

CVu3a UPDATE

Edition: Eighty-one– Sept/Oct 2026

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

September Speaker

Mission to the Moon - Ken Kelly

Our September speaker, Ken, gave a very insightful talk on what it took to get men and women into space and land on the moon.

Apollo astronauts faced a demanding mixture of technical, physical and psychological challenges. They had to work inside very cramped spacecraft, often for many days, with limited privacy, sleep and movement. Weightlessness affected balance, coordination and bodily functions, while re-entry exposed crews to extreme heat and high gravitational forces.

A major challenge was reliability and safety. The Apollo 1 launch-pad fire in 1967, which killed Gus Grissom, Ed White and Roger Chaffee, showed how dangerous the programme was and led to major redesigns of the spacecraft. Later, Apollo 13 demonstrated the need for calm problem-solving when an oxygen tank exploded on the way to the Moon; the crew and mission controllers had to improvise to bring the astronauts home safely.

On the lunar surface, astronauts had to cope with bulky spacesuits, low gravity, dust, limited oxygen, strict time limits and communication delays. They also had to carry out complex scientific tasks while remaining alert to equipment problems.

In short, Apollo astronauts overcame isolation, danger, technical uncertainty and the unknown conditions of lunar exploration through training, discipline, teamwork and support from mission control.

October Meeting

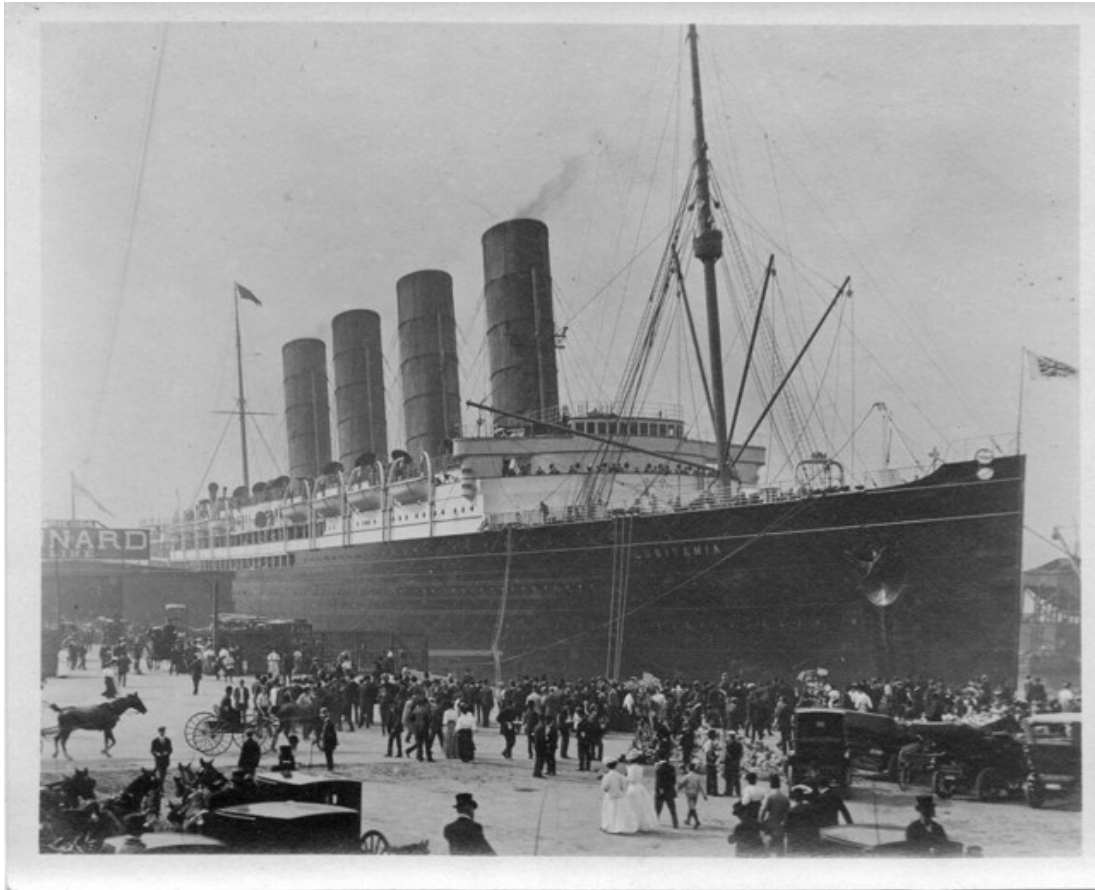
Speaker: Stewart Raine

Title: The Sinking of the Lusitania, America and Tin Pan Alley

Stewart will look at the tragic sinking of Cunard's RMS Lusitania in May 1915 by a German U-boat and the controversy surrounding its loss in World War 1. He will discuss how this affected attitudes to the war in USA as over 100 casualties were neutral American citizens, and also how the popular music produced by Tin Pan Alley in New York reflected those changing attitudes

Memorial to the perished in Cobh, Ireland.





The Lusitania in New York after its 1907 maiden voyage.

CVu3a Volunteers “Thank you” Tea

Without all our volunteers CVu3a would not be able to function. Everything that happens in our u3a is made possible by members who unselfishly give of their time, skills and talents to make sure their groups, the monthly meeting and CVu3a in general, runs smoothly!



The committee felt it was time that we demonstrated our thanks to these amazing members with a lovely afternoon tea.

On Friday 31st July, 27 current CVu3a volunteers met together at Tiverton Golf Club for a lovely tea. Everyone was treated to finger sandwiches, scones, jam and cream and then a lovely variety of delicious cakes.

