



Chat from the Chair



We have been most fortunate over this last year to have had many opportunities to celebrate 10 years of our u3a. Socialising at coffee mornings, an extremely generous donation by one of our members for the planting of 100 trees in the u3a's national copse in the Brecon Beacons, enjoying trips with Stuart Line Cruises, entertainment by and for our members in the Pavilion and via Zoom, an exquisite hand-crafted 10th anniversary quilt by our very own quilting group and much more. With many thanks to our committee, our Social Committee, Meeters and Greeters and many other members who have all played their part in helping to make this year special. Once again particular thanks to our original steering committee from 2012 who worked so hard to get our u3a off the ground.

Whilst it is important to reminisce and look back on fond memories it is important too to look forward. This newsletter is a bumper edition for December and January and as we enter 2023, please do give some thought as to how you may be able to help our committee either by stepping forward to join the committee or as mentioned before by offering help with proof reading newsletters, writing reviews, distributing leaflets/posters, offering secretarial, technological and or financial assistance and or joining our Meeters and Greeters. I am hoping that by the time this newsletter goes out Lyn Holmes, our Vice Chair will have been contacted by a number of you who are interested in finding out more about how you can help and play your part in securing our u3a's future.





It was so good to see so many of you in the Pavilion for an excellent eloquent and most interesting presentation by Wendy Richards Wood on 10th November. See

<https://www.exmouthjournal.co.uk/news/23123287.exmouth-u3a-host-rnli-presentation/>

Your generosity was recognised by Wendy: "The group donation together with individual donations raised an amazingly generous £385.53! All of which will go to the RNLI's purpose of Saving Lives at Sea. Thank you so much." Please see page 8.

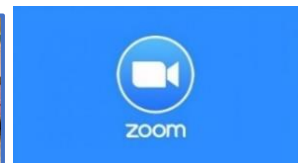
Continuing with the 10th Anniversary theme, to conclude our celebrations 10 fruit trees will be planted on National Trust land at Lower Halsdon Farm just off the multi user path from the Estuary trail in Exmouth. 10 trees for 10 years and a provisional date of Friday 13th January 2023; date and time to be confirmed. So keep an eye out for confirmation by email. It would be wonderful to see some of you there. See page 7.

Thanks again for a wonderful celebratory year and my very good wishes to you all for a vibrant, active year for our u3a in 2023.

Christine, Chair

Our monthly meetings

On 10th November, Wendy Richards Wood gave a fascinating and most informative talk about "Women of the RNLI", about which Christine has written elsewhere in the Newsletter.



Thursday 8th December: Dr Todd Gray will give a topical talk on "Christmas in Devon", a look at the customs practised in Devon at Christmas in the past and how they have developed into the celebrations we know now. Todd is well known to us from previous talks and is always very interesting and entertaining.

Thursday 12th January 2023: Looking further ahead into the New Year, our first talk of the year will be given by John Walters and is entitled "Devon's Wildlife – Shore to Moor". John has been giving natural history talks for 20 years to, amongst others, Devon Wildlife Trust and Dartmoor National Park Authority. There will be a combination of field sketches, photographs and video clips. Wildlife includes dancing adders, giant slugs, roe deer and roosting long-tailed tits.

Thursday 9th February: we shall have a talk from Candy Adkins, whose mother, Jackie Moggridge, was a pioneering pilot, learning to fly at the age of 15. In the Second World War, she joined firstly the Women's Auxiliary Airforce and then the Women's Transport Auxiliary. Her autobiography is entitled Spitfire Girl and will be on sale at this meeting.

As always, these talks are in **Exmouth Pavilion at 10.15 for 10.30**. We do hope to see as many of you as possible there. Also, there is 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.



We would also always like to hear from you if there are speakers you can recommend or subjects that you would especially like to hear about.

Ann Newby
Speakers' Coordinator

speakers@exmouthu3a.org.uk



Meetings on Zoom

In addition to streaming the monthly meeting on Zoom, everyone is very welcome to join us on other Thursdays **for our Zoom Coffee & Chat sessions and members' presentations**. 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 on a 'show and tell' basis, particularly any activities you have participated in as a group member. 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 below.

