



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

BUDE & DISTRICT

SPRING NEWSLETTER



Registered Charity No. 1110029

May 2010

www.budeu3a.co.uk

CHAIRMAN'S NEWS

We have another sad start to this newsletter - very soon after our Winter Newsletter was published Jill Davies died after a long illness. Jill lead our Philosophy Group and I know the members of that Group will miss her as will many of our members who knew her. We all send our condolences to her husband, Iwan. There is a tribute to Jill within the newsletter.

The two weeks of almost unbroken sunshine in April (albeit often accompanied by a chilly wind) got a lot of us out in our gardens (I suspect) as plants suddenly started sprouting with enthusiasm. Following an even more unseasonable winter than last year (well, we really do not expect snow on that scale down here in Cornwall and I think WE got off lightly!) the sunshine is most welcome and we hold out hopes for a sunny summer as well especially on July 3rd please, when my younger daughter gets married in St. Ives. Anybody with any influence in the weather department please put in a word for sunshine!

Also, while I think of it, if any of you have glittery costume jewellery that you no longer wear or want, I would love to have it to help fill little pirate treasure chests along with (already purchased) gold chocolate coins which are destined for the tables at the Wedding Breakfast..... er, best not to ask why...!

At the plant stall in April, the Garden Group raised the great total of £63.00 for U3A funds - many thanks to Marion and to all you gardeners! At that Open Meeting we also welcomed three new members and at least a couple of people "thinking about it". There are at the moment a few notices around in post offices, and the like, to encourage people to come and find out more about us so if any of you have friends who would be interested bring them along to a meeting! Our monthly meetings are a great way to meet socially and keep abreast of all the news.

Bude & District U3A are now proud owners of a lap top and projector. This will not only enable us to offer the facility of a Power Point

presentation to any visiting speaker who has one (but not the equipment to run it), but it is also available for Group Leaders to borrow if they feel they can use it for augmenting a presentation to their Group. We are also hoping to put together a little power point presentation of our own so that we have something to entertain you with while you wait for the Open Meetings to get underway. However, this might take a while - there is a steepish learning curve to be negotiated first. We envisage it including photos of members enjoying outings like the excellent one to Greenway, Agatha Christie's house on the river Dart which some of us went to at the end of April. (It might also remind you of when your subscriptions are due and related subjects!)

Our speaker secretary also feels less stressed as she will be able to use it to keep us entertained if a speaker cancels at the last minute.

Vera Roper, our Groups Co-ordinator also has a very comprehensive list of resource CDs and DVDs from U3A Head Office which are available for lending out to any member of a U3A.

Hilary and I attended a meeting way back in January in Taunton called by the new South West Regional Trustee which has proved to be very useful. It confirmed that on the whole we were adhering to "best practice" which is always good to know. It also prompted us to set about

organising a "social account" to deal with trips of all descriptions where members are required to pay "up front". This is, of course, especially relevant to the Theatre Group but it will also apply to trips such as the one some of us made to Agatha Christie's house (see above and report inside!). We have now produced guidelines for anyone contemplating a trip and standard forms for members signing up.

Happily, it also made us aware that as a charity we should not be charged VAT and Martins, who print our newsletter for us, have now agreed that no VAT will be charged on our future bills.

We have a number of members now attending a computer course being run at The Gregson Centre - so maybe more of you will be on line to check out our excellent web site! (www.budeu3a.co.uk). Our thanks to Mike Roper, our web master.

So, roll on summer and let us hope that it is a better one than last year!

Sylvia Henry

PS. This is exactly how I finished the letter for Spring newsletter last year - not that it did any good. Maybe this year....?

PROCEDURES FOR TRIPS

Because we are a charity and due to instructions from National Office we need to ensure that the procedures for taking payment for any organised trips are transparent and able to be properly audited by our treasurer.

This means that each trip will have a payment deadline against it and payment by our members must be made by that date regardless of how far into the future the trip is going to take place.

We have set up a “social account” with our bank and monies for all trips will go through that account and not through the main U3A account. The organiser will be provided with a paying in book which will be the responsibility of the organiser.

All money collected will go into the social account at the bank. Cheques to be written to 'Bude & District U3A Social'

By signing for a trip you are agreeing to pay by the deadline indicated. Tickets are transferable but not refundable.

The person organising the trip will have their address and telephone number on the sheet so that payment can be posted to them if necessary but we would stress that members should come to the open general meetings with their cheque book or a full purse so that in signing for a trip they can make payment for it immediately if the deadline

requires it or provide post-dated cheques for later events.

A receipt will be given for every payment made by members going on the trip.

Every effort will be made to cost the trip before members are invited to sign up. This will include the cost of the coach (if used) as well as the cost for tickets/entrance fee requiring pre-payment, i.e. not paid individually '*on the day*' at the event.

Individual estimates of ticket price/cost of trip will include adjustments for any discretionary ticket arrangement and/or discounted group bookings.

Costings will be based on an average number for the coach and any extra funds will be kept in the U3A social account.

The organiser of the trip is responsible for monies being paid into the social account NOT the treasurer.

The treasurer's form must be completed by the organiser within 5 days after the trip and submitted to the treasurer with receipts for all expenditure. Any claims for additional expenses incurred by the organizer should be presented separately to the treasurer.

