

4

going to Sibleyback but we enjoyed our coffee and hot chocolate at Louis and watched the rain come down. We are hoping to do the Sibleyback walk next week so fingers crossed for nice weather.

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

On July 7th the walkers are having a brief walk along the River Lynher from New Bridge towards Clapper Bridge and for those who wish on the return journey they can climb up to Cadsonbury Hill Fort.

The Historical Walk with Josephine King will be on 21st July at Tywardreth. A walk from Minions towards the Caradon Hill is planned for July 28th.

Contact: Lucy Thomas 350018

or email lucydtomas@btinternet.com

Chuckles

From the Humour Group...

"I THOUGHT I'D BEGIN BY READING A POEM BY SHAKESPEARE...

BUT THEN I THOUGHT WHY SHOULD I? HE'S NEVER READ ANY OF MINE!"

Spike Milligan

This month's puzzle:

BiWord July

1		

1 Down: short important newspaper person

1 Across: pardon?

Answer to last month's puzzle:

BiWord June

S	i	
O		

1 Down: "Make it .." Jean-Luc Picard (for fans of Star Trek)

1 Across: International units from the French : Le Système International d'Unités.

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 winner: Ellen Seward

Speakers at Future Meetings:

■ July 6th

The Big Painting Challenge – The Real Story

Anthea Lay

■ August 3rd

Talk and entertainment entitled 'Down Memory Lane'

Dorothy Willatt (singer) and John Ware (keyboard)

■ September

Social Event - details to be confirmed

Officer Contact Numbers

Chairman: David Seward t: 384631
Vice Chair: Jenny Wheeley t: 351662
Secretary: Jo Earl t: 382859
Treasurer: Ian MacDonald t: 351221
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

Copies of these Newsletters can be found on the above website

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

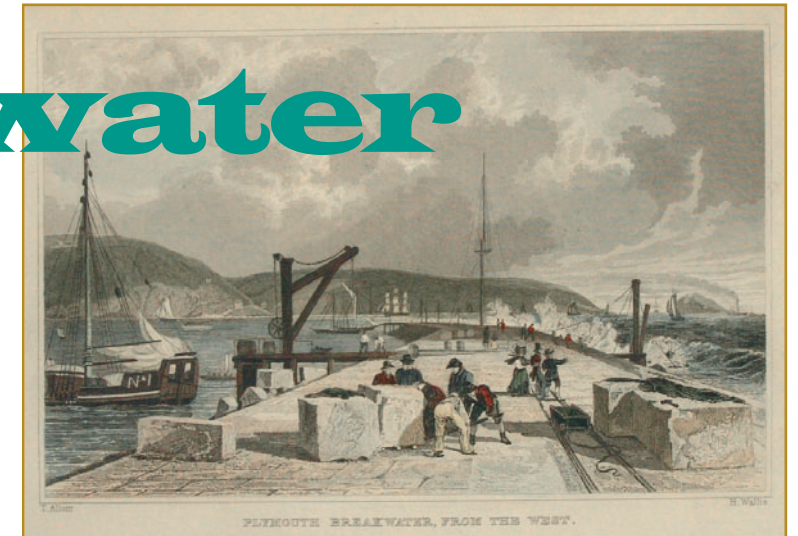
Callington U3A Newsletter

THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE July 2015

The Plymouth Sound Breakwater



Ron Smith



Ron Smith was our June speaker and began by explaining that this very large structure – almost a mile long – had been built to protect ships trying to get in and out of Plymouth Dock. A good number had already been wrecked when The Dutton East Indiaman with 600 on board was wrecked in 1796. It was a particularly dramatic incident capturing the imagination of the public and, finally, the Admiralty felt they should do something to protect the Sound. The first plan was drawn up in 1788 and in 1801 the commissioners of the Navy made a survey but their plan was not accepted. In 1806 John Rennie and Joseph Whidbey were sent to investigate. Both experienced and distinguished men, they went out on a spring tide and a month later presented their report. It then took until 1811 before the decision was made to follow it up. Their plan is what we now have and the Breakwater is placed in the middle of the Sound, on the Shovel Shoal, to prevent silting from behind. Joseph Whidbey was appointed to take on the build. The first thing to decide was where to take the rocks from. Whidbey suggested the Hoe but there was public outcry and instead a new limestone quarry was opened at Oreston. The build began in 1812 – the first blocks being dropped on

