

Your U3A Needs a Secretary

The position of Secretary is important (and not onerous)

Below is an overview of what it entails;

- To be the link with the National Office and to ensure information is relayed to the committee and passed on to membership.

- To send out agendas in good time
- To take action as required following the meeting

- To deal with correspondence following discussion with the Chairman

- To be the point of contact and reference for members and prospective members.

Skills required are an ability to communicate well by telephone, email and face to face and to be or-

ganised.

NO minutes taking is required.

Our U3A is full of members, male and female, who could easily take on this necessary role.

Please contact our Chairman and put your name forward to join our committee.

2015 AGM...

This year's Annual General Meeting, held on 13th April, was very well attended.. It began in the traditional manner with the Chairman, David Seward, opening the meeting, welcoming members and receiving apologies. The Secretary then read the minutes of the last year's AGM Annual General Meeting.

The Chairman then gave his report on the year, highlighting that our U3A now had over 180 members and over 30 constantly evolving interest groups. He mentioned the loss of the Cricket Club as a venue for the foreseeable future and also the possible closure of the parking area. In covering the events of the year, he mentioned the successful WW1 Commemoration Day in August and the "Food for Thought", Study Day in October, which had attracted some 65 delegates, including representation from other U3As in the area. The Chairman then thanked the committee for their hard work, efficiency and commitment during the year, highlighting in particular the commitment of retiring committee members: Maggie Wood for her accuracy as Treasurer, Marian Watson for organising the speakers, Rosemary Wright for her work as Publicity Officer, Helen Redden for her sterling job as Hospitality Officer and Ann Henderson for her work as Secretary.

The Secretary then spoke briefly to thank

everyone for their support and for helping to share her workload as Secretary during what has been a difficult year for her due to twice breaking her leg.

The Treasurer's Report drew members' attention to the statement of accounts. This raised some queries from the floor as to the reason for keeping such a large bank balance. The Chairman responded by stating that the committee expected to make some fairly expensive purchases of equipment during the coming year, specifically to replace the projector and to purchase a laptop for Secretary. At this point the Chairman put forward the proposal from the Committee to raise the subs by 50p. This gave rise to a very lively debate leading to a number of proposals and counter-proposals. In the end, members voted to keep the subs as they had been for the previous 2 years and to assess the impact on the cash balances next year.

There then followed a further Resolution from the Committee to raise the cost of tea and coffee from the current 20p to 50p. The debate which followed echoed the arguments of the previous debate and again, by a show of hands, members agreed to maintain the cost for tea and coffee at 20p.

After the excitement of the high finance debates, the meeting returned to the more

mundane procedure of electing Executive Officers and members of the Committee, all of whom were elected unopposed.

These were:

David Seward for the office of Chairman

**Jenny Wheeley as Vice Chairman
Ian Macdonald as Treasurer**

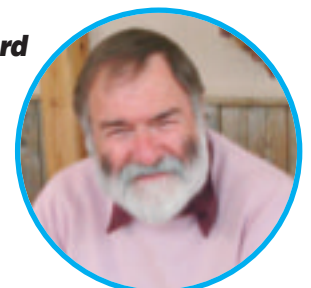
**Penny Beech; Colin Mills; Jill Brown;
Mary Hardy; Ann Ellard; Jane Black;
Peter Watson.**

Despite many pleas, there were no volunteers for the position of secretary and this remains vacant.

Following the election of officers and the auditor, the Chairman thanked retiring members of the committee, on behalf of the members, and presented them with bouquets of flowers.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 1140 hours and members proceeded to enjoy much needed refreshments of traditional Cornish fare of saffron cake and scones and clotted cream, with their tea or coffee.

David Seward



Group Reports

■ Allotments

Two allotments are being cultivated.

Contact Ann Martin

■ Art

The Art group has moved to a more attractive room, basically on the first and third Thursday of the month. However this may occasionally have to change due to non-availability of the room and any such changes will be posted in advance here and on the website.