The dates for Our Zoom Coffee & Chat sessions in December and January are **Thursday 1 December, Thursday 15 December, Thursday 29 December, Thursday 5 January and Thursday 19 January**.

December member's presentation. This is on **Thursday 22 December** at the usual time of **10:15 for 10:30 – 11:30 via Zoom** and is to be given by **John Petty** who will be talking about **"A Weird Day Out"**, with apologies to Wallace and Gromit!

January member's presentation. This is on **Thursday 26 January 2023** at the usual time of **10:15 for 10:30 – 11:30 via Zoom**, and we are very pleased to welcome **Ian McLaughlin** back for another of his talks when he will be presenting **'Heroic Failures'**. Structures fail even though they've been designed not to. Remember Ronan Point? The Tacoma Narrows Bridge? The Comet jet plane? Concorde? What happens that causes failure? Could be lots of things – faulty design, unexpected degradation of materials, environmental attack, are just a few of the possibilities. We have a look at a range of examples, talk a bit about materials and wonder whether lessons have been learnt.

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 **changed last month. Here, until further notice, are the connection details to use now:**

Click or tap on the link shown in the members' edition of this newsletter and in emails sent direct to members.

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.

Group news

We have a few new Groups hoping to start and a couple re-starting:

- **Photography Group**

We have a new Group Organiser for the group. Please contact Chaz Madge by email for information.

- **Dyslexia Self Help Group**

I am 76 years old and have had to deal with being an undiagnosed Dyslexic until my late thirties. I have no expertise or qualifications to offer, but when I discovered that there is no Dyslexia Association based in Devon, which is a large county, I decided to start a self-help group. This might appeal to people who have struggled at school or college and perhaps in life. My wife and I only became fully aware of Dyslexia when our son was 2 years behind with reading and needed extra tuition. I believe it would be beneficial to meet up with like-minded people in order to share knowledge or experiencing similar problems, as often Dyslexics can feel isolated. I plan to meet on a Wednesday at 14.00 hrs, every 2 weeks or monthly. Contact me, Ian Upton, via my email address.



- **Bake & Taste 2**

Enjoy cooking and trying different foods? A second Bake & Taste group is looking for members to get it off the ground. The group organiser will be Lynn Wood with Pam Day (Group Organiser for Bake & Taste 1) helping just to get the group going. The idea will be to meet monthly, with members taking it in turns to host. The day, time and format will be decided by the members once sufficient numbers have put their name down. If you're interested or would like to know more, please email Lynn Wood or Pam Day.

- **Ideas For Memoir Group**

We have vacancies for Tuesday. Please contact Leonora Wilson by email for more information (and see the group report on pages 12 and 13).

- **Connect & Learn**

With the dark winter evenings and with the weather getting colder, the New Year is a great time to start learning about things you have always want to learn about. Our Connect & Learn Group is very flexible, and you can meet in-person wherever and whenever you wish, or Zoom, or a mix of both. More about what we can do is on our very own dedicated website –



<https://sites.google.com/view/connectandlearn>. You can see from this that there are so many different subjects to choose from – see <https://sites.google.com/view/connectandlearn/topics> and especially free online courses – <https://sites.google.com/view/connectandlearn/topics/moocs>, as well as previously identified topics such as astronomy, meditation and mindfulness, computers and exploring music online. If you're interested or want to find our more, please contact John Hunt by email at johnh@exmouthu3a.org.uk

- **Pickleball**

Pickleball is the new craze that is sweeping the nation and Exmouth & District u3a.

What do Bill Gates, Gorge Clooney, Leonardo Di Caprio, the Kardashians and Emma Watson all have in common? They all play pickleball.

Pickleball is the fastest growing sport nobody has heard of, the game is a cross between badminton, tennis, and table tennis, and will probably have a place in the 2028 Olympic Games, making it the most interesting new sport that everyone knows about.

Pickleball is played indoors or outdoors (in the summer) on slightly altered badminton or tennis courts. You can now have pickleball holidays as many of the top holiday resorts are converting courts to incorporate the growing number of players.



