

# Callington U3A Newsletter

September 2014







lous when a plan comes together well and that's what

happened with our WW1 Commemoration on August 4th.

As those who had volunteered displays began to fill up the boards, it was clear how much work had been put into them. It was prolific and varied. In Scribblers, we discovered the more we researched the more interesting and involved it became. I suspect it was the same for everyone.

When Jenny Wheeley arrived and asked warily if she could use two tables, I understood there had been prolific research into baking as well. Goodies on offer looked very appetising and, despite the name, Trench Cake proved a great success!

The atmosphere in the Hall was changing as we put up recruitment posters which Callington School had lent us. Ros laid out song sheets on chairs and delicate bunches of garden and hedgerow flowers from the flower arrangers soon joined them. How those flowers would have been treasured in the trenches.

The Memory Board was filling up with tributes and the spectacular flower arrangement which Eileen had produced to set by it was being much photographed.

The display boards were full of interest. Many personal tales of family history, memorabilia, photos and documents. Who was writing war propaganda; which artists were working in St. Ives and Newlyn; how important was Cornwall's geographical location for the Western Approaches; how do you train a pigeon to become a messenger; how do you illustrate the battles with the aid of Scrabble letters; and, what kind of courage does it take to be a Conscientious Objector?

Music played a large part in the proceedings

with a poignant opening song from the singers and an equally gentle offering from the handbell ringers, wrapped around the poem, 'In Flanders Fields'.

The Play Readers performed their own sketch inspired by Dunham Massey – a stately home in Cheshire. Like many big houses it had been converted to a hospital and they illustrated very clearly how ordinary people had risen to the challenges of helping out on the Home Front.

From the Front Line, Eileen Sturt shared the contents of a letter she had found whilst researching her family history. It was very harrowing to listen; a disenchanted young soldier outlining exactly what was happening in the battles.

Poetry Group told of the disillusionment of Kipling and Sassoon and read a classic from Wilfred Owen. Lesley Cheetham had written an original poem in memory of her father. Bookworms read from a collection of transcripts from the Imperial War Museum Archive. They chose memories from a young English schoolgirl, an English Trooper and an officer with the German Army.

Michael Farr was our MC and following a minute's silence he weaved the presentations together with his relaxed and engaging approach. He gave us wartime facts and figures within the theme of personal reflections about his own great uncle and grandfather.

Later, he explained that following Armistice Day the government looked for ways to soften the blow to grieving families. Two retired army officers suggested recording names in books of remembrance. By 1920 there were more than 5,000 war memorials of all sorts. Just 40 villages out of 16,000 had no need of one – they were the so-called 'thankful' villages, none of whose sons had died.

It had been a very moving morning and to

lift our spirits, we joined Ros and the singers in some old favourites, finishing with a rousing rendition of 'There'll always be an England'.

I have heard these words, or something similar, many times this year. "There is no-one left to thank. We can only honour those who made such sacrifices by remembering them." I believe we managed that very well. We must never forget but, watching the current world stage, I question whether we will ever learn.

#### Penny Beech

# BER

### Group Reports

### Allotment

Two allotments are being cultivated. **Contact Ann Martin** 

Art

#### Contact Tony Walpole

### Baking

For our August meeting the baking group searched out and reproduced recipes from the WW1 era and put them out for tasting at the main meeting. Some of the ingredients needed to be modified - dried egg and cocoa butter not easily available! - but we all managed edible results. The trench cakes were pretty good, other offerings were pronounced " interesting " but there wasn't a lot left on the plates by the end of the meeting so thank you to all members who tucked in. Our next meeting is on

Weds Sept 4 th at David and Ellen's when we shall be baking biscuits.

#### Contact Jenny Wheeley 351662

### ■Bird Watching

#### **BIRDING TRIP-**

#### **Tuesday 9th September**

We will go to either Looe or Rame Head depending on the weather. If it is very stormy Looe might be the better choice.

Meet in the Free Car Park at (.00 am. Bring lunch and appropriate gear.

