



Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> June *The Secret Lives of the Elements* Kathryn Harkup

**A view from the Chair – Howard O’Keeffe** [howardokeeffe49@gmail.com](mailto:howardokeeffe49@gmail.com)

Firstly, I hope as many of you as possible will attend the AGM at 10.15am on Thursday 13 June at the Flavel. Details of the talk are given below, and we will try to keep the AGM formalities to a minimum, so we can let our guest speaker start at around 10.30am.

We are still hoping to hear from anyone thinking of joining the committee – please make yourself known to one of us if that is the case! There will be some changes this year and let me here express sincere thanks to committee colleagues for all their hard work during the past year, and for their excellent company and good humour! I am stepping down at the AGM having done my four years but will always be happy to help if needed in future, and I will continue to be a member. It has been a pleasure to be part of such an excellent organisation!

**See you at the AGM I hope, and best wishes to all**

**Secretary’s reminders – Christine Milsom** [christinemilsom@btinternet.com](mailto:christinemilsom@btinternet.com) The talk for the u3a members’ meeting is at The Flavel on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> June at 10.30am. The subject is *The Secret Lives of the Elements* by well known writer Kathryn Harkup. Come and hear the weird and wonderful stories behind the periodic table. Coffee is a little earlier, from 9.45am, please remember your mug if you would like coffee.

**Membership Secretary – ‘Wiz’ Tehel** 07770 912100 [membership@dartvalleyu3a.org](mailto:membership@dartvalleyu3a.org) A big thank you for your renewals. If you have renewed, you should have received a confirmation email or letter. If you have renewed and not received a confirmation, then please contact me. Please note that renewals made after 1<sup>st</sup> April will not appear in our bank statements till early May.

A reminder for those who have not renewed that renewals are due **1st April** each year. Our bank details are: Account Name: **Dart Valley U3A**, Account Number: **06170102**, Sort Code: **52 30 20**. Alternately, write a cheque made out to **Dart Valley U3A** and post to Membership Secretary, 33 Clarence Hill, Dartmouth, TQ6 9NY. The annual membership fees are £10 for Individuals, £20 for Joint Memberships (i.e. couples at the same address) and £5 for Associates. For new members who have or intend to join during the year, the membership fee per person is £10 if you join between April and June, between July and Sept it is £7.50, between October and Dec £5 and the remaining three months £2.50. Membership forms are available on the u3a website or from me.

**Group Co-ordinator – Suzie Dodsworth** 01803 770134 [suziedwong@gmail.com](mailto:suziedwong@gmail.com) Well, it is the AGM next Thursday and I shall be away in Menorca. I’ve volunteered to take over half the Membership Secretary’s job i.e. the database records. If somebody else would like to volunteer for that job, I’d be very happy to stay as Group Co-ordinator. Otherwise, I shall have to give up this role which I have very much enjoyed. We wait to see if there are any volunteers...

## Event: Devon Link Quiz

The Devon inter u3a quiz afternoon is on **Tuesday 1st October** at 2pm in Exeter. If you would like to put a team of four together or join a team, please contact Gwendolyn ([jsgmaker@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:jsgmaker@yahoo.co.uk)) or phone 01803 833270. There is no cost for teams as the entry charge will be paid by u3a, refreshments are also included. Transport can be sorted later. It would be good for Dart Valley to be represented. In the past we have been the winning team.

## Group reports

**ARCHERY Colin Payne** 07919 933891 [colinpayne43@hotmail.com](mailto:colinpayne43@hotmail.com) (Tues am S F Cricket Ground). The Archery Group are still going strong despite being small in number. We were saddened to learn of the passing of one of our longstanding members, Alan Stockbridge, after suffering a terminal illness. He visited us just a few weeks previously to sit and watch us shoot. Alan is remembered for bringing out his longbow and shooting at a white plastic chair placed some 100 plus metres across the cricket field. This is known as clout shooting, where the archer practiced the skill of accurately raining down arrows onto a point in the enemy lines. Archery and artillery come from the same root in French; beware King Harold – don’t look up! On 24<sup>th</sup> May we welcomed Alan’s son James as a guest, and he was keen to learn how to shoot his dad’s longbow. Last week we welcomed back Chris Evans, who has been out of action throughout 2023 after suffering a prolonged illness.

