

## Upcoming General Meetings & Monthly Talks

All talks are held in The Flavel Auditorium 10:30am

Members £2, Visitors £3

11<sup>th</sup> December 2025

### Musical Satire of the 20th Century

Presented by **Peter Gill**

Peter explores the evolution of the comedy song in the 20th century from songs in the trenches of the first world war to the genius of Cole Porter, Noel Coward and Tom Lehrer and on to the hilarity of Monty Python, Billy Connolly and Victoria Wood. The skill of satirical lyricists will be identified and a choice selection of the songs performed.



8<sup>th</sup> January 2026

### Reminiscences of a Fast Lady

Presented by **Dr Chris Coote**

An account of 10 years working on the design, development and flight testing of Concorde, the fastest passenger plane ever. With personal memories of work as an acoustics engineer, together with some lesser-known facts and figures about the *Fast Lady*.



Details of upcoming talks can be found on our website by clicking on this link:

<https://dartvalley.u3asite.uk/events/>

## From the Chair

We have had another action-packed and enjoyable u3a year. Thank you to our hard-working committee, our group conveners, and to everyone who has supported us in various ways throughout the year. We never sit still; let us know your thoughts and ideas for 2026.

I do hope you will come to our last - very entertaining - talk of the year, with mince pies and drinks immediately afterwards. A very *Happy Christmas* to you all.

Julia



## News and Notices

### NEW GROUPS STARTED.

Please register your interest with the convenor. Details are in the Groups section of the newsletter. The groups are:

- Yoga for Beginners
- Virtual Film Club
- Book Group 4
- Poetry Workshop

## What's on in December

As we are approaching Christmas and New Year festive period, several groups will be having a short break. Please **always** check with the convenor as details may change after the issue of this newsletter.

Summary of events on this month, further details are in the Groups and Events section below in this newsletter.

AM /P M	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5	6
AM		Art Group Walking	Archery Bridge Crafts Club	Sports Morning	Classical Era	Mahjong	
PM			Virtual Film Club Yoga for Beginners	Book Group 2 Medau		Italian Conversation	
	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
AM		Spanish Conversation Walking – Xmas lunch	Archery Bridge Crafts Club	Sports Morning Book Group 3	<b>Monthly Talk</b>		
PM		Wine Group	Yoga for Beginners	French Conversation Geology iPads 4 Beginners Medau		Italian Conversation Scrabble	
	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
AM		Art Group Walking	Archery Bridge Crafts Club German Conversation	Sports Morning		Garden Group 1 & 2 Mahjong	
PM		Sunday Lunch	Yoga for Beginners	Medau	Pub Lunch (C)	Italian Conversation	
	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
AM		Spanish Conversation Walking					
PM							
	28	29	30	31			

## Membership

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

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.

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 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 the front desk at the Flavel in a u3a box, or from me.

## 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 Stoke Fleming Cricket Ground).

Archery extends an invitation to any would-be archers. The group will run introductory tuition for anyone wanting to have a go. Archery improves your concentration and calms your mind as you focus on that target. Archery is a highly accessible sport, one of the few that everyone, regardless of gender, age, or ability, can enter, enjoy and potentially excel at.

**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)

After Wiz's talk on Lutyens' Dolls' House on 27<sup>th</sup> November, we rest during December to consume wine and pies, then in January 2026, I will be talking about the thousands of buildings we have lost. All good wishes to you for the festive season.

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

During November we have been further developing skills with oil or acrylic paints and palette knife and brush, aiming for richer colour effects. The Van Gogh experience in Exeter was inspiring to use small marks of differing colours to help to achieve these richer effects. Members have enjoyed making use of different paints and methods of application.

Members have really gained in confidence with stronger use of colour and tone. We have two more sessions in December to develop this even further before the end of the year. Starting back next year on the 12th of January.

