



## Chat from the Chair



I'd like to extend a warm welcome to all members from myself (Mike Turff - your new Chairman), from the revised Committee (some old faces, some new faces) and from our new Newsletter Editor, Rachel Cockell who has created this excellent newsletter.

Unfortunately, due to prior commitments I was unable to host the June monthly meeting, however I have promised to be there in person for the next monthly meeting at The Pavilion on July 13<sup>th</sup> at 10.00am for a 10.30am start. Details of the upcoming monthly meetings are on the next page. Please feel free to come and say hello and have a chat with me either before or after the speaker's presentation.

As in previous years, due to so many members being away on holidays or hosting extended families, we will not be meeting in August. The next monthly meeting is scheduled for September 14<sup>th</sup> and we hope to be able to ease you into this by hosting a welcome back coffee and chat session on September 5<sup>th</sup> (details on page 9).

I'm pleased to let you all know that the recent raffle for the spectacular handmade quilt has raised £373 which will be dedicated to aiding those members with limited accessibility or mobility to participate in future u3a events. Thank you so much for contributing to the raffle and to the Quilting Group for the outstanding work to produce the quilt.

For information, our committee meetings are held on the second Tuesday in the month from 13:30 – 15:30 at Radcliffe House, 1 Burnside, Exmouth. These committee meetings are open to every member and if you would like to attend any of these as an observer please contact Mike Turff [chairman@exmouthu3a.org.uk](mailto:chairman@exmouthu3a.org.uk)

Thank you all!

Mike Turff, Chairman

Toni Tope was delighted to win the quilt.



Photo by Maurice Chittock – Collage by Christine Chittock

## Next two monthly meetings

You are most welcome to join us for our monthly meetings at **10:00, usually for a 10:30 start to approx. 11:45.** These are held in **Exmouth Pavilion.**

Date	Presenter	Description
13 July	<b>HM Coastguard Agency</b> Hugh de Souza	Some of our members have been or currently are members of Exmouth Coastwatch. Hugh currently works as a Coastwatch volunteer for Exmouth Coastwatch. Today more than 50 stations keep a visual watch around the coastline of England and Wales. Technological advances and better telecommunications have improved safety at sea but there is no substitute for a watchful pair of eyes by a trained member of Coastwatch. Hugh will talk about the important and indispensable work of HM Coastwatch Agency and their campaigns such as 'Coast Clever' which features footballer Adevayo Akinfenwa who educates audiences about the importance of checking tides and how to stay safe near cliffs and mud
14 Sep	<b>'Wildlife Wanderings'</b> David Bailey	David took his first television interview with Steve Etches the world-famous fossil collector talking about Steve's father who was a photographer, which will be a feature in a forthcoming eight-part documentary called <b>Plumbing the Depths</b> , David has also been filmed for a feature yet to be shown on ITV Wales Coast & Country talking about his work.

## Zoom Coffee & Chat – and live streaming

All members are very welcome to join us on Thursday mornings for our Zoom Coffee & Chat sessions. They are very informal sessions which are now held every week. They start at 10.30, but we suggest everyone logs in from 10.15, and they last 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. More details are on the Zoom Coffee & Chat Group page of our u3a website at

The Zoom connection details for these Coffee & Chat sessions are sent to members who are on our email circulation list and if you are not already on this and would like to join this and want to receive a reminder email about this the day before, please email me so that I can add you to our circulation list

If the speakers at our monthly meetings in Exmouth Pavilion are willing for their talks to be streamed live to members at home and if the technology permits, we aim to stream these talks live at the same time as our regular Zoom Coffee & Chat sessions. The details of the Zoom connection will be included in the email that goes to Zoom Coffee & Chat members the day before. In addition we will from time to time experiment with some live 'outside broadcasts' from other places just for interest and for fun!

Ian McLauchlin & Bryan Webb, Joint Group Organisers

## Exmouth & District u3a online – our digital world

Here's a reminder of all our online resources. We have such a lot to offer to all our members, so why not find time to take a look?

- o Our Exmouth & District u3a website: <https://u3asites.org.uk/exmouth/home>
- o Our u3a YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/@exmouthu3a>
- o Our u3a Facebook Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/exmouthU3A>
- o Our u3a Connect & Learn website: <https://sites.google.com/view/connectandlearn>,

## Meet your new committee

**Mike Turff** Chair  
[chairman@exmouthu3a.org.uk](mailto:chairman@exmouthu3a.org.uk)



**Olivia Pyne**  
Secretary  
[secretary@exmouthu3a.org.uk](mailto:secretary@exmouthu3a.org.uk)



Treasurer  
[treasurer@exmouthu3a.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@exmouthu3a.org.uk)

We are looking for a  
Treasurer. Would you  
like to volunteer?

