

Upcoming General Meetings & Monthly Talks

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

Members £2, Visitors £3

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 is it better to use bacteria, bombs or poisons?



Putin, Trump and the Ukraine

11th June

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?

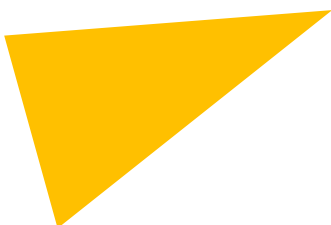
What are the scenarios for the end of the war?



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.

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

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



What's on in May 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
AM						Mahjong	
PM						Italian Conversation	
	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
AM		Walking	Archery Bridge Crafts Club	Book Group 2 iPads 4 Beginners Sports Morning	Classics		
PM			Virtual Film Club Yoga for Beginners	Medau		Italian Conversation Scrabble	
	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
AM		Art Group Spanish Conversation Walking	Archery Book Group 4 Bridge Crafts Club	Book Group 3 Geology Sports Morning	Monthly Talk	Garden Group 1 & 2 Mahjong	
PM		Wine Group	Bowling Yoga for Beginners	French Conversation Medau		Italian Conversation	
	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
AM	Sunday Lunch	Book Group 1 Walking	Archery Bridge Crafts Club Cryptic Crosswords	iPads 4 Beginners Sports Morning	German Conversation Garden Group 3		
PM			Yoga for Beginners	Medau Pub Lunch (C)		Italian Conversation Scrabble	
	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
AM		Art Group Spanish Conversation Walking	Archery Bridge Crafts Club	Sports Morning	Architecture		
PM			Yoga for Beginners	French Conversation Medau Pub Lunch (A)	Pub Lunch (B) Wine Group – Noble Rotter		
	31						

Membership

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY Suzie Dodsworth 01803 770134 membership@dartvalleyu3a.org

By now you should have heard from Julia, and if you have not, please contact Julia at the chairman email address chairman@dartvalleyu3a.org

Thank you very much for those of you who responded. There is still roughly a quarter of people yet to pay and I'd ask that those of you in that group pay ASAP. Thank you.

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).

Archery continued through a cold April, but with ewes and lambs occupying our archery range, so we made do short-range shooting across the car parking area. Now the sheep have left we are back to normal, and if anyone would like to join us for the coming summer you will be welcome to give archery a try. We give basic instruction. Please contact the convener.

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

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

Our last actual talk will take place on 28th May and will look at Civic Buildings. 11:30am in the Flavel Studio. In June we are gallivanting off to Mount Edgecombe on the Rame Peninsula, just inside Cornwall, for a guided tour of that ancient house. £9:50 to be collected at the May talk. It should be a lovely day. Please come along with your tour fee plus the usual £2 contribution towards the Studio.

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

During April we have initially been inspired by the work of John Piper with cottages set into the countryside. We then imposed an expressive colour scheme onto a scene to see what effect that could create. Our members have enjoyed being in control of colour to add greater individuality and making use of the expressive qualities of colour which we will continue to explore through a variety of media.

Future dates are 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 April we read *The Names* by Florence Knapp. Those of us who were able to attend (unfortunately I had to wait at home for the boiler man!) reported that it was a difficult book to read and remember “who was who”, and “what was what” by the time you got to the end. However, they did all agree that it was a well written book. Our May book is *On the Beach* by Neville Shute, followed in June by *The Hearts Invisible Furies* by John Boyne. Our meetings are helped by working with a list of discussion questions provided before the meeting.

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

The Glassmaker by Tracy Chevalier is a beautifully researched novel set in Venice and Murano. Both heart breaking and magical at times with a fascinating story, her ‘messaging about with time’ (her words) didn’t work for us. We are now reading *Small Things Like These* by Claire Keegan

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)

Please contact the convenor for details of the next meeting and the book being discussed.

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

The next meeting will be Tuesday 12th May at 3pm. New joiners welcome, please come along and join us as we need more members. An introductory lesson is possible. All equipment is provided, but can you bring some training shoes with clean soles to change into when you arrive. Cost £2.

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).

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.

On 4th June we are pleased to have **Professor Claire Holleran of Exeter University** present on Life in Roman Spain. Claire's research lies in Roman social and economic history, and the experiences of living in the ancient empire. She has published numerous articles and contributed to, edited and authored, several books.

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 cryptic crossword meeting is on Tuesday 19th May at 10.30.

