

Tiverton u3a Newsletter

learn, laugh, live

Volume 10 Issue 11

October /
November
2025



GENERAL MEETING

Thursday 23rd October
10:00 for 10:30am

My Life as a Shepherd
by
David Kennard

David and his family have farmed at Borough Farm in Morteohoe for 31 years and his sheep dogs have been a major part of his life. He has written 2 books and was the creator of Channel 5 series for children about Mist Sheepdog Tales. He has represented England in International Sheepdog Trials

Tea, coffee, biscuits and paper newsletters as usual

Moorhayes Community Centre, Lea Road, Tiverton EX16 6SU

And for our next meeting.....

On Thursday 27 November

We will have a talk from Ashley Jones MBE on

The Nobel Prize – History of the World's Most Prestigious Award

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

Tiverton u3a welcomes five new members this month

John Greenwood

Paul MacGowan

Sue Colbourne

Lucy Durman

Jennie Waldron

FROM THE COMMITTEE

September Meeting – Hestercombe Gardens

We were treated to an intimate and detailed description of the history and ongoing restoration of Hestercombe Gardens, on the outskirts of Taunton, by David Usher, one-time Head Gardener at the Gardens. From its inception nearly three hundred years ago, Hestercombe has been subjected to periodic development encompassing the latest garden fashions of the time, including the Victorian Terrace and Shrubbery and the Edwardian Formal Gardens, on which Gertrude Jekyll and Edwin Lutyens made their considerable mark.

Periods of neglect followed but further Twentieth Century sensitive restoration and the incorporation of the Somerset Fire Brigade for a period of over 50 years as their head-quarters, demonstrated a varied, interesting and unique history personally and sympathetically narrated by David. - *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>

Charge for Monthly Meetings

Due to the ongoing fees for the room hire at Moorhayes, the need to purchase new technical equipment and the increasing cost of recruiting speakers, the Committee have reluctantly decided to reintroduce a small charge for monthly meetings. A **contribution of £2.00** will be required on entry, **from the October** meeting. Cash will be preferred.

Tea, coffee and biscuits will continue to be free of charge.

Memory Bank at Tiverton Museum

A Memory Bank takes place on the third Friday of the month at Tiverton Museum, from 2-3.30pm. It's a really informal set up, designed to encourage participants to reminisce and to share their memories over a cuppa – each time we'll provide objects and photos from our collection to prompt discussion, although we tend to cover a wide range of subjects!

The sessions are suitable for anyone who would like to share their memories, or just to listen to other people's, including, but not limited to, those living with mild to moderate dementia. Carers and family members are welcome to come along too.

Sessions are run by our lovely volunteers and cost £3/person (£2.50 for museum members), payable on arrival.

Attention all quiz enthusiasts

Do you enjoy quizzing? If so, you may be interested in the following event, which is organised by Ayr u3a. I entered a team last month and was very impressed by the standard of questions and the organisers' friendly but professional approach. It's a step up from the online quizzes we used to hold during Covid and well worth a try! - Tony

Held on the last Wednesday of every month at 7pm on Zoom.

The quiz is organised and run by Linda and Ian Matheson. Ian has extensive experience of running quizzes for local groups and charities.

The quiz has six rounds of ten questions with an assortment of themes, including music and picture rounds. Each team can have up to four members. Members are placed in a breakout room where they debate answers and submit them via a Googleform. No prize - just the glory!

Teams from England (including a sole representative from Devon!), Scotland and NI take part regularly. No one from Wales as yet!

To enter please contact Linda Matheson at virtualayru3a@gmail.com or for further information, contact me – lowe.tony@yahoo.co.uk

Following our January general meeting, we will be having our New Year Buffet Lunch.

All members are invited. The cost will be £15 per head. Further details to follow.



Awful cruise. Rained a lot. Buffet was good though. I had two of everything



I see they've almost finished painting Trump's plane

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*

Calling all those who would like a new challenge for the Autumn

We have established groups that are looking to expand their activities and new enthusiasts keen to draw in members for groups they wish to start.

If you fancy taking on a new activity and are interested in any of the following, please contact the individuals listed or Maggie, as Groups Coordinator for further details on tivertonu3agroupleaders@gmail.com.

