

Tiverton u3a Newsletter

learn, laugh, live

Volume 11 Issue 9

September
October
2026



GENERAL MEETING

Thursday 24th September

10 for 10.30am

Stephen Eddy

their senior education officer will be bringing to us

the Exmoor Zoo Road Show

Tea coffee and biscuits as usual

Moorhayes Community Centre Lea Road Tiverton EX16 6SU

And for our next meeting..... on Thursday 22nd October

Nick Clyburn

An Expert Guide to Air Traffic Confusion

Chairman	Tony Jackson	Tivertonu3achair@gmail.com
Vice Chairman	Annie Foot	Tivertonu3avicechair@gmail.com
Treasurer	Sue Robbins	Tivertonu3atreasurer@gmail.com
Secretary	Jan Proud	Tivertonu3asecretary@gmail.com
Membership	Richard Truman	Tivertonu3amembership@gmail.com
Webmaster	Alan Lawson	Tivertonu3awebmaster@gmail.com
Social Media	Angie Cheshire	Tivertonu3asocialmed@gmail.com
Technical	Fergus McGilp	Tivertonu3atech@gmail.com
Newsletter Editor	Nigel Blandford	Tivertonu3aeditor@gmail.com
Meetings Secretary	Wendy Bond	Tivertonu3ameetings@gmail.com
Groups Coordinator	Maggie Roberts	Tivertonu3agroupleaders@gmail.com

Website <https://tivertonu3a.u3asite.uk>

Facebook <https://facebook.com/tivertonu3a>

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

Tiverton u3a welcomes nine new members:

Gareth and Paula O'Rourke

Vivien Westcott

Vivian Orchard

Jennifer Lloyd

Patricia Wisby

Edward Gladstone

Eddie and Olwen Miles

FROM THE COMMITTEE

August General Meeting

There is certainly a feel of autumn as I write my introduction, although a good deal cooler than of late there is a suggestion that we are in for a few warmer days before the month is out. Strange weather in strange times!

We have been so lucky to have a variety of speakers at our monthly meetings, speaking on such a diverse range of subjects. Our August presentation was no exception.

Todd Gray shared his 18 years of research in compiling 'Devon's Home Front Diaries 1937-1945'. His research was primarily informed by the testimonies of many people who were residents or visitors to Devon, each of whom responded to a national Mass Observation (MO) project. Nowhere else in the country has there been such a comprehensive analysis.

What struck me was how attitudes during the years leading up to and during WWII were so different from today. Todd showed us

extracts from contributors, some of which were amusing and others quite personal and thought provoking.



If you missed the talk, it can be downloaded from this link:

<https://youtu.be/AoKsMb3ivL0>

Nottingham Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences Research Ethics Committee – Research Project.

To the Chair of Tiverton u3a,

I'm getting in touch to ask whether you might be willing to share a research opportunity with your u3a members who may be interested in taking part. We are looking for people who find it hard to hear speech in noisy places, including hearing aid users, to join an online training study. The study aims to improve two new listening and thinking games as a support tool for people with hearing loss.

We will be testing two new listening and thinking games in a programme called PLUS (Practice Listening and Understanding Speech). These training games were developed with people with hearing loss and are designed to support everyday listening, including listening in noise.

This study has been reviewed and approved by the University of Nottingham Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences Research Ethics Committee.

T: [+44 \(0\)115 8232606](tel:+441158232606) E: helen.henshaw@nottingham.ac.uk W: <https://nottinghambrc.nihr.ac.uk/>

University of Nottingham, Ropewalk House, [113 The Ropewalk, Nottingham, NG1 5DU](https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/ropewalk)

We are a partnership between Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust and the University of Nottingham, supported by Nottinghamshire Healthcare and Sherwood Forest Hospitals NHS Foundation Trusts. We are funded by the National Institute for Health Research.

If this is of interest, please contact the university directly.

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
2.30pm

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

How can you tell the gender of an ant?

First, throw it in water.

If it sinks: Girl Ant

If it floats:



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 met, as usual, on the last Wednesday of the month.

We continued to look at the use of words, using advertising/information posters as a starting point. Second World War posters were particularly succinct, and it made us

think carefully how to put a message across in a simple way. Just by changing a few words can significantly affect the message - a discipline that can be carried over into all sorts of creative writing.

