

FOOL'S GOLD



CHRISTMAS THE ZOOM SHOW!

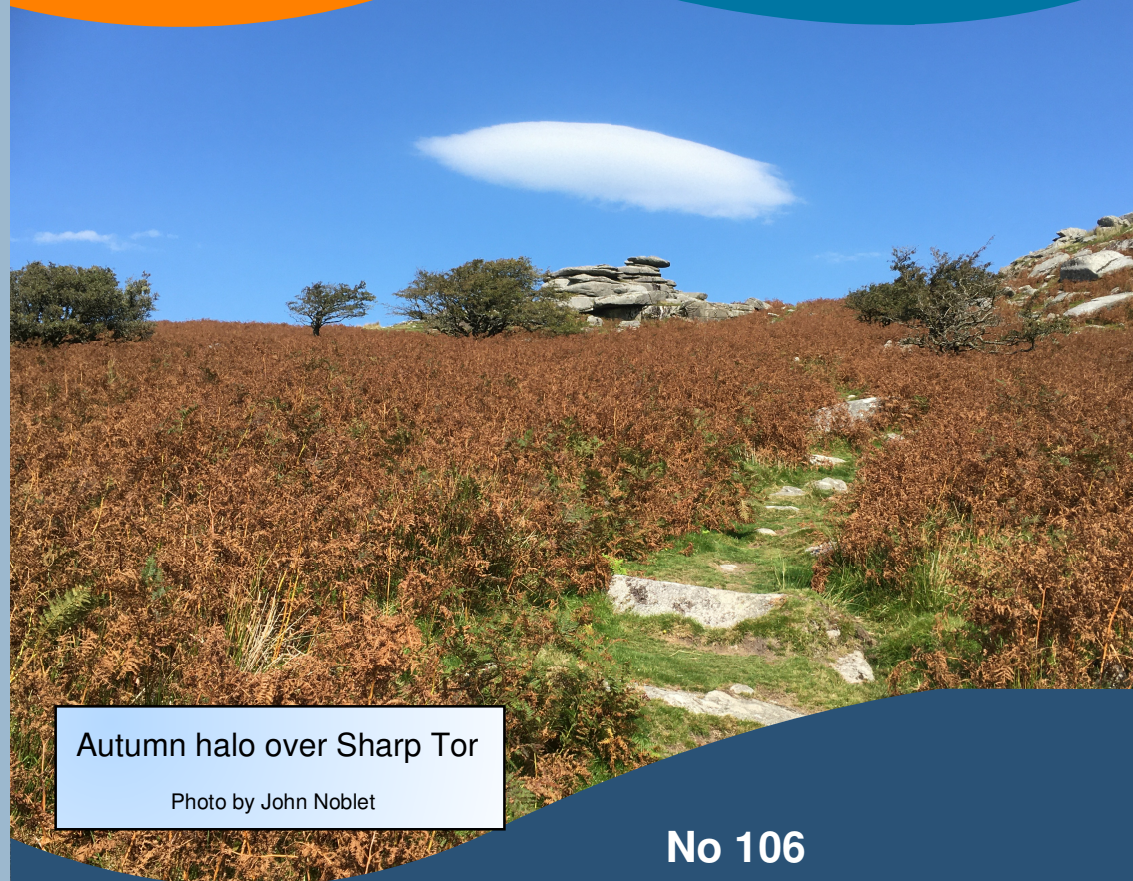
Tavy U3A

2 December 2020 2.30pm

SHOW PROGRAMME

TAVY DISTRICT U3A

THE NEWSLETTER



Autumn halo over Sharp Tor

Photo by John Noblet

No 106

NOVEMBER 2020



Who's Who in Tavy District U3A

Chair	Barry Smith	611076
Business Secretary	Robin Neave	854766
Treasurer	Angela Pitt	07519 886578
Membership	Tony Rose	481569
Groups Liaison	Pippa Gardner	616007
Newsletter Distribution	Susan Neal	611076
Speaker's Liaison	Jane Ward	610608
Two Moors Liaison	Barry Smith	611076
Equipment Officer	David Glover	618261

Events Committee

Norma Woodcock	613597
Chris Webb	613884
Diana Smirles	612763
Janet Hunt	613088
Shirley Smith	614964

Webmaster: Hilary O'Neill 854565
web@tavydistrictu3a.org.uk

Newsletter Editor: John Noblet

The deadline for the next Newsletter is 20th December

Send contributions to johnnoblet@tavydistrictu3a.org.uk

U3A Social Distancing



The Cycling group socially distancing at Fremington Quay in their household bubbles.
Photo: Sally Hill



Walkers socially distancing at Beera Tor.