**ARCHITECTURE Mike Trevorrow** 01803 752928/07470 484858 [mike.d.trevorrow@gmail.com](mailto:mike.d.trevorrow@gmail.com)  
(4<sup>th</sup> Thurs, 11.15 for 11.30am start, Flavel Studio – all welcome.) Please note that the June 'talk' is a **visit to Compton Castle on June 27<sup>th</sup>**. There are places left for this visit so if you want to go, please email Mike Trevorrow – [mike.d.trevorrow@gmail.com](mailto:mike.d.trevorrow@gmail.com) The visit will start at 11:00am and you will need to drive there under your own steam. Please try to fill cars as parking there is very limited. A number of folk are going to have lunch at the licensed cafe opposite the castle after the tour so please let me know if you wish to join them as we will have to book tables in advance. I look forward to seeing you at this lovely National Trust castle, it is a little medieval jewel of a place. PS. I'll need your numbers by 20<sup>th</sup> June, please.

**ART GROUP Pat White** 07929 271658 [lespatwhite@icloud.com](mailto:lespatwhite@icloud.com)



(Monday 10am Townstal Hall). This has been a month of challenges, we first spent some time exploring the unique waxy quality of oil pastels (a new medium to many) using coloured peppers and other vegetables, as a very suitable subject matter.

Then we went on to explore 'abstract art' looking beyond objective subject matter and exploring aspects of composition, colour, balance and tone. It was certainly a challenge, when faced with a blank piece of paper, to know where to begin; but once started, the chance to explore these abstract qualities was exciting. We all enjoyed the freedom this offered and will continue to explore its many aspects in sessions to come.



**ASTROLOGY Geraldine Leigh** [geraldine.e.leigh@gmail.com](mailto:geraldine.e.leigh@gmail.com) 07590 646653  
(3<sup>rd</sup> Tues, afternoon).

**BOOK GROUP 1 Lindsay Charlesworth** 01803 834592 [lindsay@jpcharlesworth.plus.com](mailto:lindsay@jpcharlesworth.plus.com)

(10.30am – 3<sup>rd</sup> Mon Stoke Fleming) For our May meeting we read and discussed *Rebecca* by Daphne Du Maurier. It's such a good book and even though we had all read it before years ago it still gave rise to an excellent discussion. It's well worth a second or even third reading! Next month, on 17<sup>th</sup> June we shall be discussing Rose Tremain's *Absolutely and Forever* and on 15<sup>th</sup> July it will be Ann Cleeve's *The Long Call*.

**BOOK GROUP 2 Valerie Church** 01803 834280 [churchval2@aol.com](mailto:churchval2@aol.com)

(1<sup>st</sup> Weds 2.30pm – 4.00pm) Over the last 2 months we have read two very different books. *The Night Manager* by John le Carre. A spine chilling and complex tale of corrupt intelligence and the brutal arms trade where nobody can be trusted; and then the beautifully written and compelling *Crow Lake*, a first novel by Mary Lawson. We are now reading *River Rats*, the second of a trilogy by Andy Griffe.

**BOOK GROUP 3 Sarah Nottrodt** 0777 8547064 [sarah\\_nottrodt@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:sarah_nottrodt@hotmail.co.uk)

(2<sup>nd</sup> Weds 10am) This new group had an excellent planning meeting with lots of ideas and the bringing together of several members new to both Dartmouth and the u3a. Sarah will be running the group, and it will usually meet in one another's homes. The book chosen for 12<sup>th</sup> June is *The Grass is Singing* by Doris Lessing, followed by *The Humans* by Matt Haig (10<sup>th</sup> July).

**BOWLING Tim Freeman** 01803 832663/07792 620176 [timfreeman61@googlemail.com](mailto:timfreeman61@googlemail.com)

(2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday 3pm). u3a Bowling will take place as usual on the second **Tuesday – 11<sup>th</sup> June, at 3pm**. New joiners for bowling please ring Tim on 01803 832663.

**BRIDGE Judi Cotes** 01803 834802 [judigrovecotes7@gmail.com](mailto:judigrovecotes7@gmail.com)

(Flavel Studio Tues 10am – 12 noon) We would love to see anyone interested in improving their bridge or trying something new. Cost £4. Price includes tea/coffee and biscuits.