**Lyn Holmes**  
Vice Chair and  
Groups Coordinator  
[vicechair@exmouthu3a.org.uk](mailto:vicechair@exmouthu3a.org.uk)



**Alice Robson**  
Committee member  
Social Committee  
[arobson@exmouthu3a.org.uk](mailto:arobson@exmouthu3a.org.uk)



**Olwen Smith**  
Committee member,  
Membership  
[membership@exmouthu3a.org.uk](mailto:membership@exmouthu3a.org.uk)



*Photo by Maurice Chittock*

### Presentations by retiring Chair



Photos by Maurice Chittock – Collage by Christine Chittock

### Vice Chair’s Report

At the AGM I forgot to mention that we presented our former Chairperson Christine Chittock with a bird bath to thank her for all her hard and committed work over her three-year term of office.

Lyn Holmes, Vice Chair



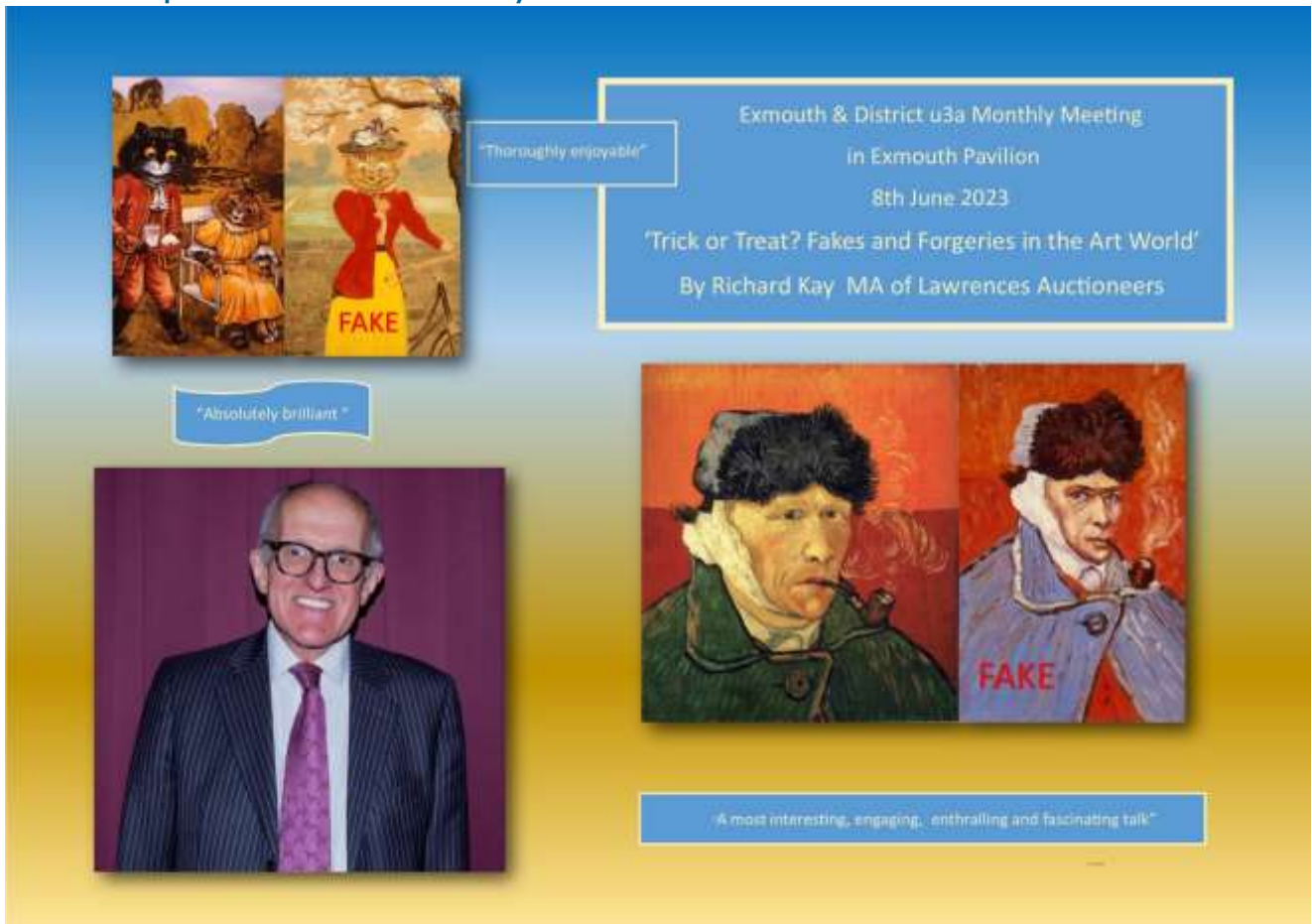
**Outgoing Chair welcoming New Chair**  
Photo by Maurice Chittock



