



■ Opera

The Opera Group enjoyed a visit to the Hall of Cornwall to see Tosca performed by The Ellen Kent touring company. The chorus and orchestra, mainly from Eastern Europe gave a charming performance of Puccini's Tosca, with its romance and treachery and its soaring and searing melodies. Vladimir Dragos was a splendid Baron Scarpia and leading lady Akyona Kistenyova made the most of her Act 2 classic solo and murder scene. The conductor was Vasyl Vasylenko and the professionals were supported by Truro's Jason Thomas Performing Arts, one of their number, a young Tom Robinson gave an excellent performance as the shepherd boy.

Opera is held on the 3rd Tuesday of the month. *There will be no Opera in December*

Contact Carol Dowell 382158

■ Philosophy

Our November session focussed on Aristotle and mince pies with a discussion about Christmas and giving. Once again there were many different views on the subject. We also welcomed a new member to our group. Our next meeting will be on January 28th in the Committee Room at the Town Hall.

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

■ Play Reading

Contact Jean Rose 350029

■ Poetry

We discussed the Irish potato famine and the struggle for Home Rule and the effect both of these had on Irish poetry before enjoying poetry both traditional and modern form several poets.

Poetry is held on the first Friday after the monthly meeting. There will be no Poetry in December

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 resume on February 4th 2016 at 2pm. Happily our membership is expanding but even so we should fit into 3 Grenville Close for the time being.

New members welcome.

Anne Cooper 382267

■ Singing for Pleasure

Contact: Rosalind Bunkum 38317

■ Strollers

This month we have been to Roadford Reservoir, paddled around the park at Saltash after a week of wet weather and visited Cotehele to admire the garland



(see above). Unfortunately we had to cancel the trip to Looe, where we were going to have a guided tour of the Life Boat Station, but hope to re-schedule this for the Spring. For our last meeting this month 29 of us are meeting at Louis for the Strollers Christmas lunch. It is a bit early but there are so many lunches in December. Oh dear - I think we might be starting a slimming group in January!

Contact: Pauline Husband 350379

■ Table Tennis

Contact Ray Geatches 350638

■ Walking Group 1

Contact: Ann Martin

■ Walking Group 2

A big 'thank you' to all those of you who made our exhibition day such a success. We had a record of eleven potential new members! A special 'thank you' to Jim, Mary's husband (and a new member) for the super sign post he made for our display. Our Christmas shenanigans will be at East Cornwall Farmhouse on 1st December. Please bring a plate of some of your favourite goodies, and drop them off at E.C. Farmhouse. We will meet in the Free Car Park as usual and, providing weather permits, will walk the Dupath Well road to Lucy's and maybe partake of a 'hot wassail' to start the party! Please give some thought as to what type, and where, you would like to walk next year.

Contact: Lucy Thomas 350018

Callington U3A Newsletter

December 2015



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

January 2016

Doreen's trip to Oxford + Diana's Adventures with Sat navs + The Great Sewing Machine Mystery



At the November's Monday morning meeting we were lucky to have not one but two speakers, **Doreen Johnson** spoke to us about her recent visit to Oxford attending the U3A Philosophy Network group leaders conference and how much she had learned and enjoyed the experience of listening and discussing the subject with the other member of the wider U3A, coming as they did as far afield as Edinburgh to Cornwall. She described the beauty of Oxford and felt she knew the area, although it was only her second visit, because it was so familiar (to us all) through the television programmes about the exploits of Inspector Morse and the recent series about his deputy Lewis.

The next speaker was the regional trustee for the South West **Diana Holdsworth** who covers Wiltshire, Gloucester, Somerset, Dorset, Devon and Cornwall who looks after and promotes our area with the National Executive Committee. She referred back to Doreen's talk because

bered being in the same pub in Oxford by Morse at the same time as the writer of the books Colin Dexter, who apparently was very very short! Looking after such a large area she told us all about her experiences driving around the area and her visits London and the NEC every two months and spoke about the joys of reliance on a Sat Nav to navigate around. Once it took her through a very narrow road with a wall on one side and a ditch on the other and coming in the other direction a very large lorry. Not the greatest and turning a car in a very narrow space "like a lot of ladies" (which drew a whoop from the audience) the lorry driver turned the vehicle for her and gave her directions only to find after following the said directions coming face to face with the same driver in an equally narrow place, he patiently decided to be late to his next job and led her back to the right road.