NB - U3As are set up as self help groups. All members must take responsibility for the general good running of the U3A and not leave it to a few individuals to run around after them.

NEW GROUPS

COMPUTING

Perhaps a new Group could be up and running after completion of the course at the Gregson Centre?

CREATIVE WRITING will meet in the afternoon of the 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month at the Falcon

The first meeting will be held on Thursday, 10th June at 2.30pm. For further information please contact **Lucille Opie**.

DISCUSSION 2

This Group is holding a preliminary meeting on Wednesday, 16th June. Please contact **Jenny Leyland** for further details.

ENJOYING MUSIC 2

This Group will meet monthly in the evening to look at records or DVDs of operas and musicals. Please contact **Iwan Davies** for more details.

SHARING POETRY 3

The inaugural meeting took place in April. The Group is being supported by Sharing Poetry 1 until it has enough members to become independent. For further details contact **Linda Farmer**.

GROUPS' REPORTS

BOOK CLUB meets monthly on the second Wednesday at 2.30pm
Linda Mason

Daphne Du Maurier and a varied selection of her books set us alight in February and the Group was

very vocal on our local authoress and we were able to discuss her works happily for the afternoon. The books we received covered most of her career and many subjects, including one book about the master glassblowers in France during the revolution.

March saw us immersed in another world. America and violence from the pen of James Patterson. He does, for some of his books, actually use assistant writers whose names appear on the front cover - in small print! We did not like the violence and felt we were being packaged by the author to consume his fast, well marketed consumer product. This author is in the writing business and we were disappointed at his inability to create a book with depth and characterisation. Let's not beat about the bush, we did not like any of his choice sent to us from the Library.

In April, Spring arrived and with some warmer weather we were able to thoroughly enjoy Engleby, and the writer has to confess to liking all of Sebastian Faulks books immensely. Wonderfully full, rich and deep and well written from start to finish. If you have never read any of his work, then can we all at the book club advise you to start now?

At the moment we are reading a book by Lisa Gardner and once I have stopped looking behind me and going to bed with the light on at night I shall be able to give you

in the next edition of the newsletter
all our views!!

We have a vacancy for a member
if you would like to join us please
ring me.

Linda Mason

BRIDGE meets weekly on Mondays
at 2.00pm

Richard Evans

The Group now plays just two tables
a week, rotating players from our ten
core members. Trying to fill three
tables was beginning to be a quite a
headache, although theoretically we
had sufficient reserves.

If there are members wishing to start
a second Bridge Group we would be
only too pleased to help get it off the
ground but probably not with
absolute beginners.

Richard Evans

CANASTA usually meets on
alternate Mondays at 2.30pm

Hazel Cook

Canasta is not a difficult game to
learn and most of us have not
played for about 30 years, so we are
having to learn all over again and
still get it wrong. We started off
playing once a month but enjoy it so
much we have made it fortnightly.

We have great fun but would love a
couple more people to join us. You
would be very welcome and if
necessary we could arrange
transport. You would be made very
welcome so do give me a call.

Hazel Cook

DISCUSSION meets monthly on the
first Thursday at 10.30am

Jo Arnold

What does Tourism mean to you?
Traffic jams? Crowded shops? Or
an uncertain but vital boost to your
finances?

In Bude we have a love/hate
relationship with Tourism because
we know that without it our town
would not survive, but in February
Vicky Wilson invited us to think
about ourselves as the tourists,
especially overseas. We like to see
the "natives", but do we ever
consider what effect our visits
have on them and their traditional
way of life? Are we in danger of
destroying the very culture that
attracted us in the first place? New
hotels and roads damage the local
environment, so is what we actually
see when we arrive the "real" place,
or has the ethos already been
compromised?

This was a most interesting morning,
making us all think differently about
where we choose to go and why,
and, for those who habitually go
abroad, how we behave towards the
indigenous people when we arrive in
more out-of-the-way locations.

Tricia Parsons brought us back to
the UK in March and asked where
we as a Nation are going, or want to
go. The recent death of Michael
Foot reminded us that although we
may not have agreed with many of
the "old-style" statesmen we always
knew where they stood. Today our
politicians often seem to change as

the wind blows, so how can we know who to vote for?

Our thoughts moved to the world stage and, almost inevitably, to terrorism. Here we discovered a marked divide. Some members felt that we are losing soldiers in Afghanistan in order to protect our people at home and to prevent the 7/7 London bombings happening again, while others maintained that the 7/7 bombs only happened because we are in Iraq and Afghanistan. So which is the chicken and which the egg?

Digressing (as we often do) we considered whether Jamie Bulger's mother had any "right" to know what Jon Venables (recently taken back into custody) was thought to have done, and somehow got back to Muslims, both peace-loving and fanatical, concluding with a comparison of the High and Low wings of the Church of England and the varying reactions of parishioners to gay priests! A really diverse morning!

In April Lindsay Ponting wanted us to work out why Power Corrupts. Where do good intentions, dreams and ideals go so wrong? We agreed that the Society we live in today is generally corrupt, and financial considerations -- otherwise known as bribes -- are common practice. If we want to straighten corruption out, where could we start? Should we as individuals take a stand? If we did, would it have any effect, or would we just be considered "odd", or ostracised?

