

# **BUDE U3A NEWSLETTER SPRING 2008**

## **Chairman's report:**

16<sup>th</sup> April MMVIII

Since our last newsletter I have been trying to settle into this Chairman's role, fairly successfully, I hope. At a recent North Devon Link meeting at Filleigh Linda Bunker kindly stood in for me because I was unable to go. We felt that it was important to have a representative there as there had been nobody attending from Bude since last year. Linda found it very interesting.

Our area representative, Fran Elkin tries to attend these meetings so it is the perfect place to ask questions and get a reply from "the horses mouth" so to speak. And of course, if she can't come up with an answer she can take it to a higher level. I hope to attend the next meeting in June.

On 16th April Lucille Opie and I were invited to Barnstaple's Open Meeting up at the Roundswell Community Centre. We had an extremely interesting talk and slide show by Rod Lawrence on the Wild Life of the Exe Estuary and the Jurassic Coast. Rod Lawrence is a very enthusiastic educationalist - and very knowledgeable about the birds and other wild life in his part of South Devon. It was also interesting to see how another U3A Group organises itself - there were displays by the various groups along one wall and there was an amazing amount of food to accompany the tea served following the talk. I am happy to report that at the latest count we now have 155 paid up members - when I joined the U3A here in Bude five years ago the number was less than 100 I think. So onward and upward, I say!

SH **Chairman.**

## **Bridge Group**

We meet every Monday afternoon at 2.30pm at my house please feel welcome to join in.

**Richard Evans**

## **Discussion one**

16<sup>th</sup> April MMVIII In February Pat Berkeley brought us the idea he had had for our December meeting, ("King for a Day") for which we hadn't had time. He wanted to abandon the Welfare State. Although the basic concept was that no-one should be totally destitute or die from starvation or neglect, the amendments and extensions introduced over the intervening decades had made the whole system completely unmanageable. When "the Dole" was introduced it carried a stigma and no-one wanted to stay on it for longer than absolutely necessary. These days unemployment benefit can be more generous than a low-paid job if the cost of travel and National insurance are taken

into account. Some families grow up with permanent unemployment and rely on State benefits. Many governments have made amendments to the Welfare legislation but the whole thing is now so unwieldy that the only solution is to scrap it completely and start again. The only trouble we had with this proposition was that Pat presented his case too well. We found we could only add comments in support; no-one could muster an argument sufficient to act as devil's advocate and knock him down!!

In March Bernard Kennedy turned our thoughts to more things going wrong when he asked whether corruption is endemic in our society, and, if so, is there anything we can do

about it? This was quite difficult. Our discussion was wide-ranging, covering incidents large and small from local to international levels. Eventually we came to the sad conclusion that human nature is fundamentally flawed; if any individual gets away

with fiddling a minor expenses claim this can lead to larger dodgy deals being considered acceptable. In other words, all power corrupts and absolute power corrupts absolutely it would seem.

April's topic was on totally different lines. Bryan Moore introduced us to the lost Gospel of Judas. The text has a fascinating history and, after being mishandled for years, the manuscript presented enormous problems to the translators. However the fundamental proposition from this document is that Judas' place in history- as the world's prime Black Sheep is wrong. The whole thing centres on the word we know as "betray". In the original the same word can also be translated as "hand over". In order for the ancient prophecies to be fulfilled Jesus needed someone to hand Him over to the authorities. Judas was especially chosen by Jesus for this. This makes Jesus the motivator behind Judas' actions, and Judas an essential link in the chain of events. Without him and his action there could have been no Good Friday, no crucifixion — and therefore no Easter. That's a mind-blowing thought for anyone brought up with the view of Judas as thoroughly evil, but it is interesting that even the Vatican has not dismissed the idea out of hand; a spokesman said that the whole thing needs serious consideration. Initially we found the concept hard to grasp, but exploring the implications and adjusting our ideas gave us a most stimulating and challenging morning.

Jo Arnold

### **Discussion Group 2**

13th April MMVIII We are a fairly new group and our membership has increased from four members to nine. While getting to know each other our organisation has not been structured like Group 1 and we have tended to let the meetings flow by discussing any subject that members chose to introduce on the day. Now that our membership has grown this needs to change to enable all members present to contribute equally. At our next meeting an article by John Gray which was printed in the Guardian called "The Atheist Delusion", will form a basis for our discussion. We will also choose a new topic to be discussed the following month.