**CALLIGRAPHY Gill Kidd** [gillkidd@btinternet.com](mailto:gillkidd@btinternet.com)

(Thurs 2–4pm Members home)

**CLASSICS 'Wiz' Tehel** 07770 912100 [classics@dartvalleyu3a.org](mailto:classics@dartvalleyu3a.org)

(1st Thurs 10.30am Flavel Auditorium). Doors open 10am, talk starts 10:30, finishes 11:45am. Tickets: £4 from The Flavel website and Flavel box office or tickets can be purchased within the Auditorium on the day.

**6<sup>th</sup> June – Roadways in the Ancient World** presented by **Steve Williams**

**COFFEE CUPS Gwendolyn Alker** 01803 833270 [jsgmalker@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:jsgmalker@yahoo.co.uk)

(Main Meeting Flavel 2<sup>nd</sup> Thurs) Thank you for remembering to bring your own coffee cup. Disposable cups are always available for 20p at the counter. Volunteers serving coffee at the meeting have free entry to the talk.

**CRAFTS CLUB Joan Buscombe** 01803 832662 [c/o\\_vcbest@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:c/o_vcbest@hotmail.co.uk)

(Tues 10am –12 noon ring first) Our small group continues to meet and enjoy each others company and to use our brain power to dream up new patterns and colour schemes for our creations. We would welcome more people to come and join us and share their knowledge with ours, or if a complete beginner for us to share our knowledge with you. Do come forward if you enjoy creative stitching.

**CRYPTIC CROSSWORDS Gwendolyn Alker** 01803 833270 [jsgmalker@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:jsgmalker@yahoo.co.uk)

(3<sup>rd</sup> Tues). Our next meeting is on Tuesday 18 June at 10.30am. If you are interested in joining, please contact Gwendolyn by email.

**FRENCH CONVERSATION Alan Kerr** 01548 531843. Mob:07402 276468 [alanckerr@yahoo.com](mailto:alanckerr@yahoo.com)

(2:30pm 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month, at Brown's Hotel, Bar & Bistro, Victoria Road.)

**NEW FRENCH READING Anne Goody** [anne@goody.org.uk](mailto:anne@goody.org.uk)

The French Reading Group will have its introductory meeting on **Wednesday 24 July at 2pm**. At this meeting we will decide how the group will work and when regular meetings will be. Regular meetings will start in September. If anyone wishes to attend the introduction to see if it is for them, please email me and I will be in touch about the meeting details.

**GARDENING GROUP 1 Clare Ball** [ceball@live.co.uk](mailto:ceball@live.co.uk) (3<sup>rd</sup> Friday)

**GARDENING GROUP 2 Clare Ball** [ceball@live.co.uk](mailto:ceball@live.co.uk) (12 noon on the last Tuesday).

**GARDEN GROUP 3 Julia Churchley** 07900 321681 [julia.churchley@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:julia.churchley@hotmail.co.uk)



(Irregular) Our new group had a lovely first outing to Coleton Fishacre. Huge thanks to Stripey Tehel, who volunteers at the garden, for giving us a guided tour with all her knowledge of the garden's colourful history explained as we walked. The tour was cut short by an incredible thunderstorm forcing an early retreat for lunch! However, this reinforced our wish to return at another time of year. The group will be visiting gardens over the summer months, these will **not** be on a fixed day of the month. On Monday **24 June** at 10am we'll visit the **Dartmouth Community Greenhouse** and immediate park surroundings. On Thursday **July 18th** we will meet at 11am at **The Garden House**, Yelverton PL20 7LQ. There is no limit on numbers for our group, so all welcome. If you would like to be on the email list for invites, just email me.

**GEOLOGY Tim Freeman** 01803 832663 [timfreeman61@googlemail.com](mailto:timfreeman61@googlemail.com)

(Irregular Weds 2.30pm Flavel Studio). For June the Geology group is having a trip to Dorset on the 4th and 5th staying overnight for one night. In July we are visiting the caves at Buckfastleigh and will have a tour with a guide from the Pengilly Trust. (*There is no meeting at the Flavel either month.*) For any information, email Tim, address above.

