

Hedgehog Heaven



At last month's U3A meeting - Monday 7th March at Callington Town Hall,

Last month we were privileged to have as our speaker Glyn Dean from Prickly Haven Hedgehog Rescue Centre. What a remarkable story about hope and compassion for this little creature which is struggling to survive against all the odds. Glyn Has nursed many Hedgehogs back from near death, and released them back into the wild. After thirty years as a psychiatric nurse and looking forward to retirement she was taken by surprise one day when her dog brought her an injured hedgehog. Not long after followed a loud screeching, as a baby hedgehog wandered onto her doorstep. She searched the garden and found the rest of the litter. She then nursed mum hedgehog and her pups back to health. This was the start of almost 6 years of caring for injured adults and baby hedgehogs.

She began some research and discovered in the 1950s that there were 35 million of them and yet today less than a million survive. She then decided to set up the rescue centre, to help slow down the decline, even if only in a small way. Glyn went on to study at the Vale Wildlife Hospital in Gloucestershire and gained a qualification in Hedgehog First Aid. She was now ready take in her prickly patients, or rather open the flood gates to the many casualties of bonfires, strimmers, road and predators. Her local vet supplies free of charge any care she cannot manage herself.

"If you want to encourage this struggling little creature into your garden, leave some messy areas in your garden, have an open compost heap for them to burrow and nest in, leave wood piles for them to rummage in and find beetles, or set aside piles of

reward you with their presence. Because if we don't all start showing some compassion for them, we are going to be responsible for losing them." Says Glyn

You can make a donation towards the work of Prickly Haven, which will help to buy specialist food, heat-pads or fleece blankets, via the Prickly Haven Facebook page or by calling Glyn on 01579 641141. Hedgehogs are now coming out of hibernation so it looks like Glyn will be grateful of any help.

Gillian Brown



Glyn Dean

Future Meetings:

- **May**
Mike Hayward -
Voyage of the Mayflower
- **June**
Rev.Martin Smith
Slow Progress Tortoise School
- **July**
Phillip Rodda -
Rodda Creamery
- **August**
SOCIAL EVENT
- **September**
Rachel Hunt
Cotehele

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Group Leaders and other contributors - Please Note: All Copy to the editor by 25th of the preceding month please.

(N.B. I cannot guarantee inclusion of copy submitted after this date - but exceptions may be made wherever possible for groups meeting in the fourth week of the month)

The Newsletter is published at the start of each month.

Disabled members: Contact Peter Watson 384509

N.B. Phone numbers without dialling codes are for the 01579 area.

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and takes place on April 21st.
Penny Beech for Scribblers Group.
Anne Cooper 382267

■ Singing for Pleasure

The April dates for Singing for Pleasure are the 11th and 25th and will be held at the Methodist Church in Hays Road from 3.30pm to 5 pm

Contact: Rosalind Bunkum 38317

■ Strollers

Some nice strolls this month with dry mornings and some lovely sunshine! We have been to St. Dominick to see the daffodils, watched the ponies and their foals on the Moor near Whitchurch and strolled to Danescombe and back to Calstock where we were able to enjoy our cof-

fee sitting in warm sunshine. As a Group, however, we were shocked and saddened by the death of Alan Bassett. He and Meg have strolled with us for many years. He was a lovely man who will be greatly missed by us all.

Contact: Pauline Husband 350379

■ Table Tennis

Contact Ray Geatches 350638

■ Walking Group 1

For future walks see the web site or **Contact: Ann Martin**

■ Walking Group 2

Contact: Lucy Thomas 350018

IN MEMORIAM



Alan Bassett

25th August 1937 – 11th March 2016

Alan was a long standing member of Callington U3A. With his wife Meg, he ran the Travel group for many years. He was also a member of the computer/Digital groups, the Science group, the Food and Drink group and as a life-long lover of music, to the Opera and Jazz groups. His funeral service was held at St Mary's Church on Wed 30th March. He will be sadly missed and our thoughts go to Meg and all his family.

