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## ■ Table Tennis

We meet once every 4 weeks on a Thursday evening at the upper schoolroom of Callington Methodist Church at 7 pm. Dates are on the U3A website. All are welcome and we are all enthusiastic and play covers all abilities from beginners upwards. Why not come and give it a try. All equipment is provided. A charge is made to cover the cost of hiring the room.

**Contact Ray Geatches 350638**

## ■ Walking Group 1

**Contact: Ann Martin**

## ■ Walking Group 2

**2 Sept 20th**

Walking group two had a last minute decision walk today. After parking at Tokenbury Corner we decided to walk towards the village of Crows Nest but found ourselves going up the incline towards Caradon transmitter so decided to keep going and all eight of us made it right to the base of the transmitter, a first for most of us, and the views from there were spectacular. The weather was extremely kind to us with a downpour just before we started and another when we were sat warm and cosy in Trevallicks tea room.

**Contact: Lucy Thomas 350018**



## SW Regional Conference at Threthorne Manor



Chairman  
David Seward & Sam  
Mauger, the new CEO  
of the National office

Three of us attended the SW Regional Conference on Thursday 20th October, together with about 40 representatives of other SW U3As. After opening remarks from Diana Holsworth, the SW Regional Trustee, Samantha Mauger, the new CEO of the Third Age Trust, presented updates from U3A National Office. She talked about her background and, in particular, about issues being discussed within

the National Executive Council (NEC). These included a survey for U3As on how, in the future, the NEC should be made up and how U3As would like to pass their views and ideas to the NEC.

Ken Faulkner, a member of Paignton U3A, then gave a talk on aspects of WW1, in particular the work of women in munitions manufacture. After lunch, Francis Beckett, the editor of Third Age Matters magazine, gave a presentation on how best to present information for publication both in the magazine and in local media. Finally there was a lively discussion on the format and location of future Regional Conferences. Overall this was a most useful, interesting day, not least for the interaction with other U3As.



Above & Left: Walkers Group 2 at Lydford Gorge  
Below: Walking Group 1 enjoying a break at the Gribben, Fowey estuary.

## ● Officer Contact Numbers

**Chairman: David Seward**  
**t: 384631**

**Vice Chair: TBA**

**Secretary: Jo Earl**  
**t: 532024**

**Treasurer: Ian MacDonald**  
**t: 351221**

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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.*

## Speakers at the next few Meetings:

■ **December**  
Christmas Lunch

■ **January**  
Janet Cowlard  
on The Royal Family.

# Callington U3A Newsletter

THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

November 2016

## Wild in the Tamar

The speaker this month for the Callington U3A was Dr David Price a retired psychiatrist. He gave us a very interesting talk on the wildlife of the Tamar Valley.

When walking his dogs, he always took a camera, he was very soon caught up in the beautiful wildlife of the Tamar Valley. Following the river Tamar (the name is said to mean Great Water, or the prehistoric river word meaning Dark Flowing). He follows it from Endsleigh down to Milton Abbot through Horsebridge, Luckett, Latchly, to Gunnislake, Morwelham, Cotehele and Calstock.

Dr Price has taken some beautiful photographs of this stretch of the valley with different habitats throughout the seasons. Pictures of glowing sunlight, gleaming frost, kingfishers, insects and butterflies, all in different states

of fluttering, mating, feeding, and sunbathing. Wild flowers were also a theme with lovely pictures of rare beauties including Columbine, Purple Toothwort, Birds Nest Orchids, Eyebright, also fungi like Dryads Saddle, Fly Agaric and Stink Horn.

The butterflies Dr Price had photographed were remarkable, Red Admirals, Comma, Brimstone, Heath Fritillaries, Silver Wash Fritillaries, Marbled White and lots more. With fascinating facts about hoverflies, wasps, hornets, dragon flies, and other insects, some apparently have 3 small eyes on the top of their heads that detect light which help them to pitch and roll, the aeronautical industry are looking at this for the use in drones etc. He also talked about the mining 'Finger Posts' along his route, saying that, some say, that Launceston became 'Lanson' because they could not fit the full name on the posts.