Would anybody be interested in **Chess** - contact Maggie

The **Cribbage** group are looking for new players (doesn't matter if you have never played before) - please contact Trevor Colby at silverfoxcolby@hotmail.com

The **Cryptic Crossword Compilation Team** are always eager to help new recruits, contact Graeme Cozens on cozens@yahoo.co.uk

We have a suggestion for a **Radio-Controlled Boat group** - building and sailing enthusiasts wanted, please contact dandibrack@btinternet.com

The **Railway Group** run by Josie Kimber is keen to boost numbers so contact Josie for further information on j.kimber5673@outlook.com

There is going to be a new **Sign Language Group** - it is being set up by Judy Hall, beginners and experienced signers' welcome. Please contact her on halljudy029@gmail.com

We have also had an enquiry about a **Keep Fit Class** - so if anybody is inspired to explore the possibility of dance exercise contact Maggie

If you have any further ideas do contact Maggie



Always Write
Coordinator:
Heather Bingham

We meet for **2 hours from 10 am** on the **4th Wednesday** of the month, *in a member's home in Tiverton.*

Next meetings: **26th November 2025.**

Although we didn't meet in September, members were still keeping busy entering the u3a short story competition and

a couple of us sent off entries – good luck to all!

Also, we were greatly honoured to be asked to judge the Beeston (Notts) u3a's own short story competition and we've been reading their finalists' entries and will decide on the winner (and 2nd and 3rd) at our meeting on the 22nd. It was a real privilege to be chosen to do this and we've thoroughly enjoyed reading their short stories.

Following the new u3a members' meeting on 9th October, we're hoping to welcome two new creative writers to our little group. ***Until next time – keep writing ... Heather***

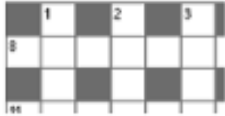


Board Games

Coordinator:
Dawn Ferguson

Please get in touch if you would like to register your interest for a future evening get together. We aim to meet once a month on either a Friday or a Saturday evening, with up to 6 players.

Dawn ferguson.dawn67@gmail.com



Cryptic Crosswords

Coordinator:
Graeme Cozens

The cryptic crossword and the solution are included in the newsletter as usual. Following the workshops on 24th September, and my talk at the welcome meeting for newcomers, more members should be having a go at it this month. Do make sure you're one of them! Hope you

have fun cracking those clues.

Graeme COZENSG@YAHOO.CO.UK



Economics

Coordinator:
Mike Barlow

We had an excellent set of discussions at our September meeting covering "Food Self Sufficiency" covered by Mike W and "Spending Power over the Decades". Eunice lead the latter and using good old pieces of paper created a fascinating story of how much money people had and what they could spend it on. For instance in 1950 a manual worker (averaging £364 a year) would need 2 years income to buy a car but only 1s 5d for a bag of tea! By 1980 the

manual worker averaged £5808 and needed nearly 4 years of income to buy a house. We all thanked Eunice for a great trip down memory lane for all of us and some interesting statistics along the way.

Our next meeting will be on Guy Fawkes day (in the morning so maybe without the fireworks).

Contact mikeandsue.barlow@gmail.com if you'd like to join our group. ~ Mike B

Gardens

Coordinator:
Margaret Chumbley



Only two more meetings now for the Gardens Group before Christmas.

Some members have already booked tickets to go and see "Beyond Van Gough The Immersive Experience " at Westpoint Exeter to see over 300 masterpieces including such classics as "Sunflowers" in a stunning immersive experience, freed from their frames they come to life and transport you into the imagination of one of history's most influential artists.

Then our final meeting of 2025 will be our Annual Quiz with Coffee and Cake at in the conservatory at The Old Well Garden Center, Waterloo Cross 2.30 pm on the 24th November. - Margaret



German Conversation

Coordinator:
John Smith.

The group met earlier this month and will meet again just after the Newsletter goes to print.

Having enjoyed a week's river cruise on the Danube to celebrate a significant anniversary, I was able to give a commentary on the itinerary, especially the part in Austria. I had tasted Sachertorte (sehr lecker) and Linzertorte and had brought back the latter for our Kaffeepause - much enjoyed.

