

August 2014



## Who goes there?

Not just anyone can become a Yeoman Warder or 'Beefeater' at Her Majesty's Royal Palace and Fortress, The Tower of London, so called because it was the home of the monarch until Henry V111 moved out. This was explained by John Keohane MVO BEM retired Chief Yeoman Warder, splendidly attired in his official uniform at our July meeting.

- The qualifications include
- 1 22 years unbroken military service, in John's case in the Royal Corps of Signals
  - 2 Aged between 40 and 50
  - 3 Minimum rank of Warrant Officer
  - 4 A long service, good conduct medal

Once accepted you are furnished with the splendid but uncomfortable Tudor State Dress uniform with tailor made hats and an everyday Blue Undress uniform, which has trousers instead of hose (now tights instead of the original stockings and suspenders!) John explained the different types of Yeomen and the insignia on their sleeves.

Only the 'Yeomen in Extraordinaire' at The Tower are 'Beefeaters'. 'The Yeomen of the Guard in Ordinaire seen at ceremonial occasions and based at St James's Palace wear a different uniform and are a separate entity. There are usually about 40 Yeomen serving at the Tower and mostly act as guides for the tourists.

John served at the Tower for 21 years and latterly in his capacity as Chief Yeoman Warder had many ceremonial duties to perform and met the Queen a number of times on official occasions. His tenure saw the first woman Yeoman Warder in 2007. The families of the Beefeaters live in accommodation in the outer wall of what John called his 'little house by the river'.

John guided us through a pictorial tour of the Tower environment, explaining that there are in fact a total of 20 towers not just one. We went via Traitor's Gate, Trinity Green infamous for executions, the Bloody Tower and the apartment where Sir Walter Raleigh was imprisoned with his family for 13 years. We also met the ravens, whose desertion of the Tower is supposed to lead to the fall of the White Tower and the English monarchy.

We were treated to its long history and introduced to some of its memorable inmates – Lady Jane Grey, Thomas More, Guy Fawkes, the 2 princes and many more. John explained some of its ancient customs such as the Ceremony of the Keys at the 9.30 p.m. locking up time which has been performed every evening since 1280.

The origin of the nickname 'Beefeater' remains a mystery but John suggested the most plausible derivation was from the custom of giving the Yeomen the leftover beef from the monarch's table. Beef was a luxury in Tudor times so the jealous mutton-eating locals might have coined the name.

This was a most entertaining as well as informative talk.

**Josephine King**

## Group Reports

### ■ Allotment

Two allotments are being cultivated.

**Contact Ann Martin**

### ■ Art

Art group are taking a break during August.

**Contact Tony Walpole**

### ■ Baking

Our last meeting coincided with the Thank You tea for Group Coordinators, so we decided to put our baking skills on the line and help with the catering. Our scones and small cakes joined the strawberries and cream and a lovely afternoon was had by all. Instead of our usual meeting in August we will baking WW1 recipes for everyone to taste at the main meeting on August 4th.

**Contact Jenny Wheeley 351662**

### ■ Bird Watching

#### **Most of us missed a Good Un!**

For various reasons there were very few takers for the planned "Nightjar hunt". In fact only Tony and Mary went! They were joined on site by some friends. During their hunt they heard six nightjars chirring and as they began to leave the site two young ones flew very low over their heads for about ten minutes, calling all the time. Mary declared this their best ever nightjar hunt.

There will not be a trip in August and we'll start again in September when we'll visit either Looe or Ramehead. I'll send you details nearer the time.

For more information

**Contact Keith Lane 370713**

## ■ Bookworms

Dartington

Despite the awful weather four intrepid members of Bookworms enjoyed a day at the Dartington 'Way with Words' Festival. We were all looking forward to our first speaker, Jonathan Miller, expecting a witty meander through his reminiscences as a thespian and director we were a little disappointed that this part of his life occupied very little of his performance, he spoke more about his philosophy of life in general which although illuminating was at times hard to follow. Our second speaker was Jung Chang the author of 'Wild Swans' beautifully dressed in the period of her new book 'Empress Dowager Cixi, she spoke of her early life, as portrayed in her famous first book, and her life since all were enchanted by this courageous and talented woman.