**GERMAN CONVERSATION Ingrid Sidell** 01803 770870 [ingsid23@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:ingsid23@yahoo.co.uk) mob 07818208721 (for texts)

(Monthly Thurs 10.00am in Strete). We have had 2 interesting meetings recently. In April we learned about and discussed the Norwegian artist Edvard Munch who spent some formative years in Berlin. In May we watched a video sent to us by Anita Ulrich, a German watercolour artist who spent two months in Dartmouth last winter. The video was of a tour of Augsburg, Anita's hometown. Our next meeting will be on Thursday 20th June at 10am in Strete.

**HISTORY OF ART Julia Churchley** 07900 321681 [julia.churchley@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:julia.churchley@hotmail.co.uk)

(3<sup>rd</sup> Fri 2pm Studio, Flavel) Our last talk by Ann Green on American painter Jackson Pollock stimulated lots of interesting discussion. Our next meeting is on **Friday, 21<sup>st</sup> June** when we will be looking at some beautiful paintings on the theme of 'Summer'. Email Julia with any images you would like to include or bring your selection on a stick. This is our summer social meeting – tea and cake at the end of the meeting. All welcome, £2.

**i P A D S GROUP Alan Machin** [alanmachin@aol.com](mailto:alanmachin@aol.com)

(Monthly 10.30am Stoke Fleming Village Hall) Our final session for the season was held on 3rd May. We will not now meet until the autumn. Details will be sent by email to all members, including any who join over the summer.

**i P A D 4 Beginners Tutor Suzie Dodsworth** 01803 770134 [suziedwong@gmail.com](mailto:suziedwong@gmail.com)

(Weds 2.30 to 4.30pm twice a month. Stoke Fleming Village Hall). iPads for Beginners is on holiday until mid October. The group graduated at the end of April and those who think they have learned enough will join the Grads group at that time. It meets once a month to further enhance understanding of these amazing machines. Others who were absolute beginners or who missed a great deal will rejoin the Beginners in mid October. I am planning to switch to Wednesday afternoons once a fortnight from October. See you then!

**ITALIAN CONVERSATION Tasha James** 0795 750 9351 [nataliarh9@gmail.com](mailto:nataliarh9@gmail.com)

We meet on Fridays at 2 pm. Contact Tasha by email or telephone.

**MAHJONG Elaine French** 01803 832304 [frenchfamily1@live.co.uk](mailto:frenchfamily1@live.co.uk)

(1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Fri 10am to 1pm Stoke Fleming Village Hall)

**MEDAU Yvonne Cottam** 01803 835251 [ycottam@live.co.uk](mailto:ycottam@live.co.uk)

(Weds 12.30pm-1.30pm, Townstal Hall) Medau's last session will be on 12<sup>th</sup> June – after which Yvonne will be on holiday. We will restart 4<sup>th</sup> September to 23<sup>rd</sup> October, 6<sup>th</sup> November to 18<sup>th</sup> December. Thanks to everyone for their support over the last year.

**MUSIC Lindsay Charlesworth** 01803 834592 [lindsay@jpcharlesworth.plus.com](mailto:lindsay@jpcharlesworth.plus.com)

(2.30pm 3<sup>rd</sup> Weds, Flavel Studio). As members of the Music Group know, the Group is coming to the end of its life and will finish after our July meeting. On 17th June Norman will be presenting a programme he is calling *Une Surprise Française* and then, for our final meeting on 17th July 2024 I shall be presenting one of my collections of music I have recently enjoyed. The Music Group was one of the first groups formed when Dart Valley u3a came into being all those years ago. Many of you will remember that the first convener was Raymond Greenlees, a retired GP and excellent cellist; when Raymond and Jean left the area Bruce Coward took over before he retired and handed it on to Marion Culhane. When Marion and John left the area, it passed to me in, I think about 2016. However, many things have changed since we started. There is so much online or live streamed these days, plus the wonderful Flavel which we didn't have when we started all those years ago. But it has been good, and I am sure there are many happy memories.

**PITCH AND PUTT Jennifer Wright** 01803 445247 [jenniferm.wright@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:jenniferm.wright@hotmail.co.uk)

(Occasional, Cayman Golf, Churston) We hope to be going out as a group for some games of P&P in the next few weeks. However, any member of the u3a may go independently and enjoy a round for the discount price of £6 which includes the hire of two clubs and two balls. If you take a non-member of the u3a the discount still applies. It is a good way to exercise whilst playing a sport but be aware that there are only a couple of places on the course to sit and rest! You can play 9 holes only if you don't want to do the full 18 holes and the garden centre cafe next door is great for refreshments afterwards!

