



TORRIDGE THIRD AGE GROUP www.torrigeu3a.btck.co.uk

NEWSLETTER

Issue 468

April 2018

This month's notice board:

At our lunch on **18 April** our speaker is Peter Christie who will be talking about “**Introduction to new ideas**”. Would members attending the Royal for the meal please register BEFORE going into the lounge or bar. Members should arrive between 11:15 and 11:50 and be seated in time for the speaker at 12:00. Lunch follows. Please advise **Heather Williams on xxxx xxxxxx** if, having booked, you are unable to attend. *Just a reminder:- The admin charge has been raised to £1 to cover the cost of the speakers.*

- **We welcome the following new members:**

P Brachan, Sandra Court, David Dickinson, Catherine Evans, Colin Evans, Neil Helsby, Elizabeth Hewitt, Karin Hewlett, C Provan, Elaine Williams

May lunch:

At our lunch on 16 May our speaker is Ian Barclay who will be talking about “A History of Cartoons”. Lunch will be 2 courses plus coffee, ordered on arrival, at £10.25 per person. For the March lunch, please contact Heather Williams by 13 May on xxxx xxxxxx or e-mail heather.williams179@gmail.com. If you are unable to attend, having booked lunch, please advise Heather in order that the hotel can be given the correct numbers. Payment to the hotel on the day can be made by cash, card or cheque (payable The Royal Hotel). If you are paying by cheque you will need to present your cheque guarantee card, this is essential and cheques will not be accepted without it.

Skittles:



Our Spring Skittles evening has been arranged for **Friday 20th April** at the Conservative Club, Bridgeland St, Bideford. Time 6pm for a 6-30 start, £2 plus a bring and share supper. We look forward to seeing you all again, if you haven't been before just come along and join in the fun, no experience necessary. To book your place please contact: - **Christine xxxx xxxxxx, Avril xxxx xxxxxx, or Hazel xxxx xxxxxx**



Future events

Future coffee mornings (Northam Hall from 10:00am)

12 May 2018: A chance to meet new and existing members and face the challenge of the Chair's table Quiz!

Chairman	Secretary	Membership Secretary	Editor
Geoff Williams	Carolyn Kelly	Anne Budd	Graham Thompson
geoff.williams24@gmail.com	carolynkellygb@gmail.com	abudd01@hotmail.co.uk	graham.thompson53@outlook.com

Chair's comments April 2018

Apologies for late postal copies – We apologize for the lateness of the March copy of the newsletter if you receive it by post. This was due to the printer not finding on his system the electronic copy sent to him. It was only when Shirley warned us she had not received them to post that we became aware of the problem.



Daphne Ellis Tribute - We are placing on our website a tribute to Daphne Ellis who left money to our U3A following her death. Thank you to Audrey Button for her recollections of Daphne and two delightful images of brass objects Audrey painted from Daphne's collection.

Group Leaders – Thank you to the group leaders who attended the annual meeting. The presentations made are being put in a new section on our website for group leaders. Additional material will be added over time to support the role of group leader. This will include the attendance and money collection sheets that were available at the meeting.

Coffee Mornings – The cost of Northam Hall has been increased this year, to reflect that we are setting the entrance for our coffee mornings at £2. This will include both coffee and a cake.

Loop system – We are proceeding with a form of loop system that can be used in a variety of venues such as the Royal Hotel, Northam Hall and the Upper Room. It is a system where the person with hearing loss wears a pendant. We hope that it will increase the enjoyment of people at U3A events, enable some to continue groups for longer and even attract some back to groups. It will be available from late May. Dennis Pavitt will be able to explain to groups how it is used.

Data Protection – Many will be aware that regulations regarding data protection are changing in May this year. We have set up a working party to work out the best way to manage this to both protect members interests and minimize administration. Currently our U3A data is held on a secure encrypted and password protected website know as Beacon. We will produce a statement regarding our policy and practice in the next couple of months.

