

Spring into action...

Welcome to this new look News Letter... I hope you like the design and if you have any feedback then please let me know (see contact info on last page)



Pentillie Castle & Estate

Ted Coryton, the current owner of Pentillie Castle and Estate came to talk to us. With the aid of old photographs, postcards, ancient garden and house plans and a good deal of charm and humour, Mr Coryton gave us a very interesting and amusing illustrated history of not just the property but those who have owned it before.

Pentillie was originally built by Sir James Tillie in 1698. It seems he had quite a colourful life. He began working as agent for Sir John Coryton who had a large estate in the area. When Sir John died in unexplained circumstances, Tillie married his widow. There was already talk of how he had been 'familiar' with her before her husband died. Naturally the marriage improved his wealth and standing.

When Sir James himself died, he expressed a wish to be strapped upright in a chair in the Mausoleum – a building specially designed and built for him on the Estate. He believed that he would be resurrected within two years and able to return to Pentillie. This request was complied with until the staff, becoming increasingly upset at the sight of his remains, ceased their daily tasks of delivering refreshments to him. His remains were known to have been buried but not where.

Due to a lack of direct heirs over the years, the lines of inheritance have fallen to nephews and cousins and have some-

times involved changes of family names. In 1968, Ted Coryton's cousin Jeffery inherited Pentillie. House listing had only just begun and was too late to stop him

making a lot of changes. Since there were no children from his marriage, Mr Coryton was the next to inherit. In 1997 he was asked by his cousin to help run the estate since, as it was to be his, it was thought a good idea to start early.

At the time he was a helicopter pilot and needed to learn about farming. Still, he accepted the

challenge and was studying at Seale Hayne when his cousin died very unexpectedly at the age of 57. His cousin's widow was advised that she didn't need additional help to run the Estate and so Mr Coryton left. It was in 2007, after her death, that he formally inherited Pentillie and returned with his family. Initially wanting to sell, the children persuaded him to keep it on.

Some of us may remember the Channel 4 programme which showed how the property gradually came together as a viable business proposition. One of the big restoration jobs carried out was to the Mausoleum. When the vault was eventually uncovered, some remains were found, both human (skeletal) and of a chair. So it seems Sir James was there all the time!

We heard many entertaining stories of Mr Coryton's discussions with Natural England; various scrambles to have accommodation and hot water ready in time for travel writers to visit; and muddy tours for prospective brides, trying to imagine how their big days might pan out.

Despite the odds, Pentillie now successfully offers Bed and Breakfast accommodation (winning a Gold Award from Cornwall Tourism) and runs a varied programme of weddings and special events.

Penny Beech

Group Reports

■ Allotment

Two allotments are being cultivated.

Contact Ann Martin (384246)

■ Art

The Group meets on the last two Thursdays of the month. For more information:

Contact Tony Walpole 01822 833082

■ Baking

Thank you Wendy and Les for hosting what everyone thought was the best meeting yet! From crumble to buns to flans and cheesecakes - the baking was delicious and the cholesterol was off the scale!

Contact Jenny Wheeley 351662

■ Bird Watching

Dawlish Warren

Tuesday February 11th 2014

Five of us stood in the free car park and decided that we would trust the weather forecast!! Our journey began with an overcast sky but ended at Dawlish in sunshine. Our walk to the hide took longer than expected because some of the normal route was flooded, which meant a walk on the beach in brilliant sunshine. As we approached the hide Tony spotted a Peregrine Falcon sitting on the sand near a patch of grass. This was a quite an unexpected location for this bird. We spent a long time in the hide and saw lots of different birds on the sea and on the mud. A pair of Guillemots was a new species for my list. As we were preparing to leave the hide a storm approached from the west, as most of them do. So we stayed put for 15 minutes and then went back to the car in sunshine. We had a good day and enjoyed a pretty good forecast. We are going to Warleigh Wood in Plymouth on Tuesday March 11th. Meet in the FCP at 9.00am.

For more information :

Contact Keith Lane 370713

■ Bookworms

For once a book everyone liked 'Peaches for Monsieur Le Cure' by Joanne Harris. It tells the story of Vianne Rocher's return to Lansquenet some eight years after her first encounter with Father Reynaud in Choco-

lat. Many things have changed there are incomers from North Africa and changes too with Reynaud, Vianne's former adversary, who is in disgrace and under threat of losing his position. Women in black veils, the aroma of peppermint tea and spices hang in the air and the church bells are rung in defiance to the call for prayer from the minaret of the mosque on the opposite bank of The Tannes. Can Vianne once more overcome the new evil and bring peace and harmony with her chocolates to this quite French backwater.

Most felt although they had enjoyed the book it was not as good as the two previous encounters with Vianne and that the characters, both new and familiar, behavior was perhaps at times unbelievable. The ending was not conclusive and the story lacked the author's usual spirit of magic and the flavour of chocolate.

