

West Dartmoor U3A



U3awestdartmoor@gmail.com

February 2018



Bircham Woods – Barbara Schofield

Date of Next Meeting

Thursday 15th February at
10.30am - Tavistock
Methodist Church Hall

Speaker: – Liz Lawson

“The History of Lawsons”



Ivar Hellberg, who was due to speak at the next meeting in March on “The Vikings”, has unfortunately had to pull out. He has been re-booked to speak in April 2019.

Interest Group Updates

Singing for Fun Group

Meetings will be held at 2pm in the Parish Rooms on Friday 2nd March and Friday 16th March. New members always welcome. Contact: Marie Strick

Walking Group

Mondays 9.30am at Crelake, Pixon Lane car park. Bus passes and NT cards may be useful. On 19th March there will be a shorter walk followed by a pub lunch for all walkers. This year the lunch will be at the Taw River Inn at Sticklepath. Please let Kay know if you plan to attend this lunch. Contact: Kay Anthony

Opera Group 1

Next meeting, Friday 9th March at 9.30am. Venue: Sally and John Morgan

Art Appreciation Group

Next meeting 10am, Tuesday 20th February. Venue: Mary Logan

Eating Out Group

Warren Whiston is organising the February Eating Out at the Trout & Tipple for Friday 16th February. The group will meet at 12.15 and eat around 1pm. There is no need to pre-order. Please let Warren know if you wish to attend

Due to these changes, we will be bringing forward the **Launch of the New Website** to the **March meeting**



Please come along to the March meeting with your Ipads, tablets and smart phones so that you can connect and enjoy an interactive session viewing the new website

At this meeting, we will also be convening a short **Special General Meeting** to recommend the alteration to the Object Clause in the U3A Constitution which has been posted on the website for your information

The trip to the Minack on Tuesday 26th June is full



Thanks to all members who signed up on the Register of Interest for the trip to the Minack. We have been able to fill the 27 places from within WDU3A on a first come first served basis and all relevant members have been contacted.

An email reminder with timings and meeting point, will be sent out in June and there will be further information on the new website.

ADVANCE INFORMATION
Tavonians Theatre Company
‘The Thrill of Love’ coming to Tavistock Town Hall on 3rd March
www.tavonians.org.uk

Tavistock Music and Arts Festival 2018
21st April – 7th May
www.tavistockmusic.co.uk

MEMBERS

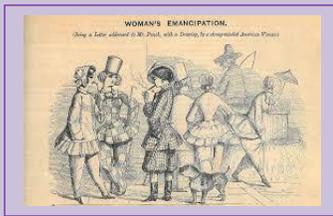
Are you getting monthly emails from us with links to the Newsletter?

If you aren't, it's possible we don't have your up to date contact information. Please advise us of any changes by contacting the WDU3A email address:

u3awestdartmoor@gmail.com

Women and Power

One hundred years ago women first achieved the vote in a British Parliamentary election and this year, the National Trust are recognising this anniversary with a "Women and Power" programme, telling the stories of National Trust places which have direct links to women and men who were involved in the suffrage movement.



There is an exhibition: *Branded: Fashion, Femininity and the Right to Vote* at Killerton, near Exeter open from 10th February.

Many of you are also members of the National Trust and it might be nice to try to arrange a visit for WDU3A to Killerton to see this exhibition, if there is sufficient interest. If a suitable date can be agreed, we can either car share or arrange a coach, depending on numbers. If you are interested, please sign the Register of Interest at the meeting or contact us via the WDU3A email: u3awestdartmoor@gmail.com

OPERA GROUP 2

We meet at my bungalow in Yelverton on the first Tuesday of the month. As most of what we watch is between 2 and 3 hours in length, we aim to start at 9.45am. If someone arrives later we pause and fill them in on what has happened and if someone needs to leave early, they can creep away quietly!

There is a big screen and a Bose sound System, so the quality of reproduction is high.

We aim to cover a range of composers, eras, languages (usually with subtitles), singers and opera houses etc. and to include some less well-known operas among the old favourites.

So far, I have made the selections, which have included Purcell's Dido and Aeneas, Norma by Bellini, Don Giovanni and Verdi's La Forza del Destino. But I am very happy to receive suggestions and the U3A's Resource Centre has a wonderful range to choose from.

Bizet's The Pearl Fishers and Beethoven's Fidelio are lined up for February and March and we have room for one or two more members.



