

Tiverton u3a Newsletter

learn, laugh, live

Volume 11 Issue 4

April /
May
2026



GENERAL MEETING

**Thursday 23rd April
10 for 10.30am**

Peter Bangs
Giving us an insight of a
local charity

CHAT - Churches Housing Action Team

**Tea coffee and biscuits as usual
Moorhayes Community Centre Lea Road Tiverton EX16 6SU**

And for our next meeting.....On Thursday 28th May

**Brian Goodison-Blanks,
Head of Maritime Sport and Collectors Departments
of Bearnese Hampton & Littlewood, Auctioneers**

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Instagram <https://www.instagram.com/tivertonu3>

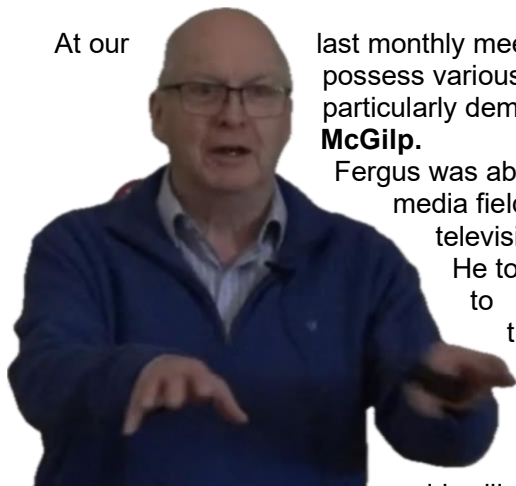
Tiverton u3a welcomes three new members this month

- John Caruoli
- Judy Crawford
- Lisa Newley

FROM THE COMMITTEE

March General Meeting

This is my first contribution to the Newsletter as Chair and I feel privileged to have been asked to take up the role. I should like to thank John O'Connor and Mike Warren who have stepped down from the committee, having served us so well for several years.



At our last monthly meeting it struck me that we have within our membership those who possess various professional and life skills (more later in my introduction). This was particularly demonstrated by our speaker at this meeting – our very own **Fergus McGilp**.

Fergus was able to draw on his over 45 years of experience in the broadcasting and media fields to bring us all up to date on significant changes to telecoms and television that will impact most of us one way or another.

He told us that BT was switching off the analogue phone network as it moves to

the digital network. This, he highlighted, means for some of us we may need to upgrade our Redcare, pendants or telecare systems and that BT has a dedicated service to help vulnerable users.

Fibre is gradually replacing the old copper wires leading to fewer aerials and dishes as we access more via broadband. This, Fergus

said, will produce greater broadband speeds and more reliable streaming (e.g. BBC iPlayer, ITVX) on our televisions. Users will be automatically migrated to fibre once it is available in their area. We can check progress in our area by going on to the Openreach web site – as soon as I got home I did just that and was pleased to learn that Uffculme is on the current schedule, due for completion by the end of 2026.

I mentioned earlier that we all bring a range of skills and talents. If you think you can help in any way, from occasional help at monthly meetings or within any of the groups, please let us know. 'Every Little Helps', as a well-known supermarket says! Tiverton u3a is made strong by **ALL** its members. *Tony Jackson*

A Message from the National u3a (received via Exe Valley u3a).

It may be the case that some of us sit as board trustees on various charities, so the following information may be of interest.

'We have been contacted by Surrey and Sussex police about a serious fraud they're investigating which is targeting people associated with charities for older people.

It seems fraudsters are using information available on the charity commission website to contact people. They have been persuading them there is an issue with their bank account. One couple has already been defrauded out of a significant amount of money.

Please be aware that Banks and the police will never ask you to move money. Read about spotting fraud on the government Stop Think Fraud website.' - Tony

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, or for the first time attending the meeting? We would love to recruit a few more members to join our team. We operate on a rotating basis so it wouldn't mean a commitment from you, to every meeting, unless you'd like to of course.

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 and generally make them welcome. 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 or any other member of the Committee, Group Co-ordinators or an existing Greeter at the next meeting. if you might be interested or want to know more.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Help Us Share Your Stories on the Tiverton u3a Facebook Page

As your Social Media Secretary, I'm always looking for ways to showcase the fantastic range of activities, achievements, and interests that make Tiverton u3a such a vibrant community—and I need your help!

