Honiton u3a Bulletin

NOVEMBER 2026

NOVEMBER 18th: TALK CHANGE:
FOSSILS OF MOROCCO AND DORSET

Andrew Lawrence takes us into the fascinating world of professional fossil hunting with a journey from the dramatic Jurassic Coast of Dorset to the ancient fossil beds of Morocco. Discover the remarkable fossils found in each region, learn how they are uncovered and examine a selection of genuine specimens brought along for you to handle and admire. Combining science, history, adventure and personal stories, this illustrated talk offers a unique insight into one of the world's oldest and most extraordinary professions.

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!)

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 especially we need someone to take the role of Chairperson. 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 send them in. Plus we'd love a winter/Christmas photo for the cover and, of course, the latest news from all our groups. Please send your submissions to honoreditor1@gmail.com by 16th November.

CHRISTMAS PARTY!

The Honiton u3a Christmas party is December 16th, so put the date in your diary and be sure to get a ticket on sale at the monthly talks and at the History Group meeting. The party will be held at Mackarness Hall, 2 p.m start. Wine, full buffet, quizzes and a free raffle all for just £10 a ticket.

CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

Let us promote our u3a by taking part in the Christmas Tree Festival at St Paul's Church this year. If you would like to help design and make decorations for our u3a Christmas Tree please contact Jackie Moran at honitonu3a@gmail.com

CURRENT RECORDER GROUP AND NEW RECORDER GROUP

The current Recorder group meets every second Monday in the month; this is a small group who would love to welcome new members that have some experience playing the recorder. The group leader also proposes to set up a new group for anyone wanting to learn to play from scratch. If you are interested in joining either of these groups, please contact Tricia Lewis on honitonu3a@gmail.com

INTER DEVON U3A QUIZ 2027 – RESULTS

As Honiton won last year's Inter Devon Quiz we organized this year's event. A big thank you to Karen Pitt who put together the quiz questions and organised the event along with Honor Head. Richard Spoerry kicked off proceedings and presented the trophy, Rob Newell helped with setting up and meeting and greeting, and Suzie Blythe and her team, Mags Jarman, Pen Plackett and Yvonne Withers, did a fabulous job serving refreshments. Special thanks to Ian Jeeves who hosts the Beehive quizzes who helped with the quiz questions. A splendid team effort all round. Finally, well done and thank you to our Honiton u3a members who formed the *Honiton Hopefuls* and *Sunflowers*; it was great to have two teams at the quiz. The winners were Sandy Park u3a from Exeter who will organise next year's event.

HONITON U3A PHOTOGRAPHY SHOWCASE

We invite you to submit one photograph taken in the months of November/December 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 January. A selection will be included in the PowerPoint slide show at The Beehive before our January Monthly Talk.

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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.

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 honitonu3a@gmail.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 honitonu3a@gmail.com

WALKING 2 (ALL DAY) Meets **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

December 16th: Christmas Event, for members only.

2027

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.