

Chat from the Chair



Once again, we have another attractive, colourful, informative and most interesting newsletter. Thanks to John Hunt our Newsletter Editor and all our contributors; your hard work is very much appreciated.

The Annual General Meeting of Exmouth and District u3a will take place at 10.30 on Thursday 11th May 2023. I am delighted to say this AGM will be followed by 'An Audio Visual (AV) Show' by Ian Bateman FRPS MPAGB AV-AFIAP APAGB where you will have the opportunity to see a variety of Ian's fabulous AV presentations.

To be quorate we need to have at least 10% of our membership at the AGM and so please do attend. As our u3a is by and for our members we look forward to seeing you there to participate and support us and then to be entertained by what I know will be a spectacular show by Ian Bateman.

John Hunt will be sending out a Bulletin about our AGM on 24th March with a nomination form for our committee. Most of you will receive this by email and a small number of our membership will receive the Bulletin, a nomination form and the formal notification by post. The AGM Agenda, details of nominations for committee, Chair/Trustee's report and accounts for 2022 - 2023 will be sent out ASAP after the deadline of 11th April 2023 for nominations and motions.

At the AGM up to 12 members can be elected to the committee with a minimum of 5, as set out in our constitution. The officers (Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer) and other members of the committee are trustees of the charity.

The following committee members are willing to stand again for 2023 - 2024:

- Lyn Holmes, Vice Chair and Groups Co-ordinator
- Steve Rixon, Treasurer
- Olwen Smith, Committee - Membership Secretary
- Alice Robson, Committee - Social

For information, our committee meetings are held on the first 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 Christine Chittock - chairperson@exmouthu3a.org.uk

Please do get in contact with me if you are interested in standing as Chair at the above address. I would be more than happy to discuss the role and look forward to hearing from you. Importantly our new Constitution allows us to elect a Vice Chair and Lyn Holmes our current Vice Chair would also be happy to talk to you. groups@exmouthu3a.org.uk

As a well-established u3a there is extensive knowledge, experience and support from within our u3a. We are also part of the Devon Link network of u3as in Devon. Currently organised by David Leyland a former Chair himself there is the opportunity to discuss activities, procedures, share experiences and ask questions. Nationally too there are workshops, training and access to relevant documents - <https://www.u3a.org.uk/>

So do get in touch with us.

I know that Olwen Smith our Membership Secretary is working hard to ensure that renewals run smoothly and please do note the information on the next page.

The above is an outline of the arrangements for our AGM and this is the formal side of things. However, I would like to stress that:

We are a member-led learning organisation with an aim of creating opportunities to:

- learn, laugh and get the most out of life
- meet up with friends and make new ones
- be part of a strong supportive community
- share ideas, knowledge, experience and enthusiasms in a friendly atmosphere
- develop the fun and passion we have for whatever interests us
- find the inspiration for new ideas, hobbies and experiences
- participate in a variety of social activities.

Recently I have been preparing the Chair/Trustees Report for the AGM and in looking back it has been wonderful to see how much we have covered in our 10th Anniversary year and the fun we have had. So many new activities such as Pickleball and our superb Hubs meaning that members can meet locally and participate in different activities with the opportunity to meet new people and form friendships. We are so fortunate. Thank you all!

Best wishes

*Christine,
Chair*



*Collage by Christine Chittock
See review on page 9*

Reminder for Membership Renewal – 2023/24

We are looking forward to welcoming you back for another year as a member of Exmouth & District u3a.

Your payment for renewal 2023/24 will become due on **1st April 2023**.

Payment at Exmouth Pavilion

Payments can be made **in person at the March meeting (Thursday 9^h March)** at the Pavilion either by **cheque or cash**. If possible, please bring a covering note containing your membership number and address.

If you wish to pay in person by Debit/Credit card you will not be able to do that until the April meeting.

