

BARNSTAPLE u3a

NEWSLETTER

APRIL, 2025

Issue 458



www.barnstaple.u3asite.uk

barnstaplethirdagegroup@rocketmail.com

Chairman: *Keith Luckhurst*

Business Secretary: *Ian Woodward*

Membership Secretary: *Julia Denton*

Groups Co-ordinator: *Laurence Hillel*

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

We extend a very warm welcome to the following new members who have joined us recently:

Mr Tony Evans

Mr Grahame and Mrs Alison Woodward

Mr Tim O'Brien

Mr Martin John Chamberlain and Mrs Melanie Rosemary Chamberlain

SPEAKER

Our speaker on Friday 3rd April is Roger Bartlett from the Freedom Centre on the subject: "Responding to homelessness in North Devon"

Barnstaple u3a Contact List – see groups entry for more details

Group	Date and Time	Venue	Contact Details
Art	Tues 10-12am	Rhod. Ave.Methodist Church	Brian Steward
Bonsai	1 st Wed of month – 2pm	Venn Valley Vineyard	Nigel Wright
Book Lovers	Last Wed. in month	Various	Tim Toghill
Bridge	Fri. 2.30-4.30pm	Jane's house	Jane Keatley
Canasta	To be arranged	Ann's house	Ann Brand
Coffee morning	1 st Th of month - 10.30am	R'ndswell Comm.Hall	Any Committee Member
Croquet Braunton	Recommence April 2025	Bple Croquet Club	Anne Young
Evening Dining	2 nd Tue of month	Various	Mary Young
Garden Days (Taw)	Various	Various	Roxanne and Graham King
Geology	2 nd Fri. of month 1.45pm	Fremington Meth Hall	David Dickinson
Heritage Explorer	Various	Various	Laurence Hillel
Hikers	Mon 10.30am	Various	Pauline Markey Karen Wagstaff
How it Works	4 th Fri of month 1.45pm	Fremington Meth.Hall	David Dickinson
Knit and Natter	Second Mon of month	TBC	Sue Thomas
Literary Studies	3 rd Tue 2.30pm	Imperial Hotel	Ellie Bray
Local History	2 nd Wed. of month	Barnstaple Library	Jackie Brayley Yvonne Partington
Music	1 st & 3 rd Wed. 10.30-12.30	Fremington Methodist Hall	Doug Joslin
Mosaics	Fridays 10am – 12.30pm	Rhod. Ave, Methodist Church	Jackie Brayley
Nature Discovery	3 rd Wednesday with variation	Nature Trips and some talks	Laurence Hillel & Deirdre Johnson
Poetry	2 nd Sat of month, 2pm.	Various	Margaret Ryan
Practical Gardeners	Last Thurs of month, 10.30am normally	Various	Andy Jones
Quarterly Lunch	June – details later	Williams Arms	Sue Thomas
Ramblers	2 nd Thurs 10.30	Various	Karen Wagstaff
Rummikub	See main entry		
Scrabble	1 st Wed 10am-12.30pm 3 rd Thurs 10am-12.30pm	Pam's house	Pam
Singing for fun	2 nd Wed 10-12.	Fremington Meth.Hall	Patricia Hayhurst
Skittles	Thurs, fortnightly 4-6pm.	The Fox, Fremington	Elizabeth Howson
Strollers	4 th Thurs. 11am normally	Various	Bob Smith
Table Tennis	Tuesdays 2-3.30pm	Tarka Tennis Centre	Agnes Adams Gabi Engels-Hearn
Trekkers	3 rd Friday of month, 10.30am	Various	Michael Elliott
Wine Group	Last Wed. of month, 2pm	Room 3b, Barnstaple Library	David Rowe



ART

We meet at the Methodist church hall in Rhododendron Avenue, between 10 am and 12 noon, every Tuesday apart from the third Tuesday of the month. **This group is now at full capacity. Anyone interested in joining will be put on a waiting list.**

Brian Steward, Group Leader



BONSAI – An introduction. Wed/2nd April 2.00pm at the Vineyard.

Now we are at The Vine again, we shall next be meeting on WEDNESDAY, 2 APRIL at 2:00 pm.