#### Contact Keith Lane 370713

### Bookworms

This month was our 'annual classic month' this year's chosen author was Austen and the book Northanger Abbey Her first novel but not published until after her death, it tells the story of Catherine a unsophisticated country girl who is introduced to the debauched society of Bath. A reader of gothic romantic novels she meets two men who vie for her affection and accepts an invitation to the home of one Henry Tilney, Northanger Abbey. Here her imagination and fancies runs wild and she believes she has been undone, but as in all Austen novels love triumphs in the end. The consensus of opinion was that Catherine was a rather silly girl, certainly without the depth of character of Austen's later heroines and the story itself was evidence of the author's creative immaturity.

The next meeting will be on September 19th at 28 Trelawney Road at 2pm

#### 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 Burridge 389018

### ■ Computer Group

This month the Computer Group met at Christine's house in Kelly Bray, so it was much easier to connect to the Internet.

The group were set with 3 problems, and coe, a not well known poet, who lives the aim was to solve them and keep it in Truro and works as a County

simple!

Firstly Christine, opening an attachment, this was simple; we downloaded a free PDF reader, problem solved.

Secondly, to back up precious photos and valuable data work sheets for Maggie. After a brief discussion on the advantages and disadvantages of cloning and backups,

We backed up both to a USB memory stick, so photos and data were kept safely in our pockets.

Finally, splitting windows for John, so that you can have two smaller windows open side by side and then compare or cut and paste from one to another.

This took a bit more time, as working with a Mac and moving to Windows was a challenge, but we succeeded.

It was a thoroughly enjoyable meeting that was helpful and constructive.

We did miss Peter, as his knowledge would have helped us even more.

Thank you Christine for hosting and for the tea and biscuits (naughty but nice!) Our next meeting will be on the third Thursday in September (18th) at the Cricket Club at 10am.

#### Contact: Peter Watson 384509

#### Cornish Art & Literature

Our meeting on 11th August took place as usual at the Cricket Club.

We had the privilege of seeing an original painting by Elizabeth Forbes (wife of Stanhope Forbes). It was an illustration for a book called King Arthur's Wood - an elephant book (large size).

By coincidence we also had a print by Stanhope Forbes of children walking up Paul Hill with a carthorse. This idyllic picture was painted after his only son's death in the First World War.

We also had a book Both Sides of the Tamar including work by Charles Causley and Bill Best Harris. Also Nikolaus Pevsner - Buildings of Cornwall. Another artist was Jack Pender born in 1918 and died in 1998. A poem was read by Bert Biscoe, a not well known poet, who lives in Truro and works as a County

Councillor - he read some of his poems at Harrowbarrow and Metherell Village Hall a few years ago on St. Pirans Day.

Our next meeting is on 3rd September when we visit the County Museum in Truro.

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

## Crime Fiction Appreciation

9 members gathered for the July's Crime Fiction meeting. It had been a good month of reading and many books previously swapped within the group were returned, including those by Mark Billingham, Stella Rimington, Louis Penny, Sian Busby, Nikki French, Michael Connolly and Lee Child. Several new authors were discussed - Gillian Flynn, Tana French and Ben Aaronowich. We also discussed a new series of 1920s and 30s crime fiction, recently re-issued by the British Library. John and Jenny provided flap jacks and chocolate cake, both delicious, to go with our cup of tea - many thanks to them. September's meeting will be on Thursday 25th September, 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 next meeting will be on the 22nd September at 2.30pm at Eileen's. The Family History pages on the new Callington U3A website give lots of hints for researching... worth a look, for experienced and beginning researchers alike!

#### Contact: Eileen Sturt 350639

### ■Flower Arranging

The next Flower Arranging session will be on Wednesday 1st October at 10am at Eileen's.

#### Contact: Eileen Sturt 350639

### Food & Wine

There will be a buffet lunch at Golberdon Village Hall on

The theme is 'West Country' savoury or sweet.

