**Callington u3a Newsletter February 2023**

Committee News

**Membership Fees 2022/20223**

The committee met on Wednesday 4th January to discuss the future costs of membership. You will all know how much inflation has increased the costs at home and the same is true for our u3a. You will also know that our membership fees have not increased for the last four years and have stayed at £13. However, we now know that we will not be able to balance the books at the current subscription level but are also aware on the pressures on member's household budgets. We have therefore come up with a suggestion that will give members a choice. This suggestion has the opportunity to keep subscriptions the same for the coming year if this option is taken by individuals.

 The suggestion is that if members do not want to receive the Third Age Matters magazine, then the annual subscription can remain at £13 (£25 for couples). If however members want to still receive the magazine then the subscription will increase to £15 (£29 for couples). This allows individuals to make their own choices. This suggestion is to be able cover the increase in the publication costs that have been passed to the group. This is only a proposal which will be discussed further at the AGM in April.

We are also planning and using some contingency funds to subsidise u3a activities. One of which is a summer Hog Roast at a reduced price.

We hope you understand we are trying to keep costs down whilst keeping the u3a operating.

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**Callington u3a Committee**

Many of the committee will be standing down from their roles at the AGM in April as they will have completed their three years, and even more in some cases. This includes the three who hold the offices of Chair, Secretary and Treasurer. So not only will we be needing people to join the committee but also members to take up these executive roles. We realise that this can seem daunting so with this in mind the committee have adopted a different approach so people will feel supported when they join. All the existing officers, Chair, Secretary and Treasurer will stay on to work alongside the newly appointed person so that they can learn the ropes, get paperwork completed together and come to terms with how things operate over the period of a year. This should allow for a smooth, stressless transition.

It is important for all members to note that without these positions filled then Callington u3a would be closed by National u3a. I'm sure none of us would want that.

I know joining a committee might seem a big step, but the role is very rewarding, the committee very supportive and we usually have some fun. If you would find it useful before deciding anyone is welcome to come along to a committee meeting as an observer.

So please don't be shy, come and have a look. You're welcome to talk to any of the committee or officers about their roles. Your U3a really does need you.

**Visit to Cornwall Energy Recovery Centre**

Following our talk on recycling we have been able to organise a visit to the centre on the morning of Wednesday 15th March at 10.30. The centre is near St Dennis and we will be sharing cars to get there and giving petrol contributions to the driver. As the centre is a working site numbers are limited to 10 people but if demand exceeds places we can organise more visits. Members need to be aware that there are 66 steps on the tour so this trip may not be suitable for everyone. If you are interested please reply to Norman Watts on nhw5100@aol.com.

Places will be allocated on a first come first served basis with surplus names being put on a waiting list.

More details will be sent to those actually visiting nearer the date.

If the visit is a success we plan to go to the recycling centre when it is available for visits.

The speaker at the meeting this month on 6th Feb will be Simon Dell telling us a Cornish murder tale entitled “Three Murders and a Suicide”.

Group News

Jazz Appreciation

The first Meeting of the new year was well attended. It was a members choice of music and the tracks played included Humphrey Littleton, Buddy Rich, Larry Carlton, Gene Krupa, Errol Garner, Nina Simone and Earl Hines. Our next Meeting with be on Wednesday 8th February 2pm at Christine’s as usual. If you fancy joining us or need any further information, please contact Rosemary 01579 370578 rosemary.ralph@golitha.uk

Game On

I would like to thank the members of Game On for helping me with a game for my 80th birthday in Feb.  We had a hilarious meeting on the 8th of Jan with everyone chipping in with ideas. This was followed by a meeting on the 22nd Jan where final decisions were made. I think my party will be special as a result. The members also played games which have been mentioned in previous newsletters. We break from games at four for tea/coffee and cake generously provided by members of the group and always delicious. The next Game On will be on Feb 5th and 5th March starting at 2pm. The 19th Feb will be cancelled as I will be away, Lucy Thomas. For information contact lucythomas22@gmail.com tel: 01579 388799 or Mary on mselliott47@gmail.com tel: 01579 384729

Pub Lunch Group

The group enjoyed our meal at the Swingletree Pub, Kelly Bray so much that we have decided to go there again this month. It is local, warm, the service was excellent and it was very pleasant in their conservatory so what not to like. Thank you to them. For information call Lucy Thomas on 01579 388799, or Jo Earl on 01579 532024 or Cyndy Banks on 01503 265759.