Jenny Leyland.

### **Canasta?**

Christine Davies in Marhamchurch is prepared to initiate a Canasta Group probably starting in the autumn. She is happy to hold morning, afternoon or evening sessions - to be decided by the members involved.

Please contact

Christine Davies

### **Cinema Group**

24\* January MMVIII We have a Googlegroup emailing system, to communicate current information on a closed circuit. Those with no internet access can -with any luck - have the information passed on by a designated friend.

Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month, at Marilyn's house at 2.30 pm.

### **Marilyn Daly**

### **Craft Miniatures**

We go under the name of Holsworthy Miniatures for the purposes of exhibiting and advertising for new members. We meet in Holsworthy on the first Thursday afternoon of every month at 1.00p.m. until around 4.00p.m. If you would like to know more please telephone

June Cann

## **Enjoying Music**

Meet monthly, 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday at 14:00.

## **Gardening Group**

10th April MMVIII Friday Feb 8th,

Last November, I invited Pat Dibb (leader of Launceston U3A Gardening group) to our planning meeting. We were very kindly invited to their February Gardening group meeting. Sadly, for a variety of reasons, the smallest number EVER to attend one of our meetings (four), arrived at Lewannick village hall to be made very welcome by around twenty of their members! The talk given by Neil Ashmore about his (very full) life as a gardener, kept us all enthralled. He started as an apprentice gardener at the age of fifteen with Sheffield Town Council. Transferred to Plymouth Town Council, having gained good qualifications & a wife! He filled in details about lots of varied, amusing & moving experiences covering many years.

As his expertise led to more & more office based work, he came to realise how much he missed the "hands on" aspect of gardening. He gave up his job & became fully self employed. Quite a lot of his time these days is spent running his Nursery & giving talks to Gardening groups! The pub lunch we had afterwards was very enjoyable! March 5th. Sixteen of us (including 3 new members) shared cars from Bude & Wainhouse Corner to visit Bodmin Plant & Herb Nursery at Laveddon Mill. Since we previously visited two years ago, there has been a lot of development! Another huge greenhouse plus shop, more outdoor plant sales area, more parking space & a very new Tea room (in the old shop). Mark & Linda Lawler own & manage the nursery.

As planned Mark took us on a tour beginning with the history of the Mill, which was built in the 17thC & functioned as such until after the 2nd world war. Subsequently there had been a plant nursery on the site for many years but it was in a very run down state when the Lawlers bought it several years ago. They are very 'anti' modern garden centres, so this remains a Plant Nursery where they grow the majority of their own stock, including an increasing number & variety of vegetable plants. Mark showed us round the vast, high tech propagation system inside a huge state of the art greenhouse, designed to conserve heat & give good light levels. Heating & ventilation are computer controlled, but seed sowing, cuttings propagation, 'potting on' & watering are all very much "hands on".

Mark's tour took us to the far end of the nursery where the foundations are laid for the next stage of development. Another large greenhouse & overflow parking area! The success of the nursery is very obvious as is Mark's passion for plants that is shown in the high standards of care & surroundings resulting in very happy looking plants (& staff)! I'm sure we all learned things from Mark's very informative & interesting talk which he ended with an invitation to explore the outside area. We nearly all bought plants (with a generous 10% discount) making our car sharing principle a little crowded on the way home! Linda Lawler made us very welcome with drinks & biscuits in the tearoom kept cozy by a lovely wood burning stove. We all had a good chat & the new members expressed an interest in future events! April 2nd

Fortunately, exactly ten of us arrived at Broomhill Sculpture Garden, near Barnstaple. There was a special rate for a minimum of ten people, saving us all £1 each! We began our visit with a delicious lunch sitting in the Art gallery! Wherever you look in the hotel there are works of art of tremendous variety, both paintings & sculptures large & small some evoking strong, disturbing emotions. The garden is on the side of a wooded valley, partly cultivated near the hotel with some interesting & attractive plants. Down the winding paths, the garden consists of native trees, wild flowers & ferns. Again, wherever you look there are sculptures, large & small, abstract & figurative, humorous & serious. Something for everyone's taste & some for sale if you are wealthy! At the bottom of the valley there is a lovely tumbling stream & a small lake with clumps of Marsh Marigolds around the edge. I found what caught my eye & delighted me the most were the banks of Primroses, early Wood Anemones, a

sprinkling of Bluebells & many wonderful unfurling Ferns, beautiful sculptures in their own right. Future events  
June 4th RHS Garden Rosemoor (Roses!) July 2nd Pencarrow Garden (& Pick your Own soft fruit!)