The only really good leaders we could think of were Mandela, Gandhi, Martin Luther King -- and Jesus. They were uncorrupted, but the ordinary people who took on their work got into all sorts of trouble, as borne out by today's problems in India, Pakistan, South Africa and all the rivalries in Christianity.

We decided that most humans have a basic flaw in their makeup which can be reinforced by sycophantic followers. We also blamed our Legal System for much of the corruption in this Country. Courts of Law are theatres where lawyers from both sides chat to each other before, during and after each "performance". Lawyers make fortunes while the Rules of Evidence hamstring Justice.

Tony Blair and his return to Labour's Campaign Team came up -- I wonder why? -- but by the time you read this the General Election will be history. I can only hope that our new Government will know where it is going and how to get there -- and maybe pigs will fly!

Jo Arnold

ENJOYING MUSIC meets monthly on the second Tuesday at 2.00pm
Iwan Davies

We started up again on the 11th May.

GARDENING meets monthly on the first Wednesday
Marion Hall

3rd Feb Twenty-one of us arrived at the restaurant in Trelawney garden centre, Wadebridge, where we had lunch before gathering in the conservatory for a demonstration and talk by Nick Bacon, a very knowledgeable gardener at Trelawney. Nick has a varied gardening background, his interest beginning in childhood and spanning forty-six years, including several district and county council posts to where he is today, still studying and giving twenty-five talks a year!

While demonstrating how best to pot plants into a container, he gave many relevant hints like putting bits of polystyrene (for drainage and insulation) mixed with slug pellets into the bottom of the container thus keeping the pellets away from other creatures!

More hints. Dip cotton wool buds into treacle then powdered yeast and place by an ant's nest, ants will be attracted by the treacle and take the yeast to feed the queen. The yeast will swell, end of queen! Apparently, ants won't cross a chalk line, squirrels won't take peanuts mixed with cayenne pepper (doesn't affect birds), cats are deterred by muscle pain relief sprayed onto dry teabags placed round the garden, mice hate mint toothpaste, carrot root fly are deterred by seeing themselves in mirrors placed at both ends of your rows of carrots!

All his tried and tested solutions were quirky, entertaining, inexpensive and worked! There were many more, too numerous to

mention here. No wonder he advised us to bring our notebooks!

3rd March On a sunny day, 15 of us visited Higher Cherubier garden (N.G.S. opened especially for us), near Dolton, N. Devon. En-route in Dolton we had lunch at the Rams Head pub which was very enjoyable.

We were welcomed by Jo Hynes who gave us a short talk about the garden's history, then walked with us around the garden which is situated in a small hamlet 500ft. on top of a S.W. facing valley surrounded by green fields and wonderful views. Originally a dairy farm, 15 years ago Jo and Tom transformed an acre of land by their house into a beautifully landscaped garden. There are stone edged raised beds, shady woodland beds, herbaceous border, large productive kitchen garden, fruit cage with resident bantam hens (who have weeding duties), very colourful basketry willows including a huge 'living willow' trellis and a short avenue of pollarded willows. Also a green house and Alpine house. Everywhere you look there are masses of snowdrops complimented by many shades of pink hardy cyclamen (the owners Jo and Tom Hynes hold the National Collection).

As a bonus after our tea and homemade cakes, Jo invited us to two other nearby gardens owned by her relatives. Cherubier and Middle Cherubier. All three gardens are opened together during the year for the National Garden Scheme. Well worth a visit!

7th April The weather was kind to us when Mike Stephens welcomed eighteen of us to his garden at Coombegate Cottage, St.Ive, Liskeard. He gave us an introductory talk about the garden and house, 250 years old and at one time occupied by two families, each with nine children! The garden was rough land covered with brambles when Mike arrived fifteen years ago. It now covers an acre, gently sloping and designed to be at it's best during winter and spring. Full of colour and scent from witch hazels, daphnes, many types of hellebore and unusual seasonal plants. Recently acquired land has been planted with trees.

Finishing our visit in Mike's house, we had the bonus of seeing many of Mike's paintings. He is a talented garden designer and artist!

15th April Our plant stall at the OGM raised **£63** for our U3A. Thanks to all who contributed their plants and/or supported on the day. Unsold plants were donated to Di McDougal's Bring and Buy sale in aid of Bude's Choral Society funds.

Marion Hall

Future programme (see our web site for detailed programme or contact Marion)

June 2nd. Moyclare, nr. Liskeard. A garden for all seasons.

July 7th. Winsford Walled garden, Halwill. Many unusual features.

Aug 4th. Shared lunch at Agan Chy and a chance to see Marion's 1/3 acre garden.

HISTORY OF ART meets monthly on the first Thursday at 2.00pm
Carolyn Merrett

The group have crossed the channel from Paris, where we have been looking at the 19th and early 20th century paintings and drawings of the French Impressionists, Fauves, Cubists and the early abstract painters. We have arrived in London from where we shall be travelling around Britain and abroad looking at British art of the same period.

