

BARNSTAPLE u3a

NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER, 2024

Issue 454



Watersmeet

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:

Ms Alison Shaw

Mrs Ann McKeever

We would also like to welcome Ms Paula Latimer as an Affiliate Member

SPEAKER

THE NEXT COFFEE MORNING AT ROUNDWELL HALL WILL BE ON THURSDAY **2nd JANUARY 2025** AT 10.30am. WHEN OUR SPEAKER WILL BE JOHN RIDDINGTON-YOUNG. HIS TALK IS TITLED "HAMLET AND HIS POISON"

IMPORTANT NOTE

AS THE CHRISTMAS LUNCH IS ON THURSDAY 5TH DECEMBER THERE WILL OBVIOUSLY **NOT** BE A COFFEE MORNING AT ROUNDWELL HALL ON THAT DATE

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 -5 th Feb	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 Not-Dec.
Croquet Braunton	Recommence April 2025	Bple Croquet Club	Anne 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, 2.15- 5	Various	Margaret Ryan
Practical Gardeners	Last Thurs of month, 10.30am normally	Various	Andy Jones – 07805 941537
Quarterly Lunch	Xmas 5 th Dec.	Barnstaple Hotel	Sue Thomas
Ramblers	2 nd Thurs 10.30	Various	Karen Wagstaff
Rummikub	Wed, Th. 2pm weekly	Ann's house	Ann Brand
Science	2 nd Tue of month 1.45pm	Rhod.Ave, Methodist Church	Austin Philp
Scrabble	1 st Wed 10am-12.30pm 3 rd Thurs 10am-12.30pm	Pam's house	Pam Harman
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

A note from our Chairman

Barnstaple u3a are inviting members to join the committee, to form a shadow committee, to assist in the smooth running of the organisation. These positions are not onerous, and are available for the forthcoming AGM, held in March next year. If you feel you could participate, please do not hesitate to contact any committee member.

Many thanks

TWO POSSIBLE NEW GROUPS

Creative Writing

Hi, my name is Carol and I am proposing to start a New Group that you may be interested in. I would like to start a Creative Writing Group to be held on a Mon 10-12noon on the 1st Mon. of each month. Hopefully if there are any takers, starting in the new year.

If this appeals to you and you would like to have a go,

Carol Young proposed Group Leader

Poetry Writing

Hi, my name is Carol and I am proposing to start a New Group that you might be interested in.

I would like to start a Poetry Writing Group to be held on a Tues between 2pm - 4.00pm on the 1st Tues of each month. Hopefully, if there are any takers, we will start in the new year.

If this sounds like something you would like try, please contact me.

Carol Young proposed Group Leader

Note from the editor

The poetry group led by Margaret Ryan is, unfortunately, not meeting again after December.

If anyone is interested in running this group, can they please contact Laurence Hillel the Group Co-ordinator or the Chairman or any committee member who will be glad to be of assistance.



ART

The art group has a new Group Leader – Brian Steward. We meet at the Methodist church hall in Rhododendron Avenue, between 10 am and 12 noon. **Spaces are available. The group meets every Tuesday apart from the third Tuesday of the month.**

Brian Steward, Group Leader



BONSAI – An introduction

Thanks are due to Xenia and Ashley the new managers of 'The Vine' bistro at the Landkey vineyard, who are allowing us back into the venue we have grown to like very much.

The details are that we will start our u3a Bonsai group again on Wednesday, **5 February 2025** at 2:00 pm. The food at the Bistro is truly excellent and at a really good price – so if we buy a coffee, a cake, or indeed lunch the u3a will not be charged for the venue.

Our format will be the same as before in that you bring in your own trees so we can have a chat about them and I will have a theme to demonstrate on my trees. We need to finish and be away by 4:00 pm.

It will be great to have us all back together again.

Nigel Wright, Group Leader



BOOK LOVERS

Our meetings are normally the last Wednesday of the month from 2pm to 4pm.

Please note our group starts at 2pm, for more information contact Tim.

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 is interested in learning to play canasta Ann will hold sessions at her house. Please phone her if interested and a meeting can be arranged.

