



## Chat from the Chair



A very warm welcome to our recent new members. I am sure you will find plenty on offer; our entertaining and most interesting monthly meetings, a wide range of outings, a great selection of Interest Groups, the recently set up local Hubs and our regular Thursday morning 'Coffee and Chat' sessions via Zoom. Thank you so much to our committee of Trustees, our Social Committee, our Group Organisers, New Members' Coordinator, Meeters and Greeters, and all the volunteers who make this all possible.

By the time you read this newsletter you will have received our Bulletin setting out the arrangements for our AGM 10:30 to 11:00 on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> May in Exmouth Pavilion. As mentioned in the Bulletin if you would like to find out more about standing for our committee, do contact Lyn Holmes, Vice Chair, on [groups@exmouthu3a.org.uk](mailto:groups@exmouthu3a.org.uk); she would be very happy to answer any questions you may have. This is a very important date in our calendar and please see the 'Save the Date' collage on page 3 with details of Ian Bateman's Audio Visual Show which follows immediately afterwards.

Many of you will remember that in January we planted ten fruit trees (please see page 5) beside a section of the tarmacked multi user-path at Lower Halsdon Farm in Exmouth; this path of approx. 1 kilometre leads down from the Exeter Road in the northern part of the town to the Estuary Trail. These trees planted to mark our tenth anniversary are being maintained by National Trust volunteers and if you haven't been along this multi-path I can certainly recommend it for as well as trees there is so much to see including ever changing and often glorious views across the Estuary, especially at sunset.

Alongside the path is a working farm; the land having been generously bequeathed by Stanley Long who had owned and worked the land as a farmer. He turned down £4 million by developers and instead left the land and farm in his will to the National Trust, on the proviso it would benefit the community. In my estimation it is certainly meeting the remit of benefitting the community being easily accessible by all kinds of users at all times of the year and already it is a haven for wildlife. In the spring you are almost always guaranteed to hear the glorious hammering sound of a woodpecker and like many others I am hoping to catch sight of this wonderful bird but so far it has alluded me. I live in hope!

Through joining many of our Interest Groups and local Hubs and or by taking advantage of one of our local outings you can experience all that is on offer in our local area, learn something new, develop your skills and enhance your knowledge whilst socialising with other members. If the group that you want to join is full do consider putting yourself on a waiting list and also think about setting up a new Group. You may find someone else to join you in organising a group and having had personal experience of this it is definitely worth considering. The advantage of our large u3a is that there are certainly plenty of people you can talk to and you would receive plenty of support and advice from Lyn Holmes our Groups Coordinator [groups@exmouthu3a.org.uk](mailto:groups@exmouthu3a.org.uk)

Onwards and upwards.

Best wishes

*Christine, Chair*

[chairperson@exmouthu3a.org.uk](mailto:chairperson@exmouthu3a.org.uk)

## Our monthly meetings – Spring 2023

On **Thursday, 9<sup>th</sup> March**, **John Davidson** gave an excellent talk about **“Rewilding”**. There is a review elsewhere in the newsletter on page 11.



On **Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> April at 10.00 for 10.30**, we shall be welcoming back **Maggie Duffy**, with a further collection of **songs, stories and poetry**, keeping local history and tradition alive. She will be accompanied by her guitar. Her visit in 2022 was very much enjoyed and I am sure this will be equally popular, so come early to get a seat!

Please make a note also of our **AGM on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> May at 10.00 for 10.30**. As you all know from previous correspondence and experience, it is essential to have a good turnout for our AGM, not only for legal reasons but also to be fully involved in and know about the organisation of u3a.

Following the brief AGM, one of our own members, **Ian Bateman** will make a welcome return visit with **‘An Audio Visual Show’**. Those of us who have seen these before will know how amazing they are, combining music, narration and sound effects to tell a story. Ian has been successful in many AV competitions at all levels, including international, with gold, silver and bronze medals, as well as judging at these competitions.



We look forward to seeing you at **Exmouth Pavilion** on 13<sup>th</sup> April and 11<sup>th</sup> May. There is again the opportunity for members to see our speakers **via Zoom** for anyone who is unwilling or unable to attend in person and instead prefers to join us from home (or from anywhere else in the world!). Zoom connection details are on the next page.

