



Monday Short Walk group - a baby lamb being held by Rachael Pope with farmer Derek Hallett in the foreground - along with other members of the walking group. The lamb was born that very morning (3rd April) - emphasising to us all the start of Spring!

The group is looking for new members as it is quite small.

We meet in the Uplyme Village Hall car park every other Monday for a 10.00am start. We walk for a couple of hours within the vicinity at a moderate pace.

Change of Leader from Dave Edwards to Marion Richardson: 01297 33824

U3A Heritage Coast Lyme Regis

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More info on our U3A website:

www.lymeregisu3a.org

Registered Charity No: 1115022

Trip to POWDERHAM CASTLE

Wed 21st June.

A bigger coach means there are still a few seats left. Contact me Val Doney by email if you want to go.

There will be an early pick up from Axminster Station, and the main pick up will be 9.30am Holmbush Car Park, Lyme Regis. We have tickets for private tours around the house and afterwards can explore the gardens. We expect to leave the castle area at 3.30pm, unless the weather is bad. The cost will be between £16 - £18. I will contact everyone on my list at the beginning of June by email. If you haven't heard from me by June 3rd you are not on the list!

Val's contact details:
01297 442148
vjdoney@gmail.com



MORE GROUP NEWS

The **Scottish Dancing Group** will finish for the summer on bank holiday Monday 29th May. We will restart mid September.
Sue Taylor

U3A Geology 2017-18: This course is now full but with a very short waiting list. Sometimes, for unforeseen circumstances, places become available between May and the start of the course in October, so Geoff is happy for anyone still interested to contact him by email (geofftownson@btinternet.com) or phone 01297 561337.

2nd Sunday Lunch Group: This is a new group which will meet on 4th Sunday of the month.
Please contact Ann Macnair on 01297 560611 or annmacnair@btinternet.com if you wish to join.

Current Affairs 2 no longer has a waiting list. If anyone wishes to join the Group please contact Iain Paterson 01297 631193.

Beginners Art Group and Water colour Group: So far no one has come forward to lead either of these groups. There are many members who are interested. If any member[s] thinks they may be able to lead could they please contact Penny Rose.
pennyrose2009@gmail.com 01297 561076

Please advise Penny of any changes relating to your group - leader details, venue etc

U3A WALKING WEEKEND BOURNEMOUTH - 17/20 MARCH

Once again Jim, ably assisted by Pam, organised another excellent annual walking weekend. This was the fourth such weekend enjoyed by fifteen members, and for the second year running, at popular request, staying at The Savoy Hotel, Bournemouth, overlooking the seafront.

After settling into our rooms on the Friday afternoon, followed by a convivial dinner, we were ready for our first walk to Hengistbury Head on Saturday. Setting off after a hearty breakfast our walk took us along the River Stour, where we had lovely views of Christchurch Priory. Then we headed away from the river and out towards Hengistbury Head. There was quite a stiff breeze, but thankfully no rain. A climb to the summit was rewarded with views of the Needles to the east and, in a slight mist, Old Harry Rocks to the west. Then we descended down to Mudeford beach for a well-earned rest and picnic lunch outside some very well-appointed beach huts. Even the sun managed to make an appearance. On the way back towards Christchurch we were overtaken by the land train. Not a seat to be had on it even if some were thinking of hopping on! At the quaint Tickton Garden cafe we all enjoyed refreshments before making our way back to the hotel.

Sunday saw us all heading out to Sandbanks and the ferry over to Studland Bay. After walking across Studland beach we began the steep climb up to the headland and were rewarded with great views overlooking Poole harbour on one side and Swanage on the other. In the distance we heard the steam engine as it puffed its way along the Swanage railway towards Corfe Castle. Standing on a very windy piece of the headland we looked down on the impressive sight of Old Harry Rocks. Then we returned by way of Fort Henry, an observation bunker overlooking Studland Bay and built in 1943 as a defence against possible German invasion, which was used by Winston Churchill to watch troops prepare for the D-Day landings in France. Again our walk concluded with refreshments on Studland Beach, but not before going past the unusual sight of some curly-coated pigs!

