

Tiverton u3a Newsletter

learn, laugh, live

Volume 10 Issue 3

March 2025



GENERAL MEETING
Thursday 27th February
10:00 for 10:30am

Amnesty International
by

Cherry Bird, Country Co-ordinator for India and Nepal
Amnesty International is a non-governmental organisation
focused on human rights with its
headquarters in the United Kingdom

Tea coffee and biscuits as usual. Paper newsletters for sale.

Moorhayes Community Centre Lea Road Tiverton EX16 6SU

And for our next meeting.....

On Thursday 27 March we will hold our **AGM. If you wish to make a nomination for the committee, there is a form at the end of this newsletter
Please come along and show your support for us at this meeting.**

We will have a talk from Dr Karen Stead-Dexter after the AGM and she will be bringing some of her birds of prey

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Facebook <https://facebook.com/tivertonu3a>
Instagram <https://www.instagram.com/tivertonu3>

Tiverton u3a welcomes seven new members this month:

- **Susie Stringer**
- **Phil Langdon**
- **Lynne Lane**
- **James Bakewell**
- **Janet Botsford**
- **Philip Skinner**

and regrets to announce the deaths of Eric Richardson, (coordinator of the Croquet Group) and Jean Pegg (formerly coordinator of the Cookery Group)

FROM THE COMMITTEE

January Meeting

A really excellent turnout of well over 80 were entertained at our January meeting by “A Touch of Class” alias Vivien and Barrie (an Elvis “soundalike”) in their reminiscences about their lives, performing in clubs, cabaret, theatre and on cruise ships over the past 50 years. As well as revisiting their own memories, they occasionally broke into song and activated memories among the assembled throng who provided hearty accompaniment. Vivien and Barrie entered the entertainment business at a time when the normal apprenticeship was through working men’s clubs and the rest followed. Initially solo performers, a chance meeting in Aberystwyth, while performing, led to the two of them getting together as “A Touch of Class”. They had stories about the “stars” with whom they performed, as well as meeting gun-toting bandits in Malta who claimed front row seats at their performance; and no one was prepared to argue the point.



If you missed this presentation, or would like to hear it again, it can be accessed here:
<https://youtu.be/RnxVBKrl7KQ>

The day continued with our superb “New Year Meat and Salads Buffet”, organised by Wendy, Sue and Annie, and catered for by “Country Bumpkins”, who supplied a fantastic meal resulting in 80 full tummies and smiling faces. And all helped by access to the bar and banquet/cabaret-style seating arrangements. We rounded off with a raffle and a very satisfied group of u3a members. *Mike W*

Membership Survey

You may remember that last November we ran a confidential “Membership Survey” to appraise how Tiverton u3a was viewed by the membership; what we were doing well, what could be improved and generally looking for new ideas to stimulate further interest. I intend to draw attention to the feedback at the AGM on March 27 th but I wanted to provide something in the interim bearing in mind the time since we undertook this piece of work.

The first finding, which seriously limits the interpretation of the survey, is that the response by members to completing it was very low at under-30% of membership. With that reservation, I will draw attention to the most significant issues to arise and which were discussed by your committee last week.

The most enjoyable aspects of Tiverton u3a, in descending, order were:

- Participating in group activities.
- Meeting & socialising.
- Learning new subjects
- Attending monthly meetings

Disappointingly, over half of the membership rarely or never attends monthly meetings. When asked what we should do more of the response was quite varied but included, in descending order:

- More trips out
- Short courses
- More group activities
- More diverse topics

When asked about the type of new groups and more diverse topics, there was a healthy range of

ideas:

- Local History
- History
- Games, cards
- Science
- Politics
- French
- Craft; drawing

That all sounds exciting but more than challenging when we asked the question about leading or co-ordinating a group where the response was somewhat limited. On offer was the possibility of

someone to lead a History Group, a Politics Group and an Environmental Group and there were a couple of "Yes, perhaps" responses.