We discussed some language and cultural differences between Germany and Austria. - *John*

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Going Places

Coordinators:
John O'Connor
Tony Lowe, Chris Steele

Mayflower Water Treatment Works

Earlier this month, we enjoyed a fascinating visit to the Mayflower Water Treatment Works in Plymouth — a truly impressive, state-of-the-art facility that replaced the old Crownhill plant.

Opened in 2020, Mayflower is the first water treatment works in the world to combine three cutting-edge technologies for purification: suspended ion exchange, inline coagulation and adsorption, and ceramic membrane microfiltration. This innovative approach means the plant can produce exceptionally high-quality water while using fewer chemicals and less energy.

Our friendly and knowledgeable guide led us through the highly automated site, explaining how each stage of the process works. It was amazing to see just how much science (and water!) is involved in keeping our taps flowing - *Tony*



Last night of the Christmas Proms

An evening of orchestral favourites, traditional carols, festive classics, and much-loved songs from Broadway and the West End performed by Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra at Exeter Great Hall on Friday 19th December. I still have a few tickets left at £23 each! If you'd like to join us, please reply ASAP – lowe.tony@yahoo.co.uk

Planned for 2026.....

SS Great Britain and Bristol Harbourside. Details in the spring.

A visit with tour and lunch at Treguddick

Some members may remember, we undertook this trip a couple of years ago, and it was a great success. No dates yet, but it's in the plan for next year.

A message from John Walters - Master Distiller

We are probably Europe's leading small batch distillery, constantly pushing the boundaries of better spirits and liqueurs. One of our tours is a real journey, taking in no less than 13 billion years of booze, how to make spirits from anything (pretty much), a detailed look at the key genre of spirits, barrel aging and a tasting to finish. This, with a bite to eat, is a fantastic half day out and we offer amazing value deals for groups!

So if you fancy something different that's of interest to anyone curious about smells, flavours, food, booze, industry or history, we have it all!



Trad Jazz
Coordinator:
Mike Barlow

We can look forward to more good jazz in November with the following sessions:

Wed 12th Nov Black Cat Jazz Band at the Langford Budville Jubilee Hall

Wed 19th Nov Dave Martin's City Steam Band at Uffculme Magelake Hall

Some new members appear interested in going to the jazz and I'd remind them that for the Uffculme sessions it's very helpful to contact the organiser before going to allow for her to plan the seating. Jane can be reached at gordonsjazzband@hotmail.com ~ Mike Barlow

You can always find more details on the Trad Jazz webpage or contact mikeandsue.barlow@gmail.com



Local Theatre
Coordinator:
Betty Thrall

The Junior Operatic will be performing the musical "SEUSSICAL" in February 2026. Our block booking will be Thursday 19th February 7 30 in New Hall. Details will be in the December/January Newsletter A list will be available to put your names on from the November 27th monthly meeting. Final payments for tickets to be made at the January meeting. So, do

put the date in your diary to support this award-winning group.

For supporters of The Tiverton Dramatic society, they will not be doing a play until next April

Betty 01884 242998 (there is a call minder on this phone ,please say u3a when giving your name)



Mahjong
Coordinator:
Celia Hicks

I am so pleased to say there were two new recruit for Maghjong from Maggie's recent new members coffee morning. Together with an ex-member and another new one based in Tiverton I hope we will have a new Tivvy group the first one for several years.

01398 332101 (with answerphone)

and celiahicks13@gmail.com

-- Celia



Photography
Coordinator:
Roger Gunn

This Photography Group reconvened after a break for the summer. Six members met at Roger's place to view a very wide selection of altogether excellent photo's taken in locations near and far.

Nigel dug into his archive for some wonderful photos of Slovenia. A lakes and

mountains theme from the area near Bled and the Austrian border, with crystal clear pictures of varied landscapes and flora from what is clearly a beautiful and unspoilt area of Europe.

Sue drew together images and video from Brixham, Derbyshire - the Pennine Way, Haddon Hall and Bakewell, the artistic skills (calligraphy and music) of her daughter. Additionally there were images from the source of many of her great photos - her garden in Bampton.