Payment by posting a cheque

If you wish to **post your cheque** now, please make the cheque payable to **Exmouth & District u3a**, and post to the address shown below, with a covering note, showing your address and membership number.

Post to: **Membership Secretary.**

Please note cheques will not be processed until after 1st April 2023.

Payment by Standing Order

If you wish to change to payment by standing order, forms are available from the Membership Secretary. Details of how to make contact are above.

If in the past you have paid by Standing Order **you do not need to arrange a new standing order**, but we would ask you to check the following items related to your existing one:

1. That you have only ONE Standing Order to the Exmouth & District u3a
2. That your payment date is scheduled for **1st April 2023**.
3. That your Standing Order is for the **correct amount** for the 2023/24 year. The membership payment remains £12 for single membership, £24 for a couple, and £8.50 for associate membership.
4. **And finally**, that your reference details show your membership number and surname.

Subscription rates

The current subscriptions were agreed at our 2022 AGM:

£12.00 (individual) or £24 (joint membership) or £8.50 (Associate membership)



If you have any problems or questions, please contact me either by email or telephone.

Many thanks.

Olwen Smith
Membership Secretary

Our monthly meetings – Winter 2023

Following Candy Adkins’ fascinating talk on 9th February (see the review on page 9), our next speaker will take us from World War Two to the very topical issue of the future of our climate and environment.



On **Thursday, 9th March**, **John Davidson** will be speaking about **“Rewilding”**, a topic much discussed recently given the decline of so many natural species and habitats. With degrees in Geography and Conservation, John taught geography, geology and world development in Devon until 2018 and is now an educational consultant and speaker. He is a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society and a member of the Geographical Association.

Further ahead, on **Thursday 13th April**, 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 and this promises to be an enjoyable follow up to her visit in 2022.

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.



Please make a note of these Thursday meetings, as well as our AGM on 11th May. We look forward to seeing you at the Pavilion.

Ann Newby
Speakers’ Coordinator
speakers@exmouthu3a.org.uk

Meetings on Zoom

Guest presenter: ‘Connect and Learn’ presentation via Zoom – Thursday 23 March			
Thurs 23 rd March 10:15 for 10:30 to 11:30	Bob Cooper, one of our members	‘Budleigh Salterton Pebbles’	Bob gave u3a Geology members a fascinating, intriguing and most interesting talk on the pebbles at Budleigh Salterton. Now offered to all our members. An illustrated talk with a difference, exploring his endeavours to establish who owns the pebbles. Join us on ‘Zoom’ to find out.

In addition to streaming the monthly meeting on Zoom and our guest presenter on 23 March, 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 below. 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.

The dates for our next Zoom Coffee & Chat sessions are **Thursday 2 March** and **Thursday 16 March**.

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:

These details are 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

G'day or is it Hello, I am just back from my visit to Australia and apart from being a little jet lagged not liking the weather much very pleased to be home in Exmouth. Back to business though, and here are a couple of updates for Groups.

New Groups

- Samba and Bolivia**
Samba and Bolivia are advanced versions of the card game Canasta. We will play alternate Friday afternoons starting at 2 p.m. If you play these games already that's great, but if you play Canasta already and want to learn Samba/Bolivia please contact Ruth Pierson by email.
- Tap Dancing for Beginners**
Starting on Monday 6th March at Littlemead Methodist Church Hall, 10.00 am–11.00 am, £6 payable weekly in advance or £8 pay as you go. Contact Jan Harper Shea by email.

Groups with Vacancies

- Spanish Intermediate**
We have 2 vacancies for Spanish Intermediate, Thursday afternoon fortnightly. We meet at the Kennaway Centre, Victoria Road, Exmouth, 2.15 – 3.45pm.
Just to be clear, we cannot include beginners. (Those of us in the group have all been studying Spanish variously for many years). Please contact Liz Wells by email.

