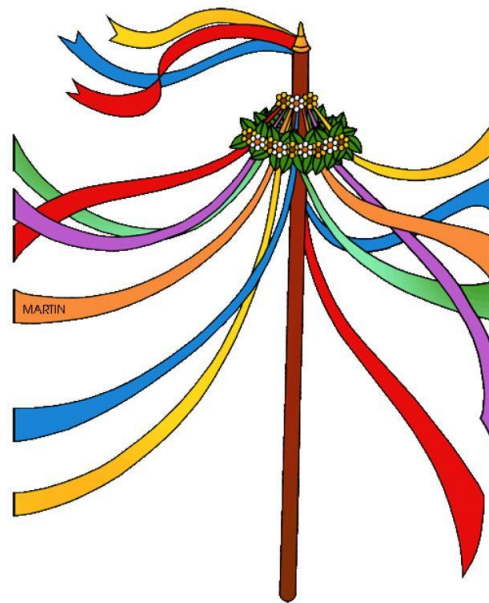


# u3a in Totnes

## THE THIRD AGE TRUST

### May 2023



## Newsletter

Welcome to the May Newsletter. If you are enjoying being a member of the Totnes U3a (and why wouldn't you?) have you thought of mentioning it to other friends and family who are not current members? We have such a wide variety of groups up and running there really is something for pretty much all tastes and interests. Also, if you would like to start a new group but may be unsure where to begin, then please go ahead and contact the Group Leader secretary for help.

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# PROGRAMME



## **Speaker table for U3A Totnes**

THE MONTHLY TALKS take place on the 4<sup>th</sup> 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.

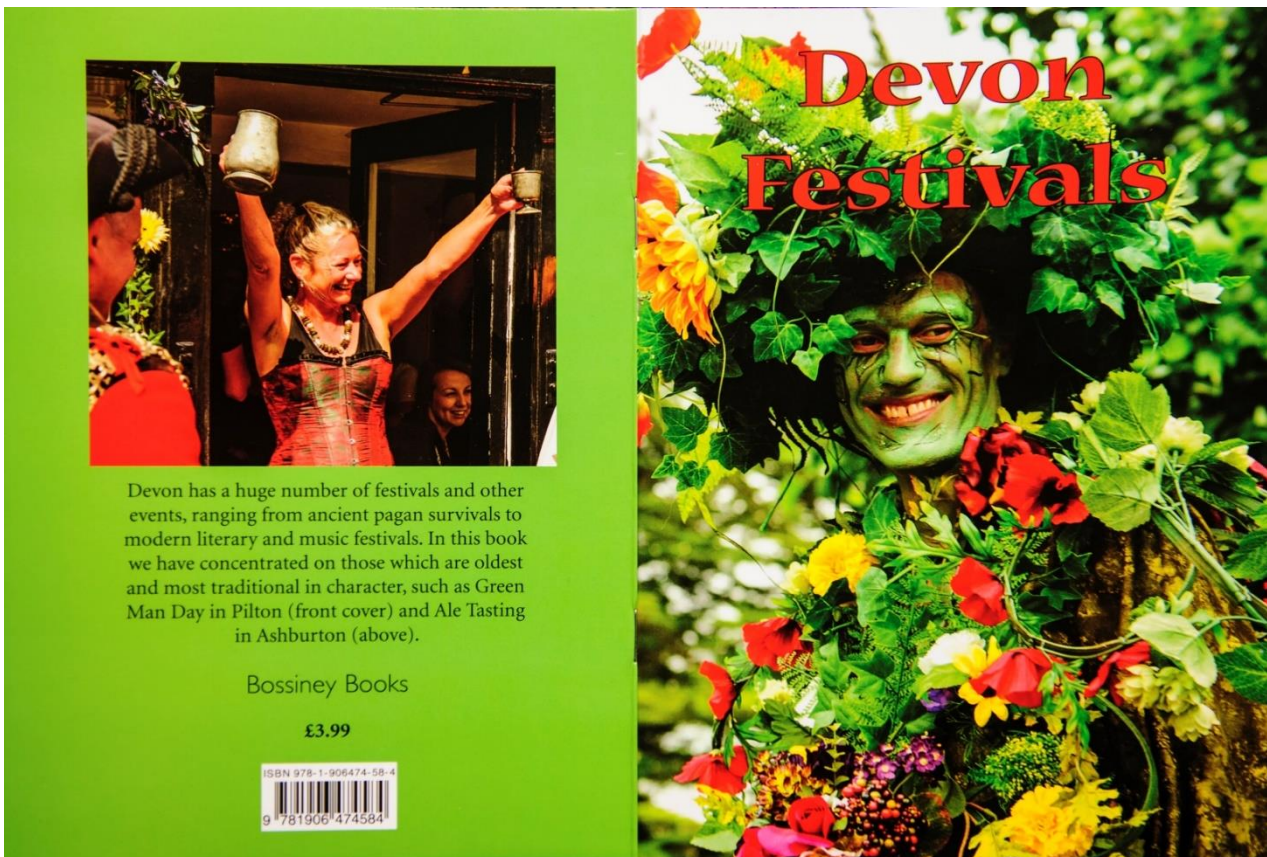
Timing, 09.45 for tea and coffee with the meeting starting at 10.15. The talks, including questions for the speaker, usually last for about an hour.

