

# CVu3a UPDATE

**Edition:** Seventy-Six– Apr/May 2026

**Editor:** John Hayton. **Contact:** [Johnhayston1@gmail.com](mailto:Johnhayston1@gmail.com)

**A very warm welcome to those new members who have joined us since the last newsletter was sent out.**

## **April Speaker**

Jackie Hunter ex-Chair of East Devon metal detecting club gave a very interesting and insightful talk on her passion for finding artifacts from long ago, with the aid of her Metal detector.

She has found a 97% Gold relic from 2,000 years BC, thought to be part of a European head dress more questions than answers there! Any treasure such as this must be reported to the local finds liaison officer and now resides in the Exeter Museum.

Other finds include “2<sup>nd</sup> century brooch, Anglo-Saxon oval buckle, Roman coins, various bronze age weapons and jewellery. The Vice Chair of the club found a hoard of 22,000 Roman coins on Lord Clinton’s estate in South East Devon.

Since Covid metal detecting has grown in popularity and to satisfy demand, large scale rallies are set up with 100’s of detectorists in a field trying to find an archaeological treasure. But Jackie has a fear some bits of metal are planted by unscrupulous people.

## **Next Monthly Meeting**

Thursday 7th May

Speaker: Marilyn Bishop

## **The much-loved British artist Beryl Cook.**

Born 100 years ago this year, Beryl Cook is widely known for her exuberant and distinctive paintings of people having fun in everyday British settings and provide a joyous glimpse at social life between the 70's and 90's. The title of Marilyn's talk is The Artist with the Common Touch and I'm sure we can look forward to some richly illustrated insights into Beryl's life and her instantly recognisable work.



## **Please Keep Saving Your Stamps**

**Please remember to save your stamps and bring them along to the next monthly meeting. They will be collected and sent off to the Royal National Institute for the Blind.**

## From Culm Valley u3a Chairman

Is it possible for members to arrive on time or a little before when attending interest group meetings to avoid disruption. We can all be late occasionally, but if you know you are going to be late, please let the group leader know, as a courtesy. Thank you. John Hayton.

## News from Interest Groups

To find contact information and meeting details please see the Interest Group Information section further on in this newsletter.

### Photography

This month the group visited the Allhallows Museum in Honiton. We received a very warm welcome from the staff, and were treated to a demonstration of lace making, for which Honiton is so famous.

We also discovered the history of the Honiton Hippo, and Greta Edwards managed to take a great photo of the exhibit. Following last month's visit to Haldon Forest, the theme for the monthly competition was trees.



Once again there were some high-quality photos and judging was extremely difficult. Congratulations this month go to one of our new members Peter Williams for a very original view of the forest.



Next month taking a walk at Holwell Lawns in Widdecombe to hopefully photograph the bluebells in bloom.



### Walkers - March 19th

We were blessed with fine weather on our March walk. 17 of us (including some new members) gathered by the railway crossing at Stoke Canon. We followed the dismantled line of the former Exe Valley Railway, of Tivy Bumper fame, before a climb to Brampford Speke. After a short circumnavigation of the village, admiring the magnolia, cherry blossom and daffodils, we descended to cross the River Exe. We followed a path past the former station and station master's house before following fields alongside the river. Luckily, the flood plain had dried out sufficiently to allow us to rest for a banana break on

fallen trees by the river. However, the footpath that followed was blocked by water so the majority of us took a shortcut back to an old stone cross where the waders with wellie boots caught up! A flat lane took us back to where we started and to the Stoke Canon Inn for lunch.



### **April 16th walk**

This walk, led by Diana Shepherd and Valerie Hoar, is about 4.5 miles. Starting at the Culm Valley Inn, Culmstock. Meet at 9.45 am for 10.00am start. Cars can be left in their car park as we will also be eating there. Need to check nearer the time whether the Uffculme road will still be closed just before entering Culmstock. If it is, then access off A38.