Geoff Williams



Miscellaneous

All copy for publication in the **May** edition of the newsletter, written please (by email) **by 29th April**, to the editor. Any queries regarding the printed Newsletter distribution should be made to **Shirley Jewell xxxx xxxxxx** or **Sandy Madden xxxx xxxxxx**. If you don't receive your electronic version, please contact **Graham Thompson, xxxx xxxxxx** or ***graham.thompson53@outlook.com***.

Availability & Booking of the Upper Room

For details, see website, programme in Upper room or contact **David Gannicliff** on **xxxx xxxxxx** or ***david@gannicliff.eclipse.co.uk***

Group leader changes.

Please send note of any change in name or contact details to **Roger Drew**, the group leader co-ordinator **xxxx xxxxxx** or ***roger24drew@btinternet.com***

Upper Room payments

Payments due for the Upper Room should be passed to the Treasurer **Sue Beer, xxxx xxxxxx** or ***westheale@talktalk.net*** or sent to West Heale, Landcross, Bideford EX39 5JA

Proposed events

If you are planning to hold an event, please contact **Roger Drew** first to ensure that there are no clashes. **xxxx xxxxxx** or ***roger24drew@btinternet.com***

GROUP REPORTS



AmDram

For further information please contact Lynda Webster xxxx xxxxxx or lynda.web2@talktalk.net

We have now been able to reschedule performances of our play 'The Ladybirds'. They will be held at the **Castle Centre, Barnstaple on Tuesday, 8th May at 2.30pm** and the **Pollyfield Community Centre, Bideford on Wednesday, 9th May at 2.30pm**. Tickets are £5 payable at the door and refreshments are included. We hope that you will be able to come and join us.



Art (Monday).

For further information please contact **Dot Hannam xxxx xxxxxx**

This portrait of the actress Carey Mulligan is by Catherine.



Badminton

Please contact **Val or Tony Woolf xxxx xxxxxx** or thewoolfs@tiscali.co.uk

Our group is still full but anyone who is interested and has played before is welcome to be put on the waiting list.



Book Group 1.

For further information contact **Sheila Wright xxxx xxxxxx** or ess.wright@hotmail.com or **Joan Lock xxxx xxxxxx**

Review of "The Aftermath". It is 1946 in post-war Germany and Colonel Lewis Morgan is in Hamburg to rebuild the ruined city. He is a compassionate man trying to govern with humanity, and the story tells of his family, of some of the conquered Germans and of other British occupiers. The author writes very descriptively of the atmosphere in ruined Hamburg in the freezing winter and the characters are convincing. The book contains a lot of information about post-war Germany and our group found the book most interesting and informative. Audrey Wood

Our next book will be 'Things a bright girl can do' by Sally Nicholls



Book Group 2.

For further information contact **Hazel McLellan xxxx xxxxxx** or david249mclellan@btinternet.com

This month we discussed **Conclave** by Robert Harris. The story is set in the Vatican City and begins with the death of the Pope. The novel then follows the process of the election from the first overtures of the contenders to the final conclusive vote. This may sound boring but the twists and turns of the plot make the event seem very real, as well as the atmosphere around the various deliberations. We all thoroughly enjoyed this novel. We felt

that we learned a lot about the various processes and procedures which have to be followed during a Conclave because the description and detail was so good. It was also a fantastic story of intrigue with so many interesting characters. A really good read. Next month we will be discussing **Not Quite Nice** by Celia Imrie



Book Group 3.

For further information contact **Jo Sampson xxxx xxxxxx** or jo.sampson@rocketmail.com

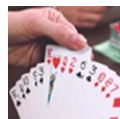
Review of "The Sense of an Ending" by Julian Barnes. On the whole we thought this book to be rather pretentious. Although the storyline kept us intrigued it was also confusing in places and like the main character we "just didn't get it". But it gave rise to discussions on time and its effect on memory. We thought some of the philosophical statements rather inflated eg we are given life, if we want to renounce it it is our moral duty, ie suicide. We thought the characters selfish and emotionally cut off with a lot of suppressed anger and were not likeable.



Book Group 4.