**Ann Newby**  
**Speakers’ Coordinator**  
[speakers@exmouthu3a.org.uk](mailto:speakers@exmouthu3a.org.uk)

## Meetings on Zoom

| Guest presenter: ‘Connect and Learn’ presentation via Zoom – Thursday 27 April |   |                            |   |
|--|---|----------------------------|---|
| Thurs 27 <sup>th</sup><br>April<br>10:15 for<br>10:30 to<br>11:30              | <b>John Petty,</b><br>one of our<br>members | ‘Abandoned<br>and revived’ | This is the fascinating story of our personal involvement around the 1980’s to bring the Kennet and Avon Canal back to life and projects which nobody (apart from us) thought would work. A small part of the work that led to the re-opening in 1990 after its virtual abandonment in the late 1950’s. |

In addition to streaming the monthly meeting on Zoom and our guest presenter on 27 April, everyone is very welcome to join us on other Thursdays **for our Zoom Coffee & Chat sessions**. They start at 10.30, but we suggest everyone logs in from 10.15, and it will be for about an hour. They are open to all our members and are a good opportunity for a chat. You may have something you would like to share, particularly any activities you have participated in as a group member or any topic which might be of interest to others. So why not make yourself a cup of coffee or tea and join us then; you will be most welcome. The Zoom connection details are in the box on the next page. And if you want to receive a reminder email about this the day before, please email me so that I can add you to our circulation list – [newsletter@exmouthu3a.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@exmouthu3a.org.uk).

The dates for our next Zoom Coffee & Chat sessions are **Thursday 6 April** and **Thursday 20 April**.

The Zoom connection details for the monthly meetings, for the Zoom presentations, for our Zoom Coffee & Chat sessions and for our other u3a Zoom meetings remain the same as before, and have been communicated to u3a members direct.

This is for u3a members only, so please don't share these Zoom details with anyone else. If you experience difficulties, email John Hunt at [johnh@exmouthu3a.org.uk](mailto:johnh@exmouthu3a.org.uk).

The collage features several elements: a top-left box with three small images and the text 'The Chapel, the Drill and the Bar of Soap'; a central text box stating 'After the AGM sit back and be entertained, intrigued, amazed and informed by Ian's spectacular show with some favourites, some of local interest and some completely new audio visuals. Not to be missed!'; a top-right image titled 'CITY OF DARKNESS'; a portrait of Ian Bateman with the caption 'Ian Bateman'; a central text box that reads 'AGM FOLLOWED BY IAN BATEMAN'S AUDIO VISUAL SHOW Finishing at approx. 11:45'; a bottom-left 'SAVE THE DATE' box for the 'EXMOUTH & DISTRICT U3A AGM' on '10:30—11:00 11TH MAY 2023' at the 'EXMOUTH PAVILION'; a central image of a shell with the text 'The Sloway'; a bottom-center image of a door handle with the text 'The Door'; and a bottom-right image of a beach with the text 'THE BEACH A WALK THROUGH HISTORY'. The background of the collage is a beach scene.

*Collage by Christine Chittock*

## Group news

Here are a few updates from Groups:

### Understanding Classical Music

Chris Mansell has reopened the "A basic understanding and interpretation of classical music" group and is looking for some new members. Contact Chris by email.

### Quizzes

There are a few spaces in the quiz group which meets in the Wings Bar on the third Thursday afternoon each month, apart from July and August. Quizzers are encouraged to devise and present a quiz occasionally. If you're interested in joining or would like to know more, please contact Pam Day by email.

### Bake and Taste 2

We have vacancies in Bake and Taste 2.

### Walking Group 2

Contact Nigel Howard by phone or by email.

## News From Groups

### Pickleball

We held a workshop on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> March at Cranford Sports Centre for all u3a Pickleballers. With help from Will and Maria from Kenn Pickleball Club our group members were able to ask questions and were shown how to improve and fine tune their game. Will and Maria play in USA and are UK medal winners. The workshop started at 12.30 and went through to 3.30pm and from the comments I received afterwards everybody got something out of the workshop and a lot of fun was had by all.