Group Reports

Allotments

We currently have two 8'x10' plots vacant at Haye Road. Anyone interested please contact Ann Martin for information and a site visit

Contact Ann Martin

Art

April meetings are on the 7th and 21st of the month

Contact Tony Walpole 01822 833082

Baking

A roaring fire, good company and a table full of baked delights, what better way to herald Easter. Thank you to Maire and Richard for hosting our early Easter baking day. We had breads from Romania, Poland and France, meringues, cakes and biscuits and not a hot cross bun in sight!

Our next meeting is Breads, a lunch time meeting at the Wheelleys' on April 6th, then May 11th at Ellen and David's for coffee time treats.

Contact Jenny Wheeley 351662

Birding Group

Yesterday eight of us went to Bowling Green Marsh, which is at the head of the Exe estuary. The weather was overcast but rain free. We spent our time walking along hedgerows where we caught glimpses of birds as they broke cover and flew to the hedge on the other side of the road. This was when we saw a Goldcrest, our smallest native bird. After short walk we went into a brand new spacious hide that overlooked a marsh where we spent a lot of time. There were a lot of birds to see, some close but others at quite a distance. This is where the scope was useful. Towards the end of our time we walked to a view point that overlooked the edge of the river where we saw some waders. Then to round the day off an Avocet put in an appearance. What a lovely bird.

Contact Keith Lane 370713

or kandslane@hotmail.com

Bookworms

Last month we read Kate Adie's book 'Into Danger'. It promised to be an interesting read, dealing with interviews of various people who led dangerous lives. On the whole, although several chapters were interesting and in some cases revealing we found it slow and in places quite uninteresting. All of us found some particularly revealing items, most notably a diver who happened to be on hand when the 'Herald of Free Enterprise' foundered, and the sheer terror of the trapped people, many of whom he managed to rescue to the surface, only to discover they later died. It showed that when the true facts come out many years later they often differ from those related at the time.

Contact Hilary Howarth 382172

hilary.howarth@btinternet.co.uk

Bridge

The Bridge Group is now meeting every Tuesday evening at 7.30pm, in the Methodist Church. Please use the side entrance in Valentine Place. Parking is available at the rear of the church.

Contact Roy Burrige 389018

Computer Group

The computer group operates as a self help group. If you've a problem come along and see if we can help. We don't have a set agenda it all depends who turns up. Please bring your lap top or tablet if you have one and we can explore the computing world together.

Typical topics the group explore include;

1. Down loading photos from a mobile phone.
2. Removing programs.
3. Copying a CD.
4. Cleaning your pc - no not a dusting
5. Registering for windows 10.

We meet in members houses so please ask me where to meet. This normally takes place on the third Thursday morning of the month. The next meeting will be on the 21th April at 10.00.

Contact Peter Watson 384509

Cornish Culture

The March meeting was cancelled.

We next meet on Monday 11th April at the Wheal Martyn Museum in St. Austell at 1 o'clock.

Contact Anita & Tony Bowden

Joint Co-ordinators 350668

Crime Fiction Appreciation

8 members met at Lucy's in March to discuss our latest crime reading. After returning books borrowed at previous meetings, we discussed our new reading. This included books by favourite authors Harlen Coben, Michael Connelly, Peter Robinson, John Harvey, Peter James, Camilla Lackberg, Frances Fyfield and local authors Kate Ellis and Janie Bolitho. Our tea break included a slice of my apricot marmalade cake. Our next meeting will be Thursday 28th Apr, probably at Lucy's, at 2pm. If you are interested in joining us to discuss or learn more about crime fiction, please contact

David Seward 384631

Family History

The usual fourth Monday of the month for Family History, The next Family History meeting will be on April 25th at Eileen's at 2.30pm.

Contact Eileen Sturt 350639

Flower Arranging

Contact Eileen Sturt 350639

Food & Wine

About 30 members of the Food and Wine Group enjoyed an excellent lunch at PL1 on a beautiful spring day in March. PL1 is the training restaurant attached to Plymouth City College catering department and serves three course lunches for the princely sum of £10 during term time. The students made a splendid job of welcoming us, cooking and serving the meal and we all left feeling pleasantly full after a tasty and interesting menu.

