

Wild life on The Galapagos Islands

Ian Gasper



In September we were taken to the enchanted, volcanic islands in the Pacific Ocean known as The Galapagos Islands. What do you think of? Darwin? David Attenborough? Ian Casper?

Ian is a retired teacher from Tavistock who was fortunate to achieve an ambition taking a family holiday to the islands a few years ago.

Galapagos Islands are an archipelago that became a National Park and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. A mix of wetlands, volcanic rock, plains, mountains, forestation and mangrove lagoons were virtually unvisited until World War 2 when the American Airforce built a runway on Baltra. This strategic site allowed them to guard the Panama Canal. Franklin Roosevelt maintained that these islands of natural beauty must be protected. FDR's words prevail to this day even though 20,000 people make guided trips to experience life on the tropical islands. Boat visits are controlled to certain times and places to land. The water is warm enough to jump in and snorkel to the shore.

The many animals are indigenous to these remarkable islands. The gentle Marine Iguana is the only lizard that swim and feed from the sea. These endemic and threatened mammals survive on underwater algae and seaweed which they forage off rocks with their short, blunt snouts and razor sharp teeth. The Reef Shark that is uninterested in Humans. Inquisitive sea lions, the largest of all the animals here, swim around the islands greeting visitors to the shores.

On shore are prehistoric looking Land Iguanas, or the well known Giant Tortoise and the crab with the delightful name Sally Light Foot. The most famous resident was Lonesome George who was the only surviving giant Pinta Island tortoise left on Earth until he died in June 2012 aged 100. Many places on the island bear his name. He is exhibited on Santa Cruz Island.

The islands boast many species of birds to delight us, the albatross, herons, pink flamingoes, pelicans and penguins. The Swallow Tail Gull – a little known nocturnal gull which has unusual visual and sonar facilities. The Great Frigate Bird that catches fish with only its beak touching the water. The Ground Dove which like the flightless Cormorant has developed skills to swim instead of fly. There are many species of birds. Three booby birds living on the islands, the blue-footed booby, the red-footed booby and the Nazca booby. Numerous species of Finch have adapted to their own unique ecosystem. One type of Finch is particularly useful to the tortoise for eradicating annoying insects. The bird picks the pests from their bodies and the tortoise raises its leg to allow this toilette procedure!! Another, the Rock Warbler, has developed a tweezer type bill for picking seeds off the rocks.

Amazing plants make up the flora and fauna on the Galapagos. A cactus that grows on lava. The first plant of the islands is a coastal variety -the Mangrove- that grew from seeds that literally floated to the islands, landed and grew roots so now there are mangrove lagoons. Many types of ferns and trees contrast with jutting cliffs, volcanic moonscapes and emerald coves.

This brief tour of the islands by enjoyable pictures was most interesting. We experienced the mystery and magic of these faraway islands we might dream to visit one day.

Rosemary Shatford

**Next month come along and join in our 1918 Commemoration
November 5th**

GROUP NEWS

We currently have 31 groups, so there's something for everyone.

For more details and photos check out the U3A website, Callington U3A Facebook page, contact the group conveners or come along to the monthly meetings.

Here is what some groups have been doing

■ **Art Appreciation**

We listened to two presentations at our last meeting. Rosemary talked to us about art restoration and we watched an interesting video from a conservator at the National Gallery on the restoration of Rosa Bonheur's painting, 'The Horse Fair'. It was fascinating to see how the true colours of the painting became visible as the conservator carefully removed the old, discoloured varnish with special solvents. She also told us the story of how a well meaning 83 year old Spanish lady attempted to restore a century old fresco in her local church with disastrous results. Maire gave a presentation on the Cornish naive artist, Bryan Pearce, with illustrations on screen, from books and some of his original work. Pearce was born in 1929 and suffered from the then unknown congenital disease, phenylketonuria which affects the development of the brain. Encouraged by his mother, herself a talented artist, he developed a very individual style of child-like images which are now internationally recognised for their originality, calm and colourful beauty. He died in 2007 at the age of 79, but his pictures are now highly sought after and can be seen in many galleries in Cornwall and across the U.K. and beyond.
Contact Penny Beech 01822 834756, or, 07971 889572

■ **Barn Dancing**

The next meeting will be 4th October at 10.30 in the Methodist Church.
Contact Wendy Fader 01822 835985

■ **Baking**

Layers was the task for this month, three or more distinct layers in a sweet or savoury bake and once again our bakers excelled. We had terrines made from layered chicken and pork, winter vegetables, turkey and sausage meat and fig and apple. Pancakes were layered with bacon, cheese, tomato and onion and baked. Sweet recipes included triple citrus layered cheesecake, brownie with raspberry and cheesecake layers and Bakewell tarts.



