



Dancing Queen



October's speaker was Eileen Line, known professionally as Elaine Clifford, a dizzy but delightful lady (her own description from her professional years) who entertained us from beginning to end. The theatre had always been a part of Eileen's life, having travelled with her parents in their musical shows. Eileen started dance lessons as a very small child and decided that it would be the only life for her.

Eileen's first audition was for Bernard Delfont to be part of the Sherman Fisher Dancers. Pay was low, digs basic and working hours were long and hard (a continuing theme), but Eileen loved every minute of it. As Elaine Clifford, further tours followed, including one with the famous Tiller Girls. John Tiller started the troupe in 1890 with his Tiller Dance School. The Tiller Girls were in great demand, touring throughout Europe and the U.S.A. Girls could only join the troupe as competent dancers, after which it took three months to train them to be Tiller Girls!

Elaine continued with work in panto and summer shows. This included work in Leeds and Bradford (at the Alhambra Theatre) at a time when "all the buildings were black and the people white". Eventually, Elaine auditioned for the Bluebell Dancers based in Paris and run by Margaret Kelly, a formidable woman with very strict rules about how the dancers were to behave. "She made Mary Robinson seem like Mary Poppins" and never praised but always criticised. When the girls went to Paris for three weeks rehearsals, Miss Bluebell

was very disapproving of their physical appearance. Her comment was that the girls had better be good dancers to make up for their looks or they would be out. Elaine completed the rehearsal period successfully and went on to work in Brussels, seven days a week, two performances a day (1300 to 0030 everyday). Miss Bluebell continued to rule with a rod of iron, even having spies in the troupe to report back about all the girls said and did.

Eventually, Elaine met up with one of her fellow Tiller Girls and they decided to form a musical comedy duo, The Two High Spots – dancing for your delight. They worked up a routine of glamour dancing and comedy but they had trouble selling it to theatrical agents, as girls were not expected to do comedy. That was the preserve of male comedians! Fortunately for them, the Americans were not so prejudiced and they were booked for their topical show entertaining the troops in Germany. They continued working for the Americans in the U.K. in The Boyfriend. After her partner married, Elaine worked up her own musical comedy, auditioning for a summer season. Here she met Bruce Forsythe with whom she loved working. Elaine continued with musical comedy for several seasons working with other famous names including Ted Rogers and Gordon Peters. She gave up touring when she married but continued to dance.

Marian Watson

Group Reports

■ Allotment

Two allotments are being cultivated.

Contact Ann Martin

■ Art

We're working on a study/demo day: details to follow

Contact Tony Walpole

■ Baking

Despite there only being five of us at our last meeting there was plenty on offer. Savoury dishes included cheese and bacon rolls, muffins and cheese and marmite straws while our sweet cravings were satisfied with cheese cake and curd tarts. As usual after eating and discussing we put the world to rights so another good morning was had by all. A big Thank you to Mike for hosting.

Next meeting Wednesday December 17th.

Contact Jenny Wheeley 351662

■ Birding Group

Millbrook lake, St John's lake & Torpoint

October 14 2014

Five of us went birding today and had a wonderful time in sunshine with great scenery all around. The island in the middle of the lake at Millbrook was smothered by over a hundred birds, most of them were Black-headed Gulls, when we arrived and someone spotted the only Greenshank amongst the throng. With so much to see we hardly moved in the first half hour. We ambled around the lake and had a different view of Millbrook. When we got back to the car we sat watching the birds whilst we had elevenses. We then moved on to Torpoint where we saw some waders whilst we ate lunch. A walk along the river gave us an opportunity to see both a Rock Pipit and a Meadow Pipit at the same time. Wherever we stopped we saw eight or nine Little Egrets. This was another very good day out.

On Tuesday November 11th we are heading for Slapton Ley. Meet in the FCP at 9.00am. For more information :

Contact Keith Lane 370713

■ Bookworms

Our Book for this month was *Life after Life* by Kate Atkinson. The novel has an unusual structure, repeatedly looping back in time to describe alternative possible lives for its central character Ursula Todd. Each time she dies, the author resurrects her and set her on one of the many alternative courses that her destiny might have taken.

