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Singing for Pleasure

the Singing for pleasure dates for February are 8th and 22nd meeting from 3.30 to 5 o'clock at the Callington Methodist Church.

Contact: **Rosalind Bunkum 38317**

Strollers

Not the weather for strolling this month but we still managed to meet up for coffee. We have had one stroll when we did the Callington Mural Trail. This was very interesting but we felt that some of the murals needed a bit of updating. We then adjourned to the recently refurbished Bulls Head where we were made very welcome. I hope February's weather is better.

Contact: **Pauline Husband 350379**

Table Tennis

Contact **Ray Geatches 350638**

Walking Group 1

Walking group 1 had a successful first walk of the year on 8th Jan. With the weather being fine that day the group walked from Minions to Sharp tor via gold Diggings quarry. For future walks see the web site or

Contact: **Ann Martin**

Walking Group 2

The first walk of the year led by Paula and Don Jackson along Seaton beach returning through the village of Downderry was a gem in sunshine. The crashing waves glittered in the sun. Some higher being had turned the tap off just long enough for us to complete the walk and get comfortable in the beach café for coffee and cake.

...and History Group Combined:

Members were treated to an entertaining and informative guided tour of the Plymouth Barbican area by Josephine King who bravely carried on despite the chill of a winter wind. She took us back in time to imagine the Pilgrim Fathers leaving in the Mayflower from the original quay steps which are now only available to be seen in the Ladies loo of the Admiral MacBride Pub. The set

of steps seen today with plaques containing information about that time are reproductions to show and inform visitors to Plymouth.

Jo reminded us of Sir Francis Drake's roll in defeating the Spanish Armada and explained that the harbour was originally navigable further inland but deposits from the mines caused the rivers to silt up. Jo guided us through Elizabethan and Tudor areas explaining the ship's Captain's stayed here amongst the filth and smells created by the detritus of the fishermen, pubs and hoar houses. Jo's talk contained information about the Three Court Houses surrounding the parade ground and which eras they were built and used in.

The flat cobbled area called the parade ground was exactly that and used by the local military.

Contact: **Lucy Thomas 350018**



Future Meetings:

March

Glyn Dean - Hedgehogs

April

AGM

May

Mike Hayward - Voyage of the Mayflower

June

Rev. Martin Smith
Slow Progress Tortoise School

July

Phillip Rodda - Rodda Creamery

Officer Contact Numbers

Chairman: **David Seward**
t: 384631

Vice Chair: **Jenny Wheeley**
t: 351662

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Editor: **Colin Mills t: 208598**
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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 may be made wherever possible for groups meeting in the fourth week of the month)

The Newsletter is published at the start of each month.

Disabled members: Contact Peter Watson 384509

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

Callington U3A Newsletter

THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

February 2016

SILENT WITNESS

Three murders and a suicide - Not a title to cheer you up on a dreary wet January morning, our first meeting of 2016, but Simon Dell, a retired Policeman talked about his experiences with wit and humour.

His stories were all linked by the county pathologist Dr Frederick Hocking. The first tragedy we heard about was the murder of a tobaccoist from Falmouth. Dr Hocking's investigation centred on a gun left at

the scene which had been stolen in a robbery some years earlier. It was identified by its serial number, and the main suspect in that previous robbery was visited. He had in his possession a packet of Woodbine Cigarettes, again with a serial number, and identified as coming from that day. A repaired ten shilling note was also found on the suspect, which matched a piece cut from paper found in the waste bin in the shop. He was found guilty.

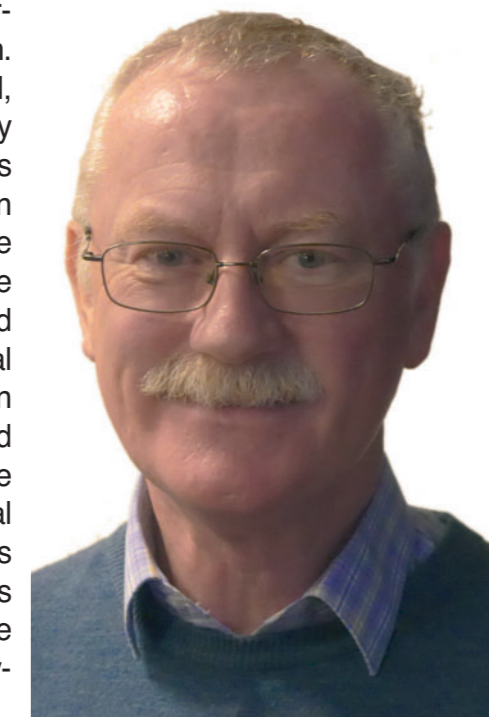
We then heard about a war time affair which ended in tragedy when the lovers, about to be parted, decided on a suicide pact. They decided to shoot themselves in the summer house of the hotel where they were billeted as they worked on defence intelligence. The

investigation by Dr Hocking proved that the lady involved could not have shot herself twice as her lover stated, as the second bullet, which killed her, was shot from 18 inches away - hardly likely from an already seriously wounded lady. It was related twice over future years that a weeping lady matching her description was seen in the hotel's garden, still awaiting her lover, who was jailed.