The topics for September were, as usual, chosen at random from the Lucky dip box: "A Meeting" or "Luck or Chance" which will provide ample scope for imagination.

New members always welcome - you don't know until you try just how creative you might be! - *Nickie*



Croquet

Coordinator:
Jean Brown

As you will know the Croquet season finished slightly earlier due to the fact that the Cricket Club were removing the toilets and facilities. I hope you have all enjoyed the season and the only weeks we did not meet was due to the hot weather. I think we decided that it might be a good idea to get together for a cuppa and cake at the Stables Restaurant at Knighthayes. This

will be on Tuesday 29th September 2.30. Hope to see most of you there. I think financially we ended up just about where we started.

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.

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



Economics

Coordinator:
Mike Barlow

We had another interesting meeting reviewing various Economic Indicators in a session lead by John. We also looked at some graphics produced by Alan which caused some discussion.

Our next meeting will be at Eunice's on Weds 7th October and the main topic will be to discuss the situation with Pensions - very topical!

Let me know if you'd like to join our friendly group. 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

The sun came out as we found ourselves jolted down a very bumpy driveway that opened up to reveal breathtaking views across the valley. Honeywell in Stoodleigh where the Garden Group visited in September was interesting in that it has been converted from the grounds of an old farmyard. There was a large raised

rectangular pond filled with water lilies and possibly fish, although we couldn't see any, where you could lean on the rustic wooden edges and peer in. The flowerbeds had, like everywhere, suffered from the heatwave this summer, but there was still plenty of colour with verbena and sedums and a few others whose names escape me. The grass was, however, very lush and



green and there was a lovely little spinney to explore further down from the main garden and sit peacefully which had been created in honour of a deceased loved one.

Tea and cake always welcome was delicious and we sat enjoying it next to the summer house that was complete with a bar and drinks (not on offer of course!) which you could imagine being a lovely way to spend the long summer evenings with friends!

All in all a lovely afternoon in a very beautiful setting.

- Ann



German Conversation

Coordinator:
John Smith.

We have resumed our meetings after the Summer break. So far, we have had one meeting which was not well attended as some members were still away. There was much discussion about travels and experiences during the Summer.

Our usual "word of the week" competition unearthed a slightly unusual one. "Klobrille", translated literally means "toilet (Klo) glasses (Brille)". Did you know/guess that it means "toilet seat". Why?

We continue to meet on the first and third Monday evenings of each month. New members are very welcome.

- John

|



Going Places

Coordinators:
John O'Connor
Tony Lowe, Chris Steele

An "Onwards and Upwards" tour of Exeter Cathedral

Our visit to Exeter Cathedral was a great success. Earlier this month, 20 of our members were shown around the Cathedral by a team of friendly and

knowledgeable guides. Starting on the ground floor, we were introduced to some fascinating artefacts and heard about the many significant events that have taken place in and around Exeter over the centuries. We then ventured upwards into the roof space – an area never intended for public access. Getting there involved tackling more than 150 steps on a narrow

spiral staircase, which gave everyone plenty of time to wonder whether they had made the right decision! Fortunately, the climb proved to be well worth the effort.

High above the Nave, we were able to walk along the vaulted ceiling and see the 'racking' that, without the extensive remedial work undertaken, could have resulted in the complete collapse of the roof. It was a sobering thought as we gingerly made our way across the structure. We also visited the lead room, where lead was once smelted, the bell-ringing chamber and, finally, the impressive Flag Room. By this stage, our legs were beginning to wonder what they had done to deserve this, but there was still one more challenge ahead – another cramped spiral staircase leading to the top of the Romanesque North Tower. The reward was well worth the effort, with spectacular views across Exeter and beyond.



This was a fascinating, entertaining and extremely well-organised tour, offering a unique glimpse into parts of the Cathedral that most visitors never get to see. Highly recommended to anyone who has never visited!

Fleet Air Arm Museum

More details shortly.

A visit with tour and lunch at Treguddick Spirit Distillery

Postponed until next year.



Line Dancing

Coordinator:
Mich Bowers

After the short break for summer, we recommenced our twice monthly dancing on 14th Sept. Numbers were down a bit, but hoping we will be up to full strength from our next session on 28th September.

Nothing too challenging last time, - we'll work up to that!

