

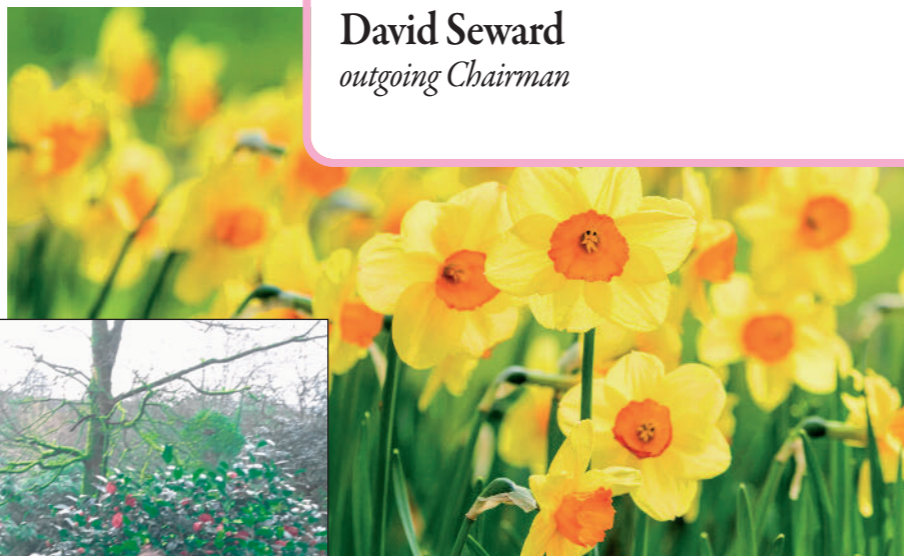
● Walking Group 2

This has been a difficult month regarding the weather but the group managed all but one of the scheduled walks which has been postponed for a later date.

David Seward led a walk at Seaton, Cornwall, through the valley, which has undergone quite a change and is now mostly easy walking and very interesting. Points of interest are well labelled.

Hilary Howard guided a walk of approx 3 miles around Llanhydrock grounds and back through the beautiful Magnolias, Camelias and Spring flowers which are in full bloom at present in the gardens. Back at the House an observer asked the group if they were very wet as they had been caught in a heavy storm. The reply, "No, it was mostly hail and it bounced off". Hardy lot this group!

Contact: Lucy Thomas 350018



Walkers 2 in the Seaton Valley



Llanhydrock walkers amongst camelias

A Thank You from the Chairman

As I leave the Committee after 6 years, as Vice Chairman and Chairman, may I say a huge thank you to everyone who has made my time in the posts so enjoyable - not just the various members of the committee but all the helpers and other members who contribute to the running of our U3A. Thank you all for your support and help.

David Seward
outgoing Chairman

Officer Contact Numbers

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t: 384631

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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.



China Past & Present



The Callington U3A's speaker this month was Dr Peter Brinsden. He was born in Peking in China in 1940. He lived in China, the United States, Canada and Hong Kong until 1950. Dr Brinsden was educated at Rugby School, King's College London and St George's Hospital Medical School. He qualified MBBS and MRCS, LRCP in 1966. Dr Brinsden joined the Royal Navy in 1966, and served as Ships Medical Officer 1969-1970. He started training as a gynaecologist in 1970 in military and civilian NHS hospitals until 1978. He qualified DOBst RCOG in 1981, MRCOG in 1976 and was elected FRCOG in 1989. Dr Brinsden was made a Consultant Gynaecologist in 1978, with a principal interest in infertility treatment.

He gave a fascinating account of their life in China. The title was 'My Family in China 1856-1948-2016'. He was the fourth generation to be born in China from 1856.

He told us stories about various members of his family The Fitch/Cooks/Brinsden Family. Robert Fitch founded the Hangchow Christian College in 1912 building a church that became a university. He wrote a guide book of walks, also wrote for the National Geographic, a book about 'Life Afloat in China' and 'My Eighty Years in China'. Peter showed us snippets from his grandmothers diary from 1927.

His Great Uncle George wrote about the Rape of Nanking, when 300,000 people were massacred by the Japanese. He wrote.

"Complete anarchy has reigned for ten days-it has been hell on earth... to have to stand by while even the very poor are having their last possession taken from them-their last coin, their last bit of bedding (and it is freezing weather), the poor ricksha man his ricksha; while thousands of disarmed soldiers who had sought sanctuary with you together with many hundreds of innocent civilians are taken out before your eyes to be shot or used for bayonet practice and you have to listen to the sounds of the guns that are killing them; while a thousand women kneel before you crying hysterically, begging you to save them from the beasts who are preying on them; to stand by and do nothing while your flag is taken down and insulted, not once but a dozen times, and your home is being looted and then to watch the city you have come to love and the institution to which you have planned to devote your best deliberately and systematically burned by fire-this is a hell I had never before envisaged."

George Fitch met Chou En Lai, Wang Ming, Mao Tse-ting and the Dalai Lama.

