# u3a Newsletter

learn, laugh, live

MINEHEAD & DISTRICT

**Nov/Dec 2026 Issue No 263**

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## Editorial

## u3a In the Wider Community

I'm always interested to hear how many of our members are also actively involved with other groups or projects within the Minehead and District community. This includes West Somerset Railway, the Regal Theatre, Dunster Castle, Townsend House, Blenheim Gardens, Parks Walk and Minehead Museum among others. There may well be some of you who are involved in others in such as Watchet or Porlock. Feel free to send accounts of any groups you support in other areas of our District!

Many of these groups are named 'Friends of –' and one set up just in recent years was for supporting and fund-raising for Minehead Library.

## Minehead Library

Which brings me to Minehead Library. Not only are they there for anyone to borrow books, they support Book Groups by regularly ordering in enough copies of whichever is the latest 'read'. They play an important part in helping maintain information on the local area. In her item in this Newsletter for local history Ann talks about just how many books on local history there are and how useful they are for her group.

Libraries now are not just places where you go to find books or read the local papers in absolute silence. They can in some areas be a hub for the local community. We are lucky that, not only do we still have a Library when many have closed, we have some great librarians who actively arrange various events for people of all ages. This includes talks by people such as local authors, 'Knit & Knatter' and Scrabble groups. They also organise regular crafting and activity events for children, as well reading aloud for toddlers.

If you are interested in helping the Library then look our for the 'Friends of ' Coffee Mornings, run by our own Tony Jones. Another of our members – Sue Hutchings of the History Group and also a regular contributor to our Poet's Corner – has written and published a book of poems, with proceeds from the sale of which to go to the Library. Find out more at the Coffee Mornings.

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Registered Charity 1088437

**Welcome to our new members!**

Lisa Nezam, Marcia Parkinson, Carol Meacham, Adrian Pearce, Jane Pearce, Gill Bridges Fairs, Joy Minnitt, Paul Weldon, Sandra Collver

If anyone you know is interested in joining our u3a then please ask them to contact the Membership Secretary on: **membership.mdu3a@gmail.com**

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Please send your submissions, or let us know your thoughts on the Newsletter by emailing**:** newsletter.mdu3a@gmail.com

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**Deadline for contributions to the next edition of the Newsletter:**
**Friday 1st January 2027**
Please send your photos and news as soon as possible **BEFORE** this date to **newsletter.mdu3a@gmail.com**

## Our Community Profile and Publicity.

Since joining the committee in May I have been given the role for Press and communications. This is quite challenging as there are so many avenues to pursue within the world of social media and the many publications offering free news to specific local communities. So I started with what I know, by submitting articles about our activities to the Free Press. I had heard this is no longer the go to local paper as the price is becoming prohibitive. We have a web site with all the information on it. To ensure members can check the dates and times of their group meetings I have endeavoured to refresh and maintain the web site calendar.

For information about the coming week Grant Dennis at West Somerset Radio has been extremely supportive to our u3a and we have a weekly slot on the community notice board which is broadcast 4 or 5 times over the prior weekend.




We have two Facebook pages, Minehead and District u3a Group which is for members only administered by Pam and in development a public one which is just Minehead and District u3a administered by the committee. Why two groups? Well one is evidently for members only. This limits any community profile or informs non-members of events but it will have to carefully monitored especially if discussion threads develop.

If anyone has any ideas, contacts or offers of help to publicise, promote and develop our u3a or need to change or correct anything on the web site please do contact me.

*John Batt*

## Minehead and District u3a General Information

### Diary Dates

Details of upcoming Coffee Mornings or other Social Events will be sent out separately.

## Minehead and District u3a Interest Groups

Were you aware that there are currently 23 open and 7 'full' Interest Groups covering a wide range of topics? These are all run by Group Leaders who kindly volunteer their time to arrange and support the groups. Details of our groups can be found on our website:
**https://www.minehead-district-u3a.org/interest-groups**

The committee are aware that some of our interest groups are not currently able to take any new members and this is frustrating for those of you who are keen to join groups. Please bear with us as we look at ways to increase the groups available. The good news is that some of our existing groups are still able to take new members.