The theme this month will be looking at some of the various methods of using very young material to look as if it is very much older. In basic terms, it is how to cheat at Bonsai! But I didn't say that!

Please bring your own material so we can learn from each other, along with some possible clipping! The coffee and the buns, supplied by Xen and Ashley, are gorgeous; some folk have their lunch at The Vine with their hearty and appetising menu.

Nigel Wright, Group Leader



BOOK LOVERS

Last Wednesday in month 2 - 4pm.

Diane: Stacey Halls - The Household
Maggie: Leonora Nattrass - The Bells of Westminster.
Gillian: Richard Osman - We Solve Murders.
Margaret: Sue Perkins - Spectacles.
Christine: Barbara Pym. - Crampton Hodnet.
Chris: Peter May - Runaway.
Dale: Ian Banks. - Complicity.
Charles: Shaun Magee - Desert Island Discs Anthology.

Dale has kindly offered to host our meeting in April.
Please contact Margaret for more information if you are interested.

Margaret Ryan (Acting Co-ordinator)
Tim Toghill, Group Leader



BRIDGE

Fridays 2.30pm to 4.30pm.

Members meet at Jane's house and if you are interested please contact her for details.

Jane Keatley, Group Leader



CANASTA

If anyone want to learn canasta please contact Ann Brand, details below.

Ann Brand, Group Leader



CROQUET (BRAUNTON)

Tuesdays 2-4pm.

Braunton U3A runs a croquet group during the summer and invite members from the surrounding U3A's to join the group.

The U3A Croquet Group will be starting on Tuesday 29th April. The group meets weekly at Barnstaple Croquet club, Raleigh Meadow, off St. Georges Road, Barnstaple, EX31 4UX. Tuesday, weather permitting, during the summer from 2pm to 4pm. No experience is necessary and all equipment and coaching is provided.

The cost is £4 to join or rejoin the group and £4 for every session you attend. Come along to meet friendly people for a fun afternoon. Contact the Group Leader for more information and to book your place.

Anne Young, Group Leader



EVENING DINING GROUP

Second Tuesday

The inaugural meeting at Fullam Chinese Restaurant went very well, and the next meeting is at Claytons, Cross Street, Barnstaple at 6.30pm on Tuesday 8th April.

Please contact the Group Leader if you are interested in joining this group

Mary Young, Group Leader



GARDEN DAYS

Wednesday May 28th: Tintinhull and Lytes Cary Manor, Somerset: Created last century around attractive 17th cent manor house, Tintinhull Garden is one of the most harmonious small gardens in Britain. LCM is Arts and Crafts-inspired Garden with collection of topiary, herbaceous borders, croquet lawn and orchard, and a mediaeval manor house restored in early 20th cent.

Cost: National Trust members £19.50, non-Trust members £40.50

Pick up times: Chilpark 09.30, New Inn 09.35, Ellerslie Rd 09.40, Newport Park and Ride 09.45

Booking: via our email. Once your place confirmed, please send cheque (**Taw U3A**) to our home address (please see previously-sent list of all grp leaders' contact details). Write pick-up point on back. **If we don't already have phone (mob if poss), for security write on separate paper.**

Wednesday April 23rd: Tredegar House, Newport, Wales:

Pick up times: Chilpark 09.30, New Inn 09.35, Ellerslie Rd 09.40, Newport Park and Ride 09.45

Need to contact us? Email if possible - highlitch@yahoo.com Please only use phone as last-minute emergency.

Roxanne and Graham King, Group Leaders



GEOLOGY

Second Friday monthly. Next Meeting – Friday 11th April at 1-45 for 2-00pm

At our **March** meeting, we had Rick Stewart talking about the arsenic deposits found in Devon and Cornwall during 19th Century.

The speaker in **April** will be Cherrie Temple from Wells U3A geology talking about the coastal damage at Blue Anchor Bay on the Bristol Channel in Somerset. This will endanger wild life and property; Cherrie will offer some ideas that may reduce the amount of future damage.

David Dickinson, Group Leader 01598 710480



HERITAGE EXPLORER

Our next visit will be later in the year – details will be published nearer the time.