October dates are 12th and 26th. - Mich



Local Theatre

Coordinator:
Betty Thrall

Our next Block Booking will be the production of The Willow Tree Dance and Theatre Arts "GREAT British Bake Off -The Musical " Thursday December 10th 7 30pm In Tiverton New Hall. Full price Tickets are £16 50 p but we will receive a discount for a

block booking so I should be able to advise you next month. A list will be available for your names from the September monthly meeting. Please support this very talented group.

22 of us enjoyed the amazing production of "We Will Rock You "The Chorography was excellent as was the singing, it must have taken a lot of hard work to get the finished result.

It is difficult to pick any one out as outstanding, but Tyler Curry as Galileo was with his singing and acting. We all left for home with the music of Queen in our ears after clapping and our feet tapping all evening.

Looking forward to next year The Junior Operatic Club will be performing " Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat " in February 2027

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? The good news on MAHJONG is that the Tiverton players will be giving a demonstration game at the November meeting for new members at. Cherith Hall.

We play for fun through social contact and to keep a few grey cells going. We play on alternate Friday afternoons local to Tiverton. Please contact me celiahicks13@gmail.com to learn more



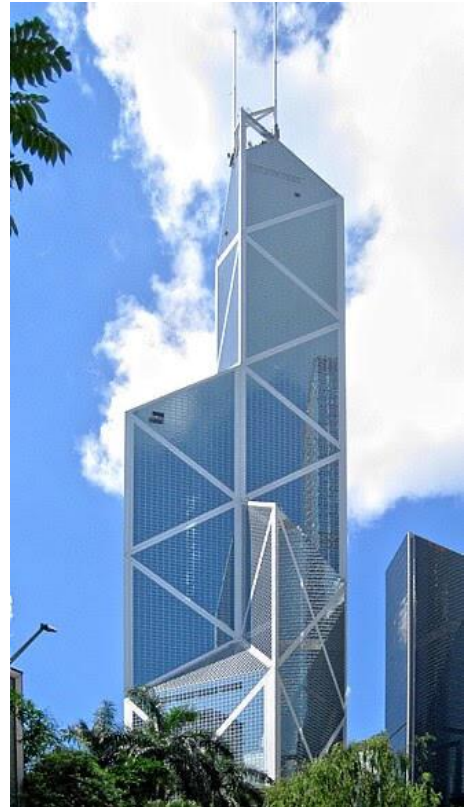
Photography
Coordinator:
Roger Gunn

I think we were given the topic of Angles and Curves way back in April, so we had plenty of time to get a few shots.

Nigel kicked off proceedings with, amongst others, a well-lit close-up of angles and curves in nature in the form of a brown, veined sycamore leaf. His MG EV provided some sleek, human design detail as did Hong Kong. A delve into the archive produced images of the very angular, Lord Foster designed, HSBC building and an equally angular and impressive 72 storey Bank of China, designed by I.M. Pei.

.John clearly had an interesting summer. He took his bridge camera on a birdwatching trip to Shetland and took great shots of puffins in various poses, a fulmar wedged into a rock, eider ducks, skua, a pectoral sandpiper (a scarce migrant visitor to Shetland) and a hooded crow sat outside Lerwick Museum. He managed to snap the crooked spire church in Chesterfield on a train journey and successfully shot the partial solar eclipse from the Teign Valley. As a keen historian John also recorded the exciting, rare 4th-century AD Roman villa discovery in Halberton.

Tim found plenty of angles at the Palace of Versailles in the buildings, gardens, paths and ponds but also in the scaffolding (a necessary requirement when preserving 400 year old stone, timber, iron and paintwork). His grandson and partner sent curvy and angular images of Sydney Harbour bridge and the Opera House after completing the marathon there recently (Congratulations!). As an engineer Tim has a ready supply of photogenic curved and angled tools and he didn't



Bank of China, Hong Kong

disappoint us. It turns out the King and Queen are photogenic too, evidenced by the 60th wedding anniversary card to him and Val from them. Congratulations Tim and Val!

Roger appears to have been everywhere (man!) over the summer too. He shared some great images from a recent trip to London. Angles and curves at the Olympic stadium, Camden Market, interior of a theatre, a Toot bus. A recent U3A trip to Exeter Cathedral provided some impressive aerial shots of buttresses and the surrounding area. Exmoor flora and fauna didn't disappoint either with vibrant heather and gorse on the moor and a yellow common frog.

