

Upcoming General Meetings & Monthly Talks

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

Members £2, Visitors £3

AI: The Technology That's Reshaping Our World

9th April

Presented by **Richard Haycock**

In the last two years there has been unprecedented investment in AI with 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 developments mean for our future.



Superspy Science

14th May

Presented by **Kathryn Harkup**

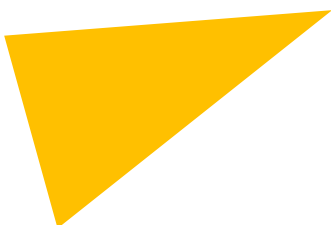
Science and technology have always been central to the plots that make up the world of James Bond.

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.



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

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



From the Chair

Dart Valley u3a is totally dependent upon on the goodwill of volunteers and committee members. We are very keen to recruit energetic committee members with new ideas to 'learn the ropes' with a view to taking on a specific role that suits them. We are a flexible, friendly group and have our monthly committee meetings remotely which works well for busy people. To this end we are holding a **coffee morning** on 20th April at 10.30am for people who might like to learn more about being on committee. Please contact me by email at julia.churchley@hotmail.co.uk or at chairman@dartvalleyu3a.org if you would like to come along.

If you like the idea of helping and supporting us and would prefer an informal chat by phone, please email me and I will give you a call.

Please look at the Membership section of the newsletter as we are doing things a little differently this year.

Finally, may I wish you all a happy and peaceful Easter.

What's on in April 2026

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/ PM	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3	4
AM				Sports Morning		Good Friday	Easter Saturday
PM				Book Group 2 iPads 4 Beginners Medau			
	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
AM	Easter Sunday	Easter Monday	Archery Bridge Crafts Club	Book Group 3 Sports Morning	Monthly Talk	Mahjong	
PM			Bowling Virtual Film Club Yoga for Beginners	French Conversation Geology		History of Art Italian Conversation Scrabble	
	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
AM		Art Group Spanish Conversation Walking	Archery Bridge Crafts Club Cryptic Crosswords	iPads 4 Beginners Sports Morning		Garden Group 1 & 2 Mahjong	
PM	Sunday Lunch	Wine Group	Yoga for Beginners	Medau	Pub Lunch (C)	Italian Conversation	
	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
AM		Book Group 1 Walking	Archery Bridge Crafts Club Garden Group 3	Sports Morning	Architecture German Conversation		
PM			Yoga for Beginners	French Conversation Medau Pub Lunch (A)	Pub Lunch (B) Wine Group – Noble Rotters	Italian Conversation Scrabble	
	26	27	28	29	30		
AM		Art Group Spanish Conversation Walking	Archery Book Group 4 Bridge Crafts Club	Sports Morning			
PM			Yoga for Beginners	Medau			

Membership

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY Suzie Dodsworth 01803 770134 membership@dartvalleyu3a.org

We are changing the renewal process this year to hopefully make it easier for everybody. There is nothing to be done immediately. During the early part of April you will receive an email from me (chairman@dartvalleyu3a.org) either thanking you for your payment, or, asking you to pay your subs. The latter email will contain all the details you need about payment, whether cheque or bank transfer.

If by mid-April you have not heard from me, or have a concern, please feel free to contact me.

Thank you for your support.

Groups and Events

GROUPS AND NEWSLETTER Wiz Tehel 07770912100 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 (Tues am Stoke Fleming Cricket Ground).

Unfortunately, the 2025/26 Winter has been unlike the previous Winter. Although we kept the archery range mown short, we were prevented from doing much archery by the awful wet windy weather! Forever optimistic, we hope for favourable weather windows during March/April. Those wishing to join us, please phone or email.

ARCHITECTURE Mike Trevorrow 07470 484858 mike.d.trevorrow@gmail.com

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

In March we looked at what happens when Architects get it wrong, with some comic and also tragic results. In April we are going to look closely at the work of the amazing Frank Gehry who is best known for the Bilbao Guggenheim gallery.

ART GROUP Pat White 07929 271658 lespatwhite@icloud.com (Monday 10am Townstal Community Hall).

During March we have been experimenting with some abstract colour qualities, enjoying some more loose paint effects, working across several masked-off sections of paper which can then be cut up and mounted onto card individually, to full effect.

We then went on to explore aspects of exotic vegetation, making use of strong tonal and colour contrasts to reflect effects of intense sunlight.

The full dates for the new term are April 13 & 27, May 11 & 25, June 15 & 29, July 13 & 27.

Examples of what the group produced are on our website at https://dartvalley.u3asite.uk/u3a_groups/art-group/

BOOK GROUP 1 Lindsay Charlesworth 01803 834592 lindsay@jpcharlesworth.plus.com

(10.30am – 3rd Monday Stoke Fleming)

In March we enjoyed discussing *You Are Here* by David Nicholls - beautiful writing which makes you want to read more of his work. Our April book is *The Names* by Florence Knapp, and then in May it will be down memory lane with *On The Beach* by Neville Shute which was first published in 1957.

