

Tiverton u3a Newsletter

learn, laugh, live

Volume 11 Issue 8

August / September 2026



Coleton Fishacre – see Gardens report

GENERAL MEETING

Thursday 27th August - 10 for 10.30am

TODD GRAY

Devon's Home Front Diaries 1937 to 1945.

There will be some of Todd's books for sale.

Tea coffee and biscuits as usual.

Moorhayes Community Centre Lea Road Tiverton EX16 6SU

And for our next meeting.....

On Thursday 24th September

EXMOOR ZOO ROADSHOW

Chairman	Tony Jackson	Tivertonu3achair@gmail.com
Vice Chairman	Annie Foot	Tivertonu3avicechair@gmail.com
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Facebook <https://facebook.com/tivertonu3a>

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

Tiverton u3a welcomes five new members this month:

Anne Clayton

Rosie Edmondston-Low

Giles Edmondston-Low

Ray Palmer

Catherine Palmer

FROM THE COMMITTEE

July General Meeting

July's monthly meeting speaker, **Janet East**, gave us a fascinating insight into the challenges and rewards of operating small 45 acre farm and a B&B.

Janet explained that running a small rural farm is tough, physically, mentally and financially. When she and her husband bought Yellingham Farm Payhembury, there were six similar farm enterprises in the area – today they are the only one still operating!

Janet spoke with a real passion and it was evident that her enthusiasm, innovation and determination has enabled the farm to continue.

Diversification has been essential and the farm now makes its own apple juice, products from its flock of Jacobs sheep as well as the B&B and on-site café.

Here is a link to their web site, it's worth a look. www.yellinghamfarm.co.uk



If you missed the meeting, a recording can be downloaded at <https://youtu.be/3rqdSjZNvs8>

Devon u3a Big Quiz

We have received an invitation to enter 1 or 2 teams (4 members per team). The price for entry is £10 per team.

When: Thursday 22nd Oct 2026 (arrival 13:30, quiz starts 14:00)

Where: Awliscombe Village Hall, Greenway Lane, Honiton, EX14 3PJ

Car parking available on site.

To reserve a table contact Karen at kepitt99@gmail.com or further information from honor.head@btinternet.com

Hospitality Day at Newton Abbot Races

I have been asked by Dee McVey of South-West region to share the following with our members. If you are interested, please contact Dee directly:-

I've agreed another Hospitality day for **Wednesday 28th October ... £40pp** reduced from £95.

We'll have a room with balconies overlooking the finish line, tea and coffee all day. Finger buffet followed by cream tea mid-afternoon. A member of the Tote will come in to take your bets and/or you can go outside to place your bets with the Bookies.

If you'd like to come please email me directly at dee@swreventsu3a.org.uk with your name, phone number and u3a you're with. I'll then send details of how to pay the £10pp non-refundable deposit, balance due nearer the time.

Dee McVey, Okehampton u3a

dee@swreventsu3a.org.uk

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>

National Poetry Day - Thursday, October 1st.

"The Wonder of Poetry" at The Mint, Fore Street, Exeter

Exeter u3a, has three groups that share all aspects of poetry, some of them writing poetry and presenting it to our fellows,

They are planning a celebration on October 1st with this, the first in a series of special events and they very much hope to invite appropriate members (book clubs, creative writing etc.) to join them for an afternoon of poetry in all its forms. Please contact Exeter u3a direct if you are interested in going.

Meet and Greet team

Would you be interested in helping out on the occasional monthly meeting to meet and welcome anyone new to our U3a meetings? We would love to recruit a couple of members to join our teaminterested ? Contact Annie Foot or have a word with anyone on the Committee or at the monthly meeting.

Annie

Fire-Beacon Farm Visit

On Tuesday 11th August a group of twenty plus individuals from Exe Valley and Tiverton u3as drove up to this high point near Knightshayes. Walking distance from Tiverton town centre and on a public footpath between Knightshayes and Bolham This family run tenant farm made us extremely welcome. Amy, the award winning woman farmer described her passion for farming and land regeneration. Charlotte, from Connecting People and Landscapes, explained how little time we had left to improve soils that had been over exploited and how several farms across the county were participating in this Lottery funded project to help wildlife, improve the rural environment and strengthen communication between town dwellers and farmers.