Photo: John Noblet

THEATRE NEWS

The **Theatre Royal** is still closed but offering shows into 2022 that can be booked under their full refund policy. The latest shows they are offering are **Sandi Toksvig on 2 May 2021 and The Commitments in February 2022.**

They are offering a **Live Download of That'll Be The Day on 5 December.** You pay for one ticket per household and nearer the time will be given a link which will allow you to connect your iPad/laptop/TV (using a lead from your laptop) on that evening, or to watch any time after that at your leisure. See the Theatre website for more details.

You are also able to buy **Theatre Tokens** for yourself or as presents which will support the Theatre.

Villages in Action are gearing up for outdoor performances again. Their latest offering is not very near us but it is good to see them surviving.

The Box has opened in Plymouth with limited numbers allowed to visit at any one time. For more details and to book a visit go to theboxplymouth.com

Janet Hunt



The Box, Plymouth, and part of the display of ship's figureheads.

FROM THE CHAIR

"Seasons come and Seasons go" is one of the many sayings and adages, formed over the centuries. Mainly they were there to help predict the weather and guide us through the daily tasks of providing food and funds to survive.

Weather forecasts are a quite recent development, picking up a mobile phone or turning on the news was not possible and sayings guided us through the tasks we undertook, the

With Summer (wind, some sunshine, cloud, warm rain) long past, Autumn (wind, some sunshine, more cloud, cooler rain) is now well established. On a very wet Saturday afternoon it does not seem too long till winter (wind, sunshine?, lots of cloud, cold rain) The possibilities of a few drier and sunnier days, when we can enjoy the autumnal colours gives hope!. As a guide to the coming weeks and months try:

"When clouds appear like rocks and towers the Earth's refreshed with frequent showers".
Towering cumulonimbus clouds can reach 75,000 feet high so expect some storms.

"When your joints all start to ache, rainy weather is at stake!"
Rain comes with low pressure allowing tissue to expand putting pressure on our joints.

There are many well known sayings but enough of doom and gloom. Try:

"If spiders are many and spinning their webs, the spell will soon be very dry"
Wet and humid weather makes spiders webs heavy and liable to break. If they sense a dry spell coming they will spin new webs to take advantage of a few days fly catching, so look out for some of the wonderful creations that appear at this time of year.

The present Covid restrictions does not affect spiders but it does reduce our ability to meet friends and live a "normal" life so, as the days shorten, why not go to:-

www.u3a.org.uk/learning

There's cookery, local interest, philosophy to films, maths to mindfulness, all included in your annual membership together with the magazine.

Stay safe, hope to see you all soon.

Barry Smith

PS. Don't forget the November talk, 2.00 pm Wednesday 4th and the Christmas extravaganza in December.

Why not invite some socially distanced friends to enjoy the experience. (Please check Government guidance closer to the day !)



U3A Monthly Speaker Meetings November and December

In these continuing strange times, it is not possible to plan a full programme of talks for the coming year and some of those planned for this year have had to be postponed. However, there are, fortunately, more than enough speakers who are happy to give their talks and presentation via Zoom and below are the details of the next three meetings.

Wednesday 4th November 2020 at 2.30pm
Zoom meeting open from 2.00pm. Link to follow in due course.

“PROSTITUTION IN VICTORIAN NORTH DEVON” by Peter Christie.

The talk

The talk tackles one of the more unusual aspects of local and family history - and one you might not expect to be that common in provincial Devon. Over many years the speaker has gathered information from scattered sources on the women and men involved in this business. It may shock you; it will sadden you - but you will also laugh. As the old newspaper motto had it 'All human life is here'.

