

April 2019



Rupert Kirkwood Kayaking - up the creek and beyond

Rupert lives in Holsworthy, West Devon and worked for 33 years as a vet. He retired early, after wear and tear of the job had taken its toll on his body and was able to spend time concentrating on his loves of kayaking and wildlife photography. Rupert has travelled widely to study and capture stunning

photographs and video footage of the animals he has encountered while kayaking. He has spent time in Greenland, Mexico and Africa but he also wanted to show the underrated wildlife of S.W. England.

Rupert decided to kayak the coast mirroring the S.W. coastal path. In all he paddled 20,000 miles, following all the inlets and rivers of the S.W. plus the sea further offshore as well. Paddling in a kayak is slow and silent so it doesn't disturb the animals enabling Rupert to get very close and take intimate pictures at eye level, some seals even climbed on board to say hello.



Rupert took us on his journey through the S.W. with a catalogue of wonderful personal photos from Durdle Door in Dorset travelling west to Lands End and across to the Isles of Scilly (ferry out but paddling back) then along the north coast of Cornwall, Devon and into Somerset. As a result of his travels, he has raised money for two worthy charities, one providing funds for volunteer doctors providing medical emergency cover and the other to support a charity aiming to rid our beaches of plastic waste that is so harmful to our wildlife.

We saw resident 4' long harbour porpoises racing across the bays and beautiful looking jellyfish (barrel, compass and portuguese man of war) floating in the sea. He showed an early morning picture of a heron about his/her morning spruce up and elegant avocets and dunlins at Calstock. Next was a trip out to Eddystone Lighthouse (an 8 hours round trip) where he photographed a 50' sei whale, a rare sighting of this endangered species as well as 4 white beaked dolphins, also very rare. As a side, Rupert told us that he must be the only kayak stopped by the border patrol having found himself in amongst ships on Naval exercises.

As we travelled on with Rupert, we saw many seals, dolphins and whales, fish (basking shark, sunfish, even bluefin tuna), a leatherback turtle, otters and many, many birds including the nation's favourite puffin and peregrine falcons chasing a pigeon (it stood no chance). All the photographs and video clips were stunning and I imagine that all the photographers in the audience were green with envy. I certainly wish I'd taken my kayaking days further than the local canals and lakes. It was a fascinating and uplifting talk and Rupert showed how much the wildlife in S.W. England is underrated.

If you missed the talk and want to see the pictures (or see them again) log on to thelonekayaker.wordpress.com

Marion Watson

GROUP NEWS

Here's what some of our groups got up to in March

For more group details and photos check out the Group Boards, U3A website, Callington U3A Facebook page, contact the group conveners or come along to the monthly meetings

▶ Allotment

There is now a vacancy on a small plot (10x15feet) at one of our two allotments in Haye Road !

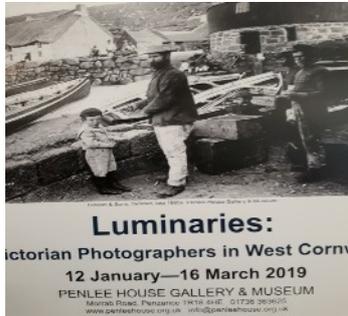
For more details

Contact Ann Martin 384246

▶ Art Appreciation

Some of our group went to Penlee House in Penzance where they have a special exhibition of photographs taken around Penzance and Newlyn at the turn of the 19th and 20th centuries when the Newlyn Artists were beginning to settle there. We were told during our formal talk that some of the artists and photographers became friends and it is thought that since some of the scenes in both media are similar, the photographers may have provided their work to the artists for reference in the studio after colluding together on compositions.

This became clear when we looked at the few paintings from their collection still on show. The clarity of the photographs was amazing and more so when you think how long an exposure was necessary at that time. The pictorial history was also great and several other visitors were heard reminiscing about their mothers and grandmothers.



We also had two interesting presentations this month. Jo talked about the Plymouth artist, Beryl Cook, and showed a DVD of Beryl talking about her work and the inspiration for her iconic characters and scenes from Plymouth life. She took great pleasure in observing life and her pictures portray the delight she found in the activities going on around her. The colour, wit, vulgarity and unpretentiousness of her work has widespread appeal and has led to an international reputation and a place on the list of the most popular British artists.

Maire gave a presentation on a recent exhibition at Tate Modern of the Impressionist paintings from the Courtauld Collection. These included many of the best works from the most famous Impressionists such as Manet, Pissarro, Monet, Renoir, Degas and Van Gogh which were bequeathed by Samuel Courtauld, a wealthy industrialist and chairman of the multi-national textile company. Courtauld's interest in art, particularly the French Impressionists, meant that he amassed not only a large private collection but also

donated to public collections in the National and Tate Galleries. He set up the Courtauld Institute in 1932 where his pictures can be seen by all.

