HONITON BULLETIN
OCTOBER 2026

OCTOBER 21st: A SONG IN EVERY WINDOW

The singing duo Silvington is back with a selection of songs looking at episodes from the history of Plymouth as depicted in the painted windows of Plymouth Guildhall, from the Black Prince and Catherine of Aragon to the reconstruction of Plymouth after the blitz. The presentation includes an illustrated slide show that puts the songs in context.

Doors open at 1.30 p.m. and the meeting starts at 2 p.m. Please bring a slip of paper with your name on it to put in the box provided when entering the auditorium (this is a safety measure). The Beehive cafe will be open before and after the meeting for refreshments.

(The Beehive has asked that we don't park in the hatched yellow squares in the parking area behind the building, as these are reserved for coaches. Parking spaces are not easy to find so please consider car sharing, which is better for the environment, and if you share petrol costs it helps with the budget, too!)

QUIZZERS – LAST CHANCE!

We need you to complete our team or form a second team for the inter u3a Big Quiz open to all Devon u3a groups. Test those little grey cells, have fun, meet people from other u3a groups and enjoy a cuppa and a biscuit or two! There is also a free raffle. The venue is Awliscombe Village Hall, **22nd October, 1.30–5.00 p.m**. If you're interested in taking part or for more information contact Karen on kepitt99@gmail.com by 16th October.

CPR TALK AND DEFIBRILLATOR DEMONSTRATION

The Devon Air Ambulance is booked for **Friday 6th November**, **10.30–12**, at Mountbatten Park to give a CPR talk and defibrillator demonstration. Having this vital knowledge could help you to save a life. The Devon Air Ambulance do not charge a fee but donations are appreciated. There is a maximum of 30 people. If you're interested please contact Jackie Moran at jackiemmoran@btinternet.com

COMMITTEE MEMBERS NEEDED!

Honiton u3a is thriving with over 300 members and 40 plus groups and you can help us to keep growing. Members can only sit on the Committee for six years and next year Richard Spoerry the Chairperson, and Kay Edge the Secretary, are due to resign. We need more people to join us on the Committee, and we especially need people to take on vital the roles of Chairperson and Secretary. The Committee meets on the first Monday of the month at the Methodist Church Hall at 2 p.m. when first order of the day is tea/coffee and

biscuits! Meetings are kept to 1-1.5 hours, are informal and very friendly. If you are interested please contact Richard Spoerry at richardspoerry@gmail.com

INSIDE HONITON U3A – DECEMBER EDITION

I am now collecting material for the December edition of the magazine, *Inside Honiton u3a.* Do you have some special or funny Christmas memories you'd like to share, an unusual childhood Christmas, bizarre gifts you've received or given? If you've had any recent trips or experiences, or have any stories that you think may be of interest to other members, please let me know. Plus we'd love a winter/Christmas photo for the cover and, of course, news from our groups. Please send your submissions to honoreditor1@gmail.com by 16th November. I look forward to receiving them.

TALKING OF CHRISTMAS…

…we'll soon have details of the annual Honiton u3a Christmas party, so put the date in your diary, **December 16th**, and watch out for further news. It will be held at the Mackarness Hall, 2–4 p.m., tickets £10, available for sale at the October and November Beehive meetings.

HONITON U3A PHOTOGRAPHY SHOWCASE

We invite you to submit one photograph taken in the month of October of this or a previous year. Give your photograph a title, add the name of the photographer and submit it to: u3aphotoshowcase@btinternet.com by 2nd November. A selection will be included in the PowerPoint slide show at The Beehive before our November Monthly Talk.

GROUP VACANCIES:

ART FOR FUN Meets **every month on the 2nd Friday 9.30 a.m.** downstairs in the Community Use Building (CUB). Members share expertise and knowledge within the group – there is no formal teaching. This group is open to everyone.

BOOK LOVERS Meets on the **1st Monday of the month at 2 p.m.** in the group leader's home in Honiton.

