



## Where does our money go?

Last month's talk was given by the Town Clerk, Helen Dowdall. It gave us an update on how the Cornwall Council and Callington Council budgets are spent on local services. We all have to pay our Council Tax so it was interesting to be reminded what we get back for our money. Helen managed to put what could have been a very dry topic over in an interesting way that held our attention and led to questions being asked at the end.

Helen has been in post since 2011 and she is a Callington resident herself so sees both sides of the story and she is keen to see that the budget is well spent in the community. Helen began by giving us the facts and figures of the Council Tax that is paid by Callington residents who live in an 'average property' within Callington and Kelly Bray. All elements of the tax are paid regardless of the resident's use of these services.

**In Callington for 2014/2015 the 'average property' paid £1,606.96 (£30.90 a week)**

**79% Cornwall Council £1,268.92 (£24.40 a week)**

**10% Police £166.16 (£3.20 a week)**

**11% Town Council £171.88 (£3.30 a week)**

Helen went on to explain how the Cornwall Council spends its £1,146m collected together with their other funds, from Central Government (18%), Business Rates and grants

(7%), fees and charges (56%), as well as Council Tax (19%). Most of the money goes on children, schools and families, adult care and support and benefits (£741m in all). For the 520,000 residents in Cornwall, this works out at £220 a year on each resident.

In comparison, the Town Council has only a very small budget of in its control. It spends this on parks, open spaces, car park and cemetery 38%, premises (Town Hall, public toilets and Pannier Market) 35% and administration 27%. Decisions on how this money is spent are made by 12 town councillors who meet at the public session of the full council on the 4th Tuesday of the month and 4 committee sessions, held on the other Tuesdays. If you're interested to find out more about how decisions are made, go along to the public sessions.

Helen went on to describe the services that are provided under administration, including a diverse range of services from civic duties to maintaining the town clock; outside services, including a range from play and recreational facilities to verges and wayside seats (of which there are 36); and premises, from the Town Hall to bus shelters. The detail proved to be of particular interest to many members and Helen spent some time answering questions from the floor. As a result of this, Helen encouraged residents to bring any concerns to the One Stop Shop at the Town Hall, where they can be brought

to the attention of the appropriate department, whether it be Cornwall Council's or Callington Council's responsibility.

At the end, I think, members thought that Helen had done a good job of explaining some of the complexities of the local budget in a straightforward and enlightening way.

**Marian Watson**

## Group Reports

### Allotments

Two allotments are being cultivated.

**Contact Ann Martin**

### Art

The Art group has moved to a more attractive room, basically on the first and third Thursday of the month. However this may occasionally have to change due to non-availability of the room and any such changes will be posted in advance here and on the website.

**Contact Tony Walpole 833082**

### Baking

My house was filled with the scent of aromatic spices for our last baking meeting. As usual everyone excelled and the table was filled with spicy breads - sourdough of course for Richard's Not Cross Buns - cakes and biscuits. Our next meeting is April 1st at Maire and Richard's for Easter baking and our May meeting is on the 13th at Marian's for continental breads.

**Contact Jenny Wheeley 351662**



Goldcrest

## ■ Birding Group

### **BUDE - MAER LAKE & NATURE RESERVE 10th March 2015**

#### **"SNIPE, GOLDCRESTS AND REED BUNTINGS"**

Nine of us travelled to Bude and after hot chocolates all round we went to Maer Lake. There were lots of lesser black backed gulls showing their ages by the different plumages. There was also a black headed gull that had changed from its winter plumage, of just a single black mark on the side of its head, to a fully black head. The highlight of our time at the Lake was to see a group of seven snipe together in the reeds just below us. They have striking plumage. After just over an hour we moved to the car park alongside the canal and had lunch. By this time the sun was shining brightly. The canal was covered with mallards as usual and it was interesting to see how interbreeding produced colours ranging from all black to all white. We ambled around the reserve hoping to see a kingfisher or two but instead we came across some goldcrests. These birds, together with firecrests, are the smallest birds in the British Isles. They weigh approximately 6.5gms. They were in some ivy covered trees no more than 5 yards away from us and were hard to see even when they came out of the ivy because they were constantly flitting around. I was lucky enough to see one in the open and it nodded to me and I had a full view of its brilliant gold crest. That made my day! Right at the end of our trip we saw a pair of reed buntings. In all we saw or heard 37 species.