Our Facebook page is a great place to celebrate what we do, keep members informed, and give others a glimpse of the variety of groups and events we enjoy. But it works best when it reflects *you*.

I'd love to receive content from both members and Group Coordinators for sharing on the page. This could include:

- Photos from group meetings, walks, or outings
- Short updates on recent activities
- Notices about upcoming events or spaces in your group
- Interesting snippets, achievements, or member stories
- Anything else you think others would enjoy seeing

If you're a Group Coordinator, regular updates from your group are especially valuable in helping us show the full breadth of u3a life.

There's no need for anything formal—a few sentences and a photo (if you have one) is perfect. Please just make sure you have permission from anyone featured in photos before sending them in.

You can send your contributions to tivertonu3asocialmed@gmail.com and I'll take care of the rest.

Let's work together to make our Facebook page lively, engaging, and a true reflection of Tiverton u3a.

I look forward to seeing what you've been up to. - Angie Cheshire. - Social Media Secretary



April /. May 2026

WEIRD ENGLISH FACTS:

1. There's no English word that rhymes perfectly with "month," "orange," "silver," or "purple."
2. "Dreamt" is the only English word that ends with -mt.
3. The word "girl" originally meant any young person, not specifically a female.
4. The word "facetious" contains all the vowels (a, e, i, o, u) in order.
5. "Bookkeeper" has three consecutive double letters.
6. The sentence "The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog" uses every letter in the English alphabet.

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:
Nickie Haynes

Always Write welcomed another new member in March - and we all enjoyed a discussion about mis-used words (and how annoying they can be - decimated being a prime example of actual meaning: one in ten, but so often used to mean "nearly all"). We also thought about prompts from village pictures - and used them to inspire us. Out topics for sharing had been a Distant Horizon or spring, and some amazing prose and poetry

showed real originality of interpretation.

By the time this newsletter is produced we will have had our April meeting, with topics of "A love letter" or "Picnics". It will be interesting to see the varied responses again.

Two of us attended an Away Day Retreat at Bampton and got some extra inspiration from a large and lively group. It certainly helps to expand one's perspectives.

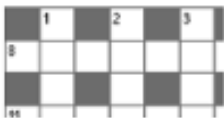
We would love to welcome anyone who would like to "dip their toe" into writing - we're a friendly lot. We don't bite but we do laugh a lot! *Nickie*



Croquet
Coordinator:
Jean Brown

My thanks go to those members who soon will be busy at Knightshayes Cricket Ground marking out the lawns for when we start the 2026 season of croquet. Our first session is on Tuesday May 5th beginning at 2 p.m. till 4.30p.m. Equipment is available for players. Members are welcome to come and have a try. You can Contact Jean.07949520504 or

email jeanmbrown14@gmail.com for further information. *Jean*



Cryptic Crosswords
Coordinator:
Graeme Cozens

I'd love to hear from you if you have a go at the monthly crossword - whether you like it, how you get on with it Do drop me an email.

Here's your next opportunity: the cryptic crossword and the solution are included in the newsletter as usual. Hope you have fun cracking those clues. *Graeme.* (cozensg@yahoo.co.uk)



Economics

Coordinator:
Mike Barlow

We had a small group meeting on April Fool's Day with the usual good humour and interesting discussions. Alan led a talk on Fuel Duty revealing that on average each UK household pays £835 a year in duty which represents about 2% of government revenue. Despite the clamour to reduce it in the current environment it's an important source of revenue to

governments so unlikely to happen.

We also talked about how Inflation is calculated and found that houmous, alcohol-free beer and pet grooming are now amongst the 800 odd items tracked!

Next meeting is on Wed 6th May - let me know if you'd like to join us.

Contact mikeandsue.barlow@gmail.com ~ Mike B



Folk Dancing

Coordinators:
John & Hazel Ridd

We dance jigs, reels and a waltz, in different formations, and different eras from 17th century to more modern dances. All dances are explained, and the movements are taught, and the fun is fitting the moves to the music.

