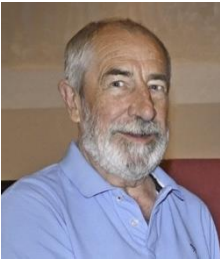




Chat from the Chair



Slugs & snails – It's the time of year and they've eaten my beans! I've tried the blue pellets which seem to get some slugs but don't bother the snails. The white pellets must be tasty as they get hoovered up by the blackbirds during the day and the rodents at night. Crushed up eggshells sound great except that slugs live in the soil so you are bound to cage one inside the protective ring. A more costly but apparently effective solution for us is nematodes – ordered online and then watered well into damp soil conditions and beans version 2 are surviving! Please let me know if you've found your own solution and I'll share it.

No politics – A reminder arrived from the national U3a that, as a charity with limited defined objectives, we're not allowed to take or promote any political position – particularly during a general election period. You shouldn't see anything of this sort from us and please let us know if anything appears and we'll deal with it.

The national U3a body – the Third Age Trust – looks after all the u3as in the UK, providing educational and administrative support. The Trust is overseen by a [Board of Directors](#), to which any u3a member may be elected by becoming a Regional Trustee. We get regular communications from the national and regional organisations, which are all run by volunteer u3a members. If you have an interest in volunteering then we can forward details or you can find loads of information at www.u3a.org.uk/about

Exmouth & District U3a Facebook Group – by the time you read this it may well all have changed but as I write this there is an opportunity for one or more of you to take up the administration and active running of this group. Ian McLaughlin – the current administrator – has 'paused' this Facebook group, temporarily renamed it to "Exmouth Social" and has committed to handover the administrative control to a new volunteer. This is a rare opportunity to manage a popular Facebook group with almost 600 worldwide members and some exceptional content. Our only request is that it no longer appears to be the 'official' U3a group – calling it something like 'Friends of Exmouth U3a' would be ideal.

Finally, I'd like to say a big thank you to everyone who helps to run this U3a. From editing the newsletter to meeting & greeting, from managing the website to printing & posting. This wouldn't all be possible without your valuable contributions. Thank you all and have a great summer.

Regards

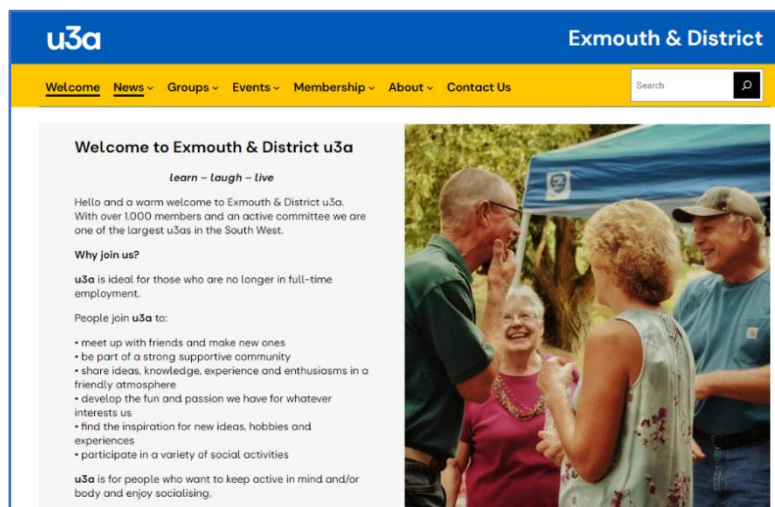
Mike Turff, Chairman

Any questions or ideas – please contact me at chairman@exmouthu3a.org.uk

Our new Exmouth & District u3a website – an update

I hope you have been enjoying looking at our new Exmouth & District u3a website. It is continually evolving and there have been several developments since the last newsletter.

- **How to find the website.** If you haven't seen it recently, please take a look. You can find it by tapping or clicking on this link – <https://exmouthu3a.org.uk>, and you can also get to it via <https://exmouthu3a.online>, or you will be automatically redirected if you go to our old website, or you will find it on Google or any other search engine by searching for Exmouth u3a.



- **Video tour of our website.** If you need guidance on how to find your way round our website, I have created a video that explains it all. It's on our own Exmouth & District u3a YouTube channel and you can see it by clicking or tapping on <https://youtu.be/CZzGKB9nHms?si=vyWeseNq-3Y9mzkQ> or on the link to it on the Welcome page of our website.
- **Latest News section.** We always keep the Latest News section up-to date, and it's worth checking this out every week if you can. You can get to it via the Welcome page or directly by clicking or tapping on this link: <https://exmouthu3a.online/hot-news/>. And if you would like to submit any u3a-related news that you would like me to include, please send it to me by email.
- **Logging in.** Although most of the content can be seen on the website publicly, there is certain material which can only be viewed by members after logging in (such as names of Group Organisers and the means to contact them, and certain material that the committee does not wish to be publicly viewable). My thanks to Nigel Day, Membership Secretary, who has recently contacted all members with details of how to arrange to have your own password to enable you to see the member-only view on the website.
- **Editing Group webpages.** It's possible now for all Group Organisers to edit their own webpage for their own groups. If you are a Group Organiser and you wish to do this, please contact me and we can arrange for Graham Wood, our Website Administrator, to give you author rights to enable you to do this. We can also give you a clear four-page training guidance document which has been very kindly written by John Parker, together with other material to help with this. This then gives Group Organisers the opportunity to add to or edit group webpages, for example by giving details of latest group news, plans, events, photos, hints and tips, and links to suitable sources.