Photos by Bob Nicholl



What other racket sport has such silly terms like Dinking, Falafel, Kitchen, Pickler, Dillball and Flabjack?

Here in Exmouth, we have our own group of celebrity pickleballers. In fact, we have nearly 60 players and we play at two different venues, and we have 3 sessions per week at present (and this is just from September). Our Exmouth & District u3a pickleballers can come along and use the equipment supplied. All you need is to wear a good pair of indoor trainers (black-soled trainers are not advisable).

The cost per session ranges from £3.50–£4 depending on venue.

There are many, many videos on YouTube to show you what playing pickleball is all about. Just enter 'pickleball' and you'll be amazed and think why has it taken so long for such a gentle, fun and exciting sport to come along?

Unfortunately, all of our groups/sessions are full, but in the new year I intend to have more groups and sessions and additional venues.

u3a – Learn, Laugh, Play Pickleball!

Bob Nicholls, Group Organiser

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.

- Budleigh Salterton and surrounding areas: Alice Robson
Meets the 2nd Friday monthly (to be arranged).
- Exmouth – Dagmar Road area (bordered by The Beacon, Louisa Terrace, Trefusis Terrace and Rolle Road): Sally Parnell
The next meetings are at the Imperial Hotel 9th December at 10.30 and 6th January at 10.30
- Exmouth – Littleham area: Susan Hall
meets on various days and times, so please email Susan for further information
- Exmouth – Mount Pleasant area: Anne Howard
- Exmouth – Rivermead Road area: Nicola Antoni
Nicola and Anne have joined together. The group normally meets at Greenfingers on a Tuesday am. Please email for information.
- Exmouth – Shelly Road, Camperdown Terrace and The Marina: Victoria Newhouse
- Exmouth – Withycombe area: Jan Collett
Withycombe's next meeting is at Bumble and Tee in Phear Park on Tuesday 2–4pm fortnightly.
- Ottery St Mary area: Ronnie Harwood
- Topsham area: Chris Pondsford
We are planning to meet on the first and third Fridays of the month at Nancy Potter House, a short way up Nelson Close from the High Street, from about 10.30 am for a coffee and chat.
- Woodbury, Woodbury Salterton and East Budleigh: Lin Milsom–Ashby
The next Woodbury meeting is at The Maltsters on Tuesday 13th December at 10.30



Just to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Lyn Holmes,
Groups Coordinator
groups@exmouthu3a.org.uk



Social Committee News

We have nearly reached the final event of this year – and what a year! **8th December** is the date when it is hoped many of our members will come together for the **annual Christmas Lunch** to be held, as usual, at The Royal Beacon Hotel. Arrival is between 12.30 and 1.00 pm and the Social Committee look forward to seeing you there.

The first outing for 2023 will be the **'Bird-Watching' trip** organised by Stuart Line Cruises. There are 30 places available and tickets – at £11.00 each – will be on sale at the beginning of our next monthly meeting, 8th December. They will also be available at the January and February monthly meetings. The date for this trip is **20th February, 2023 at 1.30pm**. There will be refreshments on board for members to purchase but no specific arrangements have been made on this occasion with Stuart Line, to arrange these beforehand.

However, from past experience, this is a wonderful cruise and there will be a full commentary from a member of the RSPB, who has always been very keen to answer questions from passengers. PLEASE WEAR WARM CLOTHING as most passengers like to travel on the top deck for the best views.

Method of payment for these tickets is as follows:

1. Send a cheque for Mrs L Holmes. Cheques to be made out to 'Exmouth & District u3a'
2. Pay via Internet Banking and then please email Lyn Holmes to confirm your payment after which your tickets will be sent to you.
3. Buy your ticket at the December, January and February monthly meeting where cheques would be preferred and there will also be a card reader available. However, if your preferred payment method is cash this will also be acceptable.

Members of the Social Committee are always on hand at the monthly meetings to help so please do not hesitate to ask if you have queries at all.

All that remains is to say is that hopefully we will see some members at the Christmas Lunch but whatever other arrangements you may have may we wish you a peaceful, Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy 2023.