Mainly level walk, on fields and road, towards Uffculme, then back along the river path. Slight ascent and then descent. No stiles, a few gates and steps over 2 bridges. There is a possibility of mud formation in wet conditions.

Meal at the Culm Valley Inn. Need to know numbers, menu choices, if possible, by Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April. Please email [diana.shepherd345@btinternet.com](mailto:diana.shepherd345@btinternet.com) if you would like to take part in this walk.

### **Soloists**

Met at the Martlet Inn in Langford Budville on 20<sup>th</sup> March for a very delightful lunch. John Hayston, CVu3a Chair, joined the soloists on this occasion as part of the committee meets the interest groups initiative.

The group will attend the National Garden Scheme open day at Sherwood House, Newton St Cyres, on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> April.

Pre-booking is essential for these open days. Meet at the Agricultural Inn 12.00 (please see menu boards below) for lunch before the garden visit which is only a short distance from Bramford Speke.

Also, Burrow Farm Gardens, near Dalwood a stunning 13-acre destination, with its tranquil atmosphere and harmonious blend of structured planting and naturalistic woodland. Includes a welcoming Tea room, a specialist nursery and a gift shop.

Another idea for a future meeting (May maybe) was a visit to 'The Grazing Cow', Offwell, near Honiton, which is a popular farm shop and café, known for its high-quality local produce and welcoming atmosphere.

The group are very friendly and welcome any one single, men are you listening?



## Art in Action

Collage and still life have been the groups' theme lately





## Creative Writers

We thought we might have a full house of writers this time but unfortunately, Sue had got the dates mixed so was unable to join us. We missed her. However, we had a special visitor from the committee, Paula Rees, and it was good to welcome her.

The time flew with happy exchanges of books read and the usual sharing of our scribbles about irritations. This month, it wasn't a question of 'how on earth can I get started', but rather, once we got going, how do I stop?' of course, revealing our pet hates gives away much about ourselves, so perhaps I'll just list some of them without their ownership.

Noise caused much irritation to some; the 'wrong' sort of music; some voices; thoughtless parking across a driveway; tailgaters; selfish folk who push their way to the front of a queue; physical difficulties as we age; unfair promotions of rather inept colleagues in a work situation; dog owners



who fail to pick up their pets' decorations; AI; two-faced people; endless football/sport on tv with little choice of anything else; all alarms or sudden loud noises; and one particular word irritated one writer, so much so, she could not bring herself to type it. All TV presenters seem unable to get far without spattering it throughout whatever it is they are describing. Clue: six letters, beginning with i.

I C - - - C

Listen out for it, because you won't be disappointed. I think we all felt better for airing our irritations and as usual we

found much to laugh about.

Our quiet and gentle Pat hatched up a double murder of an unhappy couple trapped in a marriage filled with their mutual irritations. The scene is set with a dinner party. Pat's story ends with the hosts dead after poisoning each other, so at least that put an end to their irritations. But with the arrival of the police, we find the dinner guests alive but irritated because they have missed their dessert.

In her writing, Chris took on the character of a rather cross cat whose owners failed to realise the birds in his garden were there mainly for his sport. He found their water spray while he was hunting, more than a mild irritation. Even worse were visitors who arrived bringing their dog.

We were certainly thankful for Hazel's baking, filled with the happy spice.

#### SHARED STORY

Hazel has written the ending for our second shared story.

'Well, what is it then?' I enquired feeling frankly irritated beyond measure now. 'Did you have a ginger cat?' asked Josie. 'Yes, but he disappeared a few months ago. I think he died because he was very old.' 'Well your cat has obviously climbed into one of these boxes and not been able to get out. The poor thing must have died there and that's what the smell is.'

My hand went to my mouth as I realised that poor Rufus had died a slow death being trapped without food or water. I was very upset. I looked up at the three people standing there looking at me, first the older couple, then the younger man.