On Tuesday April 14th we are going to Thurlestone. Meet at 9.00am in the FCP.

**Contact Keith Lane 370713**

## ■ Bookworms

### **Rachel Joyce:**

#### **The Unlikely**

#### **Pilgrimage of Harold Fry.**

This was another volume which was wholeheartedly praised by the group. Rachel Joyce is a very descriptive author, and the "pilgrimage" undertaken by Harold (a walk from Devon to Berwick-on-Tweed) is chronicled in a most engaging way. Without giving the plot away, he undertakes the journey, literally on the spur of the moment, when he leaves his wife to go and post a letter and just keeps on walking. With no map and very little in the way of supplies he finds the going tough at the beginning but with the help and generosity of strangers he makes his way. A must read book that we can all recommend, but

make sure you have a supply of tissues.

Please note that Hilary will be taking over the reins from Carol:

The meeting will be at:  
12 Inney Close, Callington. PL17 7QQ

**Contact Hilary Howarth 382172**

*hilary.howarth@btinternet.com*

## ■ Bridge

The Bridge Group is now meeting every Tuesday evening at 7.30 pm, in the Methodist Church. Please use the side entrance in Valentine Place. Parking is available at the rear of the church.

**Contact Roy Burridge 389018**

## ■ Computer Group

This month the group met and some members took the opportunity to compare an ipad with an android tablet. Others found out how to connect to wireless networks when away from home.

The computer group operates as a self help group. If you've a problem come along and see if we can help. We don't have a set agenda it all depends who turns up. Please bring your lap top or tablet if you have one and we can explore the computing world together.

This was a good friendly and informative meeting, which was enjoyed by all, Thank you Christine for hosting and for the tea and biscuits.

We meet in members houses so please ask me where to meet. This normally takes place on the third Thursday morning of the month. The next meeting will be on the 16th April at 10.00.

**Contact : Peter Watson 384509**

## ■ Cornish Art & Literature

For our March meeting which was this time on

a Tuesday we visited Plymouth Museum & Art Gallery (the Museum is closed on Mondays). It was a free trip on the bus and not a long walk to the Museum. There was an exhibition of portraits - one of Jack Clemo and some of John Opie's work. We also discovered a new Cornish artist John Penwarne 1721-1788. After the visit Doreen led us to the Methodist Church Cafe where the food was very good and reasonably priced.

**Our next meeting is on Monday 20th April in the Town Hall Committee Room 2 pm to 4 pm.** This is back to our normal format of individual contributions - do come along if you have not been before, you will be very welcome.

*Did you spot the deliberate mistake by Tony in the last news letter 'Turner in' not 'Tamar in'!!*

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

## ■ Crime Fiction Appreciation

At February's Crime Fiction meeting, 10 members gathered at Jenny and John's house to discuss our latest reading. As many members had not met since before Christmas, many books and authors were discussed, far too numerous to list here. For more details, check out the Crime Fiction page on the Callington U3A website. April's meeting will be on Thursday 23rd April, 2pm at Lucy's house. If you are interested in joining us to discuss or learn more about crime fiction, please contact me

**David Seward 384631**

## ■ Italian

The current members will be meeting in our homes while the cricket club is out of action.

Anyone interested in joining will need to wait until the cricket club is open again.

**Contact: Sally Thomas 01822 832017**

## ■ Family History

Monday 27th April at 2.30pm at Eileen's

**Contact: Eileen Sturt 350639**

## ■ Flower Arranging

Flower Arranging :- TBA

**Contact: Eileen Sturt 350639**

## ■ Food & Wine

I am booking lunch at the Riverford Field Kitchen at Buckfastleigh on Thursday 23rd April. The cost is £23.50 ( plus transport in shared cars ). Please contact me as soon as possible if you would like to go.

**Contact Maire Warwick 350711**  
(maire.warwick@btinternet.com)



## ■ Game On

We are taking a break until Autumn.