Constantine in 1963 was the final murder we heard about. A young man, who avoided going to war in 1917, lived a secret nocturnal life helping to run the family farm. When his father and brother died, his mother moved away and they ran an isolated farm together. It was not until 1953 when the new Queen granted an amnesty for all war time deserters, that he was able to live openly. Ten years later he was killed during a robbery at the farm. A local man was suspected, and when questioned admitted that he had been there, but an accomplice had killed the farmer. During the trial a paper, written in Esperanto was translated to reveal the whereabouts of savings of £8,000 hidden at the farm. The farmer had been killed trying to guard his treasure.

Dr Hocking lived to be 98, and when his wife died he decided he wanted to be with her and committed suicide. He left notes explaining what pills he had taken and how they would have killed him, and also an apology to the Police Constable who had to deal with the suicide - Simon Dell!

Jane Black



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Group Reports

Allotments

Two allotments are being cultivated.

Contact **Ann Martin**

Art

Our February meetings will be on the 4th and 18th, 10am - 1pm.

...the meeting on the 18th will be a workshop based on my Chinese art lessons in Hong Kong over Christmas



...here is my teacher, Uncle Ho. He doesn't speak English & I don't speak Chinese, but fortunately his niece translated for us!

Contact **Tony Walpole 833082**

Baking

There was no meeting in January due to its closeness to Christmas and New Year feasting so our next meeting will be on February 4th, 3 pm at Marian's. As one of our group will be celebrating a birthday on that date the task is Party Food.

Our group is now full but please contact me on the number below if you are interested in being put on our waiting list.

Contact **Jenny Wheeley 351662**

Birding Group

**Wadebridge Tuesday
January 12th 2016**

Eight of us went to Wadebridge. We travelled through rain but our destination was dry and overcast with a strong cold wind. We went to the Walmsley Reserve where we fitted neatly into the hide and were out of the wind. The hide is well positioned and looks out over an extensive view of water with many islands and lots

of birds. Whilst there we saw 25 different species, the majority of which were ducks. One of the ducks, "a green winged teal" is a rarity. After lunch we began to walk into a head wind along the Camel Trail where we saw some waders. After a short time we decided that the wind was winning and we called it a day. The trip on February 9th will be to Hayle Estuary. We may make an 8.30am start because of the distance. We will meet in the FCP. More info will be available nearer to the date.

If you have any questions

Contact **Keith Lane 370713**
or kandslane@hotmail.com

Bookworms

"Oscar and Lucinda" by Peter Carey.

Luckily we had a long book to tide us over the Christmas break, although in some cases this proved to be a distraction as people thought they had plenty of time and all of a sudden it was time for our meeting!!

The book "Oscar & Lucinda" by the Australian author Peter Carey, proved to be one of those books that tended to confuse us with many characters, some of them not very pleasant, and an intricate story line. Those of us who did finish it found the ending quite unexpected and sad. On the whole I think the author's style and language were admired, but the story somewhat unbelievable. We have also obtained a copy of the DVD of the film which makes things a lot clearer, but the ending, although slightly changed still sad.

Our next meeting will be on Friday 19th February

Contact **Hilary Howarth 382172**
hilary.howarth@btinternet.co.uk

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. Using Picassa.
2. Libre Office

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 18th February at 10.00.

Contact **Peter Watson 384509**

Cornish Culture

Our first meeting for 2016 on the 11th January included our wider curriculum. It covered Alfred Munnings who lived at Lamorna, this time was covered in the film mainly shot in Cornwall called "Summer in February" He was one of England's most famous horse painters and became president of the Royal Academy in 1944 when he received a knighthood. The Carews of Antony and the Edgcomb were then covered and the exciting period of the English Civil War.

Then a completely different topic of Market Gardening in the Tamar Valley. It is difficult to believe it was such a busy place with fruit being carried on the Tamar to be sent to many places in England. 8,000 to 10,000 people worked in the industry.

Our next meeting will be at Margaret Davis - 5 Fowey Crescent, Callington on Monday 8th February - 2 pm. to 4 pm.