'There is something familiar about you', I said. 'Do I know you from somewhere?' 'No, not me, I have never seen you before. I've lived a very quiet life in Devon for the last few years.' When I asked him what his job was he said he was an antiques dealer. That's when it hit me. I had retired from the police force where I was a DCI, but as a sergeant many years ago, I had arrested this man as an armed robber who ended up in Dartmoor prison.

I dismissed them as quickly as I could and made sure from then on that I always locked the doors before retiring to bed, even buying extra security locks and alarms for each door.

Happy Easter – LJRM - Scribe

#### Music - Ukes and Co

Ukuleles come in all shapes and sizes. The baby of the family is the Soprano. It works well for people with small hands and children. The next size up is the Concert which has more room if you have chubby fingers like me. Then comes the Tenor which has a wonderful sound and plenty of room for chord changes. The largest ukulele is the Baratone, a big beast of an instrument with its own particular sound. Many of our players have also got banjoleles which are a mix of banjo and ukulele. If you want to make a big noise this is the instrument for you with its sharp percussive sound. It also is the chosen instrument for some types of music we play from Bluegrass to George Formby Style. Anyone coming to try out our group is welcome to try our instruments to see which suits them best. We are a small, friendly group that play and sing music from Abba to Adele.

## Quilting

Over the last month, everyone has continued with their own projects, whether an individual project or part of their 'challenge' piece, which we all agreed to do earlier in the year.

Some pieces being worked on have been 'on the go' for some time, that is the nature of quilting, hours and hours and more hours of work go into making quilts. I hope you enjoy the pics showing the diversity of what is being worked on. Also note, supervisor Hetty demonstrating, this month, how it should be done!



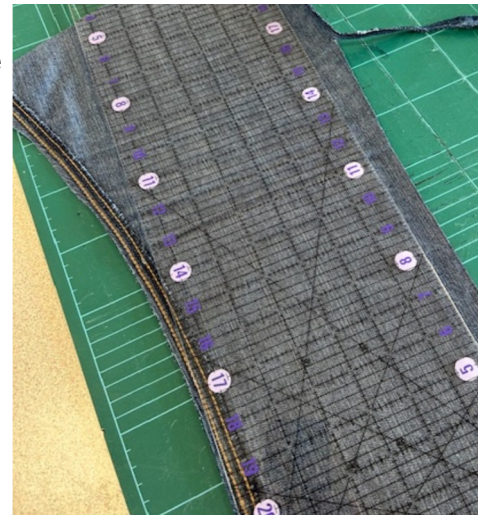
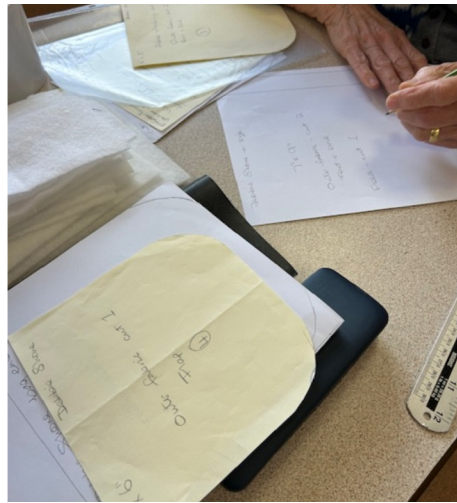
## Sewists

The last meeting saw a few different sewing projects going on. There was pattern making, dress and shirt making, patchwork piecing, denim patchwork being cut out, for an upholstery project and a bit of rogue 'sewing'.

All manner of hand and machine sewing is going on within the group - made up of old, new and return sewers. We help each other out, chat, and share ideas and inspiration, If you'd like to pick up

where you left off, or start anew with your sewing projects, please get in touch - we'd love to welcome you to our chatty, tea and coffee drinking, biscuit and cake eating group!

If you are interested, we currently have a few spaces available in the group.