Amy, the farmer, described how they had fenced in the previously agrarian land for stock and brought in traditional cattle breeds (Dexter Long and Short Leg) and Ryland sheep that also produced better meat. The animals were given longer lives and good husbandry was clear in the practices outlined. Amy enthused about her work, but also highlighted the many challenges the farm faced. The audience were visibly moved by the number of stresses involved in managing the threats to animal health from insects and disease and by the financial implications of having to feed winter food mid-summer, knowing there would be no food being stored for the winter. The impact of the drought hit home when we saw many of the newly planted trees dying and lambs trying to eat dead grass. It was on the short walk around the farm that we were able to meet many of the animals, who were not only known by name, but responded to Amy's calls! Amy's passion was obvious and it was clear that she needed this to balance working four days a week, farm commitments and looking after young children. We thoroughly enjoyed our visit and felt they deserved our support. At the end of the visit people were eager to buy the meat and craft products on sale. We wish them well and would encourage others to support this hard working family.



CLASSICS GALORE!



CELEBRATING
THE 10TH CONCERT

AN EVENING OF POPULAR CLASSICAL MUSIC

The Classics Galore! Symphony Orchestra • Lympstone Band
Ottery St Mary Choral Society & Friends • Members of St David's Players

Musical Director, Classics Galore!: **MALCOLM MATTHEWS**
Musical Director, Lympstone Band: **CHRIS SPREADBURY**
Orchestra Leader: **SARAH GREINIG** • Soloist: **CHERYL ENEVER** (SOPRANO)
Compère: **VICTORIA GRAHAM** (BBC SPOTLIGHT)

SATURDAY 14TH NOVEMBER 2026
7.30PM
THE GREAT HALL, UNIVERSITY OF EXETER

Main sponsor: 

TICKETS ON SALE NOW
£14 - £32
forcecancercharity.co.uk/classicsgalore



Free shuttle bus service from campus car parks

 @classicsgalore.exeter

**THERE'S TOO MANY GADGETS
IN THESE NEW CARS**



**I JUST WANTED TO REVERSE,
NOW IT'S SHOWING ME A VIDEO
OF SOMEONE GETTING RUN OVER**

Please update your password

WINDOWS: Please enter your new password

USER: cabbage

WINDOWS: Sorry, the password must be more than 8 characters.

USER: boiled cabbage

WINDOWS: Sorry, the password must contain 1 numerical character.

USER: 1 boiled cabbage

WINDOWS: Sorry, the password cannot have blank spaces.

USER: 50damnboiledcabbages

WINDOWS: Sorry, the password must contain at least one upper case character

USER: 50DAMNboiledcabbages

WINDOWS: Sorry, the password cannot use more than one upper case character consecutively.

USER: 50damnBoiledCabbagesShovedUpYourAssIfYouDon'tGiveMeAccessNow!

WINDOWS: Sorry, the password cannot contain punctuation.

USER:

ReallyPissedOff50DamnBoiledCabbagesShovedUpYourAssIfYouDontGiveMeAccessNow

WINDOWS: Sorry, that password is already in use.

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

Another enjoyable meeting in July's heat.

We made some fun attempts at up-dated proverbs and sayings such as "A bad workman blames his tools" might, today, be "A bad workman blames the internet". Other contributions included "Empty vessels make most sound" which, today, might be "Politicians just won't shut up".

We looked also at "Perspectives" which sounded quite daunting at first. But we could think of different perspectives of looking at the ground - from the ground level to being high up, such as from a drone. The same scenario would look quite different from being on high to being on the ground, and it stretched our

minds on another hot day. From traffic problems monitored by a drone to a kite wanting to be free as a bird, we were able to bring new ideas to our musings.

Two topics were selected for next month: "Food for Thought " and "Absent Friends", which will be Wednesday 26th August. Neither led to instant enthusiasm, but I expect we'll all come to some sort of worthy contributions as usual.

In the meantime: Keeeep writing! - *Nickie*



Croquet

Coordinator:
Jean Brown

You're never too old to join to play croquet. It's a good recreational game to play during the summer months. Weather permitting we shall be playing until the end of September.

