

Callington u3a Newsletter December 2023

The committee would like to take this opportunity to wish all our members a Merry Christmas and A Very Happy New Year. Thank you for all your support and contributions throughout the year that helps this group remain active and vibrant. Don't forget to pop into St Mary's Church in Callington following the carol service and opening of the Christmas tree festival on the 1st December at 6pm to see the Christmas tree that some members have made decorations for and decorated on behalf of the group. Thanks for all your input and contributions in helping this happen.



Committee News



South West Water came and delivered a very interesting show on the Devon, Cornwall and other regions that SWW covers at the town hall in November. A lively discussion took place in the Q&A session after and there were plenty of free goodies on offer to help reduce water waste.

BUDDING WRITING OPPORTUNITY

Some of you who receive the u3a Matters magazine and/or receive the u3a national monthly email may have noticed that they are running a u3a National Poetry Competition. The Theme is 'What if?' and must have a maximum of 16 lines. The deadline is 12pm on Friday 26 Jan 2024. If you would like to enter you will have to access the competition on the u3a national website. Anyone can opt to go on the mailing list and receive this free email each month. You can register for this by using the following link:

<https://www.u3a.org.uk/> and use the NEWS tab next along from the HOME tab at the top of the page and select - Newsletter on the drop down tab and follow the instructions on there to register for the newsletter and to enter the competition. Good luck.

REMINDER: Can you please have your membership card to hand when signing in at the meetings to record your membership number. There are also a number of membership cards still awaiting collection from the signing in desk, thank you.

Christmas Lunch

We look forward to seeing members who are attending the Xmas lunch at Trethorne on Wednesday 6th December.

Group News

Crafts Club

A new Crafts group is starting on Thursday 4th January 2024 at 10 am in the Council Chamber. They will share the area with the Cribbage and Cards group to utilise the space. Bring along any craft you enjoy doing and share / show with others over a cuppa. Card making, knitting, macramé etc whatever you like to do. If you want to teach us we can arrange a workshop one month for you to show us how to learn a new skill. Start the new year with sharing your knowledge or learning something new. Cost will be @£1 as sharing room costs. For more information contact Ann Moore 01579 641674 or aemoore4521@gmail.com

Hi-Fi Group

the group meet on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at Lucy Thomas's home and the one will be on Wednesday 13/12/23 at 2pm. Anybody interested in this new group can contact Frank on email frank.marshall@mail.com

Science of Astronomy

Apologies as last month's details were omitted so 2 group meetings are being listed this month.

September Meeting: The subject this month was a very short history of Astronomy, showing how astronomy developed from the dawn of history to the present day, some 4000 years. The group also took its first look at the Solar system, covering the four terrestrial planets. Next month we will look at the Gas giants.

October meeting: The group met on the 27 October and viewed a DVD on the planets and marvelled at the diversity and grandeur of our solar System. There are still a couple places available, please contact the Group Co-ordinator or Ray Lawrence Group Leader on mobile 07566781800.

Bookworms

We are a small group that meets once a month on a Friday afternoon in the Council Chamber at Callington Town Hall at 2pm. We read a selected book from the Library's list, (they have a large collection). If a set is not available, we have varied single titles which we can recommend (or not) to other members of the group. Over a "cuppa" and biscuits we discuss varied topics, loosely connected to literature. The meeting lasts approximately 2 hours. In the summer there are several "Book Festivals" reasonably close to Callington so a few of us will "car share" and visit one or two of them. For more details please contact Hilary Howarth on email: hilary.howarth@btinternet.com

Baking

For our last meeting we could choose whatever bake we wished to do. Not quite so easy having unlimited choice as being channelled in a certain direction. It would seem that most of our group lean towards the savoury and also bread recipes. We had sun dried tomato and olive bread with rosemary, cheese and bacon picnic loaves, a white loaf and - most impressive- croissants. There were also veggie samosas (baked not fried) a bacon and egg pie and triple cheese, spring onion and chive muffins. To satisfy our sweet craving we finished with plum tart and a coconut and vanilla cheesecake. No wonder none of us ever cook an evening meal after a baking meeting! For information please contact Jenny Wheeley on email: Jenny@wheeley.plus.com

Cribbage and Cards

The group has been renamed to clarify what is on offer at the meeting. Groups play cribbage and other classic card games. Come along and join in or share a new card game we can all learn. We meet in the Callington Town Hall Council Chamber on the 1st Thursday of the month at 10am. The next meeting is on Dec 7th. If you are interested in joining us please contact Carl Moore on email aemoore4521@gmail.com

Philosophy

This month the discussion was Plato on Erotic Love by philosopher Angie Hobbs.

She was talking about a specific kind of love, Eros. Traditionally in Greek literature erotic love was physical love for someone else's body, but what we see Plato doing in his work is expanding the field away from bodies. It appears according to Plato we are spending our lives searching for beauty and the good, essentially in our other half. Aristophanes gives us an inventive comic fantasy about three different sexes of proto human beings, male, female and hermaphrodite (both male and female) these beings were initially spherical, four arms, four legs, two heads, two faces and two sets of genitalia, they rolled around the surfaces of the earth like acrobats. This race got very uppity, they got above themselves, the Greek gods led by Zeus, wondered what to do about them, they couldn't kill them or they would lose all the libations and sacrifices. So they thought we will cut them in half. This will weaken them, but also double the number of libations. So Zeus ordered Hephaestus the blacksmith god, to cut them in half to form creatures with two arms, two legs, one face etc. these creatures moped around the world looking for their lost other half. Aristophanes says, this is what Eros is, it is the search for our other half. I'm sure we can all relate to that, even though it's a pretty strange analogy. It was a complex and enjoyable subject and lots more was discussed. Next month is Terence Irwin on Aristotle's Ethics.