July Book

'Fair Stood the Wind for France, written by H EW Bates evoked a lively discussion. Although many had read it before they now saw it in a different light from when young. What at first appears to be a love story between a young injured airman and a French girl, who she helps to escape, now provoked other consideration especially as the author wrote propaganda for the air ministry. Whether or not the characters were a true reflection of the French, English and Germans at the time, in this book published just before the D Day Landings, all agreed the descriptions of the French country side were exquisite and enjoyed the book.

The next Bookworms will be at 28 Trelawney Road on August 15th

**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

### **Back to Basics continued**

This month we continued with our back to basics theme with a look at how to connect a remote hard drive and manage the files using windows explorer.

We were also able to look at and explore a new Lenovo tablet and windows 7 laptop.

Next month we will be looking at 'apps' what is available and how to use them.

Members are requested to bring along their tablets, laptops or any other hardware so that we can all share our experience.

If prospective members have a computer issue that they would like to understand come along to one of our meetings.

**IMPORTANT our next meeting will be at Christine's house, phone 389688, on the 21st August.**

**Contact : Peter Watson 384509**

## ■ Cornish Art & Literature

We had our normal meeting at the Cricket club on the 14th July.

It was the usual high standard with some very interesting objects to look at. We saw some very beautiful pictures by Stephen Thor Johannsen who does not sound Cornish. He was born in Minnesota but spent 23 years in Cornwall before moving to Oregon, USA in 2004.

Another painter we examined was Alfred Wallis a primitive artist who lived in St. Ives. He painted on anything including cardboard and hardboard with any paint he could find. His early years were spent as a fisherman but later he ran a chandlers in St. Ives. We went to 3D and saw some bronze mice by Suzi March who lives at Rosecraddick. She mainly concentrates on mice, cars and hares. Her work can be seen at Cotehele. We then looked at some pots from the now closed Lake's Pottery then Truro Pottery in Truro.

This Pottery was thought to date from Medieval times. It was not art

pottery but functional, large jugs and pots to hold water, in the days when there was no mains water supply. They turned to more decorative ware.

The Dartington Trust acquired the business in 1973. On 26 Dec 1975 there was a serious fire at the Pottery. Despite the damage done, the Pottery struggled on for a few more years until it closed in 1980. Lastly we looked at Lord of the Flies by William Golding published in 1954. William Golding was born in Newquay.

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

## ■ Crime Fiction Appreciation

At our June meeting, 7 of us met to discuss our latest crime fiction reading. Several books discussed were by authors who have featured regularly at our meetings and are best selling crime authors – John Grisham, Stella Rimington, Elizabeth George, Nikki French, Robert Goddard, Peter James, J K Rowling, and Reginald Hill but some were less well known – David Downing, M C Beaton, Janet Evanovich, and some were new to the group - HRF Keating, Neil White, Michael Kerr and Eric Ambler. Altogether an interesting and stimulating session. And everyone seemed to enjoy my apple and blackberry crumble cake with our tea. August's meeting will probably be on Thursday 28th August, provided enough people are around and not away on holiday, 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

There will not be a meeting at all in August but the September one 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 on Thursday 22nd September in Golberdon Village Hall at about 12 noon. Please bring a plate of food if you can (if not, just come along and taste everybody else's) and whatever you want to drink. The theme will be 'West Country', meaning local food if possible, giving you the chance to use all the produce from your garden if you have one, or use local cheese, fish, fruit, etc. The cost will be minimal - just a share of the cost of the hire of the hall.

More details later, but make a note in your diary.

**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

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

**Sally Thomas 01822 832017**

## ■ Jazz Appreciation

Our numbers were low due to holidays but we played some musicians not often heard before, including Lennie Tristano, Tal Farlow, Bob Brookmeyer and Wardell Gray with some favourites like, Basie, Ellington, Reinhardt, Grappelly and Brubeck.

Altogether another interesting and enjoyable afternoon.

**David Seward 384631**

## ■ Music Appreciation

This group has had a break but will pick up again on the 16th of September.

*(Please note the date of the meeting was wrongly printed in the July Newsletter.)*

It will continue to meet on the 3rd Tuesday of the month .

**Contact Pat Ferguson 384402**

## ■ Needlework

Normally meet on the second Thursday of the month.

