

BARNSTAPLE u3a

NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY, 2025

Issue 456



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:

Mrs Helen Chugg

Ms Dee Jackson

Ms Janice Jackson

Mrs Carolyn May Batty

Mrs Neena Kennedy

Dr Peter David Kyle

Welcome back to Ms Rita Granger

SPEAKER

Our speaker on Thursday 6th February is Trish Sail from the RNIB. She will be sharing with us some of her experiences from competing in the BBC's Race Across the World in 2023.

A NOTE FROM YOUR CHAIRMAN

After 10 years presenting the successful Science group, Austin is to step down in the very near future, and consequently a replacement is required.

The group meets once a month and is attended by around 20 persons, all of whom enjoy the afternoon with a variety of speakers and subjects. It would be a shame if this successful group was to cease.

Do you think you could take over? Austin will provide a suitable handover.

If so, and you wish to know more, please do not hesitate to contact Laurence, our group co-ordinator.

POSSIBLE NEW GROUP

Maureen Penny and Mary Young are hopefully setting up a new group for **Evening Diners**, details as follows:-

We would like to start a new evening dining out group. Our first venue will be the Fulham Chinese opposite the Cattle Market in Barnstaple on Tuesday, 11 March at 6.30pm. Diners will be responsible for settling their own bill at the end of the evening.

If you're interested, please contact Mary or Maureen by email from the u3a website www.barnstaple.u3asite.uk This is our first U3A venture and further venues will be decided by the group during the evening.

Barnstaple u3a Notice of AGM

Notice is hereby given that the 2025 AGM of Barnstaple u3a will be held at our coffee morning on **Thursday, 6 March at 10.30 am** at the Roundswell Community Hall.

Members wishing to vote at the AGM must provide evidence of their eligibility to vote by showing their membership card on entry to the hall. Apologies for absence should be notified before the day to the Business Secretary, Ian Woodward, by email from the u3a website www.barnstaple.u3asite.uk/u3a-contact-form/?contact_id=3821

Barnstaple Third Age Group									
Account for the year ended 31st December 2024 to be presented at AGM on Thursday 6th March 2025									
	£	£	£		£		£		
Receipts					Payments				
Opening balances at 1st January 2024									
Bank	9898.25				Groups			4555.01	
Cash	3.71		9901.96		Lunches			3458.10	
					Meetings			709.22	
Subscriptions		2964.50			Admin			373.36	
TAM		171.00			Committee			312.65	
Groups		4571.96			Speakers			821.00	
Lunches		3375.00			Third Age			1524.61	
Meetings		687.95			Equipment			114.51	
Gift Aid		359.82			Miscellaneous			24.50	
Miscellaneous		4.50							
Total Receipts			12134.73		Total Payments			11892.96	
					Closing balances at 31st December 2024				
					Bank	10140.02			
					Cash	3.71		10143.73	

S Thomas Treasurer
M Blower Examiner

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
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 - 01271 345080
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	Th. 27/3 - 12 for 12.30pm	Williams Arms	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

NOTES FROM THE EDITOR

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 27th February, please submit any articles before the 23th February if possible.

Lynne Dickinson, Editor



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

Wednesday, 5 February @ 2.00pm at the Vineyard.

A New Year, a new set of bonsai meetings

Chatting to folk about the fact we are once again meeting on a WEDNESDAY – 5th February we should be back to our old numbers of people able to come along

We shall be using the same format as before, that worked rather well for all concerned. There is no entrance fee, but please have a coffee (wine?), bun or even lunch that Xen and Ashley produce to an extremely tasty level.

Please bring your trees with you so we can all learn and maybe do a little work on some to help them on their way.

January is the re-potting time as the trees are dormant so I shall have a couple of trees to repot. I have recently become interested in a subset of bonsai called Penjing. Penjing is the Chinese art of creating potted landscapes. “Pen” translates as pot and “Jing” as landscape. I have made one example that we will be able to have a chat about.

I am really looking forward to meeting up with you all again.

Nigel Wright, Group Leader



BOOK LOVERS

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

Please contact Margaret for more information.

Margaret Ryan @ 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 contact 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

No garden visit in February. The first trip for 2025, in April, will be advertised next month.

Roxanne and Graham King, Group Leaders



GEOLOGY

Second Friday monthly. Next Meeting – Friday 14th February at 1-45 for 2-00pm

In January we had Douglas Bateman talking via zoom about Copper. Our speaker this month is Dr Charles Moon a consultant geologist who has travelled extensively examining prospective and actual ore deposits. This talk will also include the formation and exploitation of the granite deposits in the South West.

Bring along any rocks you have and after the meeting our resident geologist Nigel will be able to discuss them with you.

David Dickinson, Group Leader



HERITAGE EXPLORER

Our next visit will be when the weather improves – details will be published later.

Group Leaders - Laurence Hillel @ Keith Luckhurst



HIKERS

Monday 3rd February

We hope you are able to join us for our first walk this year which will be a 6m circular walk from East Titchbury, Hartland. We depart at 10:30 and will be following parts of the SWCP, footpaths and fields. Some ascents, descents and uneven ground as expected in this area.

Please let us know if you plan to come along so that we can send you further information.
New members always very welcome.

Group Leaders: Pauline Markey and Karen Wagstaff



HOW IT WORKS

Friday 28th February, 1.45 for 2.00pm.

