



Chat from the Chair



Springtime is here and it means many different things – for your U3a Committee it signals time for the AGM so we would love to see as many of you as possible at the next Monthly Meeting in The Ocean on Thursday May 8th for a short period of voting (good exercise for the arms!) followed by a fascinating talk on the origins of nursery rhymes.

Springtime also means we resume our regular battle with slugs and snails in the garden. We've previously discussed the old metaldehyde-based slug pellets which kill other wildlife and even your pets – these pellets have been

illegal to use or store for some years so if you still have some in your garden shed then please dispose of them.

So, what are our alternatives?

Many have recommended variations of sharp-edged materials such as eggshells but having witnessed slugs commuting across our stone chippings driveway, it seems that if they are hungry enough then they will crawl over anything sharp.

We've had good results protecting individual plant with plastic bottle collars – cut the top and bottom off a plastic bottle and poke it into the ground. I am indebted to one of our members who added the 'slick' tip to wipe a smear of Vaseline or similar around the top of the cut-off bottle to prevent even the most athletic of slugs climbing over.

For larger areas of garden, nematodes seem to work well as long as the instructions to water them in well are followed. Available to order online, effective but a bit pricy.

Snails seem a bit more of a challenge. I've always been a fan of launching them over the fence but I rather gather that this may be considered a bit rude and apparently pointless as scientists have shown that snails have homing instincts so they eventually get back home!

However, these useful researchers have determined that the snail homing ability is broken if they are more than 20 metres from 'home'. Now conveniently, that distance is just about the same as the length of a cricket wicket. So, if you have ever bowled a 'full length' and can still remember the bowling action then you can deliver a snail far enough away to not get it back.

Whooah! I hear you say – this is cruel to snails! Fear not – as researchers have also shown that snails thrown into vegetation have a high survival rate so bowling them into shrubberies should be fine.

Of course, you could just collect them in a bucket and walk down to the nearest green space but where's the fun in that?

Regards – Mike Turff, Chairman

Any questions or ideas – please contact me at chairman@exmouthu3a.org.uk

Check the website – <https://exmouth.u3asite.uk/> – for up-to-date info and news. If you login then you will find a lot more content available only for members.

Monthly meetings

Please join us for our monthly meetings at **10:00, usually for a 10:30 start to 11:45.**

The Ocean, Exmouth – Top Floor Function Suite.

The 2025 AGM is at the Ocean at 10.00am for 10.30am on Thursday, 8th May. Please come and support us.

Date	Presenter	Title	Description
<u>Thursday 8th May 2025</u> AGM	AGM meeting followed by Jenny Moon	History of Nursery Rhymes	Our speaker this month is Jenny Moon, who will give us the history of those innocent sounding nursery rhymes. Some commemorate historic events while others focus on dark deeds, forgotten in history but remembered in a rhyme.
<u>Thursday 12th June 2025</u>	Jonathan Harbury	Brain Training	June has a welcome return of Jonathan Harbury with more brain train exercises. This was popular last time and there have been requests to see him again. Your wish is our command!

Local Hub Groups May 2025

Listed below are local hub groups where you can go for a coffee and chat and meet local u3a members. Please contact the local organiser for information or just go along to the meeting where you will be made very welcome. A few of the hubs have been lacking in numbers it is a case of use it or lose it!

If you would like to start a new hub group or have any questions about hubs please contact Lyn Holmes vicechair@exmouthu3a.org.uk

Brixington

Meeting at The Farmhouse on 3rd Monday in the month 2pm this month 19th May
Contact Julie Jefferies **Please contact Julie before you attend**

Littlemead Local Tuesday Rivermead Area/Mount Pleasant

They normally meet on alternate Tuesdays 10am at Greenfingers, the next meeting is 13th May and every fortnight thereafter please contact Glen if you would like to go

Littlemead Local Wednesday

Nicola Antoni Rivermead Area

There are a couple of places at the moment.

Please contact the Hub organiser before you go, they normally meet on alternate Wednesday 10am at Greenfingers

Withycombe area contact Jan Collett

Withycombe

Our venue is the Tennis Cafe on alternate Tuesdays at 2pm, we have a few spaces.

