



The Lost Gardeners of Heligan

Peter Lavis



The speaker at the May meeting was Peter Lavis who talked about the Lost Gardeners of Heligan, a social history project of WW1. Heligan was owned by the Tremaynes for about 450 years. In 1914 the squire was Jack Tremayne who employed 23 garden staff. The house itself was turned over to the Royal Flying Corps to be used as a convalescent home for WW1 victims. By June 1917 only eight gardeners were left, the rest lost in the WW1 fighting. Jack found he could not live with the ghosts of Heligan and in 1921 left to live in Italy. Peter started his research into what happened to the gardeners eight years ago. He has found information on 16 men, 10 of which featured in his talk. The first, Charles Dyer, was a fisherman from Mevagissey who was in the Naval Reserves. Called into action by the Town Crier ringing his bell, he was one of 48 men called up from there. In 1915 fishing trawlers were requisitioned for light gun and mine sweeping duties. Dyer was on one of these named the Rosa when he was injured and hospitalised in Plymouth. He disappeared from hospital and was classed as a deserter until his body was found two years later

not far from his home. Presumably he had been trying to get back to see his family again. Leonard Warne joined the Royal Engineers. In 1918 he was wounded in France, sent back to Plymouth Hospital where he died from his injuries. Albert Henry Rowe joined the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry (DCLI) and died in 1918 aged 18. Records state he had enlisted and died on the same day! Investigations by Peter found that having enlisted and collected his uniform he was sent for training to Ireland where he died from flu. Charles Ball, a labourer, enlisted with the Worcestershire Regiment in 1916, was badly injured on the Somme in 1918 and died in hospital in France. William Guy, a brilliant gardener, joined the DCLI in 1914, sent home suffering from shell shock, then went out again. He died at the Somme in 1918 when his whole battalion was wiped out without trace. Percy Carhart, a mere 5' 3 1/2" tall, died without trace in 1917 at Passchendaele. Archibald Smaldon, a carpenter, served with several battalions during the war, probably because of his carpentry skills. He returned after the war to add an additional five children to the five

he already had. The Paynters, father William and his sons Richard and Fred, all came back to work again at Heligan. Memorials of those who died during the war were available to widows in the form of the Death Plaque, or Widow's Penny as it became popularly known. However, these had to be applied for and were not given out automatically. Sir Edwin Lutyens and Gertrude Jekyll became involved in the design of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission cemeteries which can be seen across France and Belgium. They tried to personalise them and make them beautiful, peaceful places to visit. The names of men whose bodies were never found are engraved on panels surrounding the gravestones. The names of these gardeners from Heligan can be found on war memorials at their home towns and abroad. In 1990 restoration work started on the vegetable garden at Heligan as a tribute to its Lost Gardeners. After Peter finished, Jane Black gave a vote of thanks for his interesting and thought provoking talk, one that would give an added dimension to any future visits to Heligan.

Jenny & John Wheeley

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

A good turnout at our last meeting and many thanks to Les for hosting. We had a wonderful array of continental breads from Italy, Germany and France and also America (as Ellen said America's a continent too!) Everyone brought extra salads, cheeses etc so we feasted on an excellent lunch. Our next meeting on June 3rd is a picnic in Pillaton. We meet at 11ish in the picnic area and the Hall is booked as well in case of any showers.



Contact Jenny Wheeley 351662

■ Birding Group

Eight of us left the FCP at 8am to go the Shapwick Heath Nature Reserve on the Somerset Levels. At the start of the walk we were surrounded with bird song and fleeting sightings of the singers. We walked on and came to a rectangular pond surrounded by reed beds and a pathway or a water way outside the reed beds. This is the basic structure of all of the reserves. We saw waders, ducks, egrets little and large and herons. Highlights were to hear bitterns "booming" close by but invisible in the reed beds. Bitterns are rare but there are increasing in numbers in the Levels, which is good news. The other highlight

was to see a number of hobbies soaring high above constantly changing direction. Their long scythe like wings and short tails give them a startling resemblance to a large swift. At the end of an excellent day out we had identified over fifty species.