the Prince Regent's birthday to double celebrations. The first sighting of the rocks above water was at spring tide in 1813. Significant shelter was achieved by winter 1814/15 and the final works continued into the 1840s. This was very efficient work in the famous Victorian style. The speed was helped along by Richard Trevithick's Steam Stone Hole Borer. Unable to use it in the mines because of the size, it proved ideal for the work required by Whidbey's quarry team. John Rennie designed special vessels to take the stones to site. Using cranes and trucks they were taken on rails to the boats, placed in the holds and then dropped by a specially designed tipping frame from the boats to the sea bed. The structure has been slightly extended and curved from its original plan. As the build went along, Whidbey tried various ways to save time and money. In the end though it seemed that the storms were the best levellers, sometimes breaking through so work had to begin again but, at the same time, showing where best these adjustments were needed. Ron talked about the bureaucracy involved and showed us some examples of the letters in the Archive. They show that Whidbey was being micro-managed by the Admiralty and having to supply immense

detail about the build. In 1820 a book was printed in Plymouth Dock. They were very proud of having done a good job 'conquering the sea'. The Breakwater does do its job but the sea continues trying to win. In recent big winter storms, one block was thrown from the bottom on to the surface. When Ron last checked it was still there. Present day maintenance includes filling holes below sea level with rubble and then pointing and stapling the top surface. An average of 30 new concrete blocks are cast each year and taken out on a catamaran pontoon system, making use of the incoming tide to lower the blocks to the bottom. Apparently there is a very big 'splash' as they go down! This work is done on the foreshore at Oreston. Ron illustrated his talk with many interesting photographs of the technology used for the building, both original and contemporary. The Breakwater proved to be a big attraction in the early days and we saw a photograph of a Victorian family having a picnic on the structure. Ron still takes trips out now for picnics but the weather continues to be troublesome and he always needs permission from the Harbourmaster to proceed.

Penny Beech

2

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

The Baking Group heralded the start of Summer with a picnic at our last meeting. We met at Pillaton Village Hall where we had outside garden and picnic benches and inside facilities for tea and coffee making. The sun shone and the array of food was, as usual, superb. There were loaves, a wonderful pork pie, pizzas, quiche, a tart, cakes and additional salads, cheeses etc. (oh and the odd bottle of wine including Mike's homemade brew which was very palatable) There were 12 of us there so a very jolly time was had by all.

Contact Jenny Wheeley 351662

Birding Group



Reed Bunting

SIBLEYBACK RESERVOIR 10th June 2015

We arrived at the reservoir and were instantly surrounded by garden birds. (blackbirds, sparrows, chaffinches, blue tits, robins and a, not so common, goldfinch). The cormorants were browsing in their usual spot on a float in the middle of the lake. Our walk around the lake revealed more species. At one point we saw a male and female Reed Bunting bringing food to a nest. We couldn't see the nest because it was near the ground amongst

some brambles but we could hear the young calling. We moved on quickly. In all we watched twenty eight species.

Contact Keith Lane 370713

Bookworms

It seems to be the books that produce the best discussions are the ones we didn't particularly like!

'**The Thief of Time**' was the first book by John Boyne, 'The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas' so we were expecting a good read. It was a trifle disappointing. It recounts the life of Matthieu Zela born in 1743 in Paris who stops ageing when he reaches 50. Skipping between more modern times and back to his earlier lives it produces short accounts of various historical events and famous or infamous people he has met. We felt it lacked the punch of similar novels, and had very little substance. Nevertheless it would make a good holiday book.

Our next meeting will be on July 17th. If you would like to join us I still have one or two copies of this month's book available. '**Guernica**' by Dave Boling.

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. Downloading 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 16th July at 10.00.

Contact Peter Watson 384509

Cornish Art & Literature



Some of the Cornish Art & Literature Group enjoying a beautiful day at the Bronze Age Hurlers, Minions.

No meeting in July or August - we will resume in September.

