

4 Chuckles

From the Humour Group...

A middle aged man emerged from the hairdressers where he'd spent a couple of hours trying to have the clock put back, and then popped into the fishmongers to buy some fish for supper. "What do you recommend?" he asked. "First you need to tell me about your day" the fish monger replied. The man looked puzzled "Why?" he asked "Well" said the fishmonger "I always have a little bet with myself that I can match the fish I sell to my customer's day, and if I can't, you can have your fish for free" The man still looked puzzled. "It's like this" continued the fishmonger "If a customer tells me he's spent the morning at the gym then I'll suggest a bowl of *mussels*, and if he's taking the kids to the ice rink, well he needs a couple of *skate*. If he's about to move house it's obviously a *nice fresh plaice* and if the mother in law's coming to stay maybe a *piece of old trout!*" The man laughed. "Well I think you've lost with me" he said

"as there's nothing I've been up to that will match your fish choice... I've only been to the barbers. So I'm looking forward to my free fish supper"

The fish monger stared at the man with his newly coiffed, ginger tinged hair and smiled. "I don't think so my friend" he said "I think this fish here is exactly right for you." And he pointed to the slab where there lay a large, red mullet!

Jenny Wheeley

Some photos from the Strollers Group from Peter Watson:



This month's puzzle:

BiWord August
 1 Down: Short medical procedure
 1 Across: Alright?

Answer to last month's puzzle:

BiWord July
 1 Down: short important newspaper person
 1 Across: pardon?

Email your answer to me: colin-mills@talktalk.net
 The first correct answer received will be immortalised in print in next month's issue.

Last month's triumphant winners:
Lesley Cheetham - 1st
Ellen Seward - 2nd



Future Meetings:

- **September**
Social Event - inc. New Members welcome event
- **October**
Exhibition Day
- **November**
Diana Holsworth
U3A Regional Trustee

Officer Contact Numbers

Chairman: David Seward t: 384631
Vice Chair: Jenny Wheeley t: 351662
Secretary: Jo Earl t: 382859
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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

Copies of these Newsletters can be found on the above website

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



Anthea's Art

The Big Painting Challenge - The Real Story

Anthea Lay, one of our members, gave us a very interesting talk on her experiences as a contestant on the BBC art show. This was not Anthea's first foray into art competitions, as she had been a regular contributor to the BBC's Sketch Club programme in 1959. She and her family were delighted to see her efforts on their black & white TV. Over 50 years later she was inspired to attempt to become a competitor on the Big Painting Challenge, starting by sending in a couple of paragraphs about her life, and some photo examples of her work. Next came a phone interview, and then she received a call telling her that she had been accepted for the show. Anthea was already a winner- 7000 applications were received from aspiring contestants. She then had to go to London for final interviews, and had to do some drawings (of Pudsey Bear), and also an acrylic still life which contained a collection of shiny, transparent and hard to paint subjects. She also had to undergo an interview with a Psychiatrist to ensure she was 'of sound mind' Eventually she received train tickets to go to the first venue to be filmed for the show, Alnwick Castle. She packed along with her art materials, her apron - vertical stripes- and her iconic hat. The group were very well looked after with lots of food and drink on offer, even a designated person to provide them with their bottles of water. They were chaperoned all the time by the BBC

staff. Their first challenge was to paint the essence of the Castle, and Anthea chose their heraldic Lion rampant, and one of the many cannon found around the site. It wasn't until she had almost finished her painting that the saucy connotation was pointed out to her by the hostess Una Stubbs. The afternoon session was a scenic view of the castle, and when given their designated positions she found she could not see all the view, and the whole group had to be moved, making it quite late when they started painting in diminishing light. The second episode was filmed in London and started with a self portrait. Anthea was delighted to eventually sell this painting but glad that it had gone to Australia! Her second attempt was a painting of the actress Pam St.Clements [Pat Butcher in Eastenders] was not so successful, and Pam declared it 'looked like her-but in 10 years time'. Then to Blenheim Palace for episode three where the shooting had to be constantly delayed by the sounds off camera of the ravens, the chiming clock, and the appearance of an occasional stray tourist. Anthea's painting of the façade of the palace was considered to show the best perspective, which she modestly attributed to being positioned in the best spot. It was here that they were also asked to paint a still life depicting their interests.