Contact Maire Warwick 350711
(maire.warwick@btinternet.com)

Game On

Our last meetings of the season are April 10th and 24th. A very big thank you from us all to Lucy for making us so welcome in her home twice a month. Our group is finishing now until the Autumn when I hope everyone will return for more afternoons of brain straining and fun.

Contact Jenny Wheeley 351662

Handbells

Contact Maire Warwick 350711

History

Contact Josephine King 350890

Humour

Nine of us met at Richard's house in Pilaton. Richard focused on the visual humour of the forties and the fifties. During this period there was little respect shown to people and nations who did not behave in the same way as we did. For example our recent enemies the Japanese were referred to as "japs" and appeared always as having very wide mouths with very large teeth. This behaviour would not be regarded as funny today. Richard had found numerous examples of this behaviour on the internet. Much of this material was certified as "banned from public showing". These early TV clips brought back memories for me.

The next meeting is on Monday April 18th at 10.00 am in Christine's house. If you fancy a morning of laugh come and join us.

Never, under any circumstances take a sleeping pill and a laxative on the same night.

The shin bone is a device for finding furniture in a dark room.

Contact Keith Lane 370713

or by email kandslane@hotmail.com.

Italian

Contact Sally Thomas 01822 832017

Jazz Appreciation

8 members met at Christine's in March. For the first half of the meeting we featured a DVD of Jay McShann concert. This was an enjoyable mix of swing and blues big band jazz. Second half was a members' choice and features music

from Stan Kenton, Muggsy Spanier, Louis Armstrong and Georgie Fame. The next meeting will be on Wed 13th April 2pm at Christine's and will be a members' choice session. If you are interested in joining us for an afternoon of jazz, contact

David Seward 384631

Music Appreciation

Last month we listened to and discussed the music of Maurice Ravel, famous for his wonderful 'Bolero'. This month being so close to Easter we will be listening to Johann Sebastian Bach's St John's Passion, first performed on Good Friday 1724, conducted by Benjamin Britten and made at the Malting's Snape in 1971. The Evangelist is sung by Peter Pears who translated it with Imogen Holst.

The next Music Appreciation is on April 10th at 2pm

Contact Pat Ferguson 384402

Needlework

Normally meet on the second Thursday of the month.

Details from Ann Martin

Opera

Continuing with the composer Rossini our opera of the month was 'La Gazzaladra' (The Thieving Magpie) reputed to have been written in only two months, one of his later compositions it was recorded live from the Cologne Opera. The story involves a young girl who is accused of stealing and condemned to death but unlike the dramatic endings favoured by other Italian composers the magpie is found to be the thief and all ends happily. A long performance, as is often the case with Rossini's, the part of Fabrizio was sung by Carlos Feller and Nucci Condo was the innocent Lucia.

Contact Carol Dowell 382158

Philosophy

The topic for the March session was Stoicism, accepting what you are unable to change and the views of the ancient

Greeks towards this. The British were known for their stoicism throughout the World Wars and there are many present day examples from other nations. It is also enjoying a modern revival with Stoics meeting annually from around the world. We also took another look at the 6th Sense, something most of us experience at some time. We now have a group of 14 with varied opinions which makes for interesting discussions. Next meeting will be on April 28th.

Contact Doreen Johnson 343152
doreen.johnson@onetel.com

Play Reading

Contact Jean Rose 350029

Poetry

This month we will be looking at female poets or perhaps poetesses? Many women have written poetry over the years, initially in honour of God. The main bodies of well-known poets are women from Georgian and Victorian times, i.e. Elizabeth Barrett Browning. More modern poetry is from poets such as Christina Rossetti, Stevie Smith and Carol Ann Duffy. Hopefully we will be able to read from some of these poets' works as well as others who are perhaps less well known.

The next Poetry is on April 13th at 2pm.

Contact Pat Ferguson 384402

Scrabble

The group, led by Lesley Cheetham at her home, meets once a month on a Wednesday evening. The actual week of the month will change in some months.

Contact Lesley Cheetham 383632

Scribblers

Our last writing task was to write a story around the playing of a game. It seems that approximately 50% of us have gambling on our minds! Apart from stories relating to casinos and betting shops, we had an interesting tale of a silent netball game played respectfully following the death of the King just hours before.

April sees us changing our meeting day to the third Thursday in the month