

u3a in Totnes

THE THIRD AGE TRUST

February 2023



Newsletter

Welcome to the first Newsletter of 2023. A big thank you to all those group leaders who have sent in updates on their group activities, together with photos. It looks as if groups are certainly becoming more active following an understandably quiet January. The winter is almost behind us. Fingers crossed. If you are looking to join a new group for 2023 then this maybe the perfect time. Just contact the relevant group leader and check for availably. Good luck and have fun!

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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 | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------|--|
| 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

Speaker Thursday February 23rd

Marilyn Bishop's talk on Thursday 23rd February was Pubs and Beer and a little Music.

Drinking alcohol has been around for a very long time. Ale was the safer drink because the water was so polluted. Ale changed to beer. Beer was then overtaken by gin in popularity in the 17/18th century. Why? Because it was cheaper, and you could drink yourself into oblivion much quicker. In recent times gin has again become the preferred drink, flavoured in a wide variety of ways. Beer has a shorter life span, and some people enjoy craft beer.

At one time public houses were so popular that there were several pubs in a street - now there are more coffee shops! How many pubs can you count in your area of Totnes? How many have disappeared?

Caz Donovan

Coffee Mornings

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

Your Committee Member, Jacquetta Selley

I was born and brought up in North London and was a teenager in the swinging sixties. I remember seeing The Who at Regent St Poly for 15s, and, yes, they did wreck their instruments!

I went to Imperial College to study physics, in my year there were 200 students, 17 of whom were girls! At that time women were still banned from the Union bar, but when my daughter went she could drink pints with the rugby crew if she wanted to, I don't think she did.

I went to work at The Royal Free Hospital as a medical physicist and did an MSc in radiation science. When my first two daughters were young we decided to move to Wales and build dolls-houses. I spent 32 happy years in Presteigne, on the Powys/ Hereford border, in an amazing house built in 1462 (it was dendrodated)

The business was called Second Homes and we also made fireplaces, ranges etc and sold to shops and at fairs.

I had two more children and involved myself in the playgroup, PTA, school governance and ran the youth club, so when the inevitable happened and overseas competition undercut our prices teaching was an obvious plan. I gained my PGCE through the OU and taught secondary science and physics in local schools until retirement.

Personal circumstances necessitated a move, and with my eldest daughter happily settled in a rather inaccessible valley in Murtwell, Totnes seemed a good choice.

So, it has proved! I'm happily busy with various poetry groups, dance classes, yoga, a pub quiz team and of course the u3a.

I did a lot of knitting during lock-down, and read a lot of books, I also love my little garden, and try to grow for the bees and butterflies.

Since moving here I have met someone who grew up close to me, someone who went to my old school (Cophall) and someone whose grandparents lived in Presteigne and who I knew!

It's a small world, one of you may bought from us at a dolls-house fair?

Jacquetta Selley

GROUP NEWS

Walking Group

Ten members of the walking group had their monthly get together on the first Friday of February. We took the 9.45 bus from the Severn Stars to the Paignton Zoo. We then walked out of Paignton past the tip and into the countryside. At that time of the morning traffic was fortunately quiet on the back roads. Lower Yalberton Road took us down into the valley as far as Long Road where we found a sculptured ivy - perhaps as an early Valentines card? Whitehall Lane is just a few steps up Long Road and we enjoyed being off the road completely. It was a lovely sunny day, and our coffee stop was alongside the stream. Suitably refreshed we continued turning left at Waddeton Road and continued down the valley in Byter Mill Lane into Stoke Gabriel. The final couple of hundred yards were along the edge of Mill Pond as the tide was favourable. It was a shade under 4 miles which we easily covered in two hours. As the bus back to Totnes only left an hour later, and the River Shack was sadly closed for the winter, we walked on to the old ferry point at Duncannon before returning to town and catching the bus back home in time for a late lunch. The next walk is on the first Friday in March (3rd) and will be at Fingle Bridge. You are very welcome to join. Walks are around 4 to 5 miles and generally easy going. The pace is manageable. If you let me know you are coming the details of the walk will be sent to you by email. Lifts can be arranged for those without transport.





Richard Scheffer

Music Appreciation

Our membership has declined substantially during and since the pandemic, to the extent that unless we can attract new members we may have to disband. I am aware that our meeting on the third Thursday of the month clashes with the U3A Coffee Morning, which may in the past have deterred some U3A members from joining us. We therefore propose to change the date of our meeting.

We propose to take a short break after our February meeting, and when we start again it will be on the first Thursday of each month.

We will meet at the Quaker Rooms in Ticklemore Street between 10 and 12 on the first Thursday of the month. Each month is allocated a theme, and members bring along a CD containing a piece of music associated with that theme. There is no obligation to bring music of your own, but it can be fun to rummage through your collection for something that meets the current theme.

While we usually choose music associated with a theme that we have chosen, we sometimes have a talk on a musical theme given by someone from outside the group, or by one of our own members.

While the music we listen to is mostly what is loosely termed 'Classical', we do also play Jazz and Folk music and are always open to hearing something new. If you think you might like to join the group, do come along and give it a trial on 9th February [the theme is female composers], or email me at music@u3atotnes.uk.

Barry Northam

GARDEN GROUP 1

Garden Group 1 started the year with a very sociable bring and share lunch at a member's home. It was a most enjoyable and relaxing afternoon when we talked about and made plans for our gardens and were able to ignore the cold and damp outside! For the early Spring months we will continue to meet in members' homes to discuss and compare garden ideas and problems, then in April we will start our summer season of outside visits to gardens both local and further afield.



Mavis Schindler

French Conversation

Unfortunately, Marie Moore is unwell and therefore the meetings have been suspended until Marie is in better health. We wish her a speedy recovery.

Adrian Addington

80 Bites2

Namaste!