**Marion Hall**

### **History of Art Group**

9th April MMVIII The group had their first meeting, first Thursday monthly at 2pm, seven months ago, when we agreed to research the lives and works of the Impressionist artists from the 1860's to the 1920's. We exchanged information, looked at and discussed their paintings. These paintings were the catalyst of change from the traditional, classical paintings of the past to the modern paintings of the present. It has been quite a journey, as we have seen and felt their friendships and disagreements. Their relentless pursuit of their artistic development,, which took many different directions over the years. Their enduring similarity is in their new use of colour, light and everyday themes in art. Their work is recognised worldwide now as an outstanding contribution in the history of art and has been an inspiration to artists since. For our group it is a most enjoyable and rewarding experience to appreciate the trials and setbacks of their early days, and the eventual recognition of their achievement in painting. We are continuing the journey.

**Carolyn Merrett**

### **Philosophy**

Meet twice monthly, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays at 14:00. Meetings are already at maximum membership.

### **Play Reading Group**

30<sup>th</sup> April MMVIII During the past couple of months we have read two plays by Emyln Williams, which we have found to be witty, entertaining and quite topical. They do not seem to have dated as plays by, say, Terence Rattigan and Agatha Christie, for example, in that you could place the stories in almost any country and set them in the 21st century. We are grateful to Andrea; however, for her fluent Welsh pronunciation and help in understanding what Mr. Williams was trying to say in "The Corn Is Green"! Emyln Williams CBE was born on 26th November, 1905 in Mostyn, Flintshire, Wales and died, aged 81, on 25th September, 1987 in London. He was born into a Welsh-speaking working class family and at the age of 11 he won a scholarship to Holywell Grammar School. At the end of his education there he won another scholarship to Christ Church, Oxford. In 1927, he joined a repertory company when he began his stage career and by 1930 he had diversified by writing plays, notably, "A Murder Has Been Arranged" and the thriller "Night Must Fall" (1935) which we have just finished. His other great play, "The Corn Is Green" (1938) was partly based on his own childhood. He often appeared in his own plays and was famous for his one-man shows, starting a whole new genre of theatre. He was also the "voice" of Lloyd-George in the BB documentary "The Great War" (1964). His autobiography (in two volumes: "George" (1961) and "Emlyn" (1973)) was also highly successful and in them he wrote frankly of his early homosexual experiences, though he later married in 1935 and had two sons. His wife died in 1970. He was appointed CBE in 1962 and died in London from complications from cancer. "Night Must Fall", a psychological thriller, was first performed in 1935 at the Duchess Theatre, with Williams playing the young man, Dan. It tells of an elderly woman in a remote part of Essex in a house which borders a forest, who hires a young man to work in her home, despite her niece's increasing concerns that he may be a local murderer. The old woman is horrid to her niece and verbally abusive. It was made into a film in 1937 by John Van Druten and Robert Montgomery played the lead

and Dame May Witty the old lady and Rosalind Russell the niece, which was a huge success.

"The Corn Is Green" is about a lady called Miss Moffat, a strong-willed Welsh school-teacher working in a small poverty-stricken coal mining town. Under her tutelage Morgan Evans, shows great promise. Fighting the prejudice of the wealthy squire and villagers alike, Miss Moffat determines to do everything to help Morgan and persuades the squire to fund Morgan's application for a scholarship to Oxford. However, Morgan rebels against help from a woman and falls prey to the flashy charms of Betty Watty who becomes pregnant. His chances of success are almost destroyed, but Miss Moffat's courageous wisdom and her affection for him win the day and the former illiterate teenager eventually graduates with honours.

If you would like to join us, we meet in the Falcon Hotel's coffee lounge at 10.15am for 10.30am, approximately every two weeks.