We are keen to find ways to support the setting up of new groups and welcome your ideas for expanding existing groups, requests for new topics and any issues you have experienced in relation to joining groups. Please contact Ann Strik on **groupsec.mdu3a@gmail.com** if you are keen to join a group or if you have any ideas for groups.

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### News from the Groups

Our website has additional information and photos and is regularly updated.
See: **https://www.minehead-district-u3a.org/**

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## Nature Amblers

Unfortunately, our September amble was cancelled because of lack of numbers due to holidays, illness, unsuitable terrain and a very special birthday. This is a very unusual occurrence.
In October seven of us went to Bossington Beach. The weather didn't look very promising however after we sheltered from the first downpour before we started we were very lucky as we only had a little sprinkle during the amble and another downpour once we had finished so we quickly got into our cars!
We found lots to look at on the way including one member getting into the stream (fortunately she had wellies on) to investigate further. We just managed to reach the beach and finding thrift before turning around. Perfect timing and we all thoroughly enjoyed the amble.
Our next amble will be to Kings Hedge Coppice on 24th November. We then have a short 1 hour amble followed by refreshments on 22nd December. Our annual review and planning meeting will be on 26th January 2027.

For more details about the group and where we meet, please contact Sarah Stringer on 07548 513978 or email her on **natureamblers@gmail.com**. If you are interested in nature and a stroll in the countryside you are welcome to join us. You don't need a great knowledge of flora and fauna, an interest is enough.

*Sarah Stringer*

## Economics in Society – October 2026 meeting

**National Living Wage.** Keith told us about the development of government-mandated wages since the end of the 1890s starting in Australia. New Labour introduced a universal wage floor of £3.60 phr in 1999. Despite fears, this didn't lead to high unemployment and a fall of productivity. The current position where people in full-time work on the NLW still need universal credit suggests improvements are needed. It may be a regional effect. There is concern that if a firm cannot afford to pay the Real Living Wage (defined by the Living Wage Foundation) then it is being subsidised by the taxpayer.

**Indian free trade agreement.** Rod pointed out that in their rush to demonstrate that they can land trade agreements the government seem to have given very advantageous terms for steel supplies from India. This will further squeeze a suffering UK steel industry. To make matters worse it seems that a quirk of the WTO regulations means we will need to give similar terms to supplies of galvanised steel from Vietnam and South Korea. On the other hand, UK gained opportunities with "service industries" such as financing and insurance, and maintains geopolitical influence. In any event the UK has no role in making blast furnace steel – we have no domestic iron ore or coal. To preserve our industrial base we should increase investment in electric arc furnaces and stop exporting our scrap steel.

**The pension Triple Lock.** This generous inflator of the state pension was introduced by the coalition government in 2010, fearful of the vindictive press treatment when Gordon Brown announced a 75 pence a week pensions increase in 2000. State pensions have increased significantly more than other benefits and are the largest component of welfare spending. This will increase as the post war population bulge works through. In future, pension increases will be linked to inflation. The savings are supposed to fund the new National Care Service. We have our doubts about the size of the savings and the ability to prevent them being lost in the treasury.

**How has China become a clean energy superpower in so few years?** If only we knew! China has industrialised at a truly staggering pace and is investing in clean energy generation to power it at a pace that dwarfs the rest of the world's attempts at green transition. Behind this a huge agricultural workforce brought into industrial production, a political system that encourages/dictates development but also allows the establishment of billionaires, identification of global trends and pursuing them, refining difficult minerals with little attention to the environment, developing Western ideas without compensation – the list goes on. China has firmly parked its electric car industry on Europe's parking lots and the negotiations to balance the playing field need to start soon.

