

u3a Dart Valley General Meetings – Programme for 2025 / 2026

At the Flavel Arts Centre, Dartmouth 10.00 am - tea & coffee; 10.30 am - Talk.



October 9th

Vivaldi – A Man for Four Seasons
Professor Peter Edwards

Vivaldi had a fascinating personal life as well as producing a large body of work which is current even by today's standards. A richly illustrated talk featuring photographs and videos of Venice to showcase the places where Vivaldi lived and created bringing his story and music vividly to life.

November 13th

The Medical aspects of flying in the RAF

Dr. Aroop Mozumder

Aviation produces a hostile environment for aircrew. Supporting them is the core purpose of Military aviation medicine. This talk will describe the effects of G-forces, lack of oxygen, spatial disorientation and others and how to combat these, as well as medical aspects of carrying injured casualties of war by air.

Dr Mozumder recently retired as a medical officer in the RAF, where he became Director General of the RAF Medical Services in the rank of Air Vice-Marshal.

December 11th

Musical Satire of the 20th century
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.

January 8th 2026

Reminiscences of a fast lady
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 facts and figures that not many are aware of the fast Lady.

February 12th

Persia Past and Present Iran
Peter Barker

Persian Empire existed as one of the most powerful and complex empires of the ancient world. Peter presents ten topics and 'observations' form the founding of the ancient Persian empire by Cyrus the Great, Zoroastrians and Armenians, poetry and gardens, amazing mosques, the role of Shi'ism, government repression and the friendliness of many ordinary people of modern-day Iran.

March 12th

I bet this never happened to you
Alex Leger

Alex spent 36 years as a producer and director on Blue Peter and other BBC shows. Alex presents the rich pageant of life in the BBC. A room with 3 million flies, a hail of stones from an angry crowd in the Cameroon and overwhelming hospitality at the Mount Washington Cog Railway that nearly ruined the shoot were unexpected hazards. Filming with the warlike Kayapo Indians in the Amazon Rainforest, climbing Mount Kilimanjaro and celebrating 10 years after the Falklands conflict in remote island communities.

April 9th

AI: The Technology That's Reshaping Our World

Richard Haycock

Two years ago AI had potential to become a General-Purpose Technology. Since, there has been unprecedented investment, extraordinary advances in capability, and the emergence of AI 'teams' working together like humans. In just 24 months, artificial intelligence has moved from promising technology to an unstoppable force transforming everything from healthcare to home life.

Learn why global investors are pouring billions into building AI infrastructure, and what these extraordinary developments mean for our future.

May 14th

Superspy Science
Kathryn Harkup

Science and technology have always been central to the plots that make up the world of James Bond. Kathryn explores 007's exploits from the practicalities of building a volcano-based lair, to whether being covered with gold paint really will kill you. And if your plan is to take over the world whether it is better to use bacteria, bombs or poisons

June 11th

Putin, Trump and the Ukraine
John Dobson

What were Putin's real reasons for invading the Ukraine, an independent sovereign state?

What has been the impact on Russian's economy? What is the relationship between Trump and Putin? What are the scenarios for the end of the war?

Find out answers to these and many other questions on the conflict from John who spent 3 years as a Royal Naval attaché in Moscow.

July 9th

Wildlife Photography: In Pursuit of the Improbable

Stephen Powles

In a medley of interesting, amusing, and informative wildlife stories. Steven will describe how he managed to photograph and film some challenging subjects and how an understanding of their natural history and behaviour enabled him to do so. Amongst others, Kingfishers, herons, otters, lizards and hedgehogs will be featured.

August

No meeting as u3a has a month off during the holiday season.



Archery Tues am
Colin Payne 07919 933891

Architecture 4th Thurs am
Mike Trevorrow 01803 752928

Art Group 2nd/4th Mons am
Pat White 07929 271658

Book Group 1 3rd Mons am
Lindsay Charlesworth 01803 834592

Book Group 2 1st Weds pm
Val Church 01803 834280

Book Group 3 2nd Weds am
Sarah Nottrodt 0777 8547064

Book Group 4 2nd Tues am
Jane Davies 07779 340062

Bowling 2nd Tues pm
Tim Freeman 01803 832663

Bridge Tues am
Judi Cotes 01803 834802

Classical Era 1st Thurs am
Vince 'Wiz' Tehel 07770 912100

Crafts Club Tues am (ring)
Joan Buscombe 01803 832662

Cryptic Crosswords Tues am Monthly
Gwendolyn Alker 01803 833270

French Conversation Irregular Wed
Steve Stevenson
steelboatsteve2@btinternet.com

Garden Groups 1 & 2 Irregular
Clare Ball 01803 833292

Garden Groups 3 Irregular Thurs
Elaine Sones 07803 605010

Geology Irregular Weds pm
Tim Freeman 01803 832663

German Conversation Monthly Thurs
Ingrid Sidell 01803 770870

History of Art 1st Fri pm
Julia Churchley 07900 321681

iPad for Beginners Alternate Weds
Suzie Dodsworth 01803 770134

Italian Conversation Fri pm
Tasha James 0795 750 9351

MahJong 1st & 3rd Friday
Elaine French 01803 832304

Medau Weds pm
Yvonne Cottam 01803 835251

Pub Lunches
'A' 4th Wed. 'B' Last Thurs 'C' 1st Tues
'A' Alan Cole 01803 752902
'B' Christine Bond 07541 199158
or Virginia Best 07752 720724
'C' Wendy Boulding 07902 765674

**New ideas and volunteers
always welcome.**

Scrabble 2nd + 4th Fri pm
Sue Manley 01803 414774

Spanish Conversation Alternate Mon am
Yvonne Cottam 01803 835251

Sports Morning Weds am
Yvonne Cottam 01803 835251

Sunday Lunch Group 2nd Sun
Anne Taylor 01803 363257

Walking Mon am
Hilary Cranmer 01803 835812

Wine Tasting (1) 4th Thurs pm
Anne Taylor 01803 363257

Wine Tasting (2) 1st Mon pm
Bill Riddell 01803 752049

Writers Monday pm
Val Depledge 01803 834323

Yoga for Beginners Tuesday noon
Helen Howard 07786 673527

**For further information on the
groups or other events visit:
<https://dartvalley.u3asite.uk>
or scan this QR code with your
smart phone**



Dart Valley
Registered Charity No. 115520
Committee

Julia Churchley	Chair
Bill Riddell	Vice Chairman
Liz Helyer	Treasurer
Chris Milsom	Minutes Secretary
Suzie Dodsworth	Membership
Wiz Tehel	Newsletter & Groups
Iain McCall	Speakers & Talks
Tim Freeman	Marketing & Publicity
Gwendolyn Alker	Devon Link Coffee Rota
Peter Avis	Legal Advisor
Paul Noonan	

Non-Committee Support

Pat White Front Register

**For membership contact:
Suzie Dodsworth on 07811 278133
or membership@dartvalleyu3a.org**

**There is an interesting talk every
second Thursday of the month.
See over for details.**