On June Tuesday 9th we are going to visit a relatively new nature reserve on Bodmin Moor. Meet at 9am in the FCP. Bring appropriate gear to match the weather and some nibbles. For more information contact me or email: kandslane@hotmail.com

Contact Keith Lane 370713



■ Bookworms

It was rather a coincidence that the book we read this month was "Birdsong" by Sebastian Faulks. Featuring as it does the harrowing experiences of the trenches in WW1 it complimented the very interesting talk we had at the Monday meeting on the Lost Gardeners of Heligan. Such was the impact of the novel on each one of us that it produced a very lively discussion. Many of us had memories of fathers or other relatives who had fought in one service or another finding it impossible to even talk about their experiences. The amount of research done to produce such a graphic and moving account of "The Great War" must have been breathtaking. It resulted in a totally believable account of the lives ruined by war, and the single acts of heroism that men are capable of. We felt that this should be required reading for any student studying the history of the period. It is a "must read" but don't expect an easy ride!!

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. Setting up a mobile phone - only partially successful and something we might return to.

2. Setting up a mobile phone to use on wi fi as a browser.

3. Using a free utility to clean a lap top. and hopefully improving performance.

4. Using Google drive to store photos.

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 June at 10.00. Please note that given the interest from new potential members we may have to move to the town hall which will come at a small cost per member.

Contact : Peter Watson 384509

■ Cornish Art & Literature

As the weather was unsuitable our trip to the Minions was postponed and the meeting took place at School Lane in Harrowbarrow.

Topics

The Hockings of Boconnoc - Joseph, Silas and Salome made novel reading popular amongst Methodists.

Vanessa Bell and Virginia Wolf stayed often in Cornwall at Talland.

David Weston painted Cornish scenes in watercolour.

Ian McNeil Cooke produced etchings and lino prints of ancient sites in West Cornwall. He was an activist trying to save the Penwith Moors.

Ann Treneer author who wrote "Schoolhouse in the Wind".

E.V. Thompson wrote many books about Cornwall including Ben Retallick in order to fund his early career.

Rosamund Pilcher was born in Lelant. She had many books filmed for TV and the big screen.

Winston Graham based some of his Poldark characters on locals he met.

David Mudd once MP for Falmouth and Redruth has written many factual books about Cornwall.

We will try again for the Minions on the 8th

June – 11 am in the car park.
There will be no meetings in July and August.

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

■ Crime Fiction Appreciation

May's meeting came too late for this newsletter. The next meeting will probably be on Thurs 25th June but this has still to be confirmed. Check with the website for confirmation. July's meeting will be at 2pm Thurs 23rd July. If you are interested in joining us to discuss or learn more about crime fiction, please contact

David Seward 384631

■ Italian

Contact: Sally Thomas 01822 832017

■ Family History

Monday 22nd June at Karen Rose's house
2.30pm Please phone if going. 388818 or email kp.rose12@gmail.com

Contact: Eileen Sturt 350639

■ Flower Arranging

Flower Arranging Wednesday June 3rd 10am
at Eileen's

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

For details,

Contact Josephine King 350890

■ Humour

The focus this month was "Round the Horne" and the session was led by Helen. She gave us an insight into the careers of the actors in the programme. They were of course Kenneth Horne, Kenneth Williams, Hugh Paddick, Betty Marsden and Bill Pertwee. We then listened to an episode of the programme and needless to say we laughed all the way through. It was full of double entendre and some lines which would surely be edited out today. Great fun.

Over coffee and biscuits I informed everyone that there are currently acres of bluebells to be seen on Kit Hill. This was not a joke and they are still there today! After the break we entertained ourselves with jokes that were either written by ourselves or had been used by comedians. I offer two of our very own.

One of my cats has turned aggressive and domineering towards the others. I think he has developed a bit of a *mao tse tung*. (G)

Woman's hour programme focus 'new flooring ideas' - a listener tells her husband excitedly about the new "colourful parakeet flooring". (K)

The sessions are really great fun and are also a bit challenging. Why don't you come along and give it a try. There is room for more jokesters.