There were other comments which the Committee noted.

- We should attract younger people and part-time workers (trainee retirees!)
- We could be more friendly
- We should provide more feedback on group activities
- We should repeat the New Member meeting held in November
- We should do more promotion

Your Committee is conscious of these comments. We are grateful to those who completed the survey and for the ideas proposed. As said above, it is intended to have a short discussion on this topic in March. In the meantime, we would welcome any further feedback, all constructive criticism, any new ideas and your commitment to Tiverton u3a. As you appreciate, the survey was confidential so we cannot identify those made any above bold offers of group leadership but we would like to get to know them.

Mike Warren

U3A Online Learning Events

Several members have recommended u3a Online Learning Events. They're free via Zoom and cover a wide range of subjects.

<https://www.u3a.org.uk/events/educational-events#Events>

Meet and Greet Team

Would you like to join our growing band of friendly welcoming members who are around at Monthly Meetings to welcome anyone new who attends the meetings?

We can operate on a rotating basis so it wouldn't mean a commitment from you, to every meeting, unless you'd like to.

I'm sure we can all remember how daunting it can be coming into a new group not knowing anyone and feeling very alone.

The important role for the Meeters and Greeters, is to try to ensure that anyone new or coming to the meeting for the first time meets up with at least one other member who knows about what we do and can introduce the person to the Interest Groups and others.

We want everyone who comes through the door to feel they are welcomed and that this is a friendly place to be.

Do have a word with Annie Foot, Membership Sec or any other member of the Committee, Group Co-ordinators or an existing Greeter if you might be interested or want to know more. - *Annie*



GROUP REPORTS

Unless they have specifically requested otherwise, group coordinators contact details have been omitted on the newsletter page of the website, as this is a public document. However, they can be found in the "members only" section of the website, which needs a password, already provided to members. - *Nigel*



Always Write
Coordinator:
Heather Bingham

In January we agreed that, in future, we'd meet at 10 am in the morning of the 4th Wednesday of the month. We all had a go at timed writing in the session – the prompt was 'Chills and Thrills' - and we will follow this timed writing format in future meetings with different topics.

At February's meeting we shared our writing 'homework' on "Eavesdropping" and "A celebration gone wrong."

Our next meeting will take place on 26th March 2025 at 10 am at a member's house in Tiverton. Please contact the co-ordinator for more information about joining our group, including the meeting venue and March meeting writing prompts. -- *Heather*.



Cryptic Crosswords

Coordinator:
Graeme Cozens

The world record for the longest word ever used in a published crossword – a 58-letter word (!) clued as an anagram. Fortunately, our crosswords do not set out to break records, but they should challenge the mind with

lateral thinking, wordplay, and creative problem-solving, which make them as much an art as a puzzle.

Our setters offer you this month's work of art to challenge your minds once again. But if YOU would like to join our team of clue-setters, and provide enjoyment to numerous puzzlers each month, please contact me via my email address below.

"How to Solve Cryptic Crosswords"

A group of 8 of us are meeting on 5th March for a "Cryptic Crossword Workshop". This is for those who are new to cryptic crosswords, or who wish to hone their existing skills.

We will look at the components of cryptic clues, play about with some anagrams and double-meanings, and explore some of the other devilish devices used in creating them.

I am hoping it will prove to be a helpful and enjoyable session for all. If so, I shall be more than happy to repeat it. So, watch this space! - Graeme. (COZENSG@YAHOO.CO.UK)



Economics

Coordinator:
Mike Barlow

After missing our January meeting we had some great wide ranging discussions in February. We started with the "**most beautiful word in the dictionary**" namely **Tariffs** via the cost of a **Big Mac** in different countries, to a look at the **db.nomics database** which is a wonderful source of economic information from around the

world.