Most of the members agreed that the book was expertly written and most enjoyable, but rather confusing to follow.

The date of the next meeting will be on Friday 21st November at 28 Trelawney Road at 2 pm.

Rosemary Wright

Contact Carol Dowell 382158

■ Bridge

Bridge Group meets 7.30 pm. at the Cricket Club every Tuesday except the first Tuesday each month.

Contact Roy Burrige 389018

■ Computer Group

I was at the co-ordinators meeting this

month but thanks to Mike Tagg for steering members in the right direction at the meeting.

Topics discussed included:

a. mirroring a laptop to TV, and the use of HDMI leads to connect laptops to TVs

b. backups, and clearing Junk, programs discussed included Carbon Copy Cloner, Clean my Mac, and Acronis True Image

The group is keeping things simple and respond to issues which U3A members bring to the group.

Members are requested to bring their laptops or tablets along so that have a shared learning experience.

We continue to meet at a members house because of the availability of broadband, biscuits and tea.

If you wish to come along contact myself, Peter Watson, for details of where we meet.

Our next meeting will be Thursday 20th November at 10.00am

Contact : Peter Watson 384509

■ Cornish Art & Literature

We had a well attended meeting on the 14th October.

This covered the Cornish Wonder, John Opie, who was born in humble circumstances in Cornwall; but due to his prodigious talent rose to become the Professor of Painting at the Royal Academy. His paintings which are rather dark oils are now not fashionable. Some of his paintings can be seen at St. Michael's Mount. We also saw some pictures by Linda and Roger Garland, illustrations for *Lord of the Rings* by Tolkien. They can be seen at the Lezant Gallery near Treburley. We were also introduced to Kurt Jackson who travelled the world before settling in the South West and producing some iconic paintings – *The Tinnens Way*, etc. Yet another painter with a very different style who has lived and worked in Penzance for many years, Michael Praed, whose work could be considered the opposite of John Opie. The written word was represented by Rosamund Pilcher an author who has produced an amazing amount of work, some of which has been made into TV Programmes and films and is remarkably popular in Germany. We then looked at sung poetry namely Carols. Many Carols were written in Cornwall and the West

Country, often unaccompanied and the tradition of unaccompanied singing is continued today.

Our next meeting is on the 10th November 2pm to 4pm at the Cricket Club.

**Contact Anita & Tony Bowden
Joint Co-ordinators 350668**

■ Crime Fiction Appreciation

For September's Crime Fiction meeting 8 of us gathered to discuss our latest reading. Among borrowed books returned, were those by Tana French, Nikki French, Donna Leon, C J Samson, Colin Dexter and Anthony Horowitz. Among new books discussed were those by Peter May, Mark Billingham, Kathy Reichs, Nevada Barr, Janet Evanovitch, John Harvey and Nicholas Blake. Thanks to Dave and Pam Barnet for providing the delicious coffee cake to go with our tea. November's meeting will be on Thursday 27th November, 2pm at Cricket Club. If you are interested in joining us to discuss or learn more about crime fiction, please contact me :

David Seward 384631

■ Family History

The November meeting will be at Eileen's home as usual, on November 24th.

Contact: Eileen Sturt 350639

■ Flower Arranging

Members will be contacted to rearrange the date.

Contact: Eileen Sturt 350639

■ Food & Wine

As I shall be away for much of November and December, I have not planned any events before Christmas. However, if anyone else wants to organise something, please go ahead. Rhodes at the Dome has some special offers at the moment, look on their website if you are interested. After Christmas many of the local restaurants have some very good deals to attract winter trade so I will be hoping to arrange a couple of lunches then. Also, I thought it might be good to visit the Riverford restaurant after the interesting presentation we had from them on the recent Study Day. I am always looking for new ideas for events so let me know if you think of any.

Contact Maire Warwick 350711

■ Game On

Next meetings are Sunday November 9th and 23rd, 2.30 at Lucy's house.