A gentle buzz filled the area set aside for us as everyone chatted together while enjoying what was laid on. We were even issued with “doggy boxes” so that we could each take away some of the tasty cakes we were unable to eat.

The committee has agreed that a volunteers thank you tea will now be an annual event.



A big thank you was sent to Tiverton Golf Club for their wonderful service provided by their friendly, welcoming and very efficient team.



Volunteering opportunity

We have recently received a request from Gill Bunnell, Team Leader & Treasurer for Read Easy North, East & West Devon (Reg, Charity no. 1210530)

Volunteers are needed to help teach adults to read on a 1-2-1 basis. They have approximately 50 readers at the moment, with a waiting list. They are in desperate need of volunteers to act as a co-ordinator for around 5 reading pairs each, as our existing (5!) volunteers are overloaded

This is the link to the advert - <https://devonconnect.org/activity/coordinator-for-read-easy-north-east-and-west-devon>

Please contact Gill Bunnell directly if you are interested in helping.

Tel: 07786 115928 or Email: newdevontreasurer@readeasy.org.uk

Monthly Meetings

Please note that for the rest of 2026 we have reinstated the charge of £2.00 per person attending a monthly meeting. From February 2027 the charge will be £1 per person.

Can you help the new Speaker Team?

Gill Sole is now stepping down from the Speaker Co-ordinator role. Over the past 4 years we have been very well served by Gill Sole, who has provided us with a wide variety of interesting speakers, introducing us to a wonderful assortment of subjects and topics.

We are planning how best to continue with our speaker programme for our monthly meetings and are pleased to announce that 2 members have stepped forward to work together. We would ideally like another one or two members to join Trisha Luxton and Yvonne Doherty. With a small team of 3 or 4 the load is spread, meaning one person isn't carrying the entire load. Please consider this possibility, as we believe it is the way forward to keep our monthly meetings running. If you are interested, please contact any committee member (contact emails are at the back of this newsletter).

Gill has kindly provided this information about the role -

The speaker slot at every u3a monthly meeting is a treasured tradition and the focal point which draws our members together at Willand Village Hall to meet, chat, listen and learn. Topics are varied and the speakers range in experience from those on the professional circuit to the enthusiastic and courageous member who offers to share their lived experience with us. All are equally appreciated and make for a varied programme with, hopefully, something for everyone throughout the year.

