

STUDY DAY - TICKETS NOW AVAILABLE

CLOSING DATE FOR TICKETS IS 2 OCTOBER but hurry as numbers are limited

The Tamar Valley - Past-Present-Future

Wednesday 25 October 2017 9.30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

All are Welcome

It is a full day event with Lunch, Tea/Coffee breaks included for the cost of £12.50

There will be 4 speakers each with their own story to tell. There will also be displays and an AONB stand selling local interest books.

The day should be enjoyable and informative, it is also open to other interested South West U3A's, therefore, tickets are on a first come first served basis.

Detailed programme and application forms for tickets will be available at each monthly meeting at the desk. They are also available by email from pennybeech@googlemail.com

Hope to see you on the day.

## FIND US ON FACEBOOK

See pictures, comments of our activities and  
copies of the Newsletter

Search for Callington U3A within Facebook and apply to join  
This is a closed group open to members of Callington U3A only

### WE NEED YOU



Many on the committee will be leaving next year and we need some 'new blood' with fresh ideas. Please think seriously about becoming a member. If you would like to come along and see what we do and how it works we would be delighted to see you at a committee meeting.

## New Groups and Interests

The U3A in Callington is your U3A and we are always open to suggestions as to how we might improve?

Our groups have remained largely the same for some time perhaps you have a particular subject you are interested in, that would appeal to others. We are not asking you to lead a group but just to make suggestions of things that interest you, so we can put you in contact with others of a similar vein.

Please let Carol or any member of the Committee have your ideas

**Editor** - Wendy Fader - contact [wendykfuk@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:wendykfuk@yahoo.co.uk) or 01822835985

The next newsletter will be available on 6th November. All contributions for the newsletter to be with the editor by **Wednesday 25 October**, at the latest, please.

If you are interested in joining us at the Callington U3A, go to [www.u3asites.org.uk/Callington](http://www.u3asites.org.uk/Callington) or come along on the first Monday of the month at 10.00 a.m. in Callington Town Hall



# CALLINGTON NEWSLETTER

October 2017



## DEVON MURDERS

We were fortunate that Simon Dell returned to the Callington U3A on the 4th September. We knew from his talk on Cornish murders previously that we were in for a treat. His title was Murder Most Foul and this time all the murders happened in Devon – but none of them recent history.

The first murderer lived in Horrabridge and it occurred in 1959. Mr and Mrs Matthews had separated, but tried a reconciliation on St Valentine's Day appropriately enough. However after a meal out in Plymouth on the way home their disagreements became apparent again on the Walkhampton Road near the weir. Mr Matthews car was an old American shooting brake and according to her husband Mrs Matthew ( who weighed 20 stone) fell out the car and was run over. Constable Phillips from Yelverton was called to attend an ostensible road accident. After viewing the unpleasant scene Mrs Matthews was taken away by St John's Ambulance. Constable Phillips asked if Mr Matthews would give him a lift back to Yelverton – unwisely Mr Matthews agreed. Sitting in the seat Mrs Matthews had previously occupied the Constable noticed a lot of blood inside the car. On arriving back at the station he called his Sergeant Ron Lee about the suspicious death so they drove to the Matthew house at Horrabridge. By now it was 3am and they met the bereaved husband walking down the path with a cloth and white spirit. On being asked by the policemen what he was doing he said that he was filling his hurricane lamp. When asked why he had white spirit instead of paraffin he had no reply. On examining his tool box they found a hammer covered in blood. On returning to the scene of Mrs Matthews death they found her shoe, glove and hat down the slope off the road where the accident was supposed to have occurred. Mr Matthews then confessed he had attacked his wife in the car she got out of the seat and fell down the bank. He managed to get her back up the slope and then attacked her again. He pleaded diminished responsibility and was given 14 years of which he served 7 years then returned to Horrabridge. The locals call the road Murder Mile.

We were also enthralled by the story of the deaths of two brothers and their sister, The Luxtons of West Chapel Farm at Winkleigh. In 1975 there was no love lost between the brothers and when all three were found dead at the farm it was assumed that one brother shot the other two. However Simon Dell then a very young constable went with his inspector who correctly deduced the one brother had committed suicide, the other brother then shot his sister and committed suicide himself. Another case covered was that of Mary Mettors whose grave is in the churchyard at Whitchurch. In 1835 Mary lived at Budgehill Farm in Middlemoor a quiet hamlet. She was killed by her servant, Samuel Norton, with a billhook while her husband and children were in Tavistock. Samuel Norton was found in the Plume and Feathers at Princetown boasting of the murder and saying he would have killed the children as well if he could. He was executed in Exeter. 3,000 watched the hanging. Bizarrely Samuel Norton's name is engraved on Mary Mettor's gravestone. We also heard of the tragedy at Mary Tavy when two young people were shot, the murderer was executed, but not long after another young man in the village also committed suicide.

Perhaps the strangest story was of the three deaths connected to Warrington Technical College. The first body found in 1914 was the body of a young man in the East Dart Valley bog – decomposed but with a blue and white spotted tie and a watch with no hands! He was eventually identified as William Donelly a teacher at Warrington Technical College. Two strange things, he had long hair and a left luggage ticked for Exeter. Inside the locker there was £50, a revolver and bullets. Walton Howard's body was found across the valley from Donellys at Rough Tor Marsh, he also wore a suit, spotted tie and a watch with no hands – this was in 1934. He was a pupil of Warrington Technical College where Donelly taught. Two weeks later a body was found at Beachy Head, suited, spotted tie and a watch with no hands. He was also a pupil of Warrington Technical College. No explanation has been offered or a connection found apart from Warrington Technical College in the death of these young men.