CRIBBAGE Meets in the Beehive café the **3rd Thursday of the month at 2 p.m.**

CURRENT AFFAIRS – DISCUSSION Meets at the Methodist Church, Honiton on the **1st Wednesday of the month at 10 a.m**.

FRENCH CONVERSATION Meets on the **2nd Thursday** of the month in the group leader's home.

GAMES Meets at **1.45 p.m. the last Friday of the month** at Mountbatten Park Sports and Social Club, Honiton.

GERMAN CONVERSATION Meets on **alternate Tuesdays from 2–3.30 p.m**. at the Yellow Deli, High St, Honiton. Beginners welcome as well as improvers.

JANE AUSTEN READING GROUP 2 This new group, starting in September, will meet on the **3rd Tuesday of the month at 1.30 p.m**. in the group leader's home.

OPERA Meets in a member's home, the **1st Thursday of the month at 7 p.m.**

RECORDERS Meets on the **2nd Monday of the month at 10.00 a.m**. in the group leader's home in Honiton.

SINGING FOR FUN This group meets twice per month on the **1st and 3rd Tuesdays at 2 p.m.** at Honiton Family Church. There's no need to be able to read music and everyone is welcome. Group members contribute to the cost of hiring the venue.

SPANISH CONVERSATION Meets at the Beehive on the **1st Thursday of the month, 10 –12**. Not for complete beginners. Conversation ranges from personal experiences to the culture, traditions and history of Spain. The meetings also include practical exercises, such as asking for directions/ordering in a restaurant.

SUNDAY SINGLES LUNCHES Meets **1st Sunday of the month** at a venue chosen by a group member. For more information contact Rosie on lilyandbill47@outlook.com

WALKING GROUP Group walks take place on the **2nd Wednesday of each month at 10 a.m**. Walks are about 4 miles in length at a leisurely pace and usually end with a pub lunch. To find out more email the group leaders Pauline and Tim Clark on fiveclarks5@yahoo.co.uk
WALKING 2 (ALL DAY) Meets on **1st Monday or Thursday of the month**. The walks are all day and **start at 9.30 a.m.**
WALKING 3 These walks take place on the **2nd Thursday and 4th Thursday of the month**, starting in Honiton at **2 p.m**.

WRITING FOR FUN Meets at the Methodist Church, Honiton, on the **4th Monday of the month at 2 p.m**.

To find out more about any group vacancies contact the group leader or enquire at honitonu3a@gmail.com

NATURE APPRECIATION GROUP LEADER NEEDED!

Val Frood is standing down as leader of the NAG and would like someone to take her place. The group has 28 members and meets the 3rd Monday of each month when they

visit local places of interest with a strong emphasis on nature. To find out more please contact Val at honitonu3a@gmail.com

HONITON U3A MONTHLY TALKS 2026/2027

November 18th: The Real World of Jane Austen by Stewart Raine. A look at the world of the late 18th and early 19th century, when there was social unrest, industrialisation, fighting against Napoleon's France, the slave trade and transportation to Australia.

December 16th: Christmas Event, for members only.

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January 20th: Nature's Garden A talk by David Boag. Nature owns everything, even your garden! David's camera explores every area of the garden from the garden shed to the little pond and finds so much colourful, unexpected and sometimes unwanted wildlife.

February 10th: tbc

March 17th Annual General Meeting for members only, followed by **Air Traffic Confusion** by Nick Clyburn, a former Air Traffic Controller with over 40 years experience in military and civilian air traffic control.

April 21st: Inn at the Top A talk by Neil Hanson from Ilkley, West Yorkshire, on the ups and downs of running Britain's highest located inn back in the 1970s and 80s.

May 19th: Historical and Hysterical Maggie Duffy from Brixham explores the legends, poetry, dialect, songs and stories of Devon.

June 6th: Designing a Garden with Pots, Containers and Raised Beds
by Jacquie Felix-Mitchell.

July 21st: The Power of Three Pamela Vass looks at the inventions of Thomas Fowler, Devon's forgotten genius.

All talks take place at The Beehive. Unless stated, talks are open to non-members.