

Let's Talk about Kevin

Our speaker at the September general meeting was Kevin Grant whose subject was "Life as a Monk". His lively and entertaining talk certainly included this aspect of a very full and varied life experience. After leaving school he went to catering college and worked his way up to managing some prestigious hotels, among them the Lord Eliot. As a practising Roman Catholic he began to feel the call to the religious life and joined the Order of the Redemptorists to test his vocation. It was a strict order founded by Alphonsus* in a poor part of Italy in the 18th century.

Monastic life was a mixture of study and work (no such thing as a free lunch). The subjects studied included Hebrew and Greek, World Religions, Philosophy and survival skills. His work included chaplaincy in mental hospitals and a home for the deaf. He never quite mastered sign language, and asked a visiting Princess Alexandra, by way of a greeting, if she was four months pregnant!

Kevin appeared to have found that his sense of humour was not always appreciated in the monastery. Even when performing the penance of licking the floor, he produced pictures to amuse some of his fellow monks. The novice master made it clear that not everyone in the community liked him. This is a lesson in humility all monks have to face.

By the fourth year of his training Kevin was associated with St Augustine's in St Austell, whose original building is now under the Asda car park. In his final year he went to a beautiful monastery near Perth. On one of her journeys to Scotland Queen Victoria had been told that the building was a lunatic asylum, as it was thought she wouldn't approve of the Catholic connection. By now Kevin, having consulted his West Country Bishop, had decided not to become an ordained priest. When he left the monastery there were no farewells: as is the custom, only the Abbot knew that he was leaving.

Since then Kevin has had a great variety of occupations, including work as a postman and an undertaker's assistant. He regularly conducts funerals at the Crematorium. For a year he was the Mayor's consort in Liskeard. He is currently chaplain to the Royal British Legion, which works with returning injured soldiers. Among other things they organise surfing for ex-soldiers with no legs.

Kevin can currently be seen at the church of Our Lady of Victories in Callington, where he is both a Eucharistic Minister and the church organist. In the tradition of the Catholic priesthood. Kevin has never married, and believes this has given him the freedom to engage in a very wide variety of occupations which are underpinned by his Christian faith.



N.B. Google has lots of information about Alphonsus and the Redemptorists.

Anne Cooper

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

Last month we researched and baked cakes from around the time of WW1 to be eaten at the WW1 main meeting. Recipes were scant on instructions and some ingredients unavailable today but we felt we managed a fair attempt to produce authentic cakes and biscuits. The Trench cakes were well received and the chocolate biscuits pronounced "interesting" but there was little left to take home and hopefully no one suffered any bad after effects! Our next meeting is on

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October 8th, 10.30 at Mike's when we will be producing something cheesy.

Contact Jenny Wheeley 351662

■ Bird Watching

Rame Head

Tuesday 9th September

Seven of us set out for Rame Head and were making good progress until we came to a tailback caused by an accident on the narrow road approaching St. Johns. We were able to turn round and find another route. Eventually we arrived in the car park near to the National Coastwatch Institution, which is a voluntary operation replacing the Coast Guards. What a view! The sun was shining, the sea was calm with two shades of blue mixed together and there was misty back ground. The birds were hard to see as they darted about in the scrub on top of the cliff. From closer to the cliff top we could see a lot of different species on the rocks and in the sea. There were also some ponies that appeared to be living on the cliff edge. We walked to the very top of the headland to look at the Mediaeval Chapel and to sit in the sun, admire the view, and of course to eat lunch. A good day was had by all. Our next visit will be to St. John's Lake and Millbrook Lake on Tuesday October 14th. Meet in the FCP at 9.00am.

For more information :

Contact Keith Lane 370713

■ Bookworms

The September Book was the Barack Obama 'The Audacity of Hope' although all found it difficult to follow the unfamiliar system of American politics and certainly got lost at times, most felt the book, written just before the presidential election, was like most autobiographies a little 'me me' however he came over as a caring individual with strong family ties.

Bookworms meet on the third Friday of the month usually at 28 Trelawney Road but the October meeting will be at The Cricket Club

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

At our last meeting we installed anti virus program on a members tablet and also removed some annoying pop ups.