Bodmin history group had recently contacted her about an invitation to join them, more details to follow. Diana also encouraged

members of the baking group to take part in the **Great British Bake Off**, so watch this space!! She lives in Paignton and is part of their history group and gave us a potted history about a famous past resident of the area. Kept us guessing about who it was. Born in 1811 in the USA, marries very young has 2 children works at various jobs but longs to be an actor. Eventually at 21 leaves to pursue his dream but finds that he is not very good at acting but very good at having affairs and producing children (18) and inventing. The penny dropped after various guesses when she told us he invented a sewing machine. Mr Singer moved to Paignton and was a generous benefactor and longed to be accepted into the "posh" society but never was. He died in 1875 and had a spectacular funeral.

Diana finished by thanking us all for the very warm welcome she had received and complimenting us on the variety of groups on offer.



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Group Reports

■ Allotments

Two allotments are being cultivated.

Contact Ann Martin

■ Art

Contact Tony Walpole 833082

■ Baking

A big thank you to Les for hosting our Halloween/ Bonfire night meeting. We had an almost complete turnout and so the table was groaning. Roast pumpkin filled with cheese, savoury breads, spiced toffee apple cakes, spooky cup cakes- you name it, we baked it! A truly mouthwatering array. Our Christmas meeting is on December 16th at the Wheeley's when we are baking all manner of Christmas goodies (but no mince pies allowed!).

Our group is now full for logistical reasons but if you are interested in joining please contact me to be put on the waiting list.

Contact Jenny Wheeley 351662

■ Birding Group

Seen on Kit Hill recently:

A fellow bird watcher heard and saw four crows jumping up and down and making a loud noise. As he approached he was able to see that the crows were attacking a kestrel. He disturbed the crows and the Kestrel was able to fly away. One of the crows chased the kestrel but did not catch it.

There will not be a birding session in December. We will start again on January 12th and will begin with a trip to Wadebridge. This venue gives us a chance to see waders and hedgerow birds by the river Camel. We can then go to the hide on the Amble Marshes where we are likely to see a good number of ducks. This venue usually gives us a large number of species and therefore a good report.

Contact Keith Lane 370713

or kandslane@hotmail.com

■ Bookworms

If you would like a good book to read over the holidays try "The Last Runaway" from the pen of Tracy Chevalier:

It is the story of two Quaker sisters who make the perilous crossing to America. One to marry her fiancé who is already settled there and the other to forget hers who has married another girl. One of them lives with another Quaker family and becomes involved in helping runaway slaves. You will have to read the book to find out why and how!! It was favourably reviewed by most of us and we learned quite a bit about quilting along the way.

A group of us had a most enjoyable (apart from the weather) day at the Looe Literary Festival covering poetry workshops, talks from travel writers and a chance to hear an interview with Sara Winman about her latest book "A Year of Marvellous Ways" which we have yet to read. Well done Looe Lit.- please come back next year.

Just a reminder that our next meeting will be on January 15th.

The book for discussion will be Peter Carey's "Oscar and Lucinda" Happy New Year Everyone.

Contact Hilary Howarth 382172

hilary.howarth@btinternet.com

■ Bridge

The Bridge Group is now meeting every Tuesday evening at 7.30pm, 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

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. Windows 10.
2. e-mailing using ipads.
3. changing settings on mobile phones.

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 17th December at 10.00.

Contact Peter Watson 384509

■ Cornish Culture

Ghost stories - this story from **Daphne du Maurier's Vanishing Cornwall**

The Bronte sisters and Branwell their brother had a Cornish Mother, Maria Branwell, after she died her sister Elizabeth came to look after the four children.

The family came from Penzance and lived at 25 Chapel Street. With no television or radio stories were a favourite form of entertainment and here is a ghost story the Bronte family was probably told by their mother or aunt....

A Mrs Baines lived in Chapel Street and the garden had some fine apple trees. Mrs Baines was so worried about the theft of apples her servant was told to sit in the garden to guard the trees. One evening she went outside to see if he was on guard - she frightened the watchman who leapt up and discharged his weapon, a blunderbuss, and struck his mistress. She died several days later, from the time of her death the orchard was said to be haunted. Mrs Baines was seen walking through the orchard dressed in a short mantle with long lace ruffles hanging from her sleeves. No one dared enter the orchard from that time and the apples rotted on the trees. No one would live in the house - her spinning wheel could be heard turning in the upstairs room.

In a nearby churchyard a man lay buried who had died of poisoning. His wife was convicted of his murder when arsenic was found in his body. She was hung and her ghost haunted the churchyard dressed in a winding sheet with the mark of the rope around her neck. On stormy nights she would be seen with a spade in her hands standing on her husband's grave.

