



MONTHLY MEETING
TUESDAY 22nd July 2025

1:30 p.m. at The Methodist Church, Scalwell Lane, Seaton



BIG CAT SIGHTINGS IN DEVON
A talk by Alex Bowler

Alex Bowler is a big cat investigator, who lives in South Devon. His unusual and interesting

'hobby' began as a result of being stalked by a black leopard on Croydon Hill near Dunster in Somerset on Christmas Eve 1985! Since then, Alex has seen pumas and black leopards in Somerset and Devon a number of times and has photographed, recorded and filmed them! He has also studied their field signs, such as scats, scrapes, footprints and claw marks on trees!



Alex is a gifted communicator, who has taken part in documentaries and radio interviews about big cats in Britain and runs his own website about them and those attend his talks on these amazing and elusive large predators are sure to find them enthralling!

COMMITTEE

From the Chair

At our last monthly meeting we were given a very entertaining insight into the numerous varieties of lavender and the sometimes surprising uses to which it and its products can be put, including at one time a brand of cider.

Brain Hamblin spelt out the history of the business that his wife Carol started, and that they managed together – after they met while he was doing pilot training, and she was a student!



Hot tips!

- lavender deters aphids and other unwelcome insects, not to mention slugs and snails!
- Honey and Lavender mustard is highly recommended, especially for lamb

I hope you have all been able to keep cool and well hydrated during our recent heat wave. If you are concerned about future heat waves, I can highly recommend the use of a portable air conditioning unit; unlike fans that simply move air around the room, an air conditioner cools the air – it's like sitting inside the fridge! Blissful.

Don't forget that from September our monthly meetings will return to the Gateway at the slightly later time of 2pm.

Wishing you all a very happy and enjoyable summer.
Geoffrey

GROUPS

Science Group

We recently asked if there was interest in forming a new Science group. To date there have been 3 responses which, while disappointing, does suggest that some of you are intrigued by the idea.

We have excellent experienced people in place to make it work so if you are thinking about it please let us know.

Please contact Steve Thompson on slthomp65@btinternet.com for further details.



Music Appreciation

The Music Appreciation Group enjoys a wide range of serious music and is meeting in August (third Thursday, 2.30pm, Methodist Church Hall).



Garden Group

I run the Garden Group. All through the spring/summer months we visit gardens. Some gardens in the National Garden Scheme offer the opportunity of group visits on days of your choice and we use these whenever possible.

In May we visited Chideok Manor and although the weather was not very kind the garden was a real jewel. This month we went to Sand Farmhouse in Sidbury. Again a very special garden in the beautiful unspoilt Sid Valley. Next month we are in Kilmington so we do see the countryside!

Jean Henderson



OTHER ITEMS

The League of Friends 40th Anniversary

On Saturday 28th June The League of Friends celebrated their 40th Anniversary and we had our table set up at the car park of the Methodist church bright and early. It was a beautiful day with hot sunshine and a very energetic wind!

We had a number of enquiries about the u3a and in particular what we offered. Our Group lists were given out so hopefully those people will be back to join us at the next monthly meeting.

It was a fun day with the Majorettes giving a demonstration of their skills, which drew in many passers-by. There was a raffle and the Chantry Boys entertained us. A driver from a Blood Bank Delivery Service with his huge motorbike was right next to our stall and we all had fun sitting on the bike while he fired it up and allowed us to rev up!!!

The League of Friends took care of us throughout with hot drinks and cream teas., and Bacon butties.

It was overall a very happy day which everyone enjoyed and it helped put the word out about our u3a at the same time.

I would like to thank Derek, Joan, Gaynor, Sandy Maggie(who came at the last minute call) and Katherine who had made our lovely runner in the u3a colour for our table as well as handing our our Group Lists.

Val Nightingale

REMINDER: There is no monthly meeting in August