

u3a Totnes
THE THIRD AGE TRUST
December 2023



Newsletter

Welcome to the December newsletter, the last one of 2023. This is wishing everyone at the U3a Totnes a very happy, healthy, and peaceful 2024. Many thanks to all those members who have worked so hard to make 2023 yet another successful year.

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PROGRAMME



Totnes u3a Speakers 2023/2024		
Jan 25th	Janet Few	Clysters, Comfrey and Coiffs – the lives of the 17 th century
Feb 22nd	Ken Basterfield	Blackberry Farm. Bees and beekeeping.
March 28 th	John Ellis	The history of the Stover Canal
April 25th	Caz Donovan	The relationship between the landscape, plants and geology
May23rd	Mike Langham	Interactive bird talk
June27th	Dr Sue Andrew	The 3 Hares motif that is found in many Dartmoor churches
July25th	Prof. Peter Edwards	The life and works of Leonardo da Vinci
September 26th	Paul Hawthorne	Isaac Singer and his connection to Paignton
October	Mary Smith	A schoolgirl's war. School life during WW2
November 28th	Dr. Todd Gray	The Cathedral Close fire and other historic buildings of Exeter

January Talk, Thursday 25th

Janet Few's presentation on Coiffeurs, Clysters, Comfrey and Coiffs details *the lives of our seventeenth century ancestors*. 'Why do you need a bum roll?' 'What colour were carrots in the C17th?' 'What did the Cavaliers use for deodorant?' 'Can you think of 47 uses for urine?' Supplying the answers to the above (well, maybe not all 47 uses), this presentation is a light-hearted but informative, insight into the domestic life of our C17th ancestors. The emphasis is on providing the context against which to set the documentary evidence for this period.

Christmas Show and lunch.

A selection of photos from the Christmas concert. Many thanks to Sarah Newton from the Digital Photography Group.





ANNOUNCEMENTS & NEWS

Coffee Mornings

As with last year, it was suggested that members meet at Quayside Bistro for coffee on the **second Thursday morning of each month from 10 am**. Members can purchase, tea, coffee, and cakes if they wish to. This is not a formal, organised gathering, but an opportunity to meet for chat and socialising for anyone who would like to.

Regards,

Rosemary

Geology Group

The U3A Geology Group had its last meeting of the year - a small gathering with coffee and mince pies - looking at some of my unusual rocks and fossils which resulted in a good geological discussion.

This year we didn't manage any outdoor meetings except for a boat trip in September. Our indoor meetings covered a wide range of subjects: The River Exe and its history and geology; the building stones of Exeter Cathedral and then looking at the coastal erosion along the South Devon coast and the rock armour that is used. We had a meeting about the geology of Devon's 3 bays – Start Bay, Torbay and Babbacombe Bay and in another meeting looked at the pebble, it's formation and if it ends up on a beach! We ended the year with a PowerPoint looking at the minerals which artists have used over the ages to make their pigments – many of which were highly toxic.



80 Bites 3

The group met for the last lunch of 2023 to enjoy some traditional Austrian dishes. A slightly depleted meet up as some members were away in foreign climes. Nevertheless, a very enjoyable lunch which included steak, pork, chicken and to finish, apple strudel. What else?

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 3	Monthly meeting in members' houses
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.
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. Dartmouth Inn
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	1st Thurs 10.30 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 3
 Book Club
 Bridge
 Chess
 Choir
 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

Anne Eames
 Sue Collyer
 Alison Sale
 Howard Burchell
 Roger Porkess
 Jeremy Doyle
 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
 Richard Scheffer
 Ros Hills

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bridge@u3atotnes.uk
chess@u3atotnes.uk
choir@u3atotnes.uk
photography@u3atotnes.uk
lunch@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
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YOUR COMMITTEE

Officers (ex officio):

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The committee is ably assisted by:

NEWS EDITOR	Tim Marsh	news@u3atotnes.uk
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