## Pétanque

### Change of regular venue

Anticipating ever growing numbers of players seeking a few games at our group's regular weekly gatherings, now that warmer weather conditions are here, together with a satisfying increase in our group's membership, the decision has now been taken to amend the primary location of our weekly rendezvous from The Walronds gardens to the recently constructed, twin-lane terrain, located in the car park at the CCA Fields, adjacent to the Cullompton Cricket Club premises. This change of venue has become effective immediately, as from Friday 3rd April.



**NB:** some gatherings may still take place on the Walronds terrain, on an "overflow" or individual preference basis; weekly details will be circulated by the WhatsApp group organised by expert bouliste, Michael Wragg or by group email.

This social, sporting interest group will anticipate continuing to meet up to play our "Iron Ball" competitive game, every Friday at 11.00 a.m. throughout the year, with often little regard to the local weather conditions! A hardy bunch of addicted boule lobbors! If there are sufficient players wishing to meet up for afternoon game sessions, then we anticipate a return to afternoon and possibly some evening events.

If you are looking for gentle exercise in the open air, with fun and competitive challenge combined, whilst exemplifying the U3A motto of "Live, Learn, Laugh" - then the game of "Pétanque" may prove to be just the very thing you've been missing!

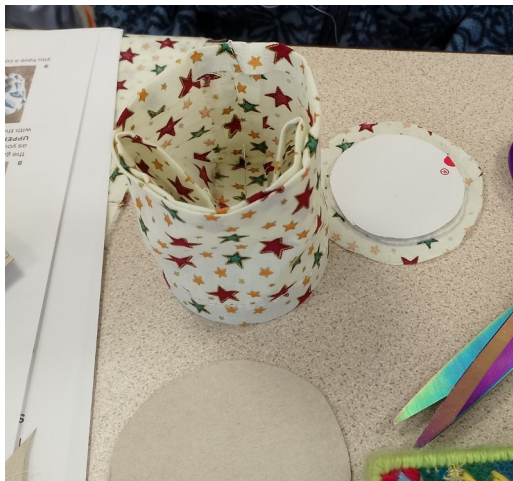
**DO TRY IT AND SEE! PETANQUE IS GREAT FOR ALL AGES - ALL GENDERS and ABILITIES!**

## Crafts

Our task this month is Collapsible Pots and Barbie grasped the nettle to nearly complete her first one within the two and a half hour session. These little pots are quite addictive and for my sins I ended up making 12 but they were very useful stocking fillers!

We are continuing with these for the next session then in May we will be doing a Glass Painting project.


Lorna



## Jazz Appreciation

CVu3a "Jazzers" will be assembling at Uffculme in the Magelake Pavilion (see poster) on Wednesday, 15th April at 7.00 for 7.30pm to hear stimulating live Traditional and New Orleans Jazz music performed by the Gordon's Algiers Strutters Jazz Band. All ages and abilities are most welcome to come along to enjoy great, live jazz music performed by six very able and experienced musicians. Don't miss the opportunity!

NB: Please contact the event organiser, Jane Mulholland, on 07799 014173 to reserve seats.



**GORDON'S**  
**Jazz**  
**CLUB**

New Orleans and Traditional Jazz

**15TH APRIL 2026**

# GORDON'S ALGIERS STRUTTERS

at  
Magelake  
Pavilion,  
Uffculme,  
Devon  
EX15 3DP  
7.30 - 10.00  
Doors open 6.45  
£10 p.p. (cash only)  
3rd Wednesday  
In every month  
Early arrival and  
Prior seat reservations  
are not essential,  
but helpful,  
to ensure a prompt start.