Our next meeting will include a look at **Food Security and the impact of the new Inheritance Tax rules on farming** and will be at **10am on Wed 5th March in the Halberton Village Hall** - let me know if you'd like to join us. mikeandsue.barlow@gmail.com ~ Mike Barlow



Gardens

Coordinator:
Margaret Chumbley

Members of The Gardens Group were pleased to get together at The Old Well Garden Centre for their first meeting of 2025

at the end of January. Three new members to the Group attended with lots of suggestions made of where to visit this year. Angie showed us a picture of the award from The Devon Wildlife Trust she received for her wildlife friendly garden.

Our next meeting will be Sunday 2nd March to see the crocuses at East Worlington.- Margaret





Folk Dancing

Coordinators:
John & Hazel Ridd

Our next 3 dates are February 26th, March the 12th and March the 26th.

Hazel



Going Places

Coordinators:
John O'Connor
Tony Lowe, Chris Steele

Exeter Energy Recovery Facility

The visit to the Exeter Energy Recovery Facility by members of Tiverton U3A was an informative and inspiring experience. The group learned about the innovative processes behind energy

recovery and waste management through detailed presentations and interactive tours of the facility. They saw first-hand how waste is transformed into renewable energy, reducing environmental impact, and contributing to sustainability. The staff's enthusiasm and expertise enhanced the visit, and engaging discussions highlighted the importance of proper waste segregation and recycling. The experience motivated the members to advocate for sustainable practices within their communities, leaving them with a sense of responsibility and determination to make a positive difference.

This report was produced by using Microsoft Copilot a form of Ai !!

A further visit is planned for Tuesday 15th April. If you haven't already asked to be put on the list but would like to go, please Email chrissteele164@gmail.com - *Chris*

Birdwatching Cruise on the River Exe

This cruise will take place on Tuesday, 25th February. A report on the event will be published in next month's newsletter.

Concert by the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra

Booking for this concert on 13th March is now complete. However, if there is sufficient interest I will endeavour to book a further concert later in the year. A report on the event will be published in next month's newsletter.

Future Events

The following visits are planned in the coming months:

- SS Great Britain and Bristol Harbourside
- RNLI College, Poole



Trad Jazz
Coordinator:
Mike Barlow

The monthly jazz sessions are in full "swing" again now with **Roger Mark's Fiesta 5**, pictured here, providing an entertaining evening in Langford Budville (even the jokes were good which you can't claim with all the bands) and **Gordon's Algiers Strutters** at Magelake in Uffculme.

The dates for March are as follows:

12th March Graham Trevarton's Two Counties Jazz Band in the Jubilee Hall in **Langford Budville**
19th March Wee4 Band in the Magelake Hall in **Uffculme** –



If you need more information contact mikeandsue.barlow@gmail.com or search for **Trad Jazz** on our website.

~ *Mike Barlow*



Line Dancing
Coordinator:
Mich Bowers

With one step forward we met the challenges of the last session. Hopefully we will be able to stomp our way through the next one, on February 24th

Dates for March: 10th and 31st (change from scheduled program). -- *Mich*



Local Theatre
Coordinator:
Betty Thrall

On Thursday 20th Feb, 18 of us spent a very happy and entertaining evening watching the Junior Operatic Club's performance of "GREASE". A cast of 31 took part - 11-21 year olds, 19 under the age of 16, singing "Greased Lightnin". We go Together etc, as we recalled the music of Buddy Holly,

Little Richard, Elvis Presley that we all remembered.

Producer Dan Kilshaw, Choreographer Katie Hawkins, and Lydia Fitton as Musical Director are to be Congratulated as are the whole team .The lead characters playing Danny, Sandy, Kenlckie and Rizzo were great, as were the whole gang singing and dancing around Danny and Sandy's Romance .

The Tiverton Dramatic Society next play will be "CASH on DELIVERY", a farce by Michael Clooney. Our block booking will be Thursday May 15th 7-30 pm in The New Hall. Tickets are £10 each. Do put the date in your diaries & put your names on the list provided at the February 27th monthly meeting. Please pay by the April 24th monthly meeting and support this talented local group.

