



April 2022 Newsletter

Open Meeting

It was a delight to see so many members at our first Open Meeting since COVID regulations were eased. We listened to an interesting talk by Josh Harmon, Tri-Service Safety Officer. He described his innovative, early intervention and prevention work across the Police Service, Cornwall Fire and Rescue and NHS SW Ambulance and NHS Foundation Trust. He is based at Lostwithiel Fire Station and offers a free domestic premises risk reduction service. Email:

josh.harmon@fire.cornwall.gov.uk

At the end of the meeting Chris Dimond, chaired an informal Q&A session during which the new committee introduced themselves and Sue Sargent, membership secretary distributed the Lostwithiel u3a brochure she has revised; one per household. Group Leaders, who were present, took additional copies to distribute to members unable to attend the meeting.

The next Open Meeting is on Monday 16th May in the Church Rooms at 2pm. Mike Haywood, a marine artist will speak about “The Voyage of the Mayflower in 1620, the myths and the reality”. Mike Haywood has a Doctorate in Oceanography and has produced a collection of Mayflower paintings telling the story of the voyage. Each painting is painstakingly researched to ensure accuracy.

Updates from the Groups

Arts and Crafts Experiments:

The next meeting is at 10.30am on the 8th April in Penrose Bed and Breakfast, 1 The Terrace, Lostwithiel, PL22 0DT. Parking is at the back, off Scratons Lane. The topic is “Having a go with pastels”. The group welcomes others, but as space is limited please contact the group leader before attending.

Group Leader - Heidi Swale mobile: 0776 690 0179

Art2Start:

Members of Art2Start have started this year enthusiastically as usual and on a new theme 'Down to the Sea'. This work and previous pieces will be shown in a small exhibition at the Church Hall in late April. Watch this space.

Group Leader - Jacquie Hannan

Bird Watching:

The bird watching group set a monthly field trip itinerary last July for the following year, commencing in September, meeting mostly on the third Wednesday of each month. In January we went to Cargreen and Landulph - unfortunately it was bitterly cold and most of the birds eluded the group. In February the trip to Wacker Quay and Millbrook had to be abandoned due to Storm Dudley. Finally our trip to Respryn, in March, was a great success watching Dippers, Grey Wagtails and Long tailed tits all in nesting mode. A small group did also make a very successful two day trip, at the end of February, to Seaton Wetlands and took the Exmouth estuary boat cruise to see the Avocets.

Always happy to greet new members.

Group Leaders - Jasmina Goodair and Marion May

Bridge:

Bridge group are pleased to welcome two new members. Afternoon play is now proving more popular than evenings so we have had a trial spell of playing Wednesday afternoons with some Saturdays. This gives greater flexibility when other u3a groups have events on Wednesdays.

Group Leader - Jenny MacDonald

Electric Dynamos:

We have done seven 24 mile rides during January and February : Innis Downs to St Columb, Dunmere to St Kew, Lanhydrock to Burlawn, Liskeard to Portwrinkle, Trewoon to Indian Queens, Bodmin Airfield to St Neot and Lostwithiel to Eden. A picture gallery report of all our rides is on our Group Web Page

Unfortunately we can't take on any new riders at the moment

Group Leader - Brian John

Family History:

2022 started off with a momentous event for all Genealogists. The release of the 1921 Census - the last we are likely to see in (most) of our lifetimes as the next one is 2051! So, having, attended a National Archives online seminar, I put together a summary for the Group to attempt to bring all our members up to speed with some of the content and new features now available. We also held an interim meeting in early February for those wishing to examine the Census in a little more detail.

At the first Zoom meeting in January, our most experienced genealogist, Bren, also prepared an intriguing look at family search and it's latest updates - a lot has changed.....and for the better! Bren's talk led well into our February meeting when Roger Hancock, our outside speaker,

introduced us to the world of “WikiTree’ which has a similar aim of creating a “global family tree” ,but appears to have even more features together with devices and “conduct codes” which potentially increase the accuracy of the compiled trees. Both of these talks have whetted all our appetites and we’re motivated to dive into both and start exploring for ourselves. Just the activity you need for a cold, windy, damp winter’s day!

