



Thursday 9th May *Animals at War – The History of the Dickin Medal* by Ashley Jones

A view from the Chair – Howard O’Keeffe

We are approaching our Annual General Meeting which as always, we will make as brief as possible. It will take place at the start of our Thursday 13 June general meeting at the Flavel. We have an excellent committee, but some are standing down from their roles, so we do need new volunteers to join us. Please contact myself or any other committee member if you feel you would like to help (no obligation or pressure).

Secretary’s reminders – Christine Milsom christinemilsom@btinternet.com The talk for the u3a members’ meeting is at The Flavel on Thursday 9th May at 10.30am. The interesting and moving subject is *Animals at War – The History of the Dickin Medal* by Ashley Jones. The Dickin Medal is the animal equivalent of the Victoria Cross. Coffee from 10am, please remember your mug if you would like coffee.

Membership Secretary– ‘Wiz’ Tehel 07770 912100 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 1st 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 September it is £7.50, between October and December £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

Sunday 28th April was national thank you day. It inspired me to **thank you**. All the lovely members, all the hard-working unsung hero conveners and committee members. Without you we would not have this amazing organisation here in Dartmouth. I look at other u3as and think how well we do with a wide and diverse number of groups along with highly interesting monthly talks. **Thank you** one and all. There is a but coming, we need help, the committee is losing valuable helpers at the AGM, and we need volunteers to step up and help us. **Thank you** in advance.

Event: Devon Link Quiz

There will be a Devon inter u3a quiz afternoon on **Tuesday 1st October** at 2pm held in Exeter. If you would like to put a team of four together or join a team please contact Gwendolyn (jsgmalker@yahoo.co.uk) or phone 01803 833270. There is a charge of £10 per team which will include refreshments, transport can be sorted nearer the time. It would be good for Dart Valley u3a to be represented. In the past we have been the winning team.

The firing shot



Bowling group got off to a great start on a fine day last month. Contact Tim Freeman under ‘Bowling’ listing if you would like to come along to the next session on Tuesday 14th May.

Group reports

ARCHERY Colin Payne 07919 933891 colinpayne43@hotmail.com (Tues am S F Cricket Ground). Archery awaiting improved weather!

ARCHITECTURE Mike Trevorrow 01803 752928/07470 484858 mike.d.trevorrow@gmail.com
(4th Thurs, 11.15 for 11.30am start, Flavel Studio – all welcome.)

ART GROUP Pat White 07929 271658 lespatwhite@icloud.com
(Monday 10am Townstal Hall). We have recently been developing use of pastels and adding them to watercolour effects, giving strength of colour and an overall richness.



ASTROLOGY Geraldine Leigh geraldine.e.leigh@gmail.com 07590 646653
(3rd Tues, afternoon).

BOOK GROUP 1 Lindsay Charlesworth 01803 834592 lindsay@jpcharlesworth.plus.com
(10.30am – 3rd Mon Stoke Fleming)

BOOK GROUP 2 Valerie Church 01803 834280 churchval2@aol.com
(1st Weds 2.30pm – 4.00pm)

NEW BOOK GROUP 3 Julia Churchley 07900 321681 julia.churchley@hotmail.co.uk

(2nd Weds 10am) Our first meet up over coffee is in the **Flavel coffee shop on 8th May at 10am**. Here we can exchange ideas for the books we plan to read. Please email or text me if you would like to come along and bring some suggestions if you wish.

NEW BOWLING Tim Freeman 01803 832663/07792 620176 timfreeman61@googlemail.com

(Tues 9th April 3pm). If you would like to join us then please contact the convenor Tim, details above.

On the second Tuesday of the month (14th May) 3pm to 5pm we will have the next meeting of the group.

BRIDGE Judi Cotes 01803 834802 **please note new email** : judigrovecotes7@gmail.com

(Flavel Studio Tues 10am – 12 noon) We would love to see anyone interested in improving their bridge or trying something new. We have had to increase our table money to £4 due to the Flavel's rent increase. Price includes tea/coffee and biscuits.

CALLIGRAPHY Gill Kidd gillkidd@btinternet.com

(Thurs 2–4pm Members home)

CLASSICS 'Wiz' Tehel 07770 912100 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.

2nd May – **Linear B: The Oldest Greek Script** presented by **Peter Barker**

6th June – **Roadways in the Ancient World** presented by **Steve Williams**

COFFEE CUPS Gwendolyn Alker 01803 833270 jsgmalker@yahoo.co.uk

(Main Meeting Flavel 2nd 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

(Tues 10am – 12 noon ring first) Please do come along if you are at all interested in needlecrafts of any form.

CRYPTIC CROSSWORDS Gwendolyn Alker 01803 833270 jsgmalker@yahoo.co.uk

(3rd Tues). 'Our next cryptic crossword meeting will be on Tuesday 21 May at 10.30am. If you are interested in joining, please contact Gwendolyn by phone or email.'

FRENCH CONVERSATION Alan Kerr 01548 531843. Mob:07402 276468 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

My proposal for this new monthly group is as follows: A French Reading Group concentrating on fairly simple texts at first until we find our level! But hopefully progressing to short stories and short simple novels; vocab review for each text; grammar review if the group need it.

Hoping to appeal to people who love French and French culture and reading! My plan is to start after the summer, but I would like to gauge the level of interest so please email me if you might be interested.

GARDENING GROUP 1 Clare Ball ceball@live.co.uk (3rd Friday)

GARDENING GROUP 2 Clare Ball ceball@live.co.uk (12 noon on the last Tuesday).