Phil shared images of colourful angles and curves at a kid's playground, snaps from a cycling trip to Provence, scenes from Exeter Quay, Topsham and Exmoor.

Roger briefly showed how effective Chat GPT is with restoration of old photographs. In a word - AMAZING! Many thanks again to Roger for hosting and supplying coffee and biscuits.

The meeting next month will be at 10am on Thursday 8th October. Venue to be arranged.

Topic for October - The Unexpected. Partial shot of something/somewhere then shot of the whole.

A date for the diary - Wednesday 21st October, photo trip to Exeter. Details to be discussed 8/10.

- Phil



Railway Group

**Coordinator:
Jose Kimber**

The Group has taken a break over the summer, and there will be NO meeting in September, due to other commitments.

Between writing this report and the newsletter publication three of us are

planning an adventure, travelling to Seaton by bus, and then taking a trip on the Seaton Tramway. I will report on this next month.

Until 3 October there is a railway exhibition at Coldharbour Mill featuring the Culm Valley Railway, and We plan to visit on Tuesday 29 September. If anyone would like to join us, they would be more than welcome.

As we have lost another group member our number is now down to four regular attendees, so we are going to have to consider our future, if we are unable to recruit new members, and are considering widening the scope of the group to cover all forms of transport, rather than just railways. If you would like to join us, please contact me. New members will be very welcome.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Friday 23 October at 10.30am, but this will only go ahead if there are enough attendees, so if you plan to attend, please check with me beforehand.

- Jose



Ramblers

**Coordinator:
Jenny Bedford**

A fearless five, undeterred by the inclement weather, set off from the Chimney Down Common car park in light rain. We were guided by Jenny along lanes, tracks and fields around beautiful countryside to the northwest of Holcombe Rogus. After passing close to Luckleigh Farm where we saw a couple of dozen deer, we found ourselves in Hockworthy. We went into the attractive

and well-maintained church dedicated to St Simon and St Jude which was apparently rebuilt in 1865 and contains a Norman font.

After about an hour of walking, the rain stopped, and we finished this very enjoyable and not too strenuous 5 mile walk in blue sky and sunshine. Many thanks to Jenny for a great choice. - Phil

The next Ramble, on Tuesday 13th October, will be led by Jan Harvey starting At 10.00 from the car park at Danes Wood , EX5 3LH: W3W - paintings. bluff. Lectured.

The 4.5 mile walk follows picturesque paths to the end of the wood then picks up the new footpaths towards Columb John then on to the Killerton estate and back round to Danes wood car park. There are a few hills but nothing strenuous. - Jenny



Skittles

Coordinator:
Janet Loader

Just to let all existing and any new folk who are interested in skittles we are starting our new season on Monday 5th October.

We meet at 7pm at Tiverton Football Club. There is a bar available for refreshments before and during the strenuous games. £5 per person per

session. A fun hour and half evening.
Any queries please phone me on 01884 252116.

Janet



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!

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

August Short Trek. Drought! Hosepipe ban! Wildfires! At 9:55am on 28th August the heavens opened, outside the church at Molland. We were just putting boots and waterproofs on so all got pretty wet before leaving the car park. After a 20minute delay we got going on the 160m ascent up to Anstey Gate at the top of Brimblecombe Hill. The rain had gone and we had great

clear panoramic views across the heather, gorse and fern covered moorland. The return to Molland was mainly downhill via Smallacombe. Thanks to Jan Proud for an excellent walk. The debrief was well attended in the delightfully traditional, circa 17th century London Inn, recently reopened by the local community. Well worth a visit.