Kind regards from the Social Committee,

Alice Robson, Lyn Holmes, Clare Dawson and Jenny Comben
Social Committee





10 Fruit Trees for 10 Years Tree Planting on Friday 13th January 2022 10:30 – 12:30 Land at Lower Halsdon Farm, Exmouth

To mark ten years of our u3a, ten fruit trees will be planted by National Trust volunteers on land at Lower Halsdon Farm, Exmouth on **Friday 13th January 2023**. Our u3a members are invited to participate and Meg Vallender National Trust Visitor Experience Officer has sent us the following:

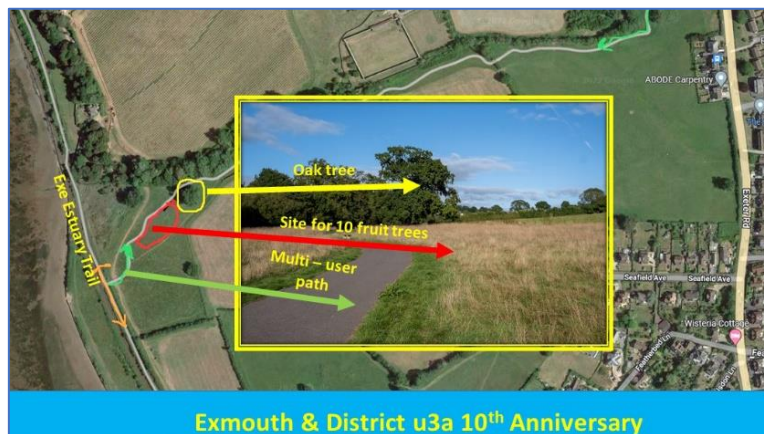
Details for the day:

- Please meet at 10:30, at the entrance to the multi-user path off Exeter Road, Exmouth:
- Please wear weather appropriate outdoor clothing. There is no shelter where we will be working.
- If you have tough gloves, please bring them. I also have spares for everyone to borrow, if you would like to.
- Roadside parking is available on Exeter Road near the entrance to the path, or nearby on Seafielc Ave (off Exeter Road)
- Don't forget to bring a flask of tea and snacks.
- Sorry, there are no toilets on site.



For travel by the 57 bus: The 57 leaves Exmouth Peacocks at 10:03. Get off at Hulham, Rivermead and the entrance is on the left-hand side just past the traffic lights. For members from Topsham the 57 leaves Topsham Railway Station at 09:54. (Lympstone Saddlers Arms at 10:05). Get off at Hulham Courtlands Cross (opposite Esso garage) walk down the hill and cross over the road at the traffic lights for the entrance to the multi user path.

The tree planting will take place here close to the multi-user path just off the Exe Estuary Trail.



If you would like to attend the tree planting on 13th January 2023 10:30 to 12:30 either as a spectator or as a participant please email Christine Chittock, chairperson@exmouthu3a.org.uk, by 5th January 2023 at the latest. Please list the subject of your email as 'Tree planting'.

Meg has also invited our members to stay on afterwards to help weed the fruit trees at Lower Halsdon Community Orchard (located on the same pathway closer to Exeter Road) and remove some plastic tree guards on a hedge bank along the pathway until 14:30 15:00.

Looking forward to seeing you on 13th January 2023,

Christine Chittock, Chair



Review of 'Women of the RNLI' by Wendy Richards Wood in Exmouth Pavilion on 10th November 2022

An audience of 150 in the Pavilion and 23 via 'Zoom' welcomed Wendy Richards Wood, a Volunteer Community Presenter for Teignmouth RNLI to the regular u3a monthly meeting in Exmouth Pavilion on 10th November. Wendy is currently the only presenter in the region who can offer a talk on the role of women in the RNLI and by the end of the presentation the audience were definitely well aware of the important and essential role of the RNLI and the contributions of women.

Wendy emphasised the role of the RNLI, 95% of whom are volunteers: 'The RNLI do all they can to save everyone, without judgement or preference.' An important message to convey with many different reasons for rescuing and assisting people at sea including migrants.