Contact Penny Beach - 01822 834756 or 07971 889572

▶ Baking

Our meeting this month was on the theme of 'with a twist'. This could be a physical twist or a new twist to a basic recipe and as usual everyone rose to the challenge. We had a savoury cheesecake made with chilli and tomatoes and a savoury bread and butter pudding which I shall definitely be baking soon.

Normal potatoes were changed for sweet potatoes, foccacio made with sourdough, but I think the most unusual twist - and the one that none of us could guess - was a cake made with a tin of tomato soup as one of its ingredients (it was delicious) .

Our next meeting will be on April 3rd when pies will be on the menu.

This group is now full but to be put on our waiting list, or start another group please

Contact Jenny Wheeley 351662

▶ Crime Fiction

We had a good turn out at our last meeting and though we've lost one member we welcomed a potential new one.

We decided to try out a starring system on books we have read just as a guide to others who might wish to borrow them - although it's clear that often one person's meat is another's poison so to speak when it comes to books on crime. However, there were mostly 3 stars awarded to books read with Michael Connelly and Ray Clements gaining 4 and Harlan Coben and Nelson de Mille a poor 1 star each.

For information please

Contact Jenny Wheeley 351662

▶ Events and Outings

The first outing to the Lost Gardens of Heligan was very enjoyable with 12 of us being very lucky with the weather during what was otherwise a dreadful week of rain.

After our car share journey we had enough time for a welcome drink in the café before obtaining our year passes. We had an extremely informative guided tour of the gardens covering their history right back to the original owners and at the same time enjoying the beautiful gardens. After the tour we visited the bird hide and were lucky enough to see an albino pheasant a woodpecker and various types of tits and other small birds on the feeders. The more energetic of the group walked down to the jungle part of the gardens and walked across the rope bridge while the rest of us perused the shop meeting up again for lunch.



There will be a sign up sheet for National Trust visits at each monthly meeting where members can add their names.

VOLUNTEER DRIVERS will be needed for these visits.

All information will be available on our Facebook page, U3A

website or you can contact me. Please check the group boards for next venues and don't forget to add any suggestions. There will be a cut off date in early May for those who want to go to "Motown the Musical" at the Theatre Royal Plymouth in August
Contact Mary Hardy 382775

► Family History

Our next meeting will be at Eileen's house on 29th April at 2.30pm.
Contact Eileen Sturt 350639

► Flower Arranging

The next meeting will be on May 8th at 10.30 am at Pauline Farr's. Group now full.
Contact Eileen Sturt 350639

► Game On

Every other Sunday around fourteen members gather at Lucy's house to play various games. We had two sessions this month and on both occasions the members split into three groups in order to play various games these included Personal Preference, Sequence, Whist, Bananagrams and Upwords. The meetings always end with everyone in the dining room having cakes, biscuits, desserts and tea/coffee.
Contact Lucy Thomas 388799

► Humour

There will be no Humour Group Meeting in April but we will reconvene in May. Subject to be decided.
Contact Helen Redden 382612

► Jazz Appreciation

The Theme for our March meeting was Jazz by Artists not normally associated with Jazz. Some surprising recordings were discovered including Hugh Lawrie, Rod Argent (The Zombies), Amy Winehouse, Bryan Ferry, Les Paul and Dame Kiri Te Kanawa. Our next Meeting will be on Wednesday 10th April at Christine's at 2pm. This will be a member's choice. We welcome new members and if you want any further information,
Contact Rosemary Wright 370578

► Philosophy

"Marian Watson first talked us through the life and works of Alfred Jules (Freddie) Ayers. Though he had a brilliant career as a lecturer, teacher and broadcaster of politics we questioned his philosophy. Ayers concept of defining all language logically into true or false statements was, we decided unworkable. We were thus in line with his contemporaries who eventually agreed that Ayer's philosophy was of very little use!
Next meeting in the Town Hall April 25th Ludwig Wittgenstein
Contact Sandra West 370231

► Play Reading

There is still the opportunity to join the Play Reading Group's trip to the theatre in Torquay on Easter Saturday afternoon, April 20th. Own transport would be helpful. Theatre tickets are £9 each for the Matinee performance of a thriller entitled "Trap For A Lonely Man."
For more details
Contact Sheila Tredinnick 383717