Our journey has begun in Suffolk moved to Hampstead, London, on around the South East, with a stay in Brighton and Salisbury before returning to London. As you will of guessed we have been looking at the work of John Constable R. A. The Group have found it fascinating that Constable's most well known paintings such as "The Haywain" and "Salisbury Cathedral" are only examples of his range as a painter. His less well known oil sketches and watercolours were much admired by the group. His work is radical in that he depicted the farmed Suffolk countryside as it was at the time, which became known as "Constable country". He found the landscape of Hampstead Heath relatively wild in comparison to Suffolk. His later work is less detailed in subject matter but still true to his life long passion with nature.

We shall be travelling around Britain and farther afield with the next artist, J.M.W. Turner, whose career spanned 60 years. Turner developed his technique as a

painter of colour and light, seeking to engage the viewer in contemplation of the relationship between paint and nature.

Carolyn Merrett

PHILOSOPHY – meets monthly on the third Wednesday at 2.00pm

Kate Peardon

In February, we looked at the story of Plato's Cave, which centres around a cave where shackled people's only reality is in the form of shadows on the wall cast by the fire behind them. After escaping from the cave and then returning, the philosopher's description of an alternative reality is ridiculed and rejected. The story illustrates how some people, wishing to stick to the status quo, will either reject the truth or confront it with apathy, preferring illusion to reality.

The topic for March was Bertrand Russell (1872-1970), a polymath, whose areas of interest included philosophy, mathematics, logic and history. He was also a pacifist and a social critic. His analytical philosophy placed emphasis on clarity, argument, analysis of language and respect for the natural sciences. He believed that philosophy was for the clarification of thought, rather than having a distinct subject matter of its own and that there are no specifically philosophical truths. He opposed idealism, which argued for ideas, ethics, morality, aesthetics and indeed humans in perfect form and believed that the external world had an absolute existence prior to and independent of knowledge and

consciousness. He was awarded The Order of Merit in 1949 and in 1950, The Nobel prize for Literature in recognition of writings that championed humanitarian ideals and freedom of thought.

In April, with a general election coming up, the group looked at Thomas Hobbes Leviathan and the concept of the 'Social Contract', demonstrating the necessity of a strong central authority, to avoid the evil of discord and civil war. What would life be like in a 'state of nature' without government. Each person would have the right, or licence to everything in the world. This would lead to conflict and lives that are, 'solitary, poor, nasty, brutish and short. To escape this, men accede to a social contract and establish a civil society, to which all individuals cede their natural rights for the sake of protection. Abuses of power must be accepted as the price of peace. However, in severe cases of abuse, rebellion must be accepted.

Kate Peardon

PLAY READING meets at the Falcon Hotel every two weeks on Mondays at 10.15am.

Mary Dobson

"**French Without Tears**" by Terence Rattigan was first produced at the Criterion Theatre, Piccadilly on 6th November, 1936 with Trevor Howard, Rex Harrison, Roland Culver, Kay Hammond and Jessica Tandy in the cast. It is set in the "Miramar" villa in a small seaside town in the south of France. The "guests" are supposed to be learning

French for their jobs, Kenneth, Kitt, Brian and Alan hope to be diplomats, although Alan would rather be a writer and is the brightest of them. The naval commander, Bill, is regarded as something of a "stuffed shirt" and Diana, Kenneth's sister, is staying because her family is in India and is persuaded to seduce the commander. Prof. Maingot and his daughter Jacqueline run the establishment and she is in love with Kit, who thinks he's in love with Diana, who is a bit of a vamp and who secretly loves Alan, but hasn't told him. You get the picture? It all gets very complicated and not a lot of French is studied or spoken, despite the professor's strict discipline. However, it all makes for an enjoyable read and the modern phrase "men are from Mars and women are from Venus" springs to mind!

The next play we read is "**Our Song**" by Keith Waterhouse which was adapted from his own novel. It was first performed at the Apollo Theatre, London on 3rd November, 1992 with Peter O'Toole and Tara Fitzgerald in the cast. Roger Piper, about 50ish, is an advertising executive who meets Angela Caxton (late 20s) at a christening party and they become lovers in what turns out to be a 16 month whirlwind of romance and champagne. They all drink enough to sink a battleship! Judith, Roger's wife seems very understanding, although one assumes that she knows what is going on and Angela causes Roger to neglect his job and saps his bank account and, not unnaturally, his business partner

asks him to leave. After multiple crises, the affair ends in tragedy, but the play retains a warmth and lots of humour and we enjoyed reading this little known play.

"**Billy Liar**" by Keith Waterhouse and Willis Hall is the third play this quarter and most of us remember the ground-breaking film with Tom Courtenay. However, the play was first presented at the Cambridge Theatre, London on 13th September, 1960 with Albert Finney in the eponymous role. The play is set in Stradhoughton, an industrial town in the north of England in about 1960. To tell the story of a lad called Billy Liar, who is in fact Billy Fisher and who tells lies, would be to simplify the story. It is a story of an imaginative youth who just wants to escape his complacent and cliché-ridden background. His parents and grandmother are the stolid characters which provide such a contrast with Billy, although I'm not sure you could call granny stolid, more batty I think, but we have reached only the second act as yet and look forward to what happens to him and his three girlfriends in the third act.

Mary Dobson

SCRABBLE 1 meets on the second and fourth Tuesday of the month at 7.00pm.

Mary Norman

Our two new members have settled in well and I'm delighted to say that Gill came to the first game since she was taken so seriously ill - and won!