Across the years women had played a significant role, including Grace Darling who is commemorated at the Grace Darling Museum in Bamburgh. Wendy told the dramatic tale of Grace's tremendous feat in rescuing nine survivors from the wrecked SS Forfarshire in 1838.

Bringing us right up to date Wendy highlighted the role of women today with examples of women such as Di Bush of Harwich as the first full time woman coxswain for the RNLI. Also the bravery of women such as Carolina Clements RNLI Lifeguard who rescued six people; three swimmers and three surfers from a possible rip tide disaster in Scarborough.



Photo of Wendy Richards Wood and Christine Chittock by Maurice Chittock

Fundraising remains essential for the RNLI and Wendy highlighted the ways in which people could help, from legacies, donations, supporting RNLI shops and merchandise and much more. At the end of a wonderful presentation Wendy said: "Don't worry if you haven't got cash, as I have a card reader!" Christine Chittock, Chairperson, thanked Wendy for an excellent and inspirational presentation and wasn't surprised to see many u3a members keen to ask questions and to make both cash and card donations. Following the presentation Wendy asked for her thanks to be extended to Exmouth and District u3a for such a warm welcome and response to her talk. "The group donation together with individual donations raised an amazingly generous £385.53! All of which will go to the RNLI's purpose of Saving Lives at Sea. Thank you so much."

With many thanks to Ann Newby, Speakers' Coordinator for liaising with Wendy Richards Wood.

Review by Christine Chittock, Chairperson



Review of 'A Tale of Two Cities', 'Monopolising Oxford', 'Holloway' and 'The More the Merrier' by Ian Bateman FRPS MPAGB AV-AFIAP APAGB via Zoom on Thursday 24th Nov 2022



A very warm welcome was extended to Ian, one of our members who has given us many wonderful presentations both in the Pavilion and via Zoom. Members were entertained and informed by Ian's incredible variety of audio visuals (AVs) with his masterful storytelling, great creativity, superb photography and well timed and very well-chosen music and sound effects.

A Tale of Two Cities was produced by Ian for the town twinning association of Bath UK and Alkmaar, Netherlands; the story of Eli Prins escape from Alkmaar in the 2nd WW and how the twinning connection came about and flourishes to this day. Very well put together by Ian with historical images and photos from the camera clubs in Bath and Alkmaar, enjoyed by us and something to treasure by the cities of Bath and Alkmaar.

Another city with Ian's 'Monopolising Oxford' with clever use of photos of the iconic monopoly pieces, the cards, money and the board itself, blended to perfection with the visuals, the music and the sound of the roll of the dice. An intriguing tour of the places on the board; the Ashmolean and the Oxford covered market were there but what about the popularly known Bridge of Sighs and the Headington Shark house and other tourist highlights. Ian speculated on the missing places so famous both here and abroad that it was surprising they weren't included, but had sponsorship and investment played their part?

'Life imitating art'? A brand new AV 'Holloway'* and a tour of a walk through spectacular holloways, including the amazing Hell Lane that runs between Symondsburry and North Chideock in Dorset. Brought to life by a dramatic voice over and music, skilful processing of photos, artistic design and clever timing and use of blends so that we were there too.

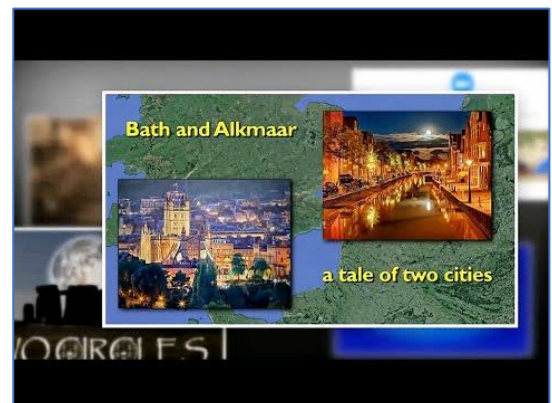
To finish 'More the Merrier' a seasonal tour de force of photos taken in London, with fast moving images crossing our screen in all directions, vibrant colours and all well timed to the music. A fantastic finale. As ever we had been treated and spoilt as we were able to sit back and be entertained by Ian's hard work, research, brilliant photography and accomplished AV making.

