

# BARNSTAPLE u3a

NEWSLETTER

30<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2024

Issue 44



**THE CHAIRMAN AND COMMITTEE WISH YOU ALL A HAPPY EASTER**

[www.u3asites.org.uk/barnstaple](http://www.u3asites.org.uk/barnstaple)

[barnstaplethirdagegroup@rocketmail.com](mailto:barnstaplethirdagegroup@rocketmail.com)

**Chairman:** *Keith Luckhurst*

01271 346452

**Membership Secretary:** *Julia Denton*

01271 831295

**Business Secretary:** *Ian Woodward*

07791 936228

**Groups Co-ordinator:** *Laurence Hillel*

[lcfhillel@gmail.com](mailto:lcfhillel@gmail.com)

## **WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**

**We are delighted to welcome the following new Members who have joined us recently:**

**Mr Bryan Hawkins**

**Ms Grace Wharton**

**We also welcome Mr James Hunt as an Affiliate Member**

## **COFFEE MORNING THURSDAY 4<sup>th</sup> APRIL, 2024**

**Our speaker is Stephen Powles “Tawny Owls – coming to a wood near you”**

Stephen was formerly a vet but then changed career to pursue a lifelong passion for wildlife, wildlife photography, filming and conservation. This presentation describes the lives of tawny owls, observed over a fifteen-year period.

## WELCOME TO YOUR NEW COMMITTEE



**l-r Norma Woodward, Nigel Wright, Ian Woodward, Keith Luckhurst (Chairman), Laurence Hillel, Julia Denton and Sue Thomas. Apologies from Maureen Penny and Andy Jones.**

### **IMPORTANT NOTICE**

**Our next coffee morning is Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> April, but the following one which is normally the first Thursday in May has been brought forward to **Monday 29<sup>th</sup> April at 10.30am** because of local elections and the availability of the hall.**

### **NOTES FROM THE EDITOR**

The list of activities on Page 3 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](mailto:barnstaplethirdagegroup@rocketmail.com)

**Group Leaders:** Please note that the next edition will be circulated about the 28<sup>th</sup> April, please submit any articles before the 24<sup>th</sup> April.

I would be delighted if anyone has any group photographs, I could put in the newsletter.

