Lostwithiel U3A Learn • Laugh • Live NEWSLETTER

December 2026 & January 2027

Chairman Chat

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“Hello Everyone”,
I was elected Chair of Lostwithiel and Area U3A this year and would like to send my warm greetings to members new and established.



I hope you have found a group you like as much as I enjoy Wine Appreciation.
Of course,there are so many other ways to find fun and friendship through U3A.
We have an ‘open house' every other month with fascinating talks and a chance to meet other members.We also have social get-togethers in between.
Keep living,laughing, and learning.
Best wishes for a Merry Chrismas and a Happy New Year
Andrew Currie

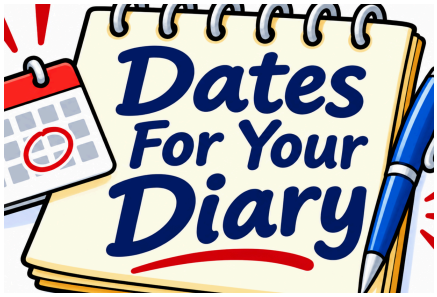
Important Updates

We are shaking things up to make our regular gatherings feel a bit more like home. Moving forward, our bi-monthly general meetings are getting a fresh new name: the **Lostwithiel u3a Open House**.

Don't worry—we will still feature our fantastic guest speakers, group updates, and refreshments. However, we want prospective and existing members alike to know that this is, first and foremost, a relaxed social space to chat, explore new interests. Whether you are a long-time member or just curious about what we do, our doors are wide open.

The venue for January will be changed to Lostwithiel Community Centre.Still starting at 2p.m.This is a trial to establish if the new venue suits our requirements better than the existing one.

The Beverage and Banter group will now be changing to a Coffee Morning,still held bi-monthly, which will be open to all U3A members and will take place in its new venue of The Royal Oak. Lostwithiel commencing February 2027.



FOR YOUR DIARY 2026-2027

DECEMBER 7th: Beverage and Banter.Fowey Valley Hotel,Lostwithiel.11a.m.

JANUARY 4th: Lostwithiel U3A Open House. Oasis Room Lostwithiel Community Centre at 2 p.m.The guest speaker will be Dean Evans.”Was John Passmore Edwards the greatest Victorian Cornishman?”

FEBRUARY 1st: U3A Coffee Morning .The Royal Oak Lostwithiel at 11 a.m

MARCH 1st : Lostwithiel U3A Open House. Oasis Room.Lostwithiel Community Centre at 2p.m.The guest speaker will be Nicky Pickles.Gardening for dry and climate challenging times.

APRIL 5th.U3A Coffee Morning at The Royal Oak Lostwithiel at 11 a.m.



The Chair,Andrew, welcomed everyone.This was followed by the usual Health and Safety briefing given by Zeb.
Our “Group Showcasing” slot was filled by Michael Furminger who gave us an insight into what The Wine Appreciation Group offers to its members.
Duncan introduced our guest speaker,who today was our own U3A member,Bernard Bonsey,Lieutenant Commander Royal Navy.We were treated to an

informative,interesting talk relating to The History of The Battle Of Trafalgar packed with lots of facts which,I am sure were unknown to many of us.We also had the opportunity to view some interesting items associated with the period including 2 original cannon balls!

Francoise gave the Vote Of Thanks

David informed us of the offer to form a new group from one of our members ... .further details at the end of the Newsletter.Also an update re the proposed" Eating Around The World" group who are still finalising details.
We then had an opportunity to mingle, chat and catch up over tea/coffee and biscuits.



SILVER SCREENERS



On Thursday 5th November 2026, our group gathered for our second highly anticipated Silver Screen meeting. This week's feature was the wonderfully light-hearted film, *Ghosts*.The movie provided a delightful, comedic escape that left everyone in high spirits. It follows a chaotic but charming group of restless spirits from various historical eras who find themselves cohabiting a crumbling country manor. When a young couple inherits the estate with plans to turn it into a bustling hotel, the ghosts hilariously band together to scare them away—leading to a series of misadventures, witty banter, and heartwarming misunderstandings

Following the screening, we headed over to the Market Hall Cafe in St Austell for lunch. It was the perfect spot to sit down, unwind, and chat about our favourite moments from the film over a truly tasty meal.