We discussed the ways in which laptops could be connected to TVs.

Thanks to Mike we had a demonstration of how Apple TV works to allow TVs to connect to Apple Lap Tops and the internet. A lower tech option of connecting a HDMI cable directly from laptop to TV was also demonstrated.

Our next meeting will take a look at Chrome cast for windows laptops and any other issue that anyone cares to bring along.

This meeting will be on 16th October at 10.00 at a member's house.

Please contact me for directions.

Contact : Peter Watson 384509

■ Cornish Art & Literature



On 3rd September the Group enjoyed an outing to the County Museum in Truro.

Most travelled by train which was on time! We went to see an exhibition of paintings depicting the working people of Cornwall. Stanhope Forbes and his fellow artists were pioneers in using the real workers in their paintings and they also used always to try to paint 'en plein air'. This meant a wonderfully realistic approach. Some of the exhibits were facial studies then used on the finished painting. The outstanding picture for some of us was the fish sellers, a study on the beach. It was a huge painting and had an incredibly clear almost photographic

look. The colours were subtle, incredibly varied and the painting of the water and sand were beautifully handled.

After looking at some more exhibits we walked to Charlotte's Tearooms for lunch which is upstairs in the Old Coinage Hall. This is one of the few remaining old buildings in Truro. The building was used by the miners to bring their smelted tin to be weighed. They then had to pay whatever tax had been imposed by the Government – an early Value Added Tax! It was wonderful weather and we had a great day out.

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

■ Crime Fiction Appreciation

10 members gathered for the August's Crime Fiction meeting. As there had been a 5-week gap since the last meeting many books previously swapped within the group were returned, including novels by James Patterson, Janet Evanovich, Louise Penny, Sian Busby, Nikki French, Tana French, Robert Goddard, Colin Dexter and C J Samson. Among the new books discussed were those by Georgette Heyer, James Oswald, David Ashton, Ann Cleves, Harlan Coben, Ann Holt and Stuart Pawson. Many thanks to Mike for his excellent rock cakes, enjoyed with our cup of tea. October's meeting will be on Thursday 23rd October, 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 October meeting of the Family History Group will be on Monday 27th October at Sandra West's home in Lockett at 2.30pm Please phone her if you will be going. 01579 370231. 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

Here are some photos from the Food and Wine Group Lunch held in Golberdon Village Hall on 18th September.

The theme was 'Local Food' and we had some wonderful dishes made from local



ingredients or from West Country recipes. There was not a pasty to be seen but we feasted well on 'likky' pie, Devonshire Apple Cake, saffron buns and many other goodies inspired by our lovely local fresh fruit, vegetables, meat and cheese. Nobody went home hungry!

Contact Maire Warwick 350711
maire.warwick@btinternet.com

■ Game On

The Games' group restarts on Sunday September 28th, 2.30 at Lucy's house and then onwards on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month. If you like board games and a relaxing fun afternoon then do get in touch.

Contact Jenny Wheeley 351662

■ Handbells

Contact Maire Warwick 350711

■ History

For details,

Contact Josephine King 350890

■ Italian

Dates and times for the Italian Group are Wed 15th Oct and 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

9 members met for September's meeting, which was a members' choice session. Along with some old favourites, Louis Armstrong, Count Basie, Charlie Parker, Lionel Hampton and Johnny Dankworth, we heard music from artists we play less often, some even new to the group – Alan Barnes, Clare Martin (who will be playing at next month's Calstock Jazz Festival), Gwyneth Herbert, Jim Mullen, Jan Gabarek and Ronnie Scott's orchestra. Next month's meeting, on Wed 8th October, will feature an interview with, and the music of, Stan Getz. 2.30 at the Cricket Club. If you are interested in joining us, please contact me :

David Seward 384631

■ Music Appreciation

The first meeting will allow us to discuss the programme for the next season and to listen to some favourite popular pieces.

Due to sickness the first meeting will be in October at 2 Trelawney Rise

Contact Pat Ferguson 384402

■ Needlework

Normally meet on the second Thursday of the month.