Group Leader - David Platt

French:

The group has re-started finally. We have had a few meetings in the Royal Oak, thanks to the friendly welcome from Graham and Simon. However, some members were not comfortable with this venue, so we are trying out the Church Rooms.

We are looking for new members or the group might sadly fold. All you need to join us is a smattering of school French and a sense of humour.

Keep an eye on our webpage for updates.

Group Leader - Veronica Ashworth

Photography:

Undeterred by the weather we've started 2022 with two visits to the Polzeath area focussing not only on the wider beach vistas, but also the more intimate landscape of rock and molluscs. Our future field trips include Caerhays on the 28th April and St Nectan's Glen near Tintagel on the 26th May.

Group Leaders - Lindsay Southgate and Steph Thomas

Garden Visits:

We have been busy putting the final touches to our programme of visits for 2022 and by the time you read this, we will have done our first visit to the Pinetum Gardens in St Austell which took place on Wednesday 23rd March.

Group Leader - Annie Singer

Scrabble:

Our small but perfectly formed group continues to meet every two weeks thanks to our kind hosts at the Royal Oak. We enjoy stretching our minds and enjoy a welcome diversion in these troubled times. Cranial cobweb cleansing compatible with a soft drink or a beer.

Please feel free to give us a try.

Group Leader - Jon Hancock

Strollers:

Enjoyed a lovely stroll on Par beach, in the March Spring sunshine, followed by a cuppa in the beach cafe.

Group Leaders - John and Veronica Ashworth

Strummers Ukulele:

We have now settled in to our new home at Lanhydrock Memorial Hall where we meet every Monday afternoon. At the moment the group is full.

Group Leader - Brian John

Theatre Group:

The Theatre group are in full swing again, demonstrated by having 17 forward bookings in the pipeline after our last planning meeting. We happily welcomed two new members at our March meeting, however we are now in a waiting list situation again. Group Leader - Jenny MacDonald

Ukulele Workshop:

Despite the cold temperatures during winter we have continued to meet regularly on Friday afternoons at the Scout Hut where we play various types of songs, some of which you may not usually hear from a Ukulele band! This is all part of our effort to develop individual players and to progress as a group.

We now include a keyboard and sometimes a clarinet, both of which add depth to our music.

Although we did not start out looking to perform, we have done a few gigs under the name of LOST CHORDS. Recently we played for a Cancer Research UK fund raising event in the town, and were well received. So much so that we have been invited to join them again on the 14th May in the evening alongside HALFWAY HARMONY.

We would welcome any U3A Ukulele player who may be interested in joining us. Just contact Alan Pearce (01208 872592) for a chat and more information. Most of us began with only a rudimentary knowledge of the basic chords, but with the help of others and a few more expert players in the group we have managed to progress much further than expected.

Group Leader - Alan Pearce

Walking Group:

With the new system now in place and working well for all concerned we have recently had local walks in St Austell and around Lostwithiel and further afield walks along the coast near Polruan and Pentire Head with good turnouts on all despite the weather. Many thanks to the new leaders.

Group Leader - Chris Dimond

Wine Appreciation:

So far this year we have had two excellent meetings. The first at Eric Gadds house we had an excellent turn out to enjoy wines Eric had saved from pre-pandemic times. The three wines included an unfiltered organic white from Italy along with a similar red. We then had a new world red to compare.

The second meeting was a smaller gathering on a very wet day in Couchs Mill. Our hosts were Sue and Carl Watts. We were warm, dry and well fed in a very comfortable cottage. We enjoyed four south of France wines two white then two red. It was a lot of fun, so do look at the U3A web pages for more details and pictures.

Leader - Michael Furminger

Contacts

Chair – Chris Dimond 01208 871784

Membership – Sue Sargent 01208 368935