We always welcome new members, so if you fancy coming along and joining in we will be delighted to see you, (you don't need to bring a partner) -- John



Gardens
Coordinators:
Margaret Chumbley

Following the request for help at a Community Gardening Day, Dawn, went along with Ann, and writes:

"We spent the morning "getting stuck" into weeding a rockery in People's Park, along with another 10 folk - young children to us more

experienced folk! Everyone helped out, and there was a vast improvement in just a few hours, with the mayor popping along to say hello on his way to another engagement. I believe the impetus is driven by 60 years of Tiverton in Bloom, and the bed will be planted up in April."

This project is run by SASSY, Sustainable Tiverton's group for young people, they are looking for help with supplies from compost to bamboo canes, and plants such as sweet peas, broad and French beans, nasturtium, lavender, rosemary and maybe a miniature tree. If you can help contact Sarah on 0785244815.



On Friday 17th April members visited Sidbury Manor, which unusually for one of our visits had less than perfect weather. Although chilly the misty rain held off, and with 20 acres of bluebells,

azaleas, camellias and rhododendrons as well as the walled garden and arboretum there was plenty to look at before retiring to the magnificent conservatory to enjoy the obligatory cream tea.

- Margaret



German Conversation

Coordinator:
John Smith.

The Group has met on one occasion since the last report due to Bank Holidays.

We have continued to look at some unusual words and proverbs, to tell jokes in German and to look at some interesting facts about Germans and Germany. You will probably be surprised that German trains are no longer reliable and it is now possible to bet on how late

a train will be.

We talk about our recent activities and some of the problems currently afflicting the World (for which we have our own solutions). - John



Going Places

Coordinators:
John O'Connor
Tony Lowe, Chris Steele

SS Great Britain

Our recent visit to the SS Great Britain was a great success!

At the time of her construction, no one had ever designed a ship of such immense scale, nor had anyone dared

to construct one entirely from iron. Brunel's vision was truly ahead of its time. He equipped the vessel with a 1,000 horsepower steam engine - the most powerful ever used at sea - and, in a bold move, abandoned traditional paddle wheels in favour of a revolutionary screw propeller. By bringing together these groundbreaking ideas, Brunel created a ship that would change the course of history.

From her launch in 1843 until her unfortunate demise in 1886 - after being badly damaged off Cape Horn - the ship travelled over a million miles, carrying passengers and cargo on numerous voyages to America and Australia.



Following her dramatic rescue from the Falkland Islands in 1970, the ship was towed back to Bristol and painstakingly restored to her former glory. During our visit, we enjoyed a fascinating tour led by an enthusiastic and knowledgeable guide, who brought to life the many stories of those who lived and worked on board. We explored both above and below decks, gaining a real sense of daily life at sea, as well as an appreciation for the ship's remarkable engineering and historical significance.

This was an engaging and thoroughly enjoyable experience - highly recommended for anyone who has yet to discover this extraordinary piece of maritime history. -- Tony

Burnham-on-Sea Hovercraft Rescue Service

Our visit to the BARB Search and Rescue Centre will take place on Friday 8th May. BARB Search & Rescue was founded in 1992 and is based on the seafront at Burnham-on-Sea. It is an independent charity run by a dedicated team of local volunteers and operates two rescue hovercraft as well as two inshore rescue boats. The team is on-call 24/7 and has saved hundreds of lives over the years, responding to a wide range of emergencies. This is a great opportunity to take a close look at the hovercraft and other equipment the team use. There is no charge for the visit but as a charity, donations are very welcome and can be made on the day.

Please note – this is a car-share event, so you will need to make your own travel arrangements. If you are interested, please contact me - Tony (lowe.tony@yahoo.co.uk)

A trip to the Somerset Earth Science Centre and Whatley Quarry

Planned for July – further details to follow.

A visit with tour and lunch at Treguddick Spirit Distillery

Postponed until later this year.



Trad Jazz
Coordinator:
Mike Barlow

I wasn't so keen on the Paul Harrison's UK/DK Jazz Band at Langford Budville but the others I talked to raved about the evening's session so maybe I wasn't in the mood. Gordon's Algiers Strutters did their thing at Magelake.

Next month will see the following:

Wed 13th May. Richard Leach's Street Band at the Jubilee Hall in Langford Budville.