Michael Kelly was our speaker in January “Church Buildings in North Devon”. If you had wondered when churches were designed and built this was a detailed and fascinating tour of the area and its history from Saxon times. It was so good a presentation that he will give a follow up talk (part 2) in February.

On Friday 28th March a member of our group, Helen Chugg who has an antiques and collectables store in Barnstaple, will give a talk entitled “My favourite things”. She would like you to bring along an article that is special and means a lot to you, it doesn’t need to be an antique. This is an advance notice for you to think about what you could bring.

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 18th February 2025 – Imperial Hotel 2.30pm

Tue 18th March 2025 – Imperial Hotel 2.30pm

Our last book was a psychological thriller - I See You by Clare Mackintosh. We were nearly unanimous in our appreciation of this book, but ---- not quite! It was indeed a cleverly crafted, thought-provoking thriller, with such a scary, realistic storyline that one could feel nervous about ever getting on a tube train! We all agreed that this story was a brilliantly creepy idea and most enjoyed it, finding it an easy read. However, despite this, one or two members thought it was slow to start and lacking in depth. We finished by agreeing that Clare Mackintosh was an author to perhaps savour again.

Ellie Bray Group Leader



LOCAL HISTORY

Room 2A Barnstaple Library 2pm

Our Speaker for Wednesday 12th February is Teresa Tinsley with her talk:
N. Devonians in the Spanish Inquisition during the reign of Queen Elizabeth 1st.

Our Speaker for Wednesday 12th March is Keith Denby with his talk:
Shipwrecks around Lundy. (This is a change from the programme).

We look forward to welcoming everyone at these talks.

Group Leaders: 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 01271 345080



NATURE DISCOVERY

Nature Discovery in February will be a birdwatching trip to the Skern led by Martin Unwin. We will meet at the earlier time of 9.30 on Wednesday 19th February. Details will be sent out by group email.

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

As the numbers are so low we have put our group on hold to see if more people would like to join. We have always included those who wish to present their own poetry. Please get in touch if you would like to join our friendly group

Margaret Ryan, Group Leader

PRACTICAL GARDENERS



The group has a new leadership team, namely Jackie Smyth, David Green and Andy Jones.

The group met up on 29th January to discuss their new programme of events for 2025, which will include visits to local gardens and a guided visit to a local nursery that has won awards at national garden shows!

New members are very welcome to join our happy band of gardeners - no experience necessary as we do like to learn from one another's experiences.

Contact Andy for further information. Tel: 07805 941537, email: aljlmj57@gmail.com

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

QUARTERLY LUNCH



Our next quarterly lunch will be on Thursday 27th March 12noon for 12.30pm at The Williams Arms, Wrafton.

The cost per ticket for a carvery lunch will be £14.00 and they will be on sale at the coffee morning on Thursday 6th February. Any queries contact Sue.

Sue Thomas, Group Leader

RAMBLERS



Thursday 13th February

We look forward to seeing you this month for a circular walk of just over 4m from Combe Martin to Berrynarbor. Our route follows the SWCP, lanes and fields through the pretty village of Berrynarbor. We hope you will join us for lunch afterwards.

Please let us know if you plan to come along so that we can send you further information.
New members always very welcome.

Karen Wagstaff and 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 February 2025

There will be no meeting in February. A new leader is required.

Austin Philp, Group Leader



SCRABBLE

February 2025 Wednesday 5th 10-12.30pm, Thursday 20th 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

We had a surprisingly good turnout for our first session of the New Year when John came to play for us, including introducing a new song to our collection (it had already been approved by our 'regular accompanist' Sue). We are fortunate to have two such talented musicians to help us and increase our 'fun'!

In February, we celebrate the second anniversary of the group's restarting, and I'm pleased to tell you that our £6.50 3-monthly fees can stay the same: I've already put mine in the collection box.

Thank you all for your continued support, and I look forward to seeing you on 12 February

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

NEWPORT - JOHN's GARDEN CENTRE - Thursday 27th Feb 2025 11am

Meet at Garden Centre main entrance door (plenty of car parking)

Gain access to TARKA TRAIL by walking out of site exit into field to the right & then walk approx. 100 yds to main Tarka trail bearing LEFT up under the road bridge towards PARK SCHOOL area. Carefully cross A377 main Rd over to pathway leading down towards ROCK PARK --- go along walk next to River Taw till end; turn right & return along New Road, then Victoria Road and along path to GC for refreshments (no need to book). 2.4 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 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 resume on Tuesday 7th January 2025.

Gabi & Agnes - Group Leaders



TREKKERS

The next Trekkers walk will be on Friday the 21st of February, led by Monica and Bob, starting at 10:30 am from Winsford on Exmoor. About six miles. Meet at the parking area in the centre of the village. It's on the Exford road, a left turn if coming on Ash Lane via North Molton and Withypool. The post code for the nearby bus shelter is TA24 7JE. 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

Our Chairman – Keith Luckhurst

Our illustrious Chairman had his 80th birthday in January. With his permission I attach below a few photos of his celebrations.



Trekkers Walk – Enjoying a dry lunch stop in the National Trust Barn at Peppercombe on a wet walk in December, plus an unexpected obstacle met on the way.



Pictures of Mosaics Xmas Meal at the Fulham Chinese Restaurant