The speaker

Peter Christie is a retired teacher whose articles on Bideford life appear weekly in the North Devon Journal – where he has also published the 'Yesteryear' photographs for the last 15 years. He was the Reviews Editor of The Local Historian magazine (published by the British Association for Local History) for 12 years and a long time Open University lecturer. He is currently serving his fourth term as Mayor of Bideford and is also chairman of the Bideford Bridge Trust, Vice-Chair of Torridge district council, a trustee of the North Devon Museum Trust and chairman of the North Devon Athenaeum. He has published thirty-eight books.

Wednesday 2nd December 2020 at 2.30pm
Zoom meeting open from 2.15pm

FOOL'S GOLD CHRISTMAS ZOOM SHOW

The meeting will be hosted by Fool's Gold's Steve and Carol Robson.
The invitation is below.

Tavy U3A is inviting you to a zoom meeting:

The Fool's Gold Christmas Zoom Show!

Please log in from 2.15pm for a 2.30pm start

To join the Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84207245566?pwd=SDdRbVl2ZDQrSF10U3Y5azkvSU0rZz09>

The following may be required:

Meeting ID: 842 0724 5566

Passcode: tavyfgu3a

WALKING

As you know, U3A walking groups are able to meet subject to various restrictions due to Covid 19 guidance.

Tavy District U3A is, therefore, able to offer the following walks in November and December but subject to:

- No more than 6 persons in any one walk “bubble”
- Meet at the start of the walk as car sharing is not permitted
- Social distancing must be observed
- Walkers should bring their own hand sanitiser and face coverings and be aware of current Covid hygiene guidance
- You **MUST** book your place on the walk by texting or emailing the leader **BEFORE THE WALK.**
Places are limited

Tuesday 17th November

Meet 10.00 at Pixon Lane car park. Walk old railway to Wilminstone, then Mana Butts and Kilworthy. Lanes and tracks. 5 miles.

Read the walk in Tavy Links or Moor Links magazines. Return in time for lunch (or Bridge!)

John 616481 or 07900 054772
johnnoble@tavydistrictu3a.org.uk

Thursday 26th November

Meet at Postbridge Visitor Centre P&D car park at 10.00.

Circular walk through Bellever Forest to the Tor and back along the lanes. Gentle climbs up and down, about 4-5 mls on moorland tracks.

Bring a packed lunch.

Chris 613884 or 07840 718419
chriswebbtav@gmail.com

Jennie 854792 or 07802 730549
jennieyoungs001@gmail.com

Wednesday 16th December

Meet 10.00 Cotehele Quay car park (NT Members free).

Christmas Mince Pie Walk

We may not be able to do much that is Christmassy this year, but at least we can go for a Mince Pie walk!

Bring your own plate, cup and Santa hat and Tavy District U3A walk leaders will do the rest.

Riverside and woodland paths. 4½ miles.
To be led by: **The Walks Team**

RSVP 854792 or 07802 730549 (Jennie)

Booking (as for all walks at the moment) is essential.

Tuesday 10th November

Meet 10.00 by the Rock at Yelverton and walk over Roborough Down and back through Axtown. 4½ miles. Return in time for lunch (or Bridge).

Diana 612763 or 07472 775817
dianasmirles@yahoo.co.uk



.....and here are the Cheese Scones

450g self-raising flour
110g margarine
100g grated mature cheddar
1 tsp salt



1 tsp smoked black pepper

1 tsp mustard

Method

Preheat the oven to 180C/Gas Mark 4.



Pour the flour and margarine in a bowl and rub together until the mixture resembles fine breadcrumbs.

Stir in most of the cheese (leaving enough to top the scones later), salt and pepper.

Mix the egg with three quarters of the milk and the mustard. Pour into the mix using a spoon to combine the ingredients. Add the remaining milk a little at a time until it forms a dough. Flatten it out and fold over like a book and flatten a little again. This gives the scone a 'mouth' so it can be broken into halves without needing to cut it.

Divide into two even sized pieces and gently roll into large balls on a lightly floured surface. Flatten them lightly and cut into quarters. Place on a lined baking tray.

