

UPDATE

Edition: Sixty –December2024/January2025

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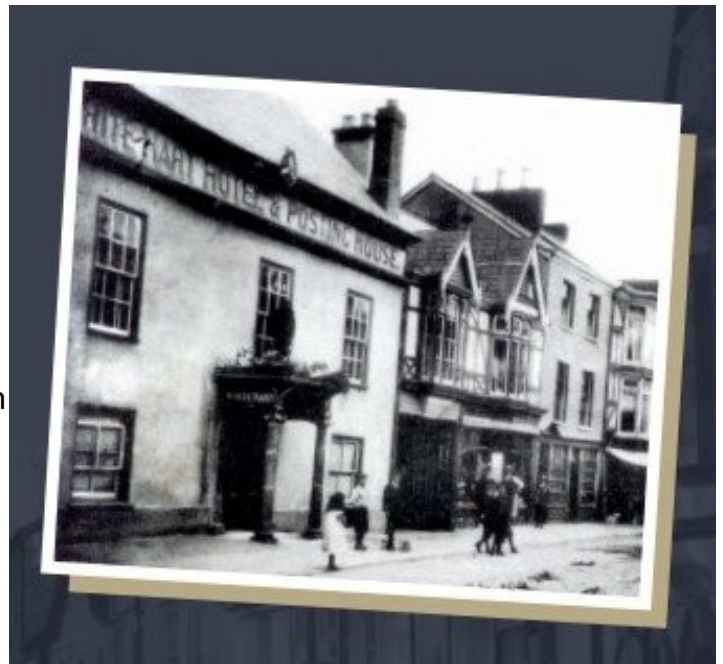
A very warm welcome to those new members who have joined us since the last newsletter was sent out.

Our FIRST Speaker for 2025

Thursday 6th February 2025

Our first talk of the year from Margaret Shackleton is entitled Hippos to Houses - a journey along Cullompton's historical timeline. Margaret will take us back through history to the Ice Age, mapping our way and leaving a trail of breadcrumbs to follow as we then journey back to the present day. What will you pick up on the way?

If that sounds intriguing, I'm sure Margaret will make it clear at our first meeting on Tuesday 6th February.



Speaker Programme 2025 – Get them in your diary

Date	Speaker	Topic
6 th February	Margaret Shackleton	Hippos to Houses - A journey along Cullompton's Historical Timeline
6 th March	Dr James Taylor FRSA	Horatio Nelson: Picturing Britain's Greatest Admiral
3 rd April	Ken Wood, (CVu3a)	Mexico - a bit of business, culture and pleasure
1 st May	Paul Dean	Truffle Farming in England
5 th June	Terence McCarthaigh, (CVu3a)	Traditional Folk Tales: origin, nature and practice

Date	Speaker	Topic
3 rd July	Peter Isaacson	Medical Detection Dogs Charity
7 th August	Lynda Kettle	My Life as a Production Designer in Theatre & TV
4 th September AGM	CVu3a Ukulele Group	Performance by the CVu3a Ukulele Group
2 nd October	John Hayston (Chair, CVu3a)	How Sheep Farming Evolved in the UK and My Part In It.
6 th November	Mary King MBE Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Devon	The Role of Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Devon and her Equestrian Life
4 th December	Jude Coram Stage Comedy Magician	An Afternoon of Mystery, Mirth and Magic

The above programme is subject to change. Any unavoidable changes will be communicated in the monthly Update Newsletter the preceding month. Gill Sole, Speaker Coordinator CVu3a

Note from the Chair

The ladies who organise the tea's & coffees at our monthly meetings do a fantastic job. But Jane, Carol & Barbara need more support. Ideally, we need a bank of 8 volunteers to call upon, so no one is asked to volunteer every meeting. If you feel you could help in this matter and offer to do a shift or two, please phone Jane on 01884 38436. Many thanks in hopeful anticipation of eager volunteers.

Culm Valley u3a quarterly Executive Committee meeting was held on 18th December 2024. Membership is now over 250 with 35 Interest Groups. The bank balance is within the Third Age Trust guidelines i.e. under £5000.00. Thank you to everyone who helped to make the CVu3a 5th Anniversary lunch such a great success. There has been some talk of holding an unsubsidised lunch close to Christmas 2025, but this has not been decided upon as yet. All minutes of the Executive Committee meetings are available to view on the Culm Valley u3a website under the "About" tab.

