

Dr. Helen Wilson - The Pinwill Sisters.

Some members were heard whispering who are they?

We discovered they were three sisters, Mary, Ethel and Violet who worked as woodcarvers from the 1890s restoring churches throughout Devon and Cornwall that had deteriorated during Victorian times.

Daughters of the Vicar of Ermington Church in South Hams, they were encouraged to become woodcarvers a popular artistic craft women learnt by their mother Elizabeth.

Following fund raising an architect, head carver and joiners were employed to restore Ermington Church. Throughout the work the sisters learnt their trade and produced wonderful carvings. They showed great talent with the mallet and chisel carving elaborate and intricate pieces. Their team was headed by John Sedding an architect, William Giles, Head Carver and Harry Flashman, a joiner.

After their training the sisters opened their own business under the name Rashleigh, Pinwill and Co., Ecclesiastical Carvers in Plymouth. Edmund Sedding took the commissions and worked with the girls to create beautiful carvings for churches in Devon and Cornwall. The chapel screens at Manaton Church and Mary Tavy Church were designed by Sedding and carved by the sisters, here they integrated their new designs with the wooden remains.

In 1900 Mary married and as was normal for the times, she gave up working in the Plymouth business.

In 1911 Ethel, moved to Surrey only to return later and buy the Vicarage in Ermington, her childhood home.

This left Violet as sole proprietor of the thriving business and now employed many craftsmen, their fame spread and the order books were full.

Violet took over new premises and continued to restore church carvings also teaching student carvers one of whom, Charles Gait continued to work with her until her death in 1957.

At the moment there is no biography about the Pinwill Sisters but their work can be admired in 185 churches in Devon and Cornwall. Helen showed us some beautiful examples from Truro Cathedral, Landulph Church, St Ives Church, and Crantock. So if you are out and about visiting churches see if you can spot Pinwill pulpits, choir and alter screens. They are definately worth a good look.

Rosemary Shatford

The altar screen at Crantock



New Members meeting - Thursday 23rd May

Meeting was very well attended with around 10 new members joining some of the committee and conveners in The Council Chambers at the Town Hall. Some of the conveners gave a short summary of what the groups do and where they meet etc and sign up sheets were available for interested members. Saffron buns and biscuits were served with tea and coffee and everyone enjoyed the morning. Many thanks to Cyndy, Roy and other committee members who helped to organise and make a success



First Aid Course

This free two part course was delivered by The Red Cross and those members who attended found very informative. There is a possibility of organising this course again later in the year for any members who would like to attend. Please let me know if you are interested.

Summer Outing to Exmouth - Monday 1st July

Please contact Karen if you have any dietary requirements. Wheelchairs are accessible on the boat but passengers must be able to vacate whilst boarding, please let Karen know if you are taking one

Contact Karen Rose - kp.rose12@gmail.com

The Theatre Royal - July 17th

A behind the scenes tour with afternoon tea has been confirmed, Exact numbers and payment required in June, please see Mary.

Speakers at the next few meetings:

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

July - Summer Outing - Exmouth

August - Terry Faull - Holy Wells of Devon & Cornwall

NEWS from our groups

► Art Appreciation

This month John gave us a presentation about Photography. It was fascinating and comprehensive, starting from the origins in the 18th century using camera obscura in a smaller way than those we know about now - those large round buildings on hilltops. John spoke of the uneasy atmosphere between artists and photographers and, indeed, competition amongst the latter. Images were being produced but no-one could find a way to 'fix' a negative image for reproduction. When Henry Fox-Talbot learned that Louis Daguerre was successfully making and selling one off images on silver plated sheets of

copper, known as Daguerreotypes, it pushed him on to find an answer. Famously, he did and with a negative image that could be produced for multiple positives, the science was advanced. Making our way through portrait photography which put the miniaturist artists out of work, War and Travel photography recorded the wider world and magazine and book engravers began to be out of work.

I don't have space here to do justice to John's presentation, suffice it to say we then went from famous Victorians, the invention of the Leica camera making focus much better, to Henri Cartier-Bresson and the Surrealists and a present day group known as Hyperrealists (I have yet to google them) who produce paintings which resemble high resolution photographs. Full circle!

Contact Penny Beach - 01822 834756 or 07971 889572

Louis Daguerre

By John J E Mayall 1846



Cartier Bresson



► Baking

Herbs and spices were the theme for our last session and although we were only a small group I think between us we must have used practically every one! There were meatballs containing thyme, parsley, paprika, oregano and basil. Quiche with marjoram and dill, risotto with cloves and biscuits with coriander, ginger, cardamom, cinnamon, aniseed and pepper.

