

**Next General Meeting & Monthly Talk**

**When and where: February 13<sup>th</sup> at 10:30am The Flavel Auditorium**

**Who were the ancient Britons?**

Presented by **Dr Iain Watt**

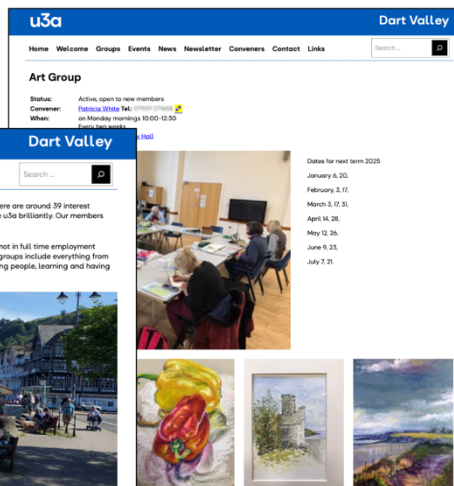
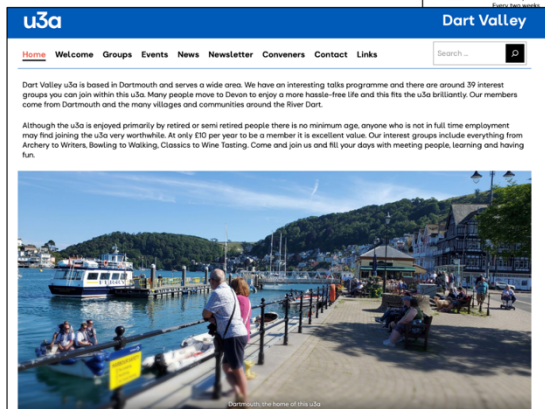
The talk will introduce you to several folks from our past who have fascinated our speaker and inform about the people of our Isles today.



**News**

- A friendly reminder that your annual membership renewals will be due **1<sup>st</sup> April**.
- There are vacancies in the Spanish, Wine and Writers groups. Contact the relevant convenor to join (details below).
- French Reading is expanding to become French Culture. See below for details.
- Visit our new website by clicking on the link <https://dartvalley.u3asite.uk>

**Dart Valley u3a new website is now live for members!**



We moved to our new website in December 2024.

Tim Freeman, Wiz Tehel and Peter Avis have been working with the Committee and group coordinators.

The site is updated regularly with new information on groups, events, the newsletter, and other items,

Please see if the link above works for you! If not, please email one of us at [peteravis1@gmail.com](mailto:peteravis1@gmail.com), [timfreeman61@googlemail.com](mailto:timfreeman61@googlemail.com), or [wiz@tehel.net](mailto:wiz@tehel.net).

## What's on in February

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

## 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.

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

We are taking the opportunity to extend outdoor archery for a few of the active regular archers. We are restricted on numbers, but a limited short range will be set up in the car parking area. Arrow making and equipment care sessions are also being planned over the winter season.

**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 kicks off the new architectural year with cockle-warming looks at sunny Spain to vanquish any winter blues.

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

We started the year with some bright, cheerful painting from wrapped sweets, to lighten a dull period. This was followed by some exploration of two-point perspective to get back to some basics, this has still to be developed further as it is quite a time consuming and challenging process. Examples of what the group produces are on our website at

[https://dartvalley.u3asite.uk/u3a\\_groups/art-group/](https://dartvalley.u3asite.uk/u3a_groups/art-group/)

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

(10.30am – 3rd Monday Stoke Fleming)

In January we discussed *Wild Swans* by Jung Chang. Over the next three months the group will read & discuss *The Wren The Wren* by Anne Enright (17<sup>th</sup> February), *Queen of the Tambourine* by Jane Gardam (17<sup>th</sup> March), and *Death at the Sign of The Rook* by Kate Atkinson ((21<sup>st</sup> April although we might change this one as it is Easter Monday).

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

The group has read two very different whodunnits - *The Word is Murder* by Anthony Horowitz and, the more popular of the two, *The Private Patient* by P D James. We are now reading *Oxford Blues*, the 3rd in the Johnson and Wilde thriller series by Andy Griffiee.

**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).

**6th February The Hanging Gardens of Babylon** Presented by Wiz Tehel

These are the most enigmatic and elusive of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World. What do we really know about the gardens? Were they real or were they tales by past historians and travellers? Were they even in Babylon?

**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)

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? 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 CULTURE** Anne Goody [anne@goody.org.uk](mailto:anne@goody.org.uk)

For 2025 French Reading will expand its scope and interest to become French Culture. The group will enjoy French news, literature, popular fiction, films, music, arts, not to mention food and wine. Contact Anne for more details for next meeting.

**GARDENING GROUP 1&2** Clare Ball [ceball@live.co.uk](mailto:ceball@live.co.uk) (3rd Friday)

Please note that Garden Groups 1 & 2 are now amalgamated and meet 11AM 3rd Friday of the month.

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

We will be meeting in February to make some plans our visits for the year ahead. Members will be emailed shortly. Open to all - contact Julia to join the mailing list.

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

**Next talk will be Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> February, The geology of Lanzarote**

One of the oldest of the Canary Islands. Still with active volcanism, in the 1730s an eruption of lava covered a third of the island. The Island boasts one of the longest lava tubes in the world, so long it continues under the sea. All welcome.

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

We generally meet monthly on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays 10.00am in Strete, but may vary depending on members availability.

**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 7<sup>th</sup> February at 2pm**. All welcome, £2 on the door.

We will be looking at the artistic highlights of Vienna - taking a look back at the galleries and art seen during on last year's trip to the city. Presented by Julia Churchley and Julie Hadley.

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

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

iPads for Beginners started and is currently full. Contacted Suzie to register for future courses.

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

Our next meeting will be held on Friday 14th February. There will also be a session on 14th March, as planned, but we have had to cancel the meeting planned for April.

**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)

Several new members have joined this term making the class full now. Everyone is working hard at improving their movement and fitness. Contact Yvonne for more details regarding future dates.

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

(Occasional, Cayman Golf, Churston)

There will be no group visits to Cayman Golf until March/April when hopefully the weather will be a bit more settled.

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)

Contact Alan Cole for details of the next lunch venue.

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

Contact Alan Drew for details of next pub lunch venue.

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

Contact Mike for details of next pub lunch venue.

**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. £4 to play. Tea and biscuits are provided.

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

We could take a couple more Spanish speakers if there is anyone out there wanting to practise for their next visit to Spain.

We do not teach Spanish - you need to be on a learners' course and use our group for practising.

**Sports Morning** Yvonne Cottam 01803 835251 [ycottam@live.co.uk](mailto:ycottam@live.co.uk) (Weds 10am Dart Leisure Centre)

The group is full but contact Yvonne to register interest when there is a vacancy.

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

Planning to visit Circa in Totnes, 1pm, 2nd Sunday in February.

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

Meeting 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)

Meeting 4th Thursday, 7pm. Meeting place tba as The Royal Castle is closed for refurbishment for the next few months.

We have 15 members now, so "new" people will be fitted in when spaces allow.

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

Jacky Neild hosted our January tasting where the theme was wines from Chile and Argentina. In the past 10 years Chile has adopted many modern vine growing and wine making techniques and the results are now evident in the improved quality of the wines the country is producing. The most appreciated bottles of the evening were a Chardonnay from the Limari district and a Cabernet Sauvignon from the Maipo district near Santiago. Next month's tasting is scheduled for 3rd February at Annette Blundred's.

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

The writes group restarted on Monday 27th January.

## 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.