- Music for Fun**
Fortnightly on Friday afternoons.
Venue: Rugby Club at bottom of Hulham Road, Exmouth. Plenty of free parking. Group singing or bring a musical instrument. All abilities welcome as this is a fun group session where you can relax and enjoy taking part. We play a variety of music including folk, shanties and popular songs across the years. Contact David Leigh by email.



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

- 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.
We meet on alternate Fridays at the Imperial Hotel at 10.30am. At present there are only 4 of us and we should be pleased to welcome anyone else who wished to join us. Our next meeting is on 3 March.
- Exmouth – Littleham area: Susan Hall.
We meet 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. We continue to meet bi-monthly at 10.00 am. The next meeting is on 7 March at Kings Garden Centre, but the venue varies. At present we are happy for new members.
- Exmouth – Salterton Road and The Avenues area: Jan Harper Shea.
- Exmouth – Shelly Road, Camperdown Terrace and The Marina: Victoria Newhouse.
- Exmouth – Withycombe area: 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. You will be pleased to hear that our numbers have slowly increased during the winter.
- Ottery St Mary area: Ronnie Harwood.
- Topsham area:
Topsham and District Hub will now meet twice a month on a drop-in basis on the first Thursday in the cafe at St Bridget's Nursery, Sidmouth Road, Clyst St Mary between 12.00 and 4.00 pm, and on the third Monday at Nancy Potter House, Nelson Close, Topsham between 10.00 am and 2.00 pm.
All u3a members are welcome.
- Woodbury, Woodbury Salterton and East Budleigh: Lin Milsom-Ashby.
The next meeting is at the Maltsters Arms on Tuesday 14 March at 10.30 am.



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

Beta readers needed

A beta reader is someone who reads a book manuscript with an eye towards providing feedback for the author. Do you love reading? One of our members is searching for a few beta readers for her historical women's novels who will give personal feedback on the manuscripts. Interested? Contact Leo Wilson by email for further details.

And here's an interesting article about beta readers – <https://jerichowriters.com/beta-readers-everything-you-need-to-know/>

Social Committee News

As was mentioned in last month's newsletter, there are one or two outings in the preparation stage for this year but the one to Charmouth and Seaton has been finalised and details for this are as follows:

Charmouth and Lyme Regis day out. Thursday 20th April – £27.50 per person. Our social committee has organised a different kind of social for members this time. We are going to Charmouth and to fossil hunt! If you've never done this before, don't worry, an expert from the fossil centre will be on hand to help you identify suitable rocks as well as explain a bit about any finds you may make.



Official Charmouth website - <https://charmouth.org/>

This is how we are planning the day. A coach will leave Exmouth coach park at 9.30 am on Thursday 20th April and take us to Charmouth beach. We will be met by a member of their fossil team and take part in a guided walk approx 1/2 a mile along the beach and hunt for fossils. There will be time to visit the fossil shop and cafe for those interested. At 1.00 pm a coach will pick us up and drop us in Lyme Regis town centre, where members are free to peruse the shops and cafes and museum. We will be picked up by coach in the town centre at approx 4.00 pm and dropped back to Exmouth coach park for 6.00 pm. The cost of this whole day event will be £27.50 and it's limited to 40 members.

Health and safety issues to consider. The beach at Charmouth is stony and sandy and can also be quite muddy if there's been rain. The walk to the best fossil sites is approx 1/2 a mile on uneven ground. Lyme Regis town centre is on a hill and although we will endeavour to drop off and pick up in the town centre. It may necessitate a walk uphill at some point.

Payment Details

1. Send a cheque to Mrs Lyn Holmes made out to 'Exmouth & District u3a.' Please send a stamped addressed envelope and Lyn will send you a ticket.
2. Pay via internet banking. Please email Lyn Holmes at groups@exmouthu3a.org.uk to confirm payment. Lyn will then send you a ticket.
3. Buy your tickets at the Monthly Meeting 9th March. We accept cheques, credit card or cash **(please try and bring the correct cash).**



We anticipate there will be much more information available at our April Monthly Meeting and as always, members of the Social Committee are happy to answer any questions you may have and/or receive suggestions for future outings.