Birds were also a feature, including the habitats of a charm Goldfinches, Goldcrests, Fieldfares, Redwings also Nightjars and Sand Martins, that nest in the mining spoils at Devon Great Consul but being arsenic laden, it does kill some birds. He took a great picture of the reflection of a Goldcrest in his kitchen window. His talk was an A-Z of wildlife but we only got half way through, we are hoping he can return to finish the alphabet.

Dr Price takes about 10,000 pictures a year, he shows us that if you take the time and look closer at nature, just what there is to see.

*Collian Brown*





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# Group Reports

## Allotments

"We welcome a new member to our team. There are still two more small plots available."

**Contact Ann Martin**

## Art

Our planned advertised meeting (3rd Nov) was cancelled due to the hall being needed for a funeral...so the next meeting will be on the 17th in the afternoon. We are now discussing special events for some meetings next year, eg workshops and outside meetings etc.

...new ideas welcome!

**Contact Tony Walpole 01822 833082**

## Baking

Thank you Jane for hosting our October meeting. We may have been short on numbers but certainly not on flavour. All manner of fillings were used including ham, caramelised onion, cheese, tomatoes and lamb and only one sweet offering this month. As usual when we bake for a lunchtime meeting there was no need for an evening meal!

Our November meeting is on the 9th. This time we are meeting at Mary's at 10.30. I hope you all have your recipes for our

"Pot luck" session, let me know if not. Our group is full at the present but if you are interested in joining please contact me and I'll put you on our waiting list.

**Contact Jenny Wheeley 351662**

## Barn Dancing

**Contact Wendy Fader on 01822 835985**

or email wendykfuk@yahoo.co.uk

## Bookworms

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

## Bridge

There has been a change of leadership

from Roy Burridge to Hilary Davis, who has taken the job of Group Leader for the next 12 months. Hilary's email address is: chebsey@aol.com

**Contact Hilary Davis 350360**

## Computer Group

Recent meetings have been cancelled largely due to low numbers. I need to gauge the level of interest in the group continuing.

If you wish the group to continue, even if you don't intend coming to the next meeting could you email me on pwatson177@gmail.com.

The next meeting will be on 17th November at 10.00 at a members house.

**Contact Peter Watson 384509**

## Crime Fiction Appreciation

13 members met at Lucy's for October's meeting. After a break of 2 months, there was much to discuss and many books to pass on. Among the new or less familiar authors were books by Kristina Olsson, Emily Barr, Mal Peet, Clare MacKintosh, Kyrii Bonfiglioli, Andrew Cartmel and Mick Herron. Also among more familiar authors discussed were C J Samson, Peter James, Stella Rimington and Donna Leon. Sally provided the tea time treats of apple cake and carrot cake.

The next meeting will be on Thursday 24th November. If you are interested in joining us to discuss or learn more about crime fiction, please contact

**David Seward 384631**

## Family History

Family History at Eileen's 2.30pm Monday November 28th.

**Contact Eileen Sturt 350639**

## Flower Arranging

Flower arranging 2pm Sunday December 4th at Eileen's, to arrange table decorations for the Christmas lunch on the 5th.

**Contact Eileen Sturt 350639**

## Food & Wine

Le Bistrot Pierre in Royal William Yard

was the venue for the Food and Wine Group's recent lunch party. Twenty eight of us enjoyed an excellent French inspired meal at this trendy, very busy restaurant. Three tasty courses for less than £15 is an offer not to be missed, and having read the brochure about their equally good value Christmas menu it seemed a good idea to consider a return in the near future. Watch this space!

**Contact Maire Warwick 350711**



(maire.warwick@btinternet.com)

## Game On

Our November meetings are on the 13th and 27th, 2.30 at Lucy's. Please contact me, if you'd like to join our group.

**Contact Jenny Wheeley 351662**

## Handbells

**Contact Maire Warwick 350711**

## History

**Contact Josephine King 350890**

## Humour

Humour meeting Monday 17th October was held at Christine's house. Christine talked about Ronnie Barker and how his career developed. After the coffee break Christine showed a CD of "Futtocks' End", a British comedy film that was released in 1970 and produced by Barker. He played the leading part of the very lewd General Futtock. The film is entirely silent, with a musical score

and incoherent mutterings. It was funny in a way but we didn't laugh at all. However we didn't take our eyes off of it. Our next meeting is on Monday 21st Nov will be at Michael and Pauline's house at 10am. For more info contact me.