I will email more details to all on ested in joining us, my mailing list. Please contact contact: David Seward 384631 me if you need more informa-

Contact Maire Warwick 350711 maire.warwick@btinternet.com

### Game On

Our games group has finished for the season and will reconvene in the Autumn, date to be advised

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

At August's meeting, we had a full house of our current members. Rov reminded us all that the group has been running for 6 years and, to mark the occasion, he presented members with a clever and amusing certificate of Jazz 'graduations' which you can look at on the website Jazz page. Then we settled down to listen to a very varied selection brought along by members, including some artists not played much before - Chico Hamilton, Dave Soby, Zenith Six, Dick Collins, Nat

Thursday 18th September at Gonella and David Murray. But there about midday. Please bring were also some old favourites - Ella along a plate of food and what- Fitzgerald, Art Blakey, Stan Getz, Bill ever you would like to drink. Evans and Tommy Dorsey, all much enjoyed. Next month's meeting, on anything made from local ingre- Wed 10th September, will be another dients and/or to a local recipe. members' choice session, 2.30 at the Cricket Club. If you are inter-

### 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 Trelawnev Rise Contact Pat Ferguson 384402

### Needlework

Normally meet on the second Thursday of the month.

**Details from Ann Martin** 

### Opera

Returns with Falstaff by Verdi on September 9th at 28 Trelawney Road at 2pm

**Contact Carol Dowell 382158** 

### Philosophy

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

### Play Reading

Although we are play readers and not dramatic people (well, except perhaps for one or two.....) we have occasionally been tempted to try our hand at treading the boards. With people sadly making appointments for the Autumn already, the play readers will be looking at a script drawn up by Carol (ex-Scribblers), Sheila (Play Reader) and contributions from all the Play Readers who wanted to put their oar in. Who knows what thrills await the unwary as they seek to lighten the darkness of Winter?

Contact Jean Rose 350029

### Poetry

A mixed session after our previous months journeys through the First World War poets which culminated in our presentation at the special commemoration event in the town hall. We previewed 'Beowulf' the thrilling telling of the Anglo-Saxon legend and his many terrifying quests with a view to reading the whole poem at our Christmas meeting, enjoyed some favourite humorous poems and discussed the influence of some of our first mentors and introduction to poetry.

The September meeting will be cancelled due to sickness.

Contact Pat Ferguson 384402

### Science & Technology

Ray Lawrence has kindly volunteered to lead the meeting on Sept. 8th. in my absence. He will be showing a video of the Apollo 11 mission (in which he played a small part!).

#### Future meetings will be:

Monday Oct. 13th. "Power Boating" by Mike Rose

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 next meeting will be on Sept. 4th at 3 Grenville Close

Usual time 2pm New members will be very welcome.

Contact: Anne Cooper 382267

### ■ Singing for Pleasure

September dates for 'Singing for Pleasure' are the 8th and 22nd.

Contact: Rosalind Bunkum 383171

### Strollers

Our first stroll in September will be on Monday, the 8th September, meeting at the cricket club at 10am.

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

The next meeting will be on Thursday 11 September at 7.30 p.m. in the Cricket Club when Pam and Dave Barnett will be giving us a presentation on Middle America. Hope you've all had a good summer break, and look forward to our next meeting.

Contact Meg Bassett 383731

# ■ Walking Group 1 **Thank vou Phil**

Organising the walking group is no mean feat and to do this from the formation of Callington U3A until this year deserves a special thank you from all who have enjoyed the walks. The Saint's Way and coastal paths were highlights matched by the annual 3 or 4 day holiday with more than 20 people participating. His long legs made him a match for anyone and the answer to "which way now" was usually "keep on upwards". We benefited from his uncanny knack of selecting days with good weather. Many thanks, Phil, from us all.

-John Schofield

Contact: Ann Martin

■ Walking Group 2
Contact: Lucy Thomas 350018

### Study Day

Tickets are still available for the Study Day on Tues 14th Oct 'Food For Thought'

Contact David Seward (384631) for tickets

This month's puzzle:



Answer to last month's puzzle:



### **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 Secretary: Ann Henderson t: 351289 Treasurer: Maggie Wood t: 384634

Editor: Colin Mills t: 208529 Email: colin-mills@talktalk.net 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.