For further information contact **David or Hazel McLellan xxxx xxxxxx** or david249mclellan@btinternet.com

This month we read and discussed **Kisses on a Postcard** by Terence Frisby. The story is based on the wartime experiences of two boys, Terence and his brother Jack, evacuated from London's outskirts to the village of Doublebois in Cornwall. The title refers to a secret code between the children and their mother; letting her know how they regarded their 'foster' home by the number of kisses on their postcard home. The boys were lucky with their Cornish destination, staying with "Uncle Jack and Auntie Rose" who sound like a delightful couple. Everyone in the group generally considered this was a delightful read, with its easy reading blend of uplifting and amusing moments balanced by the seriousness and heartbreak of the wartime situation - including their ability to cope with separation and the challenges of gaining acceptance in a new environment. **Our next read is The Time Machine** by HG Wells.



Bridge for Improvers.

For further information on these groups contact **John Krey xxxx xxxxxx** or jkrey123@btinternet.com

We meet every Tuesday and Friday evening in the Upper Room at 7pm. We have a few spaces and any member who would like an evening of bridge and banter please come along.



Bridge Instruction - beginners.

For further information contact **Simon Gibbon xxxx xxxxxx** or scgfeg@talktalk.net

The bridge instruction lessons have now finished for the summer. The sessions will restart in the autumn if there are sufficient numbers. If you are interested in learning or wish to improve your play, then please contact me.



Canasta

For further information contact **Jan Hurst xxxx xxxxxx** or **Ann Mayne xxxx xxxxxx** or **annmayne44@gmail.com**

No Update received this month



Classical Music

For further information contact **Derrick Hadley xxxx xxxxxx** or **HAD-LEY290@aol.com**

No update received this month.



Crafty Cards

For more information please contact **Alison Tamplin xxxx xxxxxx** or **Carolyn Kelly xxxx xxxxxx** or **carolynkellygb@gmail.com**

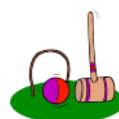
This month we returned to an old favourite of making cards using peel offs on Acetate, Next month Wednesday 18th April we shall be trying out a new technique and tackling Telescope Cards. New members are always welcome and we supply all materials and equipment.



Creative Craft Class

For more information please contact **Alison Tamplin xxxx xxxxxx** or **Alison.tam126@btinternet.com** or **Carolyn Kelly xxxx xxxxxx**.

This month we again returned to an old favourite and did stitch cards some stunning results were obtained, next month Thursday 19th April again an old favourite but a different technique we shall be working with polymer clay. New members are always welcome and we supply all materials and equipment.



Croquet

For further information contact **Simon Gibbon on xxxx xxxxxx** or **scgfeq@talktalk.net**

Weather permitting, the croquet season will restart on **Tuesday 17 April**. No previous experience required and tuition is provided for beginners. If you've not played before, why not give the game a go? For further information please contact me.



Devon Inns

For further information contact **Simon Gibbon on xxxx xxxxxx** or **scgfeq@talktalk.net**

Thursday 12 April 2018 at 12noon.

Tom Cobby, Spreyton EX17 5AL. Tel: 01647 231314. This is the pub that "Old Uncle Tom Cobby" reputedly set off from on his trip to Widdecombe Fair. Now immortalised in the well known song. His grave is just inside the church gate.

Thursday 10 May 2018 at 12noon.

The Hunters Inn, Heddon Valley Exmoor EX31 4PY. Tel: 01598 763230.

For further info contact **Colin or Lesley Hunt on xxxx xxxxxx** or **xxxx xxxxxx** or **colinlesley@talktalk.net**



Digital Camera Group

if you would like more information and/or to join a waiting list, please do contact **Colin Neal on xxxx xxxxxx** or **sanshigo@outlook.com**

'Closeups' was one of the topics presented at our March meeting and this stunning Camelia was one of Gill Newbold's photographs. Unusual pub signs, a second topic, attracted a fair bit of interest! Gary led us through the programmes on a camera, particularly the situational automatic and semi - automatic modes. Our task for this month is to put this into practice -- not just use 'auto' but to experiment with aperture and shutter speed.



The group is full at present, but do contact Colin Neal (details above) if you would like to join us when there is space.