Christine is delighted with the bird bath and it has been great to see so many birds using it. She would like to pass on her most grateful thanks to Lyn, the committee and everyone in the u3a with very best wishes for the future.

Photo by Maurice Chittock

## June's Speaker Richard Kay MA



Exmouth & District u3a Monthly Meeting  
in Exmouth Pavilion  
8th June 2023  
'Trick or Treat? Fakes and Forgeries in the Art World'  
By Richard Kay MA of Lawrences Auctioneers

"Thoroughly enjoyable"

"Absolutely brilliant"

"A most interesting, engaging, enthralling and fascinating talk"

Art images courtesy of Richard Kay - Collage by Christine Chittock

## Group Reports – Lyn Holmes

The Groups have all been taking place during June in the glorious weather. I will be sending a new Group List at the beginning of July.

A member has suggested asking if there is anybody willing to set up a Bridge Group.

### Groups with vacancies

Pickleball – Thursday 2 – 3.30pm at Cranford Sports Centre

Exballetcise

Beginners Tap

Botanical Art

### Groups that are looking for new members from September

Line Dancing

Ten Pin Bowling

**Petanque Club**

We had a really good response to forming a Petanque group to play on Friday mornings with 35 interested participants.

As a result, we established two groups, with the first playing 09.30 - 11.00 and the second from 11.00 - 12.30 on Friday mornings.



Our venue is the front lawn paths at The Imperial Hotel, which provides us with a picturesque location with the beach on one side and the hotel on the other.

We started our club on Friday 19th May, and our attendances have been brilliant (helped I'm in no doubt, by the fine weather we seem to have had every week – so far!)

All participants have been very willing to learn how to play Petanque and to understand basic techniques, rules and foibles of the game!! I have also been giving advice on purchasing sets of Boules, as the equipment currently in use (which incidentally weighs a ton - or seems like it when I am having to transport them !!) has been begged, stolen and borrowed from clubs and friends.

We seem to have achieved a good blend of activity, sociability and fun. My biggest task does seem to be controlling the chatter-boxes, in order that we can progress games!!

I am very grateful to Sue Travers, who let herself be press-ganged into helping me out on Friday mornings.

So a good start, with many enthusiastic participants – what more could we ask for ??

Graham Deasy  
Petanque Group Organiser

**Bird Group 1**

**Walk to Challacombe Sunday, 14th May**

Four intrepid birders led by Dick made an early start to get a parking slot at Grimspound. We made our way down the slope towards Headland Warren Farm and were soon rewarded with sightings of Wren, Whinchat, Stonechat and Wheatear. There were plenty of Meadow Pipits about but no sign nor sound of a Cuckoo. Birdsong abounded, most of which Dick was able to identify as the conditions were near perfect with light wind and bright light.





As we approached Challacombe Farm the bluebells appeared like a blue mist over the terraced fields. Nearing the buildings, Dick spotted a pair of Stock Doves. The Redstart and Flycatchers could be heard but were proving elusive. A Great Spotted Woodpecker put in a brief appearance and glimpses of Grey and Pied Wagtails and a Dipper were seen by the stream and then a Redstart very obligingly decided to perch on a fence post next to the lane where we all had a really good view. A filling finale to a beautiful walk.

Other birds seen: Swallows, Great & Blue Tits. Other birds heard included Willow Warblers, Reed Bunting, Chiffchaff and Blackcap. Butterflies seen included, Brimstone, Orange Tip and Green Veined White.

Vicky and John Swain



## Bird Watching Group 2

We started by walking along the open playing fields where we had sightings of magpie, wood pigeon, black-bird, swallow, blackcap, great tit and chaffinch. As we crossed the bridge it was obvious the river had washed away part of the bank where sand martins often nest, although the cooler Spring may also have contributed to their absence. The highlight of the next part of the walk along the river was seeing a kingfisher in flight and a small group of wagtails - grey, yellow and pied - catching the insects around the weir, followed by a cormorant swimming and diving as well as earlier seeing two instances of them flying low along the river. The other sightings were mallard, dunnock, jackdaw, long tailed tit, goldfinch, greenfinch and a buzzard. Unfortunately, the later Spring had delayed the wild flowers where we have previously seen many damsel flies however, we did spot an orange tip butterfly. The walk along the old railway track was much less productive than previously, however later along the edge of the playing field we did see a closed wing peacock butterfly.

