

**u3a Totnes**  
**THE THIRD AGE TRUST**  
**February 2024**

**Newsletter**

The February newsletter contains a couple of articles that may be of interest/use to members without being U3a specific. If anyone has something similar for inclusion it would be very welcome, just ensure that we do not advertise businesses or have anything that might be viewed as too controversial! Also, the new leaflet will soon be going to print so this is the ideal time to check all group details or if you are considering starting up a new group.

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## PROGRAMME



### Totnes u3a Speakers 2023/2024

<b>Totnes u3a Speakers 2023/2024</b>		
March 28 <sup>th</sup>	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

## ANNOUNCEMENTS & NEWS

*Rosemary*

### **Welcome to the following new members;**

Malcolm Lockie Race, Elizabeth Devenish, Patrick Reardon, Lawrence Eastwell, Gillian and John Allen

### **Coffee Mornings – change of venue**

It would appear that the change of venue for the informal coffee mornings has attracted more members than those held at Quayside, so if you want to meet up with U3a members for a chat and a coffee then please go along

### **Coach Trip**

If you have any ideas for this summer's coach trip, then please contact Rosemary with your suggestions

### **Totnes U3a Diary**

There has been some positive feedback about the diary that was in the last newsletter but please be sure to inform Jacquetta of any changes asap (even temporary) so that the diary is as accurate as possible. We can then consider the diary being a regular newsletter inclusion

### **Astronomy Short Course**

Sorry for the delay in contacting you about the astronomy short course, I have finally managed to sort out my family and other arrangements (latest grandson actually arrived early!) and so am in a position to make some definite plans. I have decided to use the Dartmouth Inn, it is familiar to many and conveniently centrally situated.

I have chosen to book the room on the following dates (March and April, not into May as I thought I might)

March 14th

March 21st

March 28th

April 11th

I have left Easter week free as I have visitors.

I have chosen Thursday as it is clear for me and seemed to be reasonably free of other groups. I realise it will not suit all, and I'm sorry if that includes you.

The room is booked from 2-4, I will arrive at 2pm to set up, and perhaps others would like to come from 2.15 onward for a 2.30pm start, I anticipate an hour for the meeting.

I would be grateful if you could reply letting me know if you are able to attend so that I have an idea of numbers. I'm away for a couple of days so any queries will not be answered immediately.

Looking forward to meeting everyone, Jacquetta

## Forthcoming u3a Courses

Those of you who attended January's talk at St Johns will have heard Bob Dow announce four forthcoming Courses. These have generated a lot of enthusiasm; for your interest details are given below but they are all fully booked.

Assuming they are well received we will try to organise further courses later in the year. The present four courses reflect particular interests of some of the committee members. Given the size of our membership there must be some among you who would be keen to share your knowledge and experience with other members.

<b>Course</b>	<b>Given by</b>	<b>Dates</b>	<b>Place</b>
<b>Dying well</b>	<b>Richard Scheffer</b>	March 5th	Dartmouth Inn
		March 12th	Dartmouth Inn
		March 19th	Dartmouth Inn
		March 26th	Dartmouth Inn
<b>Astronomy</b>	<b>Jacquetta Selley</b>	March 14th	Dartmouth Inn
		March 21st	Dartmouth Inn
		March 28th	Dartmouth Inn
		April 11th	Dartmouth Inn
<b>iPAD/Tablet</b>	<b>Bob Dow</b>	March 15th	Dartmouth Inn
	<b>Tony Cooper</b>	To be decided	
	<b>Peter Fellows</b>		
<b>Genealogy</b>	<b>Roger Porkess</b>	April 9th	Dartmouth Inn
		April 16th	Dartmouth Inn
		April 23rd	Dartmouth Inn
		To be decided	

Attendees will be contacted by the speaker re times

**Devon Communities Together** is providing support and advice for hundreds of people across Devon as part of the Energy Outreach Project in collaboration with Citizens Advice.

Up to the end of March 2024, Energy Champions Martin Rich and Anderson Jones are visiting community spaces and households throughout the county where they are seeing people struggling with the soaring cost of living. Their advice on saving energy, managing fuel debt, accessing financial support, addressing condensation and dampness, greener energy alternatives and more can save people money on their energy bills.

You can book a community energy saving presentation, for example in a Village Hall or Community Centre, a confidential one-to-one advice including home visits, or you can invite us to your upcoming events such as lunch clubs or

committee meetings. To enquire, please contact Martin Rich at [martin@devoncommunities.org.uk](mailto:martin@devoncommunities.org.uk) or call 07984001542 or Anderson Jones at [anderson.jones@devoncommunities.org.uk](mailto:anderson.jones@devoncommunities.org.uk) or call 07539334206.