Details from Ann Martin

■ Opera

The September Opera, Falstaff by Verdi based on Shakespeare's character and plot from The Merry Wives of Windsor staged at The Teatro Busseto by the Orchestra e Coro del Teatro alla Scala. The lead was sung with gusto by Ambrogio Maestri who gave a superb performance

of the character usually played by a much older singer.

There will be no Opera in October

Contact Carol Dowell 382158

■ Philosophy

The September meeting of the philosophy group concluded a century of revolutionary German philosophers and brought us to the end of the 18th Century. We also had a lively discussion on whether we are ever truly responsible for our actions. Next session on October 30th will be on early democracy and the Americans and our discussion is on whether time travel is possible. Do please join us if you are interested at 10.00 in the cricket Club

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

■ Play Reading

Contact Jean Rose 350029

■ Poetry

Restarts on 10th of October at 2pm at The Cricket Club.

Contact Pat Ferguson 384402

■ Science & Technology

On Monday, Oct 13th. Mike Rose will give us a presentation which he is calling "100 Years Of Tethered Hydroplane"

Sounds good!

Future meetings will be:

Monday Nov. 10th. "Quantum Cosmology" by Prof. Mike Moore.

Monday Dec. 10th. a visit to the Sir Alister Hardy Foundation for Ocean Science at Plymouth.

I hope you enjoy!

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.

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New members will be very welcome.

Enquiries to

Anne Cooper 382267

■ Singing for Pleasure

The 'Singing for Pleasure' group will meet at Callington Methodist Church on October 6th and 27th beginning at 3.30.

Contact: Rosalind Bunkum 383171

■ Strollers

Contact: Pauline Husband 350379

■ Table Tennis

Why not come along and give it a try! 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

■ Travel

At the September meeting of the Travel Group, after an entertaining presentation on Middle America by Pam & Dave, we discussed the future of the Travel Group. We decided that we would close the group, at least for the time being. As co-ordinator, I would like to thank all those clever people who put together some superb presentations and at the same time widened our knowledge of the world beyond Callington. This is not to say that, at some time in the future, someone may feel inspired to set up the group once again, and we may from time to time have a 'special presentation'. So, once again, my thanks to all those who have participated over the past ten years. Keep travelling!

Contact Meg Bassett 383731

■ Walking Group 1

Contact : Ann Martin

■ Walking Group 2

Contact: Lucy Thomas 350018

Web Site:

The website has been updated with information from the August WW1 meeting. Its an impressive body of work. It can be accessed by going to the welcome page, click on the Groups tab and scroll down until you see 'WW1 Themed Meeting' and click on that link.

New Group: Performing Arts Appreciation

Why not join?

This is a proposal to create a new group with the intention of bringing professional artists to perform for us at a time, day and location to suit ourselves.

Throughout the year a number of artists tour Cornwall and they can be commissioned to come to areas such as ours. The variety of artists range from one-man shows to small theatre groups.

An example of a one-woman show is a lady 'Jak Stringer' who has developed a show based on Wilkie Collins early book 'Rambles Beyond Railways - Cornwall Taken A-foot'. This might be of interest to the Cornish arts groups as well as those interested in Arts generally. Being a small show it could be performed in a front room or even a garden!

To make this viable it would need at least 15 members willing to pay £10 each for a performance.

If you are interested in progressing this idea please **contact me on 389509 or pwatson177@gmail.com**. If there is sufficient interest the intention would be to convene a meeting to discuss possible artists, dates and times.

Contact : Peter Watson 384509

Future Meetings:

October - My life in the theatre by Elaine Clifford

November - The fishermen of Port Isaac by Geoff Provis

Officer Contact Numbers

Chairman: David Seward
t: 384631

Vice Chair: Jenny Wheeley
t: 351662

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The Newsletter is published at the start of each month

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

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
Oct.
1 Down: Liverpudlian vocal spacer
1 Across: Typographic measurement

Answer to last month's puzzle:

1 >			
	D		
	F		

BiWord
Sept.
1 Across: All in the mind
1 Down: Imagine