*Bob Nicholls, Group Organiser (who also took the photo below)*



### Cook and Share Group



The Cook and Share group, established with a shaky start due to covid, is now going from strength to strength with an influx of keen new members. We rotate monthly meetings in each other's homes and all contribute to the chosen meal Recent themes include Spanish, Greek, French, Scottish (in celebration of Burns), a BBQ and a meatless Monday.

*Chris Ponsford, Group Organiser (who also took the photos)*

**Exmouth & District u3a**

Varities of Trees  
Concorde Quince  
Discovery  
Dittisham Ploughman St Julien X 2  
Exeter Cross  
Laxton's Superb  
Lord Lambourne  
Louise Bonne of Jersey  
Star of Devon  
Woolbrook Pippin  
Aitgether six apples, two pears and two plums

**18th March 2023**  
A view of some of the u3a's heritage fruit trees on National Trust land at Lower Halsdon Farm, Exmouth.  
The trees were planted on 13th January 2023 to mark Exmouth & District u3a's 10th anniversary.

The collage includes a background photo of people walking on a path through a field of young trees, and three inset photos showing individual heritage fruit trees.

*Collage by Christine Chittock*

## Local Hub Groups

Listed below are our local hub groups where you can go for a coffee and chat and meet local u3a members. Please contact the local organiser for information or just go along to the meeting where you will be made very welcome. If you would like to start a new hub group please contact me, Lyn Holmes at [groups@exmouthu3a.org.uk](mailto:groups@exmouthu3a.org.uk)

Potential **new group in Lypstone** in the evening. Please contact Jenny Moon by phone or by email for details.

- Budleigh Salterton and surrounding areas: email Alice Robson  
Meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday monthly (to be arranged).
- Exmouth – Dagmar Road area (bordered by The Beacon, Louisa Terrace, Trefusis Terrace and Rolle Road): email Sally Parnell  
We meet on alternate Fridays at the Imperial Hotel at 10.30am.
- Exmouth – Littleham area: email Susan Hall  
We meet on various days and times, so please email Susan for further information.
- Exmouth – Mount Pleasant area: email Anne Howard
- Exmouth – Rivermead Road area: email Nicola Antoni  
Nicola and Anne have joined together. We normally meet on a Tuesday and our next one is on 4<sup>th</sup> April at 10am. Please email for information and location.
- Exmouth – Salterton Road and The Avenues area, email Jan Harper Shea  
We meet alternate Tuesday mornings at 10.30am in The Devoncourt Hotel.
- Exmouth – Shelly Road, Camperdown Terrace and The Marina: email Victoria Newhouse
- Exmouth – Withycombe area: email Jan Collett  
Our venue at present is the Tennis Centre Cafe but we plan to return to Phear Park Cafe when it reopens. Otherwise our arrangements have not changed. Tuesdays 2.00 – 4.00 fortnightly.
- Ottery St Mary area: email Ronnie Harwood
- Topsham area: The revised core times for our bimonthly meetings are now:  
The first Thursday in the cafe at St Bridget’s Nursery, Sidmouth Road, Clyst St Mary between 12.30 and 2.30 pm  
The third Monday at Nancy Potter House, Nelson Close, Topsham between 11.00 am and 1.00 pm.  
All u3a members are welcome.
- Woodbury, Woodbury Salterton and East Budleigh: email Lin Milsom–Ashby  
The next meeting is at the Maltsters Arms on Tuesday 11 April at 10.30 am.



*Lyn Holmes,*  
**Groups Coordinator**  
[groups@exmouthu3a.org.uk](mailto:groups@exmouthu3a.org.uk)

Details of the trip to Delamore House organised by the Social Committee are on the next page. Here is the link to the Delamore Arts website – <https://www.delamore-art.co.uk/>



## Social Committee News

Although spring has officially started the weather does not appear to be aware of this fact. However despite the very wet spell being experienced at the moment it is to be hoped that our Social outings for the next three months can take place in more pleasant conditions.

Before arranging any event, the Social Committee research facts relating to health and safety in order to fully support our members. Any particular issues relating to health and safety are listed on our webpage as well as included on your ticket. However, it cannot be too strongly stated that members must take into account their own capabilities before joining groups and excursions. In addition, members must ensure they wear suitable apparel and have walking aids to meet all weathers and ground conditions.