### **MARY DOBSON**

#### **Scrabble 1**

Meet twice monthly, 2nd and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday at 19:00.

**Contact Gill Gilkes**

#### **Scrabble 2**

20th April MMVIII Meet twice monthly, 1st and 3rd Fridays at 2.00pm. The following paragraphs are random reports from games which took place during the last three months. They are not in any particular chronological order as for some reason I didn't date any of the score sheets. This may be because I've been on tablets for a minor complaint that turned my brain to mush (you didn't notice?). Fortunately I've now come off them but this has had the opposite effect and I've become a bit hyper (just ask anybody from my library reading group) but I hope to return to my usual self soon. One afternoon it was quite cold so I thought that we ought to put the heating on for the players in the dining room which opens out from the kitchen extension, as it does get a bit chilly in the winter (but is lovely and cool in the summer). But it wasn't cold enough to have the heating on throughout the bungalow so we decided that we'd have both tables in the lounge and put the gas fire on and we'd all be warm and cosy. We've now decided that it's more sociable having both tables in the same room and we are going to continue to do this whatever the weather. Richard felt it might be too noisy having all eight of us in one room but I said that the Bridge players have eight in the lounge and sometimes eight in the dining room as well (guess who makes the 16 mugs of tea). He said that the Scrabble players make far more continuous noise and I think he could possibly be right! But as our Scrabble group members are all women we can manage to play and chat at the same time. The only trouble occurs when Richard joins us if we are short of players or if one of us is having a particularly challenging afternoon. At one such recently, Linda, Kate and I were all laughing and then I got the giggles, which made us very unpopular.

Kate was so busy drawing beautifully straight lines on the score pad that she forgot to take her tiles. Too late, Ros had already had her go. Linda likes to keep score with her own pen and we thought she was just a bit of a pen snob. She has now told us why she likes these fine gel pens and we have decided to try them for ourselves.

Linda then proved that the scorer doesn't always win when she came spectacularly last in the first game (scoring only 113) even though it was her birthday that day. In the second game Emily and Linda spent some time counting what Linda would have scored if I hadn't gone in her place and then she went in Kate's place scoring 76 with a seven letter word and left us all speechless. Linda went on to win the second game with a score of 217! (I scored a derisory 104). Skip this paragraph if you are of a nervous disposition. I looked up during play and noticed that Linda had a spot of blood on her ear. What happened was that Linda was having immense trouble getting her earring in one morning (without the use of a mirror - not something I can do) and just

kept on fiddling with it until it finally went through the hole. It seemed to be bleeding a lot and she thought it couldn't possibly have healed up overnight. When she finally looked in the mirror she saw that she had actually made a new hole and had managed to pierce her ear with an earring! But how disappointing that she isn't going to do the other side to match!

On Good Friday we were hanging around chatting, waiting for Ros, when someone said 'isn't Ros on holiday?' So - a note for other Group Leaders - if a member lets you know that they are not going to attend a meeting it's a good idea to jot it down somewhere. Richard and I have a large and comprehensive calendar that is ideal for this purpose (but obviously under-used). Shirley sat very quietly with a possible seven-letter word on her rack. Richard, Linda and I were totally unaware and unconcerned. 'Will my 'genetic' fit in here? Oh yes, 'genetics'!' Shirley put down her word and went out leaving us completely dumfounded. She scored 83 points and amassed a further 45 from her opponents, finishing with 215! Richard did manage 140 but Linda and I scored only 76 and 91 respectively.

Mary and Jen left at half past four, then Shirley left at five and shortly after, Richard went out with Jess, which left Emily on her own. She moved over to join Linda, Kate and I halfway through our last game and did extremely well as she went out first with a score of 109 after only four plays. Kate had 192, I had 157 and Linda had 113. I won't say who it was but someone was so busy concentrating on the game that they tried to eat a letter tile, instead of a biscuit and then dropped another letter tile into their mug of tea. No, it wasn't me.

It was a very long afternoon, as we didn't finish until ten past six. Richard was out with Jess and everyone offered to help pack up the chairs and tables (we make use of a couple of the Bridge card tables, suitably covered, and a mixture of chairs). The red plastic chairs (with cushions) from Ikea proved to be impossible to fold up even I couldn't remember how to do it. We were obviously adversely affected by the length of the afternoon's play-Quotes from the boards (now we have both tables in one room I get to hear more of what goes on):

'Foots - how would you use it? On a triple!'