Synopsis

This riotous farce has all the ingredients for rib tickling hilarity. Eric Swan (aided by his Uncle George and unbeknown to his wife Linda), has pocketed thousands of pounds through fraudulent DSS claims. When Norman Bassett, (the lodger) opens the door to Mr Jenkins, the DSS Inspector, deceptive mayhem follows - as do the undertaker, bereavement counsellor, psychiatrist, Norman's fiance, corpse, the ominous Ms Cowper and a rather rebellious washing machine! Hope that has whet your appetite

Betty 01884 242998 (please say u3a before your name wen asked by call minder)



Mahjongg

Co|rdinator:
Celia Hicks

Mahjong is a tile based game which originated in China. The tiles are based on Chines characters and symbols, Bamboos, Circles, Characters, Winds and Dragons. Preferably in a group of four, you aim to make a pattern of tiles by simple exchange. It is not difficult but like all games there are nuances which are taken on board slowly.....and, I insist, for fun. My groups follow the British Mahjong Association Rules but I advise no-one to read them (or any others) until they have sat down and been instructed on how to play. Then all becomes clear! Repetitive DOING becomes learning!

There are no fees as we meet in peoples' homes. I provide the Mahjong set and racks. I am willing to come from Bampton to any region close to Tiverton so do get in touch if you feel you'd like to know more. Alternatively I am willing to host at home. 01398 332101 (with answerphone) and celiahicks13@gmail.com - Celia



Photography

Coordinator:
Roger Gunn

A small but perfectly formed group of five assembled at Roger's place to share their photos. The theme was 'Our Younger Selves' with anything of choice thrown in.

Nigel led with early photos of him sporting a mohican hairstyle, setting a trend amongst 1940s babies. We passed through primary school, grammar school, motoring school and learning to drive in the family Vauxhall Velux, college days, proudly displaying his homemade canoe and early married life. Nigel has always enjoyed walking in countryside and we finished with spectacular photos of the Ceredigion coastline.



Phil shared photos of his early life with curly hair and proud parents, through naval boarding school, as a proud parent himself and life in the Middle East. There were some fine shots of Sidmouth to finish.

Tim had 2 great pictures, one taken in the late 1960s with his wife and his head covered in luxuriant dark flowing locks (was it really Tim?). The other was an earlier shot, around 1954 with his brother, very reminiscent of the era, in Elmore school uniform with caps and macs standing on a bridge near St Peter's Church.

John treated us to pictures of his early life in Bristol and managed to record the same four cousins with himself in 1961, 1987 and 2004. We also viewed shots of a mandarin duck on the canal, long tailed tits in John's garden, 3 generations of John's family photographed on a spectacular hillside on North Island NZ. On his way back from NZ he stopped over in Seoul and spied an electric wheelchair charging point and a very sophisticated electronic toilet in his hotel room. Think bidet with bells and whistles!

Finally, Roger took photos of himself to another level, powerpoint style with music! He started life in rural Templeton and was clearly at home on the farm. We saw great family shots from their

time in Zambia and of Roger as a Scout leader. There were super pics of the man at work and leisure whilst on contracts in Saudi Arabia and Colombia. There may have been sweat and beer on display!

To finish, we saw interesting videos from visits to The Wetlands Centre in Stoke St Gregory in 2017 and Sampford Peverell in 2015.

The next session will be on Thursday 13th March, 10:00am at Tim's place. The theme is 'Making the Most Of It'.

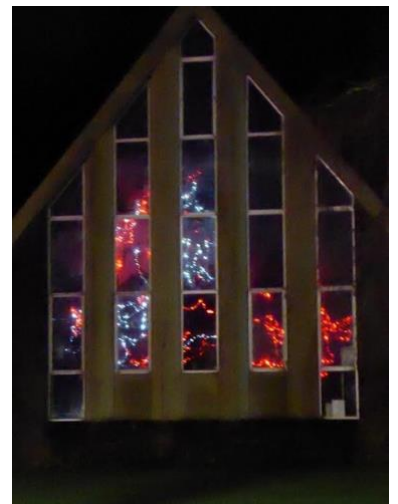
Photography 2 Coordinator: **Charlie Duke**

Due to difficulties in arranging a suitable date, the December meeting was postponed. The theme for January was then enlarged to contain both Christmas items and a wide subject of "the natural world".