The September Short Trek will take us to the NE edge of Dartmoor. John Greenwood has planned and recced this walk but is unwell and unable to lead at this time. He has agreed to me leading instead. We will be going around and over Cosdon Beacon/Hill (550m), starting at 10am on Friday 25th September from the car park at South Zeal EX20 2LB,

OS: SX651934,
W3W - shoulders.listening.nitrate

The trek will be just over 7 miles with ascent of approximately 1200ft. It will take in the prehistoric monuments of the Cosdon triple stone row and the Whitemoor stone circle (good place for our picnic lunch with several convenient stones for sitting on!). Then over Little Hound Tor and up Cosdon Hill to the Beacon before heading back to the village. Debrief at the Oxenham Arms Inn. - *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 "The Word: Stories we tell ourselves and whether books are important in the internet age". As preparation we looked at Byung-Churl Han co-author of "The Crisis of Narration". There is an episode of the Philosophize This! On this argument. Here is the link to the podcast on Spotify [Episode #232 ... Byung Chul Han - The Crisis of Narration - Philosophize This! | Podcast on Spotify](#)

Our discussion covered different cultures and generations having different narratives as well as our own personal narratives which might even differ from people who have had the same experience.

We meet at 2pm on the third Thursday of every month so our next meeting will be on 15th October at 2pm.

Details of future meetings: eunicehinds@gmail.com



Thursday Lunch

Coordinator:
Angie Cheshire

Twenty-two diners had a very pleasant lunch at the Merry Harriers. John, the landlord, had suggested that in order to avoid pre-ordering we could arrive from 11.30 am, have a coffee and order from the very extensive menu and

specials so that the kitchen could start cooking at 12 o'clock. Service began at 12.25 pm which was a lot quicker than many other pubs where we have had to pre-order. We had a very pleasant room to ourselves and the staff were extremely friendly and efficient and the food was lovely. ~ Gina and Mike

Our next outing is to The Catherine Wheel, Hemyock, on 8th October. Mo has organised this lunch and, depending on numbers, we may not have to pre-order. If you have not already signed up, please email me.



angelacheshire@hotmail.com

~ Angie



Trekking

Coordinator:
Gordon Cleaver

September Long Trek – Devon Pebblebeds and Budleigh Salterton

Led by Gordon, 14 trekkers met in the Wheathill Plantation Car Park after a journey that roadworks that had made a bit more “interesting!”

After two new members were welcomed to

the group we set off up through the heathlands to have a lovely encounter with some very friendly Highland cows. It was then downhill with some distant and tantalizing views of the sea before we stopped for a brief break at Squabmoor Reservoir. We then had a long steady climb up the line of the old Budleigh railway and over the Golf Course to reach the heights of West Down Beacon on the SW Coast Path. It was then down the Coast path to the Beach for lunch, ice creams, and for one member - a swim. As the afternoons sunshine got hotter we trekked up the River Otter Valley and through Raleigh's birthplace village of East Budleigh. It was then an uphill march through a long Devon green lane back to the cars.



The Debrief was held in the garden of the White Hart Inn in Woodbury where an erudite discussion was held about the trek and other important matters aided by some cold refreshments.

October Long Trek –Thursday 1 st October 2026 -10.00am Start - Car Parking Area opposite Killington Lane Station , Parracombe

.A Trek in the Parracombe Area of North Devon will be led by Dawn and Simon. An interesting trek in some lovely rolling Devon countryside. Some technical bits mean that some scrambling could be involved and so walking poles may be a good option. Parking is in the very large lay by area opposite Killington Lane Railway station entrance

Grid ref SS 670 457,
What3Words: beginning.thiskened.rival
Google Maps Killington Lane Railway Station

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.



Wednesday Pub Lunch

Coordinator:
Trevor Ellmore

The day before we were due to go to The Beambridge Inn Sampford Arundel the management called to say that one of their chefs had gone sick and would we accept a carvery as that is all that could be offered due to shortage of staff, so I advised our members and all accepted. As it turned out the carvery

was good, I would not say it was exceptional as I could see many roast puddings were a little firm and were left on several plates but that aside, the meat and veg were in order.

Our next venue on the 7th October is at the Merry Harriers, Wescott, on the B3181 the main road from Cullompton to Exeter, so if you do not put your name down at the Beambridge and would like to come please contact me ASAP.



NEW GROUP

Italian Conversation

We are currently trialing an Italian Conversation Group on alternate Monday mornings, based in the Tiverton area from 9.30am to 11.30am, in member's homes. We had 8 people attend our first gathering at the end of August, and a reduced number at our second meeting due to members taking holidays in Italy! Our Italian knowledge is varied and a little rusty here and there, but improving all the time. There is a shared willingness to have a go at speaking in a supportive and friendly environment, with the emphasis on communication rather than perfect grammar. (Dictionary to hand for the vocab that's new or elusive). Please feel free to join us. If there are any native Italian speakers out there, we would love your input and they would be warmly welcomed!