Not to be missed: Our Exmouth & District u3a AGM followed by 'An Audio-Visual Extravaganza' by Ian Bateman in Exmouth Pavilion 10:00 for 10:30 Thursday 11th May 2023.

Review and photo by Christine Chittock, Chair

Ian very kindly let us record his session with all four of his AVs, and we have put this recording on our own u3a YouTube channel. So it's there for you all to watch (or watch again!) at any time. Just click or tap on either this link or on the image on the right - <https://youtu.be/EQjnuKWWdf0>

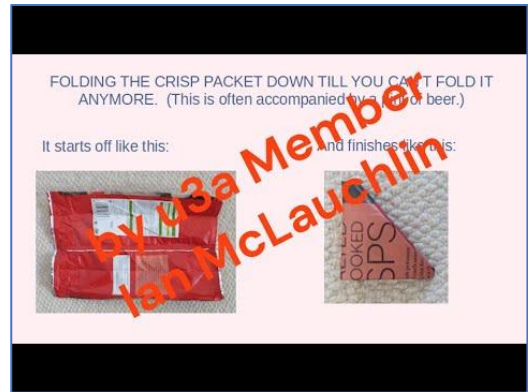
*Holloway: "A road or track that is significantly lower than the land on either side, not formed by recent engineering but possibly of much greater age." Source: Wikipedia





Review of 'Things to Do with a Crisp Packet'– Ian McLauchlin

At our Coffee and Chat Zoom meeting on 17 November 2022, Ian McLauchlin told us about his secret way with empty packets of crisps. You can fold them down to a small triangle. Intriguingly, this only works perfectly if the crisp packet has certain dimensions. Ian showed us how to find the right dimensions. He then measured a few crisp packets and found that, of all those he measured, only the M&S crisp packet was perfect. M&S Customer Services didn't want to know! Comments from audience members: "It is absolutely hilarious." "I got through 3 tissues this morning laughing so much." You can see the recording of his talk by clicking or tapping here: <https://youtu.be/DtmsY-5RUHs>
Thank you very much Ian.



u3a Quilting for Fun Group – 10th Anniversary Quilt



This is a reminder that draw tickets for the wonderful 10th anniversary quilt created by our u3a Quilting for Fun Group are available for purchase at our monthly meetings. This is in aid of raising funds for improved accessibility for u3a members. So please bring some money with you to our next monthly meeting in Exmouth Pavilion on 8 December so that you can have the chance of winning this magnificent quilt.



Snow in Switzerland – from Ian McLauchlin



Lake in Switzerland



House in Switzerland



Sunset in Switzerland



Skiing in Switzerland

All photos from Ian McLaughlin



News from the Groups – u3a Memoir Groups

Each of the two groups already has its own flavour, each member deciding their individual pattern of working, to achieve whatever is their aim. A personal memoir can be ‘cradle to grave’ or snippets from the past. Members choose to share photos and stories, with suggestions and tips to get started, to progress and to collate. For some they may write very little.

Looking back, our viewpoints shift, and with rewriting often comes understanding of the past. Stories of engineering inventions, working with the Royal Ballet, memories of wartime France and creative experiences from our youth all have been shared and will hopefully become our ‘marks on the cave wall.’