**Lynne Dickinson, Editor**

## Barnstaple u3a Contact List – see groups entry for more details

Group	Date and Time	Venue	Contact Details
<b>Art</b>	Tues 10-12am	Rhod. Ave.Methodist Church	<b>Brian Steward</b> 07718 152492
<b>Bonsai</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Wed of month	Venn Valley Vineyard	<b>Nigel Wright</b> 07974 998032
<b>Book Lovers</b>	Last Wed. in month	Various	<b>Tim Toghil</b> 07904 096882 <a href="mailto:ttoghil@gmail.com">ttoghil@gmail.com</a>
<b>Bridge</b>	Fri. 2.30-4.30pm	Jane's house	<b>Jane Keatley</b> 01271 624398
<b>Canasta</b>	To be arranged	Ann's house	<b>Ann Brand</b> 01271 529425
<b>Coffee morning</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Thu of month 10.30am	R'ndswell Comm.Hall	<b>Any Committee Member</b>
<b>Croquet Braunton</b>	Thu 12-3pm From 30/4---	---Bple Croquet Club	<b>Anne Young</b> 01271 813255
<b>Garden Days (Taw)</b>	Various	Various	<b>Roxanne and Graham King</b> <a href="mailto:highlitch@yahoo.com">highlitch@yahoo.com</a>
<b>Geology</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> Fri. of month 1.45	Fremington Meth Hall	<b>David Dickinson</b> - 01598 710480
<b>Heritage Explorer</b>	Various	Various	<b>Laurence Hillel-</b> <a href="mailto:lcfhillel@gmail.com">lcfhillel@gmail.com</a>
<b>Hikers</b>	Mon 10.30am	Various	<b>Pauline Markey</b> 07976 696604 <b>Karen Wagstaff</b> 07967 331118
<b>How it Works</b>	4 <sup>th</sup> Fri of month 1.45pm	Fremington Meth.Hall	<b>David Dickinson</b> 01598 710480
<b>Knit and Natter</b>	Second Mon of month	TBC	<b>Sue Thomas</b> 01271 323460
<b>Literary Studies</b>	3 <sup>rd</sup> Tue 2.30pm	Imperial Hotel	<b>Ellie Bray</b> 01271 371506
<b>Local History</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> Wed. of month	Barnstaple Library	<b>Jackie Brayley</b> - 01271 370759 <b>Yvonne Partington</b> 01769 540458
<b>Music</b>	1st & 3rd Wed. 10.30-12.30	Fremington Methodist Hall	<b>Doug Joslin</b> - 01271 345080
<b>Mosaics</b>	Fridays 10am – 12.30pm	Rhod. Ave, Methodist Church	<b>Jackie Brayley</b> - 01271 370759 07879 812869
<b>Nature Discovery</b>	3rd Wednesday with variation	Nature Trips and some talks	<b>Laurence Hillel</b> – <a href="mailto:lcfhillel@gmail.com">lcfhillel@gmail.com</a> <b>Deirdre Johnson</b>
<b>Poetry</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sat of month, 2.15- 5	Various	<b>Margaret Ryan</b> - 01271 321089
<b>Practical Gardeners</b>	Last Thurs of month, 10.30am	Various	<b>Lynda Wren</b> - 07805 907686
<b>Quarterly Lunch</b>	To be advised	Williams Arms	<b>Sue Thomas</b> - 01271 323460
<b>Ramblers</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> Thurs 10.30	Various	<b>Karen Wagstaff</b> 07967 331118
<b>Rummikub</b>	Wed, Th. 2pm weekly	Ann's house	<b>Ann Brand</b> 01271 529425
<b>Science</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> Tue of month 1.45pm	Rhod.Ave, Methodist Church	<b>Austin Philp</b> 01271 373488
<b>Scrabble</b>	1st Wed 10am-12.30pm 3rd Thurs 10am-12.30pm	Pam's house	<b>Pam Harman</b> - 01271 377872 / 07769 803003
<b>Singing for fun</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> Wed 10-12.	Fremington Meth.Hall	<b>Patricia Hayhurst</b> - 01271 343272
<b>Skittles</b>	Thurs, fortnightly 4-6pm.	The Fox, Fremington	<b>Elizabeth Howson</b> - 01271 860643 <a href="mailto:libbyliz@live.co.uk">libbyliz@live.co.uk</a>
<b>Strollers</b>	4 <sup>th</sup> Thurs. 11am	Various	<b>Pam Harman</b> - 01271 377872 / 07769 803003
<b>Table Tennis</b>	Tuesdays 2-3.30pm	Tarka Tennis Centre	<b>Agnes Adams</b> - 01271 267103 <a href="mailto:adamsagnes@rocketmail.com">adamsagnes@rocketmail.com</a> <b>Gabi Engels-Hearn</b> - 01271 375479
<b>Trekkers</b>	3rd Friday of month, 10.30am	Various	<b>Michael Elliott</b> - 07933 244247 <a href="mailto:michaelandjanet.elliott@gmail.com">michaelandjanet.elliott@gmail.com</a>

<b>Wine Group</b>	Last Wed. of month, 2pm	Room 3b, Barnstaple Library	<b>David Rowe</b> - 07940 784742 <a href="mailto:David.Rowe21@talktalk.net">David.Rowe21@talktalk.net</a>
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## 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.**

Contact Brian on tel. number 07718 152492 email: [drawets16@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:drawets16@yahoo.co.uk)

*Brian Steward, Group Leader*



## BONSAI – An introduction

First Wednesday of month 2pm.

A fun and pleasurable session was held in March with 11 attendees, many of whom enjoyed owner Ali's amazing cakes at our venue the Venn Valley Vineyard. Our next meeting will be held on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> April at 2pm. Any queries contact the Group Leader.

