



**Cambourne & District u3a**  
**Bulletin May 2024**  
**Issue No. 64**



**GREAT ACTION SHOT!**

## **The Birds**

**I was walking through the science park at Madingley and I could just see a large, plastic bird attached and floating on the flat roof of the Physics of Medicine building. I had observed its use before when they were working on the nearby new University Physics department, and assumed that it was a deterrent for birds. I wondered, as they had recently been doing work on the roof, if they perhaps didn't want nesting birds back. But as I looked up, I could see there were some crows lining the edge. I smiled as I thought; perhaps the only species apart from Humans and Apes that can use tools, may not be that impressed.**

**Crow 1 -Have you seen this supposed scary creature?**

**Crow 2 -yes, sigh**

**Crow 1 -Don't they know which avian species heavily featured in**

**Hitchcock's the Birds?**

**Crow 2 I know we are the bad guys**

**Crow 1 And as a group what are we called ?**

**Crow 2 Ha! -I bet that makes a few shiver**

**Crow 1 ah well maybe it's for the pigeons**

**Whenever I think of Daphne du Maurier as a romantic novelist, I just remember she covered many genres. The Birds was one of her short stories which, unlike the film, was set in Cornwall. In my opinion her other short story adapted for the screen was even more scary. Nicholas Roeg's film of Don't look Now set in Venice, was a hauntingly beautiful, horror show.. From Madingley to Cornwall to Venice -only 3 degrees of separation.**

**Best wishes**

**Kath**



At the next table tennis session on the 13th May  
there will also be an opportunity to play  
badminton.



Thanks to Caroline Adams for sending in the photos from the visit to Pembroke. The top one is of a sculpture by Henry Moore, sited near Foundress Court and added to the College in the 1990s.

The photo on the right shows the interior of the Wren chapel.

Comments from those who went opposite.



“What a fabulous day. You were very fortunate to work there with such lovely colleagues in a wonderful place. I enjoyed everything about your visit, the Chapel, the garden, new building and lunch. Great day”

“I have learnt so much and the gardens will be on my list to return to.”

“Thank you for today’s visit, which was even better than I was expecting! Superb! It must have been great for you, meeting up with old colleagues, and also that they were so helpful to us. Big thanks.”

“...It was a very interesting and enjoyable experience. Our guides/hosts were very good and gave us a such a lot of interesting information, I was certainly fascinated by all the history. I had not realised how large the college is and it was certainly good to see the most recent additions. It looks a great place to study! It was a great day, thanks!”

<b>Date</b>	<b>Speaker</b>	<b>Subject</b>
17/5/24	Bobbie Darbyshire	A beginning, a muddle and an end – Where do novelists get their ideas from?
21/6/24	David Short	Tales from the Queen's Head, Newton
19/7/24	David Horan	Visit to Chernobyl – What remains?
16/8/24		Summer Break
20/9/24	Graham Bruce	Trip to the American Great Lakes, Minnesota and the Battle of Little Bighorn
18/10/24	Tony Tutton	The life, music and influence of Buddy Holly
15/11/24	Joanna Bogle	Winter Feasts and Festivals
20/12/24	Martin Orkin	Christmas Hits by the Beatles and Many Others
17/1/25	Rob Alliot	The London Underground in WW2
21/2/25		TBA
21/3/25	Geoff Lambert	The dog in my medicine cupboard
18/4/25		TBA
16/5/25		TBA
21/6/25	Philip Caine	A life less ordinary (My career story)

## The Salt Path by Raynor Winn

The Salt Path is the story of how two people, Raynor (50) and Moth (53) survived after losing every material thing they owned, while simultaneously dealing with Moth's diagnosis of CBD, a degenerative brain disease for which there is neither treatment nor cure.

This true story begins as the couple cower under the stairs awaiting the arrival of the bailiffs. One unwise decision and a three-year battle in the courts brought them to this point. Their sense of injustice, sadness and desperation is painfully clear.

A normal reaction to this situation might be to take advantage of the kindness of friends and family, apply for a council house and live off the State. They chose a different path – the Salt Path. This is a national trail : 630 miles of cliff, beach, cave and harbour in Somerset, Cornwall, Devon and Dorset.

Raynor provides wonderful descriptions of the scenery, the flora and fauna and an amazing insight into what it is like to be penniless, cold, wet, hungry and frequently shunned as a tramp.

I enjoyed the book. Many times I marvelled at their physical and mental strength. This is not a romance, a thriller or a mystery. It's a story of human endurance and determination. I found it uplifting.

I end with a quote from Dover Beach by Matthew Arnold as he describes the pebbles washed up and sucked back on the sand.

« Sophocles long ago heard it on the Aegean and it brought to mind the turbid ebb and flow of human misery. »

For Raynor and Moth it was a flood.