Peter's father Dudley Brinsden married in 1939. They lived in Peking, their transport was Rickshaws and hand drawn carts. Lots of beautiful old palaces, and Hutungs, traditional Chinese homes now been replaced by modern blocks of flats. They would have tea at the Summer Palace. They then moved to Hong Kong in 1949 at the start of the revolution.

He gave us some interesting facts about China. The Population is 1.35 billion. There was 20-40 million deaths due to starvation and persecution between 1958-1962. They have 900 million mobile phones. The Chinese smoke 50,000 cigarettes per second.

Traditional Chinese medicine is 3/4000 years old. There are more Christians in China than anywhere else in the world at 70 million.

Peter has been an Affiliated Lecturer at the University of Cambridge's Clinical School at Addenbrookes Hospital since 1992, and a Visiting Professor in Gynaecology and Fertility at the Capital Medical University in Beijing since 2001. Dr Brinsden has also been an Inspector for the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority since 1997.

This was a fascinating insight into life in China past and present and the huge changes this country has been through, since Peter's family bravely stepped foot on its shores in 1856.

Gillian Brown

If you are interested in joining us at the Callington U3A go to www.u3asites.org.uk/Callington or come along on the first Monday of the month 10am Callington Town Hall.



Photo: Pete Watson

And coming up soon...

Speakers at the next Meeting:

■ May 8th

Millie Lindfield on Hannah Lindfield

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

Everyone is welcome to join this friendly group whatever your ability. We meet at Stoke Climsland in the old school every other Thursday from 10am - 1pm.

Our meetings for the next three months are April 6th. April 20th. May 4th. May 18th. June 8th. June 22nd.

for more information:

Contact Jane Black 382187

Baking

Report from Les in my absence :

Another sumptuous feast at The Old Chapel on the theme of Brunch...either a late breakfast or an early lunch. Whichever, I didn't need much supper! We tucked into a delicious Bacon and Egg pie, an exotic Cranberry and Ricotta Torte, two types of savoury scones, Bacon Butties (well Marian's Muffins actually) and some really tasty sour dour croissants. As if that wasn't enough there were Japanese sweet bread rolls (An Pan). Well done everyone...we could start a catering business! Next meeting is Easter Bakes at John and Jenny's on April 5th at 3pm

Contact Jenny Wheeley 351662

Barn Dancing

This new group is progressing well, learning lots of new dances and having some good laughs in the process. The group meets on the first Thursday of each month at 10.30 am, the next meetings will be on 6 April and 4 May. Hope to see you there.

Contact Wendy Fader on 01822 835985

or email wendykfuk@yahoo.co.uk

Bookworms

Sebastian Barry – A Temporary Gentleman.

This month's book received a mixed collection of reports either it was confusing, boring, got off to a good start then went down hill, apart from a handful of us who read it twice (mainly because we got confused the first time) and decided it was

actually an intriguing book. Too much detail would give away the plot, but basically it is about a family split by politics, war and overseas postings. It's not a happy book, although it has some amusing moments – hard to describe you must read it for yourself to form your own opinions. The book we are reading this month is a good old fashioned 'classic' A Pair of Blue Eyes by Thomas Hardy.

Contact Hilary Howarth 382172
hilary.howarth@btinternet.co.uk

Bridge

The Bridge Group continues to meet on a Tuesday evening in the Methodist hall. We are a friendly, informal group and we play from 1930 to about 2230. We are always trying to improve our game, and sometimes discuss the hands in order to gain skill. We have two or three tables at present, but would very much welcome some new or past members with some experience of the game. Just come and join us, or call me on 350360 to discuss.

Contact Hilary Davis 350360
chebsey@aol.com

Cornish Culture

Here is the future time table:

10th April – Cornish Traditions – members choice.

15th May – Visit to Calstock – possible ferry trip if tide is suitable.

12th June – Bude Castle built by Sir Goldsworthy Gurney.

July – To be advised.

11th September – Bus trip to Helston and the Lizard.

9th October – Cornish Music, Songs and Poetry – members choice.

13th November – DVD of Cornish interest.

All welcome.

Contact Anita & Tony Bowden 350668

Crime Fiction Appreciation

At our March's meeting at Lucy's, we had a full house of all 13 members of the group. We discussed many books and authors and genres of crime fiction, from historical fiction, through to reissues of 1920s fiction to modern British, Scandi and American crime and spy fiction. These included old favourites Ian Rankin, Peter James, John Harvey, Michael Connelly and several new names, Jorgen Brekke, Clare Mackintosh and Mick Herron. Altogether a most interesting and enjoyable afternoon. Thanks to Di for providing

the delicious carrot cake and Victoria sponge for tea. The next meeting will be on Thursday 27th April. If you are interested in joining us to discuss or learn more about crime fiction, please contact

David Seward 384631

Family History

2.30pm Monday April 24th at Eileen's.

Contact Eileen Sturt 350639

Flower Arranging

10am Wednesday April 5th at Eileen's.

"A Day in the Life of..."