Group Leaders - Laurence Hillel & Keith Luckhurst



HIKERS

Monday 7th April

Mel has kindly offered to lead our walk this month for which we are very grateful. It will be a 6m circular walk from Ashford to across fields to Bradford Mill, returning via the Tarka Trail where we plan to have refreshments at the Garden Centre. It is a leisurely walk with a few stiles and a gentle climb.

If you plan to join us, please let us know so that we can update you should there be any changes.
New members very welcome.

Group Leaders: Pauline Markey & Karen Wagstaff



HOW IT WORKS

Friday 25th April, 1.45 for 2.00pm.

On Friday 28th March group member, Helen Chugg who has an antiques and collectables store in Barnstaple, gave a talk entitled "My favourite things". Also, some group members brought along their own favourite items and they were very impressive, from Medals and decorations their parents

received in the Second World War to a Bible from the 16th Century. This was a great afternoon with unbelievable treasures shared with the members.

Earlier in March 16 members visited Pilton Parish Church and had a very interesting morning viewing woodwork and decoration dating back to the time of Elizabeth 1st, 500 years ago. It is hoped to start a group that will visit Churches and Ancient Buildings in North Devon. If you are interested contact me

The speaker in April will be Keith Luckhurst talking about **Industrial South West**

David Dickinson, Group Leader



KNIT AND NATTER

Second Monday at 2pm-4pm

Bring your current project with you and exchange tips and ideas over a cup of tea. Due to limited space this group is now full.

Sue Thomas, Group Leader



LITERARY STUDIES GROUP

Tue 15th April, Tue. 20th May – Imperial Hotel 2.30pm.

Our last book was Stoner, a 1965 novel by the American author John Williams. This was perhaps not the most exciting of reads, but we all agreed that it was beautifully written and the characters cleverly brought to life within the prose. It tells the story of William Stoner, who, after lonely years working on his parents' farm, with the expectation that he would one day take over the fields, entered the University of Missouri in 1910 at nineteen. Although he originally studied agriculture, Stoner discovered a new world of literature and poetry which sent him on a completely different path in life. Stoner's was a life half lived, stifled by the times he lived in and the social norms of the people he lived among. He found relative security at the university and stayed there for the rest of his life. It was not a great heroic life, but one of struggle and stoicism. Some described the book as sad and depressing, but we agreed that Stoner did have moments of happiness where he appeared to enjoy life - both in his family and work.

Ellie Bray - Group Leader



LOCAL HISTORY

We will have our end of season lunch on Wednesday 9th April. This will be at The Park Hotel this time, 12.30pm for 1pm. Please contact us to book a seat.

Group Leaders: Yvonne Partington 01769 540458 Jackie Brayley 01271 370759



MOSAICS

We meet at the Methodist Church Hall in Rhododendron Avenue on Friday Mornings from 10 to 12.30 (apart from the last Friday in the month).

Jackie Brayley, Group Leader 01271 370759



MUSIC

We meet on the first and third Wednesday of the month 10.30am – 12.30pm. at Fremington Methodist Hall. Please contact the group leader for more details.

Doug Joslin, Group Leader 07938 170096



NATURE DISCOVERY

There will be no April excursion because of school holidays. Our next outing will be on Wednesday, May 21st.

If you are interested in joining our group and being put on the email list, please contact Laurence Hillel

Group Administrators: Laurence Hillel & Deirdre Johnson



POETRY

Providing we have sufficient numbers we will resume our Poetry group in April. As usual it will be held on the second Saturday of the month and this time, I shall host it. The theme will be Love.

Please get in touch if you would like to join our friendly group. Second Saturday of month 2pm. Please contact Margaret for details.

Margaret Ryan, Group Leader



PRACTICAL GARDENERS

This month (27th March) we are having a guided tour of the Gardeners Delight nursery.

On Thursday 24th April we are visiting Marwood Hill Gardens, with a talk from the Head Gardener and a wander around the beautiful gardens, which will be full of an abundance of Spring flowering plants, in particular camellias, magnolias and rhododendrons! If you'd like to join us, please get in touch.

Contact Andy for further information.

Jackie Smyth, David Green, Andy Jones, Group Leadership Team



QUARTERLY LUNCH

Our next quarterly lunch will be in June. Details later.