There was therefore a wide variety of pictures to discuss, including some frost covered landscapes. Sadly, from a photographic aspect, we had little snowfall to over the period. Two members had visited Wildwood (formally known as and still signposted as Escot) to photograph the energetic red squirrels in the free to enter walk-in enclosure outside the entrance to the main park. Another member had limited time to fill the brief as he had been away on a cruise, so brought along a selection of interesting pictures collected on his travels.

In photos below, the decorated tree at Blundell's is also seen reflected in the windows of the buildings on the opposite side of the main road.

The subjects for the February meeting are items beginning with the letters F, E and B.





Railway Group

Coordinator:
Jose Kimber

Our January meeting was at Terry Dapp's house in Bampton, when we talked about future activities and places we could visit, though no firm plans were made. After a slight hitch or two with the technology, we watched some more of the DVD about the railways in the war years, which was very

interesting, with lots of archive film. It seems that the railways were very well documented and filmed at the time, so the quality tended to be rather better than some of the archive material we have watched.

Our next meeting is on **Friday 28 February**, the day after the main meeting, **at 10.30am**, again at Terry's house. If you are not on my group list and would like to join us, please contact me and I will let you have the details. We will continue watching the war Years DVDs.

The March meeting will be on **Friday 28 March ant 10.30am**, venue to be decided.

We welcome new members to our group, so please contact me if you are interested. - Jose



Ramblers

Coordinator:
Jenny Bedford

Only 10 of us met up on Ashbrittle Green this month due to unfortunate illness, family matters and , additionally, two of our usual walkers deciding to seek warmer weather and alternative exercise on a Mediterranean cruise! Nevertheless we enjoyed our ramble which largely took us on very quiet roads, with views over towards the Blackdowns and Taunton Vale to Staplecross (the Inn was unfortunately closed on

Tuesdays) .At this point we split into two groups resulting in some of us walking approximately 4.5 miles and others nearer 6 miles. Both groups walked to Hole Farm and it's beautiful Devon Long House, unexpected small gauge railway and stranded yacht (no photogenic Highland cattle to be seen on this occasion). Those who wanted a longer walk did so via Hockworthy. The walk was drier than anticipated and the views much appreciated in between lots of friendly chat!
Elisabeth

The March Ramble will be led by Phil Akers from Beech car park on the canal side between Burlescombe and and Whipcott (EX16 7JD), **on 11th March**, starting at 10am.

We will walk along the canal to Whipcott, over the bridge and follow the footpath to Holcombe Rogus. After a short walk along the road into the village we will take the footpath south past the pub towards Fenacre Farm, past the abbey ruins then along the dismantled railway track to the canal. We will return to the car park along the tow path. Easy flattish walk, about 4.7 miles.

Look forward to seeing lots of you there. - Jenny



Skittles

Coordinators:
John Carr
Janet Loader

We are running our usual sessions (Mondays 7pm to 8.30 at Tiverton Football Club) throughout March but, due to the late Easter this year, there will only be two in April. Monday 14th April will be the last session of the winter when we will have our fun and games session and buffet in order to end on a high. Give Skittles a try, it's fun!

Joint Co-ordinators: John Carr (01404 841367)

and Janet Loader (01884 252116)



Snooker
Coordinator:
John Anderson

A small, social group catering for all levels of Snooker ability (up to "average!").

Our normal meeting dates at Halberton Village Hall are the 1st and 3rd Friday each month. Our start time is 3.30pm. Conveniently, buses from Tiverton stop at

the door, so you can use your bus-pass to get there. I am a keyholder for opening up, so give me a ring beforehand if you would like to join in and have a game or two.