Discussion Group

For further information contact **Barry Gown on xxxx xxxxxx** or **barrysg14@outlook.com**

The first part of our March meetings dealt with the format those attending would prefer for the way future meeting would be conducted. The balance of opinion was that members preferred one predetermined subject as the main topic to be discussed which would most probably leave time for other subjects to be introduced as members wished. For May onwards, the subject for the following month will be decided at the previous monthly meeting. A rare exception to this may be if an unusual or unexpected event or situation arises in the interim which may be considered more pertinent. Furthermore, instead of deciding on the subject at the end of each meeting, this will done early on as leaving it to the end means there is sometimes insufficient time for input before some members have to leave early for various reasons.

We then continued with further thoughts on the homeless which then extended into the difficulty experienced by young people in getting a step on the housing ladder. There was agreement that in Bideford and close by in particular, there was a sizeable shortage of suitable properties for both young and senior individuals or couples who did not require multiple bedroomed properties.



Drawing Group 1 and 2

For further details or to be added to waiting list contact **John Wright xxxx xxxxxx** or **jphw75@gmail.com**

As well as working on our own projects both Drawing Groups have been working at the skill of plotting a drawing to provide a sound basis for a fully developed finished piece of work. This skill involves the use of observation to identify the proportional relationship of the objects in the drawing and to evaluate accurately their size and position. This process makes the development of a drawing more accurate from the start and therefore needing less use of the eraser which can ruin the surface of the paper.



Eating Out.

For further information contact **Joan Hall**
xxxx xxxxxx

As no one called to attend eating out in March, I decided to go to the **Seagate Appledore on the 25th April** at 12.30. It is on a bus route. Please let me know if you would like to join me.



Folk Dancing.

For further information contact **Shirley Jewell** xxxx xxxxxx or **shirleyjewell118@googlemail.com**

We have enjoyed our two meetings in February. **The April dates are on the 9th and 23rd.** Perhaps you would like to join us to try our sort of dancing. You do not need a partner.



French.

For further information contact **Jo Sampson** xxxx xxxxxx or **jo.sampson@rocketmail.com**

No update received this month



Gardens.

For further information contact **Babs Muir** xxxx xxxxxx or **babsmuir44@gmail.com**

THURSDAY 19TH APRIL 'Slimbridge Wetland Centre' Gloucestershire. Cost £21.75. There are still 3 places available, please let me know ASAP. Coach departs Kingsley Statue, Bideford 9.15am.

THURSDAY 17TH MAY visit to 'Trebah Gardens' Fal-mouth. This is a sub-tropical paradise with a stunning coastal backdrop. Early Spring has a magnificent display of rhododendrons, magnolias and camelias. This is a valley garden and some areas are steep. The Trebah kitchen offers good menu for lunch and afternoon tea. Cost : £20 -40. Coach departs Bideford 9.30am.

Please book by 1st May and send cheque made out to BTT Gardens Group to Babs Muir at Miistone, Oxmans Lane, Northam, N. Devon EX39 1 DZ



German

Details of the German group from **Val Curtis** xxxx xxxxxx or **valacurtis@outlook.com**

We have learnt about Easter customs, both religious and secular, and expanded our vocabulary. In Germany they decorate boiled eggs for Easter breakfast, and hang tiny eggs, lambs and rabbits on twigs to decorate their homes.



History.

For more information Contact **David Ganniclift** **David@ganniclift.eclipse.co.uk** or **Chris Peacock** xxxx xxxxxx or **chris@calstockmodels.co.uk**

At our next meeting which is on **5th April at 2:30** in the Northam Leisure Centre, we will be having a short AGM, of which we haven't had for a couple of years. If that is not an admission in itself.

At the AGM I will be standing down as Group Leader, and David Ganniclift has offered to lead the group onwards. The main item on the agenda, is regarding where the group holds its meetings, and when. It has been pro-

posed that the group moves into the Upper Room on the following Thursday, however this is NOT a done decision, and we NEED to hear your ideas and views. After the AGM it is proposed that will be finding out about an important but rather unusual vessel that was built in north Devon in the 1970's. The Golden Hind was built in Appledore, and sailed to North America, via London and Southampton.

