

# u3a in Totnes

## THE THIRD AGE TRUST

# December 2022



## Newsletter

Welcome to the December Newsletter, the last one of 2022. A very Happy and Healthy New Year to all Totnes u3A members and their loved ones. With all the festivities going on in the last few weeks this Newsletter is understandably a little on the thin side. Hence the inclusion of a quiz to end the year. A mixture of Christmas (as we are still a few days away from twelfth night) and New Year questions.

Happy 2023!

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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.

<b>Totnes U3A SPEAKERS 2022/2023</b>		
January 26	Nick Powe	Kents Cavern –Nick is the owner of Kents Cavern
February 23	Marilyn Bishop	A history of beer using pub signs and music
March 23	Glen & Hannah Bird	Hearing dogs with demonstration
April 27	Kirsty Peake	Wolves of Yellowstone
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

# ANNOUNCEMENTS & NEWS

## Christmas Concert

We certainly left the 2022 u3a diary of events on a high with our annual Christmas Concert. After two years of restrictions due to Covid we were back with a bigger and better concert than ever. It never ceases to amaze me what talent we have in our u3a with excellent musicians, singers, comedians, and actors who all contribute to the show. But I suppose I shouldn't be surprised that these talented individuals have all appreciated the beautiful area of the country we live in and decided to reside here.

Annette organised our concert for many years but she and Richard, who led the choir moved away early in 2022. Fortunately, Gillian Burchell offered to take over the organisation of the concert and did an excellent job with selecting and co-ordinating a varied and fun packed concert. Jeremy Doyle has taken over the role of choirmaster and led the choir to produce a wonderful, varied selection of music and these pieces were interspersed by other performers who entertained us with poetry, amusing readings, musical items and funny sketches and of course our own Folk group.

The concert was followed by a buffet in the upstairs room and what a feast it was, with a mixture of home cooked and shop supplied food all accompanied by wine or soft drinks. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Gillian, Richard and all the performers who entertained us so well at the concert and to the other members of our committee who worked hard on organising and obtaining the food, and of course to all the groups who kindly brought contributions of food for the lunch. In addition, my thanks to Liz and her helpers who serve us with refreshments every month but on this occasion had to serve 100 in a very short interval.

I was particularly pleased with all the offers we received from members to help set out chairs, tables and food and to clear away afterwards- thank you all, it was so much easier than in previous years. Indeed, I estimated that around 75% of those who attended were involved in some way in making the concert a success- just what the u3a is all about!

Bob Dow

## Some highlights from the Christmas Concert





## Happy New Year

As we reach the end of 2022, I have been reflecting on the year past. Despite all that seems to be in turbulence in the world, with the war in Ukraine, astronomic fuel prices, turmoil in politics, the death of our Queen and some extreme weather we have at last come free from the grip of Covid and managed to have a much more normal year in our u3a.

Thanks to Caz we have enjoyed a very varied and interesting range of speakers for our monthly meetings. Many of us also enjoyed a coach trip to the Lost Gardens of Heligan and a small group ventured down to the Box at Plymouth. It was also good to see a few new groups start up this year as I always think the interest groups are what the u3a is all about, but it does need people who are willing to help organise to make them happen, so thanks to all the group leaders. The monthly coffee meetings at Quayside have also continued to provide an opportunity for an informal chat with other members.

Looking forward to 2023 I am confident we will have another interesting and varied year as I am fortunate to have a hard working and enthusiastic committee and set of helpers. If you were at the Christmas Concert you will already have picked up the leaflet with the programme for 2023 where we have another wide range of speakers lined up. We will again be arranging a coach trip in the warmer weather- if you have any suggestions of where you think may be a good destination, please let me or a member of the committee know.

Indeed, if you have any ideas of new ways in which we can provide more opportunities for our members we would welcome hearing them. Also, if any of you would like to help either by joining the committee or simply providing help in organising a single event we would love to hear from you.

I look forward to seeing you in the coming year

Happy New Year,

Bob Dow

(Chairman)

## Coffee Mornings

Just a reminder that the coffee mornings are at Quayside on the second Thursday throughout the winter months.

