

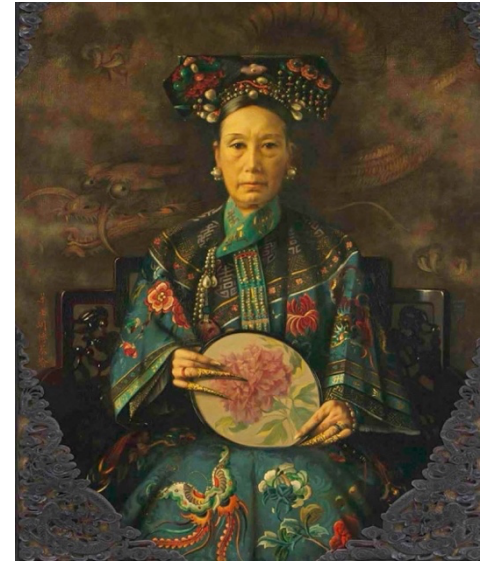
**Next General Meeting & Monthly Talk**

**When and where: November 14<sup>th</sup> at 10:30am The Flavel Auditorium**

**Empress Dowager Cixi - The Concubine Who Launched Modern China**

Presented by **Jung Chang** the bestselling author of *Wild Swans*, which has sold more than 15 million copies worldwide.

Empress Dowager Cixi is the most important woman in Chinese history. She brought a medieval empire into the modern age. Under her, the China became a modern state, and it was she who abolished gruesome punishments like 'death by a thousand cuts' and put an end to foot-binding.



**What's on this month**

Summary of events on this month, further details are in the Groups and Events section below in this newsletter. Please always check with the convenor as details may change after the issue of this newsletter.

AM/PM	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1	2
AM						Mahjong	
PM						History of Art Italian Conversation	
	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
AM		Walking	Bridge Crafts Club	Book Group 2	Classics		
PM		Wine Group	Devon Link Quiz	iPad 4 Beginners		Scrabble Italian Conversation	
	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
AM		Art Group Walking	Bridge Cryptic Crosswords Crafts Club	Book group 3	<b>Monthly Talk</b>		
PM	Sunday Lunch		Pub Lunch (C)	French Conversation Geology		Garden Group 1 Italian Conversation Mahjong	
	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
AM		Walking	Bridge Crafts Club				
PM		Book Group 1		iPad 4 Beginners		Scrabble iPad Graduates Italian Conversation	
	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
AM		Art Group Walking	Bridge Crafts Club		Architecture German Conversation		
PM		Writers Group	Garden Group 2	Pub Lunch (A) French Conversation	Pub Lunch (B) Wine Group – Noble Rotters		

## News

The Dart Valley u3a will be launching a new website soon. The new website will enable us to promote and showcase our u3a, the individual groups, and upcoming events, with photos, stories, news items, and more!

## Groups and Events

**GROUPS AND NEWSLETTER** Wiz Tehel 07770912100 [newsletter@dartvalleyu3a.org](mailto:newsletter@dartvalleyu3a.org)

If you wish to start a new group or want to have an entry in this newsletter then contact me. For starting new groups, your committee can support with advertising, publicity, advice and reasonable financial assistance.

**DEVON LINK** Gwendolyn Alker [jsgmalker@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:jsgmalker@yahoo.co.uk) or 01803 833270

The Devon inter u3a quiz afternoon is on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> November at 2pm in Exeter. If there is anyone who is interested in joining a Quiz team of 4 to represent our u3a please contact Gwendolyn so we can arrange transport. There is no cost for teams as the entry charge will be paid by u3a, refreshments are also included.

**ARCHERY** Colin Payne 07919 933891 [colinpayne43@hotmail.com](mailto:colinpayne43@hotmail.com) (Tues am S F Cricket Ground).

The Archery Group has had a good summer season. As we move into the cooler and less predictable season, we will continue as long as the weather permits. **How about you Dart Valley members having a go?** Give Colin a call or text first.