**Contact Jenny Wheeley 351662**

## ■ Handbells

**Contact Maire Warwick 350711**

## ■ History

For details,

**Contact Josephine King 350890**

## ■ Humour

This was another very funny morning that started with David talking about Graffiti. He explained that the word itself meant "scratching" and therefore the term could be applied to the ancient cave scratchings of early man and/or women. He then regaled us with numerous examples. David particularly likes the graffiti that is followed up by a response from another wit.

**"My mother made me a homosexual"**

**"if I buy some wool will she knit me one?"**

The majority of graffiti is humorous but some may have a political motive. The final example was a duvet cover with a brick wall pattern and each brick contained an example of graffiti. Presumably David laughed himself to sleep! After a refreshment break we watched a cd, which consisted of rare footage of Flanders and Swan. This complemented Michael's focus on the pair in January. They were really a very clever and very funny act.

**Humour rules!!**

The next meeting will be on Monday 20th April 2015. Helen will be focusing on "Round the Horn". It will begin at 10.15am.

**Contact Keith Lane 370713**

## ■ Italian

The current members will be meeting in our homes while the cricket club is out of action.

Anyone interested in joining will need to wait until the cricket club is open again.

**Sally Thomas 01822 832017**

## ■ Jazz Appreciation

At March's meeting, 9 of us gathered again at Christine's house (many thanks again Christine) for different afternoon. In the first half we watched a DVD of a Buddy Rich big band concert from 1978. Not everyone's cup of tea, but some remarkable drumming from Rich and impeccable timing from his band. We then played a variety of music, from Louis Armstrong, Jamie Cullum, Acker Bilk and more big band music from Ellington, Tommy Dorsey

and Charlie Barnet. A varied and enjoyable session. Next month's meeting, at 2pm on Wed 8th April, at Christine's house, will be a members' choice selection. If you are interested in joining us for an afternoon of jazz, contact: **David Seward 384631**

## ■ Music Appreciation

The next meeting will be on April 14th at 12 Trelawney Heights

**Contact: Pat Ferguson 384402**

## ■ Needlework

Normally meet on the second Thursday of the month.

**Details from Ann Martin**

## ■ Opera

This month's opera Macbeth by Verdi - his tenth opera, his first on a Shakespearean theme and the composers own favourite. Recorded at The Sferisterio Opera Festival in Marchigiana Italy, it was a lively open air production by a talented young cast headed by Giuseppe Altomare as Macbeth and Olha Zhuravel in the part of his obsessively ambitious wife.

A lavish production incorporating flamboyant dance routines and stage design which was much enjoyed by all.

**Contact Carol Dowell 382158**

## ■ Philosophy

At our meeting on 26th March we looked at the role of Linguistic Philosophy and its role in the 20th century. Wittgenstein regarded this as the answer to many of the problems facing philosophers but later this was found to be too simplistic. Our group read was on whether it can ever be morally right to kill someone and the group was urged not to practise this at home, plus the alternatives to capital punishment. Once again some group members had strong views on the subject. Our next meeting will be on the 30th April in the Council Chamber at the Town Hall at 10.00.

**Contact: Doreen Johnson 343152**

**doreen.johnson@onetel.com**

## ■ Play Reading

**Contact Jean Rose 350029**

## ■ Poetry

The next Meeting is on April 10th at 12 Trelawney Heights as the first Friday is Good Friday

**Contact Pat Ferguson 384402**

## ■ 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

Next meeting on 9th April at 3 Grenville Close.

Details from:

**Anne Cooper 382267**

## ■ Singing for Pleasure

The 'Singing for Pleasure' group will meet on 13th and 27th April at Callington Methodist Church 3.30 - 5 pm.

**Contact: Rosalind Bunkum 383171**

## ■ Strollers

Our first stroll was to Stoke Climsland. We ended up at The Old School where we enjoyed a very nice three course lunch. The next Monday we had arranged to go to St.Dominick to see the daffodils. Unfortunately it was a cold, wet morning so we gathered at Louis for coffee and a good natter. We did get to St.Dominick the following week but there was a definite shortage of flowers. It is the same in our garden where clumps of daffodils have come up blind. We finished up at The Who'd a Thought It which was very nice having been recently refurbished. Our next outing will be to Plymouth by train with a walk around The Barbican.