Please come and join us on a Tuesday afternoon at the Heathcoat Cricket Club starting at 2p.m. You'll be sure of a warm welcome.

Contact Jean on 07949520504 or email jeanmbrown14@gmail.com for further details. *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.

cryptic crossword and the solution are included at end of the newsletter, as usual. Hope you have fun cracking those clues. - *Graeme.*

Here's your next opportunity: the
(cozensg@yahoo.co.uk)



Economics

Coordinator:
Mike Barlow

We had an interesting discussion lead by Eunice about whether it was better to work or be on benefits. The conclusions were that for some people benefits is unfortunately the better alternative. The exception was the under 25's whose benefits are normally very small and they be better off working. We also looked at World

Population, the UK housing market and the "Big Mac" index. Contact me if you'd like more information on any of these.

Next month we'll meet at Jane's house and primarily focus on our bi-monthly review of the key economic indicators. - contact me if you'd like to join us. 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

Coordinator:
Margaret Chumbley

Two quite different gardens recently visited by the Group.

Seven of us braved what proved to be intense heat to visit Hangeridge Farm garden in aid of Hospice. Fortunately there were lovely shaded areas for us to stand and sit under - including the very necessary tea and cake area.

Understandably we took full advantage of this to have a good group chat and consume excellent cake.

Sadly, many of the plants didn't have the benefit of avoiding the directness of the sun as we did. Several of the trees were shedding their leaves and several already showing crisp brown leaves. We were given a mini guided tour by the owner as to the problems of watering such a large area. Two main plants stood out showing their resilience - tall thistles with beautiful purple heads and a large standard wisteria, heavily into its second flowering. The newest area of the garden had benefited from watering and the hydrangeas responded accordingly with some lovely cream and pink blooms. We can only hope that weather conditions may change and give the owners a chance to restore the garden to its former glory.



We had a fabulous day at Coleton Fishacre Wednesday 11th August

When we arrived we had coffee and then had a lovely walk enjoying the views and plants, it was very warm but a slight breeze which made it bearable and sat for a while enjoying the view over the sea. Then we walked back and went in the big house which was absolutely amazing, so many rooms, which were all beautiful especially the lounge with a grand piano which a member of the public was playing (stunning). Then back to the cafe for a bit of lunch, a look in the shop and all the plants outside. A really lovely day was had by all. (see photo on page 1).

- Margaret



German Conversation

Coordinator:
John Smith.

August is traditionally the month for recharging our batteries ready for the new term starting at the beginning of September. We are following tradition.-
- John



Going Places

Coordinators:
John O'Connor
Tony Lowe, Chris Steele

Somerset Earth Science Centre and Whatley Quarry

Members enjoyed a fascinating visit to the Somerset Earth Science Centre and Whatley Quarry on 28th July. Our day began at the purpose-built Somerset Earth Science

Centre, where we were introduced to the geology of the Mendip Hills and the quarrying operations that have shaped the area. Following an engaging talk on local geology by Dr Peter Hardy and an informative presentation by his colleague, Gill Odolophie, explaining the vital role quarries play in supplying essential materials for the UK, we enjoyed a picnic lunch on the Centre's lakeside terrace.

After lunch, suitably equipped with personal protective equipment, we boarded a minibus with our trusty guide, Martin for a tour of Whatley Quarry. Producing around six million tonnes of crushed limestone each year, the quarry relies on some truly enormous and impressive machinery to carry out its operations. Seeing this remarkable industrial site at close quarters gave us a fascinating insight into modern quarrying, and everyone was impressed by both the scale of the operation and the expertise of those who work there. Our sincere thanks go to Gill, Peter, Martin and Stephen for looking after us so well and for providing such an informative and enjoyable visit.



An "Onwards and Upwards" tour of Exeter Cathedral

This tour is now fully booked. A report on our visit will appear in the next newsletter.

A visit with tour and lunch at Treguddick Spirit Distillery

Postponed until next year.