**ARCHITECTURE** Mike Trevorrow 01803 752928 / 07470 484858 [mike.d.trevorrow@gmail.com](mailto:mike.d.trevorrow@gmail.com)

(4th Thurs, 11.15 for 11.30am start, Flavel Studio – all welcome)

Mike returns to talk about the fascinating architecture of UK cathedrals.

**ART GROUP** Pat White 07929 271658 [lespatwhite@icloud.com](mailto:lespatwhite@icloud.com) (Monday 10am Townstal Hall).

The art group is gradually getting back up to speed after a summer break with sketching intervals as some people are still enjoying late vacations. We have been aiming to capture something more of mood and atmosphere with a variety of medium, inspired somewhat by visits to local artists during open studio sessions. We are very fortunate to have access to such a wealth of local talent! We hope to continue to learn how to be more in control of the colours, tones and expressive qualities afforded to us by the mediums of art.

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

(10.30am – 3rd Monday Stoke Fleming)

At our October meeting the group discussed Elizabeth Jane Howard's *The Light Years* which is volume one of the Cazalet Chronicles. It is a very long book with a huge cast of characters. Lovely writing at a very interesting period just before the outbreak of WW2 and we enjoyed it very much. In November we shall be discussing *Family Album* by Penelope Lively. No meeting in December. We shall start January 2025 with *The Wren, The Wren* by Ann Enright.'

**BOOK GROUP 2** Valerie Church 01803 834280 [churchval2@aol.com](mailto:churchval2@aol.com) (1st Weds 2.30pm - 4.00pm)

After our summer break we met at the beginning of October when we discussed *The Moonstone* by Wilkie Collins, which scored highly in the group. Once described as the first, the longest and best of 'modern' detective novels, it was first published in 1868, and, according to Dorothy L. Sayers, it remains 'probably the finest detective story ever written'. It did not disappoint. We are currently reading *The Postscript Murders* by Elly Griffiths.

**BOOK GROUP 3** Sarah Nottrodt 0777 8547064 [sarah\\_nottrodt@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:sarah_nottrodt@hotmail.co.uk) (2nd Weds 10am)

**BOWLING** Tim Freeman 01803 832663/07792 620176 [timfreeman61@googlemail.com](mailto:timfreeman61@googlemail.com) (2nd Tuesday 3pm).

Bowling has now stopped for the winter and will resume in the spring. Some introductory lessons for those new to bowling are possible over the winter. If you are interested in lessons or joining the group, you may still contact the organiser.

**BRIDGE** Judi Cotes 01803 834802 / 07870897108 [judigrovecotes7@gmail.com](mailto:judigrovecotes7@gmail.com)

(Flavel Studio Tues 10am – 12 noon) No stress bridge. Every Tuesday 10-12. £4. To include tea/coffee and biscuits.

A partner will be found if you come on your own.

**CLASSICS** Wiz Tehel 07770 912100 [classics@dartvalleyu3a.org](mailto:classics@dartvalleyu3a.org) (1st Thurs 10.30am Flavel Auditorium, £4).

**7th November** - *Zenobia - Queen of the Palmyrene Empire* Presented by Mary Crawford

A highly educated, intelligent and accomplished leader. She created the largest empire that stood against the might of Rome, which spanned from Mesopotamia, Syria to Northern Egypt.

**5th December**- *A History of Greek Art in 10 Favourites* Presented by Peter Ireland

A selection of Greek artworks, all personal favourites, some very familiar, from the 6th to the 2nd Centuries BC, which demonstrate the virtuosity of ancient craftsmen and artists.

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

We are always looking for helpers to serve tea and coffee before the monthly talks. There is a list of dates by the serving hatch so please sign up and arrive at 9.45am on the day. Volunteers serving coffee at the meeting have free entry to the talk. Remember to bring your mug.

**CRAFTS CLUB** Joan Buscombe 01803 832662 c/o [vcbest@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:vcbest@hotmail.co.uk) (Tues 10am -12 noon ring first)

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) (3rd Tues)

Our next Cryptic Crossword meeting is on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> November at 10.30.am. Although we are full at present if you would like to be on a waiting list to join please contact Gwendolyn.