Walkers 1

On Friday 6th Jan Walkers 1 had a lovely 4 mile walk at Burrator Reservoir and surrounding area. We started out from the Quarry car park to the left of the dam. We followed the forest track and walked beside The Leat above the dam to have beautiful views across the reservoir for our coffee stop. There was plenty of water in The Leat and water flowing down the roads too after the recent rain with a bit of mud here and there! Our lunch stop was down by the Bridge and we walked back to the car park along the road, passing a fabulous water fall! Thank you Marcella for leading a super walk, it was great to be out and about again after the festivities of Christmas and New Year!

Walkers 1 also enjoyed a beautiful walk from Scrub Tor to Sydenham Damerel. We had amazing views of Kit Hill, met some super friendly sheep and passed though wintery woodland. Thank you Margaret for leading this lovely walk.

If you would like to join this group please on email: gjhanns@gmail.com

Walkers 2 – Strollers

After a meeting held on 10th January Yvonne Johnson stepped down as the convenor of the Group and her place has been taken over by me, Helen Redden. I would like to thank Yvonne for doing a sterling job since taking over just at the start of the Covid pandemic.

At this meeting it was agreed to ascertain the membership of the Group and to hold another meeting on Tuesday 7th February (Venue and time to be confirmed) with as many of the members as possible that can make it and for each member to select a walk they would like to do and to also arrange. This way everybody has a choice and it is not left solely to one person to pick where to walk each week.

Since the meeting we have had 3 good walks, one to Calstock one to Sibleyback and last week to Tavistock canal. The weather was good for a change on each occasion. The next walk on 31st January 2023 will be to Bodmin looking for the wells. After every walk we always follow up either at a Cafe or Pub for coffee/lunch.

Anybody interested in joining this Group please contact: Helen Redden on 01579 or 07770402242 or email: ladywholunches3@gmail.com

Rummikub

It is so good to get back to the very strategic and complicated playing of Rummikub ( by the way none of that is  true except the bit where we are so glad to be playing)

This game is so easy to pick up the more advanced game has been well mastered by our 3 top players now and they have so much patience to teach us underlings the basics. We meet 1st and 3rd Fridays in the month in the town hall at 10 30 am. If you like a good laugh with very good company a cup of tea and a few biscuits come and Join our happy little band we love to welcome new members and old ones and I’m sure you will not be disappointed

Ring me, Sue McMunn on 01579 532777 / 07980049562

Baking Group

The subject was leftovers at our last meeting and believe me leftovers never tasted so good! There’s no excuse now for not using up all those Christmas bits left in the fridge in January.

Most of the dishes were savoury this month - sweet stuff obviously consumed first over the holidays. There were two kinds of pithivier, one with pork stuffing meat, bacon , mushrooms and cranberry the other filled with Brie, cranberry and red onions. There were Chelsea buns filled with turkey, stuffing and cranberry, and  three quiches, one filled with sprouts, cheese and lardons, one with ham and stilton and made with cheese pastry and one with gammon and egg. On the sweet side there was a marmalade and whisky bread and butter pudding ( delicious!) a mincemeat cake and mincemeat and chocolate muffins. All in all a true feast.

Our meeting next month challenges us to use different types of flours.

Crime Fiction, TV and Film.

Our first meeting for a few months so lots to share and talk about.

Elly Griffiths - 'The Night Hawks' – a metal detecting group who discover a dead body on the beach. DCI Harry Nelson thinks it’s a case of accidental drowning until a 2nd death makes him consider murder.

'The Satsuma Complex'- the debut funny novel by author and comedian Bob Mortimer. A non-descript legal assistant needs to track down a girl he met by chance after his mate goes missing, all he can remember is she was reading a book 'The Satsuma Complex'.

Neil White – 'The Darkness around her' – A young girl is murdered along a canal and lawyer Dan Grant and his investigator are called in to represent her alleged killer but when they discover a number of murders and disappearances it's clear their client could not be involved with every one and realise they have stumbled onto something more sinister.

The Moonstone' written in the 1800's by Wilkie Collins – when a diamond stolen from an Indian shrine is stolen again on the night of a young girls 18th birthday, Sgt Cuff asks all the many suspects for their version of events until all is unravelled. 'The Brutal Telling' by Canadian author Louise Penny. A man is found bludgeoned to death, there is no weapon, motive or his name. Chief Inspector Gamache and colleagues arrive at the small town near Quebec to dig for clues which uncover a trail of stolen treasure, mysterious codes and shameful history that begins to shed light on the victim’s identity and points to a terrifying killer.

Our next meeting is February 23rd at 2pm. If you would like to join our group please contact; Yvonne Johnson – johnsonyvonne1@sky.com or 07900913860

Humour Group

On 16th January the Group was entertained by Richard Warwick with some features to do with the Covid period, which was very funny.