I am continuing to look after the Group until Gill feels well enough to take it over again.

Mary Norman

SCRABBLE 2 meets on the first and third Friday of the month at 2.00pm

Sue Evans

19th Feb We eventually sat down to play after everyone had duly admired the photos of our new granddaughter (the third with a January birthday).

Jen got off to a cracking start with two seven-letter words in her first game and went out with a score of 345. Kate and Ros scored 160 and 162 respectively (although I had promised not to tell).

Linda and I were so engrossed in conversation that Mary took advantage of our lack of concentration to use a very high scoring opportunity that we both had missed. She won the game.

Quotes

'Hold on, my mind's gone blank.' 'It's Scrabble.'

'How do you spell shoe?'

'I turned up for a Doctor's appointment a month early.'

'My toenail tablets have given me a rash.'

5th March Vera, our Groups Co-ordinator, came to visit for an hour and stayed all afternoon. She was surprised by the strategic importance of two-letter words and to learn that Scrabble players are not interested in the meaning of words, only their

scoring potential (and no words cause offence in Scrabble).

In our first game Jen went out with a seven-letter word and caught us all with full racks of tiles. It was not surprising that she was also the highest scorer of the afternoon.

Mary won the next game having also put down a seven-letter word but it wasn't discovered until later that her 'blank' tile had a letter on the back! She couldn't count her score for laughing.

Quotes

'I saw this great play at Derriford.'

'We have had two sods.'

'How did she get it right when she did it wrong?'

'She's always having sex.'

19th March Before we started, Linda told us about her enjoyable holiday on Guernsey, although her suitcase chose Belfast as its holiday destination. Linda made use of this shoppertunity to visit the local Marks & Spencer.

Although Mary wasn't keen, the five of us decided to play together on one table and we had a most enjoyable afternoon. Mary's knowledge of Dickens and Linda's of Jacobean drama proved most advantageous (for them). Linda was the highest scorer with 217.

Quotes

'Yes. It's not there.'

'We haven't had sex today.'

'I must get some new Scrabble glasses.'

2nd April Mary won the day and the five of us split into two tables. Play was delayed while we discussed Kate's forthcoming move. Mary offered to buy her strimmer and hedge-cutter even though she didn't have a hedge. Linda said she would take a look at a vase.

Linda, Kate and I played two tortuous games and had to abandon the third so that I could get the dinner on (see quote below). Mary and Wendy played three games and then both had to leave before we started our third although we all had time to enjoy the hot-cross buns that Kate had so thoughtfully provided.

Quotes

Have you forgotten I'm going out this evening?

16th April Seven of us on this glorious sunny afternoon. Ros wore her shorts!

Jen, Kate and I played together on one table and there was much hilarity in the room when Jen and Kate asked me to score. I only made five mistakes. One of which was to add my score to Kate's and the other was to miss a triple word square as I struggled with the adding up. It was a slow game which didn't finish until 3.40pm. Jen decided not to stay for another as she wanted to be home by half past four.

I wasn't able to keep track of the other table of four players apart from hearing Mary discussing the duties of a cat sitter with Linda.

Sue Evans

SERENDIPITY 1 meets monthly on the fourth Wednesday at 2.00pm
Celia Sousek

Our February meeting took us on a visit to the Dairy Crest Cheese Factory at Davidstow, together with the Serendipity 2 Group. Once through the security process, the afternoon started with a very interesting presentation showing how the cheese was made, from the arrival of the milk tankers to the departure of the cheese. This included a speeded up practical demonstration of the actual cheese making. Then the best bit – we were able to sample the various types of cheddar made there – Davidstow Extra Mature, Cathedral City, Cornish Cruncher etc.

After this, we were shown where the cheese is actually made – large shiny stainless steel vats with large pipes leading in different directions, steaming vents and flashing lights, and all the staff dressed in white suits – it looked like a scene from a James Bond movie.

In March we were all back in Liz's kitchen and Julia Brooks came to show us her wonderful jewellery made of semi-precious stones. She had some beautiful pearls of different sizes and colours, either strung on their own or mixed with other stones – turquoise, lapis lazuli, coral, and the stone which was new to most of us, and which we all particularly liked, black garnets. She also showed us how to re-string knotted pearls – she made it look deceptively easy.

In April the weather was kind to us and we enjoyed a beautiful afternoon at Marilyn's house. We began with a nature walk down a drover's path and through her field to our destination - her very large pond - so large that the pond has two islands and she has a rowing boat. Some of us took to the water. Hazel was the pioneer and, with Linda as her passenger, rowed competently around the pond. I then had a go, managing to circumnavigate the largest island, but not without steering into the bank several times. The hardest bit was actually getting in and out of the boat.

Although there was quite a strong wind, the pond was very sheltered and we spent some time sitting there before returning to Marilyn's conservatory for tea. It has a wonderful view across her garden and the fields beyond. She is making the garden into a spring garden so we were able to see it at its best.

Celia Sousek

SERENDIPITY 2 meets monthly on the fourth Wednesday at 2.00pm

Linda Bunker

We were pleased to join Serendipity 1 in February for their visit to Davidstow cheese factory. There were a considerable number of us and we were made extremely welcome by the factory workers. There was an interesting talk and demonstration on the making of the cheese and the maturing to different strengths and we were then divided into two groups for a tour around the

factory. A very interesting afternoon was had by all.