Tel: 07974 998032 email: [nigel@nysys.co.uk](mailto:nigel@nysys.co.uk)

*Nigel Wright, Group Leader*



## BOOK LOVERS

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

Books chosen were Leaving Time by Jodi Picoult comparing human grief over loved ones to elephants, The Lincoln Highway by Amor Towles about three 18-year-olds from a juvenile detention farm in Kansas plus an 8-year-old Billy who is a younger brother to one of them. The Children Act by Ian McEwan refers to the 1989 Children Act and was made into a film by Richard Eyre and a screen play by the author starring Emma Thompson and Stanley Tucci. Paris Echo by Sebastian Faulkes while beautifully written had different timelines which was confusing and used questionable devices to manage the plot. Other books discussed were an American whodunnit Where the Crawdads Sing by Delia Owens about an abandoned girl of seven who raises herself to adulthood in North Carolina and is the prime suspect for a murder; this too was made into a film. Finally, The Goldfinch by Donna Tartt is a coming-of-age tale told by a 13-year-old boy.

*Margaret Ryan Tel. 01271 321089 Temporarily standing in for Tim.*

Email: [ttoghill@googlemail.com](mailto:ttoghill@googlemail.com) Telephone 07904 096882



## BRIDGE

Fridays 2.30pm to 4.30pm.

This is a new group which is now up and running. Members meet at Jane's house and if you are interested please contact her for details.

Email: [janekeatley1@gmail.com](mailto:janekeatley1@gmail.com) Telephone 01271 624398

*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.

Email [annbrand@gmail.com](mailto:annbrand@gmail.com) or telephone 01271 529425

*Ann Brand, Group Leader*



## CROQUET (BRAUNTON)

We will begin outdoors again on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> April 2024, 2-4pm. We meet at Barnstaple Croquet Club, Raleigh Meadow off St. Georges Road, Barnstaple. New members are welcome.

Ring Anne on 01271 813255 or email [amcyoung2003@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:amcyoung2003@yahoo.co.uk) for more information.

*Anne Young, Group Leader*



## GARDEN DAYS

**Wednesday 22 May:** Antony House, Torpoint, Cornwall: 18th century house set within a magnificent landscape garden

**Pick-up times:** Chilpark 9:30am, New Inn c.9:35am, Ellerslie Road c.9:40am, P&R c.9:45am depending on Cedars problems - we'll email those booking if any change.

**Cost:** £17.00 National Trust members, non-members £28.00

**Booking:** via our email. Once place confirmed payment to our home address (cheque only, to Taw U3A) by end April (or April trip or April coffee mng). Please write trip, pick-up point and new **Taw U3A** memb' number on back. If we don't already have this, phone (mob if poss) on separate paper. Last year's supporters 1st come 1st served, others on waiting list (are often places).

~Graham & Roxanne

**Need to contact us?** email if possible - [highlitch@yahoo.com](mailto:highlitch@yahoo.com) Please only use phone as a last-minute emergency.



## **GEOLOGY**

**Second Friday monthly**

**Friday 12<sup>th</sup> April at 1-45 for 2-00pm**

The March speaker was Prof. Malcolm Hart from Plymouth University who told us about the setting up of the Torquay area Biosphere Reserve. Malcolm explained complex geology of the area in simple terms with excellent pictures.

In April Gary Dawson will talk on "An important new Carnian outcrop - Charles Moore's fossils to Triassic climate change". This concerns a new outcrop found in road construction near J25 of the M5 during late 2020. It turned out to be the probable, and previously unknown, location of fossils described by the Victorian geologist Charles Moore in 1867. An unusual wet period during predominantly dry Triassic times.

Join us for an informative talk with tea, coffee and Tunnocks chocolate biscuits.

*David Dickinson, Group Leader 01598 710480*



## **HERITAGE EXPLORER**

Our first visit was to Tiverton Museum on the 5<sup>th</sup> March. This was very successful with 25 members attending, enjoying an interesting and informative museum. The next meeting is currently in the planning stage.

If you wish to join the group, please contact Laurence at [lcfhillel@gmail.com](mailto:lcfhillel@gmail.com) for details.

*Laurence Hillel, Keith Luckhurst, Group Leaders*



## **HIKERS**

**Monday 1<sup>st</sup> April**

**No walk this month as it is Easter Monday – Happy Easter**

If you would like to join, please contact us so that we can send you further details.  
New members are very welcome.