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

We have been reading *Imperium* by Robert Harris where we were taken into the violent, treacherous world of Roman politics, and the quest by Cicero - clever, compassionate, devious, vulnerable, and above all - determined to reach the top. *Imperium*. A stunning novel of power and ambition, and a full cast of fascinating characters for the Roman history enthusiast.

Next, we are reading *The Glassmaker* by Tracy Chevalier.

BOOK GROUP 3 Sarah Nottrodt 0777 8547064 sarah_nottrodt@hotmail.co.uk (2nd Weds 10am)

Some of the books we have read are on our website at https://dartvalley.u3asite.uk/u3a_groups/book-group-3/

BOOK GROUP 4 Jane Davies 07779 340062 mrs_j_a_davies@hotmail.com (2nd Tues 10:30am The Royal Castle)

Our next meeting is Tuesday 28th April and we are discussing *Lark Rise To Candleford* by Flora Thompson.

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

Costing just £2 with no need to own your own bowls, we will have our first bowl of the year on Tuesday 7th April. The green is located near the Guildhall in Victoria Road. To join us please contact the convenor in advance, and I will meet you and give you a quick lesson.

BRIDGE Judi Cotes 01803 834802 / 07870897108 judigrovecotes7@gmail.com (Flavel Studio Tues 10-12)

The group is thriving with 4 new members joining already this year.

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 (1st Thurs 10.30am Flavel Auditorium, £4).

There will not be a talk in April due to proximity to Good Friday and the Easter weekend.

The next talk will be on 7th May with **Life and Death Under Vesuvius**. In the Bay of Naples, Pompeii and Herculaneum were thriving prosperous Roman cities. Until that fateful day in 79 AD. What was it like living under the shadow of Vesuvius? What does archaeology reveal about the lives of the people.

Full list of upcoming talks is on our website at https://dartvalley.u3asite.uk/u3a_groups/classical-studies/

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

We always need members to help serve coffee and tea at our monthly meetings. All you have to do is be at the Flavel at 9.45 am and serve drinks until 10.30. You will have **free entry to the talk**, and it is a good way to get to know other members. Please sign up at the next monthly meeting or contact Gwendolyn.

CRAFTS CLUB Joan Buscombe 01803 832662 c/o 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 (3rd Tues)

Our next meeting is on Tuesday 14th April at 10.30. If you are interested in joining the group, please contact Gwendolyn.

FRENCH CONVERSATION Steve Stevenson steelboatsteve2@btinternet.com

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

Chers Amis, francophiles. Le mois d'avril est arrive'. Peut-être le printemps illuminera t-il nos prochaines reunions d'un temps agreable. J'ai trouve' interessant de consulter le livre illustre de Mike sur ses travaux de construction. Cela fait ressurgir des souvenirs, pas tous agreable! Et cela devrait interesser tout le monde, ne serait-ce que pour l'inspiration du bricolage. Nous sommes assures d'etre bien accueillis chez Brown's, nous y poursuivrons donc nos reunions. Au plaisir de vous revoir bientot. Merci, cordialement, Steve

GARDEN GROUP 1&2 Clare Ball ceball@live.co.uk (11am 3rd Friday) 🌹🌿🌻🌷🍷

We met last on Friday 20th March in my garden as the weather was so lovely and after having a good wander around, we settled to a discussion with some drinks and nibbles in the sun. Always something to learn. We then had a quiz about gardening and Easter. Great fun. Everyone enjoyed themselves. Next meeting will be on 17th April and plan to visit Avon Mill Garden Centre.

GARDEN GROUP 3 Howard and Elaine Sones 07803 605010 gardens@sones.org (Irregular meetings)

We had fantastic weather for our trip to Stone Lane, and I think everyone who came will agree that it was well worth the trip across Dartmoor to see.

Our next visit is on Tuesday 21st April, at 11.00 a.m. to Mothecombe Gardens which was named the RHS Partner Garden Regional Winner for the South-West and Wales 2025, celebrating the garden's outstanding horticultural excellence, and commitment to wildlife-friendly practices. From its historic Lutyens terraces to its vibrant bee-friendly planting and tranquil woodland walks.

Please email gardens@sones.org if you would like to join us on this visit.

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

This month the geology group will be looking at the **South Island of New Zealand** and in particular what is known as the Alpine Fault. This is given a 75% probability of causing a magnitude 8.0 or above earthquake in the next 50 years. We will be visiting curious places like John O Groats, but not of course the Scottish version. Cost this month £1.

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

The next German meeting is on Thursday 23rd April at 10 am in Strete. We will be welcoming a friend of mine, Anita Ulrich, a German Watercolour artist, who will be staying in Dartmouth. We hope to discuss current issues affecting Germany today.