March found us at the Gildhouse in Poundstock. We were made most welcome by Sandy Dingle, who delighted us with her wealth of knowledge on this most beautiful of village halls. Dating back to Henry VIII, the hall has been lovingly restored and is truly a treasure for the community to enjoy. The hall is open each Wednesday between Easter and October and is well worth a visit. It is also available as a venue for weddings, meetings etc. at an extremely reasonable charge.

The April meeting was held at my house and we had a gardening theme, swapping ideas, cuttings, etc. and next month finds us jumping on the bus to Exeter and exploring the underground tunnels, Cathedral, etc.

Anyone interesting in joining us, please contact me.

Linda Bunker

SHARING POETRY 1 meets monthly on the fourth Thursday at 10.30am

Linda Farmer

In February the theme was Humour in all its guises (there are at least six definitions in my dictionary) including ill humour. So the range ran from John Donne's 'The Flea' through Adrian Mitchell's 'Diarrhoea /Constipation' to an extract from Kahlil Gilbrain's 'The Prophet'. But if like me, you dislike doing housework, find Rose Milligan's 'Dust If You Must', it gives one *the*

perfect excuse not to do any! (you can Google it)

March gave us a free choice which brought us, as you can imagine, an extremely wide range; but mostly poems by 20th and 21st century poets.

April brought us to War and Peace, a theme that I thought, after it was chosen and in the ether, would bring us a fairly sober if not sombre session. How wrong can one be! Among several amusing poems brought to the meeting, Jo found a really funny one with a title almost as long as the poem, 'Leave, Compassionate, Children, Production, For The Use Of!' by that great poet Anon. Anyone with any connection to any of the three armed services will find it particularly funny.

SHARING POETRY 2 meets monthly on the fourth Wednesday at 10.30am

Peggy Timms

Our April theme was "Heroes and Heroines" and this provided a wide variety of input, some poems stirring strong emotions; one of these read by Kate Compston "Rosa, Alabama 1955" by Rita Dove was a moving tribute to a black woman whose brave act of defiance initiated monumental changes in the segregation movement in America.

Another of our group, Eve Tilsley, had recently returned from a visit to her sister, in Brisbane, Australia. Her sister, Christine Purser, now Office Administrator, had also

served a term as Chairman of the Brisbane U3A, which has over 2,000 members and rents a large building in the city.

Eve had enjoyed taking part in a poetry group session similar to ours with about nine members. She also went on a U3A outing, a delightful trip on a river cruiser from Brisbane to Moreton Bay. They were on the water for three hours and they had been told that they would be provided with morning tea.

She felt it was "home from home" when the tea turned out to be a cream tea! It's not just about cream teas but the warm and friendly welcome extended to one of us by a branch of this worldwide organisation from the other side of the world that is a reminder of how lucky we are to be members of the U3A.

SINGING FOR FUN meets every second Friday in the month.

Ros Dolphin

There is not a lot to report this quarter. Our numbers have been down due to illness but now hopefully Spring has arrived we will be back to normal. Even with few numbers we have still enjoyed our singing. Our monthly visits to Fairfield Residential Home continue to be a success, we have a lounge full of ladies and some very good men singers plus members of staff who join in the singing. I would like to say thank you to Mary Slater who stood in for Jo last week.

If there are any new members who would like to sing for fun, we would love to see you.

Ros Dolphin

THEATRE

Mary Dobson

I am in fairly regular contact with the Northcott Theatre, which is in financial difficulty, to find out what is happening, or not, as the case may be. Our planned trip in May to "Whipping It Up" was cancelled and our annual trip to Shakespeare in the Park (Rougement Gardens) looks doubtful, but I will try to keep you informed.

We have now been a really active group for nearly 10 years and are finding that either we have already seen some of the plays on tour, we don't particularly want to see what there is on offer, or we are getting less and less choice of venue. However, we will persevere!

Please could I ask those who attend our OGMs and put their names on the theatre lists, to remember to bring either cash or your cheque books, as payment for theatre trips, or indeed any other trips, is about to change? (see page 3)

Two Future Bookings:

Saturday, 26th June

"Witness For the Prosecution" by Agatha Christie. Price £27 incl. Leaving Budehaven School Valley Road car park at 11.30am

Thursday, 8th July

"Stepping Out" by Richard Harris - a Comedy starring Brian Caplon and Anita Harris. Price £24 incl. Leaving

Bude Rugby Club car park at 11.30am.

On 6th February we went to see **Noel Coward's "Present Laughter"**, starring amongst others, Robert Bathurst and Belinda Lang. Set in the glamorous world of theatre, the play is a witty portrait of the life that whirled around Noel Coward in his heyday, full of repartee and humour. Robert Bathurst starred as the successful and self-obsessed actor, Garry Essendine, who is about to set off on tour, but is visited by ex-wives, lawyers, playwrights and one-night stands, etc. We all enjoyed this sparkling play and some of the comments from our members are as follows: "it is so good to watch a play where the actors have been to stage school to project their voices well ... one of the most enjoyable plays we have seen ... marvellous costumes ... the first half very wordy, but the second act was terrific ... Coward at his best ... wonderfully over the top ... great cast ... slick and well-acted".