Contact Eileen Sturt 350639

Food & Wine

Contact Maire Warwick 350711

(maire.warwick@btinternet.com)

Game On

Next meetings : April 9th - this will be the last official meeting of the Season and the group will reconvene in the Autumn in the care of Lucy.

Contact Jenny Wheeley 351662

Handbells

Contact Maire Warwick 350711

History

Contact Josephine King 350890

Humour

A relatively small group of us met at Christine's for a good laugh in and of course biscuits and coffee.

STRANGE & FUNNY TOMBSTONES

Born 1903 - Died 1942 looked up the elevator shaft to see if it was coming. It was.

Here lies an atheist. All dressed up and nowhere to go.

Here lies the body of Jonathan Blake stepped on the gas instead of the brake.

Contact: Keith Lane 370713
or by email kandslane@hotmail.com.

Italian

Contact: Sally Thomas 01822 832017

Jazz Appreciation

At our March's meeting at Lucy's, we had a full house of all 13 members of the group. We discussed many books and authors and genres of crime fiction, from historical fiction, through to reissues of 1920s fiction to modern British, Scandi and American crime and spy fiction. These included old favourites Ian Rankin, Peter James, John Harvey, Michael Connelly and several new names, Jorgen Brekke, Clare Mackintosh and Mick Herron. Altogether a most interesting and enjoyable afternoon. Thanks to Di for providing the delicious carrot cake and Victoria sponge for tea. The next meeting will be on Thursday 27th April. If you are interested in joining us to discuss or learn more about crime fiction:

Contact David Seward 384631

Music Appreciation

This month an unexpected pleasure, with Elgar's Enigma Variations on vinyl by the London Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by Sir Adrian Bolt. Most had forgotten how good the sound, (which was phenomenal) could be, a rare pleasure.

Next Meeting April 11th

Contact: Pat Ferguson 384402

Needlework

Normally meet on the second Thursday of the month.

Details from Ann Martin

Opera

The last and unfinished Turandot was the final offering of our Puccini season. An elaborate and dramatic production with all the usual splendour from The Metropolitan Opera New York with Placido Domingo in the role of Calaf who's rendering of the famous Nessun dorma was spell bounding. The opera's story is set in China and involves Prince Calaf, who falls in love with the cold Princess Turandot. To obtain permission to marry her, a suitor has to solve three riddles; any wrong answer results in death. Calaf passes the test, but Turandot still refuses to marry him. He offers her a way out: if she is able to learn his name before dawn the next day, then at daybreak he will die. Completed after Puccini's death by Franco Alfano, it is the only opera of his that does not end with the dramatic death of the heroine. We shall be featuring Mozart in the coming months over the next few months starting with Così Fan Tutte Next meeting April 18th

Contact Carol Dowell 382158

Philosophy

Contact: Doreen Johnson 343152
doreen.johnson@onetel.com

Play Reading

Contact Jean Rose 350029

Poetry

This month took on a patriotic perspective with poems about England ranging from the classic works of Browning with his 'Thoughts from Abroad', Shakespeare's John of Gaunt's speech from Richard II and Wordsworth's Hosts of Daffodils through John Clare to more contemporary poets. Next month we will be concentrating on poems concerned with employment. Next Meeting 7th April

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 March meeting started in a higgledy piggledy way as we all sought to find our way to John and Barbara's house around the continuing roadworks. What a Carry On! We had chosen Biography as a topic to write on. It was very interesting with most of us choosing family members ranging from Great Aunts and Great Grandfathers, to Grandfathers and Fathers and a favourite poet - Lord Tennyson. It was a great piece of social history. Next time - Romance. Well - spring is on the way - maybe!

Contact Penny Beech on 01822 834756 or 07971 889572

(which has an answerphone service).

Singing for Pleasure

The 'Singing for Pleasure group will meet on 24th April at Callington Methodist Church from 3.30 to 5pm.

Contact: Rosalind Bunkum 383171

Strollers

Our first outing this month was to St. Dominick where, on a lovely sunny morning, we strolled around the lanes admiring the masses of Spring flowers. The daffodils and primroses looked beautiful. The following Monday there was a complete change in the weather with heavy rain so instead

of a stroll we went to Carkeel Garden Centre for a wander. We booked a table for fourteen and thoroughly enjoyed a coffee before looking around. Next week we are in Callington following the mural trail (weather permitting).

Contact: Pauline Husband 350379

Table Tennis

We meet once every 4 weeks on a Thursday evening at the upper schoolroom of Callington Methodist Church at 7 pm. Dates are on the U3A website. All are welcome and we are all enthusiastic and play covers all abilities from beginners upwards.

Why not come and give it a try. All equipment is provided. A charge is made to cover the cost of hiring the room.

Contact Ray Geatches 350638

Country Lane with hedgerows fair

Of nature's beauty growing there

A cloudless sky of azure blue

The sound of skylarks singing true

Rolling hills of endless charm

Deep valleys lush with scattered farms

Woodland walks and winding paths

Hide creatures in their habitats

Moorlands stretch both vast and bold

Their rugged beauty to behold

This is the England of my dreams

Forever England of changing scenes

By Lesley Cheetham

08.03.2017