Next month is our annual picnic in Pillaton park so fingers crossed for good weather please. This group is now full but to be put on our waiting list, or start another group please

Contact Jenny Wheeley 351662

► Crime Fiction

Conspiracy, fraud and blackmail were some of the crimes we read about last month, along with a good dose of murder in various ingenious ways. It's noticeable that Scandi crime is not quite as popular at the moment but that's maybe because we're heading towards Summer and we prefer to stay away from the cold and ice for a while. Ann Cleeves is still a popular easy read and Michael Connelly is more of a "marmite" author.

If you enjoy crime fiction and want to share books

Contact Jenny Wheeley 351662

► Events and Outings

We enjoyed a visit to Cotehele where we had our own private tour guide - Mary Hardy. After wandering around the gardens we ventured into the house and Mary shared her knowledge with us making for a very interesting visit.

Next visit is Lethyep near East Taphouse then in June 3 National Trust visits planned; Lanhydrock, Trelissick and

Castle Drogo and one confirmed in July before having a break during the school holidays.

Other outings have been suggested for June/July with dates to be confirmed. The Plymouth Gin tour, The Citadel in Plymouth, Lundy Island (long day that one).

Contact Mary Hardy 382575 through Facebook and U3A web site or sign up sheet at the Monday meeting

▶ Game On

This was a fun day for twelve members, six of whom played a version of Rummikub and six a noisy game of Sequence in the shade of Lucy's new gazebo. Tasty rock buns and carrot cake kindly provided by Maggie and Helen with tea and coffee and plenty of chat finished off the very happy afternoon

▶ Humour

The next meeting of the Humour Group will be on Monday 17th June at 10.15am and will be held at Christine Goldie's house.

Contact: Helen Redden 382612

'As you get older three things happen. The first is your memory goes and I can't remember the other two.'

'Never put off until tomorrow what you can do the day after'

▶ Jazz Appreciation

The May meeting of Jazz enthusiasts was full of old favourite artists including, Count Basie, Miles Davis, National Youth Orchestra, John Lee Hooker, Chris Barber, Sidney Bechet and Stan Getz to mention just a few. Our next Meeting will be at Christine's on Wednesday 12th June. At 2pm.

Contact Rosemary Wright 370578

▶ Music Appreciation

An enjoyable afternoon in the company of The Elgar violin concerto, a favourite concerto, in B minor. A young Yehudi Menuhin played the violin and Sir Edward Elgar conducted the London symphony orchestra. on 14th and 15th July 1932.

The next Music will be in July.

Contact Pat Ferguson 384402

▶ Opera

The Opera Group will begin again on the 18th June at Carol's house.. For the first three sessions we invite those who would like to know more about opera and want to learn about different composers, different styles and to find out from where, all those arias which are so familiar to you fit into the grand order of things. To this end we will revisit some well-known opera starting with Puccini's Madam Butterfly followed by Carmen, Bizet and The Barber of Seville by Rossini. All the operas have English sub titles and a synopsis as well as a biography of the composers which will help you familiarise yourself with both the settings and the composers themselves.

Please let me know if you are coming so I can set up the seating The Big Screen is now in position but there will not be any usherette service !!

We meet at 2pm on the third Tuesday of each month

Contact Carol Dowell 382158 forse1946@hotmail.co.uk

▶ Philosophy

At our April meeting Rosemary Ralph led the discussion on Ludwig Wittgenstein and his philosophical ideas around our use and meaning of language. Wittgenstein's philosophy led us on to think about modern day adaptation of language and how we can see it changing through the use of social media. At the next meeting we will talk about Karl Popper and Thomas Kuhn. Meetings in the town hall last Thursday of the month.

Contact Sandra West 370231

▶ Poetry

At our May meeting we indulged ourselves by reading some of our favourite poems from a selection of poets: Shakespeare in the 16th century and many of the classic 18th and 19th through to 20th century and John Betjeman.

The next meeting is to be TBC.

Contact Pat Ferguson 01579 384402

▶ Pub Lunch

Nineteen happy (exuberant) members were treated to delicious food provided by the Cheesewring Hotel, Minions where we were made very welcome. Already we have booked a return visit later in the year.

Our next pub lunch will be at The Royal Inn, Horsebridge

Contact Lucy Thomas 388799

▶ Rummikub

Another couple of lovely afternoons playing Rummikub this month and we welcomed a new member who joined in the fun, Mel and Ken brought their new version of the numbers game purchased in Florida with new Joker tiles making the game even more enjoyable. Rummikub is a tile based game for up to 4 players and can be played with numbers or letters. It combines elements of the card game Rummy & Mahjong or Scrabble if playing with letters.

Contact Susan Morris 370542

▶ Scribblers

We were tasked to write a story around a nursery rhyme and we all managed a different one which was good.

A meteorite smashing through a house and leaving something twinkling in its wake - a little star maybe, or a diamond?