Upcoming dates: December 1st & 15th

Examples of what the group produced 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)

We shall **not** be meeting in December. For November we read Jo Browning Wroe's completely brilliant novel *A Terrible Kindness*. This is a long book with five separate chapters about William a newly qualified embalmer, from a family of embalmers, volunteering to help in the aftermath of the Aberfan disaster. William also has a beautiful voice and wins a choral scholarship to Cambridge. The book is very sensitively written and goes back and forth during William's life struggling with PTSD because of Aberfan, self-doubt, difficult relationship with his mother, lovely girlfriend etc. Well written with a happy but very moving ending. Complete change for our January book which is Jilly Cooper's *Rivals*.

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

We read *Conclave* by Robert Harris is set in the context of the death of a fictional pope and subsequent conclave for his successor. Harris' research is outstanding as always. There is the normal twist, with a controversial ending, which invites you to think. A good read.

We are currently reading *The Chalk Pit* by Elly Griffiths

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

Book group meetings will return to 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesdays.

**BOOK GROUP 4** Jane Davies 07779 340062 [mrs\\_j\\_a\\_davies@hotmail.com](mailto:mrs_j_a_davies@hotmail.com) (2<sup>nd</sup> Tues 10:30am The Royal Castle)

This new group has had a first meeting over coffee at the Royal Castle and will continue to meet there over the winter months. The next meeting will be on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> January at 10.30am. The first book will be *Olive Kitteridge* by Elizabeth Strout. For February we have chosen *Go Went Gone* by Jenny Erpenbeck.

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

The group runs between March and September and is asleep for the winter. To register interest in joining, email the convenor. Beginners welcome. No equipment needed.

**BRIDGE** Judi Cotes 01803 834802 / 07870897108 [judigrovecotes7@gmail.com](mailto:judigrovecotes7@gmail.com) (Flavel Studio Tues 10–12)

On 16<sup>th</sup> December we will be having Christmas nibbles and drinks at the end of our bridge morning. This will commence at 11:30 to enable us to be all clear before the next group at 1pm. Bridge will resume on 6<sup>th</sup> January. No stress bridge. £4 which include tea/coffee and biscuits. A partner will be found if you come on your own.

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

**4<sup>th</sup> December - The Changing Faces of Greek Myth**, presented by Adrian Deeny. Using the myth of the greatest hero of them all – Heracles - this talk explores the origin of myths and how they adapt to reflect the customs and social mores of the day. Understanding myth is a way of better understanding ourselves.

Full list of upcoming talks is on our website at [https://dartvalley.u3asite.uk/u3a\\_groups/classical-studies/](https://dartvalley.u3asite.uk/u3a_groups/classical-studies/)

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

We always need helpers to serve coffee and tea at our monthly meetings. It only takes up 45 minutes of your time, is easy, a great way to meet people and you get **free entry** for the meeting when you help.

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

We are a friendly multi-level skills group who has met on more than 1000 occasions since we started. We would welcome anyone else interested in needlecrafts 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 25<sup>th</sup> November at 10.30am. If you are interested in joining us please contact Gwendolyn.

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

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

Nous avons été ravis d'accueillir de nombreux membres nouvelles.. Bien Venus. Une séance excellente. Nous avons abordé de nombreux sujets,...des aventures d'une jeune fille 'Au paire" a Paris dans les années soixante, aux difficultés liées au Brexit. Une excellente méthode pour enrichir et consolider son vocabulaire,...et c'était tres amusant aussi. Merci a tous. A le prochaine. La dernière séance de l'année aura lieu le 10 Décembre.

**GARDEN GROUP 1&2** Clare Ball [ceball@live.co.uk](mailto:ceball@live.co.uk) (11am 3rd Friday)

The Gardening group is out and about digging, weeding and viewing each other's gardens. 🌱💡🌻🍄🌿

**GARDEN GROUP 3** Howard and Elaine Sones 07803 605010 [gardens@sones.org](mailto:gardens@sones.org) (Irregular meetings)

We had a fantastic response at the Open Day with 16 people joining our group. After a fantastic year of garden visits, we are now planning for next year following the many suggestions we have received. We usually attend the monthly meetings, so please come and find us if you have any questions or suggestions for future visits.