PHOTOGRAPHY GROUP





October was as busy as ever for the Photography Group with our usual three meetings.
Our field trip took us on a fascinating walk around “quieter Padstow”,guided by Steph,who was born there.Not many residents these days would know where the Brownie Hut used to be!
Our two online meetings give members the opportunity to share images,exchange ideas and discuss what they have learned.At our regular “Photo Extra”meeting,we explore photographic techniques and skills to help us develop our practice.This month,we looked at how to use elements within an image to create a frame,as illustrated in the photographs below.
At our regular image-sharing meeting,the theme was Events. We always encourage members to interpret our themes in their own way,which leads to a wonderfully diverse range of images.
You can find out more on our Photography Group web page,which is regularly updated with videos from our online meetings and links to Flikr pages showcasing members’ photographs from our field trips.
Image credits:Jenni Cheesman.Sue Hambly.Lindsay Southgate



ROCK AND POP MUSIC APPRECIATION

For our 43rd meeting on October 21st the theme was ACOUSTIC /UNPLUGGED and we were treated to non-electrified tracks from Eric Clapton (Layla/Rollin and Tumblin) plus David Bowie with Heroes, Taylor Swift playing Teardrop Ricochets, Wonderful Life from Katie Melua, Clap with Steve Howe,and JIm Croce's Bad Boy Leroy Brown. In the second half we heard Bonnie Raitt and Richard Thompson with the latter's Dimming Of The Day,an acoustic version of Something Human by Muse,John Martyn,Kathy Mattea,Jerry Douglass and Danny Thompson with a great rendition of May You Never,a poignant Waiting In The Weeds from The Eagles and the Rolling Stones with an acoustic Wild Horses from 1995.The theme for November is AUTUMN FALL so we expect tracks about leaves,harvests and bonfires!



ART APPRECIATION GROUP

Potter's Market Tavistock;Saturday 17th October

Our October visit was to the Westcountry Potters'exhibition in the lovely town of Tavistock.Over 20 potters were showcasing a wide variety of their original work/ceramics.We were very impressed by the wonderful creations on display,and purchases were made by some of us (!).The day was rounded off by lunch in the Bedford Hotel,and a walk along the river



Lostwithiel U3A Electric Dynamos Cycling Group.



We do a ride out every Wednesday weather permitting starting from various locations. Our ride on 14th October started from Washaway (Near Sladesbridge) When we did a 23 mile circular ride to Rock mostly on quiet country lanes. If you are interested in joining the group please contact further information.

brainjohnmarriott@gmail.com



Despite attendance numbers dropping over the last few months,we continue to meet weekly at 2p.m on a Wednesday in Lostwithiel Scout Hut to enjoy a friendly game of Bridge. Unfortunately after Wednesday November 25th we cannot financially sustain the cost of renting the hall so we shall no longer meet at the Scout Hut,but sessions will be hosted at individual members' houses.(members to be updated each week as necessary.)

We would love to welcome any new players with a rudimentary knowledge of the game or rusty Bridge players who also may like to refresh their skills.We play friendly Rubber Bridge.

Any one interested please contact: Christine Pearce 01208 872592



Our group numbers continue to fluctuate,but we now have more regulars swelling the group to 14-15 on occasions if we are all free.

We are currently preparing for a Christmas performance at the LanivetMusic Memory Group at the end of November.This will be one of our regular outings as Lost Chords Uke Band.

During the Summer we also performed at Lanivet Methodist Church for another of their fundraiser “Ukulele Extravaganza” events.

NEW GROUP



Interested in furniture making or woodworking?
Our U3A member Alan Croxford has a well-equipped furniture makers woodworking workshop,including a lathe and is willing to make this available to interested U3A members-he will demonstrate equipment if required.
He is also a member of the St Austell SHED.In the Spring it may be possible to expand the group and utilise their facilities which,besides extensive woodworking equipment,will also include a metal working lathe and many other tools.
At this stage please contact Alan : acroxford7@gmail.com if you would like to know more

THEATRE GROUP



On November 7th the Theatre Group travelled to The Hall For Cornwall Truro to enjoy a very interesting,fascinating behind the scenes tour.



The Ukulele Group are finding that they could benefit from the addition of a percussionist…Tambourines available! Anyone with a Cajon would also fit in well too.
If any interested party would like to join our informal group of Ukulele players we meet regularly at The Scout Hut Lostwithiel (sited in the Town Car park) on a Friday 2-4 p.m

For more information contact: Alan Pearce 01208 872592

Social Survey Appeal For Help

A huge thank you to everybody who took the time to reply to our recent Social Survey! We received some fantastic ideas and there is clearly a lot of interest in getting these activities moving.To turn these brilliant ideas into reality, **we now need a few people to help with the organisation**. If you would like to be involved and help shape our upcoming social calendar, we would love to hear from you.

Contact: Lostwithiel U3A Committee via Julie Hunter

Email: nurserynurse60@gmail.com

Completed and written by the publicity team Julie & Michael Hunter