We arrived back after a pleasant two hour walk which it was generally agreed was enjoyable because of the varied sightings along the river.

Paul Collas

### Urban Sketchers

#### The Urban Sketchers, March Meeting.

We were given access to Exmouth Museum, before it's 2023 seasonal opening.

There we had plenty of choice to find something to sketch.

The main area is full of local interests.

The brightly painted corridor houses,

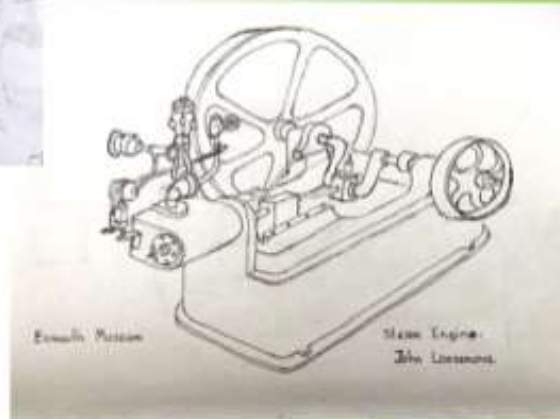
Ship memorabilia. That leads into,

The cottage, with the Tableau's and cases that are full of interesting items.

Up-stairs you will find local history, old school photographs, Children's toys and much more.

But I must include my favourite,

the Museum's Honiton Lace Collection.



We are a mixed group of different artistic abilities.

Working to improve and encourage support for each another.





I would like to recommend to U3A members if you have not made a visit to The Exmouth Museum. It is be well worth your time.



Selection of Sketches from previous meetings.



Article supplied by Beryl Leader

## Social Committee

Well, the end of our summer outings has sadly arrived and as previously mentioned there are no specific activities planned for July but the Committee are 'putting their heads together' and looking to our 2024 outings.

However trips over these past few months have proved to be a great success and this article on our last trip was sent to me by a member who visited Abbotsbury Swannery earlier in June:

### Abbotsbury – 7<sup>th</sup> June

With 50 members going it was a very well supported trip. The sun shone for us again and both the gardens and swannery were lovely. There was free time in the gardens for lunch and exploring in the morning – the Burmese rope bridge was particularly interesting to walk across! Photos: Angie Broadberry



A guided tour was arranged for the swannery in the afternoon and we had a very interesting and amusing guide to take us round. We learnt about the history, with the swannery dating back to the 11<sup>th</sup> century. It was set up by Benedictine monks who farmed the swans to provide for their banquets! Nowadays all the swans are free flying and provides sanctuary for them, they are free to come and go as they wish. It was lovely to see all the cygnets and just a few black swans making a visit.

Photos: Pam Day



Our next event is scheduled to take place on the 5<sup>th</sup> September. This is to be a social get-together for members to just meet-up, hopefully get to know one another and have that rare opportunity of just relaxing and chatting. There will be two sessions – morning 10am – 12 noon and in the afternoon from 2 – 4 pm. These will take place at the Imperial Hotel, Exmouth where a room has been booked together with free coffees or teas for members to drink whilst there. The Social Committee (who will be going as well) would like to hear any ideas of trips, visits or any social activity that members would find interesting. These ideas will be a great help in compiling next year's programme. We look forward to seeing as many of you who are able to attend.

October sees a trip to the Dartmouth Food Festival on 20<sup>th</sup> of the month and tickets will be sold at £18 each. These will be available at the September monthly meeting.

November, of course, will again see our u3a going on the Firework Cruise from Exmouth along the river Exe but arrangements for this, including the cost of tickets, are under discussion at the moment. However again, these tickets will be on sale in September.

More details of both the above trips will be circulated to members at the end of July.

Our Christmas lunch this year will take place on 6<sup>th</sup> December and will be at the Belmont Hotel in Sidmouth and tickets will be on sale at our October monthly meeting so this notice is just an early notification of the date and venue. Much further information will of course be forthcoming at a later date.

All I feel that is left for me to do is, on behalf of the Social Committee, wish you all a 'happy summer with lots of sun' and we will see you in September.