**UK – the poor man of Europe**. Monica pointed out that there have been several discussion programmes in the media around the assumption that nine of Europe's ten poorest regions are in the UK. As always closer examination shows that the data has been misrepresented. There is no question that many areas of the UK are much worse off than London and the South East following deindustrialisation and the growth of the services industry. Burnham's attempts at decentralisation may alter the balance.

*Chris Smith*

## Daytime Disco




Our first daytime disco took place on Monday 12th of October at the Minehead Community Centre that provides a modern setting for such a venture. Music was pumped out of a Soundbox system and lyrics were shown in real time on the screen.

Thirty-four timeless tracks were played during the afternoon, and it was nice to see so many people dancing and singing along so enthusiastically to the music. Several requests were taken during the afternoon some of which were accommodated.

Next months playlist has already been finalised and includes Nancy Sinatra, Free, The Osmonds, and Edison Lighthouse to name just a few.

If you'd like to make suggestions for December, then please send your requests to me at:
**Daytimedisco.mdu3a@gmail.com**

*Paul Vickery*

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## Allotment Group

We have had a successful autumn and were still harvesting courgettes, cucumbers, leeks and tomatoes well into October. A special treat this year has been the display of dahlias (see picture).



We have been unable to recruit new members and approached the Council to try to change to a smaller plot which would be easier to maintain but this has not been possible. Sadly we have decided not to renew our lease and to close the group. We would like to thank all the former members of the group, who over the last 20 years or so, have given their advice, support and enthusiasm enabling us to learn how to sow and harvest so successfully.

*Alex Rowe*

## Classical Music

At our September meeting, Barry played music which had a connection to the music played at this year's Minehead and Exmoor Festival. He knew most of us hadn't been able to go to the Festival, so he gave us a taste of what had been played. This included Elgar's Introduction and Allegro, and Rachmaninov's 2nd Symphony. So it was interesting to have a reduced version of the Festival

*Jan Lowy*

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## French Conversation 1




September's theme proved to be a very popular one. We each talked about "Summers of our youth". Since we are all roughly the same age, nostalgia flowed thick and fast. Frequent themes were long journeys in cars much smaller and less powerful than those of today. Memories were shared of boredom and breakdowns, plus the tedium of having to go through the centre of every town along the way. We were also reminded of the insects that be-spattered the windscreen, needing regular stops to clean them off. There was talk of idyllic picnics involving cooking mushrooms gathered en route, and picking and eating whortleberries. Rather less romantic were memories of long rainy days and spider-infested toilets on farm camp-sites. Particular thrills were riding sea-side ponies, exploring rock-pools, seeing unfamiliar birds, towns and beaches, and staying in a "real" hotel for the first time. It was certainly an enjoyable trip down memory lane

This month's topic provided great entertainment - as well as bringing up some new vocabulary. Our task was to each write a story incorporating a dead body, a crumpled newspaper and an overturned bottle and glass of wine. Imaginations went into overdrive! We had a suicide prompted by the prospect of a third Trump term (very understandable), a drunk editor dying as he attacked a journalist who had written about the editor's wife, an invalid who reacted badly to reading in a newspaper of the unexpected death of a close friend, a cat, who, in the process of swatting and killing a fly, knocked over a nearly empty bottle of wine, and an actress, somewhat past her prime, who died mid-performance after reading that a newspaper critic who had attended one of her recent performances had suggested that, at her time of life, she was perhaps better suited to the role of Bottom than that of Hermia.




Next month we will have a guest to help us translate Rostand's "Hymn to the sun".

*Di Martin*

## Local History Group

In September, a group of us visited Minehead Library to look at the Local History books that are kept behind the scenes in the Stacks. Some of us had seen these books before but they were new to many of the group. We were amazed at how many books there were and the wide range of topics covered. We were all able to use them to do some research about an aspect of West Somerset that interested us and, hopefully, we will be able to talk to the group about this research at one of our indoor meetings. Now that we know that the books are there, we will be able to view them again if we need to, by prior arrangement. Some of them can be borrowed like ordinary library books which makes life much easier.