Sue Thomas, Group Leader



RAMBLERS

Thursday 10th April

Pauline will be leading a circular walk of approximately 4m from Woolacombe to Putsborough. The walk we be along the beach and on footpaths.

Please let us know if you would like to come along so that we can advise you of any changes.

New members are always very welcome.

Karen Wagstaff 07967 331118 and Pauline Markey 07976 696604

Group Leaders



RUMMIKUB

Owing to ill health Ann Brand has had to step back from organising the Rummikub group. If anyone would like to offer to host this group, please let me know.

Laurence Hillel Groups Co-ordinator



SCRABBLE

April 2025 Wednesday 2nd 10-12.30pm, Thursday 17th 10-12.30pm.

We now have a waiting list for new members who may be interested in joining. For further information contact Pam.

Pam Harman, Group Leader



SINGING FOR FUN

Second Wednesday 10-12noon

If you are interested in this Group please contact the Group Leader.

Patricia Hayhurst, Group Leader



SKITTLES

Second and fourth Thursday of the month. 4-6pm

The skittles is going along very well, and we still have room for more players. We meet at The Fox at Fremington and all newcomers are welcome.

Elizabeth Howson, Group Leader



STROLLERS

INSTOW to Tarka Trail Thursday 24 April 11 am.

Meet at long layby just before Instow coming from Yelland. Walk along grass beside road into Instow. Cross this road at start of Marine Parade to side next to Marine base. Walk along pavement (Anstey Way – top road) till come to Marine Parade. Turn right towards signal box. Turn left at signal box onto Tarka Trail and walk to second bench on right. Turn round and retrace steps to signal box, then turn left onto Marine Parade. Walk along pavement next to beach to Wayfarer pub for lunch. Return to layby. Distance 2.5 miles
Please email me if going - in case circumstances force a last-minute cancellation.

Bob Smith, Group Leader



TABLE TENNIS

Tuesday afternoon from 2.00 to 3.30pm at the Barnstaple Tarka Centre.

The Table tennis group has continued to play weekly. Good, competitive, but friendly games seem to be enjoyed by everyone.

Attendance has been high and this is okay now as the Tarka Centre is providing us with an extra (new!) table. Thus, we play on three for the one and a half hours. The waiting list is gone and new Members are again welcome.
Contact Agnes or Gabi

Gabi & Agnes Group Leaders



TREKKERS

There will be no Trekkers Walk in April as it falls on the Good Friday bank holiday in the school holidays. This means the next walk will be on Friday the 16th of May, provided a volunteer comes forward to lead a walk! If you would like to join the group, please let me know so I can add you to the list.

Michael Elliott, Group Coordinator



WINE

The group continues to meet on the last Wednesday of the month in Room 3b of Barnstaple Library at 2pm. We are an open and welcoming group with a wide range of knowledge and interest in wine from beginners to those with in depth knowledge of specialist areas.

If you fancy giving the group a try just to see if it would be of interest to you, please drop me a line

David Rowe, Group Leader

NOTE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Members may wish to be aware that almost every day, *U3A communities*, which is an independent online platform, offer members the opportunity to join in regular, lively meetings on a vast range of differing subjects.

Website: u3acommunities.org

NOTES FROM THE EDITOR

The list of activities on Page 2 of this edition is to help members by showing the venue, day, time and contact numbers.

Please keep communicating by emailing the Editor at:

barnstaplethirdagegroup@rocketmail.com If you have any group photographs please send them to this address.

Group Leaders: Please note that the next edition will be circulated about the 29th April, please submit any articles before the 24th April if possible.

Lynne Dickinson, Editor

YOUR COMMITTEE MARCH 2025

L-r Norma Woodward, Ian Woodward, Nigel Wright, Andy Jones, Susan Thomas, Keith Luckhurst, Linda Southgate.

Apologies: Laurence Hillel, Maureen Penny, Julia Denton.



Members of the How it Works Group visiting Pilton Church



Nature Discovery Group at Bennett's Mouth



The inaugural meeting of the Evening Diners Group



Ramblers Group - Bideford to Appledore



Hikers at Arlington to Loxhore