**PUB LUNCHE GROUP (A) Alan Cole** 01803 752902 [alan5cole@icloud.com](mailto:alan5cole@icloud.com)

(4<sup>th</sup> Weds monthly) May's lunch was taken at the Seven Stars, Dartmouth. Eight us enjoyed a meal in the main bar, as usual the portions were more than adequate and the prices reasonable. June's venue is yet to be decided.

**PUB LUNCHE GROUP (B) Alan Drew** 01803 833219 [asdrew@btinternet.com](mailto:asdrew@btinternet.com)

(Last Thurs monthly)

**PUB LUNCH GROUP (C) Mike Dodsworth** 01803 770134 [mike1.dodsworth@btinternet.com](mailto:mike1.dodsworth@btinternet.com)

(2<sup>nd</sup> Tues month) We returned at short notice to the Royal Castle for our May lunch and were made very welcome, unlike the attitude of our previously chosen venue. Lunches for June and July have been cancelled for diary reasons and August's will likewise be missed to avoid the "summer rush of visitors". Back to normal in September. As Tuesdays have less venues to choose from, consideration is being given to switching *our* day to 1st Wednesday, perhaps on an alternative month basis? **Watch this space in the autumn.**

**SCRABBLE Sue Manley** 01803 414774 [susancmanley2004@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:susancmanley2004@yahoo.co.uk)

(2-4pm 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Fridays Flavel Studio).

**SPANISH CONVERSATION Yvonne Cottam** 01803 835251 [ycottam@live.co.uk](mailto:ycottam@live.co.uk)

(Mon 11.30am – 1.00pm) We will have our last session on 10<sup>th</sup> June. We will restart in September – dates tba.

**SPORTS MORNING Yvonne Cottam** 01803 835251 [ycottam@live.co.uk](mailto:ycottam@live.co.uk)

(Weds 10am Dart Leisure Centre) Sports mornings will continue on a Wednesday morning between 10 and 11 until the end of July. We will take a well-earned rest over August!

**SUNDAY LUNCH Anne Taylor** 01803 363257 [jonquil\\_shapley@hotmail.com](mailto:jonquil_shapley@hotmail.com)

(2<sup>nd</sup> Sun month 12.30pm) We had a very pleasurable lunch, on the patio and a nice glass, or two at The Anchorstone, Dittisham. Beautiful day, good lunch. Enjoyed by all.

**WALKING Hilary Cranmer** 01803 835812 [hilarycranmer@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:hilarycranmer@hotmail.co.uk)

(Mon 9.30am Ivatt Rd, Townstal)

**WINE GROUP–NOBLE ROTTERS Anne Taylor** 01803 363257 [jonquil\\_shapley@hotmail.com](mailto:jonquil_shapley@hotmail.com)

(4th Thurs, Royal Castle Hotel Library Room/members homes/gardens weather permitting!)

**WINE TASTING Bill Riddell** 01803 752049 [billriddell75@gmail.com](mailto:billriddell75@gmail.com)

(1<sup>st</sup> Mon pm. Members homes) In 2021 Marks and Spencer introduced the first of their Classic Range of wines. This has now expanded to over 40 examples of still, sparkling, and fortified wines from around the world, all at "affordable" prices. Many of these wines are prominently displayed at the Dartmouth M&S store and, curious as to whether they offered good value, I selected 10 for our June tasting.

The consensus of the group was that all did indeed provide good value – particularly praised were No 30 – *Gruner Veltliner* 2023 (£9), No 14 – *Albarino Rias Baixas* 2022 (£12), and No 6 – *Valpolicella Ripasso* 2021 (£11).

**WRITERS Val Depledge** 01803 834323 [valdepledge@hotmail.com](mailto:valdepledge@hotmail.com)

(Mon pm. Members homes)

## Talks at the General Meeting 2024

Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> June *The Secret Lives of the Elements* – Kathryn Harkup, (short AGM at 10.15am before the talk)

Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> July *Gold Rushes of the Pacific* – Katrina Gulliver

August – no meeting

### u3a Dart Valley

Annual General Meeting

Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> June at 10.15am

Doors open at 9.45am for coffee. AGM at 10.15am before the talk