Thank you Simon Dell, we really enjoyed your visit – do come again.

*Next month on 6th November  
Becky Adams - Financial Planning*

# CONTACTS

## Officer contact numbers

|            |               |              |           |               |        |
|------------|---------------|--------------|-----------|---------------|--------|
| Chair      | Carol Dowell  | 382158       | Secretary | Jo Earl       | 532024 |
| Vice-chair | Gillian Brown | 01822 832533 | Treasurer | Ian MacDonald | 351221 |

Phone numbers without dialling codes are for the 01579 area

## GROUP NEWS

**Groups** - the **contact person** is available on the website, from the Secretary or at monthly meetings

### ALLOTMENTS

There is one vacancy on one of the shared allotments. 10 x 15 feet. Contact Ann Martin

### ART

We meet at the Old School, Stoke Climsland on alternate Thursday mornings from 10am - 1pm. The dates for October are 5th and 19th. November meetings are on 2nd, 16th, & 30th. We do not meet in December. Contact 01579 382187 for further information.

### BAKING

Contact Jenny Wheeley 01579 351662

### BARN DANCING

The next sessions will be on 5 October, 2 November and 7 December, 10.30 a.m. in the Methodist Church. All very welcome. Contact Wendy Fader 01822 835985

### BOOKWORMS

If you would like to join us contact:  
Hilary Howarth. (01579) 382172 or e-mail  
[hilary.howarth@btinternet.com](mailto:hilary.howarth@btinternet.com)

### BRIDGE

Meet on Tuesday evening in the Methodist Church. New members welcome. Call Hilary on 350360

### CORNISH CULTURE

On Saturday 9th September the Group had a bus trip. 13 of us plus our driver David Harding visited the Poldark Mine Museum at Trenant, Helston and Porthleven – two other members of the Group joined us at the mine and they went

underground and we did not see them again!! – the mini bus left before they surfaced!!

The weather was kind and did not rain during our visits. The Poldark Mine Museum was full of mining and local interest.

At Helston we lunched well and visited the Museum which included many exhibits including Henry Trengrouse, a Helston resident who invented the Breeches Buoy after watching people drown in a wreck off shore. His invention saved many lives.

We then enjoyed fine weather in Porthleven enjoying the delights of drinks, ice creams and fudge. An excellent day out.

We felt for two of our members who were unable to join us due to illness.



Next meeting 9th October venue TBA  
Contact Anita and Tony Bowden 01579 350668

### CRIME FICTION

At our August meeting at Lucy's, 9 of us met to discuss the Crime Fiction authors and books we had read over the month and to swap some which we recommended. These included Peter Robinson, Philip Kerr, Peter May, Michael Connelly and Nikki French and some new authors, Valerio Varesi, M H Baylis, Pierre Magnan and Camilla Grebe.

# GROUP NEWS CONTINUED

David and Pam brought a delicious coffee cake for tea. October's meeting will be on Thursday 27th. If you are interested in joining us to discuss or learn more about crime fiction (and eat cake!), please contact *David Seward 384631*

### FAMILY HISTORY

Contact Eileen 01579 350639

### FLOWER ARRANGING

Contact Eileen 01579 350639

### FOOD AND WINE

Contact Maire Warwick 01579 350711

### GAME ON

The group will be starting again in the Autumn. Contact Jenny Wheeley 351662

### JAZZ APPRECIATION

September's meeting was too late for the newsletter. Our next meeting will be on Wed 12th October, probably at Christine's. If you are interested in joining us, contact *David Seward 384631*.

### MUSIC APPRECIATION

Contact Pat Ferguson 01579 384402

### OPERA

The first meeting of our next season will be on October 17<sup>th</sup>. We will be continuing our Mozart season with Costi fan Tutte at 28 Trelawney Road. New members welcome. We have space if anyone would like to join our group, we meet on the third Tuesday of the month at 28 Trelawney Drive .  
Contact Carol Dowell 01579 382158 after October 14th

### PHILOSOPHY

Jeremy Bentham is our philosopher for September, a utilitarian who firmly believed that the right thing to do is the one that gives the greatest happiness. He founded University College London and the remains of his body still sit in a glass case there. Our topics for discussion include designer babies and ethics of electric cars. We meet as usual on the last Thursday of the month, at 10.00 in the Committee Room at the Town Hall. Contact Doreen Johnson 01579 343152

### PLAY READING GROUP

Meet at 2.00 p.m. In the library on the first Thursday of the month. Contact Jean Rose 01579 350029

### POETRY

Due to Holiday commitment the next meeting will be November 3rd when we will revisit Poetry from Asia  
Contact Pat Ferguson 01579 384402

### SCRIBBLERS

Contact Penny Beech 01822 834756

### SINGING FOR PLEASURE

We meet at the Methodist Church from 3.30 to 5 p.m., On the second and fourth Monday of the month. Why not come along and give it a try. Contact Ros Bunkum 01579 383171

### STROLLERS

Contact Pauline Husband 01579 350379

### TABLE TENNIS

We are re-starting the group on 19th October. For the group to continue we need a minimum of 8 to 10 players to make it viable. Please make an effort to come. We always welcome new members. If we can't get enough support the group will have to be discontinued. Ray Geatches. Tel 350638.

### WALKING GROUP 1

After a washout August we had a successful meeting to decide on walks for the next 3 months and the first walk, a circular walk of Looe was much appreciated. Unfortunately rain again stopped play on Friday 8th but we hope for better weather for the remaining September walks. New members always welcome.. Contact Doreen Johnson 01579 343152.

### WALKING GROUP 2

Meet on Tuesdays at 9.30 a.m. in Callington Free Car Park. All welcome. Contact Lucy Thomas 01579 350018