The role roughly divides into two parts -

- selection of speakers from a variety of sources available* and written confirmation of each engagement,
- introducing speakers at the monthly meeting and giving thanks at the end

* Speaker databases for SW Region/recommendations from members etc/submissions to our website.

Do contact me on email gill.sole@yahoo.com with any questions you have about the role.

Thanks, Gill

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.

National Racehorse Week at the stables of Jane Williams, Culverhill Farm.



Aubusson - Jane's retired 17-year-old racehorse.



Along the gallop.



Ciaran Gethings with one of Jane's winning horses.



Daniel Frost, Jimmy's son,
and "Keep off the Sugar".

Jimmy Frost & the grooms



Racehorse Bob.
(Photo's courtesy of Linda & Keith
Grantham)

From the CVu3a Committee

Tea Team Need Help

I think we can all agree that the he Tea Team, Jane & Barbara, do a brilliant job at the CVu3a monthly meetings. They do need a few extra hands to help with washing up after the meeting. If you could delay leaving the hall for about 15 minutes to help with clearing and washing up that would be very much appreciated. Please speak to Jane or Barbara if you are able to give a hand.

Help with Technology

Any member worried about online fraud or not sure how to use their phone/ tablet or laptop can contact AbilityNet. This is a free service and their volunteers will either visit you in your home or provide phone support.

Website: <https://abilitynet.org.uk/>

Helpline: 0300 180 0028 (open Monday-Friday 9 – 5, except Thursday when open 12-5)

News from Interest Groups

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

Petanque

We are delighted and very proud that one of our younger boule players, Richard Brickles, most ably competed at Plymouth, in the Devon Petanque League Singles contest, against very stiff competition, and finished the long day as Devon Singles Champion!

When folk ask you “what can we achieve when we’ve reached the Third Age” period in our lives, this may be the right time to mention Richard Brickles’ sporting achievement. Considering that he only started learning the sport in the gardens at The Walronds we all feel immensely pleased that we have assisted, in some small measure, to enable him to progress to a player of Devon County Championship level!

We would like to think that other u3a members will also feel inspired to “reach for the stars” when learning new skills within their choice of interest groups. We are never too old to learn new skills, as our members continue to so ably demonstrate! Many congratulations to Richard Brickles of Culm Valley u3a, Devon Petanque League Champion!



Craft

It felt a bit like the first day back at school with our first craft meeting of the new term.

Our needles were sharp and our threads untangled as we tried our hand at Dorset Buttons. For some of the group this was a second visit, but we were keen to share it with the group.

Our two new members, Barbara and Kath embraced the challenge, and they managed to achieve a completed button on the day.

We are delighted to welcome two new members Sue and Sandra, who will join us on the 16 September when we will be turning our hand to Sashiko, a Japanese sewing technique, which is new to most of the group. Watch this space to see how we got on.

Lorna



Walkers - August Walk

We were very happy to repeat a lovely walk the group had enjoyed in 2024, the route from Otterton taking us via the SW Coast Path Westwards to the estuary at Budleigh Salterton then following the River Otter back to Otterton. Refreshingly the weather turned that morning to occasional rain and drizzle interspersed with fine if breezy sunshine, requiring several quick outings of the rainwear we almost didn't bring with us. However, the beautiful views up and down the coast this stretch of the Jurassic Coast from Lyme Bay to Budleigh didn't fail to delight us all and the walking was mostly easy along good grassland and river towpaths beside the ever-interesting Otter Estuary. Our lunch stop at the Kings Arms in Otterton proved a hit too as we made a late decision to stop here rather than the Mill which was too busy to imagine swift service. All in all, an excellent outing.





Our September Walk

Thursday 17th September at 9.45am Clayhidon

An easy to moderate 5 mile walk in the lovely Blackdown Hills with lunch afterwards at the Half Moon Inn in the village. A new walk for our group kindly researched by Viv Sharland & Jackie Sim. Any enquiries Gill please which will be forwarded to Viv.