The first of these which takes place on **Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> April** is the day out in **Charmouth and Lyme Regis**. and full details are in the March newsletter and in an email circulated direct to members. There are however one or two tickets left for this trip but if you are interested in going would you please inform Lyn Holmes (her details have already been circulated and are also below) before **midday on 6<sup>th</sup> April** which is the final day that bookings can be accepted.

This will be followed by the very popular outing to **Delamore, Cornwood, on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> May**, the cost of which will be £30 per ticket. Full details, including a description of the day's events, have very recently been sent to ALL members. The coach will pick us up from Exmouth coach station, behind Exmouth rail station at 9.30 am. We will be picked up at 3.30 pm to return to Exmouth coach station at around 5 pm. **If you decide to join this trip to Delamore you will need to supply us with the details of a person/next of kin who can be contacted in an emergency.** If you have any concerns or questions please do speak to a Social Committee member before making a booking.

Delamore House is a lovely country house which becomes an amazing arts and sculpture exhibition centre, both indoors and outdoors in the month of May. It's been running many years and offers delights to view at every turn, with over 200 exhibits. Additionally, you can buy any of the exhibits! Our coach will drop us off at the gate and come back to pick us up in the afternoon. The centre will provide us with a soup and roll which is included in the price, with a place undercover if the weather is inclement. The gardens, designed by James Piers St Aubyn, are lovely with rhododendrons and azaleas in full bloom, a lake, a pond and outbuilding which offer a natural setting for the sculptures and works of art. Even in the rain it's a lovely day out. They have a small tea-room with cakes etc for sale.

**Health and Safety** The gardens show off the sculptures well, there are paths, but there is a fair amount of walking. In wet weather it can be a bit slippery.

### Payment Details

1. Send a cheque to Mrs L. Holmes, made out to Exmouth & District U3A, please send a stamped addressed envelope and **Supply emergency contact details with your cheque**. She will then send you a ticket.
2. Pay via internet banking. Please email Lyn Holmes [groups@exmouthu3a.org.uk](mailto:groups@exmouthu3a.org.uk) to confirm payment and **supply an emergency contact at this time**. She will then send you a ticket.
3. Buy your tickets at the Monthly Meeting April 13<sup>th</sup>. **We accept cheques, cash or credit card (please try and bring the correct cash).**

Tickets, as well as being on sale at the next Monthly Meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> April at The Pavilion, can also be purchased online as per the details circulated.

On **Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> June** a trip to **Abbotsbury Swannery** is currently being finalised and tickets will cost £32 each. These will also be available to book at our April Monthly Meeting when much more detailed information will be available for members.

Enquiries are still ongoing regarding future outings and members will, of course, be notified as and when these become known.

As usual, the Social Committee will be present at the Monthly Meeting, and questions from members are always welcome together with suggestions regarding trips that could be undertaken in the months ahead.



May we wish you all a Very Happy Easter and look forward to seeing as many as possible at The Pavilion on 13<sup>th</sup> April.

Best wishes from the Social Committee team

*Alice Robson, Lyn Holmes, Clare Dawson, Jenny Comben, Pam Day and June Cook*

## The Little Shelter 1943/4

The snowflake pattern of light on the ceiling of the under-stairs cupboard shifts, blurs and strengthens with the draught. The Beatrix stove gives a warm light and a little heat. The Singer hand sewing machine hums as my mother turns the handle, slow, low then faster higher, changing back to slow as the seam ends. A small crackly noise from the valve radio gives a little cheer.

None of this seems strange to me as I watch my mother from my make-shift slatted bed chair, utility of course, as she bends over the woollen fabric, pins in mouth, tape measure around her neck. My mother sews for a local tailor, who takes men's used uniforms and promises their women New Look skirts and suits. My mother unpicks these, presses them then cuts the pattern from his measurements and turning the fabric inside out, avoids the worn patches and produces a garment to fit. She gets half a crown for her efforts.



At times, being wakeful, I sit at the back of the table behind the machine and recite a short poem. "I lost my dear little doll dears...."

The tiny coal cupboard has a large telegraph pole supporting the roof, my father's answer to our wartime shelter. The street shelter was too far and overcrowded. He says he would know where to find us here, and that the strong pole would make a secure triangle if a bomb dropped – it might give us time. He has been there when men searched for their loved ones and he knows. He is never there, for each night he fire-watches for incendiaries, having been invalided out of the army.