## HOW IT WORKS

**Fourth Friday of Month 1.45 for 2.00pm.**

Michael, Gil and Chris gave a stimulating PowerPoint talk on **Electric Lighting**; in 100 years we have progressed from gas lights to OLED. This was a clearly presented talk with excellent pictures showing the progress and effectiveness of lighting systems through this

time.

On April 26<sup>th</sup> Agnes Adams and Jenny Crook will present a talk on **Colour** stretching back thousands of years with examples of Jenny's own paintings and research by Agnes into the history and science of colour.

New members always welcome, coffee, tea and biscuits included in the £3 admission charge.

*Telephone 01598 710480*

*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. There are places available, so please contact Sue Thomas on 01271 323460 or email [susanthomas1010@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:susanthomas1010@yahoo.co.uk) if you are interested.

*Sue Thomas, Group Leader*



## LITERARY STUDIES GROUP

Tue 16<sup>th</sup> April - Imperial Hotel 2.30pm Tue 21<sup>st</sup> May – Imperial Hotel 2.30pm Our last book, written in 1974, was *If Beale Street Could Talk* by James Baldwin - a leading civil rights activist. This was a powerful story of love in an atmosphere of severe and extreme social and racial injustice, which most agreed, was cleverly written, even though the structure was unfamiliar. However, it was not enjoyed by all. For some, it gave an interesting view of black society, in particular that of a family faced with undeniably corrupt and racist individuals and institutions. For others, it was just not an enjoyable read. The author embedded some positive underlying messages of optimism, sisterhood and family loyalty, but he also conveyed messages of despair and racial injustice which seemed to outweigh the lighter moments. This was a seriously emotive subject with the potential for a powerful novel, but it lacked substance, making it difficult to engage with the characters. The one thing that we did agree on was that the ending was inconclusive and therefore disappointing.

*Ellie Bray 01271 371506 Group Leader*



## LOCAL HISTORY

We have now finished this season of talks and will start again in September. Thank you to our members who have supported us this year again and to new Members. However, on 10th April we are having our end of season group meal at the Royal & Fortescue, 12 for 12.30pm. If you would like to join us but couldn't get to the March meeting, please phone one of us.

We are always pleased to receive suggestions for Topics or Speakers and we will then do the research and hopefully include in the next season.

Please contact either of us by phone or at the monthly coffee morning.

Thank you, Jackie and Yvonne

*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).

We currently have a vacancy in the group, so if you are interested in joining us or just want to 'have a go' please contact me.

*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 01271 34508*



## NATURE DISCOVERY

Our April outing will be a visit to Baggy Point on **Wednesday 17th April**, meeting at the NT car park at 10.30am. We should see a range of spring wildflowers as well as some interesting birds

For more information about the group please contact Laurence Hillel on





## **POETRY**

This month's session was cancelled owing to ill health and absences. The April theme will remain as Flowers and Julie has kindly agreed to host. There are still a couple of places available to join. You will be made most welcome.

If you need more information, please contact Margaret. 01271 321089

*Group Leader: Margaret Ryan*



## **PRACTICAL GARDENERS**

We are a sociable group who like gardens, growing things, and giving advice when asked for it. After a date and time have been agreed we usually visit one of our members gardens. There we have a tour of the garden and see the interesting plants etc. that they have. Then there is the all-important cuppa and biscuit while we discuss the plants in their garden or any other matters we want to chat about.

The Practical Gardeners Group meet up once a month during spring, summer and autumn. Meetings and emails will take place in the morning on the last Thursday of the month, unless there is a problem and then times/ days can be changed. I hope that gives you some idea of our group and if you want further information, please give me a call.

Telephone: m) 07805 907686 h) 01271 378403 Email: [skydogwren@aol.com](mailto:skydogwren@aol.com)

*Lynda Wren, Group Leader*

## **QUARTERLY LUNCH**



Our next quarterly lunch will be in June. Details nearer the time. Any queries, contact Sue.



## **RAMBLERS**

**Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> April**

Keith has very kindly offered to lead a walk from Okehampton for those who are interested.

He says....

Although this walk is beyond our normal local area, don't be put off as it is a beautiful and spectacular walk of approximately 3m

We will meet at 10.30am at the far end of Simmonds car park in central Okehampton. (£1.80 for 4 hours } post code EX20 1EP, Car share is available if you want a lift.