Little Boy Blue had grown up, was a factory owner and now kept his sheep and cows in his pies - but there was trouble with the horn which called workers to clock in and out and the new EU rules.

We had an interesting mix of children's stories with Goldilocks found in the Three Bears House whilst they had been out at a Picnic in the woods.

Jack and Jill Mills at Clayton in East Sussex featured in a memoir which stated clearly that whilst the hill up to it was very steep - luckily no-one had fallen down - to date at least.

There was no well there either - only dew ponds.

Lady Mary's garden restoration went fairly well except for the North Walk which was being very contrary and the latest pretty maid failed to get to grips with the original plan.

Dr Foster had a mid-life crisis and was heading for an affair, he thought. Unfortunately all he headed for was an unguarded

manhole cover and he fell in up to his waist. His potential new love thought this very funny and he returned home very wet, vowing not to go down that avenue again.

A vintage toy, in need of restoration, proved a challenge for the restorer who had trouble sourcing black sheep wool. Eventually finding an outlet from a small flock owned by Lord and Lady Armstrong, she negotiated one of the last three bags left and completed the task. The little boy for whom it was destined was thrilled.

Next meeting on 20th June sees us receiving a letter.....was it anticipated with pleasure or dread, a lovely surprise, or perhaps it will sit behind the clock for a while before it's opened? We'll see what happens.

Contact Penny Beech 1822 834756 or 07971 889572.

pennybeech@googlemail.com

► Strollers

Pauline and Mary would like to say a **HUGE** Thank You for the beautiful flowers they were given after stepping down as group conveners. It was a lovely surprise which was much appreciated. Best wishes go to Pauline and Lesley who have taken over.

Just one walk in May, Calstock to Danescombe, a historical area so called following an alliance between Cornwall and the Viking Danes to resist a Saxon attack on East Cornwall.

Our walk was lined with an abundance of wild flowers and daisies (Mexican Fleabane) spilling over the walls and along the lane. Beside the Quay House Martins excitedly flocked along the water's edge and a barge lay in wait, preparing for a gentle sail along the Tamar.

As always the stunning backdrop of the Calstock Viaduct remains one of the Tamar's most beautiful structures being built by Liskeard engineer John Lang (c. 1905). Morning coffee at the Boatyard was enjoyed by all and offered us a final chance to take in the views across the river to Devon.

Three walks planned for June; the moorland around Pensilva, the church at St Mellion, and a train trip to Looe.

Contact Pauline Abbiss 01579 386850

Calstock



Wild Flowers



► Walkers 1

Five members of Walkers 1 set off from Lantic Bay car park to Bodinnick, passing through the bluebells and wild garlic lining the paths. We paused at the memorial to Sir Arthur Quiller Couch and took in the views of Fowey and Polruan, stopping at Pont Quay for lunch then visiting Lanteglos Church and getting back to the cars before the rain came

Contact Rosy Hanns 0751 5370533

Memorial to Sir Arthur Quiller Couch



Lantic Bay



► Walkers 2

Mel and Ken Hammond organised a trip to the Barbican, Plymouth. 24 walkers left Callington in a convoy of 5 cars headed for Plymouth park and Ride then bused to Royal Parade. Our first stop was to the Theatre Royal where we took in the new sculpture 'The Messenger'. Amid various comments on this new landmark we posed for a few photos before wandering along to the anchor from the Ark Royal and then onto Elliot Street where Arthur Conan Doyle once lodged and Lady Nancy Aster the first lady MP lived.

A brief history of Smeatons Tower, statues of Francis Drake and Britannia before making our way to The Barbican, the Mayflower Steps and the Gin factory. The Tudor Rose cafe was our lunch venue where we sat outside in the sunshine before making our way back to Callington.

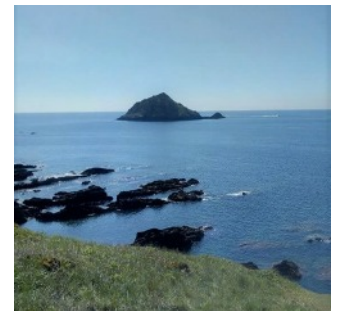
Mary Hardy led us on a 2nd walk in Devon at Wembury, a first time walk for the group which Mary spotted from a news item via the National Trust. From Wembury Beach car park we took the coastal path passing fields and the former HMS Cambridge site looping back around Heybrook Bay to take in the views of Mewstone. We then enjoyed some refreshments at the former mill which is now a cafe right on the beach

Contact Lucy Thomas 388799

The Messenger



Mewstone



Find us on FACEBOOK. - Callington U3A

Dont forget to visit the website

www.u3asites.org.uk/Callington

Next newsletter will be available
July 1st.

All contributions by 20th June
please email Yvonne
johnsonyvonne1@sky.com