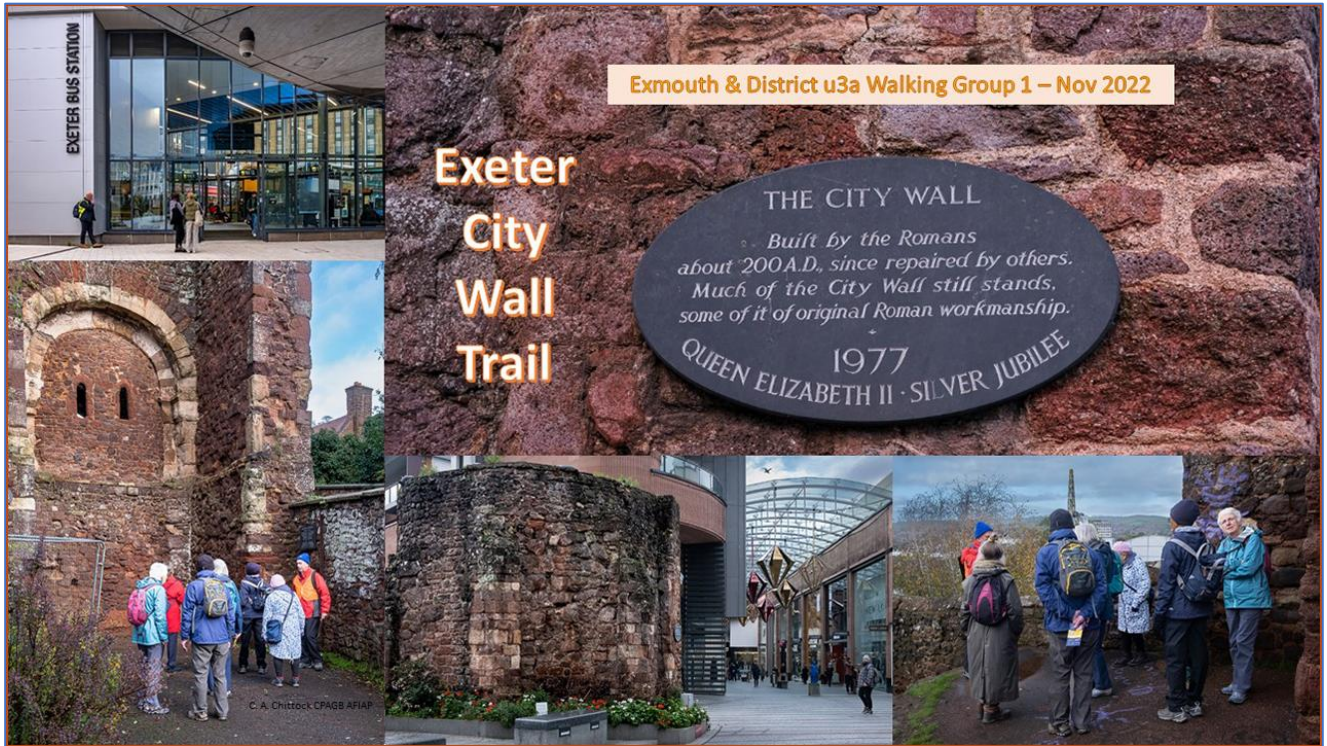
One of our members, Nicole Pakenham, has written a personal memoir which you can read on the next page.



The groups are limited to 5 + host and are held on Tuesday and Thursday, 10am till noon. They are run fortnightly, giving time to write between meetings, but often enough to keep the impetus going. Although the groups are now full, after a few meetings some members may be unable to attend, so do sign up for the waiting list if this intrigues you.

Leonora Wilson, Group Organiser

News from the Groups – Walking Group 1



Collage by Christine Chittock



Nicole Pakenham’s Tale – u3a Thursday Memoir Group: 03.11.22

Sometimes a comment or a major event brings back memories long forgotten.

This is what happened to me when I read that billionaire business man John Caudwell, the Phone 4u founder, has vowed to switch off the heating in all but one room of his Staffordshire estate. His motivation is political. He wants to make Vladimir Putin “a few dollars worse off” for all the hardships he has imposed on Ukraine and on the West.

In the South of France, where I grew up in the 1940’s, there was no question to switch off the central heating. There was not any, in the second floor flat where I lived in Nice. The only warm room was the kitchen where we had a gas cooker for everyday cooking and a stove using coal and providing heating in winter. There was a chimney in the dining room where grand-ma used to sleep but, as far as I can remember, its main purpose was to enable Father Christmas to deliver presents. The heat generated in the kitchen would spread down a corridor leading to the other rooms.

Everyday, back from school, we would take off our clothes and put on a light dressing gown in summer and a warm one in the winter. Our clothes had to remain clean as long as possible. We did not have a washing machine. Everything was washed by hand then hanged on a washing line outside the kitchen window which was overlooking a courtyard where my sister and I used to play with our friends.