Next meeting March 21st at 28 Trelawney Road

Contact Carol Dowell 01579 382158

■ Bridge

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

Contact Roy Burridge 389018

■ Cornish Art & Literature

We had an excellent inaugural meeting of the Group on the 10th February. We were introduced to Jack Clemo, the blind and deaf poet from the Clay Country; Sue Richardson a local artist at the Lime Kiln Gallery at Calstock; Ian Pethers who exhibits at the Glenrock Studios in Saltash with his painting of the sadly damaged Gunnislake Bridge. We had examples of the work of the artists and a reading of one of Jack Clemo's poems.

We then had the Blue Valentine painting by Mervyn Beaver in 1989 from Looe, apparently he has now turned his talents to customizing motor bikes! Does anyone know where he is?

We were treated to several pictures by the primitive painter, Brian Pascoe. His pictures are exhibited in several places including the Royal Cornwall Museum and now command large prices since his death.

We changed the subject from painting and poetry to folk. The discussion turned to Cornish dance and music; as many poets contributed words, and composer's music, to the local Folk scene.

Lastly, appropriately, Norman Garstin's famous painting The Rain It Raineth Every Day – sadly true. He became one of the Newlyn Artists after travelling the world and

worked teaching until his death.

By popular request we will now meet monthly on the second Monday, 2 pm to 4 pm at the Cricket Club. Next meeting 10th March.

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

■ Crime Fiction Appreciation

9 of us met in January to talk about our crime fiction reading since the last meeting in November, so we had much to discuss. Books borrowed at previous meetings were returned and commented on. These included works by Andrea Camilleri, Louise Penney, Dennis Lehane, Peter May and Charles Cumming. Among the new authors discussed were books by Elizabeth George, Sara Paretsky, Bernard Knight, Chris Carter and Nele Neuhaus and some old favourites - Agatha Christie, Georges Simenon, Lee Child and John Grisham. Our tea time delight was a date and nut loaf, supplied by yours truly. Our March's meeting will be Thursday 27th March, 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.

■ Digital

The next meeting will be in the Cricket Club at 10 am. on 19th March and will be a follow up session on iPads. This time it will be an open forum to ask questions, discuss ways of using iPads, sharing tips and seeing what apps people are using. Users of other tablets are also welcome to come along.

Contact: John Wheeley (351662)

■ Discussion Group

I have tried over several months to get this group up and running, but due to the lack of support I will not be organising any more meetings. On Monday 17th Feb there was no one to open the Cricket Club, I waited until about 10.20am but no one arrived. I realise that the members obviously are not interested in this sort of group. There was only one car arrived whilst my friend and I were waiting, but the person didn't get out of his car before driving away. I did mention in the last newsletter that I would try one more time, so I have given up trying to run this group.

Ann Parkinson

■ Family History

Family History will be at Eileen's house at 2.30pm on Monday 24th March.

Contact: Eileen Sturt 350639

■ Flower Arranging

Date to be agreed by members of the group

at the March general meeting.

Contact: Eileen Sturt 350639

■ Food & Wine



Hoe Road in Plymouth was closed due to the recent storm damage on 6th February, but this did not deter 40 members of the Food and Wine Group from enjoying an Italian Lunch at 'Rhodes at the Dome', Gary Rhodes' restaurant right on the sea front. A special offer during the winter months allowed us to get a 3 course meal for the amazing price of £9.95, which everyone found exceptionally good value for money. Although the weather could have been better, by the time the main courses arrived the mist had cleared and we had a fantastic view of the Sound through the picture windows. Even Brittany Ferries managed to put on a show for us when the 'Armorique' ferry put in an appearance as it made its way into Millbay.

Jenny Wheeley 351662

■ Game On

The next meetings are on March 9th and 23rd, 2.30 pm. at Lucy's house. **Contact: Jenny Wheeley 351662**

■ Handbells

The Handbell Group made their debut as a fully-fledged ensemble at the Saltash Music Festival recently, and were praised by the adjudicator for their sensitive and rhythmical playing. They were awarded 85 marks, putting them in equal second place. They looked stunning in their uniform of black tops with gold and white musical scarves and got a huge round of applause from the audience, some of whom were U3A members who very kindly came along to support.

