. Subjects ranging from the geology of Exeter Cathedral, erosion along the Devon coast and exploring the Jurassic coast from Exmouth to Lyme Regis. We hope to visit various geological sites over the summer.



Caz Donovan

TOTNES u3a GROUPS & Meeting Dates

TOPIC	MEETING DATE
Around the World in 80 Bites 1	Monthly meeting in members' houses
Around the World in 80 Bites 2	Monthly meeting in members' houses
Around the World in 80 Bites 3	Monthly meeting in members' houses
Art History	3 rd Wednesday of the month 2.00p.m. Dartmouth Inn, Totnes
Book Club	First Thursday 2.30p.m. in a member's house
Bridge	Tues weekly 1.30 p.m.
Chess	2 nd Monday 2.30 p.m. Quayside
Choir	Alt. Weds 10.00 a.m.
Circle Dancing	Thursdays 2.00 p.m. at the Social Club, Station Rd, Totnes. TQ9 5HW
Digital Photography	2 nd Monday 10.30 a.m. Dartmouth Inn, Totnes
Discussion Group	2 nd Monday p.m. & 4 th Monday on Zoom
Folk Band and Recorders	Tues fortnightly 10.00 a.m.
French Conversation	3 rd Tuesday 2.30 p.m. Quayside
Gardening 1	2 nd Mon p.m.
Gardening 2	1 st Thursday at 2.30 p.m.
Gardening 3	2 nd Wednesday
Geology	Dates variable
Luncheon Club	2 nd Thurs lunchtime
Music Appreciation	2 nd Thurs 10.00 a.m. Quaker Centre
Natural History	
Petanque	Wed & Thurs 11:00 a.m.
Play Reading	2 nd Fri a.m.
Play Reading 2	2 nd and 4 th Fridays from 1030-1230 at Quayside
Psychology	2 nd Tues 10 30a.m – 12p.m. St. John's Church, Bridgetown
Walking	1 st Fri?
Women's Interest Group	2 nd Thurs at 11.00 a.m. Various venues

TOTNES u3a GROUPS & Group Leaders

STUDY/SOCIAL

Around the World in 80 Bites 1
 Around the World in 80 Bites 2
 Around the World in 80 Bites 3
 Art History
 Book Club
 Bridge
 Chess
 Choir
 Circle Dancing
 Digital Photography
 Luncheon Club
 Discussion Group
 Folk Band and Recorders
 French Conversation
 Gardening 1
 Gardening 2
 Gardening 3
 Geology
 Music Appreciation
 Natural History
 Petanque
 Play Reading
 Play Reading 2
 Psychology
 Walking
 Women's Interest Group

LEAD

Helen Barbera
 Wendy Green
 Sue Collyer
 Adrian Addington
 Alison Sale
 Howard Burchell
 Roger Porkess
 Jeremy Doyle
 Susannah Maurer
 Bob Dow
 Rosemary Gillam
 Keith Smith
 Jess Price
 Marie Moore
 Mavis Schindler
 Liz Allen
 Jane Smith
 Caz Donovan
 Barry Northam
 Tony Cooper
 Gillian Burchell
 David Wilks
 Edwina Ratcliffe
 Amy Summers
 Eric Adams
 Ros Hills

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chess@u3atotnes.uk
choir@u3atotnes.uk
circledance@u3a.totnes.uk
photography@u3atotnes.uk
luncheon@u3atotnes.uk
discussion@u3atotnes.uk
folkband@u3atotnes.uk
frenchconversation@u3atotnes.uk
gardening1@u3atotnes.uk
gardening2@u3atotnes.uk
gardening3@u3atotnes.uk
geology@u3atotnes.uk
music@u3atotnes.uk
nature@u3atotnes.uk
petanque43@u3atotnes.uk
playreading@u3atotnes.uk
playreading2@u3atotnes.uk
psychology@u3atotnes.uk
walking@u3atotnes.uk
women@u3atotnes.uk

YOUR COMMITTEE

Officers (ex officio):

CHAIRMAN	Bob Dow	chair@u3atotnes.uk
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The committee is ably assisted by:

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