Regards from all on the Social Committee.

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

News from the Groups – Bird Watching Group 2

Eight of us met at Stover Park (plus a further three for lunch) on Wednesday 15th February. We went anti-clockwise around the lake, starting at the bird hide, then on to the aerial walkway, continuing around the lake and finishing at the ponds.

On the lake, we saw lots of black and white birds in their prime including tufted ducks, coots and black-headed gulls.



Male tufted duck



Coot



Black-headed gull



Female mandarin duck

One highlight was watching a cormorant catch a large roach. It had it in its bill and was trying to move it before raising itself further out of the water, stretching its neck until almost vertical and then swallowing it whole! On the aerial walkway we watched, amongst others, great tits, blue tits, coal tits and nuthatches feeding.

Continuing around the lake we watched pochard, moorhen, mallards and swans before finishing by the ponds to see a female mandarin duck. In all, around 17 different species of birds were spotted. And, it didn't rain until we were in the café. Perfect! Thankfully, Keith Urwin captured some of the birds with his camera.

Debbie Wright, with photos by Keith Urwin

Review of 'Spitfire Girl' by Candy Adkins on Thursday 9 February in Exmouth Pavilion



"Many thanks - an excellent talk today by Candy Adkins", "As ex WRAF this excellent talk was particularly meaningful." "A fantastic talk about a wonderful woman" and "What an inspiring presentation. An amazing life - told in such a compelling way." Just some of the comments by our members following an illuminating and engaging presentation by Candy Adkins about her mother Jackie Moggridge at February's monthly meeting in Exmouth Pavilion.

Members had the opportunity to see some of the memorabilia associated with 'Spitfire Girl'; a wonderful display containing newspaper cuttings, photos, badges, books and much more. Candy

Adkins entertained and informed members with her fascinating tale of her mother's passion for flying; the first woman to undertake a parachute jump in South Africa who went on to fly planes for the Air Transport Auxiliary (ATA) in the 2nd World War."

Candy has been interviewed by Michael Portillo and Antiques Road show and has shared her memorising story about Jackie Moggridge's pioneering work with the RAF, schools and many others. Each extraordinary story that Candy told our members was followed by another, all impelling and captivating.

Members learnt that Jackie was determined to succeed in all she did, often at great risk to herself. Jackie had only been at Aeronautical College for a year when war broke out and she really wanted to be part of the action flying planes for the RAF, but as a woman she wasn't allowed to. Determined to be involved she joined the Women's Auxiliary Air Force (WAAF) as a Radar Operator. Despite being very much wanted for her radar work Jackie could fly and so it was that she ended up in the vital role of ferrying planes from factories to Aerodromes around the country.

Candy's descriptions were vivid and almost unbelievable but as Candy pointed out, the numerous planes that Jackie flew from Lancasters to Spitfires, had no radio or contact with the ground. Based at the all-women's number 15 Ferry Pool in the Hamble, Jackie and the others had to rely on a small ring binder for information and their own wits.

After the war Jackie ferried Spitfires from Cyprus to Rangoon, to the Indian Air Force and to Burma, having gained her Commercial Pilot's licence. Applying to be a pilot for Channel Airways in 1958 without stating her gender she was appointed due to her monumental flying record and became the first British female airline captain to fly passengers on scheduled flights.

At the end of Candy's talk members queued to see the memorabilia, to purchase books and to share their own stories, in some cases their own memories of WW2.

Review and photo by Christine Chittock, Chair

Candy Adkins has a Spitfire Girl website where you can see most of the photos that she shared with us, plus some videos. Just click or tap on this link:

<https://www.jackiemoggridgespitfiregirl.com/>



Review of 'Electric Vehicles – What's All the Fuss' by Laurence Chittock, via Zoom on Thursday 23 February 2023



We had a large Zoom audience on 23 February when Dr Laurence Chittock gave us an excellent wide-ranging talk on 'Electric Vehicles, What's all the fuss?'. We also welcomed members from Kingsbridge Estuary u3a, representing their Transport, Past, Present and Future Group. Word got around that this talk was not to be missed and it wasn't.