Wed 20th May. Trungeon's Troubadours at the Magelake Hall in Uffculme.
Hope you enjoy the music and let me know if you need more information. *Mike Barlow*



Local Theatre
Coordinator:
Betty Thrall

23 of us (2 sadly forgot) thoroughly enjoyed the Tiverton Dramatic Society play " The Unexpected Guest ". It was a good evening's entertainment for all of us. We were kept in suspense as to " who done it " until the very end. Two of the actors had to be replaced 2 weeks before the play started. One was the Director and we would not have known if it hadn't been announced at the beginning of the evening. The 9 characters were excellent with lots of dialogue. Only 3 prompts were heard, and it was very well cast.

Those of you who have paid for tickets for the Spring Variety Show on 9th May are available to collect from me at the April 23rd meeting. If you would still like tickets, they may be available online from Ticket Source or from Tiverton Tourist Information Centre at the Museum. They soon go at it is for 1 night only. A show of local and district talent in aid of Devon Air Ambulance Trust.

The next Local Theatre block booking will be for Tiverton Amateur Operatics Society " We Will Rock You ", on Thursday September 17th. More details in future newsletters.

Betty 01844 242998 (we have call minder so remember to say u3a before your name)



Photography

Coordinator:
Roger Gunn

There was no particular topic for the April meeting. Apologies were received from those who could not attend and one member apologised for not having anything to show due to technical issues.

Sue and Mike had been to London recently so had plenty of interesting photos of tourist hotspots including the London Eye, St Paul's Cathedral, shots of the Thames, bridges and a variety of different architecture. There was also focus on many of the stunning and unusual pieces of art and installations including a timelapse video of Picasso's work in the Tate Modern Gallery. Plenty of colour, variety and discussion subjects there.

Roger had recently returned from a Caribbean cruise but hadn't taken many photos, preferring to record the tour on video. He did share a small selection of shots - the Happy Cat Tour Bus, yes, a brightly coloured mini-bus in the shape of a cat! A very clear close-up image of a pelican and a shot of port 'activity' which showed a tanker driver sat comfortably (asleep?) on top of his tanker in a beach chair whilst something was either being pumped onto (beer?) or being taken off (waste?) the ship. Other colourful contributions were from a recent Dartmoor Trek and a canal walk. Mossy trees, gorse and greenery around Meldon dam, the Meldon Viaduct which is apparently the highest in England and a view of water tumbling down a rocky hillside. The canal views were particularly clear and vibrant under a beautiful blue sky.

Phil showed a selection of shots taken on a recent car journey and visit to Italy. They included the snow covered Simplon road pass (2007m) and various scenes from alpine Piemonte and the Monferrato regions in the north of the country. The impressive citadel in Belfort, a city in eastern France also featured.



Thanks once again to Roger for hosting and the excellent coffee and biscuits. The next meeting will be on Thursday May 14th. Topic this time will be 'Angles and Curves'. Venue - to be decided.



Railway Group

Coordinator:
Jose Kimber

We did not meet in March, due to ongoing work in my kitchen. The work is now thankfully complete, so our April meeting will now take place as usual at my house on **Friday 24 April at 10.30am**. If you are not on my list and would like to attend, you will be very

welcome, please call or e-mail beforehand so I know you are coming. We will be watching another DVD which will be selected by the group on the day. We will also be discussing future activities as the group is now very small.

Our May meeting will be on **Friday 22 May at 10.30am**, again at my house when we will be watching another DVD. However depending on the level of interest, we may go on an outing in May and/or June, either to visit a heritage railway, or on a "modern" train, and U3A members are welcome to join us on any visits if they are interested, just give me a call or send an e-mail. The West Somerset Railway has its Spring Steam Spectacular on 1-4 May, and I am sure some of the group will be wanting to visit. We will be discussing a group visit at our April meeting.

A reminder that we welcome new members to our small, friendly group, so if you have an interest in railways, (big or small), heritage or modern, please do get in touch. Britain now boasts well over 100 heritage railways and we are fortunate to have at least four within easy day tripping distance from Tiverton. - Jose



Ramblers

Coordinator:
Jenny Bedford

I guess a few people were put off the April Ramble by the weather forecast but 10 unconcerned hikers turned up at the car park at Killerton House ready to face the elements. Phil Stone was the leader of the pack and briefed us in heavy drizzle before we set off around the

southern pasture. We then headed east to Columbjohn through the farm, round the chapel and up through the bluebell wood before contouring round the hill to the north, taking in the patchwork view then descending towards the estate chapel and the start point. At some point the drizzle stopped and we found we weren't as wet as we thought we might be. We covered 4.26 miles in good time to enjoy an early debrief. Some opted for the delights of the cafe and a few others enjoyed beer, chips, etc at The Merry Harriers.