Thank you to those members who have passed on their comments about the new website. We would welcome further any comments, together with suggestions and contributions (especially photos). Meanwhile – happy browsing!

John Hunt, Website Manager
website@exmouthu3a.org.uk

Monthly meetings

You are most welcome to join us for our monthly meetings at 10:00, usually for a 10:30 start to 11:45. These meetings will be held at the Pavilion.

Date	Presenter	Title	Description
<u>Thursday 11th</u> <u>July '24</u>	Sarah Shaw	'From Doodlebugs to Devon'	<p>Letters written by her mother to her father in 1944-45 had always fascinated Sarah, with their descriptions of rationing and shortages, of coming under attack from the V1/doodlebugs and eventually finding shelter in south Devon. Sarah's illustrated talk takes these letters as the starting point for the story of an 'ordinary' south London housewife; as well as revealing some little-known news stories and evidence contradicting popular beliefs of the time.</p> <p>Sarah Shaw is the writing name of Sarah Stamford, a member of Bridport U3A. She has a degree in social history from the Open University and was formerly a librarian at Cambridge University. 'From Doodlebugs to Devon' is her third book, following 'The secret diary of a 1970s secretary' and 'Short skirts and shorthand'.</p>
There will be no meeting in August			
<u>Thursday 12th</u> <u>Sept.'24</u>	Maggie Duffy		Details to follow



Your new committee

Local Hub Groups July 2024

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 or have any questions re hubs please contact Lyn Holmes vicechair@exmouthu3a.org.uk

Brixington

Meets at The Farmhouse on 3rd Monday in the month at 2pm. Next meeting on 16th September.

News from Brixington

On 25th April a few members of the hub group met in Exeter for a Red Coats tour. The tour we joined was Merchants and Mariners, starting in Cathedral Green and ending at the Custom House on the quay. It was a lovely way for a few members of the group to meet up and enjoy an interesting afternoon out! We are hoping to arrange another one in September or October.

Julie Jefferies – **Please contact Julie before you attend.**

Littlemead Local Tuesday – Rivermead Area/Mount Pleasant

They normally meet on alternate Tuesdays at 10am at Greenfingers. We are looking for a new organiser, please contact Lyn – vicechair@exmouthu3a.org.uk
The next meeting 9th July.

Littlemead Local Wednesday

Nicola Antoni, Rivermead Area.

There are a couple of places at the moment.

Please contact the Hub organiser before you go. They normally meet on alternate Wednesday 10am at Greenfingers. Next meeting 10th July then fortnightly.

Withycombe area – Jan Collett

Our venue is at Phear Park Cafe on alternate Tuesdays at 2pm. Next meeting 2nd July, we have a few spaces.

Littleham area – Susan Hall. Meets on various days and times. **Email Susan for information.**

Salterton Road and The Avenues. Anne Coles is the new contact.

Meets every 2nd Tuesday of the month at 10.30am in the bar area of The Devoncourt Hotel. Just turn up on the day. You will be most welcome.

The Topsham Hub has ceased, if you live in Topsham and would like to get together with local members for a coffee and chat do contact me. I am happy to help you advertise and start the group. The Globe Hotel would be happy to be the venue.

Exeter u3a hold a social event at The Globe Hotel, Fore Street, Topsham on the 1st Friday in the month at 10.30am. They very kindly have said Exmouth u3a members are welcome to attend.

Woodbury, Woodbury Salterton and East Budleigh – Lin Milsom–Ashby.

Woodbury now meets on Wednesdays at 10.30am in The Maltsters Woodbury. The next meeting is on 24th July 2024.

Beacon Group – General area of The Beacon or central Exmouth – Sally Parnell
Meets at Imperial Hotel, 3rd Friday in the month 10.30.

Budleigh Salterton

The Budleigh hub meets for coffee and chat on the second Friday morning of every month. Venues vary, as we haven't settled on a particular place in Budleigh, so any new members are best to contact Sue Glover by email or telephone.

Social Committee

Dartmouth Naval College – June 4th



mid-morning, giving us plenty of time for coffee, lunch, sightseeing and a spot of retail therapy (some more than others!!). Our driver, Simon, picked us up at Royal



Our Social Committee arranged an outing to Dartmouth and the Naval College. We set off as per schedule arriving in Dartmouth



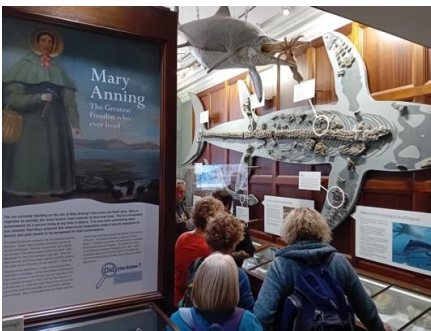
Gardens for an afternoon tour of the Naval College where we were met by two professional guides who took us around the college, imparting their knowledge of the history and architecture of the property.