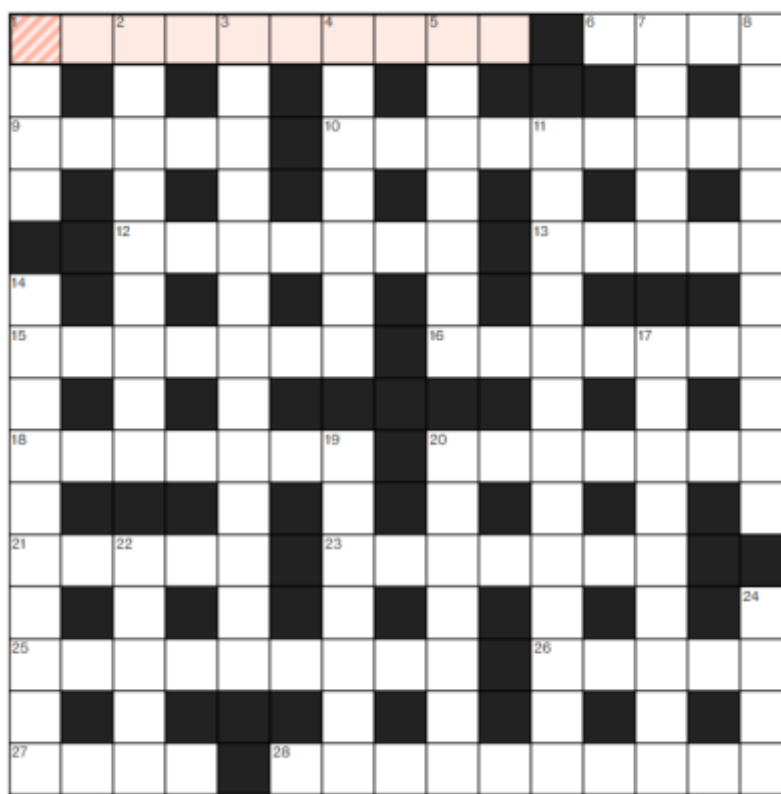
Spanish Conversation

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 #61 Sept / Oct 2026 (Solution at end of newsletter)



Across

- 1 Excellent French food but it maybe a bit sad? (6,4)
- 6 Birds do it and you can get in one (4)
- 9 Bug concealed by graph ID tags (5)
- 10 Belt goes round this discarded fishing equipment, we hear (9)
- 12 He flies the first letter on the way to a Cornish hilltop (7)
- 13 Champion flower, in the Pakistani mind usurping that of India (5)
- 15 Implore you to mix cheese with a little butter (7)
- 16 Alonism can be confused with a curse (7)
- 18 Those who rally to limit AI's heedless spread (7)
- 20 Pot, Northern Ireland, & emergency room link up for a saddlebag (7)
- 21 A plane is diverted to this destination (5)
- 23 Brutal National Trust is after flimsy fabric (7)
- 25 Berries as a compote in the bistro (9)
- 26 His name is written in the Myanmar alphabet (5)
- 27 Square with squat Steve(4)
- 28 An unequal counterpart! (6,4)

Down

- 1 Small bird or a casual text? (4)
- 2 Claire hears Alan's inside practice (9)
- 3 Aged spouses recount stories which could help (3,5,5)
- 4 Charm be before twitchy innards (7)
- 5 A short poem about two farm animals from the East (7)
- 7 Landlord as in Renfrew, Dundee and other parts of Scotland originally (5)
- 8 Politeness is achieved when peasant mixes with a part of lyrics (10)
- 11 How to wrongly imprison, randomly (5,3,5)
- 14 Pour ale in a bomb, that sounds really awful (10)
- 17 A BSc in tillage included very little of anything (9)
- 19 Harmful commercial poetry (7)
- 20 Object for trial (7)
- 22 This tool sounds very ordinary (5)
- 24 I kept away from the main man in the kitchen (4)

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



Board Games
Coordinator:
Dawn Ferguson



Photography 2
Coordinator:
Charlie Duke

Cryptic Crossword #61 Sept / Oct 2026