News from Interest Groups

SOLOISTS – (But not alone!)

A group where unattached members of the Culm Valley u3a can mix and mingle with kindred spirits and pursue their interests in both formal and informal settings. Our last gathering at the Old Well Garden Centre was more social than formal over some lunch. 10 from our list of 15 members managed to get through the awful wind and rain to a very friendly reception. The list of interests and ideas are endless. A few examples we will be developing for 2025 includes the following:

Special screening of the film Shalborne filmed extensively in Devon.

Cullompton Rugby Club womens team on Sundays

Days out to Plymouth, Bristol, Exeter, Salisbury – to include art shows, matinee (theatre, ballet music etc) Shepton Mallet Antiques Fair and of course lunch out at some of the good eateries in Devon

Jenny Day



Art in Action

Have been busy as ever meeting the 1st & 3rd Monday of the month to pursue individual art projects or have a go at a still life bought in by one of the group.
 Monday 27th January Chris Howe is coming to give the group a watercolour workshop with a demo.
 Here is a selection of the group's members art works.







New Short Course

Contact John Hayston to join the course, or provide more details of this short course,

Speak Up!

Do you have a story to tell, but you're not sure where to start?
Do you want to develop your confidence in speaking to, or, in a group?

This 4-session course will help you: -

Understand your audience.

Think about, plan and prepare what you want to say.

Practice and deliver your story.

Plus

Tips to help you develop your confidence when speaking in public.

Dates

Wednesday 12th March 2025 14.00-15.30

Wednesday 19th March 2025 14.00-15.30

Wednesday 9th April 2025 14.00-15.30

Wednesday 23rd April 2025 14.00-15.30

This short course will only take a maximum of 6 members for each course. If you are interested in joining the course please sign up at the next monthly meeting or call John Hayston 07894081696 or email: johnhayston1@gmail.com

Ukulele

We continue to grow and have a mixture of new beginners through to accomplished musicians. We're a friendly and jolly bunch who meet weekly on Thursday mornings for up to two hours in the village of Uffculme at Markers Community Room. In addition to ukulele's, we have players of guitars, bass, banjoleles, harmonica and mandolin. We would welcome players of other instruments as long as they can blend in (probably not suitable for hard rock drummers with a 14-piece kit!). New Year is a great

time to start a new hobby and learn new skills. If interested contact Terence at email: t.mccarthaigh@btinternet.com

Beginners French Conversation

We are currently a closed group of six people who are trying to learn to speak French so that we can communicate with friends and others in French when we travel to that Country or other French speaking Countries and Regions.

We use a variety of material to learn basic words and phrases and how to pronounce them. We have been meeting fortnightly since the beginning of this year with a couple of changes of membership.

So, although we are currently a closed group (to keep it simple, friendly and participative) there may be vacancies occurring from time to time. If you're interested and would like to be on the waiting list contact Terence at email t.mccarthaigh@btinternet.com

Walkers

Our final walk of 2024 in December was a gentle circuit around the country lanes and footpaths of Bradninch which was miraculously mud free until we crossed a slurry-ridden footpath through a farmyard on the return straight. A bring and share buffet at Gill's rounded off another great year of walks for the group.

16th January we have a walk around Woodbury common 5 miles approx., with an optional lunch at the White Horse, Sidmouth Road, Woodbury Salterton. Meet 10am at the Woodbury Castle car park on the B3180 (SY032872) all welcome but let me know if you want pub food.

Johnhayston1@gmail.com





BTS

In Devon the majority of waste which isn't reused, recycled or composted is sent to one of two energy recovery facilities in Devon, one of which is Exeter's Energy From Waste Plant on Marsh Barton. In December a group of 20 went **Behind the Scenes** at the facility and enjoyed a very interesting talk and tour by two experts on Waste Management from Devon County Council. We saw the process by which 60,000 tonnes of non-recyclable waste is diverted from landfill annually to generate enough electricity to power the equivalent of 6,624 homes.

We'll be repeating this excellent visit in 2025 when another group can see what happens to the contents of our black bins and ask the experts anything they've ever wanted to know about recycling.