'I've put down a seven letter word and only scored 65' 'I want some big ones' 'I've got vowel trouble'

'I needn't have come this afternoon'

'Have we got to go through this again?'

'I can't think upside down'

'At least I wasn't bottom'

'My life is ebbing away'

'I usually enjoy Scrabble'

'I'm a little concerned about Emily. She's only got three letters'

'Erasion? I'm desperate'

'Don't make me laugh. I'm cross'

'The board isn't long enough'

'Mary is learning defensive play i.e. being mean.'

'It's good to laugh'

'Can I have a tit?'

and do ask Ros about her very amusing 'tits' story. New words (as usual these may be 'not found' by my spellchecker but they all appear in my Chambers Dictionary): dido, fango, flic, hain, kited, nance, trig, ureal, vare, whid.

**Sue Evans**

### **Serendipity 1**

17th April MMVIII Since our successful display at the Parkhouse meeting last year Serendipity has continued to grow and Serendipity 2 is now well under way. We

continue to share ideas, learn from one another, encourage one another and have a lot of fun along the way!

During the past year we have had an afternoon at a beach hut with tea and biscuits, sunshine, a lot of chat and a bit of beach exploring. In July we invited Serendipity 2 to join us in a visit to Cowslip Workshops in Launceston where Jo Colwill kindly showed some of her quilts and gave a short talk - an inspirational place indeed! In August we started a group project. For some time we had been looking for an idea that would link us together - but we could also do apart! I took the idea from the cover of the U3A National magazine, where a portrait had been divided Rolf Harris style and then group members had each painted their piece. We chose to do a Ton Schulten painting which was enlarged and then cut up into pieces about postcard size. Each member who wished to participate chose a piece to take away and reproduce in any medium they felt moved to try. So far the results have been fantastic - with pieces done in sand, paint, leaves, crayon, tissue paper, on the computer etc. The only requirement is that they are faithful to colour and size. The project is still ongoing at the moment. In November we had a session with Willow, kindly led by Marion. One day several of us gathered suitable material from the land around and then we spent an enjoyable afternoon creating potential Christmas decorations etc. using willow and other hedgerow products. In December we met socially and brought along an angel - in any shape or form. It was great fun and interestingly all the angels had a story behind them. In January Serendipity 2 invited us to join them in a guided walk from the lock gates to the museum at Rodds Bridge. We then adjourned to the Castle for a convivial lunch and another great time was had by all! In February we again invited Serendipity 2 to join us and a friend of mine came with her 'stuff to 'show and tell'. She is a very creative and inspirational lady and we had another good afternoon.

Altogether an enjoyable year.

**Elizabeth Whattler**

### **Serendipity 2**

24<sup>th</sup> January MMVIII We are a small group of just 5 members and could do with more members, if you are interested, please call me. We meet on 4th Wednesday of each month.

**Linda Bunker.**

### **Sharing Poetry One**

24<sup>th</sup> January MMVIII

Meet once a month - 4th Thursday at 10.30am

Some months a theme, others a free choice, but always the depth and breadth of people's choices continue to amaze me, even after nearly four years. Currently we have nine members, and thus have room for one more person, ten being the optimum number so that each person can read a couple of choices, also we are limited by the size of my house!

**Linda Farmer**

### **Sharing Poetry Two.**

17<sup>th</sup> April MMVIII We meet at my home on the fourth Wednesday of each month.

We started when Sharing Poetry One became full and we now feel like a family with a better idea of what we are about. We are a little different; in addition to sharing favourite poems and information about poets; on occasion we bring verses written by ourselves, sometimes inspired by reading and listening to the words of others. We have been pleased and surprised at the talent displayed by our members and I feel we have learned in the process. It takes some courage to share our own efforts, but these contributions are always received with enjoyment and admiration. I like to think this inspires confidence. And what a difference it makes to hear poetry read

aloud. It gains a totally different dimension. At our monthly meetings we alternate between free choice and a topic of special interest. We always find time to have a chat and a cuppa in true U3A fashion!