Monday came all too quickly after a very pleasurable and sociable weekend. Thanks Jim.
Richard Keane

MONTHLY MEETINGS REPORTS

The Victorian Head Gardener - Talk by Francis Burroughes

Francis Burroughes gave an entertaining talk about the life of his father, who left school at 12 to become a pot boy and eventually became the Head Gardener. He worked long hours, 6.30am to 8.00pm in the week and 6.30am to 2.30pm on a Saturday. For this he was paid six shillings a week, but took home just over half of it for washing different sizes of terracotta pots in cold water and soda.

Carpet Bedding was where different shapes were cut into the lawn to be filled with bedding plants.

We were asked "What must you do before you cut the lawn?"- "Put the boots on the horse"-so that their hooves would not cut the grass!!!! Two men started with a pony and lawn mower, two raked the clippings and two swept up, followed by two with wheelbarrows and two lads putting the clippings in the wheelbarrows. Lastly two more with a pony pulling a heavy stone roller - what a labour intensive activity!!

A pot boy progressed to an apprentice, a journeyman, an improver and eventually to Head Gardener. This carried a great responsibility to feed the whole family and all the staff. It being a major disgrace if food had to be brought in from a shop!!

We thanked Mr. Burroughes for capturing this period in history with such humour and enthusiasm.

Janet Joyner

Vietnam and the Far East: by Christopher Legrand

An experienced traveller, photographer and public speaker, Christopher Legrand gave us an entertaining and informative, illustrated talk of his visit to the Far East.

Starting with an overview of the history, culture and scenery of the fast-developing country of Vietnam, he described the seeming chaos of city streets full of, literally, millions of motor bikes, laden not just with 3 or 4 people, but piles of goods and merchandise; tangled electric cables across streets and buildings; a colourful, noisy market selling everything imaginable, contrasting with the peace and order of a Buddhist monastery. He found the Vietnamese to be happy, industrious people, from the 4th year English class he spoke to in the Buddhist university, to fish sellers from the Floating Village in Ha Long Bay.

From Vietnam to Thailand and Indonesia, he has given us a flavour of these countries: the Chinese New Year of the Dragon celebrated with massive flower studded figures to Ho Chi Minh's mausoleum; golden and ceramic decorated towers of Palaces and temples in Bangkok to the 9th century stone bas reliefs and Stupas of Borobodur. Plus a close encounter with a Dragon on Komodo island.

Mary Jane

It is worth keeping an eye on Exeter University website

(<http://emps.exeter.ac.uk/news-events>) for information on their open lectures.

At present promoting - Inspiring Science - an open lecture series in which high-profile speakers from inside and outside of the University speak about their research and careers in their respective scientific fields. The series includes the Inaugural Lectures and Athena SWAN lectures, and is open for all to attend with no need to register.



The remaining visits to be made this year by the **GARDEN LOVERS GROUP** are:

- 8 June at 14.00 - Lytes Cary, nr Somerton
23 June at 14.30 - Littlebredy Walled Gardens, 6m west of
Dorchester
11 July at 14.45 - Ven Cross Railway Gardens, Wiveliscombe
25 July at 14.00 - Mossbank and 3 other gardens, Southleigh
(10m W. of Lyme)
21 August at 14.30 - Little Ash Bungalow, nr Honiton
14 Sept (coach) - Coleton Fishacre, near Brixham
20 Sept at 14.00 - Mapperton, just outside Beaminster

For more information contact Mary Bohane (marybohane@yahoo.co.uk)
Tel. 01297 444566

Theatre Trips for 2017/18 - From John Bartholomew [of Crewkerne]:

“BEAUTIFUL” THE CAROLE KING MUSICAL - Thursday September 28th, 2.00pm.
Rear stalls £34.50 Cost including travel and tip likely to be around £45pp

“THE NUTCRACKER” ENGLISH NATIONAL BALLET - Saturday December 2nd,
2.30pm. Rear stalls £36.50 (reduced from £44.50). Cost all-in likely to be around
£47pp

Both performances are at the MAYFLOWER THEATRE SOUTHAMPTON -
both trips based on pick-ups in Lyme and Bridport and a midday arrival in time to
source lunch and leaving Southampton around 5.00pm.