Line Dancing

Coordinator:
Mich Bowers

The next sessions are 14th and 28th SEPTEMBER, when, no doubt, it will be much cooler. - Mich



Local Theatre

Coordinator:
Betty Thrall

Please pay by the August monthly meeting for tickets for Tiverton Amateur Operatic's production of "WE Will ROCK YOU". Tickets £12 each, payable by cash, cheque, or card to our Treasurer. If the latter, please put "paid by card" next to your name on the list. In my absence Irene Butler will be standing

in for me at the meeting.

A reminder of the synopsis -

"We Will Rock You " follows 2 young outsiders on a thrilling journey to discover the power of Rock Music. Enjoy Bohemian Rhapsody along with other Rock music and join us in supporting this talented & enthusiastic group, who will set your feet tapping .

Our next block booking will be for the Willow Tree Dance and Theatre Arts production of "Great British Bake Off - The Musical "

December 10th 7 30 in the New Hall. So keep the date free and watch out for more details in the coming months.

Betty Thrall 01884 242998 (there is a call minder on this phone so please say u3a before your name).



Mahjong

Coordinator:
Celia Hicks

Would any members like to learn or renew their love of mahjong?

We play on alternate Friday afternoons local to Tiverton. Please contact me celiahicks13@gmail.com to learn more



Photography

Coordinator:
Roger Gunn

The group will take its summer recess and meet again in September. - *Roger*



Railway Group

Coordinator:
Jose Kimber

The group did not meet in July or August due to holidays and health issues. However four of us visited the Launceston Steam Railway on 22 July, on a very hot day.

This is a lovely little line, built to 2ft gauge, with just over a mile of track, and very unique. It was built and is still operated by Nigel and Kay Bowman who laid the track with their own hands and restored the steam locomotives from scrap condition. There is a fascinating museum with a very eclectic collection of engines and vehicles, cars and motorcycles. We had a ride on the train and had lunch in the cafe, followed by another train ride. It is a very relaxed operation and Nigel and Kay are very approachable. Nigel is a font of knowledge and a fascinating person to talk to, and is likely to offer footplate rides to anyone interested - though it is not a comfortable experience!



Jim and I have also attended a couple of Model Railway shows at Matford Livestock Centre and at Barnstaple. We also went to a Narrow Gauge Open Day in Steventon in Oxfordshire, followed by a visit to Pendon Museum at Long Wittenham. This has a really spectacular model scene of the Vale of the White Horse, with exquisitely modelled village scenes and buildings in 4mm scale. Although railways run through it, they are not the main purpose of the model, which is to show what the Vale of the White Horse was like in the 1930's. It is worth a visit even if you are not interested in model railways.

We are in the process of planning a couple of visits at the end of August and beginning of September, a visit to Shillingstone station, and a visit to Castle Cary, to view the revamped station. Dates have not yet been finalised, but please contact me via Beacon if you are interested in joining one of these trips and are not currently on my circulation list.

Depending on numbers we are hoping to resume meetings from September, and will meet at my house on **Friday 25 September at 10.30am**. This may be our last meeting if we do not get more members. If you would like to attend the meeting but are not on my list, please contact me to check if the meeting is still going ahead.

If you have an interest in Railways, either modern or heritage, or model railways, please do get in touch. - Jose



Ramblers
Coordinator:
Jenny Bedford

The August ramble was a gentle circular walk of 5 miles exploring around the River Bathern and its tributaries. Meeting at Bampton 9 walkers car shared for the short drive out to Petton Cross, the start of the walk.

Expecting hot weather we were thankful for the cool breeze and started out down a country lane before ascending to a field. Halfway across one of our group

took a tumble which resulted in a cut nose where his specs had cut in. Out came the First Aid Kit and there was much mopping of blood. However, after gathering himself together he decided to carry on. After a short banana break on the bridge overlooking the river the second half of the walk was mainly through shaded woodland and was completed without further incidents. Much needed refreshments at the pub followed where I expect the cuts and bruises were discussed. Thanks to all who took part and helped out. - Jan



The footpath is not this way

Jenny will be leading the next Ramble on Tuesday September 8th which will start from at 10.00 from the car park at Chimney Down Common (Explorer 128, GR 026 197). Please note, you can no longer drive across the Common so access to the (often muddy) patch which calls itself the car park is only via the turn at the crossroads. To reach this point, go to Uplowman Village and go over the crossroads by the Redwoods pub passing the pub on your right. Take the first right turn, then drive 3 miles up the hill till you reach the crossroads, turn left, then immediately left into the car park.