Genealogy Group

The Genealogy Group, ignoring the doom and gloom weather forecast, held their first meeting on Wednesday the 8th January at Cullompton Library. We reviewed several of the on-line digital tools made available by The Devon Family History Society for 'Free' together with their calendar of events offering support for anyone researching their family tree. This information is available on the DFHS

website [Click Here](#)

The research tool 'Ancestry Libraries Edition' certainly feels as though it has benefited from a recent upgrade (purely my opinion) or perhaps it's the work going on in the background refreshing the library internet (who knows?). I found quite a difference with the [Step 1](#) Grandfather or Grandmother search, once the basic information is complete the software ran a search in seconds producing some very interesting ancestor information, going much further than I have been able to go before. One personal nugget was discovering 4 relatives aboard the Mayflower bound for the New World in 1620.

In other news the u3a Subject Matter expert Stephen Dyer has published his January 2025 Newsletter [Click Here](#) , he touches on the free genealogy site 'familysearch.org' and the 3 Billion records added to their database and the best way to search the site.

This month's highlight for those with an interest in Scottish Ancestry is, the University of St Andrews has made available for the first time a Historical Manuscript, renamed 'The Saint Andrews Chronicles', which is a history of and the origins of Scotland, including William Wallace and the Stone of Destiny.

Finally, there is the usual updates on new records from the Family History research sites and what we can expect to see in 2025, with new records from the established archives e.g. Parish Records, Military etc.

The next meeting is on Wednesday the 12th of February at the Hayridge Centre Cullompton Library from 10:30 until 12:30.

Walter

Quiz Report

The last quiz of the old year took place on the 20 December, with a Christmas themed quiz, presented by Paula and Sue. A quiz that provided for a range of skills and knowledge Including identifying the song from a few lines of lyrics, Naming the Countries from across the world by their greetings and fun facts and general knowledge. Skills of observation came into play when trying to identify Christmas related items photographed in unusual angles and wordplay skills to answer the anagrams. However without a doubt the round that provided the biggest challenge, for some of the teams, was the 12 days of Christmas - maths, It definitely helped if you knew whether or not it was 'Seven swans a swimming' or 'Seven ladies dancing ' etc etc because in order to get the answer to (for example) multiply the number of swans a swimming by the number of ladies dancing and add to that the number of golden rings, you can see how very easy it was to get the wrong answer even if your strong suit was maths. However, on the other hand even if you knew the lyrics you could still get it wrong if your adding, subtracting or multiplying was not your strong point, but that is where team work definitely helps. We all agreed another great quiz and celebrated with mince pies and cream and other assorted nibbles. Happy New Year to everyone, here's to more quizzing in 2025. Best wishes & a Happy new year to you all. Linda

Live Jazz Music Appreciation

My piece this month is dedicated to "Walking in the Footprints of Jazz Music Giants"! In June 2024 I grasped the opportunity to embark on a Jazz Music Pilgrimage, whilst on a visit to the mid USA state of Indiana; (NOT, you will note dear reader, way down south in New Orleans, Louisiana!) where my journey took me instead, to the city of Richmond, the county seat of eastern Wayne County, bordering the state of Ohio, the home of the Starr Piano manufacturing company,

which was turning out as many as 40 finished new pianos each day in the early 1920s! A major employer in that city.

Music recording was in its infancy when the far-sighted owners of the Starr Piano company branched out by founding the Gennett Records recording company in 1917. by the late 1930s the label had produced more than 16,000 masters! As many of the different railroads crisscrossing the USA appeared to meet at the Richmond railhead, Gennett Records attracted growing numbers of the emerging jazz musicians to travel there in order to record and promote their special genre of music, which recordings we are amazingly still able to listen to, a full century after the first pressings were made!

Without the development of recording music sounds onto hard disks in that era, it is argued that our generation might never have even had the pleasure of hearing Jazz! Gennett Records was the first to capture sounds made by that horn "titan", Louis Armstrong, Delta blues giant Charley Patton and Hoagy Carmichael's famous "Stardust". These musical greats voluntarily sat surrounded by curtains, in an unventilated 85-degrees room, so that a wax disc would remain soft enough for a stylus to cut in sound vibrations; nearby trains passing by a few feet away, often ruined their takes!