Divide the remaining cheese and place on top of each scone.

Place in the pre-heated oven for 10-15 minutes or until risen and golden.

Pauline Noblet



If you are eating curry, make sure you check the ingredients.

Sign seen outside an eatery by **John Noblet**

(Admittedly, it was in Yorkshire!)

U3A Monthly Speaker Meeting January 2021

Wednesday 6th January at 2.30pm

Zoom meeting open from 2.00pm. Link to follow in due course.

"MAYFLOWER 400: Legend and Legacy" by Jo Loosemore

The talk

Mayflower 400: Legend and Legacy - an epic journey of survival, imagination and 400 years of America. With objects, images and ideas coming from museums, libraries and archives across the UK, US and The Netherlands, find out how The Box, Plymouth is commemorating the 400th anniversary of the sailing of the *Mayflower*. Curator Jo Loosemore will reveal the partnership's changing perceptions of the ship, its passengers and an Atlantic journey made 400 years ago.

The Speaker

Radio maker. History finder. Theatre lover. Jo is a broadcaster, curator and actor. For the BBC, she has created radio dramas, documentaries and live programmes. This has included World War One at Home (in partnership with the Imperial War Museums) for network and local radio, regional tv and online. From Brazil to the Battlefield, the story of Exeter fighting footballers was broadcast on BBC 5 Live, and a series of features appeared on BBC Radio 4 and 4Extra. She also produced the Listening Project's national tour for BBC Radio 4, BBC Scotland, BBC Wales and BBC local radio in partnership with the British Library, contributing the 1000th conversation to the national collection. Having created the city's oral history archive and co-curated Plymouth's largest social history exhibition (Tales from the City), she is now the curator of *Mayflower 400: Legend and Legacy* - the national commemorative exhibition for 2020 in The Box, Plymouth and co-curator of *Wampum: Stories from the Shells of Native America*, which is on tour nationally.

Covid

As you all know, the Covid guidance is changing weekly, if not daily or hourly.

To keep up to date with what U3A groups can and cannot do, check the U3A website
www.u3a.org.uk

The next Newsletter will be published just before Christmas.

All ideas for making the most of this most unusual festive season are welcome.

Send your contributions to johnnobllet@tavydistrictu3a.org.uk as soon as you can.

A Winter Soup



We thought that you might like to see Margaret Garton trying on her new social distancing outfit.
Thanks for sharing this with us, Margaret.

Small knob of butter
1 onion, sliced
2 garlic cloves, sliced
Small piece of fresh root ginger,
peeled and sliced
6 large parsnips, peeled and
chopped
1 tsp cumin seed
1 tsp coriander seed
2 cardamom pods
1 tbsp garam masala
1.2 litres vegetable stock
150ml pot double cream



Method

Heat the butter in a large saucepan.

Add the onion and cook for a few minutes to soften.

Throw in garlic and ginger and cook for one minute more.

Add the parsnips and spices. Cook for a few minutes until fragrant.

Pour over the stock and gently simmer for 30 minutes.

Add most of the cream, bring to the boil, then turn off the heat.

Blitz the soup until completely smooth in a blender or with a stick blender.

Serve, drizzled with cream and coriander leaves.

Cheese scones make a delicious accompaniment to this winter soup.

Pauline Noblet



Roger Williams spotted this unhappy gnome

Discussion Group

The Discussion group reached a ten year milestone in October 2020. From a small group of four or five it quickly reached ten people which was agreed as a comfortable number to meet at our homes. With a few changes the group has had a consistent core of people all interested in exploring ideas, learning about them and sharing their views in a rational, friendly manner. Would that our elected assemblies operated similarly. However, to be fair, we have never pretended to come up with solutions let alone answer the question.

Social, moral and political themes have been the substance. The first topic was "Should cannabis be legal for personal use?", followed by "How far should the state support those in Higher Education?" We have tried to answer a question to provide a focus to discuss but the topics themselves haven't really altered that much. The first year covered climate change, voting systems, modern

communications and the future of welfare. This year's topics have included technology and democracy, immigration policy, food as a global concern and anti-Semitism. The November topic is "Women's rights: what's still to do?".....any answers?