Thank you, Phil Stone, for a very pleasant Ramble. *Phil.*



Columbjohn Chapel

The May Ramble (on the 12th) will be led by Nigel and will start at 10am from Cadeleigh Village Hall. Details will be sent to group members nearer the time.



Snooker
Coordinator:
John Anderson

A small, social group catering for various levels of Snooker ability (up to, but not exceeding, "average"!). The normal meeting dates at Halberton Village Hall are the 1st and 3rd Friday afternoon each month. Our start time is usually 3.30pm [but

check with John when messaging (see below)]. 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

Our regular band of enthusiastic players continues to enjoy plenty of exercise, friendly competition and banter, close line calls and loads of fun every Friday from 10 to 11.30am at Uplowman Village Hall.

Time certainly flies because we have just celebrated the 1st anniversary of our group's founding. We marked this in typical style by parking our rackets for a while and enjoying chat, coffee, cake and nibbles at a special session. Thanks to our members for supporting me and for being such a friendly and engaging group.



If anyone would like further information please contact Di Lewis on 07713 311616.



Short Trek

Coordinator:
Phil Akers

The March Short Trek was very ably led by Roger Gunn.

A small but perfectly formed group of 8 trekkers met at the foot of Hound Tor. The weather forecast was for drizzle, cool temperature and wind. It was partly right. Fortunately the drizzle was no more than moisture being blown around in

the breeze and whilst the wind was cool, layers of clothing were soon shed after ascending the tor.



The views were good but not great thanks to low cloud. Despite the amount of rain that has fallen on Dartmoor over the winter the terrain was firm under foot and there was very little mud. Yippee!

A 'grandee' of the group had a minor tumble, first aid was administered to a cut hand but apart from that and a bruised backside, it was probably his pride that suffered most.

Banana break was on Beckaford Bridge where it crosses Becka Brook near Becky Falls and the attractive village of Water. Lunch was on the picturesque village green at Manaton. The discovery of home made cakes for sale outside one of the houses (Cakes at the Gate) extended the lunch period slightly and boosted the coffers of the baker's bank account!

7.4 miles was the recorded total distance, strenuous but hugely enjoyable. Many thanks Roger. The animated debrief was attended by everyone at the very inviting Rock Inn near Ilsington.

Details of the **April Short Trek** are as follows - **Exmoor** this time led by **Andrea Bunn**. Starting from the small car park, on the right, just after the tea room and bridge on Worth Lane in WITHYPOOL (Grid Ref: 843 354, Postcode: TA24 7RB W3W: loom.tiny.landmark)

We start at 10:00 am with a leisurely, steepish climb along Worth Lane around the eastern side of Withypool Hill.

This levels out and at Westwater Farm. We turn off left and walk to Parsonage Farm taking in the lovely views of Winsford Hill. At the farm we turn left down to Tarr Steps, an ancient clapper bridge.

Here we cross the River Barle and pause for a refreshment break on the grass by the river. Walking along the eastern bank of the river we come to a footbridge which we cross and continue on the western side. Eventually we arrive at a new bridge and cross back over. This brings us back to Withypool where we walk along the road through the village to the car park.

7.5 miles. Picnic lunch. The Anchor Inn at Exbridge has outdoor seating for a debrief.

The **Short Trek on Friday 22nd May** will be led by **Tony L** and take us to the top of Raddon Hill near Thorverton.

Starting from the free car park in Thorverton (first right after the Exeter Arms coming from Tiverton, Postcode:EX5 5NH. W3W coasters.credible.clearing), we'll head uphill out of the village before venturing into open countryside just past Chapel Cross. We then follow a series of footpaths around the hill before taking a steady incline to the top. The summit is clearly marked by a lonesome pine and has panoramic views. It should be a good place to stop for lunch. After appropriate refreshments, we'll then head downhill back to the village for a suitable debrief.