The tour ended at 3.45p.m where our coach was waiting to take us back to Exmouth.

It was a very successful excursion and even the weather was kind to us.



Lyme Regis trip on 23rd May



The fossil is a cast of the original Ichthyosaurus one that Mary Anning discovered which is in the Natural History Museum in London.

Forthcoming Events

Eden Project – September 16th

One coach has sold out already for the Eden Project and another coach has now been confirmed. Please contact Lyn Holmes- vicechair@exmouthu3a.org.uk – for further details.

Group news – new Group

Canto Chat. Monthly meetings at a venue to be decided starting in August. With the help of a Cantonese native speaker we will be practicing day to day phrases. Fancy ordering your dim sum at your favourite Chinese Restaurant in the native language? – then join us to practice. No previous experience needed just a joy of languages. Please email to join or for further details. Julie Murphy.

Group Reports

Bird Watching Group 1

Six members of Birds 1 together with one visitor walked up the Otter from Tipton on a pleasant June morning. This is traditionally the quietest month of the year in the birding calendar as much raising of young is taking place and the foliage is at its thickest. We hoped to see all the hirundines and, indeed, we did see quite a few Sand Martins, House Martins and Swallows. Grey Wagtail were quite easy to see, both adults with their brighter yellow fronts and youngsters more muted. A Moorhen family was spotted with six chicks – a very high number indeed. Two Buzzards were wheeling about and a Cormorant seemed to be following us both ways. The Little Egret was seen in a couple of spots. Highlights were a Jay on the fence and a Tree Creeper. This is a good location for Banded Demoiselle and we were able to see this clearly. However, the most impressive view by two of the group was an Otter grabbing its prey and disappearing up the river bank with it.



Vicky Swain, Group Organiser

Natural History Group visit to Haytor and Haytor Quarry

Members of the Natural History Group were very lucky to have an expert leader in our own Anthony Cline during their recent visit to Haytor. Anthony explained the geology in an interesting and accessible way. He later wrote the following report:

The Natural History group recently visited Haytor on Dartmoor. Eight of us enjoyed a climb from the car park to view the tor close up. Despite a rather windy morning, the rain mainly held off.

Dartmoor is part of a chain of high ground stretching from Scilly islands in the west, 250km east to Haytor. It is made up of 600 cubic km of granite intruded deep underneath thick layers of Carboniferous sediments. These were layed down prior to ancient continental plates colliding and forcing the layers up. Molten granite was emplaced as part of this collision. It cooled very slowly over millions of years, allowing large crystals of feldspar to grow. Minerals such as tin, copper and lead filled in cracks that occurred. Most of the overlying sediments have been eroded, and the lesser jointed granite left forming the high tors.



We also walked down to view the old granite quarry and the stone tramway. Lunch was obtained in the House of Marbles.



RIP Exmouth & District u3a Facebook Group

The Exmouth & District u3a Facebook Group was started up around the time of the pandemic so that members could continue to learn, laugh and live online, and we certainly did that!

Four years later, the Committee told the Facebook Group Administrator that the Facebook Group was no longer required, so he decided to close it down, but paused it initially to allow for comments. I asked why at the AGM. The reply I received was that they had decided it was surplus to requirements and had run its course, the new website being the main portal.

Real reason? One person complained that the contents of the Facebook Group were not relevant to the u3a and it was updated too frequently (!) The 80-odd comments of disappointment, praise for the Facebook Group and explanation of the difference between a website and Facebook Group were ignored. The 1,000 members of our u3a were not consulted before the closure, so we now have a non-functioning Facebook Group.

The expression: "If it ain't broke, don't fix it" comes to mind.

Many thanks to our talented Facebook Group Administrator for facilitating us to live, laugh and learn via the Exmouth & District u3a Facebook Group. Our u3a will be worse off without it.



Phoenix Rising?

Members – do you agree or disagree with the closure of the Exmouth & District u3a Facebook Group? Comments please!

If you disagree and would like it to continue, please could you, or someone you know, volunteer to take over the Facebook Group which is now called 'Exmouth Social'?

This would continue with the same Facebook Group membership as before, similar posts, but with additional local issues. Help will be available should you require it.

You can get a message through via the Website contact on our 'Contact Us' section at <https://exmouthu3a.online/contact-us/> or by sending an email to website@exmouthu3a.org.uk.

Helen Lester
Exmouth & District u3a member

Our next edition

We hope you have enjoyed reading this newsletter, and thank you to our contributors this month. Please keep items of interest and Groups news coming in for the next edition which will be at the beginning of September.

Thank you very much.

Rachel Cockell
Editor