Ann Brand, Group Leader



CROQUET (BRAUNTON)

Tuesdays 2-4pm.

Braunton U3A run a croquet group during the summer and invite members from the surrounding U3A's to join the group. This will recommence in April 2025.

Anne Young, Group Leader



GARDEN DAYS Roxanne and Graham King

No visits until April 2025. That visit will be advertised in the March newsletter. Graham and Roxanne

Roxanne and Graham King, Group Leaders



GEOLOGY

Second Friday monthly. Next Meeting - Friday 13th December at 1-45 for 2-00pm

We will not need biscuits at this month's meeting as it is the Christmas party, a talk by Peter Loomer with photos of his recent visit to Patagonia, food to eat and nibble, a general knowledge quiz, and a Christmas sing-along. Please bring along your favourite rock to show and say a couple of sentences about. There will be a discussion of this year's speakers, other topics will be the prelude to 2025. We ask each member to bring a small amount of food. Wives, husbands and partners are welcome.

The meeting in January 2025 for Geology will be on the third Friday i.e. the 17th but will revert back to the 2nd Friday in February.

David Dickinson, Group Leader 01598 710480



HERITAGE EXPLORER

On Thursday 28th November visited Exeter Christmas market and museum. A report and photographs will appear in the next newsletter.

Group Leaders - Laurence Hillel & Keith Luckhurst



HIKERS

Monday 2nd December

We hope you will be able to join us for a circular walk of 7.3m from Heddon's Mouth to Woody Bay along bridleways, lanes and coast path with some lovely views. A couple of long steady ascents plus one table ups and downs.

If you plan to join us, please let us know so that we can send you further details and inform you if any changes.

Group Leaders: Pauline Markey & Karen Wagstaff



HOW IT WORKS

Friday 13th December, 1.45 for 2.00pm.

Joint Xmas party with Geology

The November speaker was Marjory Keefe who gave an excellent talk regarding the design and construction of the Panama Canal. The canal was initially developed by France however its cost and complexity were in excess of the country's resources. Eventually the USA took over and finished this remarkable feat of engineering. This was Marjory's first PowerPoint talk - **EXCELLENT**.

The meeting in December will be on Friday 13th when we will join the Geology meeting for our Christmas celebrations. A general knowledge quiz, a talk by Peter Loomer with photos of his recent visit to Patagonia, and a special Christmas sing along. Members are asked to bring a small plate of eats to bring and share. Wives, husbands and partners welcome.

Michael Kelly will be our speaker on 28th January "Church Buildings of the South West". More details in the next newsletter.

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 17th Dec. – our Christmas Meeting

Tue 21st January 2025 – Imperial Hotel 2.30pm.

Forever Home by Graham Norton is described on the cover as "a mix of family drama and comedy crime caper" - a description that encompasses some of the group's different opinions. After our last two books, we were looking for a bit of light relief and this book certainly delivered that! It was thoroughly enjoyed by a few, not at all by some, while others fell in between. It was a very light-hearted, easy read but for some, the storyline was too far-fetched. We agreed that the author's ability to create likable characters and bizarre situations in wonderfully described locations was cleverly written, but perhaps not his best book.

Ellie Bray 01271 371506 Group Leader



LOCAL HISTORY

Room 2A Barnstaple Library 2pm

There is no meeting in December.

We meet again on 8th January, 2025 and our speaker is Sharon Snell with Part 4 (and final part) of the amusing Braddicks Story.

We look forward to welcoming everyone. Please phone one of us to book your seat.

Yvonne Partington & Jackie Brayley



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



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



NATURE DISCOVERY

There will be no meeting in December. Hopefully, weather permitting; we will meet again in January on Wednesday 18th. Details will be sent out by group email. We hope everyone has an enjoyable Christmas. Laurence and Deirdre

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

Unsurprisingly our theme was Autumn. Included was Shakespeare's famous Sonnet 73 alluding to Autumn signalling the approach of death in nature's cycle and his own mortality as well as his works of literature which will come to an end and must be left behind. Other poems chosen were Autumn by the peasant poet John Clare, The Autumn by Elizabeth Barrett Browning,

Nothing Gold Can Stay by Robert Frost, Autumn Fires by Robert Louis Stevenson and to raise the mood Autumn Valentine by American satirist Dorothy Parker. Tim sent in a poem by Robert Laurence Binyon, Burning of Leaves. Binyon also wrote the famous war tribute poem:

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning,
We will remember them.