Stimulating stores for imaginative children.

Happy Christmas

Contact Anita & Tony Bowden

Joint Co-ordinators 350668

■ Crime Fiction Appreciation

At November's meeting, 8 of us met again at Lucy's house. Many authors were discussed and books returned and passed on again. Several new or less familiar authors were discussed, including Yrsa Sigurdardottir, Marco Vichi, Dennis Lehane and Sara Paretsky. Anita provided a delicious cream sponge to go with tea. *There is no meeting in December, so the next meeting will be Thursday 28th January 2016* probably at Lucy's. Until then, Merry Christmas and good reading! If you are interested in joining us to discuss or learn more about crime fiction,

Contact: **David Seward 384631**

■ Family History

No meeting in December. January meeting at Eileen's 27th 2.30pm.

Contact Eileen Sturt 350639

■ Flower Arranging

Flower Arranging Sunday 6th December 2.30pm Christmas lunch arrangements at Eileen's.

Contact Eileen Sturt 350639

■ Food & Wine

Visit to the Cornish Cheese Company. On an extremely wet Tuesday morning in November, 29 members of the Food and Wine Group visited the Cornish Cheese Company at Upton Cross. After dressing up in the disposable overalls and head gear we were shown around the factory by Philip Stansfield, the owner. We followed the cheese making process through from the milk produced by the 250 cows kept on the farm to the finished product, a delicious blue-veined cheese with a creamy texture and slightly milder flavour than a Stilton. This cheese has won many awards including a championship when competing in an international competition against 3000 cheeses from around the world. We were able to buy some to keep for Christmas before we all met up at The Manor House in Rilla Mill for a very pleasant lunch and a few glasses of good cheer.

Contact Maire Warwick 350711

(maire.warwick@btinternet.com)

■ Game On

The Games group meet every 2nd and 4th Sunday afternoon at 2.30. Our next meeting is on December 13th. If you enjoy board games and want good company on Winter Sunday afternoons please contact me.

Contact Jenny Wheeley 351662

■ Handbells

Contact Maire Warwick 350711

■ History

Contact Josephine King 350890

■ Humour

This meeting was our first anniversary as a group and was possibly our best. We were eleven in number, including Penny, who came as a guest, and Richard as a new recruit. At the beginning we considered what we had achieved during the year. In fact we had done quite a lot and dabbled in a number of themes. There was a unanimous decision to retain the meeting structure. After a discussion there was a feeling that we might consider working together and at some time entertain other members. We had all come armed with a range of jokes. A DVD gave us laughs from a range of comedians starting with Hancock donating an armful of blood!! In our next three meetings will Helen will focus on Tommy Cooper, David will focus on "The Dinner Ladies" and Richard will focus on "Politically incorrect Humour."

TH HARDEST THING IS T'DISGUISE YO' FEELIN' WHEN YOU PUT A LOT O' RELATIVES ON TH' TRAIN FER HOME. *Abe Hubbard from the deep south of the USA.*

Contact Keith Lane 370713

or by email kandslane@hotmail.com.

■ Italian

The Italian group recently met for lunch at Positano Restaurant. As well as being a good chance to get together, we were able to practice a little Italian.

A popular starter was Antipasto Tricolore which consisted of a salad of tomato, mozzarella and avocado. We chose our main course from a wide choice of pasta dishes. The Spaghetti alla Puttanesca was very popular. The desserts looked tempting, but only two

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people could manage a tiramisu.

Contact: Sally Thomas 01822 832017

■ Jazz Appreciation

9 members met at Christine's for November's meeting. In another varied members' selection session, we listened to piano jazz from Duke Ellington and Billy Strayhorn, Jools Hooland, Stan Tracey, Bill Evans and Oscar Petersen, big band music from the Scottish National Jazz Orchestra, Benny Goodman, Woody Herman and Cab Calloway and sax jazz from Dexter Gordon, John Coltrane and Paul Desmond. The next meeting will be on Wed 16th December at Christine's, a Christmas-themed afternoon. If you are interested in joining us, contact

David Seward 384631

■ Music Appreciation

We enjoyed listening to the haunting music of Aaron Copland ballet - 'Billy the Kid'. The music incorporates several cowboy tunes and although it is mainly about the exploits of the outlaw it gives a biographical perception of the pioneer West. Rodeo and Appalachian Spring are two of the most popular and widely performed pieces by this American composer.

Music is held on the 2nd Tuesday of the month. There will be no Music in December

Contact: Pat Ferguson 384402

■ Needlework

Normally meet on the second Thursday of the month.

Details from Ann Martin