If anyone is interested in joining, I will be very pleased to hear from you.

Sue Foster

SOS

A Message from the Chairman Your U3A needs you

This summer, 4 members of the WDU3A Committee end their tenure and if we don't find replacements, West Dartmoor may need to close.

This would be a great shame in view of wonderful history of this U3A, but we cannot function without willing volunteers.

Please offer your services - don't be shy, you will be welcomed with open arms, and have the opportunity of working alongside the existing Committee until the summer.

Mary Badge

Interest Group Updates

Exploring German – 19th century German cities

Fortnightly Group A – Tuesday afternoons – Jan 23rd, Feb 6th, Feb 20th, March 6th, March 20th (Easter break), April 10th, April 24th

Fortnightly Group B – Wednesday mornings – Jan 24th, Feb 7th, Feb 21st, March 7th, March 21st (Easter break), April 11th, April 25th
10 places in each group.
Contact: Richard Byrn

Science Discussion Group

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 13th March at 2.30pm – Venue: Mike Inman.

The speaker will be Dr Adrian Padfield, who practiced in Sheffield as an anaesthetist, and he will be talking about "Captain GT Smith-Clarke, Engineer Extraordinaire", Chief Engineer at Alvis and re-designer of the Iron Lung.

The **Spanish Group** will be closing at Easter



The Third Age Trust EGM 2018 will be held on Wednesday 21st March from 10.30am – 3.30pm at The Great Hall, Birmingham University.
The panel debate at 2pm is "The Great Ageing Well Debate" which will be chaired by Eric Midwinter founder of U3A

NEWSLETTER - Change of issue date

Please don't forget that we are now producing the Newsletter 3 days in advance of each monthly meeting (not a week afterwards as it was previously).

If you have any stories or contributions for the March edition, please contact the Editor by the second Thursday of the month (8th March).

Launceston & District U3A

Annual Speakers Day at Launceston Town Hall PL15 7AR

Tuesday 17th April, 2018

from 10:15 to 3:15

Doors open / Coffee from 9:30

Tickets £16, incl. lunch & refreshments



Professor Richard Handy

Currently professor of Environmental Biology at Plymouth University and a published author, his illustrated talk is entitled

'It's a Small World –the wonders of nanotechnology'. He describes how this new technology is influencing our daily lives and is the key to revolutionary new medicines, robotics, imaging technologies, electronics, industrial materials and synthetic biology.

Ian Gasper

Based in Tavistock, Ian is a former headteacher, much travelled VSO volunteer, and a keen supporter of several local organisations. His talk, entitled **'The Galapagos: wildlife, birds and Darwin'**, is illustrated with many photos taken on a trip to this remote Pacific island chain.

Lynn Goold

A registered Blue Badge guide based in Fowey, she is a regular speaker to U3As and Old Cornwall Societies. Her illustrated talk,

'Daphne du Maurier's Cornwall', is about the places that influenced the life and writing of Daphne du Maurier.

Enquiries to: alanmaizels@hotmail.co.uk or 07766 707245

Application Forms will be available at the February meeting for those who wish to attend this Event. Please make cheques, for £16 per person, payable to "Launceston & District U3A".



Practical Volunteering Days February and March

Friday 23rd February 10am – 3pm
Tuesday 27th February 10am – 3pm
Monday 5th March 10am – 3pm
Sunday 11th March 10.30am – 3pm
Tuesday 13th March 10am – 3pm
Friday 23rd March 10am – 3pm
Tuesday 27th March 10am – 3pm

Events Programme

Evening Talks and Guided Walks

- Tuesday 27th February 7.30pm – 8.30pm "History of trees on Dartmoor and tree identification" - £4 per person
- Sunday 24th March 2.30pm - 4pm "Wembley Walk – A new use for an old road" - £4 per person

CALLING ALL MEMBERS - We need to expand with fresh ideas. All U3A's are only as successful and lively as their members. Have you an interest or hobby that you would like to share with other members? Could you start or lead a new group? You do not have to be an expert - just have enthusiasm. Short courses of a few weeks or months are very popular. Or have you a suggestion for a new group and we would try to find a leader? We would love to hear from you. Please contact Jean Thompson.

For information about West Dartmoor U3A,
Membership, Groups, Articles and anything else
Please contact us at: u3awestdartmoor@gmail.com