

Upcoming Monthly Talks

Members £2, Visitors £3, Talk starts 10:30am.

Talks are held in The Flavel Auditorium

Wildlife Photography: In Pursuit of the Improbable

Presented by Stephen Powles

Thursday 9th July

In a medley of interesting, amusing, and informative wildlife stories, wildlife photographer Stephen describes 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.



No talk in August over the Summer

The Women Who Went Around the World

Presented by Sally Smith

Thursday 10th September

The story of the women who were the very first to achieve a full circumnavigation by sea, land, and finally, air. Starting with the incredible story of Jeanne Baret, who faced real drama when, dressed as a man, discovered the Bougainvillea plant in Brazil in 1767. Sally gives a fascinating glimpse into these journeys and an insight into society at different times in history with a range of astonishing tales.



Jeanne Baret
1740-1807
First woman to sail around the world



Jerrie Mock
1925-2014
First woman to fly solo around the world

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

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

News and Notices



Looking for a fun day out? The u3a Bowling Group are looking for new members.

The group meets at 3pm on the second Tuesday at the Dartmouth Bowling Club in Victoria Road. All equipment is provided.

See below for more details.

What's on in July 2026

Summary of events on this month, further details are in the Groups and Events section below in this newsletter. **Some groups are having a break for the summer.** Please always check with the convenor as details may change after the issue of this newsletter.

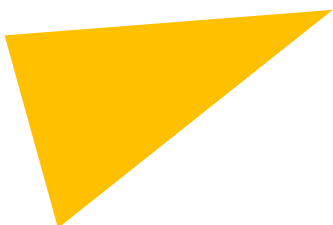
AM/ PM	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3	4
AM				Book Group 2 Sports Morning		Mahjong	
PM						History of Art Italian Conversation	
	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
AM		Spanish Conversation Walking	Archery Bridge Crafts Club	Book Group 3 Sports Morning	Monthly Talk		
PM			Yoga for Beginners	French Conversation		Italian Conversation Scrabble	
	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
AM		Art Group Walking	Archery Bowling Bridge Crafts Club	Sports Morning		Garden Group 1 & 2 Mahjong	
PM	Sunday Lunch	Wine Tasting	Yoga for Beginners		Pub Lunch (C)	Italian Conversation	
	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
AM		Book Group 1 Spanish Conversation Walking	Archery Book Group 4 Bridge Crafts Club Cryptic Crosswords	Garden Group 3 Sports Morning	German Conversation		
PM			Yoga for Beginners	Pub Lunch (A) French Conversation	Pub Lunch (B) Wine Group – Noble Rotter	Italian Conversation Scrabble	
	26	27	28	29	30	31	
AM		Art Group Walking	Archery Bridge Crafts Club	Sports Morning			
PM		Writing Group	Yoga for Beginners				

Membership

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY membership@dartvalleyu3a.org

We are in the process of appointing a new membership secretary. Please continue to use the membership@dartvalleyu3a.org email address for any queries about your membership, or questions about joining us. Our membership application form can also be found on the welcome page of the Dart Valley u3a website and at The Flavel ticket desk.

If you haven't paid this year's fee, (£10 for individuals and £5 for associate memberships) please email membership and we will assist you. Alternatively ask for a u3a envelope at the monthly meeting.



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).

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)

In June we enjoyed a delightful visit to Mount Edgecumbe on the Rame Peninsula in Cornwall. July, August and September are family/bucket and spade months when lots of us are away so we will start up again in October when I will be having a look at the architecture of Bristol. What a great city!

Have a lovely summer everyone.

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

June has seen many members away on holidays and trips to visit friends and family. We reflected this in the art produced considering the special quality of places visited and how they could be enhanced with colour and tone. Future dates are July 13 & 27.

A some of our members will be holding an exhibition of their work, along with a few other local artists, at Kingsbridge Market Hall from July 19th to July 22nd. We would be delighted to see people coming to appreciate our efforts.

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)

We had a good June meeting discussing *The Hearts Invisible Furies* by Irish author John Boyne. In 1945 sixteen-year-old Catherine is kicked out of her church and home due to an unwed pregnancy, she gives up her baby Cyril for adoption, who later, grapples with his sexuality in the conservative society of the times.

In July we shall be discussing *The Cranes Fly South* by Lisa Ritzen.

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

Ronan Hession's book, *Leonard and Hungry Paul* is a gentle wander through kindness, silences, small achievements, board games and daily events, and very little drama. It is clever, delightfully nerdy, humorous and yet sincere, and wonderfully understated. We loved it, but this relatively short book cannot be read quickly, one needs to slow down to fit the narrative.