On 4th March we saw **"Enjoy" by Alan Bennett**, starring Alison Steadman and David Troughton, who both gave superb performances. "Enjoy" is set in Alan Bennett's home town of Leeds where an ageing couple are living in the city's last back-to-back houses. With the demolition of the area in progress, Wilf and Connie are soon to be re-housed in a brand new maisonette with a waste disposal unit and non-slip vinyl flooring. When a sociologist comes to observe them in their daily life,

normality takes a decidedly atypical turn. Alison Steadman was excellent as the dotty Connie and Wilf as her patient (literally) husband and the first half was really funny, especially when they think that Wilf has died and the neighbour comes in to "lay him out". However, things took a very different turn in the second half when Connie's dementia becomes more apparent, the long lost son appears as a cross dresser and the daughter, who supposedly has "a good job" turns out to be a prostitute. I suppose by the end, we are all thinking, "there but for the grace of God" and we came home in a more subdued manner. However, the play was superbly observed by Bennett, as usual, and the comments from members included: "a mixture of comedy and pathos ... so many twists and turns with laughter and tears ... quite a disturbing, thought provoking play with excellent acting ... a sad reflection on our times, but enjoyable too".

Finally, we saw "**Tosca**" on 7th April and which was performed by the Welsh National Opera on tour. Floria Tosca was sung full "can belto" by the passionate soprano, but to be fair, it is an extremely taxing role for Tosca and she must be really thankful by the time she decides to end it all when her lover is executed and she throws herself from the prison walls! Her lover, Cavaradossi, was sung by a Welsh tenor with a sweet, lyrical voice and the baddy, Scarpia, was suitably bass and who had evil intentions on Tosca. This period production was set in the locations that Puccini intended, i.e.

the church of Sant'Andrea della Valle, the Farnese Palace and the roof top of Castello Sant'Angelo and these were both dramatic and beautifully realised by a company on tour. We thoroughly enjoyed the performance, which was exhausting enough listening to the music, let alone singing it!

Memo to self. Do NOT be fobbed off with seats in the back row of the dress circle where the English translation was visible to the entire theatre, but not to us. I was not told about this by the theatre at the time of booking and although most of us knew the story, it was very difficult to understand the story for members who had visited the opera for the first time.

Mary Dobson

WALKING GROUP walks twice a month on the first and third Tuesdays meeting at Stratton car park at 1.30pm

Christine Simmons

16th Feb Only three of us walking today and we decided to walk to Sandymouth and back. We used the road rather than the steep climb from Northcott Mouth as it was rather wet and slippery with mud. The weather was mixture of sunshine and showers. We started out in our waterproofs but got hot and took them off and then it rained.

2nd March We had a lovely walk, there were eight of us including a new member, John. The weather was great. We walked from Pethericks Mill along the canal to Hele bridge and then up the

concrete road, at Whalesborough, there is a path from the top over the "top" to Widemouth, we then walked along the coastal path back into Bude, about 5 miles. A good walk hard underneath on the downs, very little mud.

16th March Nine of us went to Welcome. We parked at the pub and walked out through fields to the coast. It was a beautiful day. We turned left and went along to Marsland Mouth. There is a hut on the cliff top just above Marsland Mouth that belonged to Ronald Duncan, a poet and playwright. When he died he left all his money, which was considerable, to the promotion of his work! In the hut which is opened by his daughter, there are glass cases on the wall with excerpts of his work. Also a plastic box, in it a collection of printed books of his poems and a play, which you are invited to take if you wish. We continued down the very steep cliff to Marsland Mouth, the sea, and went inland along a lovely valley which was in the process of being cleared of some trees, which had given primroses a chance to bloom. There will be a lot of bluebells later on, also there were a few early daffodils and lots of snowdrops. We passed Gooseham Mill, where they are renovating an old building for BATS and tourists, climbed up a steep lane, potholes you have not seen the like of, and back to the pub, then home. About 3 to 4 miles. A great day, and lots of nice company.

Angie Whitehurst

6th April We walked from Poundstock to Millock beach returning through the valley via Trebarfoote to Guild Hall and Poundstock church. Lots of primroses and wood sorrel still flowering.

20th April A lovely day, walking from Wadebridge down the Camel trail to Padstow observing many birds, spending a little time in Padstow before catching the bus back to Wadebridge.

Our next two walks are to Morwenstow and Duckpool. New members are always welcome to join us.

Christine Simmons

VISITS

MEMORIES OF GREENWAY

Have I got everything? List of passengers, ferry forms, National Trust form, cheques for Val, mobile phone...these thoughts run through my mind but are soothed by a clear crisp day. I feel even calmer to see everyone grouped together in the Crescent car park.

Suddenly the coach is filled with happy chatter which continues for over two hours! Blossom and fresh green leaves wave us along.

Heart rate rises as I realise we may miss the ferry. Can't get a signal on my mobile. Driver cannot park near to quay. I fall out of the coach and try a jog and fast walk - what if we

miss it? I groan as I watch a boat leave the quay.