Best wishes to you all from Alice, Lyn, Pam, Clare, Jenny, June and Elaine (Social Committee).

## Local Hub Groups

Listed below are 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 - [groups@exmouthu3a.org.uk](mailto:groups@exmouthu3a.org.uk)

**New Group potentially at Lympstone** in the evening please contact for details

**Littlemead Local** - Nicola Antoni area

**Rivermead Area** - Anne Howard

**Mount Pleasant Area** - Nicola and Anne have joined together, and normally meet on alternate Tuesdays 10am at Greenfingers.

**Withycombe area** - Jan Collett

Our venue Phear Park Cafe on alternate Tuesdays between 1pm-4pm

**Littleham area** Susan Hall meets on various days and times email Susan for information

**Marina Area** Victoria Newhouse contact

**Salterton Road and The Avenues** Jan Harper Shea contact  
meets monthly at 10.30am in The Devoncourt Hotel. The next meeting will be on 11<sup>th</sup> July.

**Woodbury, Woodbury Salterton and East Budleigh** Lin Milsom-Ashby  
Next meeting is at The Maltsters Tuesday July 11<sup>th</sup> at 10.30

**Dagmar Road (bonded by The Beacon, Louisa Terrace, Trefusis and Rolle Road)** Sally Parnell  
meetings Imperial Hotel alternate Fridays 10.30 next one 3<sup>rd</sup> March

**Budleigh Salterton and surrounding areas** Alice Robson  
meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday monthly please contact Alice for information.

**Topsham and District hub** The revised core times for our bimonthly meetings are now - First Thursday 12.30 - 2.30pm at St Bridget's Nursery cafe, Sidmouth Road, Clyst St Mary Third Monday 11.0am - 1.0pm at Nancy Potter House cafe, Nelson Close, Topsham. All U3A members are welcome.



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

**Remembering Ella Young – member of Exmouth and District u3a**

Ella’s younger son Jonathan has written to let us know that Ella died peacefully on Weds 31st May and that she had been cared for with great dedication on the Hospiscare ward in Exeter.

I first met Ella on ‘Zoom’ at one of our weekly Exmouth and District u3a ‘Connect on Thursday’ sessions during the Lockdowns. It was evident that Ella was a most interesting, caring and thoughtful person passionate about the environment and so willing to take part and contribute to our u3a in any way she could.



And ‘help and contribute’ she certainly did through her well researched, fascinating presentations which she shared with a large group of us over ‘Zoom’ during the Lockdowns and restrictions. What a difference this made to us all with very few opportunities to get out and about and especially for our members who were housebound.

We were transported to the Czech Republic and Slovakia to learn about Christmas traditions and considerably more snow

than we were experiencing in the South West. It was lovely too to see scenes of Ella enjoying time with her family. On other occasions Ella captured our interest with her amazing tales of a walking holiday with camels, her great knowledge of bird song, her recollections of

a visit to the Galapagos in 2006 with information about Darwin’s visit and findings. Then a shared presentation with others from our u3a ‘Zoom’ into Poetry group with readings from her own ‘Yew Tree’ poetry book published during Lockdown including her pertinent words about our ever changing world:

*“Our world is changing  
too fast,  
too fast.  
Ice melts, then permafrost,  
Dark tundra absorbs the sun’s rays,  
Buildings lean and roads subside.  
The ancient methane floats up  
To amplify the greenhouse heat. “*

A member of our u3a from October 2020, Ella was certainly an active member as she was also a Group Organiser for an online book group and a discussion group and a member of Topsham books. As well as our u3a she also belonged to Exeter u3a.

Last year Ella had the idea of ‘Local circles’ for our u3a writing to me with the following suggestion: *“What do you feel about having local u3a circles? We could meet for coffee or strolls or both, and share cars to meetings at the Pavilion or other places. All we need is one person from each area to collect contact details from anyone who wants to be part of a local group, and arrange a first meeting.”* The Local circles’ now called ‘Hubs’ really took off and are flourishing and there are now more than 10 ‘Hubs’ all because of that initial idea of Ella’s.

In a relatively short time Ella made a positive difference to our u3a and it was certainly a privilege to meet her and to get to know such a compassionate person.

Christine Chittock, former Chair and Speakers’ Coordinator Exmouth and District u3a.

## Our next edition

We hope you have enjoyed reading this newsletter, and thank you to our contributors this month. The next newsletter will be published at the end of August and then subsequently at two monthly intervals. Please keep items of interest and Group news coming in for the next publication in August.

Thank you very much.

Rachel Cockell, Editor

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