NEW GARDENING GROUP 3 Julia Churchley 07900 321681 julia.churchley@hotmail.co.uk

(2nd Wednesday 11.30am irregular) Our first meeting will be an informal gardening chat to exchange ideas and agree on our first few topics for discussion. 8th May at 11.30am in the Flavel bar/gallery seating area on the first floor – I suggest picking up a coffee downstairs if you wish, then head upstairs.

GEOLOGY Tim Freeman 01803 832663 timfreeman61@googlemail.com

(Irregular Weds 2.30pm Flavel Studio). Meeting cost £2. New members are welcome to turn up. There won't be an indoor meeting at the Flavel in May. Instead, there is a chance to visit one of the most interesting beaches to see some real rocks. The visit will be on Wed 22nd May meeting about 11am at Goodrington. Please sign up by email.

GERMAN CONVERSATION Ingrid Sidell 01803 770870 ingsid23@yahoo.co.uk mob 07818208721 (for texts)

(Monthly Thurs 10.00am in Strete).

HISTORY OF ART Julia Churchley 07900 321681 julia.churchley@hotmail.co.uk

(3rd Fri 2pm Studio, Flavel) We are **not** able to meet on 17th May due to Music Festival clash. Instead, we are having our next meeting this **Friday 3rd May** when Ann Green is talking about the artist Jackson Pollock. Back to normal Friday, 21st June when we will be looking at paintings on the theme of 'Summer'.

Some members of the group went on holiday to Vienna this month – a feast of art treasures was enjoyed by all. Palaces and galleries housing extraordinary art collections were explored. Guided walks around the city's buildings and gallery guides ensured we all learnt something new, and much fun was had indulging in schnitzels and Sacher-Torte! A talk about the art seen is planned for the autumn. The participants are hugely grateful to the previous Art History convener, Penny Bowles, who organised and managed this wonderful trip.



i P A D S GROUP Alan Machin alanmachin@aol.com

(Monthly 10.30am Stoke Fleming Village Hall)

i P A D 4 Beginners Tutor Suzie Dodsworth 01803 770134 suziedwong@gmail.com

(Tuesdays, Stoke Fleming Village Hall). The last meeting is on 30th April where we shall finish the book, looking at maps, searching for holidays, finding lost iPads and security. Such a huge number of topics have been covered in the last 15 weeks the group will be glad of a rest over the summer. We restart in mid-October where some will repeat the course and others move on to iPad Grads to be further encouraged to use their iPads.

ITALIAN CONVERSATION Tasha James 0795 750 9351 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

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

MEDAU Yvonne Cottam 01803 835251 ycottam@live.co.uk

(Weds 12.30pm-1.30pm, Townstal Hall) £1 per session (to cover cost of hall) but to commit for half a term. 10th April to 12th June – 10 weeks – £10.

MUSIC Lindsay Charlesworth 01803 834592 lindsay@jpcharlesworth.plus.com

(2.30pm 3rd Weds, Flavel Studio). Wednesday 15th May 2024, 2.30 p.m. David Gent returns with another of his excellent presentations, this time on the American composer and jazz pianist Duke Ellington. Everybody welcome – do come. Admission £4 to cover room hire costs.

PITCH AND PUTT Jennifer Wright 01803 445247 jenniferm.wright@hotmail.co.uk



(Occasional, Cayman Golf, Churston) In April a small group of six managed to get out on the course for a round of P&P, on a warm and sunny day – at last! The mixed ability within the group meant we could only complete 11 holes in the two hours, but everyone had fun and look forward to playing again soon. Don't forget as a member of the u3a anyone can go along for a game at the very reasonable discount price of £6 which includes hire of two clubs and balls. Do have a try – enjoyment and exercise is guaranteed but be warned, it is quite a long way to walk around the course with only three benches for a quick sit down if needed!

PUB LUNCHES GROUP (A) Alan Cole 01803 752902 alan5cole@icloud.com

(4th Weds monthly)

PUB LUNCHES GROUP (B) Alan Drew 01803 833219 asdrew@btinternet.com

(Last Thurs monthly)

PUB LUNCH GROUP (C) Mike Dodsworth 01803 770134 mike1.dodsworth@btinternet.com

(2nd Tues month)

SCRABBLE Sue Manley 01803 414774 susancmanley2004@yahoo.co.uk

(2–4pm 2nd & 4th Fridays Flavel Studio).

SPANISH CONVERSATION Yvonne Cottam 01803 835251 ycottam@live.co.uk

(Mon 11.30am – 1.00pm)

SPORTS MORNING Yvonne Cottam 01803 835251 ycottam@live.co.uk

(Weds 10am Dart Leisure Centre) Start the day with a warmup and then have a go at badminton, table tennis, pickleball. £3.50 payable at Leisure Centre reception.

SUNDAY LUNCH Anne Taylor 01803 363257 jonquil_shapley@hotmail.com

(2nd Sun month 12.30pm)

WALKING Hilary Cranmer 01803 835812 hilarycranmer@hotmail.co.uk

(Mon 9.30am Ivatt Rd, Townstal)

WINE GROUP–NOBLE ROTTERS Anne Taylor 01803 363257 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

(1st Mon pm. Members homes)

WRITERS Val Depledge 01803 834323 valdepledge@hotmail.com

(Mon pm. Members homes)

Talks at the General Meeting 2024

Thursday 9th May *Animals at War – The History of the Dickin Medal* by Ashley Jones

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

Thursday 11th July *Gold Rushes of the Pacific* – Katrina Gulliver

u3a Dart Valley

Annual General Meeting

Thursday 13th June at 10.15am

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