Next month we meet on October 10th at Rosemarie's for some Middle Eastern cooking.

Contact Jenny Wheeley - 351662

■ **Crime Fiction**

A small group of us had a lively and interesting discussion, Tim Weaver is a new author to the group and his books about David Raker, a specialist in finding missing persons are proving popular. It is always good to find authors we've not read before although some of the stalwarts such as Ann Cleeve, Michael Connolly and Tana French turn up at most meetings. Our next meeting will be at Lucy's house on October 25th and we hope to welcome some new members. So if you are interested in reading and discussing Crime fiction
Contact Jenny Wheeley 351662

■ **Cornish Culture**

Our Falmouth Trip was very successful - the weather was mild and dry. Falmouth is renowned for its automata makers and we visited the Art Gallery to see the exhibition of automatons - they were incredibly complicated and very impressive from small to life size. Unfortunately this was a summer exhibition and has now finished. Onto the Maritime Museum followed by some really good fish and chips at Rick Stein's then a drive around Castle Point and past Gyllingvase Beach. Next meeting on the 8th November, authors and artists - venue TBA. Christmas lunch 10th December to be arranged.
Contact Anita & Tony Bowden 350 668

■ **Events and Outings**

It was a blast from the past for six of us last month with a visit to the beautiful Mount Edgecumbe and the glorious backdrop of Plymouth Sound to see a group called Abba Chique sing out all the remembered hits and even dance along to them, all enjoyed on an unexpected glorious sunny day with cocktails and tasty food..... and a learned Swedish accent to go home with. Another group took advantage of the locals special price of a day trip to the Scilly Isles as a taster to what the Isles can offer. A long day but a bonus was had on the return ferry to Penzance harbour at dusk to see St Michaels Mount and the surrounding villages twinkling lights. The last of the National Trust House visits took place at Trecice but hoping that next year it can be opened up to a larger groups. Only one outing planned in October and that's on the 31st to the Devonport Heritage Museum (which includes a tour of a decommissioned submarine). For security reasons at the Naval base names have to be submitted for approval a week or two before the planned visit so please sign up as soon as possible either by the sign up sheet at the meeting or contacting me through the U3A website or Facebook page. Please keep your suggestions coming especially for undercover events in the coming months

ABBA Chique



St Marys' Scilly Isles



■ Humour

The next meeting of the Humour Group will be on Monday 15th October at Richard and Maire's house at 10.15am. We will be discussing Pam Ayres and showing a DVD.

If anyone interested in joining our group please

Contact: Helen Redden 01579 382612

■ Jazz Appreciation

The September meeting was well attended with 10 members. We had a most enjoyable session with the theme 'Autumn' and played some old favourites and some new. We had three versions of 'September in the Rain' all very different.

The next meeting will be at my house on October 10th 2pm.

A members choice this time. As I live a little out of town in Brays Shop I will give directions in my monthly reminder.

If you would like to join us for an afternoon of jazz or need More information;

Contact Rosemary Wright 370578

■ Poetry

Next meeting November 9th at 2,30, subject - Female Poets

Contact Pat Ferguson 384402

■ Quizzing

No meeting in October due to the Honey fair, we next meet on 7th November at 2pm

Contact Maggie Wood 384634

■ Strollers

Although it was decided not to stroll in August, we did have a very enjoyable trip to Saltash visiting Elliott's Shop which brought back many memories from times gone by. We also visited Mary Newman's cottage which was very interesting, finishing off a lovely morning with coffee and cakes in the pretty garden. Many thanks to Mary H for organising this.

For September we only managed a visit to Louis for coffee to plan future trips then some wet days prevented strolling but Calstock is on the agenda for the end of the month

Contact Pauline Husband 350379

■ Table Tennis

Next meeting will be on 18th October. For more information

Contact Ray Geatches 382167

■ Walkers 1

We welcomed 2 new members and experienced totally diverse terrain and vistas this month.

From coast and canal with a town bustling with holiday makers to open moorland with stark granite Tors, Medieval myths and abandoned mine shafts to near deserted beaches on the rugged and windblown North Coast.