### **Peggy Timms**

#### **Singing for fun**

24<sup>th</sup> January MMVIII

We have one or two members who can play but do not want to take on the responsibility of pianist as they joined the group to sing. Can you help, any musical instrument will do (I could not fit drums or a double bass in my lounge!!) and we would also love some more singers, we really do have fun, so do come and join us. Please contact

**Ros Dolphin**

#### **Theatre - Starlight Express**

30<sup>th</sup> April MMVIII I had not seen "Starlight Express" written by the omnipresent Andrew Lloyd Webber, when it was first produced in London and didn't really know anything about it, although I seem to remember something about the actors roller-skating around the auditorium and it being an action-packed musical. It was billed in the pamphlet I received through the post as "the fastest show on earth simply light years ahead of the rest, with amazing sets and unique 3D racing "Starlight Express" is a feel-good musical with something for everyone". The Theatre Royal, Plymouth was its first stop on its first tour outside London.

When my rib cage had stopped vibrating with the noise and I had stopped wondering whether any of our party would leave the theatre owing to said noise (they didn't), I sat back and enjoyed the story of rail speed -to put it simply. Each of the characters is a train, the newest and best that each country can produce and when the roll call went out for each train to compete in a race, out came America (full of electric, sparkle and confidence), Russia (fairly red, diesel and menacing), Japan (more red and oriental), Britain (red, white and blue and late!), etc. etc., plus a small, steam-driven older engine having no chance against the modern versions. There was also a red caboose, gloriously played in camp style and on the bottom of each character's boots was a set of roller-blades, each expertly manoeuvred around the stage. Instead of the race track around the stalls, we were given 3D glasses to put on at a prearranged signal and just before the races commenced a white screen came down so that we could "view" each race as if we were on the track with them. This proved to be a stroke of genius, as we braved cobwebs, rats, bats and anything else the producers could think of (excluding the wrong sort of leaves and unseasonal snow of the wrong kind). Needless to say, one of them broke down and who was it who was needed to rescue the train from the track? Yes, the old, reliable steam train. A sort of tortoise and hare story really, but very enjoyable and certainly an experience.

MD

#### **Theatre - "And Then There Were None"**

30<sup>th</sup> April MMVIII The familiar story by Agatha Christie which was first called "The Ten Little N..... Boys" when first produced was great fun. We knew that hardly anyone would be remaining on the stage by the end, but we couldn't quite remember why! We saw this at the Queen's Theatre, Barnstaple which lends itself very well to Agatha Christie plays. The set was the interior of a lovely art-deco house on an island off the coast of Devon and the only access to it was by a small boat, managed by a faithful retainer. The ten guests assembled one by one, each one never having met the other before and wondering when their host, who had sent the invitation, would appear. They dressed for dinner and still waited and, of course, the first body was discovered and then another and so on. As they were the only people on the island, the murderer had to be one of them. It turned out that

they had each been responsible for another's death over the years, although they hadn't been found guilty. Therein lay the clue. The well-known cast included Gerald Harper, Denis Lill, Chloe Newsome, Peter Byrne and Mark Wynter and the costumes were spot on. A thoroughly enjoyable day out. MD

We have just planned the next six month's worth of theatre trips (excluding May, as we couldn't find anything we really wanted to see). If you would like to join us, please could you contact and pay me as soon as possible, because I need to book early to obtain the seats we prefer, i.e. the stalls.

MaryDobson

### **WALKING GROUP**

24\* January MMVIII

We continue walking on the First and Third Tuesdays of every month. It is important to telephone Sally or Patricia to make sure of meeting and departure times.

Why not sample a walk in 2008 - we do not gallop along and like to stop and look at the scenery.

### **Cornwall Energy Efficiency Advice Centre**

The Cornwall Energy Efficiency Advice Centre is part of a network of 48 advice centres across the UK. The network is managed by the Energy Saving Trust with funding from government. The advice centre is based within Community Energy Plus in Tolvadden Energy Park outside Camborne and can be contacted on FREEPHONE 0800 512 012. The friendly team offers free, expert and impartial advice on energy efficiency in your home and can answer questions on grants and schemes available in your area.

#### **Over 70s Scheme**

Currently in Cornwall there is a scheme running that may entitle the 'over 70s' to free loft/cavity wall insulation (subject to a survey). You do not have to be in receipt of any benefits or entitlements to qualify. Contact our **FREEPHONE** to apply today.