For more information about the History group the new secretary to be agreed at the AGM will be David Ganniclift. I will not be leaving and can be contacted on either xxxx xxxxxx or **chris@calstockmodels.co.uk**. Chris Peacock. Thank you for all your help in the past 21 months or so.



Mahjongg (Barnstaple U3A).

Contact **Vicky Ilisse** xxxx xxxxxx

No update received this month.



Morning Walkers (1st Friday):

Group contact **Irene Hahn** xxxx xxxxxx or **hahn@btinternet.com**

For the walk on **Friday 4th May we meet at Buck's Mills car park (GR 358 233) at AN EARLIER START TIME** of 10.15 a.m. for a 3 mile circular walk enjoying Bluebell Time. The walk starts with a strenuous climb up a series of steps [with generous stops for catching one's breath] on the Coast Path to Gauter Pool, with a few slightly muddy patches en route. This section of the walk has wonderful sea views around the bay from Baggy Point to Blackchurch Rock. After our coffee break, near Gauter Pool, we walk across fields [with the walk's only stile] to enter Bluebell Wood [which last year lived up to its name]: a beautiful valley of natural woodland and streams which we follow back to our starting point. We will lunch at The Merry Harriers - there is no need to pre-order. Anyone with special dietary needs can be catered for. **If joining us, please contact me by TUESDAY 1ST MAY.** Roger Newton at: **roger.newton@tiscali.co.uk** or xxxx xxxxxx.



Music.

For further information please contact **Moreen Erridge** on xxxx xxxxxx or **erridge@outlook.com**

No update received this month.



Music sans Frontieres.

Contact **Angus Winfield** xxxx xxxxxx or **angwinf@gmail.com**

Winter holiday continuing, but hopefully will restart again soon. Contact me if interested in joining the group.



Petanque.

For any further information please contact **Brian Halstead** on xxxx xxxxxx or **brhal@btinternet.com**

Many thanks to all Petanquers/ Boulers for continuing to support and play this last month, in several cases braving the most atrocious of weathers. The winter competition was brought to a successful conclusion last weekend when the Gold and Bronze finals were played, the Silver final having been played some time before.

Our thanks to Ged for organising the event. The results have been forwarded by Ged to all concerned but no doubt there will be a notification on the notice board in the Village Inn as will be the fixture list for this summer's Devon League competition.



Philosophy (The George Kelly Group.)
Ann Goodyear on xxxx xxxxxx or casiegale@hotmail.co.uk

No update received this month.



Playreading.
New Group Leader From **Thursday 7 June** :
Hilary Smith contact hsmith95@outlook.com

I've recently joined U3A and have been trying to improve my French by attending the very enjoyable classes on Tuesdays. I noticed that there was a group which read plays together, and thought that sounds interesting and fun but then saw that it needed a group leader and thought why not! The group will now meet in the Upper Room in Northam on the first Thursday of each month, from 10 am - 12 noon, starting on 7 June.

Previously I worked in East London mainly as a secondary school teacher for 30 years, initially teaching Business Studies and then changing to teaching Literacy skills to help dyslexic students with their reading, writing and spelling difficulties. This picture was taken a couple of years ago when renewing my wedding vows on our 40th Anniversary.



I am very much looking forward to meeting past and new members and very interested to hear your preferred reading genres.



Psychology
Jane Bellworthy xxxx xxxxxx or jane.bellworthy@btinternet.com

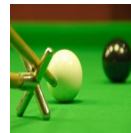
Our topic for the March was 'Loneliness' which is attracting more attention as more people live alone. We talked about how we can be lonely even in marriages or in a crowd. BBC Radio 4 'All in the Mind' programme recently featured loneliness and is running 'The Loneliness Experiment' (see BBC iPlayer to join in). We had a demonstration of a Google Home Mini (other devices are available). The voice controlled 6" x 3" device can be used to call relatives simply by voice. The device also doubles as radio, alarm clock and a reminders for pill taking times and shopping lists. Next month we meet on Friday April 13th and our topic will be 'Belief' or 'Why do we believe what we do?'