Our October meeting took us on a fascinating journey into the history of Higher Town, Minehead, led by Tony White from the Conservation Society. As we explored the area, Tony explained the origins of land ownership and how the early building developments had connections between the Luttrell family and their descendants. Along the way, he drew our attention to some of the older and more interesting houses, highlighting architectural details that might otherwise have gone unnoticed.

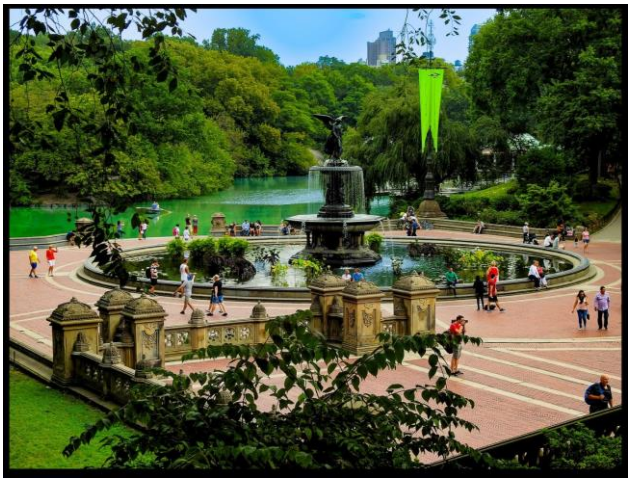
We learnt how certain features could offer clues to a building's past, from evidence of former thatched roofs to examples of Jacobean wooden woodwork. These details provided a glimpse into how the buildings had evolved over the centuries and offered a fascinating insight into Minehead's architectural heritage. The walk was also enlivened by a number of intriguing anecdotes about the people and events associated with the area. Some of these tales were decidedly gruesome, adding a darker and unexpected dimension to the history of Higher Town!

It was an enjoyable and informative morning, giving us a greater appreciation of Minehead's rich history and the stories hidden within its streets and buildings. Our thanks go to Tony White for bringing the past to life and sharing his knowledge with us.

On Thursday 26 November we start our indoor meetings. There will be no meeting in December and our first meeting of 2027 will be on Thursday 28 January. If you are interested in the history of the area in which we live, you are welcome to come and join us. Everyone in the group is expected to contribute in some way, either by giving a short talk to the group in the winter or organising an outing in the summer. For more information, please contact Ann Strik at at **groupsec.mdu3a@gmail.com**.

*Ann Strik*

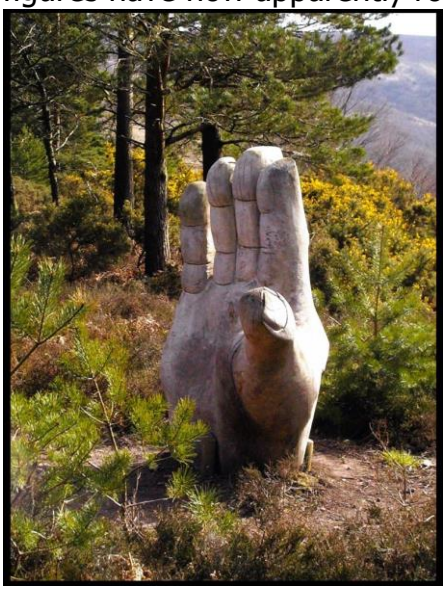
## Photography Group Report



At our first meeting in September, on the 4th, the theme was "In the park". Although many of the photos presented were local – particularly of Blenheim Gardens – some came from Taunton, Plymouth and Blackpool, plus a group from abroad included the accompanying image of Central Park, New York from Martin Fisk. In addition to attractive views of plants and trees, there was plenty of very gentle activity such as croquet, watching band concerts and sunbathing!