We did not have a bathroom, just a toilet where an intriguing “bidet” was used by the adult members of the family. Baths or showers were unknown to us but hygiene was maintained thanks to the hot water heated on the stove in winter and the gas cooker in the summer. Once a week a ceremonial would take place for my sister and I. A round tub full of hot water was placed on the kitchen floor. It was bath time, our “happy hour”. The rest of the week we had to manage with the sink like everybody else.



We did not need advice from the government to know how to save electricity.

My sister and I shared a bedroom. We had two small beds on each side of the window. I was a voracious reader in my youth but, at 9pm sharp, my grandma would switch off all our lights. In those days, before mobile phones and i-pads had been invented, a child’s bedroom was for sleeping. So to carry on reading, I had to do with the help of the moon and the street-lamp well positioned below the window.

We had no telephone, let alone a television which was introduced in the flat in the late sixties when I had left home long ago. However I had the pleasure to listen endlessly to my first record player when I was 16, having worked all summer to pay for it. This is to say electricity was used moderately compared with to-day, but we enjoyed listening to the radio especially on Tuesday evening when a special programme called “Reine d’un jour” kept us around the kitchen table.

Looking back I can say I never felt a deprived child. I did not know any better.



As the West is gradually starved of gas and electricity and, out of necessity, adopts a more basic way of life, producing less pollution in the process, I wonder if Vladimir Putin will be, unwittingly, the one to save our planet, if however he has not destroyed it beforehand.

Nicole Pakenham, Member, Memoir Group



News from the Groups – Bird Watching Group 2

On Wednesday 16th November, we were very lucky to be walking around Exminster Marshes during the narrow window of dry weather. None of us remember seeing so many birds; there were thousands. We watched as two marsh harriers sent flocks of lapwing, golden plover and black-tailed godwit up into the air. They were joined at various times by a kestrel and a peregrine falcon. We also saw hundreds of wigeon, teal, starling and Canada geese. There were lots of dunlin, swans, curlew and whimbrel in addition to the occasional greenshank, ruff, skylark, robin and great tit. What we failed to see, but were shown a photo of, was a beaver in a bank by the estuary. We were in the pub for lunch when it started to rain.

A terrific morning. Thanks to Henry for organising this event.

Debbie Wright, Group Organiser

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> (but please see the item about this on the next page)
- 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> (now expanded – see item on the next page)

Some of you may have noticed that we have changed the website address for our YouTube channel to something more memorable (although the old link will still work).



Winter in Slovakia by Ella Young



Our Exmouth & District u3a website – current problems

Some of you may be aware of problems with the servers nationally which have affected our own u3a website which has very unfortunately been out of action since mid-November. The Third Age Trust (the national u3a) is responsible for this and is doing its best to sort this out, so we hope it will back up and running very soon. At the time of publication of this newsletter (1 December), the position is that they have said *“Due to circumstances beyond our control, SiteBuilder websites – used by a number of our u3as – are down due to technical difficulties with the organisation that hosts the websites. The Third Age Trust (the SiteBuilder volunteers and senior staff) are working very hard to help resolve this. We are in touch regularly with the u3as committees affected and are working towards resolution soon.”*

As an interim measure, those of you who look at our own u3a Facebook Group will be aware that in November I created an Exmouth & District u3a emergency webpage which is an expanded version of our What’s On webpage and now also contains key information about our u3a, as well as links to our leaflet and some of our recent YouTube videos, and much more besides.

You see this by clicking or tapping on this short-cut link –
<https://tinyurl.com/44cmvcry>



Please take a look at this and see what you think. It may be useful to maintain this as an easy-to-use quick guide to everything that is important and currently happening within our u3a. It may also be useful to have an alternative back-up webpage just in case there are problems with our main website in the future. What do you think? Please let me know (email address below).

Our next edition

I hope you have enjoyed reading this newsletter, and a big thank you to our contributors this month. Our next newsletter is the February edition. Would you like to contribute anything for this next newsletter? 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 **Tuesday 24th January 2023**. Please contact me using the email address below. Thank you very much.



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Very best wishes for Christmas and the New Year