Science, Technology & Society.
For more information, contact Barry Zussman: xxxx xxxxxx or barryziv@btinternet.com

Our annual group lunch at Country Cousins Restaurant in Westward Ho!, postponed from the previous month, finally took place last Wednesday, with 16 participants. Despite the somewhat bizarre seating arrangements, everyone seemed to enjoy themselves - thanks to all of you for coming. The previous day, almost 30 of us squeezed into the Upper Room to hear guest speaker Austin Philp's entertaining account of his work as part of

a team of dedicated local volunteers who, armed only with wellies, a net, and a magnifying glass, trawl the tributaries of the Torridge once a month, to catch, identify and count the little critters which the Devon Wildlife Trust use to assess the health of the river. Our next meeting, on **Tuesday 24 April** (2:30 in the Upper Room), also has an ecological theme. **Gill Newbold will be discussing "Environmental Threats to Wildlife Habitats"**. Gill, who has travelled widely, and has seen the damage first-hand, will show her own photographs and others from threatened locations around the world. Then, if there's time, we'll explore the issue of plastic waste, and what we can do about it.



Snooker (Tue & Wed)
Contact either **John Stotesbury** xxxx xxxxxx johnstotesbury@hotmail.co.uk or **Ian Braunton** xxxx xxxxxx ianbraunton@btinternet.com

Yo, and welcome to this month's column, guaranteed to be cyber-attack free. We have had another good attendance month, even with illnesses etc playing its part, it could be with winter ending, some have come out of hibernation. A big thank you goes to Storing Brian for being master-of-ceremonies when others haven't been available...like John for instance (he's giving us all a well-deserved rest by being on holiday). A word of congratulations and round of applause for our Ian, who reached the final of the Bideford and district snooker veterans singles final, succumbing in the end 3-2 and even then only losing on the final black. Brilliant effort, Ian, just try harder next time ok. After his own long break for illness, dapper Tony is getting in the groove with a good 13 break. Other note-worthy scores...me, 18 and Ian 21 and highest monthly break, 31. That's it really...oh except for one incident...try to imagine an impossibly surreal situation of the Bismarck (Ian and Eric...bad guys) against The Mary Rose (Gary and partner...good guys). This is David v Goliath stuff, folks! Well battle raged back and forth, the bad guys tried everything, even tried potting balls and at one point, contacted the Aussie cricket team for ball-tampering tips. But the good guys held out and history was made. Wonderful, Boy's own stuff. In case you were wondering..Gary's partner? well that would be me hohohoho. For more info just contact Hughie Green or Michael Miles aka Ian or John. Thanks, Colin.



Spanish.
For more information contact **Stewart Philp** xxxx xxxxxx or hylee@talktalk.net

We had a full complement of beginners at the last meeting but there were still some gaps in the main group. With the latter we listened to some easy Spanish conversation and then read about "La Vuelta a España", the Spanish version of the "Tour de France" followed by conversation. The beginners practised their pronunciation and made valiant efforts to reproduce a conversation which they had previously listened to and studied.



Sunday Lunch Club.
Contact **Jean Barnaby** xxxx xxxxxx or jeanbarnaby231@btinternet.com

Sunday Lunch 6th May will be at the **Portmore Golf club 12.30**



Table Tennis.

Contact: **Christine Isaac** xxxx xxxxxx
or xxxx xxxxxx or *christine.isaac@talktalk.net*.

The Table Tennis group is still going strong and continuing to expand our membership. We are a lively group who enjoy a good chat along with our sport. We have decided to cap our membership at 30 which leaves us 2 places at the moment, so why not come along and give it a try.



Third Friday Walkers.

Group Contact **Geoff or Heather Williams** xxxx xxxxxx or
geoff.williams24@gmail.com

March Walk. We enjoyed a lovely walk from Georgeham, stopping to look at the grave of Henry Williamson and then heading up out of the village, round by Putsborough Sands and back to the Rock Inn for lunch. There were spectacular views, some very pretty lambs and the weather was mostly kind to us.

April Walk - Denny & Denys leading.