Two weeks later, our meeting was the final outing of the season: this time to Webber's Post. We showed our choices at the following indoor meeting on October 2nd . The weather was rather overcast so producing interesting & attractive images was somewhat more of a challenge. The most popular shots were, unsurprisingly of trees in the landscape, but many members had focused on the details, with close up images of pine cones, tree roots and toadstools. These types of image benefit from the diffuse light of a grey day, showing texture and pattern by avoiding harsh shadows. A couple of members had chosen to produce images in black and; white such as the attached image of a windblown pine by Basil Helman. Alex Rowe added an historical perspective through her photos from 2006 of the Sculpture Trail, one of which is included. The figures have now apparently rotted away.





Our second meeting in October had the title of "Action – Sports and Activities", a topic that typically relies on using faster shutter speeds. In practice most members showed images of activities rather than formal sports, though there were some of football and walking cricket. Although a very wide range of activities was captured, those based around water were particularly popular with shots of rowing, surfing and; sailing. Activities including cars, trains, cycles and horses were also featured, and perhaps more surprisingly, dancing featured in the selections of four members!

*Stewart Lane*

## General History

## August

## Main Talks

### The Great Fire of Minehead in 1791

On the 5th July 1791, a catastrophic blaze broke out within the town's central mill at the bottom of Bampton Street, which was then Minehead's premier street. Minehead generally was not in a good state of repair at the time. In a moment of sheer panic, the miller accidentally ignited a large barrel of pitch and threw it directly into the Bratton Stream to extinguish it. However, because the stream ran straight through the centre of Middle (or Lower) Town (now the Parade formerly Puddle Street), the floating, burning pitch acted as a moving fuse, rapidly spreading the inferno along the watercourse.

Driven by strong winds, the fire completely consumed roughly 72 properties, mainly thatched buildings, instantly rendering dozens of families entirely homeless. Some properties were untouched by the fire where the stream temporarily flowed underground in a culvert.

The Robert Quirk Alms Houses in Market House Street, the Old Priory and Townsend House were unaffected by the fire.

The town's dominant landlords, the powerful Luttrell family of Dunster Castle, faced immense hostility from the local populace. Their estate agent failed to provide quick financial relief or clear rebuilding plans. As a result, blackened, hollowed-out building shells lined the main thoroughfares for years, prompting many impoverished residents to pack up and permanently abandon the area.

### Minehead solicitor Samuel Hayman Warren

Samuel Hayman Warren (1741–1803) was a prominent Minehead solicitor who served as a key legal and administrative official for the Minehead Turnpike Trust, a vital toll-road network that operated across North-West Somerset from 1765 to 1877. As the Trust's administrator, Warren managed the legalities, finances, and official paperwork required to run the network. The Trust itself was established by an Act of Parliament to modernise and maintain 86 miles of local roads divided into five districts: Minehead, Dunster, Watchet, Crowcombe, and Stowey. This massive infrastructure project was designed to revive the local economy at a time when Minehead's maritime port trade was in a steep decline. To fund road repairs, the Trust operated 38 tollhouses across the county, which became famous for their unique octagonal architecture and colourful local folklore.

Warren married Ann Blake at St Michael’s Church in 1777, raising a large family amidst the post-fire reconstruction efforts. Today, his meticulously drafted legal documents, bearing his distinctive, flamboyant signature from the Turnpike administrative records, survive as vital historical artefacts preserved in the Minehead Museum, illustrating the civic determination required to pull the town back from near total ruin. He is buried in St Michael's cemetery.

## Mini Talks

### Mrs Ferguson's Tea Set and its influence on World War II

In November 1940, a passenger's plea to retrieve a porcelain tea set from the captured British cargo ship SS Automedon led German forces to undisposed, top-secret War Cabinet documents detailing British military vulnerabilities in the Far East. The Germans had intercepted the vessel in the Indian Ocean but were planning to sink it without a thorough search. When Mrs Violet Ferguson begged the German captain to save her personal luggage, the resulting search party accidentally discovered the ship's secret strongroom. Inside, they found highly sensitive intelligence explicitly admitting that Britain lacked the resources to defend its colonies against a hostile invasion. Germany's swift transfer of this intelligence to Tokyo removed all hesitation from the Japanese military high command, emboldening them to launch their aggressive Pacific campaign and ultimately altering the course of World War II.