**DAVE MARTIN**  
TRUMPET

**TONY MANN**  
TROMBONE

**NICK WHITE**  
CLARINET/REEDS

**JOHN BAKER**  
BANJO

**COLIN FULCHER**  
BASS

**CHRIS STOCKINGS**  
DRUMS

For more information visit  
Gordon's Algiers Strutters on Facebook,  
Email - gordonsjazzclub@hotmail.com

*Gordon's Jazz Club  
is a not-for-profit group of Jazz lovers,  
aiming to promote and support live  
New Orleans and Traditional Jazz*

## Discovery days

### Next event:

**Friday 12 June – Fursden House** (local outing please car share)

We're hoping for a sunny afternoon for a guided tour of Fursden House, Cadbury, Exeter, EX5 5JS.

- **Arrive:** 14:00
- **House tour:** 14:10 –15:05
- **Garden time:** afterwards (weather permitting)

- **Cream tea:** 16:00pm (or earlier) at the Coach Hall

**Cost:** £19.00 per person (house tour + cream tea)

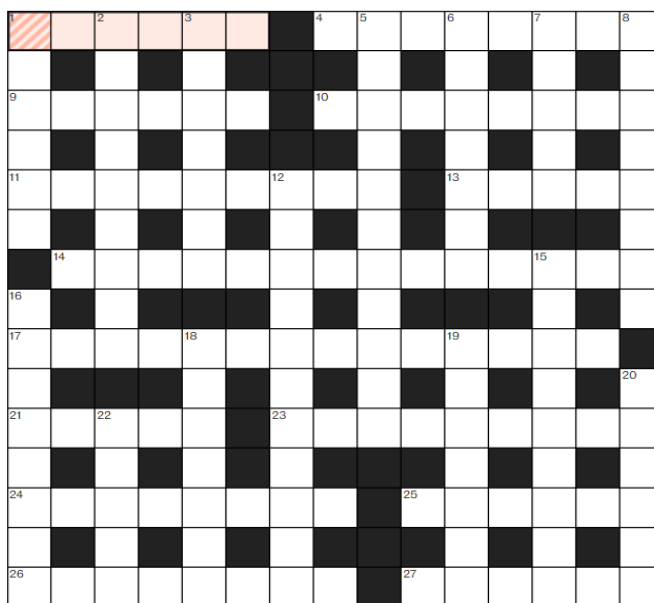
**To reserve a place:** Email Paula at paulajlongden@outlook.com

## Save this date

### Thursday 24 September - Coach Trip to Kents Cavern

- Bespoke tour of the cavern
- Agatha Christie-themed coach tour of Torquay
- Guide will cover Agatha Christie's life story, including her archaeological interests
- Full details and costs will be confirmed once the coach booking is finalised.

## Cryptic Crossword March 2026



Solutions on  
page 13

### Across

- Alter course and branch off (6)
- Not enough for Noah's Ark! (3,2,3)
- Diligently, and at the right moment (2,4)
- I'm wise, but not right. It's rude (8)
- French on, levered off, shocked! (9)
- Cautious he was somewhat chastened & somewhat wary (5)
- Not a pie and linked to Alsace (6,8)
- Inspection by the Police (8,6)
- Missing a bit of charisma but might bring you luck (5)
- The French , after slow progress, gave us an historical account (9)
- Nothing underneath, mostly! (5,3)
- The ecru osier has the root from the East (6)
- Walt's baby babbles when adults away (3,5)
- Tell me, quick! (6)

### Down

- Bewildered starter changes direction, locates companion (6)
- Bury Lucy French of Pause (8)
- Fabric starts crimson and magenta, becomes red in colour
- He's an eliminator of one's designation (4,7)
- Hard man at the door (7)
- The age moment has the end all and be all from the South (5)
- Quick, that gate's open! Not right? What, actually *pay!* (5,3)
- An extravagant display of glasses, perhaps (11)
- Unseemly behaviour in the last month, with zero spirit (9)
- Diagram comprises a map, with something to eat (3,5)
- Short measure of heat is French for storm (7)
- Ran ahead of a dog that seemingly let you in, with bitterness (7)
- Something wrong! Leave the country! (6)
- Aunt started a game on newspapers years ago (5)