Friday April 20th OARE CHURCH via BADGWORTHY WATER 3 miles -5 km

Start 10.30 a.m. at Malmsmead car park (£2 in tourist season) O.S.map ref SS793478 situated behind Lorna Doone Farm - toilets available. To reach Malmsmead turn off the A39 Porlock to Lynmouth road at either the turning to Brendon or the one near County Gate and follow the signs to Malmsmead. Alternatively turn off to the B3223 Simonsbath to Lynmouth road. At Brendon Manor Farm bear right to Brendon valley road through Rockford and Brendon. At Brendon follow the very narrow valley road to Malmsmead.

The duration of this picturesque walk is approximately 1 1/2 hrs. The track rises steeply behind Clouds farm and is a fairly lengthy climb which can be muddy. On the return stretch of this circular walk we pass Oare Church, scene of the shooting of the bride, the eponymous heroine in Lorna Doone by R.D. Blackmore.

Lunch will be at the Blue Ball Inn at Countisbury about 10 minutes drive. The pub would like to know numbers and choices from the menu so if you wish to join this walk please could you let Denny know by Tues. 17 April on xxxx xxxxxx or email *denny.chick@yahoo.co.uk*

Important Notice: At the moment there are no volunteers to lead the walks in June and July. This is a real shame as they are beautiful months for walking. If you feel a bit nervous about leading a walk why not team up with someone else and if you've been walking with the group for a while why not choose to repeat a walk you have enjoyed in the past. Hopefully someone will come forward, please let Geoff and Heather know so we can pass on the good news to Linda Burgess who is heading up the group while we are away.

March walk - 15 of us joined Harriet for a walk around



Torrige U3A Ramblers.

Contact: **Glenis Beardsley** xxxx xxxxxx
or xxxx xxxxxx or *postmaster@jgbees.plus.com*
or **Jane Papworth** xxxx xxxxxx or *jamal-papworth@gmail.com*

Eggesford. The mud was still there, and snow in the hedges from the recent icy weather. However, bluebell

shoots in the woods and busy birds meant that Spring is just around the corner. Some of us enjoyed a reviving cup of tea at the garden centre after an enjoyable walk.



April ramble - Meet at 10.30. on Friday 13th April in the public car park at Simonsbath, Exmoor

(GR SS774393) Coming from the Barnstaple/South Molton area the car park is in a side turning on the left hand side of the village on the B3223 heading for Exford. 6.5 miles including fields, woods, farms and the Iron Age fort known as Cow Castle, returning along the River Barle. BYOFAD. Leaders Linda and Denny

Due to our next meeting occurring on Easter Bank Holi-



Ukulele group.

For further information contact **Richard Patmore** xxxx xxxxxx or
mandr.bideford@btinternet.com

day, we will NOT be meeting on April 2nd, so we next meet on April 16th. Lots of practice at home this month! Many people ask for personal tuition. If you want to have a go, try you tube, there are lots of people willing to give lessons, then come along and join us.

This month our stories were all about "Signposts". Open-



Writers' Group 1.

For further information contact **Sheila Mears** xxxx xxxxxx or *sheila.mears@sky.com*

ing with a tale of deportation to Australia, followed by a young lady staying in a Transylvanian hotel with her boyfriend who has 'big teeth'! Memoirs of a life defined by recurring signs was followed by a very clever gang of art thieves who turned the signposts to confuse and elude the police. From there we stepped into an enchanted forest in Lapland before hearing about a well prepared driver caught in the snow on Exmoor. Finally a rather more sinister wood featured a dwarf, elf and a black witch. We meet in the Upper Room on the fourth Wednesday of the month. Our next meeting will be 25th April 2018 at 2.30pm. **This group is currently full. For further information contact temporary Group Leader Gary How by email: *garyhow52@gmail.com***

"Breakdown" was our subject. We learnt that it was inad-



Writers' Group 2.

For further information **Shirley Jewell** xxxx xxxxxx or *shirleyjewell18@gmail.com*

visible to drive through a large puddle disguising a pot-hole but it seems that breaking down on Dartmoor and being rescued by a very handsome AA man was a good idea! Other contributions told of a marriage breakdown and a murder on the Bideford/Torrington road! We do have a vacancy in our group.

