u3a Dart Valley General Meetings – Programme for 2026 / 2027

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

September 10th

The Women Who Went Around the World

Sally Smith

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.

October 8th

Africa's Overlooked Heroes

Astrid Madimba &

Chinny Ukata Ogunlusi

Join Astrid and Chinny, authors of *'It's a Continent'* book and podcast series, as they spotlight overlooked African figures. They will share the stories of remarkable individuals whose vision and achievements shaped the continent, exploring their impact, challenges and the legacies that continue to inspire.

November 12th 2026

India: A History in Objects

Richard Blurton

Richard will survey the cultural history of the subcontinent using the collection of the British Museum, covering the period from c1.5 million years ago, up to the present day. Using examples from the collection, Richard will cover sculpture, textiles, paintings and metalwork from prehistoric hand axes up to the work of living artists.

December 10th

A Lifetime in TV News

John Suchet

John will talk about his career in television news, including the refugee crisis in Bangladesh, the Iran revolution, Soviet occupation of Afghanistan, and the Philippines revolution. Interviewing Margaret Thatcher, Ronald Reagan, and other world leaders. He explores how we got from film cameras in the 70s, to communication satellites and cameras in our pockets.

January14th 2027

Patagonia:

History, Wildlife and Landscapes

Ian Gaspar

Ian will look at the history of the area from Magellan, including local tribes and early settlers. Plenty of birds and some wildlife will be included as well as the stunning landscape of mountains and glaciers.

February 11th

What Has Marine Life Ever Done for Us?

John Spicer

If we ask ourselves this question, we find ourselves talking fishing, eating shellfish or relaxation from a holiday or living beside the sea. But is that 'all there is'?

John will explore how marine life gives us life, how it can heal us, considers what it's worth in economic terms, and if we could put a monetary value on it could we afford to pay for its upkeep. However, it also has a value much deeper, harder to quantify, more difficult to express and one we rarely think about.

March 11th

James Webb Space telescope

The Mirrored Marvel

Jo Richardson

This talk features the amazing James Webb Space Telescope which is taking the astronomical world by storm. Jo will delve into how it was engineered, delivered to space 1 million miles from earth, how it works and what secrets of the universe it is likely to unlock to help us to understand the universe in which we live.

April 8th

The Healing Garden

Sue Minter

Why are plants useful in human healing? What are the main species which have been (or are still) vital in pharmaceutical medicine and how are the drugs produced; what are the difference between pharmaceutical and herbal medicine; and what are the issues for conservation and the role of fair trade.

May 13th

What is Rock Art?

Dr Iain Watt

Creating rock art, both in dark, difficult to reach caves and on open rock faces, seems to be a uniquely human expression. Humans have been creating such images for at least 100,000 years of our existence as a species. Iain explores the what, the where, and the how of this amazing expression of our intellect and how might it be related to language, beliefs and what binds it together

June 10th

A Solo Walk Across Africa

Fran Sandham

Fran took on a challenge of a lifetime, walking across Africa from Namibia's skeleton coast to the Indian ocean near Zanzibar completely alone. No backup, no support team, no film crew, and no strings attached. Just a one-way ticket.

July 8th

Collecting for everyone from Tolkein to Rowling

Alec Smith

Curating a book collection for adults and children. A guide to investing **in** sensibly priced treasure.

August

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

For further information on the groups or other events visit:

https://dartvalley.u3asite.uk

or scan this QR code with your smart phone



Archery	Tues am
Colin Payne	07919 933891
Architecture	4th Thurs am
Mike Trevorrow	07470 484858
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 Weds 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
Italian Conversation	Fri pm
Tasha James	0795 750 9351
MahJong	1st & 3rd Friday
Elaine French	01803 832304
Medau	Weds pm
Yvonne Cottam	01803 835251
Painting on an iPad	Alternate Weds
Suzie Dodsworth	01803 770134
Pub Lunches	
'A' 4th Wed. **'B'** Last Thurs **'C'** 3rd Thurs	
'A' Alan Cole	01803 752902
'B' Christine Bond	07541 199158
or Virginia Best	07752 720724
'C' Wendy Boulding	07902 765674
Scrabble	2nd + 4th Fri pm
Sue Manley	07840 257045

Spanish Conversation	Alternate Mon am
Yvonne Cottam	01803 835251
Sports Morning	Weds am
Yvonne Cottam	01803 835251
Sunday Lunch	2nd Sun
Anne Taylor	01803 363257
Virtual Film Club	1st Tues pm
Adrian Kyte	07890 392444
Walking	Mon am
Hilary Cranmer	01803 835812
Wine Tasting (1)	4th Thurs pm
Anne Taylor	01803 363257
Wine Tasting (2)	2nd Mon pm
Bill Riddell	01803 752049
Writers	Monday pm
Val Depledge	01803 834323
Yoga for Beginners	Tuesday noon
Helen Howard	07786 673527

New ideas for groups and volunteers always welcome.

Dart Valley

Registered Charity No. 115520

Committee

Julia Churchley	Chair
Bill Riddell	Vice Chairman
Paul Noonan	Treasurer
Sarah Nottrodt	Membership
Chris Milsom	Minutes Secretary
Suzie Dodsworth	Groups
Wiz Tehel	Newsletter
Iain McCall	Speakers & Talks
Tim Freeman	Marketing & Publicity
Peter Avis	Legal Advisor

Non-Committee Support

Pat White	Front Register
Simon Churchley	Beacon Admin
Gwendolyn Alker	Coffee Rota

For membership contact:
membership@dartvalleyu3a.org

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