Regrettably, very little remains of the old buildings where jazz history was made in the early 1920s, but fortunately, for "pilgrims" such as myself, the city historians have raised funds from Gennett family members, and dedicated others, to enable a Jazz Walk of Fame to be set out alongside a wide walkway located in the landscaped park in the part of the city previously occupied by the Starr Gennett music company. Here are placed raised plaques displaying record discs perpetuating the names and portraits of the many now famous musicians who trod this hallowed ground whilst making their way to and from the primitive recording studio; I was delighted and also humbled to walk in the footsteps of my many jazz heroes including Louis Armstrong, King Oliver, Fats Waller, Sidney Bechet, Bix Beiderbecke, Jelly Roll Morton, Earl Hines, Duke Ellington, Count Basie, Coleman Hawkins, Fletcher Henderson, Artie Shaw and Wendel Hall, to name but a few. The day felt truly atmospheric, the only absentee being the wonderful musical sounds made there long ago. What an experience!

Here follows a few pics to illustrate my jazz pilgrimage:

Gennett Records recording studio - reproduced for museum display.



A colourful street side mural, reminding all passersby of the locality's jazz



View of the Jazz Walk of Fame located on the site of the old Starr Piano Company and the wording on Jazz Walk of Fame info display board.



Louis Armstrong's memorial plaque – modeled on a record disc.



Pétanque

Friday gatherings have continued throughout the winter months, but bad weather, coughs & colds have depleted numbers to some extent. Spirits are high, 8 members visited Wellington Pétanque Terrain the Friday after Christmas day for 2 hours of Boule, after which a hansom meal & liquid refreshment was enjoyed at the local Wetherspoons public house. Best wishes for the new year.



Coloured Pencils

After a December of Winter Foliage as our theme, we have moved onto the Weather as our first theme of 2025. With mini tutorials on rain, snow, wind, sun and shadows, in January and February we will each be working on one or various creations with a weather theme.



Learn to Draw

We are now half way through course number 3, with everyone continuing to develop their drawing skills. We have covered quite a lot so far including - Language of Art – Elements and Principles, Mark making and creating textures, Drawing Upside Down, Understanding what a pencil can do, Light and Shadow, Shading and Blending, Observation, Creating a Focal Point, Proportions – The Basic Unit and Perspective. So you can see we have already covered quite a lot, with more to come.



Interest Groups Information

Group	Contact Please click on name to email	Venue, Day & Time
Art in Action	Rachel Kingdom	2nd & 4th Monday each month 13.30 – 16.30 Club Room, Willand Village Hall
Beginners French Conversation	Terence McCarthaigh	Monday Fortnightly. Members home, Uffculme
Beginners Spanish	Micky Wood	Weekly at The Bakehouse, Cullompton
Beginners Jewellery	Julie Murphy	Contact Julie
Behind the Scenes	Gill Sole Paula Longdon Moir Wood	6 times each year
All trips will be announced by email and offered to all u3a members on a first come first served basis in future so as to give everyone the opportunity to participate. Given the different nature of the venues we visit some numbers will be small and if over-subscribed we may be able to repeat the trip at a later date.		
Boules/Pétanque	Richard Taylor Mobile: 07816337456	Every Friday 11:00 and 14:00 Weather dependent
Bridge	Maggie Lambert	Contact Maggie
ITCG (Computers/IT)	Andy Arnold	1st & 3rd Wednesday each month at 15:00 The Hayridge, Cullompton
Coloured Pencils	Sue Hooper-Lawrie	1st & 3rd week each month 13.30 – 16.30 Club Room, Willand Village Hall
Craft	Jean Turner	1st & 3rd Wednesday each month 9:30 to 12:30 Committee Room, Willand Village Hall
Creative Writing	Hazel Newman	Meet every 3rd Tuesday 14.00
Draw It!	Sue Hooper-Lawrie	2nd & 4th Thursday each month 10:00 – 12:00 Club Room, Willand Village Hall
French Conversation	Sally Graham	1st Monday each month at 11:00