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

On April 10th at 12:15pm in the Flavel Studio we are delighted to welcome the **sculptor Jeremy Moulds** who will be talking to us about his beautiful sculptures as he prepares for exhibiting at Delamore Arts in May. Doors open at 12 with prompt start at 12.15. All welcome to join us. **Please note as this is not our usual day and we are meeting at an earlier time than usual.**

IPADS 4 BEGINNERS Suzie Dodsworth 01803 770134 suziedwong@gmail.com

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

The course is 75% completed. We have some dedicated members who have attended regularly. As the course will not be available next year, if anyone would like to join for April and start of May to refresh or enhance their skills, they would be welcome. Please email your interest in joining us. Please bring your iPad, a notebook, a small address book and £3 for hire of the room.

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)

Because of Good Friday being the 1st Friday, we are meeting on the 10th and 17th in April.

New players always welcome.

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

Classes continue to flourish. Dates for spring half term:

15th April - 20th May (£6 for 6 weeks)

PUB LUNCHES GROUP (A) Alan Cole 01803 752902 alan5cole@icloud.com (4th Weds monthly)

Our March lunch venue was the Seven Stars, Dartmouth. Ten of us lunched and thoroughly enjoyed each other's company. The staff were friendly and we were not asked to order prior or pay a deposit. The only downside was the beef pie, should have been cooked a little longer, but good pizzas.

Contact Alan Cole for details of next pub lunch venue.

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

The next lunch will be 23rd April, venue TBA. As the numbers for our lunch club continue to grow, we are now 26, it will just have to be first come first served!!

PUB LUNCHES GROUP (C) Wendy Boulding 07902 765674 pwboulding@hotmail.co.uk (3rd Thurs monthly)

We next meet on Thursday 16 April 2026 12.30pm. Please get in touch if you would like to join us.

SCRABBLE Sue Manley 07840 257045 manleysusan7@gmail.com (2nd & 4th Fridays, 2pm Flavel Studio, £4)

The Scrabble Group is a small friendly group that meets the second and fourth Fridays of the month, being Friday 10th and 24th April. We meet upstairs in The Flavel Studio. 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 (Fortnightly Mon 11.30am – 1.00pm)

We do have a couple of spaces - but you need to be able to speak some Spanish already as we can't teach.

Dates for next classes: 13th April and 27th April.

SPORTS MORNING Yvonne Cottam 01803 835251 ycottam@live.co.uk (Weds 10am Dart Leisure Centre, £3.50)

We continue to meet every week as usual. The group is full but contact Yvonne if you'd like to be put on a waiting list.

SUNDAY LUNCH Anne Taylor 01803 363257 jonquil_shapley@hotmail.com (2nd Sun month 12.30pm)

We will be going to The Bull in Totnes in April. Contact the convenor if you wish to attend.

VIRTUAL FILM CLUB Adrian Kyte 07890 392444 adrian.kyte@btinternet.com (1st Tuesday 8pm)

We continue as a small group who stream the same film at the same time (8.00 p.m. first Tuesday of every month) at home and maybe exchange comments on the film via our closed WhatsApp group. If you'd like to join the group, send an email to adrian.kyte@btinternet.com, I'll need your name and mobile phone number.

This month the target film is *Primary Colours*, a gripping drama edged with sly humour. And while it represents a battle for power, it is based not on action but on wordplay and who can wield it best to become the most powerful man on earth.

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

The disaster at Slapton and Torcross has ruled out several of our favourite walks in that area for the foreseeable future. However, with the first signs of spring all around, we are looking forward to discovering new walks and revisiting some favourites.

The walking group meet at Ivatt Road, Townstal, on Monday mornings at 10am. We cover between 3 and 6 miles. New members are welcome; we are a friendly bunch.

Photos of recent walks can be seen on our website at https://dartvalley.u3asite.uk/u3a_groups/walking/.

WINE GROUP-NOBLE ROTTERS 🍷 [Anne Taylor 01803 363257 jonquil_shapley@hotmail.com](mailto:anne.taylor@jonquil-shapley@hotmail.com)

Next imbibing will be Thursday 23rd April. Please contact the convenor for details.

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

Tim Freeman hosted our March Tasting with a selection from inter alia The Wine Society. We started with a couple of grape/region combinations that we hadn't previously encountered: a zesty Essex Pinot Noir Rose and a bone dry but fruity Swiss Chasselas. We compared two antipodean Merlots -a bottle from Hawkes Bay (NZ) and a boxed SE Australia offering from Sainsburys and concluded with a tasty full bodied 2020 Chateauneuf.

Tim's accompanying canapes were- as we've learnt to expect- to die for!

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

The group will reconvene soon, 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.

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 these gentle and relaxing stretch classes for u3a members at Stoke Fleming Village Hall, which has the benefit of under floor heating, every Tuesday at 12 noon. All are welcome £10 per class, cash on the day. Bring a yoga mat if you have one but Kirsty has plenty to share. Please come and join us for a very worthwhile time of stretch and relaxation. If getting to Stoke Fleming is a problem, please contact Helen as it may be possible organize a lift from another attendee.