Episode four was again filmed in London at the Tate Gallery and was to be Life Draw-

ing. The male models covered their modesty with a conveniently draped loincloth. The screen shot of Anthea's smirk was, she assured us, taken at a different time and edited into that episode! The judges comment was that she had 'not properly observed the skirting board behind the model!' Editing was to cause a further embarrassment when her drawing of a Gymnast shown on that programme was not the one she had wanted submitted. In her pastel drawing of the flamenco dancers Anthea drew the 'puny' male dancer somewhat larger, and was judged as having made him look like John Travolta. By this time Anthea had a clue that she would be eliminated when she was placed in the centre of the group, from where it was noticed, other contestants had been asked to leave. She was disappointed to miss the further episodes filmed in Liverpool and Dartmouth where her landscape technique would have been more appreciated. Although the constant travelling and filming was gruelling, she enjoyed the experience, and has kept in touch with her fellow contestants, improved some of her painting, and is now sometimes recognised in Tesco! We had the chance to see some of the paintings included in the programmes, and had enjoyed an amusing and informative talk.

Jane Black

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

Last month the baking group put its expertise into baking for the Group Leaders' tea. The table was laden with scones, madeleines, fairy cakes, biscuits and more, all of which were soon set upon with glee. Everyone seemed to be pleased with our efforts and there certainly wasn't too much left at the end of the afternoon. There will be no meeting in August so we meet next on Wednesday, September 3rd at Ellen and David's for "Something Fruity".

At the moment our group is full but if you are interested in joining please contact me to go on the waiting list.

Contact Jenny Wheeley 351662

Birding Group

Six of us set off at 8.30 pm to hunt for Nightjars in Wisley Down. The late start was important because the nightjar is a moth eating nocturnal species and becomes active at dusk. The Down where we started was covered by young conifers that provides ideal cover for the birds. We walked quietly along a track between the trees and stopped when we heard the call of the nightjar. The call is a dry hollow "drilling or churring" sound that rises and falls. This may continue for some minutes. For a period we heard them from different directions. As we left this location one bird was seen flying away from us and another flew over us. SUCCESS INDEED!

There will be no Birding trip during August. On September 8th we will be going to Ramehead leaving the FCP at 9.00am.

Contact Keith Lane 370713

Bookworms

Despite the onset of "Summer Holidays" we had a good number of members at our July meeting, as well as one newcomer who is very welcome.

The book for discussion was "Guernica" by Dave Boling. Most of us agreed that it illustrated the inhumanity of war from the aspect of the ordinary people who are destroyed by, in this case, one single act of barbarism, portrayed so well in Picasso's painting. I, for one, had not realised that the Basque people were so oppressed at that time, not even being able to use their own language. The novel had occasional lapses into humour mostly where the young men dodged the restrictions of the regime, and a partial happy ending, although that felt a little contrived. I think we would all recommend this book.

Please note there will be no meeting in August: the next date will be September 18th.

The next book will be available at the August U3A meeting, or from Hilary after that date.

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 Burrige 389018

Computer Group

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 month topics the group explored included;

1. Down loading photos from a mobile phone.
2. Removing programs from a mobile phone.
3. Copying a CD.
4. Adjusting settings on a mobile phone.
5. Registering for windows 10.

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 20th August at 10.00.

Contact Peter Watson 384509

Cornish Art & Literature

No meeting in August - we will resume in September - TBA.