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

## JOKE OF THE DAY

HE'S A TERRIBLE SNOB - HE WON'T RIDE IN THE SAME CAR AS HIS CHAUFFEUR!

## Italian

**Contact: Sally Thomas 01822 832017**

## Jazz Appreciation

5 people attended the October Meeting and we enjoyed music from Bix Beiderbecke and Frankie Trumbauer which was recorded in 1928 and included Bing Crosby singing (sounding a little different to his later crooning!) Count Basie was popular along with Fats Waller, Benny Carter and Colman Hawkins. We also heard from the National Youth Orchestra and Anthony Newly. The next meeting will be on Wednesday November 9th at Christine's and will be a member's 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

For our first outing in our Puccini season we saw 'La bohémien' a film version of his opera which tells the story of four hard up artist friends struggling in bohemian Paris of the mid-19th century and of the love affair between the writer Rodolfo and Mimi his neighbour. There is much frivolity as the friends celebrate Christmas but before long the couples love is destroyed by Rodolfo jealousy. They agree to stay together until Spring

but Mimi becomes gravely ill and in true Puccini style she dies dramatically. A colourful and dramatic production which complemented the beautiful music.

There will be no Opera in November as John recovers but we will be returning in December same time same place for 'Madam Butterfly'

Opera is the third Tuesday of the month at 25 Trelawney Road

**Contact Carol Dowell 382158**

## Philosophy

Our October 27th meeting was on Rene Descartes, the first Rationalist whose famous quote 'I think, therefore I am' is still well known today. He also queried the reliability of our senses. We will also look at philosophy and forgiveness and whether it is possible to forgive. Our final meeting for the year will be on November 24th. A poll indicated that a quarter of people questioned chose Winnie the Pooh as the greatest philosopher. Apparently "Poohisms" have given generations of children food for thought.

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

## Play Reading

**Contact Jean Rose 350029**

## Poetry

**Contact Pat Ferguson 384402**

## Scrabble

The group, led by Lesley Cheetham at her home, meets once a month on a Wednesday evening. The actual week of the month will change in some months.

**Contact Lesley Cheetham 383632**

## Scribblers

Scribblers met and brought Science Fiction stories with them this time. It had been difficult - though not so difficult as last month's Western I think we were agreed! We had found it hard to put our finger on a specific approach to SciFi and most of us brought along something which combined it with horror or fan-

tasy for example. Gill's story was the closest as she used the idea of an app on a smart phone to transport a couple through a portal to a parallel universe. Anne's story was also very scientifically based using lyposuction to give sustenance to the starving babies in Africa... although that also sounded pretty much like a horror story to all of us too!

Next month is much more refined (or maybe not?) as we tackle Travel. Looking at it from any point of view - as a journalist writing for a travel section; a railway fiend travelling around Europe or the States, a la Michael Portillo; or, just a story of something interesting that happened to us whilst travelling that we think worth sharing. Shades of Bill Bryson maybe, who took his trusty rucksack up a mountain only to find he had taken out his waterproofs and not put them back again...

**Contact Penny Beech on 01822 834756 or 07971 889572**

## Singing for Pleasure

The Singing for Pleasure group will meet on 14th and 28th November at Callington Methodist Church from 3.30 to 5pm.

**Contact: Rosalind Bunkum 383171**

## Strollers

Three strolls so far this month. Our first one was close to home at New Bridge. Such a pretty walk but we were sorry to see how badly the river bank had been worn away in places. On our second outing we crossed the Tamar and strolled along the old Southern Railway line and admired the view over Tavistock from the viaduct. The following Monday we ventured even further afield, catching the bus to Launceston. Our first port of call was a coffee shop before making our way to the museum where we spent a very interesting time strolling through the various rooms. Some of the exhibits we recognised from our childhood which was a bit worrying! As we had stayed longer than expected, we decided to have a light snack to sustain us on the return journey.

**Contact: Pauline Husband 350379**

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