The walk takes us alongside the river Oke, past waterfalls, a slow, easy climb to a viewing point overlooking the whole of Okehampton.

We then drop down to the Old Okehampton station which has an excellent YHA cafe and return to Simmonds Park.

New members very welcome. Please wear appropriate clothing and sturdy footwear.

*Karen Wagstaff 07967 331118 and Pauline Markey 07976 696604  
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.

Email [annbrand@gmail.com](mailto:annbrand@gmail.com) or Telephone 01271 529425

*Ann Brand, Group Leader*



## **SCIENCE**

**Rhododendron Ave Methodist Hall, Tues. 9th April, 2024. 2-4pm**

Thanks to Peter for his well-informed talk last month on his career in Power Stations. In April Austin will take us on a tour to many notable **Bridges and Viaducts** around the world.

There are many different shapes and sizes and interesting facts to be discovered. Do you have a favourite?

New Members are always welcome. Entry remains at £3

*Austin Philp, Group Leader 01271 373488*



## SCRABBLE

In April 2024 we will meet on:   Wednesday 3rd    10 to 12.30pm  
  Thursday 18th    10 to 12.30pm.

There is now a waiting list for any new members hoping to join. We will accommodate you as soon as possible.    **01271 377872 or 07769 803003 [pamharman19@gmail.com](mailto:pamharman19@gmail.com)**

*Pam Harman, Group Leader*



## SINGING FOR FUN

Second Wednesday 10-12noon.

We had another enthusiastic gathering for our March session when we sang a broad range of songs, with several still 'in the wings' awaiting our attention. We have 3 more sessions before we take a break in July (payment due next time, folks!).

Thank you to all who support us, plus our invaluable accompanist Sue. I look forward to seeing you again on 10 April, and wish you all a Happy Easter.

Phone 01271 343272    **[patriciahayhurst001@btinternet.com](mailto:patriciahayhurst001@btinternet.com)**

*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.

**Email:** [libbyliz@live.co.uk](mailto:libbyliz@live.co.uk)    01271 860643

*Elizabeth Howson, Group Leader*



## STROLLERS

We will have our first stroll of 2024 on **Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> April 11am.**

Meet at the Albert Clock on The Square, Barnstaple for an approximate 90-minute stroll along flat pathways on the west side of the River Taw followed by refreshments/lunch at a nearby venue for members who would like to partake. New members are very welcome.



## TABLE TENNIS

Tuesdays 2.00- 3.30 at Tarka Tennis Centre

Table Tennis continues to be enjoyed every Tuesday afternoon at the Tarka Centre. So much so that the group has grown to maximum capacity for the available tables in the venue. Everyone appears to enjoy the lively, busy atmosphere.

To keep this going for all the existing members we have decided that for the time being we are not accepting any new members.

If there is demand we will open a waiting list.

*Gabi 01271 375479 Agnes 01271 267103 Group Leaders*



## TREKKERS

Third Friday of month, 10.30pm.

The next Trekkers walk will be on Friday 19 April with gentle climbs along the Tarka Trail and back. Meet at the car park at Watergate Bridge near Taddiport, EX38 8PA, grid reference SS 468 175. From Torrington take Limers Hill down to Taddiport. Cross the river, bear right and follow the B3227 for about a mile and a half over the hill and down to the river. The car park is then on the left just after the bridge. As usual 10:30 start, bring snacks, lunch and plenty to drink, and be ready for any weather.

New members are always welcome, so if you are interested in joining the group, please let me know.

*Tel: 07933 244 247 [michaelandjanet.elliott@gmail.com](mailto:michaelandjanet.elliott@gmail.com)*

*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.rowe21@talktalk.net](mailto:david.rowe21@talktalk.net) or 07940 784742.



*David Rowe, Group Leader*

*Gill and David receiving gifts on resigning from the Committee after several years' service.*



*Getting ready for the AGM at the coffee morning in March*



*Nature Discovery – a very wet day at Lee Bay*

*The first outing of new group Heritage Explorer to Tiverton Museum in March*



*Spring Lunch*



*March*

*2024*