Laurence started by outlining the topics to be covered, whetting our appetite for an interesting and varied talk to come and satisfying us that our many queries, doubts and unease about electrically powered cars would be covered during his presentation.

In talking about the background to the development of Electric Vehicles (EVs), he discussed climate change and the recent hot summer, leading on to the problem of CO₂ emissions and the need to reduce these to avoid global warming and the consequent effects on our lives and the planet. Some excellent animated graphs showed how CO₂ emissions had increased since the 1800s in different countries and it was noteworthy how the UK's emissions dominated the world during the industrial revolution but that China was now the world's biggest producer. That also demonstrates how the different economies have compared over the years. Laurence showed that while transport is currently the largest polluter in the UK, it was hoped that electrifying vehicles would reduce this even though it entailed an increase in electricity generation.

After a short discourse on the history of the car, leading to the present predominance of fossil fuelled vehicles, Laurence drew attention to the King Review of 2007, outlining to government the potential for CO₂ reductions in vehicles and the introduction of the 'Cabled' trial of EVs. One unknown was whether the number of vehicles or the number of charging points would drive the introduction of EVs. Another problem was the worry about long distance trips.



His own Doctorate work on the subject was discussed with a tongue-in-cheek mention of a punning thesis title. He concluded that the range was sufficient for most, but not all, trips and that location of rapid chargers was important. Development of this and other work has led more recently to a ban on the sale of new fossil fuelled vehicles in the UK from 2030 and to manufacturers developing production lines for EV construction.

Much work has been done more recently on increasing the range of EVs and reducing their charging time.



Laurence admitted that he himself didn't have a pure EV currently as he didn't have a driveway to aid charging, but that he did have a hybrid vehicle and was very happy with it.

To conclude, Laurence told us that an electric car approximately doubles your household electricity consumption. Charging points couldn't just be placed anywhere and the electricity cable infrastructure had to be suitable. There was inevitably going to be some significant growth in the ability to meet the electrical load from future charging of EVs. He finally speculated on the future of transport and possible (nightmare) scenarios of the sky becoming full of delivery drones etc. – not to be taken too seriously! But bicycles and electric buses are felt very much to be part of the future. Also, we should be prepared to sacrifice some activities which up till now we've taken for granted.

Laurence recommended a website giving details of current public charging point locations – <https://www.zap-map.com/> and for more information see <https://www.spenergynetworks.co.uk/pages/charge.aspx>. Also mentioned was an aluminium battery – see for example <https://cleantechnica.com/2019/10/20/uk-man-invents-aluminum-air-battery-in-his-garage/>

An indication of the huge interest in Laurence’s magnificent and high-quality presentation was the lively discussion which took place afterwards which continued well past the normal allotted time. We learnt such a lot, especially about the research which goes on behind the scenes. A superb talk from Laurence, which will provide food for thought for quite some time.



Review by Ian McLaughlin

Photo of Laurence and charging point by Christine Chittock

Laurence very kindly agreed to allow us to record his talk so that it can be viewed at any time by u3a members only. Just click or tap on the link in the members’ edition of this newsletter.

He has also written a fascinating article on ‘How to forecast demand for charging stations’. See <https://blog.ptvgroup.com/en/city-and-mobility/ev-uptake-how-to-forecast-demand-for-charging-stations/>



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>

Have you seen the four most recent videos posted on our YouTube channel yet? 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? 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 April? **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 **Friday 24 March 2023**. Please contact me using the email address below.



Thank you very much.

John Hunt

Newsletter Editor

newsletter@exmouthu3a.org.uk