As a general discussion it was agreed to carry on with the Group and to change the dates of the meeting from the 3rd Monday of the month to the 2nd Monday of each month and to change the start time from 10am to 10.30am. The next meeting will be held on 13th February 2023.

Anyone interested in joining the Group please contact Helen Redden on 01579 382612 or 07770402242

Email address: ladywholunches3@gmail.com

Skittles group

 The post Christmas game this month had a Burns theme with teams called Haggis, Burns and Hogmanay playing. Team Haggis pictured left won on the day.

New numbers very welcome. The cost is £1 for the skittles and £5 for the buffet lunch.

Please contact me if you would like to come along. Mel Hammond

Art Appreciation

11 members attended our meeting where the presentation featured the Surrealist painter Joan Miro. We began by learning a little about abstract art, a genre that is not to everyone’s  taste as it is often difficult to understand, and at times can even be quite threatening.   Often there are no recognisable objects, forms or patterns involved, so it becomes a free visual experience where the meaning is garnered through emotion rather than being objective.  Indeed, when Pablo Picasso was asked why it couldn’t be explained he replied, “why not explain the song of a bird?” So we concentrated and tried to appreciate this difficult medium. Born in April 1893 in Barcelona, and living until the age of 90, Miro was a Catalan painter, sculptor and ceramicist. His works were not complete abstracts as they had titles, which meant that he was leading our thoughts in a certain direction.

From Spain, he travelled to Paris, the Netherlands, and finally back to Majorca where he began to work with textiles and even made a Tapestry together with Joseph Royo. His last work was to design a poster for the Spanish Tourist Board, which made Spain the first country to use a truly abstract design with no identifying flag. Tourism to Spain actually doubled in the 5 years after the poster was introduced, which led us to agree that abstract art does have its place.

We meet on the 3rd Monday of every month from 2pm until 4pm and discuss many and varied topics. We would be delighted to see you there.

Philosophy group

The subject this month was Alain De Botton on Aesthetics of Architecture.

You might wonder what this has do with philosophy, this is what we thought too, but modern philosophers seems to want to lift the curtain on perception.

So what is Beauty in architecture? A building can be purely functional or it can be beautiful or as with the Victorians beautiful and functional.

The side of architecture that De Botton liked is very close to art. There are of course other side's too, it's also about shelter, business, putting your clothes and furniture in, it's about lots of things.

The functional element: architects like Le Corbusier argued that the form should follow from the function. AdB says this has been a great red herring of modernist architecture. Whereas, of course the real function of a building encompasses both sheltering and what John Ruskin calls 'speaking'. He has a lovely quote when he says buildings shouldn't just shelter us, they should speak to us. He says, they should speak to us of all the things that we think are most important and that we need to be reminded of on a daily bases. So the idea is that buildings should be repositories of certain values, ideas, suggestions and that they should reflect these back to us, to inspire us.

The conversation between Nigel Warburton and De Botton covered people who hadn't got much money who were condemned to live in a world of landlord kitsch, that person doesn't have the option of beauty. AdB suggests that this a problem and we should try and fix it.

We discussed the buildings that we thought were beautiful like Venice, Rome, the Victorians etc etc, there is so much beauty in ancient architecture not so much in the modern, we have the Shard, the Cheese Grater, beautiful in their own way I suppose.

On the whole it was an interesting subject, it pulled back the veil of ignorance, once again! The experience of reading about philosophers and their views of the world is quite an eye opener, we have been sometimes shocked, shamed and inspired, in looking at the way we see things and take so much for granted.

If you fancy seeing things from a different perspective, come and join us, just to sit in to see if you like it.

Next month 23rd February is Chapter 19, Barry C. Smith on Wine !!! intriguing! Some extracts where from:

Philosophy Bites, 25 philosophers on 25 intriguing subjects.

We meet on the last Thursday of the month at The Committee Room in Callington Town Hall 10am. Contact

Gillian Brown on 07719360406.

A new group is starting - Cards Galore

This is a new club starting in March where you can play a variety of card games. Some old games like Cribbage, Gin Rummy or Pontoon and newer ones like Sevens and Constellation. Or maybe you have a card game you know and would like to teach the group. Meeting in the Committee room at Callington Town hall. There will be information on the noticeboard at this months meeting or contact Ann Moore on 01579 641674 or email amcalpin007@aol.com for more details.

Date for the diary: the speaker at the March meeting on the 6th  will be Pamela Vass with ‘Breaking the mould’. A talk about the suffragettes’ movement in the south west.

Contacts

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