John. Tel: 07947 000757



**WALK and
TALK**

**Strollers and
Twalkers**
Coordinator:
Chris Mumford

TWALKERS - These walks are out in the countryside, generally within 10 miles of Tiverton. The maximum distance is no more than 3.6 miles and take no more than 90 minutes. The venue changes weekly.

STROLLERS - Venue changes monthly for a gentle walk lasting no more than 60 minutes

around the streets of Tiverton.

For more details and a programme, please contact Chris Mumford:

chris.mumford21@gmail.com



Short Tennis
Coordinator
Diane Lewis

A new group is emerging and we welcome new members.

2 taster sessions have already taken place and we have a provisional plan to meet on

- Friday mornings 10.00am - 11.30/12 noon depending on numbers

- at the Village Hall in Uplowman EX16 7DN, from now.
- Plenty of parking available.
- Cost per session £2.50 - £3.00 again dependent on numbers.

Bring your own coffee/ tea (so that we don't have to pay any more for the kitchen) .
Equipment provided

A What's App group is set up to communicate within the group.
No experience necessary but a feel for tennis and eye/ball coordination will help !

Anyone interested or who would like to know more, please contact Di Lewis
at dianejoy33@hotmail.com or phone 07713 311616 or Annie Foot
at anniefoot29@gmail.com 07706112569

COME and JOIN US !!



Short Trek

Coordinator:
Phil Akers

On the day that high winds, rain and Storm Eowyn were forecast across the country, 11 members of the Short Trek Group met at Killerton ready to embrace the January Walk. Spirits were high as the group tackled a short, sharp climb, to be greeted by a series of muddy fields and lanes that tested their resolve (and the grip on their boots). Dry but with plenty of mud underfoot, we climbed

upwards admiring the views scattered with cattle. Despite the squelchy conditions underfoot, progress was steady, and the company pressed on toward Columbjohn, stopping to explore the historic chapel where many members of the Ackland family are laid to rest.

The first highlight of the day came above a railway bridge, where the group waved at a passing train. Enthusiastic gestures were rewarded with a cheerful blast on its horn, a small but delightful moment that brought a smile to everyone's face (something to do with our collective ages?) Passing on through Rewe and Huxham, Phil had chosen a lunch spot in Danes Wood, where a pile of sturdy logs provided a seat – and even a footrest! Lunch is always a chance for laughter, and banter, but this occasion had an unexpected twist. An exuberant dog, much to its owner's embarrassment, decided to join us. The lively canine dashed around the group, narrowly missing knocking Roger's drink over before helping itself to his nuts (Ryvita, dates, and raisins)! The incident sparked plenty of hilarity and good-natured commentary!! Having recovered from this eventful stop we continued back to the start passing through Francis Court Farm to Killerton. The day didn't end there, however, as the group reconvened at the Merry Harriers for a well-deserved debrief over drinks to round off the day. – though there was some concern that the pub might run out of Otter!

Remarkably, the much-anticipated storm never materialized: no rain, no wind, and it wasn't even cold. Miraculous! Many thanks to Phil for organizing an excellent walk with great company and, for once, the favour of the weather gods. Annie (and, Tony with guidance from Chat CPT – styles from Dickens, Edward Lear and Benjamin Zephaniah are available !!). - *Phil*

The next Short Trek will be led by Annie and will start at [10.am](#) on **Friday 28th February**. Starting from the car park at Culm Valley Inn EX15 3JJ, Culmstock, the walk crosses fields from the bridge down towards Northcott farm. From there toward Hackpen Mill then Hackpen Barton. A stretch (slog) along the road takes the route to the footpath just before Hayden farm. Then going along a woody area toward Hillmoor Common and down to the river following fields to return back into Culmstock .

A bit of a short, gentle Short Trek at 6 miles, but some good views along the way. May be soggy underfoot and there are a few stiles too.