The 5-mile walk has varied terrain - lanes at the beginning and end, tracks and fields where, if we are lucky, we might see the deer at Luckleigh Farm. There are a couple of short steep ascents and one long descent so nothing strenuous. If the weather is not too bad, there are some excellent views, particularly from Chimney Down Common.

As the Redwoods pub has closed down, those in need of alcoholic refreshment could go to the Globe in Sampford Peverell, EX16 7BJ. - Jenny



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

Inspired by many hours watching how it's done at Wimbledon and Queens, the Short Tennis group continues to enjoy friendly competition and banter, plenty of exercise and lots of fun at Uplowman Village Hall every Friday from 10 to 11.30am. Playing indoors has also

ensured we haven't recently been plagued by the heat rule, though hydration breaks are compulsory!



Our latest photo might have been a product of AI since we all appear in it, including the photographer, but thanks to Roger's know-how we're not on that slippery slope just yet.

Due to our current high attendance numbers, we have now started a waiting list for any other members interested in joining us.

If anyone would like further information, please contact Di Lewis. On 07713 31161



Short Trek

Coordinator:
Phil Akers

The July Short Trek was very ably led by Jenny Bedford. She arranged perfect walking weather with terrain to match. 10 energetic folk met up at the village hall car park in Newton St Cyres. We headed south west initially along a lane and then along a footpath up into the ancient and interesting Northridge Copse and on into Whiptail Wood. Near Little Bowlish we started

heading east toward the radio mast on Rowhorne Road, stopping for lunch near Glebe Farm. We left the road to head north and back to the cars, skirting around Coombland Wood. There were indeed some fine views from some of the high, open viewpoints and the woods gave us very welcome shade and protection from the sun. The total distance covered was just under 8 miles with 1007ft of height gain. It was a very varied and pleasant walk.

The Stoke Canon Inn provided the necessary rehydration fluids for those who attended the debrief.



The August short trek will be led by Jan Proud from Molland Church EX36 3NG, What3Words smuggled.gifted,musician. OS Explorer Map 114.

Approximately 6 miles but what it lacks in length it makes up for in terrain with hilly fields and tracks, open common and quiet lanes. Uneven ground in places and some steepish uphill climbs to reach Molland Common with far reaching views. Free parking, public toilets and The London Inn recently reopened for refreshments afterwards.

The Short Trek on Friday 25th September will be led by John Greenwood over Cosdon Beacon/Hill, starting from South Zeal on the north eastern edge of Dartmoor. Further details will follow. - *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 meet at 2pm on the third Thursday of most months. We did, however, take a holiday in August. Our next meeting will be at 2pm on Thursday 17th September when we will consider the narratives we tell ourselves and whether we still need books as well as screens.

Details of future meetings: eunicehinds@gmail.com



Thursday Lunch

Coordinator:
Angie Cheshire

Fourteen diners turned up at the Stag's Head Inn, Filleigh [a new venue for our group] for our August lunch.

The pub was under new ownership, (Tim & Michelle), and Michelle gave a very interesting & enlightening talk on the pub's history, [from farmhouse to pub

and the resident ghost!] while we were waiting for our meal. She then presented everyone with a printout with some of the history & some pictures of the renovation. Within this she thanked Tiverton U3A for keeping Local History alive; and our group presented them with a framed photograph of a red deer stag taken at Exebridge, to wish them every success in their new venture at the Stag's Head, for which she was very surprised and grateful. There was a very extensive menu [we had pre-ordered] and the meals were attractively served, very tasty and generous portions. - Julie and Peter



Our next lunch is on 10th September at Merry Harriers, Westcott, Cullompton, EX15 1SA, organised by Gina and Mike. Email me if you would like to attend and have not already signed up. We don't have to pre-order but arrive earlier, at 11.30, to give our choices on the day.