Tim took us to Cambridge, Ely, Saffron Walden, Bury St Edmunds, Marlborough, The Lost Gardens of Heligon, Tiverton and his garden where h e and Val had cultivated a very impressive (and much admired) Triffid.



John's contribution this month included some great bird shots. A heron on Exeter canal and little egret and curlew with reflections on the wetland area near Budleigh Salterton. The moon in eclipse also featured as did the stormy seas produced by Storm Erin at Holywell Bay. The Flying Scotsman also made an appearance, when it was on steamy display at Bishops Lydeard.

Roger's coverage of Europe this year has been fairly extensive so there were cruise pics from the fjords of Norway. More recently he had toured Italy by train and managed to take in Rome, Florence and Venice and snapped the leaning tower at Pisa, the Rialto Bridge, the Spanish Steps and the Vatican Museum. Closer to home - Arlington Court, Durdle Door and Ben's Post on Exmoor.

Phil shared scenes from his recent 812 mile cycle ride from Roscoff to the Spanish border and a few local venues - Turf Lock swans, Budleigh wetland (sans birds).

Thanks again to Roger for hosting and supplying the coffee and biscuits.

The themes next month - Reflections (mirror, glass, water) and of course, Autumn. Meeting at Roger's place again on **Thursday 13th November at 10am.** - *Phil*



Photography 2

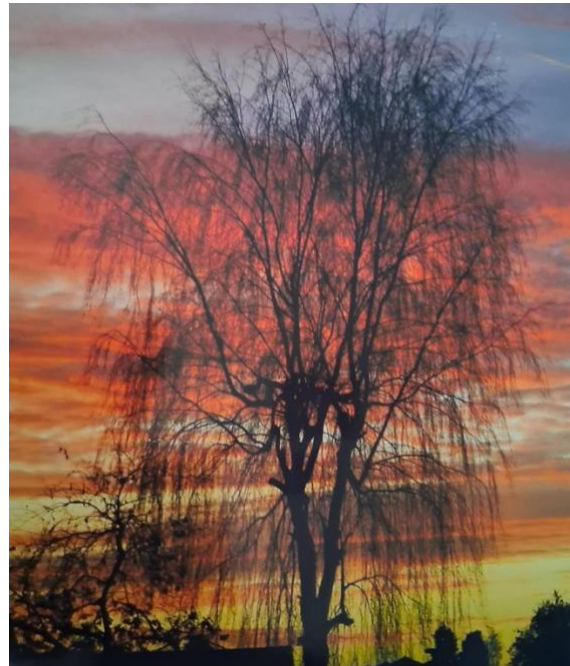
Coordinator:
Charlie Duke

This month's meeting had combined subjects, as due to M5 closure and gridlock in surrounding area, some of group could not get to meeting. The absentees mainly exhibited previous subject of Associated with Water, while others showed Seen on a walk.

Highlight was a panoramic view of a cruise ship from bow to stern, but taken from centre of the ships deck resulting in a V shape of decking framing the ocean.

There were some excellent landscapes, swans thrashing canal water with their wings and an unusual sight of a horse being ridden in the surf at Sidmouth, amongst many other interesting offerings.

Our next meeting is 14th November, when the subject is "Aspects of Autumn". - *Charlie*



Exploring Photography

Coordinator:
Philip Skinner

Exploring Photography is actively looking for additional members.

We meet on the 1st Monday of the month at 11am, usually at the group leader's house.

I have set up a Whatsapp group doing some tasks and sharing photos which we look at in the monthly meeting

I have found a short presentation Composition tips for better photos which I found interesting which I can show in the next meeting. If you are interested in joining our group, please email me on philipskinner874@gmail.com - *Philip*



Railway Group

Coordinator:
Jose Kimber

It was a rather small group of us who met at Eric's house for our September meeting, but we had a good chat about various railway (and bus) subjects before watching "Britain's Railways From Victory to Nationalisation" which covered the period from 1945 to 1948, the final years

of the Big Four when they were struggling with a railway worn out through intensive use, minimal maintenance and war damage. The new Labour Government concluded that the only answer was Nationalisation - which is the subject of the next DVD! Thanks to Eric and Denise for their hospitality.