My baby sister snuffles in a Moses basket beside me on the floor. Mum's leather coat is stretched across us both. Leather helps against flying glass, Mum says. We are here every night now while Dad's away. Mum can't carry two of us together up two flights of stairs to our one-bedroom flat, and quickly down again when the siren warns of a second air raid. So which one does she take up first, leaving the other alone and vulnerable? A dilemma I do not have to solve.

Sometimes it's different. Dad loves the cinema, and very occasionally decides to go, taking me with him so as to split the parental responsibility. I sit on his lap aged barely three, watching old pre-war films till I sleep and am carried home late on his shoulders. I realise I have forgotten his fathering.

*Leonora Wilson, Group Organiser, Memoirs Group*



## 'Where are you from?': Coffee & Chat Group – 16 February 2023

Some U3A members may remember the newspaper accounts of the conversation in December 2022 between Susan Hussey, Queen Elizabeth's Lady-in-Waiting, and Ngozi Fulani of Sista Spice, a domestic abuse charity for women of African and Caribbean heritage. This was discussed in a u3a 'Coffee and Chat' group in December and led to a short presentation on 16<sup>th</sup> February on my work in the 1980's/early1990's for Oxfordshire's Education Department and on aspects of racism.

I talked about different types of racism, inter-personal cultural and institutional, and gave examples including some from my own experience. I reminded the group of a few dates, relating to race riots, the police, speeches (e.g. Martin Luther King's in 1963 and Enoch Powell's 'River of Blood' speech in 1968) and immigration (e.g. the arrival in Tilbury Docks in 1948 of the Windrush),

By the early 1980's, the number of people of Caribbean origin had increased. Using the 1981 census I estimated that there were about 130,000 children in Britain between the ages of 5 and 15, who were of Caribbean background. In 1981 the Rampton Report highlighted their underachievement in schools. My post in Oxfordshire was set up to examine the situation in the county and to develop strategies to increase achievement. I worked with parents of Caribbean origin, with headteachers, teachers and some of Oxfordshire's primary and curriculum advisers, and I organized workshops on racism and on anti-racist initiatives (including some sessions on Caribbean families and culture).

It was an unusual post for the unusual times of the 1980's when overt racism was evident as was the increasing presence of black immigrants from the Commonwealth. Our Centre was a supportive stimulating and diverse environment! There were about 50 experienced teachers, many from ethnic minority backgrounds. They worked in schools but were based at the Centre in three teams, a Mother Tongue, an ESL' (English as a Second Language) and also my relatively small Caribbean Achievement support team for the c 500 children of Caribbean origin. I and the two other team leaders, all Advisory Headteachers, worked with our line manager, the Adviser for Multicultural Education. Amongst many other tasks, we organised courses and inset, helped with the development of whole school policies, wrote reports on the work of the Centre and contributed to Oxfordshire's application for Section 11 funding.

Moving on to the twenty-first century and the situation in Britain in 2020, discussions about racism gained impetus with the heated debate about whether to remove statues of people with links to colonialism which culminated in the toppling of the statue of Edward Colston into the Bristol Channel in August 2020. The Black Lives Movement and their chant 'I can't breathe' reminded us all of the murders of George Floyd by police in the US and later in 2014 of Eric Garner who uttered these three words as he was choked to death. As has become increasingly clear, the police force in Britain also has a 'culture of racism' and indeed is not exempt of the charge of 'murder' as shown by the killing on 18<sup>th</sup> September 2022 of the young black man, Chris Kaba. The Windrush scandal and the publicity about Meghan Markle with allegations of structural racism in the Home Office and in the Royal Household respectively, have extended the discussions to two of the important institutions in our society.

Devon has only a few people of ethnic minority descent but racism is a problem which we need to continue to discuss and challenge here, with 'white' and 'black' people working together and regardless of background and ethnic origin.