Next meeting 13th May

Littleham area contact Susan Hall meets on various days and times **email Susan for information**

Salterton Road and The Avenues

Gill Payne is the contact

There is no set agenda and members are able to chat informally in small groups or all together as they wish, we meet every 2nd Tuesday of the month at 10.30am in bar area of The Devoncourt Hotel, just turn up on the day you will be most welcome. The next planned meetings 13th May

Woodbury Woodbury Salterton and East Budleigh Lin Milsom-Ashby

Woodbury to meet every 3rd Wednesday in the month at 10.30am at The Maltsters Woodbury

The next meeting is Wednesday 21st May

Beacon Group general area of The Beacon or central Exmouth contact Sally Parnell meetings Imperial Hotel 3rd Friday in the month 10.30 The next meeting is Friday 16th May

Budleigh Salterton

The Budleigh hub meets for coffee and chat on the second Friday morning of every month. Venues vary, as we haven't settled on a particular place in Budleigh, so any new members are best to contact Sue Glover by email, or telephone .

Social Committee

We had a very enjoyable outing in March to either **Clarks Village** or **Haynes Motor Museum**. Most of those on the coach opted for Clarks Village with its 90 or so outlet shops and several eateries, people certainly came back well laden with goodies!



Just 9 members opted to go to the Haynes Museum. It houses over 300 cars and motorbikes showcasing the history of motoring with not just British models; there are plenty of American makes and some European ones on display and good access to get up close to the cars. The exhibits range from bubble cars to formula 1 and everything in between, so plenty for everyone to enjoy.

Our most recent outing was to **Tyntesfield** on the 23rd April. The house is a Victorian Gothic masterpiece acquired by the National Trust in 2002 following the death of the owner, Richard Gibbs, the year before. The Gibbs family built their wealth on having a monopoly on the importation of guano from South America which was used as a fertiliser. The house boasts impressive stained glass as shown in the chapel. All the contents were included in the purchase by the National Trust and Tyntesfield contains over 72,000 objects, accumulated by William Gibbs, his family and heirs. These range from celebrated paintings and ornate furnishings to more domestic objects, including ice skates and picnic sets. In addition to the house there are gardens and parkland to enjoy. A house well-worth the visit.



Our upcoming trips until July include **Delamore House** (May 20th), **Bath** (June 17th) and **Bristol** (July 16th). Delamore is sold out, there are tickets left for Bath and the tickets for Bristol will be going on sale at the next monthly meeting on May 8th (the AGM). To purchase a ticket for Bath please contact Lyn Holmes first (vicechair@exmouthu3a.org.uk) before sending any payment through.

Barbara, Elaine, Janet, June, Lyn & Pam
Exmouth & District u3a Social Committee

Groups' news

Bake & Taste 2 – New Members wanted!

If you enjoy cookery and sampling new recipes then Bake & Taste 2 Group could be ideal for you. I am seeking up to 8 members to get this social group started.

Meeting monthly at members' homes each member will bring along a dish they have made at home based on that month's chosen theme. Together the group will sit down to enjoy the food over a convivial lunch with the opportunity to discuss the dishes and swap ideas and recipes.

If you are interested, please contact Lynn Wood.

Joan Blumire –

Ten Pin Bowling group. (2)

I don't want to tread on anyone's toes as there is already a ten pin bowling group. I would actually have liked to join them, but they start too early in the morning for me, after I've fed me, the cat and dog and taken the latter for a walk!

It would be on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month, starting time of 11 a.m., beginning Thursday June 12th at the Ocean Bar and Grill, Queens Drive Exmouth. The cost would be according to the "Grill's" charges. Please email if you are interested.

The chess group has a new group organiser, Peter Cotton This is a new group so if you feel like a friendly game of chess please contact Peter.