Our next meeting will be on Friday 24 October at 10.30am, which will be back at my house, when we will continue to watch the Britain's Railways series.

Our November meeting will be on Friday 28 November at 10.30am, also at my house.

We are now down to just six members in the group and would really welcome new members. We are mainly about railways but can take in a wide range of other industrial heritage subjects, such as buses, or anything to do with steam engines. There is also some interest in mining. One of our group is keen on old buses, and another in classic cars, so we could take on these subjects if anyone is interested. We have made visits to Westonzoyland Engine Trust, which does also have a railway interest. Please let me know if you have any ideas that you would like to introduce to our group.

– Jose



Ramblers
Coordinator:
Jenny Bedford

Fifteen of us met at Killerton on a pleasant dry day for a walk led by Peter. We set off across the field in front of the house and were met by hordes of school children taking part in an orienteering event!

We followed the track to Columbjohn Chapel, where we studied the old headstones, then on into the woodland. We all survived the uphill climb up to the Clump, which is apparently an ancient volcano, then emerged into a field of friendly Highland cows. Six walkers were briefly lost but we were soon re-united. Some of us then went to the cafe for refreshments. Others planned a visit to the pub.

Thank you, Peter, for leading a very enjoyable ramble.
Jan Harvey



Ramble on Tuesday **11th November**

The next ramble will be led by Andrea, starting at 10.00 from Oakford village hall car park, postcode EX16 9ES.

The 4.5 mile walk is a mixture of field, track, woodland and quiet lanes. From Oakford we walk through fields with fine views across the valley. After Nethercott Farm we go downhill to cross the Iron Mill stream (a tributary of the Exe); then it's gradually uphill on a lane to a track through woodland followed by a footpath through the garden of Combe Barton. Finally, a quiet road leads to Fordmoor Cross and back to Oakford.

Refreshments are available at the Red Lion Inn in Oakford. - Jenny



Skittles

**Coordinator:
Janet Loader**

We had our first meeting on Monday 6th October when there were 11 enthusiastic members, including 2 new recruits. It was lovely to see everyone playing and enjoying themselves. Pleased to see Irene, who was our scorer for many years and we welcomed Libby as our young helper.

Looking forward to seeing everyone again and we are always pleased to see new members.
Janet Loader



Snooker

**Coordinator:
John Anderson**

The normal meeting dates at Halberton Village Hall are the 1st and 3rd Friday afternoon each month. Our start time is usually 3.00pm [but check with John when messaging].

John is a keyholder for opening up, so give John a message [e-mail/text/whatsapp, or even phone!] 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**

The newly formed Short Tennis group continues to meet every Friday morning from 10 - 11.30am at Uplowman Village Hall. Our enthusiastic band of

players has recently welcomed several new members and it's generally agreed that the standard of play is improving every week with a keen but friendly competitive spirit! With the increase in numbers we sometimes extend our sessions until 12 noon. We charge £2.50 per session to cover Hall hire and refreshments.



If anyone is interested in finding out more then please contact Di Lewis on 01884 821329 or 07713 311616.



Short Trek Coordinator: Phil Akers

First, a correction and apology. In the last report I made a mistake and erroneously placed the Anchor Inn in Exbridge on the River Barle. Of course, it is on the River Exe. I do apologise for the mistake.

The September Short Trek was led by the dynamic duo, Simon and Dawn. It was a sunny and dry Friday morning and just seven of us met up on the northwestern edge of Chawleigh, a village to the south of the Little Dart river and a couple of miles to the east of Chulmleigh.

Conveniently, the village sits on the Little Dart Ridge and Valley Walk which we joined to leave the village heading east to Mildon's Leigh then north briefly before following the river to Cheldon Bridge. Near Cheldon is the ancient and secluded settlement of Burrige, thought to be pre-Roman. We ate our lunch nearby but didn't disturb the area.



This was a very pleasant walk across fields, along the river and through beautiful woodland. It's not an area we have explored in the recent past but it will undoubtedly feature again soon.

The cosy, log fire and leather sofa de-brief was in the very welcoming Mount Pleasant Inn at Nomansland. Many thanks to Dawn and Simon for a great walk.