## Totnes U3A SPEAKERS 2022/2023

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 June 22nd. Robert Hesketh, festivals of Devon

Next month's speaker is Robert Hesketh who lives in Bovey Tracey. **Devon Festivals** Devon's calendar includes a rich variety of festivals, many deeply rooted in the county's history and folklore.



This well-illustrated talk delves into the origins of Wassailing at Whimble and Sandford; May Day at Lustleigh; Ale Tasting at Ashburton; Tip Tip Toeing at Gittisham; the Flaming Tar Barrels at Hatherleigh and Ottery St Mary and much more besides.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS & NEWS

### **New Members**

We are pleased to welcome the following new members; Pamela Tulley, Penny Longman and Janet Willett.

### **New Committee Members**

A big thank you to Maureen Wilmot, Roy Williams and Roger Porkess who have kindly volunteered to join the committee.

### **Treasurer**

Richard Sheffer has kindly been the Treasurer for Totnes U3a since Howard Burchell stepped down. Richard always made it clear that he would be doing this in a temporary capacity so, to that effect would anyone like to volunteer to take over this key role on the committee? Naturally, Richard would give total support and guidance during a handover period should a volunteer come forward. If you are interested, then please contact Richard – email details in the newsletter.

### **Subscriptions**

Another reminder about subscriptions for those who have yet to pay.

£17.00 for single £30.50 for joint. Pay by BACS to Totnes and District U3A account number 37022968 sort code 77-10-07 or cheque made out to Totnes and District U3A and send to Garrett's Meadow. Station Road Totnes TQ9 5HW.

## Coffee Mornings

The coffee mornings will probably be starting up again in the autumn. If you would like to give a short (or longer) talk to the members who attend, then please contact a member of the committee. The talk can be about anything you like – personal, professional, funny, hobby related etc. etc.



# GROUP NEWS

## Around the world in 80 Bites (3)



In May the group had a virtual visit to France, sampling, amongst other things, French onion soup (guess the French just call it onion soup) chicken live pate with baguette, boeuf bourguignon, tartiflette, and Normandy apple pie and followed by the usual quiz. We were also treated to a slide show of the best that the French countryside has to offer. Formidable!



## U3a Digital photography group

A selection of photographs taken at Berry Pomeroy Castel on a rather gloomy morning in April.







## **U3a Walking Group**

Please note that planned walk for Friday June 2<sup>nd</sup> has been cancelled due to the upcoming train strike. It will instead be at Thurslstone. If non-walking walking group members want to join, please email me for details.

