



Welsh Cobb at the time and someone suggested he take people for rides on Dartmoor. Not thinking it would work, he gave it a try. Close by was a hotel which catered for American tourists who loved taking the rides and soon it became a successful business.

John Arden – Dartmoor Driving

John Arden has a family business teaching carriage driving on Dartmoor. Born and bred on the moor, he spoke frankly and amusingly about his life.

It appears he has always been around horses and in his early years was attracted to becoming a steeplechase jockey. He thought it would be good money and fast cars....but it turned out to be mainly brooms and shovels! When he got married and found he needed more money, he thought about race horse training – but didn't have the capital to invest.

Wanting to work with horses but there being no jobs in the area, he and his wife went to the Cotswolds where they rented stables and found a house. The house was run down and needing money to sort it out and, by now, feed his family, he found work driving a lorry. He explained that he was not asked about his driving skills or geographical knowledge but about the product he was to fetch and carry. Fortunately, it was loads of hay and straw - something he was very comfortable with and so he got the job!

Sadly, he lost his wife very early and had to care for their three children. Naturally things didn't get easier for him but at an early age he had bought one of his father's farms at Chagford with a view to retirement. There was a farm tenant living there but they managed to share the accommodation happily. He had to give up driving long distances but he had a

Mr Arden found lots of people asked his advice about carriage driving – there were not many people able to drive a Four in Hand. He advertised offering instruction and to his surprise this turned out very well and so he carried on.

Later, he moved from Chagford to Michelcombe. By then, qualifications for driving instruction were brought in and he found himself having to study and take exams. Again he surprised himself and the business went from strength to strength.

For fun, he entered a carriage driving competition and won first prize which was a place in a national competition in Windsor. He had no transport to get there but a friend had an old lorry which they got going. He won that competition too and became National Champion. That night they were invited to a party by the Duke of Edinburgh.

Mr Arden put together a Four in Hand of Dartmoor ponies and continued competing nationally. They were invited to France with them. There followed adventures with the lorry, ferries and a French farmer who, so impressed that he could milk a cow by hand, opened up his Calvados store!

He says that he is gone 80 and still hoping for another season teaching carriage driving. I am sure he will succeed, entertaining people with his stories and history of the moor as they and the ponies gently wind their way around. He has published a book, "The Wheels of My Life" which can be purchased from the Dartmoor Driving website.

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

I was sorry to miss our last meeting where I gather the roulades produced looked and tasted delicious. Thank you Mike for hosting that one. Our next meeting is on Wednesday April 2nd, 3pm at my house, when you are asked to bring along your Easter Baking (excluding hot cross buns). Please also bring a list of suggestions for further meetings.

If you enjoy baking then

Contact Jenny Wheeley 351662

■ Bird Watching

Warleigh Wood

Tuesday March 11th 2014

Six of us set off to Warleigh Wood, which is at the confluence of the rivers Tamar and Tavy. It is approached via Tamerton Foliot. It was a sunny day and visibility was good. The tide was rising and there were plenty mud flats but few waders and divers were feeding. However there were lots of woodland birds for us to observe and hear. It was an enjoyable walk through a beautiful wood.

We are going to Thurlestone on Tuesday April 8th. Meet in the FCP at 9.00am.

For more information

Contact Keith Lane 370713

■ Bookworms

'The Weight of Water' By Anita Shreve received mixed reactions, those familiar with previous books of hers thought that perhaps this was not one of her best. Two stories separated by some one hundred and fifty years, it is set in The Isle of Shoals on a small island. At the end of each story our two heroines, one American and one Norwegian, are both faced with life changing events. The descriptions of life on the Island and in Norway are well written as are

the emotions felt by the two women.

The next Bookworms will be on April 25th 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

■ Computer Group

The first meeting of this group was held on 10th April. The meeting was well attended, 9 members came to participate in the group. The group consists of members with no computer but who wish to purchase one to members who are have a high degree of proficiency and knowledge.

After initial introductions the group broke out into smaller groups. These smaller groups looked at the operation of a Mac laptop, a new windows 8 laptop and a laptop loaded with windows vista.

It is anticipated that this pattern will be repeated for the next meeting. With members assistance we may also take a look at the operation of an ipad and an android tablet as well as those machines noted above.

Whilst the majority of members are Windows users, we hope to look at the operation of the Linux operating system and perhaps use of the raspberry Pi.

If you come a meeting it is most helpful if you could bring along your own computer, laptop or tablet and be prepared to share your experience.

New members welcome, next meetings 10th April and 8th May at 10.00am in the cricket club.

Contact : Peter Watson 384509

■ Cornish Art & Literature

For the second meeting of our Group we met at Calstock. Ruth Desborough had let us know of an Open Evening at the Lime Kiln Gallery featuring some Cornish Artists and Potters. Some of us met at The Boot for a very good meal and then went (through the rain) to the Open Evening. Altogether an interesting and enjoyable evening.

The next meeting will be on 14th April 2 – 4 pm at the Cricket Club.

Errata: Sorry we got the wrong name for the St. Ives painter Brian Pascoe should have been Bryan Pearce!