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

Crime Fiction Appreciation

We did not meet in December and January's meeting was too late for this newsletter so details will be on the webpage. Our next meeting will be Thursday 25th Feb at Lucy's at 2pm. If you are interested in joining us to discuss or learn more about crime fiction, please contact **David Seward 384631**

Family History

Family History Monday 22nd February 2.30pm at Eileen's. Venue may have to be changed. If it is, members will be notified.

Contact **Eileen Sturt 350639**

Flower Arranging

Contact **Eileen Sturt 350639**

Food & Wine

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

Game On

Our games group continues to meet on the second and fourth Sunday afternoons of the month at Lucy's house. Please contact me if you enjoy a variety of board games and would like to join us

Contact **Jenny Wheeley 351662**

Handbells

Contact **Maire Warwick 350711**

History

Contact **Josephine King 350890**

Humour

Our first meeting of the year was a real laugh that began with Helen focusing on Tommy Cooper. He was of course a comedy genius and the real master of the one liners. After telling us about his career Helen started to tell us a joke but she couldn't because she was laughing at it so much. Eventually she told us the following:

"I went to the doctors the other day and said it hurts when I do that. He said well don't do it".

We all read out some of his best ones. "I went to Blackpool to stay so I knocked on a door. A woman came to the door and I said 'I'd like to stay here' and she replied 'That's OK' and closed the door. I met my wife at a dance"... "I thought she was at home with the kids".

The next meeting is on Monday 15th February starting at 10.00am at Christine's house. David will focus on the 'Dinner Ladies'. Come and join us.

Contact **Keith Lane 370713**
or by email kandslane@hotmail.com.

Italian

Contact **Sally Thomas 01822 832017**

Jazz Appreciation

9 members met at Christine's in January for the first meeting of 2016. It was another members' choice session and amongst others, we listened to big band music from Tommy Dorsey, Woody Herman and Harry James, sax of Charlie Parker and Gerry Mulligan, and new to

the group, from John Handy and Tommy Smith. Also new were the guitar jazz of George Barnes and vocals from Buddy Grecco. The next meeting will be on Wed 11th February at Christine's, another member's choice but featuring slightly longer tracks than usual. If you are interested in joining us for an afternoon of jazz, contact

David Seward 384631

Music Appreciation

For our January meeting we were treated to the wonderful music of George Gershwin the American composer and pianist. Gershwin's compositions spanned both popular and classical genres, and his most popular melodies are widely known. Among his best-known works are the orchestral compositions Rhapsody in Blue (1924) and An American in Paris (1928) as well as the opera Porgy and Bess (1935) We enjoyed a CD of his most famous classical masterpiece and several other classical compositions..

The next Music is on Tuesday February 9th at 2pm

Contact **Pat Ferguson 384402**

Needlework

Normally meet on the second Thursday of the month.

Details from Ann Martin

Opera

The new season began with Verdi's opera, Falstaff performed by The Metropolitan New York, based on Shakespeare's play The Merry Wives of Windsor. The Libretto by Arrigo Boito halved the number of characters in the play, and gave the character of Falstaff more depth by incorporating dozens of passages from Henry IV. The rotund Ambrogio Maestri was excellent as the rogue Sir John supported by Stephanie Blythe as Mistress Quick and Angela Meade as Alice Ford. A delightful romp with many twists and turns and the Bard's usual mistaken identities much enjoyed on a cold winter's afternoon. In our next sessions we will be exploring the works of Gioachino Rossini a contemporary of Verdi.

Next Opera is on February 16th at 2pm- Please to let me know if you are coming

so I can arrange seating

Contact **Carol Dowell 382158**

Philosophy

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

Play Reading

Contact **Jean Rose 350029**

Poetry

For the first Poetry of the year we watched a video of the famous and oldest surviving long poem in Old English. It was written in England sometime between the 8th and the early 11th century by an anonymous Anglo-Saxon poet. The poem is set in Scandinavia. Beowulf, a hero of the Geats, comes to the aid of Hrothgar, the king of the Danes, whose mead hall in Heorot has been under attack by a monster known as Grendel. After Beowulf slays him, Grendel's mother attacks the hall and is then also defeated. Victorious, Beowulf goes home to Geatland and later becomes king of the Geats. After a period of fifty years has passed, Beowulf defeats a dragon, but is fatally wounded in the battle. After his death, his attendants cremate his body and erect a tower on a headland in his memory. Although the film itself was received with mixed feelings, judge by some to be too violent, it gave an interesting insight into the legends and myths of the Dark Ages.

The next Poetry is on Friday February 5th at 2pm

Contact **Pat Ferguson 384402**

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

Next meeting on Feb. 4th at 3 Grenville Close from 2-4pm

Anne Cooper 382267

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