~ Angie



Trekking

Coordinator:
Gordon Cleaver

August Long Trek – Tar Steps and the River Barle

Our August long trek was a beautiful 10.5 mile route passing over Tarr Steps on Exmoor. Led by Kelvin a



dozen trekkers started at Marsh Bridge near Dulverton in near perfect trekking weather. A steep section to start with through Looseall Wood we continued upwards to Highercombe Farm. The highest point of our trek coupled with beautiful clear blue skies afforded us fantastic panoramic views with Dunkery Beacon in the distance. The next couple of miles were through open farmland with a

short drink break to watch the buzzards zooming overhead as the tractors and trailers were gathering this year; sun bleached crops. We then descended into Tarr Steps where a couple of our group couldn't resist getting an ice cream. Not the wisest decision as we had another steep ascent up Stony Lane towards Parsonage Farm but they showed their experience and versatility by climbing successfully without dropping even a lick of ice cream. We stopped for lunch on the side of a sun-kissed meadow with wildflowers and butterflies. It was so tranquil that it was difficult to get the group moving again but we did and carried on to Hawkridge. For the last few miles we followed the River Barle back to the cars at Marsh Bridge. The light through the trees was extraordinary with several members stopping to take photographs. A thirst quenching debrief was held in the beer garden of the Anchor Inn at Exebridge

Kelvin



September Long Trek –Thursday 3 rd September 2026 -10.00am Start Wheathill Plantation Car Park

The September Trek will be led by Gordon and will be in the Devon Pebblebeds; area of East Devon . The trek will depart the Wheathill Plantation Car Park at 10.00 for an approximately 10.6 mile circuit which will take in Squabmoor Reservoir, the coast path down from West Down Beacon to Budleigh Salterton and then up the River Otter valley to East Budleigh and then back to the car park. The trek is mainly on well surfaced tracks but in wet conditions be prepared for some mud ! A varied walk with some great coastal view whilst on the Coast Path. Wheathill Plantation Car Park is about a mile off the B3179 and for google maps SAT NAV users just put in "Wheathill Plantation Car Park, East Budleigh" into the search box.

Grid ref SY 040 847, What3Words chopper.maps.meatballs EX8 5EF

Please let me know if you are planning to come on this Trek.
Gordon- 01884 242563 grcleaver54@gmail.com

If anyone is interested in joining the Trekking Group please get in touch with Gordon who will be very happy to give you any details/information that you need.



It's been over a year since we visited the London Inn Morchard Bishop, but we did on 5th August last. Our past experience prevailed as the quality & quantity was as good as ever using a family run business.

Our venue for Wednesday 2nd September is at the Beambridge Inn Wellington (A38) which as a group we have not ventured to in the past, however members indicated good vibes so we will give it a try.

If you did not put your name down at the last venue The London Inn and wish to attend, please contact me ASAP.

NEW GROUPS

Italian Conversation

On Monday 10th August an initial meeting took place at the Tiverton Hotel. Nine people introduced themselves (in English)! They explained their backgrounds and described what they hoped to get from the group. There was a good deal of common ground in that members wanted it to be friendly, informal and hopefully fun with a basic conversational level. There were people with varying levels of knowledge and experience, and it was felt that the group might evolve or split into two in the future, if it was felt appropriate. However, at the first meeting arranged for **Monday 24th August 9.30am** a clearer picture of how the group would function would develop. It was agreed that fortnightly was better than monthly and themes might help focus the group. The venue at this stage would be individual houses with perhaps some rotation. If you are interested in being involved in this new development please contact Maggie Roberts, tiveronu3agroupscoordinator@gmail.com

Mechatronics

I did send out an email asking for interest in this robotic development group, but unfortunately I have only had one response. The idea was to participate in a joint project to build a small robotic device, possibly an underwater drone. This is a last call for enthusiasts, please get in contact soon if you are interested. **If I don't hear anything by the end of August I will dismiss the idea as not viable as a group option.**