Please contact to express your linterest: jdbart45@gmail.com

ALSO noting interest in a return visit to The Edinburgh Festival in August 2018.
Essentially four nights in mid-August (Monday to Friday), flights from Exeter or
Bristol. Stay in a central Travelodge. All-in cost for travel and accommodation
likely to be around £350pp.

Contact me for more details. I will be looking for confirmation in September.
John B

Forthcoming events:

Meetings held at Woodmead Halls, Lyme Regis, DT7 3PG
10.00am-10.40am - coffee/tea and biscuits. 11.00am - talk

Wednesday 14th June - Lichtenberg's Remarkable Figures

Illustrated talk by **John Marriage**



Georg Christoph Lichtenberg in the eighteenth century, and Étienne Leopold Trouvelot in the nineteenth, worked on the same subject and published scientific papers on it, but lived a century apart and never met. Their work is called to this day 'Lichtenberg figures' - the strange, beautiful, almost organic shapes formed when a pulse of high-voltage electricity passes over the surface of an insulator.

Lichtenberg was the first to describe these figures, with Trouvelot (famous as an astronomical illustrator and notorious as an accidental environmental vandal) one of the first to record them photographically. Kirlian Photography and Aura Photography are related phenomena, which some people still explore.

John Marriage has researched the history of these two men who were interested in both science and art. His talk is illustrated by examples of their work, and of Lichtenberg figures created by himself.

Although they and others approached the subject for scientific purposes, there was in the end little important scientific outcome. But the visual force of their images has continued to attract artists. The 2015 'Revelations' exhibition in London's Science Museum was but the latest in a series of public explorations showcasing this confluence of art and science.

Wednesday 12th July - 'Adventures at the Seaside'

Illustrated talk by **Deirdre Dee**

How did the great British Seaside tradition begin? Was it with George III in Weymouth? Or the Prince Regent in Brighton? Or Queen Victoria, who "Drove down to the beach with my maid and went into a bathing machine where I undressed and bathed in the sea for the first time in my life, I thought it delightful ..."? Or the 1841 London to Brighton railway opening up the coast to the East End of London? Or ...?

Deirdre's entertaining presentation will reveal all (or, at least, a modest amount) about our love of the seaside, coming right up to date by examining how seaside resorts are continually re-inventing themselves to stay alive in the 21st Century.

A professional actress and producer before becoming Managing Director of a corporate events company, Deirdre's career spans the arts, coaching and mentoring, the charity sector and the business world. (Image: Hydromania, or A Touch of the Sub-Lyme and Beautiful, by George Cruikshank)



Wednesday 9th August - 'Why living in the Dorset AONB is good for you'

Illustrated talk by **Julie Hammon** (AONB Project Officer)

The Dorset Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty covers over 40% of the county, from Lyme Regis to Poole Harbour and from Blandford to Chesil Beach. It's the fifth largest of the 46 AONBs in the UK.



The Dorset AONB Partnership brings together 20 organisations to care for the area and to keep this nationally-important landscape in good shape for future generations to enjoy.

Julie will be telling us what the AONB is, how the AONB team is working to get people out to enjoy it, and why this is important.

Wednesday 13th September - 'Ancient Egypt: a History in Eight Objects'

Illustrated talk by **Janet Diamond**

Janet's U3A talk in May 2016, about her life in Cairo, was well-received, so we welcome her return to share a very different way of looking at Egypt. The inspiration for this presentation came from two sources: the Radio 4 programme 'A History of the World in 100 Objects' and a course which she undertook through the University of Manchester called 'Ancient Egypt: A History in Six Objects'.

Finding them both so interesting, she was inspired to make her own selection of objects for this presentation. She features a series of items with differing purposes, artistic styles, materials and periods, and from different museum collections around the world - each item with its own interesting story to tell. They are taken from across the main periods of ancient Egypt, beginning with predynastic times (c.4400 BC) and finishing with the Ptolemies (323 - 30 BC) in the dying days of the Egyptian Empire some 4000 years later.



Friday 13th October, 10.00am Social Meeting - Coffee & chat

An opportunity to come and chat, also to talk to representatives of the activity groups. You can join new groups and may even consider starting your own. The committee members and many group leaders will be there. At 10.30 there's a special welcome for new(ish) members (those who've joined in the previous 12 -18 months, or the last five minutes). Bring your friends.