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 intéresser tout le monde, ne serait-ce que pour l'inspiration du bricolage. Nous sommes assures d'être bien accueillis chez Brown's, nous y poursuivrons donc nos reunions. Au plaisir de vous revoir bientôt. Merci, cordialement, Steve

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

We had a very good meeting on a fine day in March. Lucky not to have rain. Discussion about certain plants and how to print camellias after flowering. They have been beautiful this year. Three members have had to temporarily leave our group due to the Slapton Road collapse which is a shame but understand it is a long route around to get here. Still a lovely group though.

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

Our next visit is on Thursday 21st May at 11.00am, this will be to Fast Rabbit Farm Gardens, a woodland garden and nursery near Dartmouth. Please email 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)

North Island in New Zealand is a busy place with volcanoes aplenty. You can ski in the higher parts, on the slopes of an active volcano. Come and find out about this very interesting island. Wed 13th at 2.30pm. All welcome, including new joiners. Cost this month **£1**.

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

The next u3a German meeting will take place on Thursday May 21st at 10.00 in Strete at the usual venue.

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

We will not be meeting this month. Our next meeting will be Friday 5th June at 2pm with a group talk entitled **Immersive Art – fad or fabulous?** Please get in touch with me if you can contribute on this divisive subject – I'm hoping we can enjoy a lively discussion and look at a range of different experiences.

Our meeting on Friday 3rd July will be a talk on the **Pre-Raphaelite** brotherhood, delivered by Dr Nicola Wakeham.

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 almost completed and, after ten years, this will be the last course. We have some dedicated members who have attended regularly and over the years, attendees have improved their iPad skills immensely. Final dates for the course are 6th May and 20th May. Please email your interest in joining us. 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)

We are meeting on the 1st and 3rd Friday of the month. 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)

April's lunch was at The Maltsters Arms, Tuckenhay, an establishment once owned by Keith Floyd, a renowned local character. The location is one of the best, a creek off the Dart. Eight of us lunched, the menu was comprehensive, but the most popular dish was 'fish and chips' served in a variety of ways. As usual the best part of the lunch was the company. 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 28th May, venue TBA. Please contact the convenor for details.

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

We enjoyed a delicious lunch at The Royal Castle Hotel in their newly refurbished restaurant at our April gathering. We will meet again Thursday 20th May, venue to be confirmed.

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 8th and 22nd May. 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: 11th and 25th May.

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, and I can definitely see some improvement in the standard of play. Well done everyone!

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

We are planning to go to Heron Valley on 17th May. Contact the convenor if you wish to attend.

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

We are a small group who watch the same film starting at 8.00 p.m. on the first Tuesday of each Month (except for the summer months of June, July and August) on TV at home and discuss the film via WhatsApp so this is our last 'meet' until September. If you want to join the WhatsApp group, email me your mobile number. We mostly use BBC iPlayer but can use ITV or the Channel 4 equivalent as they are subscription free. As always with these streaming platforms films come and go without warning so sometimes there is a last-minute change of program. This month were planning on watching 'Yesterday' starring Himesh Patel (from EastEnders) on 5th May. Imagine waking up one morning and finding out you are the only person who remembers the Beatles.

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

At last, some dry and pleasant Monday mornings to encourage us out into the fresh air. We ventured to Slapton and Torcross to see for ourselves the devastation caused by the winter storms and noted that quite a lot of work has gone into shoring up what remains of the road and coastline. It is still possible to enjoy a walk by the sea or around the Ley. Other walks have taken us to Noss, Brixham and Staverton and we are looking forward to more to come now that spring is upon us.

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

We will be meeting on 28th May. The last tasting was most interesting as it centred around St George and wine from areas he was associated with, where we enjoyed a rather nice Pinot Noir from Romania.

WINE TASTING Bill Riddell 01803 752049 billriddell75@gmail.com (2nd Mon pm. Members' homes)

Paul Noonan hosted our April meeting and offered us a fascinating selection of wines from Southwest France but omitting vineyards surrounding Bordeaux. Three Sauvignon Blanc blends -all crisp and fruity were followed by a full-bodied off dry Petit Manseng from the Jurancon region of the Pyrenees. Perhaps the most popular of the former group was a TTD 2024 Cotes de Gascogne from Sainsbury's which, at a list price of only £7.50, is excellent value for money. The reds were from either relatively unknown regions or from less common grape varieties. Thank you Paul for a well-researched tasting which introduced us to an unusual choice of grapes transformed into a range of delicious wines.

The Wine Tasting Group has decided to move its meetings to the 2nd Monday of the month so our next tasting will be at Lizzie Utley's on Monday 11th May.

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

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.

There will be **NO** meeting on Bank Holiday Monday 25th May.

Yoga for Beginners Helen Howard 07786 673527 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.