Debrief at the Culm Valley Inn. - *Annie*



Table Tennis

Coordinators:
Katherine Green
Lorne Loxterkamp

The group meets every Monday, except Bank Holidays, from 10am to 12 noon at Sunningmead Community Centre. We have four tables and generally play doubles to ensure that everyone gets as many games as possible. Currently new members are welcome, but spaces are limited. We endeavour to help those with less experience of

the game, but unfortunately we are unable to accommodate complete beginners.

Anyone interested in joining the group should contact Katherine and Lorne.



Thursday Lunch

Coordinator:
Angie Cheshire

Twenty-three Members made the trip to the Poltimore Inn (30 minutes along the A361 link road) on Thursday, 13th February.

There was a slightly confusing start, when the venison pie special was 'on' then 'off' then 'on' again. During the wait for our orders we were entertained

to an amusing and informative talk by the pub Landlord, Allan, on a wide ranging history of the Pub, the Village and Exmoor dark skies.

The food arrived eventually and was plentiful and very tasty. After lunch Allan invited anyone who was interested to tour the 6 visitor cabins and the Observatory, of which Allan is clearly very proud.

Our next outing is to the Ashill Inn, Ashill, EX15 3NL. Email me if you would like to come along.
Angie. angelacheshire@hotmail.com



Trekking

Coordinator:
Gordon Cleaver

The February Trek

13 Trekkers met in bright sunshine in the village of Chawleigh for an invigorating Trek across the varied scenery of this part of rural Devon. We welcomed two new trekkers, who hopefully enjoyed a splendid 10.4 mile trek ably led by Phil. We scaled plenty of hills, muddy hills, slippery grassy hills, tree-rooty hills, leaf

covered hills. We took stiles in style. We lunched sitting on Chulmleigh Church wall in the bright Devon sunshine. We saw sheep and newborn lambs frolicking in the sun and looked at picture postcard thatched cottages.

The debrief was held in the Mount Pleasant Inn where Phil was thanked for his Trek. A large and lively country wake was being held in the pub where the life of a ,well respected ,local woodsman was being celebrated. It somehow well reflected our theme of the day of trekking in a slightly "off the beaten track" part of "Real Rural Devon " .



March Long Trek – Thursday 6 th March 2025 – 10.00 AM St Decumens, Watchet
The Trek will be led by Gordon.

The Trek starts and finishes at St Decumens Cemetery Car Park on top of the hill on the B3191 just before the "30mph and Watchet "signs and you drop down into the town. This is a large car park, map ref ST066425, where we should be able to park for free and start the trek. We will start by passing St Decumens Church and then visiting St Decumens Holy Well. We then trek down to Kentsford Farm before crossing the West Somerset Railway to head up to the England Coast Path. We follow the coast path for approximately 2 miles dropping down into Blue Anchor before heading inland to Binham Farm. It's then through the villages of Old Cleeve, Bilbrook and Washford

before we hit the railway path back to St Decumens Church. In all a trek of just over 10 miles through a mixture of coastal paths, quiet lanes and rural footpaths. If wet some parts can be damp, muddy and slippery, so gaiters and poles could be useful.
(ps No AI /chat GPT was used in this report !!)