Contact Tony Walpole 833082

■ Baking

A good time was had by all at our Easter meeting with a wide variety of tasty bakes and an almost full attendance (except for yours truly!). Our next meeting is at lunchtime on May 13th at Marian's when we shall be producing Continental breads.

Our June meeting is on June 3rd and is a picnic, venue to be arranged.

Contact Jenny Wheeley 351662

■ Birding Group

Thurlestone

Seven of us went to Thurlestone where we had a cloudy start that turned to sunshine. Again Thurlestone turned up trumps and we saw a good number of different species. Of particular interest was The **Ruddy Shelduck** that had been on the



Thurlestone website for at least a month. The normal shelduck is a mixture between a duck and a goose. When in the water it is more like a duck but when on land more like a goose. It is larger than most ducks. It is mostly bold black and white with a glossy-green head and neck and a chestnut breast band. The ruddy shelduck is the same colour all over but my colleagues as-

sured me that it was more sandy than ruddy. Of equal interest was a whimbrel, which we heard before we saw later. At a glance a whimbrel could be mistaken for a curlew. The colouration is similar and both have long downward curving beaks. However if seen together the curlew is noticeably larger and has longer beak. We saw some swallows, which hadn't arrived in my patch at the time and heard a number of chiffchaffs which had appeared at home. Yet another good day out.

In May we are spreading our wings farther afield and going to the Somerset Levels. We are meeting at 8.00am in the FCP on Tuesday 12th May. This will be a whole day outing.

Contact Keith Lane 370713

■ Bookworms

Bohumil Hrabal's - "I served the King of England"

was the book we read for April's meeting. At first it appeared daunting with a rather off putting forward, but once the novel started we all enjoyed it with various degrees of enthusiasm. It follows the life of "Ditie" (a small in stature lad) who starts work in a Prague hotel before the second world war. He manages to progress upward more by chance than anything. There are some quite graphic sexual episodes as he encounters the local "ladies", then follows him through the war, marriage and after the war his encounters with communism. We would recommend this book if you enjoy a thought provoking read -

Contact Hilary Howarth 382172

hilary.howarth@btinternet.com

■ Bridge

The Bridge Group is now meeting every Tuesday evening at 7.30 pm, in the Methodist Church. Please use the side entrance in Valentine Place. Parking is available at the rear of the church.

Contact Roy Burrige 389018

■ Computer Group

The computer group operates as a self help group. If you've a problem come along and see if we can help. We don't have a set agenda it all depends who turns up. Please bring your lap top or tablet if you have one and we can explore the computing world together.

This month topics the group explored included;

1. Cleaning up unwanted files, cookies and old programmes all of which slow your machine.

2. Using a carcam to capture video.

3. Setting up a google email address.

4. Using cloud storage to share photos.

We meet in members houses so please ask me where to meet. This normally takes place on the third Thursday morning of the month. The next meeting will be on the 15th May at 10.00.

Contact : Peter Watson 384509

■ Cornish Art & Literature

A small group of us met in the Council Chambers on the 20th April. We started with Derek Tangye amazingly two us us brought books by Derek Tangye. He and his wife Jeannie moved to a tumbledown cottage on the Lizard, it was called Minack not to be confused with the Minack Theatre. They moved from a sophisticated life in London where Derek was a journalist and ex MI5 officer, his wife was a PA for the Savoy and other hotels. They grew daffodils, wrote books and improved their home. Against the odds they stayed with visitsto London and friends visiting to help alleviate the hard work of the smallholder. Their life and animals were the centre of their world - they had no children. Amongst the many titles were 'A Gull on the Roof', 'A Cat at the Window' and 'A Donkey in the Meadow' - these books are not in the modern style and are considered sentimental, but still worth reading.

We returned to Arther Quiller-Couch the famous Q, whose whole family were talented - omitting his wife who remained in the shadows. He was a Director of Education in Cornwall, Mayor of Fowey and Commodore of Fowey Yacht Club - showing his range of interests and influence.

Next R. M. Ballantyne (famous for The Coral Island) who was definitely not Cornish but visited Cornwall in order to write a book 'Deep Down a Tale of Cornish Mines'. This was a fictional story but based on his research in to Tin and Copper mining while staying in St. Just.