Our thanks to Dale for kindly hosting and providing refreshments. For December I shall host and we will each bring some food to share to celebrate Christmas. **Sadly, this will be our last meeting.** Our theme can be Xmas or humour or favourite poems.

Kind Regards, Margaret Ryan



PRACTICAL GARDENERS

GOOD NEWS! The group has a new leadership team, namely Jackie Smyth, David Green and Andy Jones. We will take a break until Spring next year. Contact Andy for further information

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



QUARTERLY (XMAS) LUNCH

Our Xmas lunch will be on Thursday 5th December at the Barnstaple Hotel. We look forward to seeing you there.

Sue Thomas, Group Leader



RAMBLERS

December 2024

No walk this month but we look forward to seeing you all in January

Karen Wagstaff & Pauline Markey Group Leaders



RUMMIKUB

Ann holds weekly sessions every Wednesday and Thursday at 2pm. Everyone is welcome but please phone Ann first. Venue: 11 Andrew Road, Sticklepath.

Ann Brand, Group Leader



SCIENCE

Rhododendron Ave Methodist Hall, Tues. 10th December, 2024. 2-4pm

We had an '**Interesting**' meeting in November. Many thanks to all those who contributed.

Our December/Xmas meeting will revolve around '**The History of Sound Recording**'. On display will be a collection of Gramophones along with associated items as seen at the September Coffee morning.

There will be the opportunity to listen to recordings that will take us all back to our Childhood and earlier. Choose from the many sound effects, speeches, monologues, unusual, novelty and rare records.

New Members are always welcome. Entry remains at £3

Austin Philp, Group Leader 01271 373488



SCRABBLE

Only one meeting in December: Wednesday 4th 10-12.30pm

We now have a couple of spaces 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

Sue and I enjoyed receiving an excellent turnout on 13 November, when Sue with her usual skill treated us to a fun warm-up, and then we sang ten songs from our regular list, finishing with Christmas related carols and songs. Plenty of laughter, and some new faces, too.

We meet again on 11 December for our final informal seasonal session for 2024.

My sincere thanks to all those who come & support us: we couldn't do any of it without you!!!

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

There will be no walk in December.

Please contact to Bob Smith if you would like to join this group

Bob Smith, Group Leader



TABLE TENNIS

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

The Table Tennis Group is going from strength to strength with us becoming athletes of the highest calibre - just kidding - but we are all of a standard that is noteworthy and individually pleasing. Spirits are high and social in between games.

We are now 30 members and potential new members may have to go on a waiting list.

We will be celebrating Christmas with a meal at the Williams Arms on the 17th December.

After that there will be no play until we resume on 7th January 2025.

Gabi & Agnes - Group Leaders



TREKKERS

Normally third Friday of month, 10.30am.

The last Trekkers Walk this year will be on Friday the 20th of December from Bucks Mills. Fine views of woodland, rolling countryside and coastal views. Seven miles, wet and muddy in places. Meet at the Bucks Mills car park, Postcode EX39 5DW, grid reference SS285 260. As it is practically the shortest day, we will **start earlier than usual at 10:00**. As usual bring snacks, lunch and plenty to drink, and be ready for any weather. 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

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 shortened edition will be circulated about the 21/22nd December; please submit any articles before the 18th December if possible.

Lynne Dickinson, Editor

Terry Lee, a member of our u3a laying a wreath on Remembrance Sunday on behalf of the Rotary Club



Various pictures of hikers and ramblers from November



How it Works Group after a superb talk on the Panama Canal by Marjory





Various photos of the “Summer Tour” in the Yorkshire Dales organised by Karen and Pauline of the Hikers and Ramblers Groups.