Contact Anita & Tony Bowden
Joint Co-ordinators 350668

Crime Fiction Appreciation

At July's meeting 10 of us gathered at Lucy's house. After a break last month, there were many authors to discuss and books to return and pass round again. Several new authors were discussed, including first novels by Ray Celestin and Clare Donoghue and books by Nora Roberts and Alan Hunter. Many thanks to Jenny for her tea time ginger cake and date slice and to John T for his ginger biscuits. Our next meeting will be Thursday 27th August, probably at Lucy's. If you are interested in joining us to discuss or learn more about crime fiction please contact:

David Seward 384631

Family History

There will not be a Family History Group meeting in August. The next meeting will be September 28th, at Eileen's.

Contact Eileen Sturt 350639

Flower Arranging

There will not be a Flower Group meeting in August, the next one will be arranged at the September General meeting, to suit all the group members.

Contact Eileen Sturt 350639

Food & Wine

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

Contact Josephine King 350890

Humour

Thanks to Michael and Pauline Farr for hosting this meeting. The Focus was **Spike Milligan** and was led by Keith. After an in-

From **Spike Milligan** (on London statues) "It's due to pigeons that alight on Nelson's hat that makes it white".

roduction to Spike starting with his birth and early life in India, followed by his arrival in England and his time in the army during the Second WW. A tape recording of Spike talking about his time in India revealed how much he had loved the Indian people and their humour. The session was rounded off by listening to a Goon Show.

The next meeting will be held at Christine's house on September 21st starting at 10 am. For more information

Contact Keith Lane 370713

or by email kandslane@hotmail.com.

Italian

We continue to meet every month and are half way through our course. We cannot take any more new members at the moment. If anyone wishes to join Gunnislake U3A my other U3A Italian group has room for one or two more.

Sally Thomas 01822 832017

Jazz Appreciation

At July's meeting 10 of us met for a members' choice session. Amongst others, we listened to the big band music of Johnnie Dankworth, Chris Barber and Stan Kenton, songs from Ella, George Melly, Blossom Dearie and Jay McShand. And something different, blues from Big Bill Broonzy, saxophone from Stanley Turrentine and piano of Monty Alexander. There will not be a meeting in August. The next meeting will be on Wed 9th September at Rosemary's. If you are interested in joining us for an afternoon of jazz, contact

David Seward 384631

Music Appreciation

There will be no music appreciation in August. September dates will be in the next News sheet.

Contact: Pat Ferguson 384402

Needlework

Normally meet on the second Thursday of the month.

Details from Ann Martin

Opera

There will be no opera in August.

September dates will be in the next News sheet.

Contact Carol Dowell 382158

Philosophy

Our philosophy meeting will take place on 30th July and will be the conclusion of the two books where most of our information so far has come from, Bryan Magee's 'Story of Philosophy' and Stephen Law's 'Complete Philosophy Files'. The chapter to be discussed is on virtual reality and the way forward for philosophy. Last month we discussed friendship and the ideas on this by Marcel Proust and this month we will continue on that theme by looking at Epicurean ideas on the value of friendship and a happy life.

There will be no August meeting and the next meeting will be on 24th September in the Committee Room.

Contact: Doreen Johnson 343152

doreen.johnson@onetel.com

Play Reading

Contact Jean Rose 350029

Poetry

There will be no poetry in August. September dates will be in the next News sheet.

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 383632

Scribblers

We will be meeting on August 6th at 3 Grenville Close.

We are currently working on material for the next exhibition.

Anne Cooper 382267

Singing for Pleasure

There are no meetings for Singing for Pleasure in August.

Contact: Rosalind Bunkum 383171

Strollers

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

Contact: Lucy Thomas 350018

Some photos of the recent Group Leaders Tea ...

thanks to John Wheeley)



Last year the Committee invited Group Co-ordinators to tea at the Council Chambers to thank them (on behalf of us all) for the commitment they put in to keeping our interest groups going. We repeated the event this year and a good time was had by all.

The Baking Group used their monthly meeting to provide goodies for the occasion and there were some delicious individual cakes plus traditional scones, jam and cream, as well as strawberries and cream. A good assortment and very much enjoyed.

So step up all those considering starting a new group - you too could enjoy this event next July!

Penny Beech
Groups Co-ordinator