Contact me on 01579 370713 or kandslane@hotmail.com

The next meeting will be on June 15th 2015 to meet at Christine's at 10.00am

Contact Keith Lane 370713

■ Italian

The current members will be meeting in our homes while the cricket club is out of action. Anyone interested in joining will need to wait until the cricket club is open again.

Sally Thomas 01822 832017

■ Jazz Appreciation

In May, 10 of us met at Christine's house, for a very varied members' choice session. We heard piano jazz from Oscar Petersen, Abdullah Ibrahim, Jelly Roll Morton, Fats Waller, sax jazz from Ben Webster, Charlie Parker, and vocals from Nina Simone, Diana Krall and Manhattan Transfer. Also a couple of surprises - local pianist Craig Silverton playing in the style of Art Tatum and Lady Gaga duetting with Tony Bennett. Next meeting, on Wed 10th June, will be another members' choice. 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

Thirteen members of the opera group and friends enjoyed a trip to Prague at the beginning of May. The highlight was a visit to the very ornate Prague State Opera House, Unlike other European opera houses we were able to enjoy a superb view from our boxes of a splendid production of Bizet's Carmen.

We took an evening cruise down the river and enjoyed the local cuisine, even goulash (which tasted nothing like the school lunches of the fifties). Perhaps the most unexpected and most enjoyable visit was to the Lobkowitz Palace the only private palace inside the walls of the castle which was reclaimed by The Lobkowitz family after the collapse of the communist regime along with many items of art stolen by the Nazis in the Second World War. These include many works of famous artists including two Canaletto's of London and in the music room, the archives, begun by Ferdinand August, the 3rd Prince, and added to over three centuries by members of the family. The family member who had the greatest impact on the history of Western music, however, was undoubtedly the 7th Prince, Joseph Franz Maximilian who was the great patron of Beethoven who dedicated the 3rd (Eroica), the 5th, and the 6th (Pastoral) symphonies to the Prince, plus other works. The Music Archive also has late 18th and early 19th century collections, including works by Handel, Mozart, Haydn as well as Beethoven, his son supported, Christoph Willibald Gluck. It was a great privilege to be able to see the original scores written and amended by the composers themselves. In all a most enjoyable trip.

On a personal note I would like to thank everyone for their good wishes and cards sent to John after his accident. I am happy to report although it will take a little while before he is totally back to himself he is making good progress and I hope I shall be able to return to all my usual activities very soon.

There will be no more opera until the autumn season.

Contact Carol Dowell 382158

■ Philosophy

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

■ Play Reading

Contact **Jean Rose 350029**

■ Poetry

The next Meeting is on June 12th at 2pm 12 Trelawney Heights - when we hope to do 'Under Milkwood'.

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

Contact: **Rosalind Bunkum 383171**

■ Strollers

We only had two walks planned for this month due to bank holidays. On the first

we walked along the River Lyner at New Bridge but the second walk when we had planned a stroll at Whichurch, had to be cancelled due to bad weather. However we spent a very happy morning drinking coffee and hot chocolate at Louis. Our next outing should be to Looe by train from Liskeard.

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

We changed the venue for all the walks this month in order to keep in tune with the weather conditions. All walks were

well attended despite this and enjoyed by all.

Contact: **Lucy Thomas 350018**

Chuckles

From the Humour Group...

An elderly couple goes to Burger King and shares their fries and burger. A trucker sitting next to them offers to pay for the old lady. "It's all right," says the old man. "We always share everything." On seeing that the old lady has not eaten anything, the trucker once again makes an offer. The old man once again assures the trucker to stay calm and resumes eating. Finally, the trucker asks the lady about not eating anything. The old lady replies, "I am waiting for the teeth."

This month's puzzle:

1 >		BiWord June 1 Down: "Make it .." <i>Jean-Luc Picard</i>
		1 Across: International units

Answer to last month's puzzle:

1 >	a	h	BiWord May 1 Down: short advertisement
	d		
	1 Across: Surprise, sympathy, pleasure		

Officer Contact Numbers

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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.

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: Helen Redden

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

Voyage of the Mayflower - The Real story

Mike Haywood