Contact Doreen Johnson 343152

Bude Canal lock gate



Cheesewring wrapped in myths



Constantine Beach



Trevoze Head Lighthouse



■ Walkers 2

1st walk took us down to Antony Passage with its historic tidal mill pond, old mill and tiny harbour, imposing railway viaduct crossing the Forder Lake and a short detour to view the London to Penzance railway line.

Due to the inclement weather we opted for a sheltered walk next from Cotehele Quay to Calstock with a stop for coffee in the Boatyard before the return journey.

Due to weather warnings our walk to Polperro was cancelled but hopefully will be rescheduled for 2019

Contact Lucy Thomas 388799

Old Mill & tidal mill pond



Forder lake & viaduct



Here are details of all our groups with contact details;

ALLOTMENT 4th Wednesday, pm Ann Martin	ART APPRECIATION 3rd Monday, am Penny Beech 01822 834756	BAKING 1st Wednesday, pm Jenny Wheeley 351662	BARN DANCING 1st Thursday, am Wendy Fader 01822 835985
BOOKWORMS 3rd Friday, pm Hilary Howarth 382172	BRIDGE Every Tuesday, pm Hilary Davis 350360	CORNISH CULTURE 2nd Monday, pm Anita & Tony Bowden 350668	CRIME FICTION 4th Thursday, pm Jenny Wheeley 351662
EVENTS & OUTINGS Variable Dates Mary Hardy 382575	FAMILY HISTORY 4th Monday, pm Eileen Sturt 350639	FLOWER ARRANGING Every Wednesday, am Eileen Sturt 350639	FOOD & DRINK Variable dates Maire Warwick 350711
GAME ON 2nd & 4th Sundays, pm Lucy Thomas 388799	HUMOUR 3rd Monday, am Helen Redden 382612	ITALIAN Variable Dates Sally Thomas 01822 832017	JAZZ APPRECIATION 2nd Wednesday, pm Rosemary Wright 370578
MUSIC APPRECIATION TBA Pat Ferguson 384402	NEEDLEWORK 3rd Thursday, pm Ann Martin	OPERA 3rd Tuesday, pm Carol Dowell 382158	PHILOSOPHY Last Thursday, am Doreen Johnson 343152
PLAY READING 1st Thursday, pm Sheila Tredinnick 383717	POETRY 1st Friday, pm Pat Ferguson 384402	PUB LUNCHESES 1st Monday, pm Lucy Thomas 388799	QUIZZING 1st Wednesday, pm Maggie Wood 384634
SCRABBLE 3rd Wednesday, pm Lesley Cheetham	SCRIBBLERS 3rd Thursday, pm Penny Beech 01822 834756	SINGING FOR PLEASURE 2nd & 4th Mondays, pm Rosalind Bunkum 383171	STROLLERS Monday, am variable dates Pauline Husband 350379
TABLE TENNIS Thursday, pm variable dates Ray Geatches 382167	WALKERS 1 Every Friday, am Doreen Johnson 343152	WALKERS 2 Every Tuesday, am Lucy Thomas 388799	

Phone numbers without exchange codes are for 01579 area

OFFICE CONTACT DETAILS

CHAIR Maire Warwick 350711	VICE-CHAIR Lucy Thomas 388799	SECRETARY Jo Earl 532024	TREASURER Wendy Fader 01822 835985
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MESSAGE FROM YOUR TREASURER ;

Please check that you have paid your membership fee for 2018-19. If you have paid and do not have a membership card, please let me know.

We have recently changed banks so if you paid directly into the Bank (BACS), with sort code **52-10-42**, after 5 June 2018 and have not completed a form or received a membership card, please let me know. The sort code for the new bank is **30-90-89**

Our Christmas Lunch will be on 3rd December - We will be collecting menu choices and money at the October and November meetings.

**Find us on FACEBOOK; Search for Callington U3 within Facebook and apply to join.
This is a Closed group so only open to Members of Callington U3A.**

If you are interested in joining the Callington U3A
Visit www.u3asites.org.uk/Callington, click the Welcome tab and complete a membership form.
Alternatively come along to the Callington Town Hall at 10am on the first Monday of each month

If you would like to get more regional and National news from U3A plus details of any study days or workshops being held, sign up for the monthly email newsletter from Head Office - **www.u3a.org.uk/email**

*The next newsletter will be available on the 5th November.
All contributions by 25th October please ?
johnsonyvonne1@sky.com*