► Pub Lunches

Our Pub Lunch Group are a discerning bunch of people so a decision has been made to choose three of the most popular pubs and leave a fourth month available for a trial pub. The three chosen pubs are 'The Who'd of Thought It', St Dominick, 'The Royal Inn at Horsebridge' and 'The Cheesewring Hotel' Minions. More details can be found at the Monday monthly meetings or
Contact Lucy Thomas 388799 or Mary Elliott 384729

► Quiz Group

The group meets on the first Wednesday of the month in the Council Chamber of the Town Hall, between 2-4pm. We are a very informal group, have lots of laughs and we mix up the teams every month so no-one wins every time!
Contact Mel Hammond 351960

► Rummikub

We welcomed several new members, who quickly picked up this easy game to play and had fun. Rummikub is a tile based game you can play with numbers or letters. Rummikub combines elements of the card game Rummy & Mahjong or Scrabble if playing with letters. We meet once or twice a month at Susan's bungalow and new members are welcome. For more information
Contact Susan Morris 370542 or susieannmorris@gmail.com

■ Strollers

Two strolls so far this month the first being to Tavistock where we followed the old railway track over the viaduct, with its lovely view over the town, the second being to St. Dominick to see the daffodils. Some had suffered from the strong winds and rain earlier in the month but many had survived. Also the primroses on the banks were a sure sign of Spring. Our next outing will be to Polhilsa.

This will be my last entry in the Newsletter as, after fourteen years as group leader/co-ordinator I am stepping down at Easter along with Mary Elliott who has been such a help in the last few years especially with the computer work. Thank you Mary for all your support. After Easter the Strollers will be in the capable hands of two other members of the group and I wish them well.

Contact Pauline Husband 350379

► Ten Pin Bowling

We had a great time Ten Pin Bowling on 1st March, 9 members came along with 8 of us bowling. We split into 2 teams playing one game before lunch and then another after. The cost was £7 for both games and the lunch menu was varied and reasonably priced. The next Ten Pin Bowling will take place on Wednesday 15th of May at 11.30am meeting at Callington free car park to car share to Trethorne Leisure Park.

Everyone welcome to come along. Please contact me if you would like to join us.

Contact Mel Hammond 351960 or melkenhammond@blueyonder.co.uk



► Walkers 1

The sun shone for Doreen Johnson's memorial walk to see the snowdrops (her favourite flower), and the tree planted in her memory at The Garden House, Yelverton. We set off from Long Ash and walked to The Garden House for coffee and cake where we shared the happy memories we had of Doreen and then Pam led us to the tree that is planted for Doreen in the grounds.



Next six hardy members braved the elements and set off from Rock to walk across fields and paths to Polzeath. From there we followed the scenic, if blustery, coast path to Daymer bay where we visited St Enodoc Church and took shelter in the porch to eat our lunch. St Enodoc Church is said to be on the site where Enodoc lived as a hermit. By the eighteenth century the church was partly submerged in sand, but during the nineteenth century the sand was removed and the church was cleaned and restored. In the churchyard is the grave of the former poet laureate John Betjeman, also there are the ashes of Fleur Lombard, the first female firefighter to die on duty in peacetime Britain. After lunch we walked across St Enodoc Golf course back to Rock to complete the circuit.

Contact Rosy Hanns 0751 5370533

Daymer Bay

John Betjeman



► Walkers 2

This group goes from strength to strength with a regular group of members between eighteen and twenty two turning up for the walks. Two walks were postponed in March due the gale force winds and heavy rain-hail-sleet. Fortunately we were able to have a walk in Lanhyrock grounds amidst the magnolias, camelias and rhododendrons led by Hilary.



Yvonne led the group from the Saw Mills Car park towards Morwellham returning via a track passing Chimney Rock. The weather was kind to us as the sun came out for the whole walk and we were able to enjoy the Woodland Restaurant's tables and chairs out in the sunshine. Over the coming weeks we have some interesting walks to look forward to. Peter Watson will be guiding us around Bodmin Wells and Lesley Cheetham is taking us on a tour in Tavistock.

Contact Lucy Thomas 388799

Speakers at the next few meetings ;

May - Helen Wilson - The Pinwill Sisters

June - David Tovey - Artists & The fishing industry of St Ives

July - Group Outing - Coach/Boat trip, Exmouth

August - Terry Faull - Holy Wells of Devon & Cornwall

Office Contact Details

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Search Callington U3A within Facebook and apply to join.

Dont forget to visit the website

www.u3asites.org.uk/Callington

If you are interested in joining the Callington U3A Visit www.u3asites.org.uk/Callington, click the Welcome tab and complete a membership form. Alternatively come along to the Callington Town Hall at 10.am on the first Monday of each month

Next newsletter will be available

13th May

*All contributions by 21st April
please email Yvonne at
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