Short Trek Friday 24th October

The short trek of approximately 6.5 miles will be led by Penny starting at 10:00 am from Barns Close in Dulverton, a residential area but with adequate parking. Nearby post code TA22 9EF what 3 words chose.vacancies.cooked.

The walk starts as a level stroll alongside the River Barle before heading through Brushford After a short stretch along part of a disused railway line the route becomes more undulating through lanes, farm, and woodland to the west of Dulverton heading towards Clayford & Three Gates Cross. The route then passes through fields & Old Berry Farm then follows a steep descending footpath to Dulverton and then back to the start point. - Phil



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.



Thinking Allowed

Coordinator:
Eunice Hinds

On 16th October, Roger Strickland led a discussion covering the philosophical and historical basis of Patriotism, before moving on to consider what it means today. An interesting and apposite exchange of opinions emerged.

On 20th November, the topic for discussion will centre around Old Age and its many implications.

For further information contact Eunice.

EuniceHinds@gmail.com



Thursday Lunch

Coordinator:
Angie Cheshire

Only 11 people attended the October lunch at The Drewe Arms as their initial menu was not of great interest to many. Although an improved, updated one was eventually created, it was a bit of a curate's egg in terms of quality. Some dishes were rather good, others elicited

a mixed response and some were poor. Disappointing overall, not up to their usual standard. Fortunately, there was still some cheerful conversation among those who attended. ~ Jill

Our next lunch is at The Ashill Inn on 13th November, organised by Margaret and Roger. No pre-ordering is required. Email me if you have not already signed up and would like to attend.



Save the date for our Christmas lunch at The Ashill Inn - 11th December, organised by Di and Si. A deposit will be required. Sign up at the November lunch or email me to reserve your place.

Angie. angelacheshire@hotmail.com



Trekking Coordinator: Gordon Cleaver

The October Long Trek

Under the joint leadership of Simon and Dawn F, 14 trekkers met in the village square of the interesting village of Timberscombe for a 10.3mile circuit of the autumnal Haddon Hills area. In ideal trekking weather

we set off on an undulating trek which took us to the high points of Bats Castle and Black Hill where we learned of its previous uses whilst enjoying the views.

Throughout the Trek, which was through various types of fields and woodland, we were treated to a veritable spectacle of a wide variety of fungi. Thankfully no one was tempted to pick any!! The debrief was held in the Lion Inn pub in Timberscombe which provided an excellent venue for thanking the leaders and discussing "matters Fungi" and the good community spirit that the village seemed to exude.



November Long Trek – Thursday 6th November 2025 – 10.00 am start Castle Drogo National Trust Car Park

An approx 10 mile trek along the Teign Valley starting and finishing at the Castle Drogo NT car park led by Kelvin P. Grid ref: SX725 902 W3W : hike.nags.pushing From the castle, we head down the driveway for 600m and across the grass and through the woods on Piddledown Common before descending steeply to Sharp Tor and the main downhill track to the river. Ahead lies the new bridge, built after the old one was washed away by floods several years ago. From there on its mainly flat through woods, tracks and paths. The track then gets narrower and steeper as it plunges down towards the river before a sweeping bend to the right marks the start of the long haul up the far side of the gorge. On to Fingle Bridge and then the famous Hunters' Path hill back to Drogo.

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



Wednesday Pub Lunch

Coordinator:
Trevor Ellmore

It had been some time since we visited The Mount Pleasant Inn, Nomansland but on the 1st October we did indeed succumb to a pleasurable experience with good food and service. The portions here are always a fair size with the quality not impaired. Even the fires were lit which made for a cosy environment, but also indicates we are