Like others, I'm sure, we went through a period when everything seemed to revolve around Brexit and then a certain Mr Trump took up more time than he should have! Overall it has certainly provided us as a group an opportunity to focus our thoughts and views and a monthly occasion to look forward to.

We have adapted to Zoom meetings well, only one person leaving until we are post Covid. In fact, apart from missing coffee and cake we were perhaps a group well suited to this new format but all look forward to returning to normality, new or not.

Ian Gasper



The deadline for the next Newsletter is 20th December
Please send to johnnoble@tavydistrictu3a.org.uk

Tavistock's Shops

One of my interests is social history and over the last 25 years I have been researching the shops in Tavistock. I started with an old photograph of a shop in the town and then sent a letter to the Gazette asking if anyone had any such photographs. The response sent me on my way. I collect anything to do with businesses in the town and much of it is kept in the Museum. From time to time I do a talk or an exhibition showing photographs of the shop today and what it was like 100 years ago.

Probably my biggest delight was when I recorded older people talking about Tavistock, some 25 years ago. They could tell what the shops were like, most of these memories going back to 1910/20s. It was also apparent how much the residents remembered shopping with their mother/grandmother and how they enjoyed telling their stories.

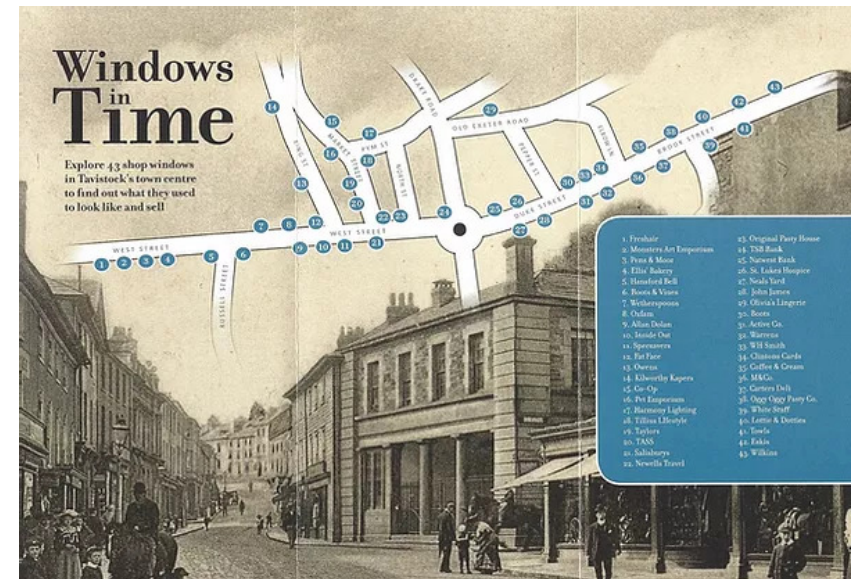
It is a wonderful record and a delight to listen to their Devon brogues and their fascinating memories.

This summer BID asked me if I could provide them with photos and text and they would produce a pamphlet and my work is now exhibited in some 44 shop windows. It has been a major commitment for me but I have enjoyed every minute of it.

This seems to have come at just the right time for Tavistock. The businesses in the town are obviously struggling. Through this period of lockdown I have certainly realised the importance of the service we get from our local shops and the support we need to give them now.

You can pick up a free pamphlet from the Visitor Information Centre and follow the map around the streets to see the photos and the shop's story. My two books are available at Book Stop where you will be able to read the whole story of some 80 businesses.

Linda Elliott



Poetry 2

Our poetry group has kept going throughout lockdown in various ways. Initially we exchanged poems inspired by what we read and also what we heard on the radio, for example the Today programme on Radio 4 which throughout the first month or so asked a journalist to choose a poem.

In May we started up Zoom sessions and have been able to talk about a range of poets from John Clare to T S Eliot. As the Black Lives Matter movement hit the headlines one member introduced us to the poetry of Audre Lorde, a black American poet who dedicated both her life and her creative talent to confronting and addressing injustices of racism, sexism, classism, and homophobia.