#### **Priority Scheme**

If you are in receipt of an entitlement or benefit then you may be able to qualify (subject to a survey) for free loft/cavity wall insulation. Contact our **FREEPHONE** and tell us which benefits/entitlement you currently claim.

#### **Heating Grants**

Heating grants are available from the government's Warm Front scheme. This scheme may offer people who claim certain benefits/entitlements a completely new or a replacement heating system. If you call the Cornwall Energy Efficiency Advice Centre on our FREEPHONE your referral can be made to a collective of local Cornish based installers.

#### **Home Health Schemes**

Community Energy Plus's multi-award winning 'Home Health' scheme has been running across Cornwall in partnership with the local authorities since 2002. The scheme offers free loft insulation, cavity wall insulation, and hot water tank jackets to all domestic households in the designated area. Contact us on our **FREEPHONE**

#### **Partial Grant Schemes**

If you are not in a Home Health zone, over 70 and not in receipt of any benefits or entitlements then there is the 'Partial grant' scheme. Subject to a survey, the insulation installed will be part funded. To find the most advantageous partial grant for your property or FOR FREE HOME ENERGY ADVICE

**FREEPHONE 0800 512 012**

Community Energy Plus is a registered charity (1068990) and a company limited by guarantee.

Our address is South Crofty House. 1 South Crofty. Tolvaddon Energy park.  
Camborne. TR14 OHX  
8 01209 614975 office number  
email [advice@cep.org.uk](mailto:advice@cep.org.uk)  
Web page [www.cep.org.uk](http://www.cep.org.uk)

### **Switching to Digital**

21st April MM VIII

Next year, the West Country will switch, to digital, from analogue TV terrestrial signals. This will happen transmitter by transmitter. transmitter which serves much of Cornwall and Devon, including Plymouth, and Bude & District, will be converted between July and September 2009.

For more information, contact the new regional manager Bill Taylor. He can be contacted by email

[bill.taylor@digitaluk.co.uk](mailto:bill.taylor@digitaluk.co.uk) or

phone on **07970 861238**.

**HW**

### **U3A On-line**

9th April MMVIII Having read an article in the national magazine about U3A Online I decided to have a look. There were a number of courses on offer - mostly covering about eight weeks, and one has the choice of studying at ones own pace or taking a tutored course. I chose the latter as I need some incentive to be disciplined about study these days! Taking a tutored course also added the bonus of having an online discussion forum available to group members. I studied 'An Introduction to Western Philosophy' as our Philosophy group is full. We were given a starting date, and the course tutors' introduction duly arrived. Every Sunday for the next eight weeks a Unit was made available to download. This was always preceded by comments from the tutor. I thoroughly enjoyed the experience - there are no exams and there is no pressure! About twelve of the eighteen students took part in the forum - the others may have e-mailed the tutor direct or done nothing for all we knew!

Being rather naive it did not occur to me that the course would not be run by the U3A in the UK. In fact U3A online uses Griffiths University in Australia and the majority of the students were Australian -so I have made a number of Virtual friends around the world! The discussion forum was challenging, interesting, informative and hilarious - there are some very good senses of humour out there. Also some very brainy people -I learned a lot and nobody could see my blushes!

One spin off has been that one student who described himself as a 'curmudgeonly atheist' in the 'Victor Meldrew style' has collected a small group of us and invited us to join him in studying Critical Thinking. I can feel the bits of rust falling off my brain, but it's great fun and beats most TV any day! The discussion forum was also interesting in that there were several bits of 'prima donna' behaviour when participants took umbrage at somebody's reply (or lack of) and left "bags and baggage!" Funnily enough they were all men! I have no idea what that may mean! The courses cost £15.00. I have printed the units so that I can keep them on file and anybody is welcome to have a look if you wish.

The only note of caution that I would sound is to create a separate e-mail address. It occurred to me too late - and only then when one UK student sounded to me a bit of a 'weirdy beardy'. My e-mail address is a bit of a give-away so I hope nobody appears on the doorstep!

U3A online were very helpful with technical advice and Griffiths University even went to the lengths of ringing me from Australia one evening when I had trouble with my password!

I hope this article will encourage somebody else to have a go!

**Elizabeth Whattler**

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