U3A gods are with us however, because there is another ferry behind and the staff are expecting us. I relax again into the blue beautiful day everybody on the boat is enjoying the sun glittering on the water, smiling into the breeze.

Steep path up to the house through cool woodlands. I dawdle trying to take some photos. Then realise I should be near the front to give NT the forms and calculate how much we owe them. Fast walk again but our Treasurer has saved the day. Coffee admiring the magnolias recharges my battery to wander around Agatha Christie's holiday house. Full of collections of embroidery, pots, boxes and of course books spanning the years. A painting of a sulky Agatha at four took my attention as well as all the first editions and her possible office? A brisk tour around the grounds revealed a fig grove, some majestic pines and lots of stately magnolias set against the river below.

Last anxious moment with lots of people on the quay - will we all get on? A friendly ferry attendant assured me that we would. Coach waiting on the quay. Everybody back on the coach and a reassuring round of applause from everyone back in Bude, ending a perfect day in excellent company.

Hilary Workman

HIGHGROVE GARDENS

We now have a date! **Friday, 24th September, 2010 at 1.05 pm.** The cost of the trip will be £35 inclusive with admission fee of £15 per person and the Hookways coach.

The office at Hookways (who have been to Highgrove several times) suggest that we leave Bude early – 7.00am (sorry about that) with a stop for coffee at Taunton Deane and arrive in Tetbury in time for lunch. You can either do this, or have a picnic on the coach and just look around Tetbury when we get there.

We have a 10 minute slot when we reach Highgrove to sort out the paperwork and if we are later than that, we have to cancel the visit and try again! I understand from Highgrove office that each one of us has to bring some sort of photo identification (passport, driving licence, etc.) to confirm we are who we say we are.

We are allowed to take 25 people, so if you want to go and you haven't put your name down yet, please do so. I don't mind a waiting list as I am sure that there will be some who cannot go nearer the time, but obviously, I expect those who commit to stay the course - barring accidents! I'm sure we will have a good time.

Mary Dobson

JILL DAVIES 1933 – 2010

I did not really know Jill until she started her philosophy group in 2002. Along with other U3A members, I had persuaded her to start the group without fully realising how fortunate we would be to have her as our tutor. I knew nothing of her academic qualifications nor of her extensive and varied career in education. I soon discovered that we were in the hands of a true scholar and a natural teacher.

None of us had studied philosophy and she quickly made clear that, in our search for answers, we would actually find only further questions. In her gentle but firm manner, she stripped away any grand misconceptions of a “search for wisdom,” steering our journey via the history and lives of the great philosophers.

Over the following months and years, she took us from the pre-Socratic, ancient Greeks, to Plato, Aristotle and across the centuries to Augustine, Aquinas and beyond. She was ever patient with our struggles to understand these great thinkers, guiding us with her own prompting and searching questions. She forced us to think, and to discuss issues that at times were incomprehensible, our frequent silences illustrating our difficulties.

I will never forget her gentle manner and unchanging, even temperament which could not hide a sharp mind to quickly bring us back to reality should we become too fanciful. She never had to tell me I was talking nonsense, as her tolerant, slightly sardonic smile was sufficient in itself. She constantly demonstrated those qualities that had led to such a successful, professional career, whilst retaining that sense of humour so vital in a dedicated teacher. We learnt to really appreciate how hard she worked to prepare our sessions and the demands this placed on her time and physique.

Her beliefs and her faith shone through all she said and it is easy, even for a sceptic like me, to picture her now in a better place, discussing the meaning of life with the great minds of the past. We miss you Jill, and, wherever you are, hope you Rest in Peace.

Pat Berkeley

OUR COMMITTEE

Officers

Sylvia Henry	Chairman
Hilary Workman	Vice Chair/ Speaker Secretary
Val Kerr	Treasurer
Linda Bunker	Minute Secretary

Members

Anne Tizzard	Membership Secretary
Vera Roper	Groups Co-ordinator
Lucille Opie	Press Reports Co-ordinator
Sue Evans	Newsletter Editor
Liz Whattler	

Co-opted

Mary Dobson
Sandra Malschuck
Mike Roper Webmaster
(romper@onetel.com)

Membership

We currently have 143 members.

New Members

We are very pleased to welcome the following new members:

Pamela Grogan, Jenny Congdon,
Syd Pinder, Patricia Haynes,
Barbara Benoy, Margaret Mills,
John Dabbs, Jennifer Dabbs
Claire Garrett, Pamela Farkas,
Sally Fowler, Jane Stevenson,
Timothy and Sandra Dingle.

MONTHLY PROGRAMME

The complete Programme for 2010 is available on our website.

17th June

Jane Hanscomb will be talking about herbs - their history, magic and lore as well as some of their uses - cooking, harvesting, medicinal, strewing and cosmetic.

15th July

Janet Few will be giving us a talk called "Fun with family history" an introduction to family history and how to find your sources.

19th August

Dr David Giles will be talking about the Rotary Doctor Bank

ADVANCE NOTICE

21st October.

Our AGM and celebration of our 10th Anniversary.

Watch this space.

THANK YOU to everyone who has contributed to this edition of our Newsletter. I hope you will continue to let us hear your news and views.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any queries about contributing to the next edition. The deadline for which is the **31st July**.

Sue Evans

suemail65-news@yahoo.co.uk