All events and advice are completely free.

Further information may be found here, including any upcoming community events: <https://www.devoncommunities.org.uk/projects/energy-outreach-project>

Their talks include;

- **The energy market and energy costs**
- **Understanding fuel poverty**
- **Government support for households**
- **Industry support for households**
- **Warm Homes Discount eligibility**
- **Home energy saving**
- **Switching energy suppliers**
- **Priority Services Register**
- **Getting further advice**
- **Investment in home energy saving**
- **The pros and cons of Smart Meters**
- **Devon Oil Collective**
- **Carbon Zero – new energy sources**

- **Obtaining further help with energy affordability**

## **Information from Great Western Railway**

Major signalling works in Devon and Cornwall will improve safety and reliability and offer the potential to run more trains. This work will see the replacement of older-style signals and equipment with brand-new, digital technology.

In Devon, the line between Totnes and Plymouth will be closed from Saturday 16 March to Friday 22 March. This will extend to Exeter St Davids over the weekend of 17/18 March as well as after 2140 on most weeknights. Rail replacement road transport will operate between affected stations. We will also run non-stop buses between Tiverton Parkway and Plymouth throughout the week. For more information please visit [www.gwr.com/upgrade](http://www.gwr.com/upgrade).

The Night Riviera sleeper service will also be affected during this time and also between Tuesday 27 February and Sunday 10 March – more information is available on our dedicated webpage at <https://www.gwr.com/travelling-with-us/night-riviera-sleeper>.

## GROUP NEWS



Totnes U3a Walking Group





## Totnes U3a Play Reading Group

### **Potential new group**

We are considering starting a portrait drawing and appreciation group for all levels including complete beginners to experienced artists. Even if you have not drawn anything since school, we would encourage you to come along and give it a try using whatever medium you would like e.g. pencils, watercolours, pastels or of your preference.

There are many reasons why you might enjoy drawing portraits. You may like to capture the essence of a person, to improve your artistic skill or as a therapeutic and meditative activity. Whatever it is, you will find the experience enjoyable and a way to challenge yourself.

At the beginning of each session, guidance and advice will be offered by Chrissie Bennett who has experience of portrait drawing and at the end an opportunity to consider and discuss portraits by well-known artists.

Initially, portraits can be based on photographs, but it is hoped that participants will be willing to rotate as a model for one of the sessions. This experience is a useful one of understanding what it is like to be a model which will have an effect on how to approach your portrait drawing.

It is hoped to run a series of sessions with a small charge for each session to cover the cost of room hire.

## 80 Bites 3

Menu. USA food

### STARTER

Tex Mex Crispy Tacos with Beef

### MAINS

Cajun spiced chicken with peppers

Sticky Ribs

Jambalaya

Smokey Pork & Boston Beans

### DESSERT

Baked New York Cheesecake

Yet another great meal with some truly excellent food. Theme was the USA, so the group had a huge range of foods to choose from. Looks as if we may be going back to Africa for the next lunch.





Totnes U3a Bridge Group

## 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	1 <sup>st</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> Monday at Quayside and 1.30pm for beginners, 2.30pm for regular players
Choir	Weds 10.00 a.m.
Creative Writing	
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. Dartmouth Inn
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
Luncheon Club2	3 <sup>rd</sup> Friday at 12pm
Music Appreciation	1st Thurs 10.30 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. Quaker Meeting House, Ticklemore St.
Walking	1 <sup>st</sup> Fri
Longer Walking Group	3rd Thursday

Women's Interest Group	2 <sup>nd</sup> Thurs at 11.00 a.m. Various venues
Writing Group	4 <sup>th</sup> Monday of the month 1030. Dartmouth Inn

**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  
 Creative Writing  
 Digital Photography  
 Luncheon Club  
 Luncheon Club2  
 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  
 Longer Walking Group  
 Women's Interest Group  
 Writing Group

**LEAD**

Anne Eames  
 Sue Collyer  
 Alison Sale  
 Howard Burchell  
 Roger Porkess  
 Hazel Lewis  
 Rita Trotman  
 Bob Dow  
 Rosemary Gillam  
 Bob Carpenter  
 Keith Smith  
 Jess Price  
 Marie Moore  
 Mavis Schindler  
 Liz Allen  
 Jane Smith  
 Caz Donovan  
 Barry Northam  
 Tony Cooper  
 Nigel Woodward  
 David Wilks  
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 Amy Summers  
 Richard Scheffer  
 Bob Carpenter  
 Ros Hills  
 Rita Trotman

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