In early February the group met to enjoy the rich and varied cuisine of India. The dishes were as varied as they were delicious and included fish curry, mushroom pilau, beef randang, chicken tikka, spiced potatoes and tarka dahl. Lunch was followed by a fun, informative and sometimes tricky quiz about the history, culture and geography of The Republic of India as were learned to call the country by its official title.

A rather wonderful lunch with good food, good company and excellent hosting.





U3a Digital Photography Group

The subject for the February meeting of the Digital Photography Group was 'Guess the object- unusual photos of everyday 'objects'. This subject was interpreted in some interesting ways by some of the members, so we had a fascinating variety of photos to view. These ranged from household objects taken as close ups or from unusual angles to photos of details of objects in Totnes or the surrounding area, where the idea was to guess the location. We also had some photos that had been post processed to produce artistic images where we had to guess what the original object was. A selection of the images are in this newsletter for you to see if you can identify them.

Our next meeting will be on Monday 13th March at the Dartmouth Inn when the subject will be to bring a few photos for the other members to critique and make suggestions as to how they could have been improved whether technically, by taking from a different angle, or under different lighting conditions. New members are always welcome and expensive cameras or photographic knowledge are not necessary.

Bob Dow

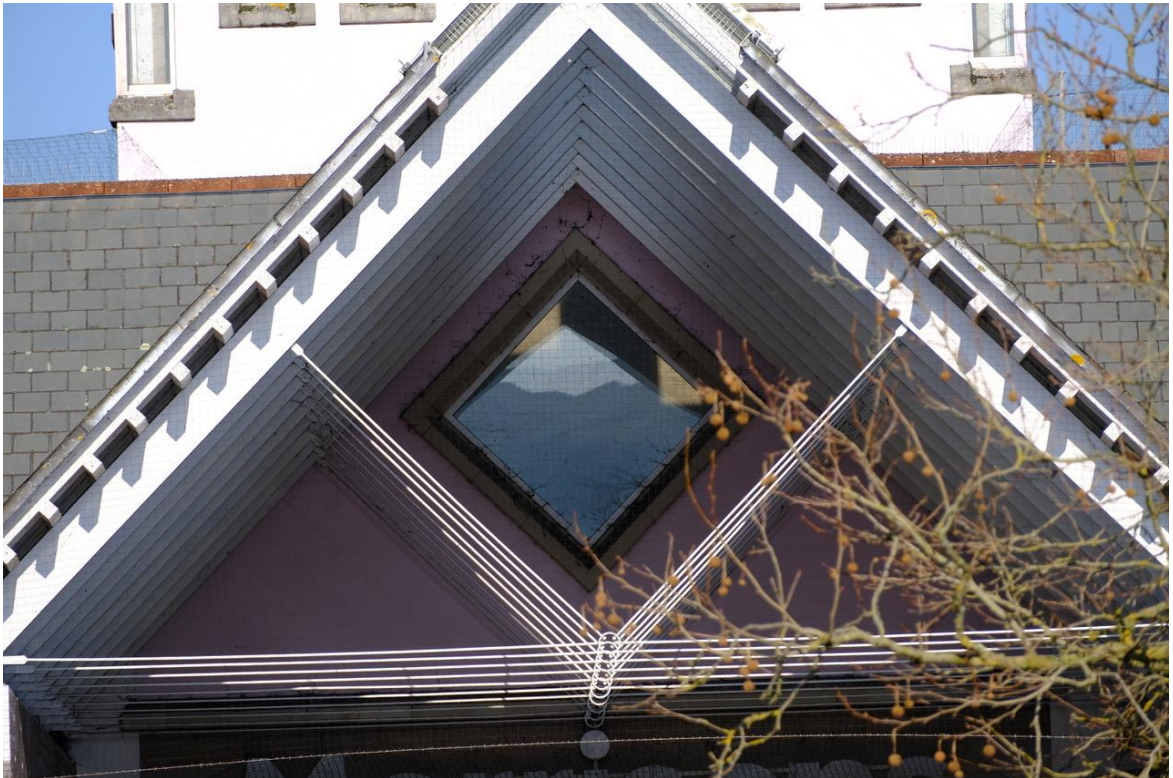


1.

2.



3.



4.



5.



Discussion Group

The Discussion Group meets once a month in person, at St. John's Church, Bridgetown, on the 2nd Monday of the month at p pm. This is followed by a second monthly meeting by Zoom on the 4th Monday at 4 pm, except in the summer months.

The topics discussed are very varied, as shown by those covered in person sessions in the last five months; Economic Growth in October, The characteristics of leadership in November, 'Should Shamima Begum be denied British citizenship ?' in December, The need to get more care workers to free up hospital beds in January and reminiscences of Valentine's Day in February. If you are interested in joining, please contact Keith Smith, the group Leader.

Keith Smith

Bridge

We have a u3a Bridge Group which is run by Howard Burchell, and if you are thinking of joining but are put off because you re a total beginner, there is a course being run by the Newton Abbot Bridge Club which you might be interested in. The details are below:-Newton Abbot Bridge Club are running a 12-week 'Beginning Bridge' Course (using the English Bridge Education & Development [EBED] Syllabus) at the Recreation Centre in Newton Abbot from Tuesday 16 May until Tuesday 1 Aug, 1330 – 1530. The cost is £70 and that includes the EBED Booklet, memberships of the EBU and access to a student's website.

Details from: nabcteacher1@gmail.com

Digital Photography Group Quiz Answers

1. Cooker Hood
2. Binoculars
3. Morrisons Entrance
4. Handles of Fire Irons set
5. Clock Face

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 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 | 1 st Thursday 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
 Alison Sale
 Amy Summers
 Eric Adams
 Ros Hills

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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):

| | | |
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| | | |
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