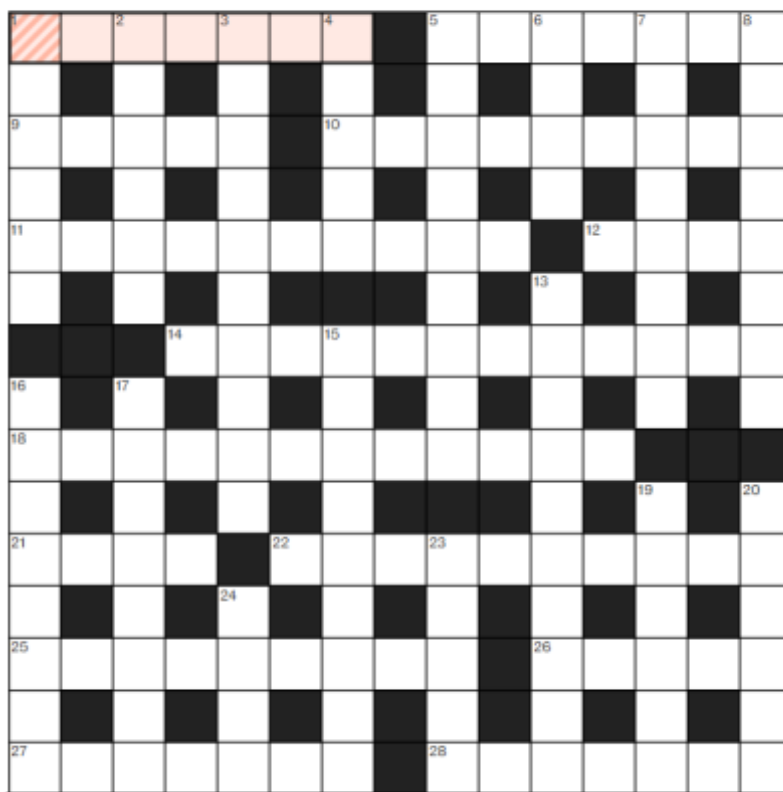
Spanish Conversation

I have been asked about the possibility of a Spanish speaking group. I would just like to know how many people might be interested in this.

If you are, please contact me on tivertonu3agroupleaders@gmail.com

Maggie

Cryptic Crossword #60 Aug / Sept 2026 (Solution at end of newsletter)



Across

- 1 Fat wheeler-dealer? (7)
- 5 Resounding military players (7)
- 9 A crowd scene needs this addition (5)
- 10 The female head fits into a tramchair (9)
- 11 Calvin Klein cooked one chip with X and got a disease (7,3)
- 12 Initially her aura lodged overhead (4)
- 14 Unexpectedly, as if emerging from a clear sky (3,2,3,4)
- 18 Tense molecule creates a fault (12)
- 21 Gemstone missing a means of access (4)
- 22 Unpredictably endless Mistral may shift this sand (3-3-4)
- 25 Revelation - an ocular corkscrew (3-6)
- 26 Council man leaves and finds tree (5)
- 27 Reverse reverse for safekeeping (7)
- 28 Bereft man sees nothing from his window but his queen (7)

Down

- 1 Old fashioned young woman gains privilege so can break away suddenly (6)
- 2 Book somewhere to dine at somehow, then hold back (6)
- 3 Lloyd's horse keeps a close watch on a thoroughly dishonest man (10)
- 4 Country for you old boys (5)
- 5 Get the bird in response to rubbish - an eye for an eye (3,3,3)
- 6 Beginning only makes it the outcast (4)
- 7 Light wine list contains no "tea" (8)
- 8 Granny's vessel her sherry arrived in (8)
- 13 Used a pointer for a time (10)
- 15 Dog- (and child?) training irrelevant for cat (and child?) (9)
- 16 He was like Gran, but got betrayed (4,4)
- 17 Sounds like a C- ... but it's perfect! (8)
- 19 Fungus infects Emil Dewson (6)
- 20 Man - sanctimonious, pure, reticent - becoming unquiet loses bearings, gets unwarranted interest (6)
- 23 It could show you the way, or kill a king (5)
- 24 Kasparov has part of training for a boxer (4)

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



Board Games

Coordinator:
Dawn Ferguson



Skittles

Coordinator:
Janet Loader



Photography 2

Coordinator:
Charlie Duke

Cryptic Crossword #60 Aug / Sept 2026