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

Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> December - **Etna Stromboli and Sicily**. Continuing our look at Italian things that go bang we turn our attention southwards. The island of Sicily has Etna of course but less known are the smaller islands to the north where Stromboli and Vulcano are both active. We will find there are some others you have never seen or heard about. All in all, its a well topped pizza and the flavours are lavalay. New joiners welcome.

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

We meet in Strete where we have Kaffee und Kuchen!! Contact the convenor for details.

This month we meet on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> December from 10:00 to 12:00.

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

There is **no** meeting in December, and wishing to avoid January 2nd, we will have our first meeting of 2026 on **Friday 9<sup>th</sup> January** starting at 12.15 prompt. Maggie Tomlinson will be giving a presentation entitled *Canadian Art – What is it?*

Plenty to look forward to in the coming months with talks including Ann Green on *Art Deco in Miami* and group discussions on *Immersive Art and Paintings and Passports*. All welcome, £2 on the door.

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

(Stoke Fleming Village Hall, Weds 2:30 to 4:30pm twice a month.)

iPads for Beginners started again on 15<sup>th</sup> October at 2.30pm. We are updating to iPadOS 26. Please bring your iPad, a notebook, a small address book and £3 for hire of the room. Please email your interest in joining us. No other u3a offer such a course so take advantage while you can!

**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)

New players always welcome.

**MEDAU** Yvonne Cottam 01803 835251 [ycottam@live.co.uk](mailto:ycottam@live.co.uk) (Weds 12.30pm-1.30pm, Townstal Hall)

Good attendance as usual starting off the autumn term but have a few spaces if there are any new 'would-be' members out there.

Term Dates: 5<sup>th</sup> November - 17<sup>th</sup> December (£7 for 7 weeks)

7<sup>th</sup> January – 11<sup>th</sup> February (£6 for 6 weeks)

25<sup>th</sup> February - 1<sup>st</sup> April (£6 for 6 weeks)

15<sup>th</sup> April - 20<sup>th</sup> May (£6 for 6 weeks)

**POETRY WORKSHOP** Ken Wood 07802 218752 [Ken.wood@bossmi.com](mailto:Ken.wood@bossmi.com) (Dates TBC)

A new group whose interest is Poetry. The aim of the group is to enable members to build their skills in writing, presenting, and reading poetry. Constructive feedback is given in a supportive environment so that these skills are developed and confidence gained. Contact the convenor to register your interest in joining the group.

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

Gordon Holmes kindly stood in for me at the u3a Open Morning in October and recruited three new members. Many thanks to Geraldine and Fiona for the last few lunches. The group will not meet in December and I hope to be back in the chair for January's meal. Contact Alan Cole for details of next pub lunch venue.

**PUB LUNCHES GROUP (B)** Christine Bond 07541 199158 [christine.b.bond@gmail.com](mailto:christine.b.bond@gmail.com) or Virginia Best [vcbest@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:vcbest@hotmail.co.uk) 07752 720724 (last Thursday Monthly)

Pub Lunch Group B will be held on Thursday 29th January. Please get in touch if you would like to come along.

**PUB LUNCHES GROUP (C)** Mike Dodsworth 01803 770134 [mike1.dodsworth@btinternet.com](mailto:mike1.dodsworth@btinternet.com) (3<sup>rd</sup> Thurs monthly)

The group will lunch on the revised meeting date of **THIRD** Thursday of the month.

**SCRABBLE** Sue Manley 07840 257045 [manleysusan7@gmail.com](mailto:manleysusan7@gmail.com) (2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Fridays, 2pm Flavel Studio, £4)

We will only have 1 meeting on December Friday 12<sup>th</sup> December and start again on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> January. The Scrabble Group is a small friendly group that meets the second and fourth Fridays of the month, upstairs in The Flavel. 2 pm start. We cater for all abilities and are always looking for new members. The cost is £4 a meeting with tea and biscuits provided. Come and try a session.