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

■ Crime Fiction Appreciation

9 of us met in February for a very lively discussion on our recent crime fiction reading and many books changed hands. These included previously discussed works by Elizabeth George, Dana Stabenow, Carlo Lucarelli and Stella Rimmington. New books from popular authors John Grisham, Peter James, Sue grafton, Peter Robinson, Michael Connelly and Donna Leon were reviewed, together with some newer authors - Kate Ellis, Robert Van Gulik, Margaret Doody, Jane Thynne, and scandinavian authors Jussi Adler-Olsen and Sissel-Jo Gazan. Our tea time treat this month was a delicious choice of lemon or Victoria sponges, courtesy of Anita. April's meeting will be Thursday 24th April, 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

Next meeting will be on Wednesday 16th April between 10 am. and noon at the Cricket Club. Topic yet to be decided. I will advise members of the group beforehand by email.

Contact: John Wheeley (351662)

■ Family History

The April 28th meeting of the Family History Group will be at the home of Sandra West, in Lockett, at 2.30pm not at Eileen's house. Telephone Sandra for directions if necessary. 370231 The May meeting will be brought forward to the 19th May, at 10am at Eileen's house, because the usual 4th Monday is the Spring bank holiday as well as Half Term.

Contact: Eileen Sturt 350639

■ Flower Arranging

The Flower Arranging Group's next meeting will be at Eileen's on Wednesday 2nd April at 10am . The titles of the arrangements to be kept secret and guessed by fellow members.

Contact: Eileen Sturt 350639

■ Food & Wine

I am trying to arrange a trip to PL1, the Plymouth City College Training Restaurant, probably early next term as they finish for Easter soon. Details later.

After that I thought it might be good to have another buffet lunch in Golberdon Village Hall when every one brings a contribution on a theme. Last year it was vegetarian dishes - any ideas for this time? Perhaps Mediterranean food, West Country food,

food on a budget? Let me have any suggestions.

Contact Maire Warwick 350711

■ Game On

Our next meeting is on Sunday April 13th at 2 30pm at Lucy's house.

Contact: Jenny Wheeley 351662

■ Handbells



The Handbell Group

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 March, 11 members met for a slightly different jazz session. For this afternoon we showed 'Jazz on a Summer's Afternoon', a film of a day at the 1958 Jazz Festival at Newport (Rhode Island not Isle of Wight!). It featured all kinds of jazz, the modern sounds of Thelonius Monk, Gerry Mulligan, Chico Hamilton and George Shearing, some New Orleans jazz and vocals from Anita O'Day, Dinah Washington and Louis Armstrong, all overlaid with shots of yacht racing of RI and beautiful people enjoying the music. Different but much enjoyed. April's meeting, on Wed 9th April, will feature an illustrated talk by Ruth Desborough on her 50 year association with jazz, 2.30 at the Cricket Club. If you are interested in joining us,

Contact David Seward 384631

■ Music Appreciation

I hope to restart music on Apr April 15th and would like to recruit 2 more people to join us for a couple of hours complete relaxation with good company, beautiful music, tea and biscuits. If interested call me:

Contact Pat Ferguson 384402

Needlework

Normally meet on second Thursday of the month.

Details from Ann Martin 384246

Opera

This month's opera was 'The Tales of Hoffmann' from The Royal Opera House Covent Garden. The hero sung by Placido Domingo seeking to exorcise the failure of his current love affair tells tales of his three past loves and relates how each was thwarted by the evil influence of his rival. A dramatic production with several outstanding settings and an all-star cast giving a truly memorable performance.

The next opera is on April 8th at 28 Trelawney Road.

Contact Carol Dowell 382158

Play Reading

For details,

Contact Jean Rose 350029

Poetry

As well as continuing our research into First World War Poetry we examined the lives and works of Lord Byron, (1788 – 1824), the 'mad, bad, and dangerous' romantic poet, according to his lover Lady Caroline Lamb and Alfred Lord Tennyson (1809–1892) Poet Laureate of Great Britain and Ireland during much of Queen Victoria's reign. He is most famous for his poem about The Charge of the Light Brigade and remains one of the most popular British poets.

The next meeting is on April 11th at The Cricket Club

Contact Pat Ferguson 384402

Science & Technology

We ventured abroad (well, Cold Northcott, near Camelford actually) for our March meeting. We had an interesting visit to the wind farm... and even stepped inside a windmill!



For our April meeting we are visiting the "energy from waste" plant under construction at North Yard, Camelshead, Plymouth on the 14th. Meet at the Cricket Club at 10am.

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

We shall continue to meet at 3 Grenville Close, Callington each month until further notice. New members are always welcome.

Contact : Anne Cooper (acting coordinator) 382267

Singing for Pleasure

The Dates for the April meetings are the 14th and 28th. Meetings are held at the Methodist Church where there is ample free parking.

Contact Rosalind Bunkham 383171

Strollers

Two dry Mondays enabled us to take advantage of the weather with strolls to see the Spring flowers at Calstock and St. Dominick. 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

The next meeting will be on Thursday 10th April at 7.30p.m. in the Cricket Club when the Warwicks and the Bassetts will be giving us their views of Egypt, including Cairo. Probably, in view of all the present unrest, this is the best way to visit this amazing country. Look forward to seeing you there.

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

Walkers 2 Group. Apart from last minute changes to three walks on the schedule due

to the bridge at Gunnislake undergoing repairs we enjoyed two local walks scheduled for later in the year. One at Cotehele and one at Kit Hill and finally managed The Tramway from Yelverton to Cleerbrook about which Roy Burridge gave us interesting historical facts along the way. For once the weather wasn't an issue on the walkers on a Tuesday despite the storms going on all around.

Contact Lucy Thomas 350018

HMS Pinafore Minack Theatre



2pm 16 September

£11.50 ticket only

John Schofield Tel 351962

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'

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