## Interest Group Information

<b>Group</b>	<b>Contact</b> <small>Please click on name to email</small>	<b>Venue, Day &amp; Time</b>
<b>Art in Action</b>	<b>Rachel Kingdom</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Monday each month 13.30 – 16.30 Club Room, Willand Village Hall
<b>Beginners Spanish</b>	<b>Josy Tidmarsh</b>	Weekly at The Bakehouse, Cullompton
<b>Beginners Jewellery</b>	<b>Julie Murphy</b>	Please Contact Julie
<b>Bridge</b>	<b>Maggie Lambert</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Thurs of the month 14.00- 16.00, Club room, WVH
<b>Coloured Pencils</b>	<b>Sue Hooper-Lawrie</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Monday each month 13.30 – 16.30 Club Room, Willand Village Hall
<b>Craft</b>	<b>Lorna Knowles</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Wednesday each month 10.00 to 12:30 Committee Room, Willand Village Hall
<b>Creative Writing</b>	<b>Hazel Newman</b>	3 <sup>rd</sup> Tuesday each month 14.00
<b>Discovery Days</b>	<b>Paula Longden</b>	Various
<b>Dog Walkers</b>	<b>John Hayston</b>	Contact John for more information
<b>French Conversation</b>	<b>Sally Graham</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Monday each month at 11:00 -12.30
<b>French Conversation #2</b>	<b>Julie Murphy</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Monday each month 15:00 to 16:30
<b>Gaming</b>	<b>Jean Turner</b>	1st Monday each month 10:30 to 12:30 Club Room, Willand Village Hall
<b>Genealogy</b>	<b>Walter Longden</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> Wednesday each month 10:30 to 12:30 Hayridge, Cullompton Library
<b>History</b>	<b>Alison Waple</b>	3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursday each month plus various other days
<b>Jazz Appreciation</b>	<b>Richard Taylor</b>	Contact Richard

<b>Group</b>	<b>Contact</b> Please click on name to email	<b>Venue, Day &amp; Time</b>
	Mobile: 07816337456	
<b>Mahjong</b>	<b>Jean Turner</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> Monday each month 10:30 to 12:30 Club Room, Willand Village Hall
<b>Mixed Media Art</b>	<b>Annie Forster</b>	Kentisbeare Village Hall Last Wednesday each month. 9:30 to 16:30
<b>Music</b>	<b>Sue</b> Mobile: 07398 686612	Every Thursday morning from 10:00 at Willand Village Hall in the Annex
<b>Pétanque</b>	<b>Richard Taylor</b> Mobile: 07816 337456	Car park at the CCA Fields Every Friday 11:00 and 14:00 Weather dependent
<b>Photography</b>	<b>Barry Wilson</b>	Last Monday each month
<b>Quilting</b>	<b>Linda Arnold</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Tuesday each month 9.30 to 12.30 - Club Room, Willand Village Hall.
<b>Quizzing</b>	<b>Martin Newman</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> Friday each month at 11:00 Club Room, Willand Village Hall
<b>Reading</b>	<b>Sally Graham</b>	3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursday each month, 14:30 upstairs at Cullompton Library
<b>Sewists</b>	<b>Yvonne Doherty</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month, 9:30–12:30 Willand Village Hall
<b>Soloists</b> <b>(But not alone)</b>	<b>Jenny Day</b> Tel: 01884 840786/ Mobile: 07770 985840	Contact Jenny
<b>Strollers 1 &amp; 2</b>	<b>Elieen Turner &amp; Jackie Sim</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesday each month @10:30 4 <sup>th</sup> Tuesday each month @10:00
<b>Walkers (4-6 Miles)</b>	<b>Gill Sole</b>	3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursday each month a/m
<b>Wine Appreciation</b>	<b>John Hayston</b>	Please contact John for more information.