Approximately 6 miles, bring a packed lunch, 10.00am start.

- 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

We met to discuss PROTEST, ably facilitated by Roger Strickland. We agreed that the right to protest was essential for freedom and democracy but disagreed about the extent to which disruption was acceptable.

We discussed how effective protest is: with the largest ever march against the Iraqi War was being cited as ineffective while the farmers' protest against inheritance tax was seen

as largely successful.

We meet on the third Thursday of each month at 2pm. Our subject in May will be SATIRE
Details: EuniceHinds@gmail.com



Thursday Lunch

Coordinator:
Angie Cheshire

Sixteen of us made it to The Martlet Inn at Langford Budville on 9th April. It is an interesting dog friendly pub with various different sized areas, some intimate and cosy corners with flagstone floors and some larger rooms including a conservatory. We were in a pleasant

larger dining area not far from the bar.

Some of us chose traditional British pub food and burgers with the option of smaller portions for some items and others had more substantial dishes from the main menu. The quality of the food including the desserts was very good and service prompt and efficient. ~ Jill

Our next outing is to The Butterleigh Inn on 14th May organised by Jan and Roger. - Angie



Trekking

Coordinator:
Gordon Cleaver

April 2026 Long Trek – North Dartmoor.

10 Trekkers set off on a sunny but breezy trek from the Bluebell Woods car park near Meldon led by Gordon. We first ascended Bluebell Woods (too early for their full bloom spectacle!) up to Meldon Viaduct. Crossing the viaduct we then went over

Meldon Dam and got out onto the moor proper. It was then a stiff climb up Black Down to an army range hut where we enjoyed a splendid view of the High Moors for our “banana break”. We then went on via Culliver Steps to enjoy lunch in a sunny glade next to the East Okement River at Chapel Ford. It was then down to Okehampton Station via Halstock Woods and then across the Golf Club back to the cars . A varied Trek in terms of both scenery and terrain of 10.4 miles.



The debrief was held in the beer garden of the White Hart Hotel in Okehampton.

May Long Trek –Thursday 7 th May 2026 -10.00am Start National Trust Baggy Point Car Park,Croyde.

The May Long Trek will be led by Tony L and will take us through some fine scenery on the North Devon coast.

Starting from the National Trust car park at Baggy Point in Croyde, we'll follow the cliff-side path to the end of the Point. As it's nesting season, there should be plenty of aerial activity to enjoy along the way. After taking time to appreciate the views, we'll continue along the northern side of the Point towards Putsborough, where we begin our ascent of Woolacombe Down. Those who survived my last coastal walk will be pleased to hear that this is the only major climb of the day—and the views from the top make it well worthwhile. It also provides an ideal spot for lunch. From there, we descend towards Potters Hill before following Marine Drive towards The Porthole, a well-known NT café with public facilities. We'll then drop down through the dunes onto the beach

and enjoy a level walk across the sand back to Putsborough. A short climb brings us back over the spine of Baggy Point and a return to the car park. A trek of about 10 miles.

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**

The 1st April visit to the Blue Ball Sampford Moor was as usual a great success with food cooked by Fiona, the owner, a winner. When you see the empty plates at the end you know that Fiona opening just for us on a