Our next book is *The Sunrise* by Victoria Hislop

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)

This month we read *Dead Man's Folly* by Agatha Christie which was set at Greenway and had a day trip there with a picnic which was great fun. We will be reading *The Midnight Library* by Matt Haig for July and meeting on Tuesday 21st July to discuss it, at Sandra's House in Stoke Fleming.

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

We would welcome some more members for this group. If interested email me and I will meet you and give you a short lesson. The group meets at 3pm on the second Tuesday at the Dartmouth Bowling Club in Victoria Road.

All equipment is provided, but please 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)

No stress bridge. £4 which include tea/coffee and biscuits. A partner will be found if you come on your own.

The bridge cub is having a BBQ at the King's Arms in Strete on 14th July. Contact convenor for details.

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

Classics is having a summer break over June, July and August. Talks will resume in September with:

3rd September - **Thermopylae and the 300 Spartans**, Presented by Jim Cocker

This is one of the most famous battles in ancient history where, in 480 BC, 300 Spartan soldiers held off a Persian army of more than 100,000. This battle changed the course of western history.

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 21 July at 10.30am

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, L'été est arrivé, et plusieurs d'entre vous sont partis en vacances ou prévoient d'y partir. Nous aurons plein de photos à partager et commenter.... non?

Lors de la dernière séance, nous avons accueilli Simon Langdale dans le groupe. J'ai hâte de vous revoir tous à la prochaine séance. Rendez-vous les deuxième et quatrième mercredis du mois, à l'hôtel Brown's, de Dartmouth. A bientôt. Amicalement, Steve

P.S. Please note everyone, that August is to be a "month of rest". After July, we shall meet again on the 9th September. Otherwise, normal routine.

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

Contact the convenor for details of the next meeting.

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

With the current extreme heat weather warnings, we took the decision to postpone our double trip to The Garden House and Wildside gardens. Weather permitting, we will try to rearrange this trip or find an alternative, so look out for a short notice trip in the next couple of weeks.

Our July trip is planned to be to Sherwood Gardens, near Exeter, on Wednesday 22nd July.

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

No meeting this month. Some of the group are booked on a 3-day field trip to Bude in Cornwall.

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

The next meeting will take place on Thursday 23rd July (TBC) 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)

Our next meeting will be on Friday 3rd July, starting promptly at 2pm. The talk is about the **Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood**, and will be presented by our guest speaker, art historian Dr Nicci Wakeham. Do join us for what promises to be a very interesting talk on some beautiful paintings for our last session of this season. All welcome, £2 cash on the door thank you.

We will be taking a break for August and September and will start our new season on Friday 2 October.

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)

We are on our summer break until 9th September. Many thanks to everyone who has supported this class throughout the year - I hope you feel you've benefitted!

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

The group enjoyed its June lunch at The Cott Inn, Dartington. After its election a couple of years ago as a 'must go to pub' it became too popular for its own good. Thankfully the fame has dissipated, and the food is back to what we expect and the portions, for some of us, were more than enough.

July lunch yet to be decided. Contact Alan Cole for details.

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)

Please contact the convenor for details of the next pub lunch.

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

We meet 3rd Thursday of each month in various restaurants in and around Dartmouth.

Our finale for the summer meeting will be at 'The Seahorse', Dartmouth 12.30pm when we can enjoy the 'locals lunch' if you like. New members welcome but please contact the convenor in advance.

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 July. 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: 6th July and 20th July - tbc

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

We continue to meet every Wednesday as usual.

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

Sunday Lunch will be at Rockfish on 12th July. 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 the conveyor with your mobile number. We mostly use BBC iPlayer but can use ITV or the Channel 4 equivalent as they are subscription free.

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

Some dry and pleasant Monday mornings to encourage us out into the fresh air.

We are looking forward to more to come now that lovely weather 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

Noble Rotters will be meeting on 23rd July. Place dependent on weather.

At our last tasting, the standout wine was from Lidl, an Amarone Della Valpolicella, £17.49. An absolute cracker!

We are full with a waiting list. Please contact the other wine tasting group (see below) who may have space for new members.

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

Our June event was a competitive blind tasting of 5 pairs of wines where we compared wines made from the same grape, in the same price bracket, one from the Old World and one from the New World. The grapes were Assyrtiko (Greece & Australia), Gruner Veltliner (Austria & S. Africa), Viognier (France & Chile), Pinot Noir (Germany & New Zealand) and Primitivo/Zinfandel ((Italy& USA). Two of our members correctly scored 4 out of 5 - definitely more by judgement than luck!

Let's hope we can find a few days in July/August with weather like today's for our Blackpool sands evening picnic.

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.

Please contact the convenor regarding the next meeting.

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.