**FRENCH CONVERSATION** Steve Stevenson [steelboatsteve2@btinternet.com](mailto:steelboatsteve2@btinternet.com)

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

Are you interested in maintaining/improving your level of spoken French? We shall be restarting the u3a French conversation group on Wednesday 10th September and every 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month thereafter. If you would like to join us, please contact me, Steve Stevenson, via the email address above, so that I can gauge the number of people who are interested. Any suggestions as to how we might structure the afternoons will also be welcome. *Venez nombreux, nous allons nous amuser, et il est gratuit - sauf pour l'achat d'une boisson! Vous serez les bienvenus. Merci et à bientôt*

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

Some of us have met during the summer and have decided to read some intermediate level stories, and attempt *L'Etranger* by Albert Camus. Contact Anne for more details for next meeting.

**GARDENING GROUP 1** Clare Ball [ceball@live.co.uk](mailto:ceball@live.co.uk) (3rd 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 meetings)

No meeting this month. Next meeting will be confirmed by email to group members.

**GEOLOGY** Tim Freeman 01803 832663 [timfreeman61@googlemail.com](mailto:timfreeman61@googlemail.com) (Irregular Weds 2.30pm Flavel Studio, £2)

**Next talk will be Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> November, all welcome.**

Following the group convenors trip to Norway earlier this year which included a week's tour with a guided geology group this month's meeting will have Norway as its subject. It's a fascinating place. Fjords aplenty which look serene and beautiful but have dark secrets. Mineral resources in pretty places that they agonise over extracting. A North Sea shared with the UK with treasures underneath the Oslo rift.

**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). The next meeting will be 28<sup>th</sup> November.

**HISTORY OF ART** Julia Churchley 07900 321681 [julia.churchley@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:julia.churchley@hotmail.co.uk) (1st Fri 2pm Studio, Flavel)

Our next meeting will be on **Friday 1<sup>st</sup> November at 2pm**. All welcome, £2 on the door.

We will be reviewing the Tate Britain exhibition "*Now you see us*", Women Artists in Britain 1520–1920. Julie Hadley will open the presentation with a look at Artemisia Gentileschi before we look at the other little-known artists in this groundbreaking exhibition. Quite a number of us have managed to see the exhibition which offers lots to discuss and new artists to look at.

**IPADS 4 BEGINNERS** Suzie Dodsworth 01803 770134 [suziedwong@gmail.com](mailto:suziedwong@gmail.com)

(Stoke Fleming Village Hall, hopefully Weds 2:00 to 4:00pm twice a month.)

iPads for Beginners started on 16th October at 2.00pm. Please bring your iPad, a notebook, a small address book and £3 for hire of the room The group who signed up is quite large so all hands to the pump on the day!

**IPADS Graduates** Alan Machin [alanmachin@aol.com](mailto:alanmachin@aol.com) (Monthly 2pm Stoke Fleming Village Hall)

Our next meeting will be at 2 pm on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> November at Stoke Fleming Village Hall. Members will receive confirmation by email. At our meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> October, we revisited and updated on the key apps: Contacts; Calendar; Maps. There are a number of extra features for these apps on the new (free) upgrade IOS Ver 18. We were advised to install this upgrade, if possible, on our iPads.

**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)

(1st & 3rd 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 restarted on 11th September. Contact Yvonne for more details.

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

(Occasional, Cayman Golf, Churston) Any member of the u3a may go independently to P & P and enjoy a round for the discount price of £6 which includes the hire of two clubs and two balls. It is a good way to exercise but be aware that there are only a couple of places on the course to sit and rest! You can play just nine holes if you don't want to do the full 18 holes, and the garden centre cafe next door is great for refreshments afterwards!

**PUB LUNCHES GROUP (A)** Alan Cole 01803 752902 [alan5cole@icloud.com](mailto:alan5cole@icloud.com) (4<sup>th</sup> Weds monthly)

October's lunch will be at the award winning Cott Inn at Dartington. Details for November will be confirmed by email.

**PUB LUNCHES GROUP (B)** Alan Drew 01803 833219 [asdrew@btinternet.com](mailto:asdrew@btinternet.com) (last Thursday Monthly)

The group are meeting in October and November. Contact Alan for details.