## **Your Committee Member, Tony Cooper (Webmaster)**

After getting my degree, which was in maths and statistics, I went to work for BEA in 1968, which shortly after became British Airways, and worked there for 34 years, mostly in IT and doing many different jobs. I now have a final-salary pension from them which is very welcome.

I lived in London until I got married in 1978, and a few years afterwards we moved to Surrey. When the marriage broke up, I had custody of our two children, then aged 11 and 14. I stayed in Surrey until 2021, when I followed my daughter to Totnes. She has been here for 10 years, having studied at Schumacher college, - she is totally in love with the area, as now am I have always been physically active and have also got involved with organising things and have done a wide range of voluntary tasks for the Green Party, for the British Airways Mountain Walking Club, for the Austrian Alpine Club and for Ashtead Squash Club. I have always done a lot of walking, both in mountains and locally, across the British Isles and the Continent, and still do. One of the first things I did when arriving in Devon, alongside joining the u3a, was to join Totnes Ramblers.

I keep my brain in trim by playing a lot of bridge, online with my son who lives near Amsterdam, online with old friends, and physically, here, with new ones. Also by studying various foreign languages, though the only one I am at all fluent in is German.

I have been trying quite hard to reduce my carbon footprint for years, and also to persuade others to do so too, and got more serious about it on arrival here – where I've just started volunteering at the Totnes Climate Hub.

Tony Cooper



## Christmas and New Year Quiz (Answers on page 10)

1. The month of January is named after which Roman god?
2. Which freshwater fish is eaten in many central and east European countries at Christmas?
3. The Japanese traditionally eat Kentucky Fried Chicken at Christmas. True or False?
4. Born on New Year's Day 1879 which author wrote 'A Passage to India'?
5. In which European country is it traditional to eat 12 grapes at the stroke of midnight on New Year's Eve?
6. Who wrote the song Auld Lang Syne?
7. Which country governs Christmas Island?
8. Which European country split in two on New Year's Day 1993?
9. The song 'White Christmas' was written for which film? Bonus point – who wrote the song?
10. Which EU country will adopt the euro on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023?



## GROUP NEWS

### **Art History**

The History of Art group have looked at many of the not so well-known artists over the last year Stanley Spencer, James Gillray, Lowry, Delacroix, Ravilious, Walter Sickert and John Martin.

We do not meet again until January and we will start by looking at Dutch artists starting with the master of them all - Rembrandt. This will be on Wednesday February 15<sup>th</sup> and not on January 18<sup>th</sup>, as originally scheduled.

Happy new year to all of you.

Adrian Addington

### **Petanque**

Please note that due to the state of the pitch the Petanque group will not be meeting until some time in the New Year. More details to follow.

### **Religious Poetry**

This group will no longer be meeting

## Christmas and New Year Quiz answers

1. Janus, the god of gates and doorways
2. Carp
3. True!
4. E M Forster
5. Spain
6. Robert Burns
7. Australia
8. Czechoslovakia split into The Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic
9. Holiday Inn. The song was written by Irving Berlin
10. Croatia

## TOTNES u3a GROUPS & Meeting Dates

TOPIC	MEETING DATE
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> Thursday 2.30 p.m. Quayside
Gardening 1	2 <sup>nd</sup> Mon p.m.
Gardening 2	TBA
Gardening 3	2 <sup>nd</sup> Wednesday
Geology	Dates variable
Luncheon Club	2 <sup>nd</sup> Thurs lunchtime
Music Appreciation	2 <sup>nd</sup> 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> Friday 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  
 TBA  
 Gillian Burchell  
 David Wilks 1  
 Edwina Ratcliffe  
 Amy Summers  
 Eric Adams  
 Ros Hills

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[circledance@u3a.totnes.uk](mailto:circledance@u3a.totnes.uk)  
[photography@u3atotnes.uk](mailto:photography@u3atotnes.uk)  
[luncheon@u3atotnes.uk](mailto:luncheon@u3atotnes.uk)  
[discussion@u3atotnes.uk](mailto:discussion@u3atotnes.uk)  
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## YOUR COMMITTEE

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