Group	Contact Please click on name to email	Venue, Day & Time
French Conversation #2	Gill Westcott	2nd and 4th Mondays each month at The Bakehouse, Cullompton from 15:00 to 16:30
Gaming	Jean Turner	1st Monday each month 10:30 to 12:30 Club Room, Willand Village Hall
Gardening	Michelle Crocker	Contact Michelle
Genealogy	Walter Longden	2nd Wednesday each month 10:30 to 12:30 Hayridge Centre
History	Alison Waple	3rd Thursday each month plus various other days
Jazz Appreciation	Richard Taylor Mobile: 07816337456	Contact Richard
Learn To Draw Short Course	Sue Hooper-Lawrie	Willand Methodist Church Hall
Live for Today, Plan for Tomorrow (Short Course)	Sue Hooper-Lawrie	Willand Health & Community Centre
Photography	Sue Childs 07398 686612	Last Monday each month
Quilting	Yvonne Doherty	1st & 3rd Tuesday each month 9.30 to 12.30 - Committee Room, Willand Village Hall.
Quizzing	Linda Le Milliere	1st and 3rd Friday each month at 11:00 - Willand Village Hall
Reading	Sally Graham	3rd Thursday each month, 14:30 upstairs at Cullompton Library
Soloists (But not alone)	Jenny Day	Contact Jenny
Strollers	Elieen Turner & Jackie Sim	2nd Tuesday each month @10:30 4th Tuesday each month @10:00
Theatre/Cinema/Music	Daphne Dowsing Carole Eden	Contact Daphne or Carole

Group	Contact Please click on name to email	Venue, Day & Time
Ukulele	Terence McCarthaigh	Thursdays 10.00 -11.30 @ Markers Community Room, Uffculme, EX15 3DZ
Walkers (4-6 Miles)	Gill Sole	3 rd Thursday each month a/m

If you have an idea for an Interest Group, please get in touch with Groups Co-ordinator on email: cvu3agroupscoord@gmail.com

New Interest Groups currently under construction:

- Photography #2

Contact Emails for current Executive Committee members:

Email	Current role holder
cvu3achair1@gmail.com	John Hayston
cvu3avicechair@gmail.com	Janet Bryant
cvu3afinance@gmail.com	Alison Waple
cvu3abussec@gmail.com	Lorna Knowles
cvu3agroupscoord@gmail.com	Sue Hooper-Lawrie
cvu3amemsec@gmail.com	Marian Luck

Monthly Meetings:

Monthly Meetings are held on the FIRST THURSDAY of each month, except January. The meeting starts at 2pm, with members arriving any time after 1.15pm. We hold our meetings at Willand Village Hall, Gables Road, Willand, EX15 2PL. Check monthly newsletter for more information about arrangements for upcoming meeting/s.

Suggested Venues for Group Meetings

John Tallack Youth & Community centre, Meadow Lane, Cullompton. Ex15 1LL.

Email: info@jtc.org.uk Website: www.johntallackcentre.org.uk

The Walronds, 6 Fore Street, Cullompton.

Email: Info@walronds.com Website: www.walronds.com

The Bakehouse, 3 High Street, Cullompton.

Email: enquiries@thebakehousecullompton.co.uk Website: www.thebakehousecullompton.co.uk

Phone: 01884 35222

The Steamer, Five Bridges, Cullompton.

Email: hello@the-steamer.co.uk Phone: 01884 904960

Willand Village hall, Gables Road, Willand. Bookings contact: Frances Wilcox.

Email: bookings@willandvillagehall.org.uk

Willand Football club 3 Silver St, Willand, EX15 2RG

<http://willandrovers.co.uk> Phone 0188433885 or 07870727120

Willand Health & Community Centre, (opposite Village Hall) Bookings contact; F. Wilcox

Email: info@whacc.org.uk

Cullompton Library, (part of The Hayridge Centre). Contact; Rachel Kidd.

Email: Cullompton.library@librariessunlimited.org.uk. Phone; 01884 824555

Go to <https://www.devonlibraries.org.uk/web/arena> to pre book a computer time slot by using the iCAM booking system or directly. <https://lu.imil.uk/Account/LogOn?ReturnUrl=%2fbookings>

Opening hours (Staffed): Monday-Friday – 09:00 – 17:00 Saturday – 09:00 – 13:00

Square Corner, The Square, Uffculme, Ex15 3AA: <https://www.squarecorner.org.uk/book-online>

Bridwell, Uffculme, is under new ownership and **The Orangery** is open once again. They are happy for large groups to meet there again. If you are planning to hold a meeting in the Orangery for 8 or more people, please email cafe@bridwell.co.uk to book the group in and let them know numbers and if you are planning to eat or not.

If you know of any other suitable venues, please let me know.

Deadline for items for UPDATE is always the 10th of the month.
Please send to johnhayston1@gmail.com