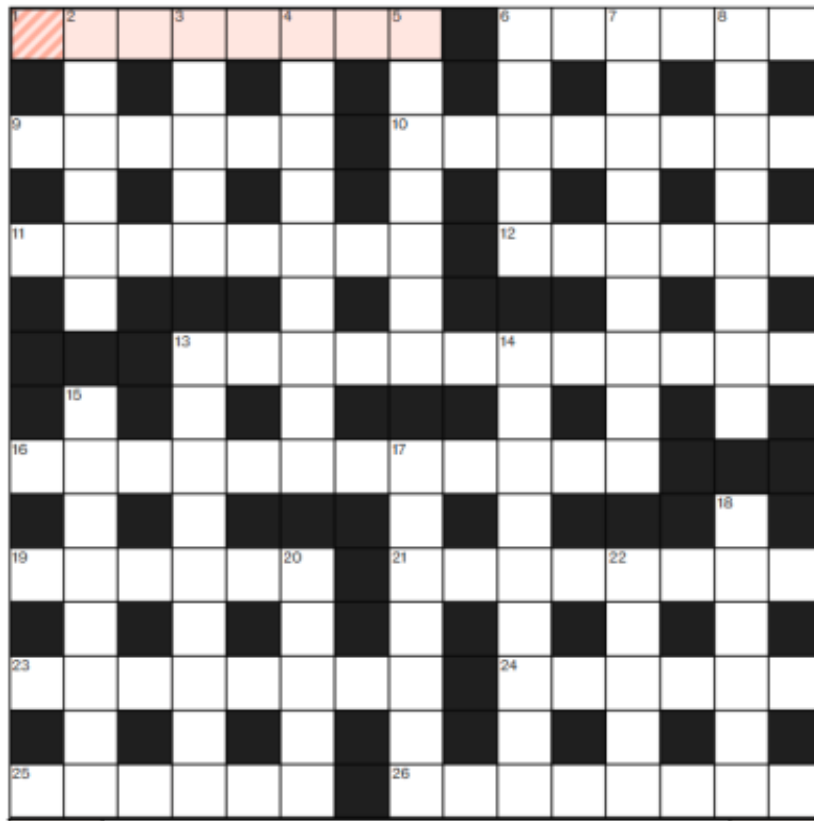
getting closer to winter.

We have arranged Ashill Inn, Ashill for the 5th November as we have not been there for over a year now. If you did not put your name down in October, please contact me ASAP.



Ashill Inn was built in 1835 and is a grade II listed public house with plenty of charm, in an area of outstanding natural beauty' so is the perfect spot to enjoy a meal or drink, either in the newly refurbished restaurant or beer garden. Enjoy the drive along narrow winding lanes to get to this delight of a country pub; what you call a hidden gem, tucked away in a quiet village deep in the gorgeous Mid Devon countryside. They source what they can within a few miles, serving local ales and craft beers; meat and fresh produce comes from nearby farms. A lot of village pubs seem to be struggling these days, but this one isn't; it's very much a hub of the community, with a skittles team, live music and regular events. - Trevor

Cryptic Crossword #51 Nov 2025 (Solution at end of newsletter)



Across

- 1 The combat op trained new recruits (8)
- 6 Stately, as the emperor who named the month (6)
- 9 Numerous rings and stages are under canvas (3,3)
- 10 Pay Arab to hold a large rodent with some care (8)
- 11 Sounds as if that can is inflamed (8)
- 12 Dog-tooth (6)
- 13 Sid appointed, but turned out to fail to meet (12)
- 16 Where impossible ambitions may be realised (2,4,6)
- 19 Cruises are non-u in emergencies (6)
- 21 Not a king and not a wasp – but still comes out on top! (5,3)
- 23 Boat ages badly following deliberate damage (8)
- 24 Dough kneaded to a gallic sheen (6)
- 25 Choose part of course lecture (6)
- 26 At this rate ties to pacts will be negotiated (8)

Down

- 2 Maori ginseng contains root (6)
- 3 Very important in the field of anti-tannins (5)
- 4 Mash tripe & peas and have it before your meal (9)
- 5 She's had enough & puts the bags on high (5,2)
- 6 Jelly in a spicy sauce (5)
- 7 Leave the fruit and get excited! (2,7)
- 8 A rarer, briefer way to rage (8)
- 13 Forget the stone the English relished; in Scotland it sits better (4,5)
- 14 Ron averaged part of median (2,7)
- 15 Gain or rise in pay? (8)
- 17 Ask about the expedition (7)
- 18 The Roman philosopher Seneca got confused and tried to speak to spirits (6)
- 20 Clever but can hurt (5)
- 22 Confused thing after dark (5)