***Kamala Nehaul-Harris***  
***Member***

*For some recommended reading and programmes, see next page.*

**Recommended reading:**

- Renie Eddo-Lodge – ‘Why I’m no longer talking to white people about race’. 2018. Bloomsbury Publishing
- Afua Hirsch – ‘Brit(ish) – On race, identity and belonging’. 2018. Vintage
- Gina Miller – ‘Memoirs’. 2018
- Sathnam Sanghera – ‘Empireland’. 2021. Penguin
- The Baroness Casey Review into the Standards of Behaviour and Internal Culture of the Metropolitan Police Service (especially Chapter 9.3 which is about racism) – <https://www.met.police.uk/SysSiteAssets/media/downloads/met/about-us/baroness-casey-review/update-march-2023/baroness-casey-review-march-2023.pdf>
- Many other authors – e.g. David Lammy, David Olusoga

**Recommended programmes**

Reflections on Race – five short films on BBC iPlayer:  
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episodes/p09wr8s1/reflections-on-race>



## Something for Spring – Pussy Willow (*Salix caprea*)

The sun finally got through on Mothering Sunday after many dull and grey days. What a difference it made to see Pussy willow (*Salix caprea*) against a pale blue sky on my walk along the multi-user path at Lower Halsdon Farm in Exmouth and on my return against a bright blue sky. What a treat to see this prodigious pollen producer with a buzz of insects feasting on the nectar and on such a beautiful day it looked glorious.

There are a number of theories as to how it got the name Pussy Willow. One possibility is that it got its name from its likeness to sleeping cats. Another thought is that the male buds are covered in what appears to be soft fur, like cats paws. These soft silver tufts are actually flowers protected by a silver coat and called catkins, also named for cats, in this case for their tails (from the old Dutch word for ‘kitten katakana’).

Definitely worth a closer look as they are magnificent.

Captured here with what I think is a hoverfly/ drone fly (*Eristalis tenax*) but I am happy to be corrected and would certainly like to know if I have identified this visitor correctly.

*Christine Chittock, Chair*



## Review of 'Rewilding', a Talk by John Davidson on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> March in Exmouth Pavilion

Rewilding is a topic which is often in the news, together with current concerns about sustainability and climate change. John Davidson, a former teacher of geography and world development, gave us a clear and informative talk about the meaning, value and issues surrounding rewilding.

For most of the Twentieth century, "conservation" was the drive towards protection of individual species and their habitats, with work done by local Wildlife Trusts and organisations such as the RSPB. Climate change, urban development and farming methods have all contributed to the decline in habitats and biodiversity. Drawing ideas from North America, there is much interest now in "rewilding", a broader concept to reinstate natural processes and restore habitats, encourage biodiversity and reintroduce keystone species such as wild boar and beavers. Locally, the river Otter project is an example of reinstating wetlands to adjust to rising sea levels. There are seven examples of Rewilding in the South West, including several farms and the Wild Exmoor project.

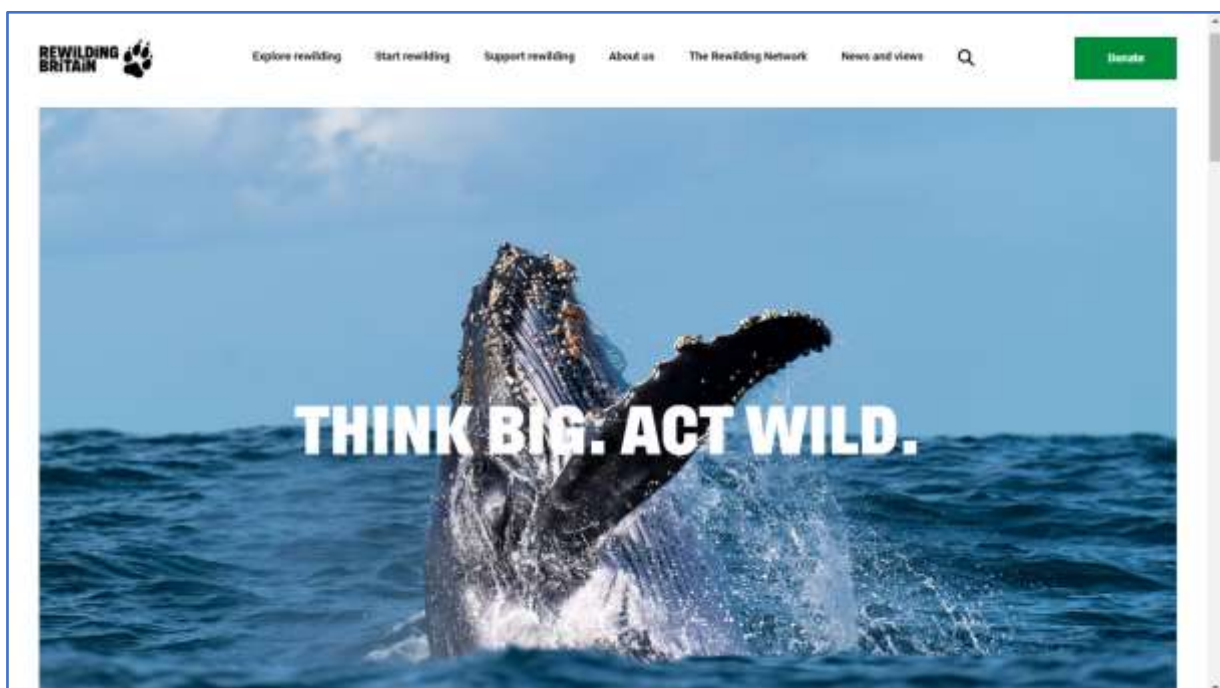
The rewards of rewilding can be economic, for example, less expenditure on maintenance for farmers, income from nature-based tourism, and "green health". There remain concerns, however, such as the amount of land required, the lack of an evidential baseline, the unpredictable outcomes, landscape changes, and the possible side effects of animal reintroductions.

