

Many thanks to those who visited us at the Farmers' market and who came to our rather gory talk about Vlad the Impaler. This month's talk promises to be less gory but very entertaining. Aidienne Sketcher will tell us about the origin, history and traditions of Halloween using music and poetry to illustrate her talk. We are starting to take bookings for our annual Christmas Dinner. Please see the back of this newsletter if you wish to know more.

Liz Ouldrige (Chair)

Important dates

20th October: Coffee morning for all at 'The cafe @ Mole Avon' in the Mole Avon Country Store from 10:30am.

21st October: Open meeting at the Boniface Centre, 'The History of Halloween- a musical presentation' by Aidienne Sketcher. Refreshments from 9:30am. The talk will start at 10:20.

17th November: Coffee morning for all at 'The cafe @ Mole Avon' in the Mole Avon Country Store from 10:30am.

18th November: Open meeting at the Boniface Centre: Alex Leger 'I Bet This Never Happened To You'.

16th December: Christmas Lunch at the Waie Inn. Please see the second side of this newsletter for more details.

September's talk: 'Dracula: The Man Behind The Myth', a talk by Ash Jones.

Vlad Dracul III was the man behind the myth of Count Dracula. He lived in the middle of the 15th Century and ruled, intermittently, the small kingdom of Wallachia (now part of Romania). Wallachia lay at the edge of the Holy Roman Empire and owed allegiance to the Christian Holy Roman Emperor. It was constantly under siege from the Ottoman Empire and control frequently passed between these two empires. There was constant violence and the taking of slaves. As a child, he and his brother spent time in the Ottoman Court, as hostages to his father's loyalty to the Ottomans. After the murder of his father, and with the support of the Ottomans he was able to take back the kingdom. However, he didn't stay loyal to the Ottoman Empire and was deposed.

Over time, Vlad ruled for three separate periods, being violently deposed each time. He was killed in battle probably in January 1477, trying once more to regain his throne. His was a violent time and he used extreme violence (impalation) to strengthen his central government. His regime murdered many people and one story had him dining before an array of people who were being impaled. Legend has it that he dipped his bread in the blood of one victim. Perhaps it's this story that gave rise to the legend of Count Dracula.

u3a Christmas meal 16th December 12 for 12:30pm

2 courses £23 – 3 courses £27

Menu

Starters

- (A) Spiced Parsnip, Carrot & red lentil soup (GF)
- (B) Smokey Texan chicken wings (GF)
- (C) Mac & Cheese bites with chilli jam
- (D) Medley of melon with raspberry coulis (GF) (VEGAN)

Mains

- (E) Roast Turkey with all the trimmings
 - (F) Braised Duck leg in red wine
 - (G) Mushroom, Chestnut & Squash pie (Vegan option)
 - (H) Crusted Salmon with creamy dill sauce
- All served with seasonal veg & roast potatoes

Desserts

- (i) Meringue delight with fruits of the forest
- (J) Fresh fruit salad
- (K) Christmas Pudding with Brandy custard
- (L) Sherry Trifle
- (M) Chocolate Profiteroles

Followed by tea, coffee & after dinner mint

(a vegan soup and dessert can be available on request)

Please make us aware of any dietary requirements on the form.

If you wish to come, please complete the tear-off slip below.

Payment can be made by card, cash or cheque at the October and November Open meetings.

Alternatively, cheques (together with menu choices) can be sent by post to the following address:

Crediton u3a Christmas Lunch, 24 Okefield Road, Crediton. Devon. EX17 2DL

Cheques should be made payable to: **Crediton and District u3a**

All monies and choices must be received by **Monday 1st December**.

Christmas Lunch Choices (Letters will be sufficient)

Name 1: _____ **Name 2:** _____

Number of courses: _____ **Number of courses:** _____

Choices _____ **Choices** _____

Dietary requirements:

Name 1

Name 2

For Office use only

Circle payment:

Card Cash Cheque

Payment Date.....