DIARY PAGE

ACTIVITY	DATE	TIME	LOCATION
<u>Groups below meet every week</u>			
AM-DRAM	Wednesday	14:00	The Pollyfield Centre, East-the-Water
ART—MONDAY	Monday	10:00	Upper Room, St Margaret's
BADMINTON	Thursday	13:30	Community Centre, Northam
BRIDGE for IMPROVERS	Tuesday & Friday	19:00	Upper Room, St Margaret's
BRIDGE INSTRUCTION -beginners	Friday	14:00	37 East Ridge View, Bideford
CROQUET	Tuesday - <i>Restart April 2018</i>	14:00	Barnstaple Croquet Club
FRENCH	Tuesday	10:00	Upper Room, St Margaret's
PETANQUE	Mon & Fri am; Wed pm	10:30/14:00	Village Inn, Westward Ho!
SNOOKER	Tuesday & Wednesday	10:00	Kingsley snooker club, Westward Ho!
TABLE TENNIS	Thursday	10:00	Bideford Youth Centre on the Pill

Groups below meet two or three times a month

CANASTA	1st & 3rd Wednesday	14:00	Upper Room, St Margaret's
DRAWING 1	2nd & 4th Wednesday	10:00	Upper Room, St Margaret's
DRAWING 2	1st & 3rd Thursdays	14:00	Upper Room, St Margaret's
FOLK DANCING	2nd & 4th Mondays	14:15	Northam Hall
GERMAN	Alternate Thursdays	10:00	<i>Contact Val Curtis for details</i>
MAHJONNG	1st & 3rd Wednesdays	13:45	The Annexe, Fremington Parish Hall
SPANISH	1st & 3rd Wednesdays	14:15/15:00	Highlea, First Raleigh (Beginners 14.15)
UKULELE (improvers)	1st & 3rd Mondays	14:00	Upper Room, St Margaret's

Groups below meet once a month

BOOK GROUP 1	3rd Tuesday	14:00	Upper Room, St Margaret's
BOOK GROUP 2	4th Thursday	11:00	Upper Room, St Margaret's
BOOK GROUP 3	1st Tuesday	14:30	Upper Room, St Margaret's
BOOK GROUP 4	2nd Monday	14:30	Upper Room, St Margaret's
CLASSICAL MUSIC	4th Friday	14:00	6, Stanbridge Park, Bideford
CRAFT CARDING	3rd Wednesday	09:30	Upper Room, St Margaret's
CREATIVE CRAFT	3rd Thursday	10:00	Upper Room, St Margaret's
DEVON INNS	2nd Thursday	12:00	See newsletter entry
DIGITAL CAMERA GROUP	2nd Wednesday	14.00	Upper Room, St Margaret's
DISCUSSION	1st Wednesday	10:30	The Royal Hotel, Bideford
EATING OUT	Last Wednesday	12:00	See newsletter entry
GARDENS	3rd Thursday	12:00	Next meeting March
HISTORY	1st Thursday	14:30	Northam Leisure Centre
MORNING WALKERS	1st Friday	10:45	See newsletter entry
MUSIC	2nd Friday	13:30	19 Amyas Way
MUSIC SANS FRONTIERS	2nd Tuesday	14:15	41 Lily Close, Northam
PHILOSOPHY (The George Kelly Grp)	2nd Tuesday	14:00	Upper Room, St Margaret's
PLAY READING			See newsletter entry
PSYCHOLOGY	2nd Friday	10:00	Upper Room, St Margaret's
SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & SOCIETY	4th Tuesday	14:30	Upper Room, St Margaret's
SUNDAY LUNCH	1st Sunday	12:30	See newsletter entry (January)
TORRIDGE U3A RAMBLERS	2nd Friday	10:30	Appledore via Westward Ho!
THIRD FRIDAY WALKERS	3rd Friday	10:30	See newsletter entry
WRITERS GROUP 1	4th Wednesday	14:30	Upper Room, St Margaret's
WRITERS GROUP 2	3rd Tuesday		<i>Contact Shirley Jewell (xxxx xxxxxx)</i>