We are all aware that there is a crisis in wildlife. "Wilding" of smaller scale areas is also important. Wild areas in gardens, wildflowers in parks, on road verges and roundabouts, and small garden ponds all have their part to play.

Many thanks again to John for this excellent talk, which was both informative and entertaining.

**Ann Newby**  
**Speakers' Coordinator**

*During his presentation, John referred to the excellent and informative Rewilding Britain website. To look at this, click or tap on this link: <https://www.rewildingbritain.org.uk/>*



## Share your family memories of World War 2

We have been contacted by Maggie Sims, u3a National Research & Shared Learning Coordinator, about 'Their Finest Hour' which is a project by Oxford University to collect and archive stories from WW2, either from the survivors who can remember the war as children or from the next generation who can pass on the stories handed down by their parents. There was a previous project on WW1 and one of the people who worked on that is now a U3A member and is leading the partnership with Oxford. There will be familiarisation sessions for u3a members and it is intended to have the first of these in May. Please sign up using the link in the first bullet point below, and you will be kept up to date with all plans and events:



U3a members are invited to take part in 'Their Finest Hour', a Heritage Lottery-funded nationwide campaign organised by the University of Oxford to collect and preserve the everyday stories and objects of the Second World War.

As these personal stories are fast fading from living memory, it is vital to preserve them and the wartime objects that often accompany them. As well as artefacts from the front, there are the experiences of those at home, including women and children.

### How can you help?

- Subscribe to a national email group where u3a members can share views, air your Q&As with 'Their Finest Hour', and generally keep in the loop at <https://forms.office.com/e/ctt2eu6v2c>
- Attend the u3a Online Learning Event, date tbc.
- Share this message in your u3a, on Facebook, and in your newsletters.
- Go to a 'Digital Collection Day' to bring your stories or volunteer at it.
- Run a collection in your activity group over several meetings.
- Go online and upload your war-related stories and materials at <https://theirfinesthour.english.ox.ac.uk/>

'Digital Collection Days' are being run at a host of museums, libraries, services charities, and schools across the country, from Belfast, Cumbria, and Edinburgh down to Essex, London, Oxfordshire, and South Wales. u3a members volunteered at one of the first 'Days' in Oxford:

"It's like 'Flog It!' or 'Antiques Roadshow' without the valuation! There's so much you can do, from meet-and-greet to what I enjoyed the most, showing someone their husband's war record online – he flew Lancasters – helping them understand more about their family story."