Contact: Maire Warwick 350711

■ History

For details,

Contact Josephine King 350890

■ Italian

The group continues to meet every month in the Cricket Club. More details from

Sally Thomas 01822 832017

■ Jazz Appreciation

In February, 11 members met for a themed session based around a recorded interview with Cleo Laine. The programme covered her career, as a jazz singer with her husband Johnny Dankworth, as singer of modern classical music and her work in musical theatre. We then played a few of our own examples of her music, together with other female singers, Billie Holliday, Jane Monheit and Stacey Kent. We also heard tracks from Gerry Mulligan, Bud Shank and Louis Armstrong. March's meeting will feature a DVD of a day at the 1958 Newport Jazz Festival. This will be on Wed 12th March, 2.30 at the Cricket Club. If you are interested in joining us,

Contact David Seward 384631

■ Music Appreciation

We were saddened to learn of the death of Dorothy Twist in early January at the age of 96. Dot was an active member of the Music Appreciation, Play Reading and Opera Groups. Although she had lived in Callington for only eight years with her quick wit, sense of humour and sunny personality she had made a large number of friends and despite her age entered into the spirit of everything she was involved with. Dot was a joy to know and will be greatly missed.

Contact Pat Ferguson 384402



Dorothy Twist
19/05/1917 -
09/01/2014



Mary Cox
09/12/1935 -
14/01/2014

Mary Cox was a talented musician, proficient on piano and saxophone, and a lover of jazz.

She had been a Sunday School teacher, and married a vicar, William. She was a good neighbour and friend.

Mary joined U3A (University of the Third Age) about 18 months ago, and enjoyed singing and hand bell ringing. She was a member of the Music Appreciation Group, and we all miss her.

■ Needlework

Normally meet on second Thursday of the month.

Details from Ann Martin 384246

■ Opera

As we experience some problems with the promised 'Tales of Hoffman' we watched a film by Zeffirelli of a much loved opera by Verdi 'La Traviata' starring Placido Domingo and Tessa Stratas supported by The Metropolitan Orchestra and chorus.

The first opera written featuring a heroine who was considered at the time to be a 'fallen woman' it tells the story of Violetta a courtesan who lives only for pleasure until she falls in love with Alfredo. They leave the city for the country and live happily despite Violetta's illness until she is persuaded by his father to leave him for his own good. Alfredo believes she has abandoned him to go back to her old ways and after denouncing her leaves to return home. Violetta finally succumbs to her fatal illness but lives just long enough for Alfredo to return having been told the truth by his repentant father and dies in his arms

The next meeting is March 11th at 28 Trelawney Road

Contact Carol Dowell 382158

■ Play Reading

For details,

Contact Jean Rose 350029

■ Poetry

We are featuring an older and younger poet at each session and as this year we commemorate the centenary of the start of WW1 we will be concentrating on poems about the war and the consequences thereof.

In February we studied the works of ;

Robert Graves, 24 July 1895

- 7 December 1985.

Was an English poet and author, born in London and educated at Charterhouse. His mother was German and as a child he spent five summer holidays at his grandfather's home in Germany. He went straight from school into the Royal Welch Fusiliers at the age of nineteen. He became a friend of Sassoon, Nichols and Owen. In July 1916 shrapnel from an exploding shell pierced his lungs and he was invalided out of the front line with major injuries and shell-shock. His most famous war works are 'The White Goddess' and his autobiography 'Goodbye to All' a personal account of the First World War. In later life he earned his living from writing, particularly popular historical novel such as 'I Claudius' and 'Claudius the God' while living in Majorca.

**Ted Hughes 17 August 1930 -
28 October 1998.**

An English poet and children's writer. Critics routinely rank him as one of the best poets

of his generation. He was born in Mytholmroyd, West Riding of Yorkshire, he attended Mexborough Grammar School, where a succession of teachers encouraged him to write, and develop his interest in poetry. Hughes won an open exhibition in English at the Pembroke College, Cambridge, but chose to do his National Service first. In 1951, Hughes studied English at Pembroke College but did not excel as a scholar and after university, lived in London and Cambridge, and went on to have many varied jobs. He and Sylvia Plath were married in 1956, four months after they had first met. Plath's mother was the only wedding guest and she accompanied them on their honeymoon on returning to Cambridge Plath typed up Hughes' manuscript for his collection 'Hawk In The Rain' which went on to win a poetry competition.

The couple moved to America so that Plath could take a teaching position, later returning to England, staying for a short while back in Heptonstall and then finding a small flat in, London. They were both writing, Hughes working on programmes for the BBC as well as producing essays, articles, reviews and talks. Hughes and Plath had two children, Frieda Rebecca (1960) and Nicholas Farrar (1962) and in 1961, bought the house Court Green, in North Tawton, Devon. In the summer of 1962 Hughes began an affair with Assia Wevill who had been subletting the London flat. Under a cloud of his affair, Hughes and Plath separated in the autumn of 1962 and she set up life in a new flat with the children. They were reconciled but Plath suffered with depression and committed suicide in 1963 at the age of 30.