Creative Writers

Some of us couldn't make the August meeting and neither Sue nor Linda wrote anything this month. The subject was 'The Book Shop'.

Two short extracts from two different versions have been received, with a request that the names of the writers should not be mentioned. Hard to know where to start ... with so little to go on.

Doorbell ... DING DONG ... Scribe hurries to front door

Seizing his chance, the watchful cat leaps up onto the desk and starts tapping away frantically.

One writer, who cannot be named, wrote a piece about a book shop: that is a shop, selling books. But the name of the shop will not be revealed as the owner is of a nervous disposition and will panic if he gets a sudden rush of customers.

Another writer, who prefers to remain anonymous, wrote about a man and a woman who visited a book shop (quite by chance) on the same day of each week. (I don't think the books were the main attraction but that's just my opinion).

So far, that's all ...

Scribe returns carrying a parcel ...

'JEZZA ... OFF that keyboard NOW' ... Scribe chases away the Siamese cat.

Jezza thinking aloud: Well, she seemed stuck and I was only trying to help ...

Scribe thinking aloud: Now where was I? Oh, right. I think that's enough for this month. Tempted to skip a month really but as we ARE the Creative Writers, I think it's best to contribute to the Newsletter. I doubt if many people read it all, so I'll let Jezza have his moment of glory.

LJRM – Scribe (Linda)

(with help from Jezza who has no objections to being named as long as he gets his dinner)

oOoOoOo



Art in Action

Recently group members have been creating art works by copying paintings Paul Cezanne did in the 1860's & 70's in the south of France.

Other members have been doing their own art works, see below for some examples of our creations.





Photography

This month the group met at Exmouth to take photos of the marina, with the theme of the day being people at work. After the rainy Bank Holiday, we were fortunate to have a dry morning for our get together and were able to fully explore the marina.

We were delighted to welcome our newest member Andy Gordon, who was given the difficult task of choosing the winning entry for the August competition, as there was a three-way tie between Trisha, Greta & Peter.



After much consideration of the 3 excellent photos, Andy chose Trish's photo of the cannon of Bamburgh Castle.

Next month we will be (weather permitting) going to Wellington for a photographic treasure hunt, organized by Dave.

Quizzing

At our August meeting Liz and Maureen entertained us with questions covering another wide range of subjects, including geography, politics, money-related slang terms, sport, musicals and medical-related anagrams. If, for example, you can work out that Hard Progeria becomes Radiographer, come and join us.

Our next meeting is on Friday 18 September at Willand Village Hall, 10.30 for 11.00. From and including October we will meet twice each month, starting on 2 October, followed by 16th.

Quilting

We started our first session of the new season at the beginning of September. It was nice to see everyone again, have a catch up, with a cuppa and some lovely homemade oatmeal biscuits - very generously made by one member. Yum - thank you.

Our busy bee leaders had been hard at work over our Summer break, prepping instructions and organising our hexie and half hexie templates for our latest project/group challenge, which most of the quilters are doing - as well as making samples to show what the finished products should look like. Some members also have additional projects on the go - that's a quilters life! Others are continuing with their individual projects.

So, we set about cutting out fabric pieces to fit the hexies - this is the first stage in making the Celtic design element of what will be a table runner. Some members are making their design with three linked rings/triangles, whilst others are making either a five or seven ring design - making longer runners, as the rings increase. There were all sorts of colour schemes chosen, including one or two Christmas designs. There's a lot of hand sewing involved in making the rings, so you'll see how

