

Newsletter November 2025



This month's Open Meeting talk is given by Alex Leger and is called 'Working with the Military'. Alex found many ways to test the presenters whilst filming with the military. Household names like John Leslie, Tim Vincent and Matt Baker found humour in their discomfort while surviving in a snow hole on top of a Norwegian mountain in the dead of winter - and taking part in the fabled tests that the Paras must pass to get their 'wings'. Lifting landmines in Angola caused surprise and alarm and free-falling parachuting exploits nearly broke the will of one presenter and the pelvis of another, leading to gripping stories of courage and determination. This promises to be an excellent talk.

Just a reminder that it's time to sign up for the Christmas lunch. It is at the Waie Inn, Zeal Monachorum on December 17th. The cost is £23 for 2 courses and £26 for 3 courses. You will be able to pay by card, cheque or cash at the open meeting in November or by post to this address: **u3a Christmas Lunch c/o C. Thomas, 6 Hobbs Way, Bow, Crediton. Devon. EX17 6JZ**. Cheques should be made payable to **Crediton and District u3** and we need all money by December 1st. The menu is shown at the bottom of this newsletter.

We're still looking for a limerick on the subject of u3a or Crediton u3a. You can email your entries to me at liz.ouldridge@btinternet.com, or drop off a written version at an open meeting. The competition closes on 1st December, and the winner will be announced at the Christmas lunch. The prizes, yes prizes, will be vouchers to spend on Crediton High Street. You can submit as many limericks as you like.

Liz Ouldridge (Chair)

Important dates

18th November Coffee morning for all at 'The Hayloft' Mole Avon Country Store from 10:30am.

19th November Open Meeting Alex Leger – 'Working with the Military: television presenters under stress'.

17th December Christmas Lunch at the Waie Inn

October's talk: James Taylor – 'Horatio Nelson: a complex character'

We all know about Nelson as a naval hero but there's much more to him than the battle of Trafalgar. James gave us a fascinating talk illustrated with the many portraits of him. Nelson was one of eleven children of a Norfolk rector. His education was very basic, and he was a small, slight child. It did not bode well for his future. However, his uncle, Captain Maurice Suckling, despite strong reservations about Nelson's suitability, took Nelson on a polar voyage and so started his naval career.

Despite his insignificant appearance and early receding hair, Nelson was something of a ladies' man. He often fell in love, sometimes with married women. He met his wife, Fanny,

while serving in the Caribbean. At first, they were very happy. However, they remained childless. Fanny stayed at home in England, looking after Nelson's aged father. Nelson spent much time aboard ship.

We all know that Nelson was a brave man, respected by his sailors and innovative in his battle tactics. But his life was far from simple. He lost the sight in one eye in a battle to capture Corsica and was relegated to diplomatic duties after this. He was able to return to active duty and in a failed attack on Tenerife, lost his right arm. After this he suffered a long period of depression as he felt he no longer had a purpose. However, as we all know, he went back to active service, having several important victories, before dying at the battle of Trafalgar.

The other famous fact about Nelson was his long-standing relationship with Emma Hamilton. Nelson abandoned his wife for Emma, setting up a home for her at Merton Place. Her life turned out tragically. After Nelson's death, she was denied the money left to her in his will and died in poverty.

u3a Christmas Meal Choices – 2 course £23, 3 courses - £26

Starters

- (a) Tuna Nicoise Salad GF/DF
- (b) Breaded Brie with Cranberry Sauce GF
- (c) Carrot & Coriander Soup GF/DF
- (d) Medley of Melon with Raspberry Coulis

Mains

- (e) Roast Turkey with all the trimmings
- (f) Roast Duck with Cumberland Gravy
- (g) Crusted Hake with Leek & Dill Sauce
- (h) Roasted Stuffed Aubergine- VEGAN/VEGETARIAN

Desserts

- (i) A selection of desserts will be offered on the day

Tea and Coffee to follow

Christmas Lunch Choices

Name 1: _____ Name 2: _____

Number of courses: _____ Number of courses: _____

Choices (Letters will be sufficient):