**Details from Ann Martin**

## ■ Opera

*Opera will return in September*

**Contact Carol Dowell 382158**

## ■ Philosophy

The Group discussion was about defining 'Same' perhaps a more difficult topic than previous subjects, however after some analysis we were able to rationalise our thoughts and came to the 'same' conclusion as the famous philosopher 'Wittgenstein' that as in other philosophical puzzles we are tricked by language. Although not able to totally rationalise Heraclitus statement 'that you cannot jump into the same river twice', we concluded that nothing is totally the same as something else and that everything changes,

The next Philosophy meeting will be at The Cricket Club on July 31st at 10am.

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

## ■ Play Reading

For details:

**Contact Jean Rose 350029**

## ■ Poetry

This month we read some of Thomas Hardy's work (1840-1928). We particularly liked 'The Ruined Maid' which tells of a country girl gone to London. She is chanced

upon by an old acquaintance who wonders at her newly gained prosperity. It is fairly obvious how this has come about but is nevertheless subtle in approach!

We also discussed the history and story behind the Old English epic poem Beowulf. Seamus Heaney has made a translation of the poem and there has also been a film. We decided to read it aloud to each other at a meeting later in the year when everyone has stopped travelling.

After a break for tea, we had the final run through of our WW1 presentation.

Poetry meets at the Cricket Club on the second Friday of the month at 2pm.

**Contact Pat Ferguson 384402**

## ■ Science & Technology

We had a business meeting in July to discuss our contribution to the WW1 exhibition at the August General Meeting.

***We will not be having a meeting in August.***

I still haven't arranged anything for our September meeting, so any suggestions would be very welcome. On October 13th. Mike Rose will give us a talk on "Power Boating". Prof. Mike Moore will talk to us about "Quantum Cosmology" on November 10th. and on December 8th I am hoping we will have a visit to the Sir Alistair Hardy Foundation For Ocean Science in Plymouth.

**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

Being restricted to words of 3 letters or fewer at our last session produced some surprisingly good short stories.

At our next meeting, which is on

August 7th, we will have a free choice of vocabulary and a word limit of 500-1000.

Why not come along to 3 Grenville Close at 2pm and see what we have produced?

New members will be very welcome.  
**Contact Anne Cooper 382267**

■ **Singing for Pleasure**

There will be no meetings during August, For the next meeting dates :

**Contact Rosalind Bunkum 383171**

■ **Strollers**

Our programme for future walks is on the U3A website.

**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**

We do not meet in August so the next meeting will be on Thursday 11th September at 7.30 in the Cricket Club. Pam and Dave Barnett will be giving a presentation under the title "Tales of the Mid-West". Pam and Dave have travelled widely in the U.S. so this will be well worth seeing. Look forward to seeing you. Meg Bassett 383731

**Contact Meg Bassett 383731**

■ **Walking Group 1**

After over ten years as Walks Coordinator I felt it was time that I stood down and handed the reins over to someone else. At a meeting in June it was agreed that Ann Martin would take over as Walking Group Coordinator.

I would like to thank all the members of the walking group for their help and support over the years, particularly the Walks leaders:- Ray Geatches,


John Schofield, Barrie Warren, and Mervyn White. Without whom the group would have struggled, many thanks for all their help. Phil Rowland

**Contact : Ann Martin**

■ **Walking Group 2**

**Contact Lucy Thomas 350018**

**WENDY WYATT**  
**1955-2014**



Many of you will be aware that Wendy Wyatt passed away on 13th July, after a relatively short illness.

Her funeral was held on 28th July.

Wendy was a lively, enthusiastic member of the Italian, Baking and Crime Fiction Groups and is much missed. Our thoughts are with Les and all her family at this difficult time.

**Future Meetings:**

**September** - My life as a monk by Kevin Grant

**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

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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](http://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.*

**Answers to previous puzzles:**

**BiNo.**

1 >	4	2
0		

**July**

1 Across: The meaning of Life  
1 Down: Life begins

**BiWord**

1 >	A	T
M		

**June**

1 Across: Positional reference  
1 Down: State of being

**BiWord**

1 >	U	M
H		

**May**

1 Across: I'm considering...  
1 Down: Widely used verbal spacing unit

**This month's puzzle:**

**BiWord**

1 >		

**August**

1 Across: Otherwise  
1 Down: Heraldic Gold