**Contact: Pauline Husband 350379**

## ■ Table Tennis

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**

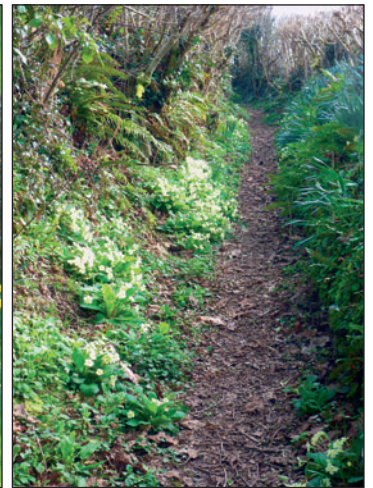
## ■ Walking Group 1

**Contact : Ann Martin**

## ■ Walking Group 2

This friendly social group is very successful. We meet every Tuesday in the Free Car Park to car share, mostly at the same time of 9.30am. This works well and avoids confusion.

We have been fortunate with the weather and so far this year no walks have been cancelled. Some of us join with the Bird Watching Group on the second Tuesday of the month and most of us combine with The History Group on the third Tuesday



Primroses and daffodils enjoyed by Walking group one around the lanes of St Dominick. Ray and Vera.

### Walking Group 2 continued...

of the month. Both these groups involve some walking so the partnerships work well.

Nine members joined the Group 1 Walkers on a three day trip to Exmouth organised by Anne and Mervyn White and Ros Bunkum. All enjoyed themselves and thank Anne, Mervyn and Ros for their brilliant efforts on our behalf.

**Contact: Lucy Thomas 350018**

### Speakers at Future Meetings:

**The May Speaker is Peter Lavis**

- talking about the 'Lost Gardeners of Heligan'

### 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

**Group Leaders and other contributors - Please Note: All Copy to the editor by 25th of the preceding month please.**

*(N.B. I cannot guarantee inclusion of copy submitted after this date - but exceptions will be made wherever possible for groups meeting in the fourth week of the month)*

The Newsletter is published at the start of each month.

**Have you checked out the website?: [www.callingtonu3a.org.uk](http://www.callingtonu3a.org.uk)**

Copies of these Newsletters can be found on the above website

*N.B. Phone numbers without dialling codes are for the 01579 area.*



## Callington Community Day

Our stall this year was manned by Penny Beech, Gillian Brown, Helen Redden and Rosemary Wright.

Unfortunately the weather kept the crowds away, but undeterred; we handed out quite a lot of literature, encouraged any interest shown and generally tried not to look bored. The other exhibitors were also struggling with numbers and agreed that the wind and the rain had not been kind to us this year.

## Hospitality

I would like to say a very big 'Thank You' to all the volunteers who have helped me over the last 3 years, including the Meeters and Greeters (special thanks both to Doreen Johnson and Carol Dowel) and to everyone who has helped out at the Xmas lunches. My thanks also to Rosemary Wright for the use of her computer. My best wishes to whoever takes over this task and I hope they enjoy it just as much as I have.

**Helen Redden**

### This month's puzzle:

|  |  |                         |
|--|--|-------------------------|
| 1 >  |  | <b>BiWord<br/>April</b> |
|  |  |                         |
|  |  | 1 Down:<br>Not anymore! |
| 1 Across:<br>Tide's almost out but not quite |  |                         |

### Answer to last month's puzzle:

|                                    |   |                         |
|------------------------------------|---|-------------------------|
| 1 >                                | n | <b>BiWord<br/>March</b> |
|                                    |   |                         |
|                                    | q | 1 Down:<br>Contained    |
| 1 Across:<br>Pretty bright if high |   |                         |

Email your answer to me: [colin-mills@talktalk.net](mailto:colin-mills@talktalk.net)

The first correct answer received will be immortalised in print in next month's issue.

Last month's triumphant winner: Mrs Jane Doe.