**Imhotep** was a legendary ancient Egyptian polymath who served as the vizier (chief minister) and high priest to the Third Dynasty King Djoser.
He is most famous as the mastermind behind the Step Pyramid of Saqqara, the world's oldest surviving monumental stone structure. By stacking traditional flat-roofed tombs into a tiered tower, Imhotep revolutionised architecture and pioneered the use of stone columns. Beyond engineering, he is celebrated for shifting Egyptian medicine away from magic and toward empirical, symptom-based diagnosis. His profound contributions to architecture, statecraft, and healing led the Egyptians to eventually deify him as a god of medicine and wisdom centuries after his death.



**The Profumo affair** was a major 1963 British political scandal involving John Profumo, the Secretary of State for War, and Christine Keeler, a 19-year-old model. The relationship triggered a national security crisis because Keeler was simultaneously sleeping with Captain Yevgeny Ivanov, a Soviet naval attaché. After explicitly lying to Parliament about the affair, Profumo was forced to resign in disgrace, which severely damaged public trust, led to the resignation of Prime Minister Harold Macmillan, and caused the fall of the Conservative government.

Christine Keeler struggled to escape the stigma of the affair. She served nine months in prison for perjury (lying in a related assault case), spent decades living under assumed names to avoid the press, and faced lifelong financial difficulties. She died in 2017 at the age of 75. Mandy Rice-Davies handled the notoriety far better, capitalising on her sudden fame. She worked as a successful nightclub singer, actress, and novelist, and later married a wealthy French businessman.

**SEPTEMBER**
**Main Talk**




**Elizabeth Chudleigh** (1721–1788), Duchess of Kingston-upon-Hull, was a prominent Georgian socialite whose adventurous lifestyle culminating in a scandalous bigamy trial captivated 18th-century British society. Born into modest circumstances, Chudleigh secured a position in 1743 as maid of honour to Augusta, Princess of Wales. Witty, attractive, and uninhibited, she quickly became a fixture of high society, famously shocking contemporaries by attending a 1749 masquerade ball in a revealing, sheer costume depicting Iphigenia. In August 1744, Chudleigh privately married Augustus John Hervey, a young naval officer and later 3rd Earl of Bristol. To protect her lucrative court appointment and Hervey's family finances, the union was kept strictly secret. She became pregnant and discreetly moved to Chelsea where she could have the child, away from the prying eyes and ears of the Court. But the child, a boy, only lived a few months. The couple agreed to separate a year after the birth, but, since the marriage was a secret, so was the news of the separation.

Chudleigh established herself as the mistress of Evelyn Pierrepont, 2nd Duke of Kingston-upon-Hull. In 1769, after obtaining a ruling from an ecclesiastical court that declared her a spinster following a collusive suit where her prior marriage was officially denied under the principle of "jactitation"—she married the Duke. When he died in 1773, he bequeathed her his vast estates. However, the Duke's aggrieved relatives challenged the will, bringing criminal charges of bigamy against her. The trial took place before the House of Lords at Westminster Hall in April 1776, creating a public sensation. On 22 April, all 119 lords pronounced Elizabeth Chudleigh guilty of bigamy. However Chudleigh successfully claimed the privilege of the peerage—as Countess of Bristol through her "first" husband—to avoid corporal punishment such as branding or imprisonment. To protect her wealth from further legal claims, Chudleigh promptly fled abroad. She spent her remaining years travelling Europe in grand style, securing the friendship of Catherine the Great in Russia and acquiring property in France. She died in Paris in 1788, remaining one of Georgian Britain's most infamous figures.

## Mini Talks

### The Tudor Pretenders

When Henry VII seized the crown in 1485, his weak claim prompted Yorkist factions to exploit the missing "Princes in the Tower" mystery by backing royal imposters to challenge his legitimacy. The first threat emerged in 1487 with Lambert Simnel, a young boy trained to impersonate the imprisoned Earl of Warwick. Simnel gained massive support in Ireland, where he was crowned "King", and launched an invasion of England. Henry VII crushed the rebellion at the Battle of Stoke Field but spared Simnel, putting him to work in the royal kitchens.