Our next meeting on the 18th May will be a visit to the village of Minions on Bodmin Moor. We will meet there at 11 o'clock and visit The Hurlers and a few other sites and will take lunch at a Minions hostelry. Some of Poldark was shot in the village and Tim Burton has tried to shoot some of his film 'Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiars' -

however the weather was too good , he has retreated and will return when it rains!

Contact Anita & Tony Bowden
Joint Co-ordinators 350668

■ Crime Fiction Appreciation

We have had 2 meetings since the last newsletter went to press. In March, 8 members gathered at Lucy's house to discuss our latest reading. Books by many authors were discussed, many now very familiar names, but 2 new ones were discussed – Terry Hayes and Nicholas Sparks. All enjoyed Dave's delicious lemon cake with tea. At an early April meeting, 10 members met and among the less familiar authors discussed were Lesley Horton, Mark Sennen and Hannah French. Tea this time featured Anita's lovely orange cupcakes. For more details of authors, check out the Crime Fiction page on the Callington U3A website. May's meeting will be on Thursday 28rd May, 2pm at Lucy's house. If you are interested in joining us to discuss or learn more about crime fiction, please contact me

David Seward 384631

■ Italian

Contact: Sally Thomas 01822 832017

■ Family History

Brought forward one week because of Half term, from the fourth Monday to the third, for May only. That is, May 18th not May 25th. At Eileen's as usual, at 2.30pm.

Contact: Eileen Sturt 350639

■ Flower Arranging

No meeting in May. June meeting to be re-scheduled. Members will be contacted.

Contact: Eileen Sturt 350639

■ Food & Wine

This group visited the Riverford Field Kitchen at Buckfastleigh on 23rd April after having been inspired by the presentation about the Riverford Company on the last study day. We had a lovely three course lunch featuring the fresh organic vegetables grown on the Riverford farms. The desserts were all homemade and delicious making it most difficult to make a choice so some of us shared in order to be able to enjoy more than one! I am planning to arrange a trip to one of our local Cornish Cheese makers later in the year, possibly combined with a pub lunch or supper. Let me know if you have any other ideas for future events.



Contact Maire Warwick 350711
(maire.warwick@btinternet.com)

■ Game On

We are taking a break until Autumn.

Contact Jenny Wheeley 351662

■ Handbells

Contact Maire Warwick 350711

■ History

For details,

Contact Josephine King 350890

■ Humour

The April Humour session was postponed and will therefore move to Monday May 18th beginning at 10.am in Christine Goldie's house. For more information contact Keith Lane at 370713 or email kandslane@hotmail.com .

Sally, a teenager, had been talking on the phone for almost half an hour and then she hung up.

'Crikey!' responded her father, 'That was short, darling, you usually talk for 2 hours or more. What happened?'

'Oh,' Sally smiled, 'It was a wrong number.'

Contact Keith Lane 370713

■ Italian

The current members will be meeting in our homes while the cricket club is out of action.

Anyone interested in joining will need to wait until the cricket club is open again.

Sally Thomas 01822 832017

■ Jazz Appreciation

For April's meeting, 10 of us gathered again at Christine's house for members' choice afternoon. In a varied session, among others, we heard piano jazz from

Andre Previn, Fats Waller, Oscar Petersen, Art Tatum, vocals from Billie Holliday, Ella Fitzgerald, Peggy Lee and Claire Teal and big band music from Glen Miller, Tommy Dorsey and Duke Ellington. We were also introduced to a couple of new names – Charles Lloyd and Scot Hamilton. Next month's meeting, at 2pm on Wed 13th May, at Christine's house, will be another members' choice selection. If you are interested in joining us for an afternoon of jazz, contact

David Seward 384631

■ Music Appreciation

The next meeting will be on May 12th at 12 Trelawney Heights

Contact: Pat Ferguson 384402

■ Needlework

Normally meet on the second Thursday of the month.

