

Well folks March has thrown a lot of weather at us most of it cold. The spring bulbs are struggling but doing their best to be cheery. The frogs have done what frogs do in February leaving little dots of life in secure jelly blankets. Secure that is until an intruder appears in the dead of night. We have had two such intruders and managed to capture one on camera.



Unfortunately the infrared stopped working so we missed further visitations. Some frog spawn has survived so fingers crossed.

Not a great deal of news for you this time , but here goes!

What's Been Happening.

In February we held a Bring and Share in Craignure Hall as usual folk provided lots of lovely grub to share.

The speaker was Eleanor McDougall

Last April she gave a talk about three artists, William McTaggart, Colin Hunter and Hamilton McCallum. On Thursday 3rd February she expanded on their work



Pioneers of Realism Three 19th Century Argyll Artists.

William McTaggart, Colin Hunter and Hamilton McCallum.

After initially being discouraged by their parents from becoming painters all three eventually became professional artists. The emphasis on Realism stemmed from the influence of Dutch paintings of every day folk that were being collected by Scottish business men such as John Forbes White.



‘Montrose , Angus ‘ by George Reid who studied under the Dutch Artist Gerrit Mollinger. The simple style was not well received but was eventually taken up by Hunter , MacCallum and Mc Taggart who turned away from the Romantic notion of Scotland as depicted by McCulloch in ‘Monarch of the Glen’.

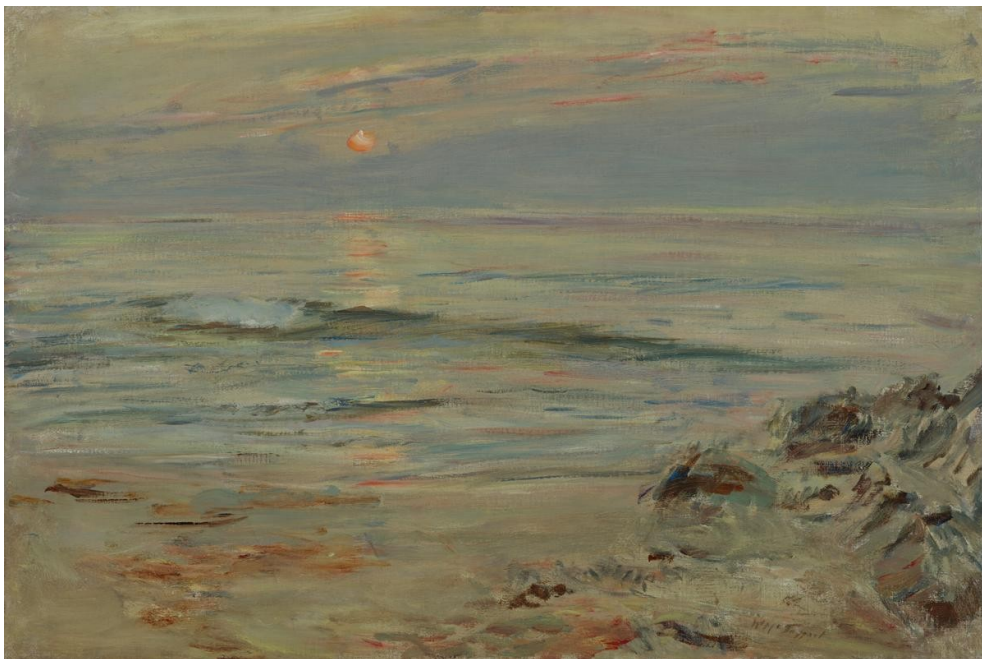
They all loved the West Coast and portrayed the realism of the everyday life of the local people and their relationship to their environment. While Hunter and McCallum made successful careers in London McTaggart stayed in Scotland but they met in Tarbet each summer .



‘Summer Fishing’ Colin Hunter 1881



'Sailing vessels in Tranquil Waters' Hamilton MacCallum (no date)



'Summer Sundown' William McTaggart 1880

Art & Craft Group

A selection of work from February & March sessions, Weather, Fungi, Old Men!



Geology Group

The group were due to meet at Ardalanish Beach to investigate the methods whereby Geologists decide on the history of the observable rocks; with particular emphasis on the geochemistry of the rocks and how that relates to the opening and closing of the Iapetus Ocean. But the weather was Baltic so Ron cancelled . Watch this space!
The next meeting is on April 13th at 'S Airde Beinn - Crater Lake.

Up and coming events.

The next Open Meeting is on April 14th Craignure Hall 2-4pm.
The Speaker is Mauvis Gore on ' Coral and Deep Sea Sharks'
You may remember her talk last year on Basking Sharks.
There will as usual be light refreshments.
However due to rising costs there will now be a small charge of £3.00.

Book Group

Meeting mid March
The book is Jane Harper's 'The Dry' I have been told that this is ' Australian Noir'.
As this group is full remember that you can contact Linda if you are interested in having a 2nd group .

With books in mind Steve recommended a book called 'Entangled Lives.
It is about the incredible lives of Lichens and Fungi, I have not long finished reading it and it is fascinating. The Author Merlin Sheldrake is a great communicator . He can be found on YouTube and is very engaging.
Along these lines, 'The Blob' is a recent BBC4 programme about Slime Mold, it might make you think about the nature of Intelligence!

Philosophy Group

This will be meeting on 16th March, the plan is to have a discussion about 'The Nature of Intelligence' and also to decide on future subjects .

From Norma

Turning out old Puzzler magazines I came across this quotation and it seems relevant to many of us now!

...age is other things, too,

It is wisdom, if one has lived one's life properly.

It is experience and knowledge.

And it is getting to know all the ways the world turns,

so that if you cannot turn the world the way you want,

you can at least get out of the way so that you won't get run over.

Miriam Makeba

South African singer/songwriter (1932 -2008)

The best source for U3A news is the main U3A website :- <https://www.u3a.org.uk/>

The Third Age Trust Newsletter is also a good place to start and you can have this emailed to you if you wish.

<https://www.u3a.org.uk/newsletter>

PS. If you know how to get rid of blank pages please let me know.....