If you want to join us come along to Callington Town Hall the last Thursday of the month 10am in the Committee Room or contact Gillian Brown email: gillian.brown@gmail.com

Scribblers

Remembering - the past and present - came up in our stories this month. Family history was woven through some with interesting reminders that boroughs of what is now termed 'London' were once fields of lavender and watercress; also the joys of 1950s caravan parks. We had a very funny story, written like the diary of an older woman who was happily forgetting that she had to be somewhere else. It was rather too familiar to us all! No more writing now until the New Year. If you are interested please contact Penny Beech on pennybeech@googlemail.com

Rummikub

Rummikub meets 1st and 3rd Fridays of each month

We have lots of fun and lots of tea, coffee and biscuits interspersed with fun games of Rummikub of which we now have 3 modus operandi.

We have the basic game which gives you a taste for the upgraded more complex version which most of us play. New to me is the Rummikub Scrabble which seems very popular on our "playdays". So if you have a couple of hours spare on a Friday morning we would love to welcome you (and I can promise you that none of us will bite !!!!). We have experts and novices so take a chance on a bit of fun. Friday 1st December sees us enjoying our traditional Xmas lunch we will be back gaming on the 15th December. If you are interested please contact Sue McMunn on email

siouxmack@hotmail.co.uk



Strollers

On Friday 8th December the Group will be catching the 9.27am bus to Tavistock to see the Xmas trees in the Church. Then on Monday 11th December the Strollers will be at St Mellion followed by a trip to Tamar Nurseries to see the decorations and the singing reindeer (we know how to live). On the 18th December we will be going to Cotehele to see the Garland. We will be meeting up again on Monday 15th January 2024. Anyone wishing to join the Group should contact Anne Ellard on 01579 383864 or mobile 07443 473799.

Walkers 1



7 members of walkers 1 had a lovely circular walk from Lucketts today led by Jill. We crossed a few fields and climbed over some Cornish stiles as well as walking along some quiet lanes. We stopped for lunch by the ford at Lucketts which was very pretty. We were lucky with the weather too except for one heavy shower but we all managed to shelter under a car port. Thank you Jill for leading the walk. If you would like to join this group please email: gjhanns@gmail.com for more information.

Walkers 2

Our last walk for 2023 will be on Tuesday 12th December and we will meet up again on 9th January 2024. Anyone wishing to join the Group please contact Helen Redden on 01579 382612 or mobile 07770 402242 or email: ladywholunches3@gmail.com

Humour Group

There will be no meeting of the Humour Group on Monday 11 December and our next meeting will take place on Monday 15th January 2024. Anyone interested in joining our Group please contact Helen Redden on 01579 382612 or mobile 07770 402242 or email: ladywholunches3@gmail.com

Jazz Appreciation

The November meeting was well attended, and the mixture of Weather and Winter tunes included Stormy Weather - Gladys Knight & Roy Eldridge, Don't rain on my Parade - Nancy Wilson, September in the Rain - George Shearing, Autumn Leaves - Stan Getz, Come Rain or Come Shine - Gerry Mulligan and Clifford Brown. A varied mixture which was enjoyed by everyone. The last meeting of 2023 will be on the 13th December at Christines as usual at 2pm. We will be having some festive tunes and maybe even some festive goodies. Should you need any more information please contact Rosemary 01579 370578 rosemary.ralph@golitha.uk

Art Appreciation

Our November meeting was the last before the Christmas break and a good number of our group attended. The subject was A History of Portrait painting and looked at the art of portraiture from over 5,000 years ago until the present day. A short quiz started the talk, with members proving their knowledge by naming both the artist and the sitter from the 6 paintings shown. Although few examples remain from the oldest artistic traditions, 28 statues of Gudea, representative of a powerful ruler in 2090BC in ancient Egypt, are some of the earliest known portraits, later examples included the frescos of Pompeii, faces painted on linen wrappings on Mummy cases and coins depicting Roman emperors. Self-portraits both by male and female artists came to the fore in 16th century and beyond, Rembrandt, Gainsborough, Lenkiewicz, Vincent Van Gogh and Paul Gauguin being amongst those discussed. A huge change in portraiture came with the advent of the post impressionists notably with Matisse and Picasso playing with colour, line and form. In the 1960's technology was used in the art form with Andy Warhol introducing stamps, stencils and silkscreen into his work. Who could forget the silkscreen on linen of Marilyn Monroe which fetched the princely sum of \$4,450,500 dollars. Finally, into the 20th century, Hockney using only his iPad, made work executed entirely with the app Brushstrokes. But undoubtedly, the most widely practiced portrait art of today is the selfie, and we saw several examples of these from the rich and famous to the ordinary man on the street, including one by a very technically gifted monkey called Naturo. Portraiture is all about identity and that is something that we all share, thus it will never cease to command attention from all walks of life. Our next meeting will be on the 15th January and we would welcome new members to come and explore this fascinating subject. For more information please contact Penny Beech email: pennybeech@googlemail.com

Date for the diary:

The speaker for the January meeting on Monday 8th January 2024 at 10 am will be Laura Langman from National Energy.

Contact details:-

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