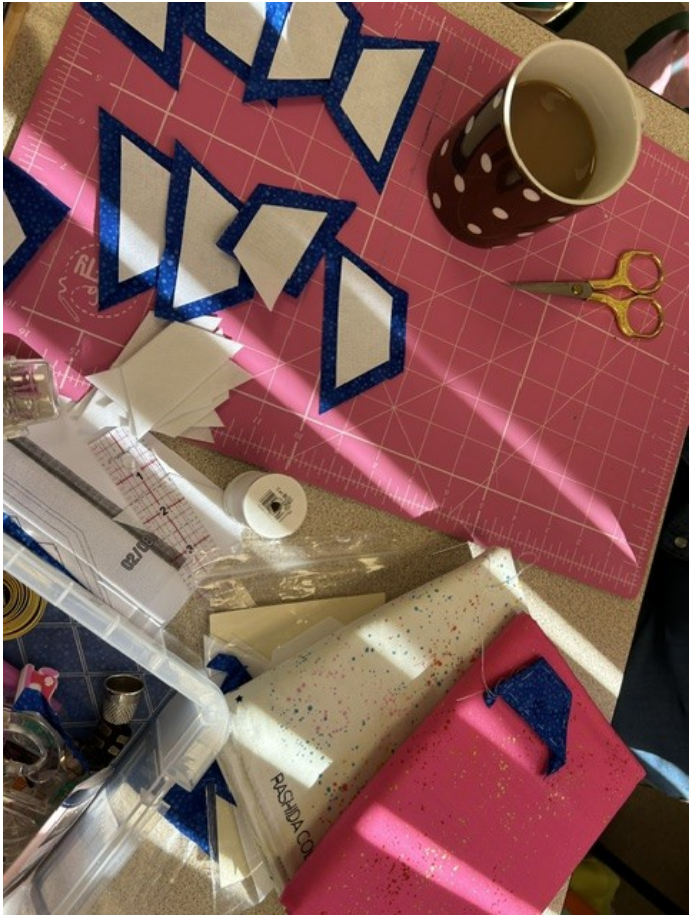


these progress over the coming months.

Hetty, our trusty supervisor, was on hand to check over proceedings. But to be honest I think she was still in holiday mode, as she contentedly slept on a chair beside her beloved.

As the nights begin to draw in, there will likely be more quilting going on - some members seem to make new items at the speed of light, whilst us lesser mortals watch and admire their fabulous creations.





Jazz Appreciation

Whilst individual members of our group have already received these details, we are always keen to spread the word and hope to interest other CVu3a members in local live jazz music appreciation opportunities. With that in mind, we are delighted to announce that the Gordon's Jazz Club have arranged for the "North Coast Joymakers" to perform from 7.30pm on Wednesday next, 16th September, in the Magelake Pavilion, Bridge Street, Uffculme, EX15 3DP.

There is FREE Car parking aplenty and a well-stocked, reasonably priced Bar. An opportunity exists for attendees to take part in a prize draw - you never know your luck! There's space for jive dance too! Entrance fee is £10.00 by Cash on the door. Seats may be reserved by phoning the event organiser, Mrs Jane Mulholland on her mobile 07799 014173 or by email to gordonsjazzclub@hotmail.com. We hope to see you there on 16th September.

Discovery Days

A reminder, if interested, to book now for the Agatha Christie-themed day out in Torbay, on **Thursday 24 September 2026**.

- **Pick-ups: 8.45am Willand bus stop and 9.00am Cullompton Leisure Centre.**
- **Main activities:** Church welcome/talk, guided walking and coach tour of Torquay, Kents Cavern cave tour, and included Devonshire cream tea.
- **Return:** Coach departs Kents Cavern at **4.00pm**.
- **Cost: £45 per person**, including coach travel, tours, Kents Cavern entry, room hire, and cream tea.
- **Booking:** Pay by BACS or if you wish to pay cash contact Paula by email

Interest Group Information

Group	Contact Please click on name to email	Venue, Day & Time
Art in Action	Rachel Kingdom	2 nd & 4 th Monday each month 13.30 – 16.30 Club Room, Willand Village Hall
Beginners Spanish	Josy Tidmarsh	Weekly at The Bakehouse, Cullompton
Beginners Jewellery	Julie Murphy	Please Contact Julie
Bridge	Maggie Lambert	2 nd , 3 rd & 4 th Thurs of the month 14.00-16.00, Club Room, WVH
Craft	Lorna Knowles	1 st & 3 rd Wednesday each month 10.00 to 12:30 Committee Room, Willand Village Hall
Creative Writing	Hazel Newman	3 rd Tuesday each month 14.00
Discovery Days	Paula Longden	Various