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

We've welcomed a couple of new members since our Open day - so are now full.

Future dates: 8<sup>th</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> December (22<sup>nd</sup> is TBC), 12<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> January 2026, 9<sup>th</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> February, 9<sup>th</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> March.

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

This group just continues without stop but I'm afraid we are full at the moment.

Contact Yvonne if you'd like to be put on a waiting list.

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

We are meeting at Bayards Cove Inn on 15<sup>th</sup> December. Contact the convenor for details.

**VIRTUAL FILM CLUB** Adrian Kyte 07890 392444 [adrian.kyte@btinternet.com](mailto:adrian.kyte@btinternet.com) (1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday 8pm)

We had our first virtual meet in mid-November watching 'Green Book' on BBC iPlayer - a film well worth watching. For December I'm suggesting "A New Hope", the first of the *Star Wars* franchise, on itvX. If you want to join the group, contact me with your mobile number and I'll add you to our WhatsApp group.

**WALKING** Hilary Cranmer 01803 835812 [hilarycranmer@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:hilarycranmer@hotmail.co.uk) (Mon 10am Ivatt Rd, Townstal)

We are not meeting for a walk on 8th Dec - it's our Christmas lunch. Otherwise we will play it by ear and see what the weather throws at us.

The walking group meet at Ivatt Road, Townstal, on Monday mornings when the later start of 10am has proved popular. We cover between 3 and 6 miles, averaging about 5, and have recently enjoyed some of our regular walks through the countryside and down to the sea. New members are welcome.

Photos of recent walks can be seen on our website at [https://dartvalley.u3asite.uk/u3a\\_groups/walking/](https://dartvalley.u3asite.uk/u3a_groups/walking/).

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

No wine tasting in December. We are holding our annual charity dinner this year at Zepher.

**WINE TASTING** Bill Riddell 01803 752049 [billriddell75@gmail.com](mailto:billriddell75@gmail.com) (1st Mon pm. Members' homes)

Mike and Suzie Dodsworth hosted the November meeting of the Wine Tasting Group and offered us a fascinating selection of most unusual wines. The whites included a zesty Sauvignier Gris from SW France (No. 46 in Sainsbury's TTD Discovery Collection), a white Malbec from Argentina (Ho hum), a Mallorquin Malvasia, and a refreshing Sauvignon Blanc from, yes, Germany!

The first red was a delicious full-bodied 2023 Marsalan (a Cabernet Sauvignon / Grenache hybrid) from the Languedoc, followed by our first digital wine where the blend of 3+ grapes was designed by AI in Australia (could do better). The evening concluded more traditionally with a 2022 St. Emilion Grand Cru, available at £13.50 from Lidl. Our next tasting is on Monday 8th December chez Lucy and Alan Payne in Kingswear.

**Writing Group** Val Depledge 01803 834323 [valdepledge@hotmail.com](mailto:valdepledge@hotmail.com) (4<sup>th</sup> Mon pm. Members' homes)

The group will reconvene in the new year, dates to be confirmed.

We are a small and close-knit group of enthusiastic writers who meet once a month to share our written pieces with each other for constructive feedback. The main purpose of our group is not to teach how to write or to correct punctuation, spelling and so on, but to help, support, encourage and enjoy our writing.

We currently have **vacancies for new members**, so if you think you might be interested in joining or finding out more, please contact the convenor.

**Yoga for Beginners** Helen Howard 07786 673527 [howardhj@btinternet.com](mailto:howardhj@btinternet.com) (Tues 12:00, Stoke Fleming Village Hall)

Qualified yoga teacher Kirsty Bradley runs this class just for u3a members. The gentle and relaxing stretch class is aimed at beginners. We meet every Tuesday at midday - December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> and then break for Christmas. Classes start again on 6<sup>th</sup> January. All welcome £10 a session, cash on the day. Bring a yoga mat if you have one, but Kirsty has plenty to share.