4

Lucy Purvey

## ART APPRECIATION GROUP

We met in the relaxed atmosphere of the Belfry Hotel Lounge to continue our ‘research’ meetings and discuss Dante Gabriel Rossetti:

Born in London in 1828 into an Italian literary family, Rossetti was a poet, illustrator, painter and translator; he founded the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood in 1848 with William Holman Hunt and John Everett Millais to reform English art, by rejecting the then current “mechanistic” approach and the formal training regime taught by the Royal Academy. His work influenced the European Symbolists and he was an important forerunner of the Aesthetic movement.

Described as a passionate and charismatic character, he painted in a ‘medieval romantic’ style; his personal life was closely linked to his paintings, especially his relationships with his muses Elizabeth Siddal (whom he married), Fanny Cornforth (who later became his ‘housekeeper’) and Jane Morris (wife of his close associate William Morris).

Following the death of his wife from a laudanum overdose, he became depressed and rather eccentric: he kept exotic animals in his home such as wombats, a llama and a toucan, which he dressed in a cowboy hat and taught to ride the llama around his dining table to amuse himself.

He died in 1882 at the young age of 53; over the years his work has been criticised (including by LS Lowry, who still collected several of Rossetti’s paintings and drawings), but also praised by eminent art critics such as John Ruskin and Roger Fry, who wrote in 1916, “Rossetti more than any other artist since Blake may be hailed as a forerunner of new ideas [in English Art]”.

Some of his work we agreed we would like to hang on our walls:







**Next meeting Thursday 6th June at 2pm at the Belfry  
Under the microscope  
JOAQUIN SEROLLA**

CURIOSITIES  
OF  
CRIME  
IN  
EDINBURGH.

by  
JAMES M'LEVY



SECOND SERIES.

PRICE ONE SHILLING.

James Mcleavy was a Victorian policeman who patrolled the streets of Leith in Edinburgh and wrote about it after his 30 year career.

Although he was dealing with the criminal underbelly of Leith, he acknowledged the social conditions of the time and thus gave context to his often elegantly expressed insights into what made a criminal. He would not give in to hierarchical social pressures of the time, and pursued lawbreakers whatever social class they belonged to.

In the the now 12 series on radio4 adapted by David Ashton. this is made very clear in the frustrations of the Chief Inspector at the Leith station. But he knows Mcleavy is good at his job.

Mcleavy is brilliantly played by Brian Cox, but having listened to it all, the whole cast is formidable.

From the often difficult relations between him and his bee keeping, Irish constable, to his complex and stormy relationship with Jean Brash owner of the bawdy house -the Happy land.

If you do listen and you hear Brian Cox say 'that's nice' -it always makes me smile.

Kath

## **Garden Mornings at Cambourne Church – second Saturdays of each month**

To celebrate 25 years since the first residents moved in to Cambourne in 1999, Cambourne church is making a Silver Jubilee garden in the land around the church building. Our first day's work on 24<sup>th</sup> February was blessed with sunshine and enthusiastic compost spreaders of all ages who laid a cardboard base and composted green waste for us to grow vegetables for the Foodbank. The second Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> March was seed planting in modules and building compost bays for our own leaves and coffee grounds from 19 The Coffee House. Now we need to collect rainwater from the church roof so that we can keep the beds thriving.

With the advice of the Wildlife Trust we shall dedicate an area next to High Street for long grass where small creatures, bugs, and insect larvae can develop undisturbed, as well as taller plants for flowers and seed heads to encourage pollinators and birds.

To help shape the future of the rest of the church land as an accessible place of welcome, sanctuary, remembrance, peace, produce and wildlife, we really need your ideas on what could be in the next phases of the design, so that we can try and shape the future of the church Jubilee Garden for Cambourne residents, new and old.

Join us each Second Saturday of the month for planning, planting, nurturing, tidying and fun in the Garden, 10am – noon.

**11<sup>th</sup> May, 8/9<sup>th</sup> June (Cambourne Open Gardens)**

Pam Thornton

[garden@cambournechurch.org.uk](mailto:garden@cambournechurch.org.uk)

Need help with risk assessments for u3a activities /outings etc? Wendy Park will help or advise.

Contact Wendy through our web site.

### **Cambourne U3a Dance Group**

The weekly u3a dance group, or, more correctly perhaps, dance fitness group, is run by the wonderful Sophi, who is a teacher with Inspirations Dance. She puts us through our paces with a variety of steps and wonderful rhythmic music, mostly from the 1980s, and everything from Rock to Latin American.

The group outgrew its first home in the Parish Meeting Room, now meeting in the main hall at the Blue Space. Sessions last for 45 minutes, with Sophi watching that we are all managing the steps and the pace, and offering advice and alternatives if needed. We have only one brave man in the group at the moment, though our dances are usually in circles or lines where partners are not needed.

Each session begins with a warm up and ends with a cool-down, and I think I speak for all participants, that we go away feeling energised and up-beat. **Fran**