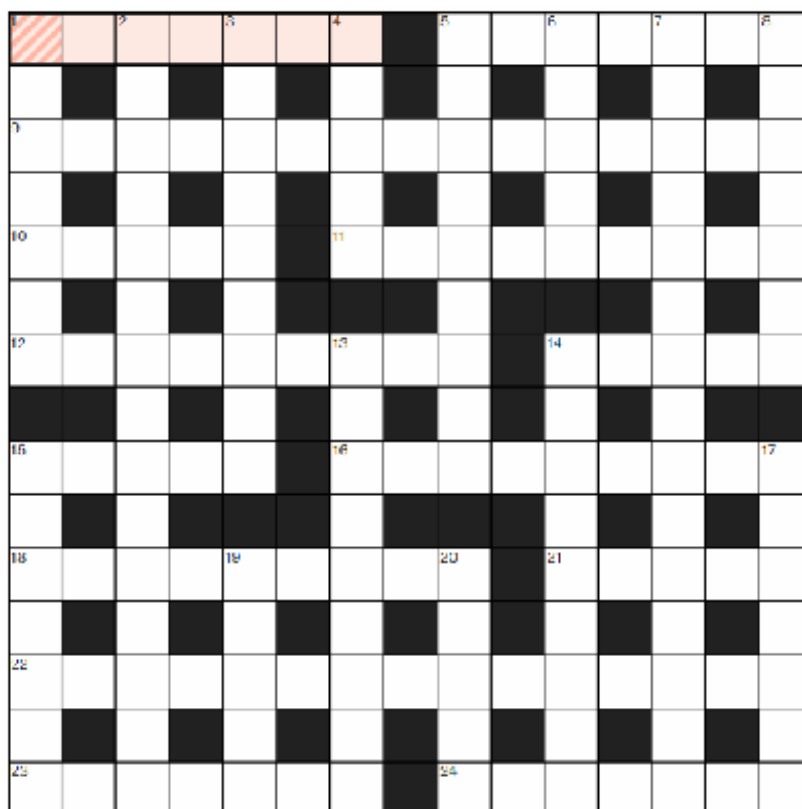
Wednesday lunchtime makes it worthwhile. Our venture for May 6th will be at another one of our favourites

Keepers Cottage Inn Kentisbeare. If you did not put your name down at the Blue Ball and wish to attend, please contact me ASAP.

- Trevor



Cryptic Crossword #56 April / May 2026 (Solution at end of newsletter)



Across

- 1 Memorised - close to the core (2,5)
- 5 Disneyland is a nasty attraction, highly expensive in midsummer. I would initially avoid going there! (7)
- 9 Quick drawing shows shark catcher etc (9,6)
- 10 Attempt, following two directions, makes a way in (5)
- 11 Frenchman in tune. Fanatic enjoys a snack (6,3)
- 12 Extended picnic (6,3)
- 14 A venue, a near riot breaks out (5)
- 15 Ready for battle in a hospital dept (5)
- 16 Hal rebelled (5,4)
- 18 Hear a tick - get a head injury (1,5,3)
- 21 The drain is broken down at the bottom (5)
- 22 Where buttons are pushed and wallets are emptied? (9,6)
- 23 Foot grip needed for a small start (3,4)
- 24 A remnant suits strange males to a "T"! (7)

Down

- 1 Containers. American pales reportedly (7)
- 2 George's horrible habitat (10,5)
- 3 Whatever the tariff whatever happens (2,3,4)
- 4 Vocal piece can be rearranged to form sacred emblem (5)
- 5 Scottish town came together to form a team (3,6)
- 6 Is it a thankless task, holding this bone? (5)
- 7 A French alliance? (7, 8)
- 8 Mum's holding headwear for Gandhi! (7)
- 13 Recovering, tailor's work in progress (2,3,4)
- 14 Sara or Don prepared a stick with magical powers (6,3)
- 15 80's pop singer or Gardener & insect? Sure! (7)
- 17 Art seen around grave (7)
- 19 Belief system requires manipulation of right code (5)
- 20 Originally, risk altered the investment order in proportion (5)

Groups not reporting this month are shown below. Coordinators details can be found on the web page



Line Dancing

Coordinator:
Mich Bowers



Skittles

Coordinator:
Janet Loader



Mahjong

Coordinator:
Celia Hicks



Photography 2

Coordinator:
Charlie Duke

Cryptic Crossword #56 April / May 2026 Solution

T	N	E	M	D	D	O		D	L	O	H	E	O	T
S		L		O		I		N		D		S		N
E		C	A	R	A	T		N		E	M	S	E	A
N		I		S		A		M		R		O		M
R		A	D	I		R		E	A	K	I	C	H	A
A		R		O				H				K		D
E		S	O	R	R	O		T	U	D		A	R	A
		C		A		E		N		T		E		
A		N	A	R	E	N		A	D	O		S	P	R
M		T				I				R		B		T
T		U	N	Y		K		E	M	O		N	T	R
A		E		L		U		E		N		R		K
H		C	H	E	T	C		E	R	S	K	E	T	C
A		N		N		Y		O		T		E		U
M		A	H	E	I	M		A	R	T		H	E	A