Details from Ann Martin

■ Opera

Our last opera of the season was Don Giovanni by Mozart from The Royal Opera House London. The music of this classic is memorable, dramatic and seductive as it tells the story of Don Giovanni's conquests and the revenge sought by his victims and their assorted relatives which results in his final retribution. A thoroughly enjoyable afternoon spent with an old favourite. Next season we will be concentrating on the works of Wagner and The Ring Cycle with a little light relief sometimes.

Opera returns in September

Contact Carol Dowell 382158

■ Philosophy

Existentialism was our history topic for today and was the most fashionable philosophy in Europe immediately following WW2. The chapter read by the group was on whether God exists and the arguments for and against. Our general topic was morality and our reactions to tragedies around the globe, including the present one in Nepal. Lastly it was interesting to see that everyone present was going to, or already had, voted in the General Election which confirmed the general consensus that it is the older generation who feel it their duty to do so. We had a new member join today which will take our number to 12. Our next meeting will be on May 28th, again in the Council Chamber.

Contact: Doreen Johnson 343152
doreen.johnson@onetel.com

■ Play Reading

Contact Jean Rose 350029

■ Poetry

The next Meeting is on May 8th at 12 Trelawney Heights as the first Friday is Good Friday

Contact Pat Ferguson 384402

■ Scrabble

The group, led by Lesley Cheetham at her home, meets in the evening on the third Wednesday of each month.

Contact Lesley Cheetham

■ Scribblers

Details from: Anne Cooper 382267

■ Singing for Pleasure

The 'Singing for Pleasure' group will meet on Monday May 11th and Monday May 25th at Callington Methodist Church 3.30 - 5 pm.

Contact: Rosalind Bunkum 383171

■ Strollers

Contact: Pauline Husband 350379

■ Table Tennis

We meet once every 4 weeks for a couple of hours of good fun and exercise. All equipment is provided and you don't need to be an expert, just enthusiastic. You can check the website or ask for details.

Contact Ray Geatches 350638

■ Walking Group 1

Contact : Ann Martin

■ Walking Group 2

Contact: Lucy Thomas 350018

Chuckles

From the Humour Group...

1

A man while walking in a graveyard hears the Third Symphony being played backwards. When it's over, the Second Symphony starts playing, also backwards, and then the First. "What's going on?", he asks a cemetery worker. "It's Beethoven," says the worker. "He's decomposing."

~ Jeremy Hone

2

At the busy dental office where I work, one patient was always late. Once, when I called him to confirm his appointment, he said, "I'll be about 15 minutes late. That won't be a problem, will it?" "No," I told him - "We just won't have time to give you an anesthetic."*He arrived early.*

~ Terri Spaccarotelli

This month's puzzle:

1 >			BiWord May 1 Down: short advertisement
1 Across:			
Surprise, sympathy, pleasure			

Answer to last month's puzzle:

1 >	e	n	BiWord April 1 Down: Not anymore!
	b		
1 Across:			
Tide's almost out but not quite			

Email your answer to me: colin-mills@talktalk.net

The first correct answer received will be immortalised in print in next month's issue.

Last month's triumphant winner: Mr John Doe.

Officer Contact Numbers

Chairman: David Seward t: 384631

Vice Chair: Jenny Wheeley t: 351662

Secretary: VACANCY

Treasurer: Ian MacDonald t: 351221

Editor: Colin Mills t: 208529

Email: colin-mills@talktalk.net

Group Leaders and other contributors - Please Note: All Copy to the editor by 25th of the preceding month please.

(N.B. I cannot guarantee inclusion of copy submitted after this date - but exceptions will be made wherever possible for groups meeting in the fourth week of the month)

The Newsletter is published at the start of each month.

Have you checked out the website?:

www.callingtonu3a.org.uk

Copies of these Newsletters can be found on the above website

N.B. Phone numbers without dialling codes are for the 01579 area.

Speakers at Future Meetings:

■ June 1st

'The Building of the Plymouth Breakwater' Ron Smith

■ July 6th

'Turner in the Tamar'

Dorothy Kirk

■ August 3rd

Talk and entertainment entitled 'Down Memory Lane'

Dorothy Willatt (singer) and John Ware (keyboard)