Contact Jenny Wheeley 351662

■ Handbells



This group attended the Lamerton Handbell Festival recently and were delighted to be awarded the trophy for the most improved team. They also gained a very creditable third place in the tune ringing competition, beating some much more experienced teams. This is a small group with only 6 members who worked very hard to achieve this, especially as finding a time when everyone is available to practise is far from easy! It would be lovely to have a few more members, if only to fill in when others are away, but we would be able to ring a wider variety of music with extra pairs of hands. Please contact me if you are interested or would like to come along to watch and listen.

Contact Maire Warwick 350711

■ History

For details,

Contact Josephine King 350890

■ Humour

The introductory meeting was held at 10am on Monday 20th October in the cricket club. There were eleven of us present and we had a constructive and enjoyable session. We agreed to the structure of sessions and to follow normal standards of decency in our attempts at creating humour. The meetings will begin at 10.15am on the third Monday of the month. The next meeting will be on 17th

November 2014.

Contact Keith Lane 370713

■ Italian

The date and time for the next Italian Group is Wed 12th Nov 9:00 to 10:00 am in the Cricket Club. We are having an Italian Christmas lunch on Wednesday 10th December.

Sally Thomas 01822 832017

■ Jazz Appreciation

For October's meeting, 10 of us met for a themed session based on saxophonist Stan Getz. We listened to a Jazz Library interview about his career from his early days with Woody Herman's swing orchestra, through various line-ups he formed with other musicians, to his solo days. Many may remember his playing on the 60s Astrid Gilberto hit record 'The Girl from Ipanema'. We followed this with other tracks of his plus music from Nina Simone, Dizzy Gillespie and Oscar Peterson. Next month's meeting, on Wed 12th November, will be another members' choice session. 2.30 at the Cricket Club. If you are interested in joining us, contact

David Seward 384631

■ Music Appreciation

No music appreciation in December.

Contact Pat Ferguson 384402

■ Needlework

Normally meet on the second Thursday of the month.

Details from Ann Martin

■ Opera

Opera will be with Music for the third week in November.

Contact Carol Dowell 382158

■ Philosophy

We will briefly look at the difference between Eastern and Western Philosophy and go over terminology used so far, before we move on to the serious question of whether there is a Father Christmas whilst eating mince pies. New members always welcome.

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

■ Play Reading

Contact Jean Rose 350029

■ Poetry

At the October meeting we looked first at seasonal poetry, reading various odes to Autumn. Some were about nature, some were about the autumn of one's years and others began with one and crossed to the other. Inspired by the writing we reminded ourselves to sit still and enjoy the colours and fruits of the season sometimes.

After tea we read some amusing poems, including some from Cornish poet and one time U3A speaker, David Prowse.

Leslie Cheetham had written her own seasonal poem which we found very moving and would like to share with you. Some of you may already know that Lesley won the Poetry Cup at the Callington Autumn Show for her WW1 poem written for her father - she is fast becoming our Poet in Residence!

SEASONS OF MY THOUGHTS

*When I was young and full of dreams
With countless plans and many schemes
Of things to do and places to go
Those were my springtime years ago*

*But time moved on and dreams did fade
My thoughts moved on to friendships made
Happiness, responsibility, sometimes strife
That was the summertime of my life*

*The years rolled on as they must do
With lots of things that were still to do
Opportunities were lost decisions not made
In my autumn years which time did fade*

*As I look back now down the years
With many regrets and unshed tears
I truly wish I had striven much more
In now the wintertime of my thoughts*

Lesley Cheetham - 25.08.2014

Poetry Group meets on the 2nd Friday of the month from 2.00 – 4.00 p.m. at the Cricket Club.

Contact Pat Ferguson 384402

Science & Technology

On Monday, Oct 13th. Mike Rose gave us a presentation entitled "100 Years Of Tethered Hydroplane" I for one was rather mystified by this. But it turns out that he not only "races" model hydroplanes tethered to a central pole by a wire, but he makes the engines for them as well. And they reach speeds of over a hundred miles an hour!

