



Callington Newsletter



February 2019

Our first speaker of 2019 was **Peter Woodward**, the Centre Director of **Sterts** Theatre. He began a really lively and entertaining talk by explaining that **Sterts** got its name from the Pig Farm which originally stood on the land.

Sterts was the creative vision of two teachers – the Sturrocks – who wanted an inclusive village group, run by and for the benefit of the community. Their ambitious idea saw 400 seats in the middle of nowhere being a great success and they were right with 15,000-20,000 people visiting each year.

Sterts began in the open air, set in a natural dip on the old farm land, which was turned into an amphitheatre. Some concrete steps were built around and later some were clad in wood giving slightly more comfort. Local people offered time and tools – digger driving etc., and F. D. Hall, local builders, played a large part and still help to this day. So the vision of ‘by and for the community’ has held fast.

Peter showed photographs of audiences huddled in raincoats in the original amphitheatre and told how stewards would often be required to poke the canvas cover with poles to allow water to run away rather than down the necks of the audience. Perhaps this is the time to mention volunteers are always needed for all sorts of tasks – not necessarily those which require waterproof clothing.

That initial protection was canvas over scaffolding and actually intended to protect the lighting rather than the audience and had to be taken down and put up again daily. This was somewhat tiresome but - in 1992 Gateshead Garden Festival were using a canopy for the last time and the Sturrocks managed to obtain it for Sterts. This allowed for improved lighting and a better experience. That canopy lasted 20 years, although it rattled a bit on windy nights and gained a few pinholes following fireworks at the local pub.

In 2008, a whole panel was lost in a storm. It was repaired from insurance monies but **Sterts** were told they would not be covered for repairs again. Then, they heard about grants for local communities available through the Landfill Tax paid by Waste Collecting Companies. This provided funding for a new canvas with tailor made supports - another community effort involving the local builders. Later, another grant from Landfill allowed an upgrade to the backstage area. Some of the Portakabins from the road works on the A30 were obtained and renovated.

The theatre has in-house community shows which they put into repertory, often involving children from local schools. The 2018 production of *Oliver* was a great hit and we were treated to a short video clip from that and also *Calendar Girls* – another great success.

There is a Studio Theatre with 60 seats for smaller and, perhaps, more avant garde productions. There is always a ‘Last Night at the Proms’ and frequent renditions from the Plymouth Symphony Orchestra. Kneehigh Theatre Group and Show of Hands are regular contributors to the great range of events on the Programme and a permanent Dance School is there for everyone from 3 year olds upwards.

The Programme has something for everyone and can be found on their website www.sterts.co.uk but for me, the main attraction has to be the amazing fulfilment of two people’s extraordinary vision and the obvious dedication and resourcefulness of the community to keep it going.

Penny Beach



GROUP NEWS

Following a recent Group Conveners meeting it was great to hear all our groups are well attended and supported

We currently have 30 groups covering a variety of interests but if your interest isn't catered for, why not start your own group? just talk to one of the committee members.

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

■ Art Appreciation

This month we had presentations on Vincent Van Gogh and David Hockney.

We learned how Vincent was concerned about the poor. He portrayed them through drawings, etchings and paint, in order to draw attention to their circumstances but he was not an activist and didn't agitate on their behalf. His simpler paintings of people at work and at play are delightful. Jean showed us a lot of works outside of the famous ones and we could see Vincent's tormented state in his later life in the twisted trees and swirling clouded skies. Next we heard from Richard about David Hockney's prolific work. From swimming pools to Yorkshire landscapes, via many portraits - of himself, friends and others. A man of many talents he is as good a photographer as he is an artist and produced some amazing results with his iPad. His latest exhibitions have featured very big landscapes with several canvases put together. We marvelled at his ability, his stamina and energy.

Contact Penny Beach - 01822 834756 or 07971 889572

Women Dancing
Vincent Van Gogh

Yorkshire Tree
David Hockney



■ Barn Dancing

The next meeting for the Group will be on Thursday, 7 February at 10.30 am in the Methodist Church. We would be delighted to see you. Muriel and John Alford are taking over as Group conveners and can be contacted

01579 383636

■ Bookworms

Our last meeting of the year was a "bring-a-plate tea. Quite a few Bookworms were away, but we still managed to eat a substantial tea. Our book for the month was "Howards End is on the Landing" by Susanne Hill. It was enjoyed by half of us, and disliked by the other half! Which prompted a lively discussion. It is a ramble through the author's personal book collection, which, as she is both an author and a publisher is quite substantial. I found it particularly suitable for this hectic time of year, as it is in short chapters and each one deals with a different book, many of which I have read.

We have room for a couple of new members if anyone is interested in joining us. It is a friendly group, and you are allowed to say "I hated the book"

Contact Hilary Howarth 382172

■ Events and Outings

Only one event in January - Nine of us went to Launceston to Trethorne Leisure Park for a game of ten pin bowling, great fun. Nothing planned for February but please keep your suggestions for future events coming, anything will be considered if enough members are interested.

Contact Mary Hardy 382775

■ Family History

Our next meeting will be at Eileen's house on 25th February at 2.30pm.

Contact Eileen Sturt 350639

■ Flower Arranging

We will now meet at Pauline Farr's house, the date of next meeting to be arranged

Contact Eileen Sturt 350639

■ Humour

The next meeting of the Humour Group will be on Monday 18th February at 10.15am at Christine's house.

New members welcome.

"A man went to the Doctors because he had a strawberry growing on his head, the Doctor said not to worry as he could give him some cream for it".

Yes I can hear the groans but if you think you could do better why not come to our meeting and give it a try?