Ally Edwards, u3a Evesham and District, 10 March

There are connections between 'Their Finest Hour' and u3a groups, for example, genealogy, local history, creative writing, photography, storytelling, getting our members confident in using technology, and combating loneliness. Find out more on <https://theirfinesthour.english.ox.ac.uk/>

There is a short video which explains more about this project – click or tap on this link: <https://youtu.be/Kl183sUQktQ>



## Our u3a Artists

From time to time we have been able to feature the artistic and creative talents of some of our members in the newsletter. You may remember the exceptional illustrations from Margaret Mackintosh that we showed alongside the review of her brilliant talk on 'Aesthetic Geology' (see last November's newsletter), and the recording of her talk on our u3a YouTube channel is at <https://youtu.be/4WA-B6p3lsw>

She has very kindly given us permission to showcase some more of her art. Here are some more of her pet portraits.



*Mr Cooper*



*Mr Barker*



*Pedro*



*Clio*

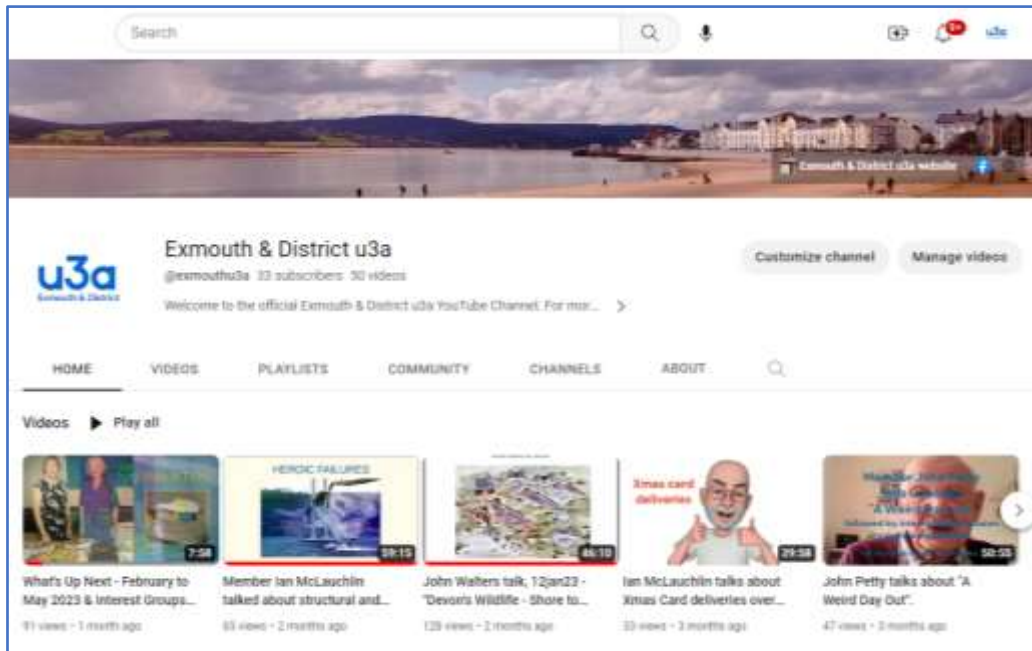


*Poppy*

## Exmouth & District u3a online – our digital world

Here’s a reminder of all our online resources. We have such a lot to offer all members, so why not find time to take a look! What do you think? How can you contribute? Please let me know (email address below).

- Our Exmouth & District u3a website: <https://u3asites.org.uk/exmouth/home>
- Our u3a YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/@exmouthu3a>
- Our u3a Facebook Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/exmouthU3A>
- Our u3a Connect & Learn website: <https://sites.google.com/view/connectandlearn>, and see especially our u3a What’s On guide at <https://sites.google.com/view/connectandlearn/whats-on>



Last month I asked you whether you had seen the most recent videos posted on our YouTube channel yet (see image above)? The latest is Christine’s Chittock’s video ‘What’s Up Next – February to May 2023 & Interest Groups’. Please take a look – and can you spot the groups you belong to? Just click or tap on this link to view: <https://youtu.be/hEAbGKSkOAs>

## Our next edition

I hope you have enjoyed reading this newsletter, and a big thank you to our contributors this month. Would you like to contribute anything for our next newsletter in May? **Photos and articles about anything that has happened in your groups would be especially welcome, and photos, art, short articles and stories and poems from more members would be really appreciated.** The deadline for receipt of copy for this next edition is **Monday 24 April 2023**. Please contact me using the email address below.



Thank you very much.

*John Hunt*

**Newsletter Editor**

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