Group	Contact Please click on name to email	Venue, Day & Time
Dog Walkers	John Hayston	Contact John for more information
Drawing	Sue Hooper-Lawrie	1 st & 3 rd Monday each month 13.30 – 16.30 Club Room, Willand Village Hall
French Conversation	Sally Graham	1 st Monday each month at 11:00 -12.30
French Conversation #2	Julie Murphy	1 st Monday each month 15:00 to 16:30
Gaming	Jean Turner	1st Monday each month 10:30 to 12:30 Club Room, Willand Village Hall
Genealogy	Walter Longden	2 nd Wednesday each month 10:30 to 12:30 Hayridge, Cullompton Library
History	Alison Waple	3 rd Thursday each month plus various other days
Jazz Appreciation	Richard Taylor Mobile: 07816337456	Contact Richard for details
Mahjong	Jean Turner	2 nd & 4 th Monday each month 10:30 to 12:30 Club Room, Willand Village Hall
Mixed Media Art	Annie Forster	Kentisbeare Village Hall Last Wednesday each month. 9:30 to 16:30
Outsmarted	Sue Hooper-Lawrie	We stay in our own homes and meet online on various days and times!
Pétanque	Richard Taylor Mobile: 07816 337456	Car park at the CCA Fields Every Friday 11:00 and 14:00 Weather dependent
Photography	Barry Wilson	Last Monday each month
Quilting	Linda Arnold	1 st & 3 rd Tuesday each month 9.30 to 12.30 - Club Room, Willand Village Hall.
Quizzing	Martin Newman	1 st and 3 rd Friday each month at 11:00 Club Room, Willand Village Hall

Group	Contact Please click on name to email	Venue, Day & Time
Reading	Sally Graham	3 rd Thursday each month, 14:30 upstairs at Cullompton Library
Soloists (But not alone)	Jenny Day Tel: 01884 840786/ Mobile: 07770 985840	Contact Jenny
Strollers 1 & 2	Elieen Turner & Jackie Sim	2 nd Tuesday each month @10:30 4 th Tuesday each month @10:00
Threads & Yarns	Yvonne Doherty	2nd Wednesday of each month, 9:30–12:30 Willand Village Hall
Ukulele	Sue Childs Mobile: 07398 686612	Every Friday morning from 10:00 at Makers Community Hall, Uffculme
Walkers (4-6 Miles)	Gill Sole	3 rd Thursday each month a/m
Wine Appreciation	John Hayston	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**

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.

Help with Technology

Any member worried about online fraud or not sure how to use their phone, tablet or laptop can contact AbilityNet. This is a free service and their volunteers will either visit you in your home or provide phone support.

Website: <https://abilitynet.org.uk/>

Helpline: 0300 180 0028 (Open Monday - Friday 9 to 5, except Thursday when open 12 to 5)

Suggested Venues for Group Meetings

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

Email: info@jtc.org.uk Website: www.johntallackcentre.org.uk

The Walronds, 6 Fore Street, Cullompton.

Email: Info@walronds.com Website: www.walronds.com

The Bakehouse, 3 High Street, Cullompton.

Email: enquiries@thebakehousecullompton.co.uk Website:

www.thebakehousecullompton.co.uk

Phone: 01884 35222

The Steamer, Five Bridges, Cullompton.

Email: hello@the-steamer.co.uk Phone: 01884 904960

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

Email: bookings@willandvillagehall.org.uk

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

Email: info@whacc.org.uk

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

Email: Cullompton.library@librariesunlimited.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 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 the Booking Secretary.

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

Deadline for items for UPDATE is always the 10th of the month.

Please send to johnhayston1@gmail.com