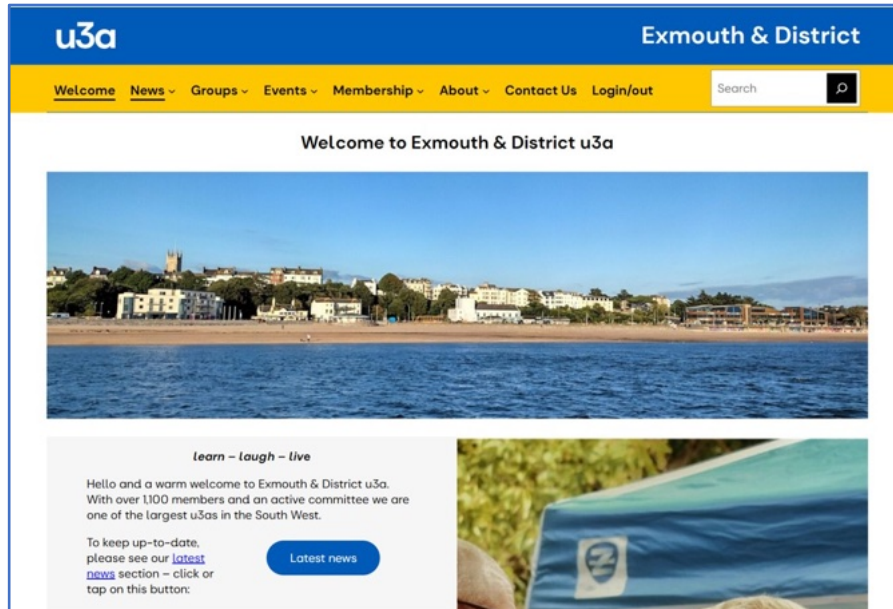
Great news – the painting and pottery group has separated into two groups

Mixed Media Painting from Intermediate Level
Pottery Techniques for Beginners

The pottery for beginners group has vacancies and uses air dried clay and concentrates on hand building techniques. Interested? Please contact Debra Harris

Our website – your views please

You can look at our u3a website if you click or tap on this link: <https://exmouth.u3asite.uk/> (or you should find it easily by searching for Exmouth u3a on Google or on other search engines). Our Latest News section is updated at least weekly and you can see this if you click or tap on this link (or click or tap on the blue button on our Welcome/Home page): <https://exmouth.u3asite.uk/latest-news/>



In the last newsletter I invited comments about the changes I had recently made to our website. Unfortunately I received no comments about this, nor about the website generally. So I am running this piece again in the hope that many of you may respond this time please:

Have you seen the changes I have made to our Home page (which we call our Welcome page)?

I have now put on a photo of Exmouth seafront. I have also put on a brief guide to the layout of the website to help you navigate your way round (supplementing the video guide lower down the webpage). This shows at a glance what is on the website (see this image on the right). Is this helpful or is it unnecessary (as you can get this same information by clicking on the main subject headings and then looking at the dropdown menu)? Views are divided. So please let me know what you think about this – or indeed anything else about the website. I would really appreciate some feedback to know if the website is meeting your needs or if there is anything you would like to change. My email address is below.

Thank you very much.

John Hunt,
Website Manager
website@exmouthu3a.org.uk

Our website

To find your way round our website, click or tap on the menu headings above or on these links below which reflect this menu structure (underlined and in blue) :

- **News** – [Latest News](#); [Newsletters](#)
- **Groups** – [Groups List](#); [How To](#); [Local Hubs](#)
- **Events** – [Forthcoming Events](#); [Monthly Meetings](#); [Social Events](#); [Online Events](#); [Event Photos](#)
- **Membership** – [Why Join?](#); [Being a Member](#); [How To Join](#); [Renewals](#)
- **About** – [Exmouth & District u3a](#); [u3a Nationally](#) [↗](#); [Documentation](#)
- **To get in touch** – [Contact Us](#)
- **Members-only content** – [Login/Out](#)

Plus we also offer on separate websites [our u3a YouTube Channel](#) [↗](#) and [our u3a Connect & Learn website](#) [↗](#)

Our next edition

We hope you have enjoyed reading this newsletter, and thank you to our contributors this month. Please keep items of interest and Groups' news coming in for the next edition which will be at the beginning of July '25. I would particularly welcome any photos you may have which our members would find interesting.

Rachel Cockell, Editor