A far greater danger arose in 1491 with Perkin Warbeck, who claimed to be Richard, Duke of York—the younger missing prince. Warbeck possessed a royal bearing and gained military backing from France, Scotland, and Burgundy. After launching multiple failed invasions over several years, he was captured in 1497 and It was within Taunton castle walls—specifically in the areas preserved by the museum today—that Henry VII personally confronted and interrogated the royal imposter. He was eventually hanged at Tyburn in 1499.

This ruthlessly secured the Tudor succession line, paving the way for the secure reigns of Henry VIII and Elizabeth I. Warbeck's name lives on locally in a pub in East Street, Taunton named after him.

### The Media

Ancient China revolutionised the spread of knowledge by inventing woodblock printing and movable type centuries before Europe, famously producing the world's oldest dated printed book in the 9th century.

The Battle of Flodden Moor was fought on 9 September 1513 and holds a unique place in British print history: it is widely considered the first military conflict to be documented in a printed news pamphlet in England.

The Court of Star Chamber banned all English news books in 1632 to suppress foreign war coverage. This forced printers to flee to Amsterdam, where they produced English-language news sheets and smuggled them back into England by sea. Despite a harsher censorship decree in 1637, this underground pipeline sustained early journalism until the Star Chamber was abolished in 1641, triggering a massive explosion of the free press.

On 11 March 1702, Britain's first successful daily newspaper, The Daily Courant was launched as a single sheet.

After censorship ended in 1695, four-page newspapers fuelled coffee house debates. When Walpole censored theatre, satire shifted to prints. Publishers Mary Darley and Hannah Humphrey popularised visual caricatures, launching James Gillray's savage cartoons. Hand-coloured via William Reeves' watercolour cakes, these prints became Georgian England's ultimate visual entertainment in windows and pubs.

**The Teapot Dome Scandal**

This was a massive political corruption case in the United States during the early 1920s that severely tarnished the administration of President Warren G. Harding. Before Watergate, it was widely regarded as the most sensational scandal in American political history.

The crisis began when Secretary of the Interior Albert B. Fall convinced President Harding to transfer control of protected naval oil reserves—including one located at Teapot Dome, Wyoming—from the Navy Department to the Department of the Interior. Once in control, Fall bypassed the standard competitive bidding process and secretly granted exclusive drilling rights to two wealthy oil tycoons: Harry F. Sinclair of Mammoth Oil and Edward L. Doheny of Pan-American Petroleum.

In exchange for these lucrative, no-bid leases, Fall accepted more than $400,000 in bribes disguised as "interest-free loans," alongside bonds, cash, and even livestock for his ranch. A rigorous, two-year Senate investigation spearheaded by Senator Thomas J. Walsh eventually exposed the scheme leading to Fall's 1829 bribery conviction and imprisonment.

If you would like to dip your toes into the past for 2 hours a month, come along and join us to discover history. If you want to join the Group or for more information contact: **susanhutchings@fastmail.fm.** *Susan Hutchings*

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## Crime Fiction

The Crime Fiction Book Group meets at 1pm on the first Thursday each month at The Phoenix Centre, in Watchet.

It is a friendly group that borrows its books from the Watchet Library, the monthly cost is £3. We read well-known authors such as Mark Billingham and Ann Cleeves, and also introduce authors that may be new to most of us, to read during the month, and then discuss at the meeting.

The group has a couple of spaces available. If you are interested in joining please contact Karen Minto on 07896 259462.

*Karen Minto*

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## Poet's Corner

Some more Haiku poems:

Sycamore reborn, Hadrian's Wall.

Africans, Romans,
Built Wall. Victorian tree.
All are our culture.

Rowan, hawthorn, eclipse eve North Hill.

Drought-shrivelled leaves yet
Abundant berries, birds feast
Sowing fresh new trees

*Gillian Lusk*