Following Plath's suicide, he wrote two poems "The Howling of Wolves" and "Song of a Rat" and then did not write poetry again for three years. He broadcast extensively, wrote critical essays and became involved in running international poetry festivals in the hopes of connecting English poetry with the rest of the world. In 1966, he wrote poems to accompany Leonard Baskin's illustrations of crows, which became the epic narrative The Life and Songs of the Crow, one of the works for which Hughes is best known. In March 1969, six years after Plath's suicide, Assia Wevill committed suicide in the same way. Wevill also killed her child, Alexandra Tatiana Elise the four-year-old daughter of Hughes, born on 3 March 1965.

In August 1970 Hughes married Carol Orchard, a nurse, and they remained together until his death.

Hughes was appointed Poet Laureate in 1984, following the death of Sir John Betje

man. He was appointed a member of the Order of Merit by Queen Elizabeth II. He continued to live in Devon, until his death. His funeral was held on 3 November 1998, at North Tawton church, and he was cremated in Exeter.

The next Meeting will be held at The Cricket Club on March 14th.

Contact Pat Ferguson 384402

■ Science & Technology

At our February meeting, Mike Rose gave us an excellent presentation about the design of that most topical subject photovoltaic panels. Mike worked for many years before his retirement on the development of the conductors for these panels and, although much of it was extremely technical, he was able to put the subject over in such a way that we could all understand the physics behind the manufacture.

The details for our meeting on March 10th have yet to be finalised, but will be ready for the monthly meeting on the 3rd March.

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 Thursday, 6th March at 2pm. We shall continue to meet at 3 Grenville Close, Callington each month until further notice. New members are always welcome.

Anne Cooper (acting coordinator)

■ Singing for Pleasure

The March dates for 'Singing for Pleasure' are 10th & 24th.

Contact Rosalind Bunkaham 383171

■ Strollers

Due to the adverse weather conditions ie rain, we have not been able to stroll at all this month and only went out once in January. Rather than not meet up on a Monday morning, we have substituted a coffee morning where we stroll from the car park to the nearest coffee shop. There we moan about the weather and put the World to rights. We are ever hopeful that we might have a dry Monday morning when we can go back to our strolling programme.

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 equip-

ment 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 first meeting for this year will be on Thursday 13th March at 7.30 p.m. in the Cricket Club. We will be having a composite presentation on the visit some of us enjoyed to Milan and vicinity. This will cover the time spent in Pavia and Venice and should remind us of warmer days. Look forward to seeing you.

Contact Meg Bassett 383731

■ Walking Group 1

Dates for walks are on our website and at the monthly meetings.

Contact: Phil Rowland 348912

■ Walking Group 2



In defiance of a poor weather forecast the intrepid Walkers 2 Group visited the storm battered shore at Seaton on Tuesday Jan 28th. As well as hoping for a refreshing blast of sea air we wanted to see for ourselves the results of the huge storm which hit the beach and café some 3 weeks previously. A rendezvous with Lucy's local brother and sister-in-law for coffee gave us an opportunity to see the progress which had been made to clear up the damage to the area. Brian told us about the devastation and the help the café had received from local people which meant they could resume business in a few short days after the storm. The walk along the beach towards Donderry was, contrary to expectations, bathed in sunshine. Because of the rapidly incoming tide the group turned around after a short while and headed off to explore the state of the waterlogged country park. It wasn't long after the start, however, that the promised heavy rain forced a swift retreat to the shelter of the café, who benefited twice that morning from our custom. This more than justified our using their car park free of charge. As usual the conversation was varied and lively and the company, it goes without saying, was as good as ever.

Contact Lucy Thomas 350018

HMS Pinafore Minack Theatre



2pm 16 September
£11.50 ticket only

John Schofield Tel 351962

Upcoming Online Courses Spring 2014: Enrol by 29 March to participate in one of 5 new courses:

- Fairy Tales
- All in the Mind
- Gawain and the Plowman
- Six Impossible Things
- An Introduction to the History of the Design of Gardens.



For more information, go to
<http://online-courses.u3a.org.uk/>

New Computer Group.

This group will meet at the cricket Club on Thursday 13th March at 10.00 -12.00.

This will be the inaugural meeting. Interested members are asked to bring along their laptops so that we can explore computer issues and usage together.

At this meeting we shall look at some basic maintenance for Windows machines. We shall also discuss what topics to look at during future meetings.

The April meeting will be on the 10th April.

**Contact:
Peter Watson
01579 384509**



Future Meetings:

- 7 Apr: AGM
- 12 May: Paul (Education Officer): 'The Monkey Sanctuary.'
- 2 Jun: Cotehele Gig Club
- 7 Jul: John Keohane: 'Life as a Beefeater'

Officer Contact Numbers

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Vice Chair: David Seward, 384631
Secretary: Ann Henderson, 351289
Treasurer: Maggie Wood, 384634

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