*Richard Scheffer*

## **Natural History Group**

Following the untimely death of highly-regarded previous organiser Terry Underhill, this group was relaunched in November 2022 and has been having successful events, monthly, but not on regular dates or days, since then. We didn't want to exclude anyone who already has a regular engagement on e.g. Thursday mornings, and a number of our events are being day-constrained by the availability of hosts or rangers.

We started, in December, with a fascinating illustrated presentation by Caz on the links between geology and flora, and had another such in February on wild flowers found in Devon.

In January we had our first excursion, to Slapton Ley Nature Reserve, when it just managed to not rain on us, but we were constrained by the flooding of a big chunk of the path network around the reserve. Still, lots of diverse wildlife.

In March we visited the Rewilding project at Sharpham, launched in 2019, which is visually unexciting but came dramatically to life with a superb explanation by host Mike Cooke, who's going to give the u3a's Thursday presentation this October - don't miss it!

In April we went to Berry Head where we were hosted by volunteer ranger Geoff, admired, from the hide at the point, the teeming seabirds on the cliffs across the bay to the West. We saw plenty of fulmars, some gannets and herring gulls, ..., and, nearby, for many of us the first swifts of the season.

There were also widespread early purple orchids, cowslips and numerous other plants of interest.

The group is being run by Tony Cooper, Dee Morris, Caz Donovan and Jenny Galton-Fenzi.

*Tony Cooper*

### U3A Natural History Group trip to Berry Head 3rd May

Nine of us met up with Jeff Hacon in the carpark. On the way to the bird hide cowslips and early purple orchids were pointed out.



At the bird hide Jeff set up his telescope so we could have a good view of the guillimots who were nesting on the cliffs. Fulmers and of course gulls were pointed out.



We then walked to the headland where a fulmer flew quite close and we also saw swifts.



## 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 <sup>rd</sup> 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 <sup>nd</sup> 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 <sup>nd</sup> Monday 10.30 a.m. Dartmouth Inn, Totnes
Discussion Group	2 <sup>nd</sup> Monday p.m. & 4 <sup>th</sup> Monday on Zoom
Folk Band and Recorders	Tues fortnightly 10.00 a.m.
French Conversation	3 <sup>rd</sup> Tuesday 2.30 p.m. Quayside
Gardening 1	2 <sup>nd</sup> Mon p.m.
Gardening 2	1 <sup>st</sup> Thursday at 2.30 p.m.
Gardening 3	2 <sup>nd</sup> Wednesday
Geology	Dates variable
Luncheon Club	2 <sup>nd</sup> Thurs lunchtime
Music Appreciation	1st Thurs 10.00 a.m. Quaker Centre
Natural History	
Petanque	Wed & Thurs 11:00 a.m.
Play Reading	2 <sup>nd</sup> Fri a.m.
Play Reading 2	2 <sup>nd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> Fridays from 1030-1230 at Quayside
Psychology	2 <sup>nd</sup> Tues 10 30a.m – 12p.m. St. John's Church, Bridgetown
Walking	1 <sup>st</sup> Fri?
Women's Interest Group	2 <sup>nd</sup> 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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[bookclub@u3atotnes.uk](mailto:bookclub@u3atotnes.uk)  
[bridge@u3atotnes.uk](mailto:bridge@u3atotnes.uk)  
[chess@u3atotnes.uk](mailto:chess@u3atotnes.uk)  
[choir@u3atotnes.uk](mailto:choir@u3atotnes.uk)  
[circledance@u3a.totnes.uk](mailto:circledance@u3a.totnes.uk)  
[photography@u3atotnes.uk](mailto:photography@u3atotnes.uk)  
[luncheon@u3atotnes.uk](mailto:luncheon@u3atotnes.uk)  
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[geology@u3atotnes.uk](mailto:geology@u3atotnes.uk)  
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