For our November meeting, on the 10th. Prof. Mike Moore will give us a presentation which he has called "The Origin of the Universe and Possible Multiple Universes". Sounds intriguing! So 10 'o clock at the Cricket Club.

On a more serious matter, I am running out of ideas. So I am standing down as leader of the Group at Christmas. I had hoped I would be able to tap into more knowledge and expertise among the general membership of the U3A. Those who attend the Science and Technology Group meetings have been pressed hard by me and have come up trumps in giving us of their individual expertise. So I am appealing to the wider membership. It is understandable that members would be unwilling to put themselves forward as "experts", but your friends know who you are. So if the Science Group wishes to continue, then we need those friends to tell us about you if you don't volunteer! A fundamental concept of the U3A movement is that it holds a vast amount of experience and knowledge from a lifetime of work which could be passed on to others! We've had airline pilot training, guided missile technology, the chemistry of photo-voltaic cells, and many others. All from our own U3A members!

Contact: Tony Atkinson 370433

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

The meeting on 6th November will be the last of the year.

We shall not be meeting on January 1st 2015 so will start the new session on February 3rd.

New members will be very welcome.

Anne Cooper 382267

Singing for Pleasure

The November dates for Singing for Pleasure are 10th and 24th, meeting 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

Study Day 14th October 2014

Study Day proved to be a success with members attending from our own U3A and surrounding U3A's. Everyone who came seemed to enjoy the day and feedback forms suggested that the balance of the day was just right.

David welcomed everyone which led quickly into the first speaker, Sally Kendall from the Cornwall Food and Farming Group, who promote local food (within a 30mile radius) by educating school children with their one day event for teachers and children and the general public at local events such as the Cornwall Food Fair and the Cornwall Show. They are also a lobbying organisation encouraging the increased use of local foods, especially in school meals. The Cornwall Show also allows them to lobby government ministers. The Group also raises awareness of the importance of local food in raising standards in safety and quality of food. Sally was an enthusiastic speaker who left us with many thought provoking ideas.

The second speaker was James Macgregor, General Manager for Riverford Organic Farms in Devon. He gave a brief history of the development of Riverford from its beginnings in 1951 growing on the family farm and supplying local farm shops to the present time supplying veg boxes throughout the country. They aim to supply reliable, sustainable and organic food using their own unique business plan, which relies on personal contact with all their suppliers. They are obviously providing what people want, as in 2013, they had a turnover of £39.5 million. Again, James left us with plenty to think about.

Lunch was provided by our local caterer, Shirley Floyd. She provided a healthy buffet, with a strong local theme and, of course, plenty of it.

Lunch was followed by a lively and entertaining talk and demonstration of Cornish delicacies by Alison Gribble, a farmer's wife from Coads Green. She started by making a very simple dessert of Junket. She then went on to talk about the origins of many traditional Cornish recipes including the Cornish pasty, hogs pudding, fairings and harvest apple pie. At the end there were samples to taste.

The final slot was filled by the younger generation, four students from Plymouth University who are working for their degrees at the School of Health Professionals, funded by the N.H.S. This was a new experience for Victoria, Tamsin, Megan and Natalie, so naturally they were very nervous at first but once they got into their stride, they worked as a team to

give their presentation about healthy eating for the older generation. They had prepared well for the talk and they also interacted with their audience and were happy to answer questions about dietary concerns.

We would like to hold another Study Day in 2016 so if you can suggest ideas for that one, please pass these to any committee member.

Marian Watson



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**Copy to the editor
by 25th of the
preceding month**

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**website:
www.callingtonu3a.org.uk**

Copies of these Newsletters can be found on the above website

NB. Phone numbers without dialling codes are for the 01579 area

This month's puzzle:

1 >				BiWord Nov
↓				
				1 Down: go back (prefix) not
				1 Across: vertical direction

Answer to last month's puzzle:

1 >	E	M		BiWord Oct.
↓				
	M			1 Down: Liverpoolian vocal spacer
				1 Across: Typographic measurement