**PUB LUNCH GROUP (C)** Mike Dodsworth 01803 770134 [mike1.dodsworth@btinternet.com](mailto:mike1.dodsworth@btinternet.com) (2nd Tues monthly)

We had a fabulous turnout to our lunch at Rockfish in Dartmouth on the 8<sup>th</sup> of October with over 12 enjoying the company and food. The next lunch will be at the Royal Castle Hotel on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> November (2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday)

**SCRABBLE** Sue Manley 01803 414774 Mobile 07840257045 [susancmanley2004@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:susancmanley2004@yahoo.co.uk)

The Scrabble group meets upstairs in The Studio in The Flavel. Meetings take place on the second and fourth Fridays of the month. 2-4 pm. This month's meetings are on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> November. £4 to play. Tea and biscuits are provided.

**SPANISH CONVERSATION** Yvonne Cottam 01803 835251 [ycottam@live.co.uk](mailto:ycottam@live.co.uk) (Mon 11.30am – 1.00pm)

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 Morning starts again on 4th September.

**SUNDAY LUNCH** Anne Taylor 01803 363257 [jonquil\\_shapley@hotmail.com](mailto:jonquil_shapley@hotmail.com) (2nd Sun month 12.30.pm)

Contact Anne for details regarding next venue.

**WALKING** Hilary Cranmer 01803 835812 [hilarycranmer@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:hilarycranmer@hotmail.co.uk) (Mon 9.30am Ivatt Rd, Townstal)

Dodging the frequent showers, we have continued to enjoy our Monday walks throughout the late summer.

Starting on MONDAY 28th OCTOBER we will meet at **10am throughout the autumn/winter**, weather permitting.

**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!)

The chosen theme was wines of Sicily, with a nod to Corsica. We welcomed 2 potential new members and tasted 6 different wines. Two of the wines were produced using the Appassimento method, which involves drying some of the grapes on the vine and some in the sun. The most popular wine was the Campagna Ile de Beaute Rose from Corsica, which most people said they would definitely buy. It was crisp, clean, dry but fruity and recommended with dishes with a touch of spice. Also very well received was a Nero Oro Riserva red, from Sicily; made from the Nero d'Avola grape- a very typical Sicilian grape. It was smooth and complex with nice aromas. Least popular overall was the Atlanta Organic Pinot Grigio, comments ranging from 'very drinkable' to 'very bland'. Very different was the general consensus! (The grapes are grown over varied volcanic terrain). The sparkling wine, Castel Faglia Franciacorta, was very pleasant but the group felt it was expensive for what it was. The two wines produced using the Apassimento method had mixed reactions- the white Nero Oro Grillo divided opinions, 'very unusual, mellow, an acquired taste'. Reasonably priced, it is unusual to have a white appassimento wine. Finally, the red Nero Oro Appassimento from the famous Nero d'Avola grape was full bodied and we all thought would improve over time. Reasonably priced and a good pairing with Moroccan style spiced dishes.

Overall, the group thought Sicily/Corsica was a lovely choice and the wines were a really good mixture, which were a bit different. All wines were from Majestic.

**Wine Tasting** Bill Riddell 01803 752049 [billriddell75@gmail.com](mailto:billriddell75@gmail.com) (1<sup>st</sup> Mon pm. Members' homes)

There was no meeting in October. Wine Tasting resumes for 4<sup>th</sup> November.

**Writers** Val Depledge 01803 834323 [valdepledge@hotmail.com](mailto:valdepledge@hotmail.com) (Mon pm. Members' homes)

October topics to write about were *Who's Sorry Now* and *I Told You So*. Next meeting will be Monday 25<sup>th</sup> November. There will be no meeting in December.

## Membership

**MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY** -Suzie Dodsworth 01803 770134 [membership@dartvalleyu3a.org](mailto:membership@dartvalleyu3a.org)

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.

A reminder for those who have not renewed that your membership starts on **1st April** each year. Our bank details are as follows: 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, Swallowfield House, School Road, Stoke Fleming, TQ6 0PR.