Contact Anita & Tony Bowden
Joint Co-ordinators 350668

Crime Fiction Appreciation

At May's meeting 8 members gathered at Lucy's house. Again many authors were discussed. Particularly recommended were books by Paula Hawkins, Peter James, Andrea Camilleri, Peter Robinson and Hakan Nesser. Many thanks to Mike (or Mrs Mike) for tea time cake. Next meeting will be 23rd July 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

Contact Eileen Sturt 350639

Flower Arranging

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

3

Philosophy

Yesterday's meeting looked at the work of Albert Einstein and the implications on philosophy of this new knowledge. Carl Popper was the 20th century philosopher who carried out this work. We discussed chapter 4 'What is Real' and looked at Plato's ideas then followed with a discussion on how to be a good friend based on the work of Marcel Proust.

The next meeting will be on July 30th in the Committee Room but there will be no meeting in August

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

Play Reading

Contact Jean Rose 350029

Poetry

The next Meeting is on July 10th at 2 Trelawney Heights when we will continue to discuss Dylan Thomas's poetic use of language.

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

Details from:

Anne Cooper 382267

Singing for Pleasure

The 'Singing for Pleasure' meetings for July are 13th and 27th at the Methodist Church 3.30 to 5pm.

Please note we are not meeting during August.

Contact: Rosalind Bunkum 383171

Strollers

This month, so far, we have had two sunny Mondays and one wet one. We caught the train from Liskeard to Looe and thoroughly enjoyed our outing to the seaside. We sat by the harbour in warm sunshine to eat our lunch of pasties or crab sandwiches. By contrast our second stroll was on the moor at Whitchurch where we made friends with the ponies and their foals who were surprisingly tame. We were not so lucky the following week when we should have been



Handbells

Contact Maire Warwick 350711

History

Contact Josephine King 350890

Humour

Jill had chosen Peter Cook and Dudley Moore as her Focus and it was very funny. She compared their back grounds, their schooling and their time at university. Cook was an actor, satirist, writer and comedian. He was the leading light of the British satire boom of the 1960s and he opened a club called 'The Establishment' in Soho. Moore on the other hand was an actor, comedian, musician and composer and 1.59m or 5ft 2 1/2 inches short. They first came together in 1960 as writers for and performers in 'Beyond the Fringe'. They collaborated with the TV series 'Not Only But Also'. As Jill took us through their careers together she was able to keep us laughing with many of their jokes and references to their highlights. The best was 'Only one Leg'. After the break we were able to make our own laughter form jokes we had to tell. This included some jokes we had written ourselves. Over all a very good morning. The next meeting will be on Monday 20th July 2015. Keith will be Focusing on Spike Milligan. This session will be held at Michael and Pauline's house and will begin at 10.00am.

For more information

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

Italian

Italian Holiday

During the last two weeks in May six members of the Italian Group enjoyed an amazing 'experience break' in the Italian province of Abruzzo. The trip was organ-

ised by Denise Watkins from Saltash U3A using 'Italia Sweet Italia', a company specialising in learning holidays for small groups. Apart from practising our Italian, we painted and did pottery, cooked some stunning Italian food, foraged for herbs, visited a winery, an olive farm, a cheese factory, a bell foundry, a pottery, a school of ceramics, a nature reserve, farms, restaurants, bars, churches, markets, shops and generally immersed ourselves in the culture of the region. We met some charming people and ate some incredible food. The wine was pretty good too!

Sally Thomas 01822 832017

Jazz Appreciation

As the holidaying season gets underway, our June meeting at Christine's house was a little depleted. But a great afternoon of jazz was enjoyed by us with vocals from Betty Carter, Dinah Washington, Ella Fitzgerald, Sarah Vaughan and old favourites Kenny Ball, Chet Baker, Stephane Grappeli and Quincey Jones. Next month's meeting will be at 2pm on Wednesday 8th July, at Christine's house, and will be a members' choice selection. If you are interested in joining us for an afternoon of jazz, contact

David Seward 384631

Music Appreciation

Contact: Pat Ferguson 384402

Needlework

Normally meet on the second Thursday of the month.

Details from Ann Martin

Opera

There will be no more opera until the autumn season.

Contact Carol Dowell 382158