



MONTHLY MEETING

2pm TUESDAY 28th OCTOBER
at The Gateway, Seaton

THE AMAZING MR. COTTON
A talk by Brian Fernley



That was the name by which Ian Fleming referred to Sidney Cotton when they worked together in military intelligence during the Second World War.

Sidney Cotton spent his early days in Australia, learnt to fly during the Great War and hunted for seals in Newfoundland. He went on to spy for the secret service and developed aerial photography beyond what the RAF was capable of at the start of the Second World War. In the post war period, he was involved in gun running for what he believed was noble cause in addition to being profitable!

He was a remarkable man who made and lost fortunes many times over and lived a life few of us can imagine.

COMMITTEE

XMAS BUFFET* & BAR
MONDAY 8 DECEMBER 2025

* Seating provided

1:00PM – 3:00PM
AT THE GATEWAY

£20 PER PERSON

U3A members can invite a non-member friend or partner along too.

To book, please contact Claire Ross
with your name(s), contact details and any dietary requirements

07919-820910
Clairehross61@gmail.com

GROUPS

Cribbage Group

After many years running a successful Cribbage group Sheila Green has decided that it is time to display her final hand and end her tenure in the role. Fear not, cribbage fans, as we have new leaders prepared to step up to the card table and continue the group. Not only that but they have also solved the recent search for a canasta group. Therefore, as of November 2025 the group will change its name to "Cribbage and Canasta".



If you are already a stalwart of the Sheila's group then I am assuming that, like her, you will continue with the updated version. If, however you are not in the group but are keen on cribbage, or would like to pursue an interest in canasta then please let us know. The group will continue to meet in Marshlands on the second Wednesday of the month. Anyone interested please contact Adrian and Joyce Green on adrgreen@aol.com

Wine Club

**The Wine Club group continues to thrive and grow.
It is hoped to attract 4 new members.
Could this be you? If interested please contact Graham Burgin
on graham.lizburgin@outlook.com for more details**



u3a Photographic Group



Our group has 8 members and we get together once a month at a pre-decided location to take photos, which we then take a look at later in the month to talk over our results.

Early in October we went to explore Powderham Castle & Grounds, and were fortunate to have decent weather, plenty to photo inside the castle. We had hoped to see the deer close up, but they were being unsociable and stayed a long way off. Rounded off the day with a meal in their Bistro, outside in the sun with good company, what more could we have asked for. This was a considerable improvement on September, when a visit to Branscombe beach produced very few photos as the rain was persistent.

In previous months we have been to the sub-tropical gardens, near Weymouth, Exeter Quay and Ottery St. Mary and Sidmouth Bys. There are plenty more places to see.

Wanted – a couple more photographers to join us. Any camera type, any ability. We'll make you welcome. Derek.Skifella@gmail.com

Current Affairs Group



The Current Affairs group meets at the Methodist Church Hall on the third Thursday of the month from 10.30 to 12 noon.

We are a chatty bunch with a wide range of opinions which are expressed in a thoughtful and respectful manner. There is definite room for some new faces to join us, so if you would like to be part of a lively forum then this could be the one for you. If you would rather sit there and just listen then you would also be more than welcome. If you are not sure then why not have a trial visit and check us out.

Anyone interested please contact Mary Briggs on 01395-911095, or Jean Henderson at ian_henderson123@btinternet.com or simply turn up on the day.

Poetry:pm

Seaton's own troubadours

Poetry:pm this last year have felt like the medieval troubadours who went to towns and inns reciting lyrical poetry and singing songs! We started in the library itself, then moved to the study room at the back and have now finally come to rest in the Eyres Court Hotel in the centre of Seaton.



We want to share our love of poetry with a wider group of people and foster a love and appreciation for poetry in all its forms. Like the troubadours, our themes feature love and emotions, war, politics and satire, nature and the environment, the humour and joy of our own lives.

Our topics are detailed on our webpage. We each bring three poems on the month's theme and take turns to read them to the group. **We invite anyone to drop in and join us by sharing a poem on our theme or just listening to other people's choices – or bring along one of your own.**

We start at 2.00pm on the first Thursday of each month. £2 will provide a cup of tea and a biscuit but other drinks are available at the bar.

2025: November – insects
December – nostalgia

2026: Please see our website

Madeline and Hilary
contact: madswatson@gmail.com

Improve your Spanish

The group was formed in February this year and currently numbers about 8 members. It is designed for those who have some basic Spanish they want to build on and/or have a special interest in Spain and things Spanish.



Highlights this year have been meeting and interviewing a local resident who is Mexican and an outdoor recital by a local flamenco guitarist accompanied by vino and tapas.

It is a very friendly group and new members are always welcome. Contact group leader David Abrehart for more details on 07877 625881 or email to davidjabrehart@gmail.com.



U3A art group needs new members



The art group meets on the first Wednesday of the month from 10am to midday in the room above tourist information, access up ramp to left of the library.

We're a lively group of mixed abilities, no instruction but members always willing to help when asked. The cost is £4 to cover cost of room rental.

If you're interested we'd be pleased to see you at the next meeting on Wednesday 5th November (no charge for first session). Or you can email me:

franshepherd48@gmail.com

OTHER ITEMS

We have received the following invitation from Lyme Regis Town Mill to all our members:

Dear Seaton U3A,

As a local group to us here at The Town Mill, we would love to invite your group for a tour of our working water Mill here in Lyme Regis. We are a renovated water mill, saved by the community and run by volunteers, who still mill wholemeal flour today, using a Victorian water wheel and stoneground milling method. You can find out more about us here: <https://www.townmill.org.uk/>

We can offer tours to local community groups during the winter months (Nov - March) for no charge. We are open every day and can offer tours for groups during the week. Alongside the Mill, we also have an art gallery and several creative, artisan shops and food/drink outlets on site, including our own shop which sells the wholemeal flour we mill here.

If your group would be interested in coming along for a visit, do let me know and I can send you some further information or arrange to contact you to discuss in more detail. We would love to welcome you!

Please reply to Jacky Birch - jackytownmill@gmail.com, phone: 01297 444042

Please note: Our Chair-person should be made aware of any groups going on external visits, therefore please let Geoffrey know if a group visit is planned.

And a final note ...

You may not be aware that, as members of Seaton u3a, you are automatically eligible to join in online events and interest groups organised by the central u3a. Just go online and peruse the list of activities you can get involved in from learning British Sign Language to Virtual Walks www.u3a.org.uk/learning/interest-groups-online/interest-groups-online-groups. There are also online talks such as

"Wearable technology and healthy aging" -

see www.u3a.org.uk/events/educational-events So why not try them out as the winter closes in - "Learn, Laugh, Live" from the comfort of your own home!