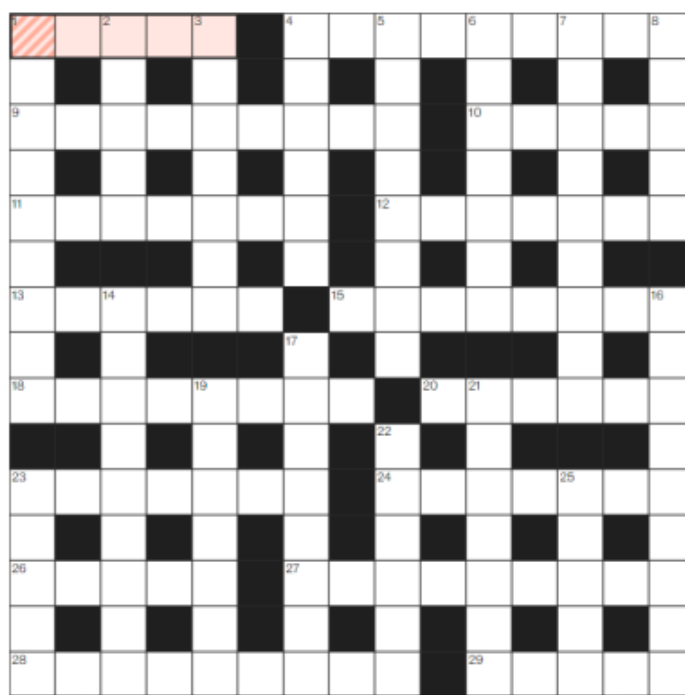
Please let me know if you are planning to come on this Trek or you are interested in joining the Trekking Group please contact Gordon. - 01884 242563 grcleaver54@gmail.com



I had booked the Ponte Vecchio Tiverton as the weather had not been to kind to us recently however on the 5th Feb it turned out to be OK. We had a few cancellations which is usual due to personal appointments, health reasons etc, but eighteen of us thoroughly enjoyed the food although I must admit many went for the chicken dishes rather than traditional Italian.

Our 5th March venue is at the Keepers Cottage Kentisbeare at 12.00pm however this venue usually opens early, so those that like morning coffee beforehand will be pleased. If you have not put your name down at the Ponte Vecchio and would like to attend, please contact me ASAP. -
Trevor

Cryptic Crossword #43: March 2025 (Solution at the end of this newsletter)



Across

- 1 Mediocre thermochemist needs a drink ... (5)
- 4 Final demand gives Tim mutual association (9)
- 9 Two little ducks (6-3)
- 10 Engineer wares and take an oath (5)
- 11 Dead against counter work offered (7)
- 12 Good nutrition in "Crispi Nachos"? (7)
- 13 Too young to be a part of the steam train fan team (6)
- 15 ... proposed in the frothiest form so count me out (3,5)
- 18 Only an idiot, dear Pierre, loves birds (8)
- 20 Some Unis on research project work together (6)
- 23 Check a possible error in one's wages (7)
- 24 Short advertisement for the vice president goes forward (7)
- 26 When in Japan I'm a right fan of China (5)
- 27 Measure – quite a long way – correct (9)
- 28 This kind of horse is definitely not a beast of burden (9)
- 29 Awful if you begin to doubt that you can decipher the text (5)

Down

- 1 Poet after drug belongs to religious group (9)
- 2 Mashed peach is not expensive (5)
- 3 Worker in part is a number (7)
- 4 Messy duty in the service (6)
- 5 Those old messy things can go in the equipment store (8)
- 6 Mum's quarrel over a large dog (7)
- 7 Female Taurus? She puts words together (9)
- 8 Hike or hare? (5)
- 14 You will find an enchanted realm if lanyard is changed (9)
- 16 The dench peke was dominated when mixed up (9)
- 17 The beginner is not encouraged or pleased how your test ends (8)
- 19 The summit sounds like a deceiver but is a pitman (7)
- 21 No visa, and daughter found in Serbian city (4,3)
- 22 Once, in India, sorry sheep went dotty (6)
- 23 A monk, formerly (5)
- 25 Insert digit into facial feature – it's something you might hear (5)

The March General Meeting will be our **AGM**. If you wish to make a nomination for the committee, please use the form below. Printed copies will be available at the meeting.

Tiverton u3a Officer and Committee Nomination Form

This is to be delivered to the Secretary 14 days before the AGM as required. by our Constitution

I.....
propose

.....
as Chair / Vice-chair / Secretary / Treasurer / Membership
Secretary / Member of Committee

Signed.....

I.....
...second this proposal

Signed.....

I.....
.....am willing to serve in the
office proposed

Signed.....
..(Nominee)

Date.....