Contact Helen Redden 382612

■ Jazz Appreciation

Nine members attended our January Meeting and an enjoyable afternoon was spent listening to some old favourites including Larry Carlton, Jelly Roll Morton, Ted Heath, Lionel Hampton, Louis Armstrong and Stan Kenton.

The February Meeting will be on Wednesday 13th at 2pm at Christine's and as its close to Valentines Day, the theme will be LOVE.

We welcome new members and if you would like any further information, please

Contact Rosemary Wright 370578

■ Philosophy

The philosophy group meets in the town hall on the last Thursday of the month from 10am to 12. Our next meeting will be on Thursday February 28th when we will be discussing the British philosopher Alfred Jules Ayer, quoted as saying, among other things "To predict tomorrow's weather I need not take into account the state of mind of the Emperor of Manchukuo "

New members always welcome!

Contact Sandra West 370231

■ Pub Lunches

Our last pub lunch was at the Rifle Volunteer and about 15 of us enjoyed a delicious lunch there, good choice of tasty dishes all pleasantly served and very good value for money.

Don't forget if you wish to come along to any of these lunches put your name down on the list provided at the monthly meetings each month in advance as most pubs can only accommodate up to 20 members.

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!

We are taking a couple of teams to the quiz evening at Harrow Barrow Village Hall on 9th March and have a few spaces left, so if you're interested in joining us let Mel know.

Contact Mel Hammond 351960

■ Scribblers

Our January theme was 'Strangers on a Train'. We began with a schoolgirl who noticed a man and woman on her train who she had not seen before. When the local bank was robbed, she told her policeman father about it and the crime was solved. A second mystery was that of a woman who began conversing with another and related a strange story about visiting a friend who seemed confused - or was it she herself who was confused?

A family with a sick child were forced on to the train when their car broke down. Two strangers helped in various ways - but it seemed these two strangers had actually met before....

A distressed man was comforted by strangers when he broke down because his dog - a long time companion had died.

A more jolly outing of two sets of aunts, travelling with a niece and nephew respectively, share a table seating area. The two young people chat and find mutual interests - but what happens to the contact details one gives the other in the huff and puff of getting the aunts off the train?

One musician helps another heave her cello into the guards van. They sit together and find they both attended the same Royal College of Music. One learns from the other why her old Professor had fallen from grace and no longer holds a teaching position.

So as you can see, quite a few mysteries developed and along the way we enjoyed some good landscape description and met some interesting people.

Contact Penny Beech 01822 834756 or 07971 889572

■ Strollers

Our first meeting this month was a coffee morning to plan the strolls for the next three months.

The first outing was on a cold but dry Monday morning when we met on Calstock Quay and made our way to Danescome. On the way back we called in at The Boatyard for refreshments, which included delicious home made cakes. Our next stroll will be at Cotehele to see the snowdrops with coffee at the quay.

Contact Pauline Husband 350379

■ Walkers 1

We've had one walk since Christmas, we set off from Calstock to walk through Cotehele Wood up to Albaston with a coffee stop half way up the hill.

We took the Todsworth Farm footpath and walked through Danescombe Woods to Cotehele for lunch.

The weather was kind and we walked off a few of those Christmas indulgences!

Contact Rosy Hanns 0751 5370533



■ Walkers 2

The first walk of 2019 was happily led by Malcolm Davis around Burrator Reservoir as he coped admirably with one or two of us suffering lack of fitness after Xmas and New Year laziness.

The Reservoir is under-going tree clearance and the creating of new paths close to the water's edge which we look forward to using when finished.

We finished the morning off with some refreshments at the Burrator Inn.

Our 2nd walk was a 3 mile circular around Central Park in Plymouth. It was a cold morning and clear enough to see Plymouth Sound in the distance and thankfully we only caught a few spots of rain.

After leaving cars at The Life Centre twenty of us followed the pathway through the Park, passing The Pound House and admiring some amazing carvings created out of tree stumps and a 20th century cider mill. Mel had done some research and provided us with some interesting historical information and facts.

We finished off the morning with coffee/lunch at The Britannia
Contact Lucy Thomas 388799

Wood Carvings



Cider Mill



Speakers at the next few meetings ;

February - Lyn Gould
Daphne du Maurier's Cornwall

March - Rupert Kirkwood
Kayaking, Up the creek and beyond

April - Annual General Meeting
An agenda and nomination papers for new committee members will be available at February's meeting.



Your U3A group needs new members, in particular a new Chairperson, (without one the U3A cannot continue).

None of the roles are arduous and its the opportunity to bring new ideas to the group and have a say as to how things are run.

If you have already served a term on the committee in the past you are still eligible to join again.

Please consider putting your name forward or if you know someone who would be an asset to our current committee complete the nomination sheet, new blood with fresh ideas are always welcome.

Office Contact Details

<i>Chair</i>	<i>Maire Warwick</i>	<i>350711</i>
<i>Vice-Chair</i>	<i>Lucy Thomas</i>	<i>388799</i>
<i>Secretary</i>	<i>Jo Earl</i>	<i>532024</i>
<i>Treasurer</i>	<i>Wendy Fader</i>	<i>01822 835985</i>
<i>Editor</i>	<i>Yvonne Johnson</i>	<i>641357</i>

Find us on FACEBOOK.

Search Callington U3A within Facebook and apply to join.

This is a Closed group, so its only open to members of Callington U3A.

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

If you would like to get more regional and National news from U3A plus details of any study days or workshops being held, sign up for the monthly email newsletter from head Office - www.u3a.org.uk/email

Next newsletter will be available
4th March.
All contributions by 21st February
please email Yvonne
johnsonyvonne1@sky.com