If you have an idea for an Interest Group, please get in touch with  
Groups Co-ordinator on email: [cvu3agroupscoord@gmail.com](mailto:cvu3agroupscoord@gmail.com)

Cryptic Crossword March 2026



**Contact Emails for current Executive Committee members:**

Email	Current role holder
cvu3achair1@gmail.com	John Hayston
cvu3afinance@gmail.com	Judy Morris
cvu3abussec@gmail.com	Paula Rees
cvu3agroupscoord@gmail.com	Sue Hooper-Lawrie
cvu3amemsecretary@gmail.com	Alison Waple
cvu3abeacon@gmail.com	Marian Luck

## Monthly Meetings:

Monthly Meetings are held on the FIRST THURSDAY of each month, except January. The meeting starts at 2pm, with members arriving any time after 1.15pm. We hold our meetings at Willand Village Hall, Gables Road, Willand, EX15 2PL. Check monthly newsletter for more information about arrangements for upcoming meeting/s.

## Suggested Venues for Group Meetings

**John Tallack Youth & Community centre**, Meadow Lane, Cullompton. Ex15 1LL.

Email: [info@jtc.org.uk](mailto:info@jtc.org.uk) Website: [www.johntallackcentre.org.uk](http://www.johntallackcentre.org.uk)

**The Walronds**, 6 Fore Street, Cullompton.

Email: [Info@walronds.com](mailto:Info@walronds.com) Website: [www.walronds.com](http://www.walronds.com)

**The Bakehouse**, 3 High Street, Cullompton.

Email: [enquiries@thebakehousecullompton.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@thebakehousecullompton.co.uk) Website:

[www.thebakehousecullompton.co.uk](http://www.thebakehousecullompton.co.uk)

Phone: 01884 35222

**The Steamer**, Five Bridges, Cullompton.

Email: [hello@the-steamer.co.uk](mailto:hello@the-steamer.co.uk) Phone: 01884 904960

**Willand Village Hall**, Gables Road, Willand. Bookings contact: Frances Wilcox.

Email: [bookings@willandvillagehall.org.uk](mailto:bookings@willandvillagehall.org.uk)

**Willand Health & Community Centre**, (opposite Village Hall) Bookings contact; F. Wilcox

Email: [info@whacc.org.uk](mailto:info@whacc.org.uk)

**Cullompton Library**, (part of The Hayridge Centre). Contact; Rachel Kidd.

Email: [Cullompton.library@librariessunlimited.org.uk](mailto:Cullompton.library@librariessunlimited.org.uk). Phone; 01884 824555

Go to <https://www.devonlibraries.org.uk/web/arena> to pre book a computer time slot by using the iCAM booking system or directly. [https://lu.imil.uk/Account/LogOn?](https://lu.imil.uk/Account/LogOn?ReturnUrl=%2fbookings)

[ReturnUrl=%2fbookings](https://lu.imil.uk/Account/LogOn?ReturnUrl=%2fbookings)

Opening hours (Staffed): Monday-Friday – 09:00 – 17:00 Saturday – 09:00 – 13:00

**Square Corner**, The Square, Uffculme, Ex15 3AA: <https://www.squarecorner.org.uk/book-online>

**Bridwell, Uffculme**, are happy for large groups to meet there. If you are planning to hold a meeting in the Orangery for 8 or more people, please email [cafe@bridwell.co.uk](mailto:cafe@bridwell.co.uk) to book the group in and let them know numbers and if you are planning to eat or not.

**Kentisbeare Village Hall, EX15 2AA** Contact Melanie on email – [villagehall@kentisbeare.net](mailto:villagehall@kentisbeare.net) the Booking Secretary.

If you know of any other suitable venues, please let us know.

**Deadline for items for UPDATE is always the 10<sup>th</sup> of the month.**

**Please send to [johnhayston1@gmail.com](mailto:johnhayston1@gmail.com)**