In September we held our first meeting in the library. While not all of us can use this venue at any one time we found it easier to talk and exchange opinions in person and will certainly try this room again for the next couple of months (government guidelines permitting). Next month we shall discuss the poetry of local poet Charles Causley.

We've all been struck by how much poetry is remarkably relevant to today's extraordinary times. The first poem to be aired on the Today programme was one chosen, and beautifully read, by Fergal Keane

*This is the time to be slow...
Try, as best you can, not to let
The wire brush of doubt
Scrape from your heart
All sense of yourself
And your hesitant light.*

*Time will come good;
And you will find your feet
Again on fresh pastures of promise,
Where the air will be kind
And blushed with beginning.*

~ John O'Donohue, in "To Bless the Space Between Us: A Book of Blessings"

I end with a poem, entitled "And People Stayed Home" brought to our attention by a member of our group and which is on the next page.

Liz Johnson

Another local U3A had a very informative talk about 'staying safe on line'. It was given by a U3A member who was once in the Police force and specialised in cyber fraud.

The talk was considered so informative and well presented that U3A National Office have put a recording on the national website. You are recommended to watch it. The link is:

https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/staying-safe-online-a-u3a-presentation-ga-tickets-124586065275?fbclid=IwAR32Scn39nbFEw0mPoVihA14IV_Rn5bD3aSyxCQsIYM2rvI0xJddelPOwXg

A Tale of Mystery and Imagination *Continued*

These specific location forecasts shown hour by hour can't be relied on except in very settled weather conditions which the UK gets twice a year if we're lucky. A universal forecasting law has been forgotten: the likelihood of error is directly proportional to the amount of detail.

It follows that the best forecasts are the ones in more general terms, and I would recommend Spotlight Southwest's David Braine. You will get the feel of the situation and understand the ways it could change.

Go there first, then you can interpret the more detailed stuff. The rain radar sites are also very useful. They show real weather, so you can do your own forecasting. The Met

Office has one but with southerly winds it does not go far enough south for us here in Devon. In that case try the French one on Meteo60.

I did warn you. The weather forecasting business is full of mystery – how can each company offer a different opinion when everything is based on numeric output from giant computers? and by what stretch of the imagination can one of them tell us what the weather will be like every day in November 2021?

Might be safer to plan your celebration indoors, perhaps.

Ivor Williams

Harmony Choir

As Musical Director of the choir "Harmony", within U3A, I have spent the past 6 months arranging and composing new music for the future, with lots of ideas, which I have successfully tried in the past, although not in this area. Of course, none of us know at the moment when we might be able to sing together again as a choir, but I am sure you would be interested to read some of my ideas, and indeed may wish to participate.

I am hoping that Harmony will be part of the Tavistock Musical Festival, a very well known annual event. I also have ideas for a musical soiree and hopefully there will be several further concerts to which we shall be invited to sing.

We all know that there will be a light at the end of the tunnel, so if any of you would like to come along and sing in Harmony, whenever we get together, you would be very welcome. We are very hard working, but the songs I choose are great fun and often a challenge. We have the most marvellous pianist who is adept in accompanying us, whatever the style.

For more information, just get in touch.

Chrissie Wade

01822 810551

chrissiewade@outlook.com

A Tale of Mystery and Imagination

There will come a morning - on what for ever after will be called Freedom Day - when you will say: right, now that's over let's celebrate by having a posh picnic, taking the whole family across the Cremyll Ferry to Mount Edgumbe.

After you've rung everybody and agreed on some dates, you use your phone, tablet or computer to consult the weather forecast. Maybe not Thursday, they're going in for rain, we'll make it Friday – bright periods then full sun.

But on Wednesday you notice the experts have had second thoughts and Friday is now cloudy all day. Make it Saturday? Then one of the clever grandchildren says his phone's forecast for Friday is still OK. Even the forecasts on TV come from two different sources: the Met Office supplies ITV, and the BBC get theirs from MeteoGroup. The more observant among you will have long since found out that they can have different forecasts for the same day. The science of meteorology has some way to go before it can be totally trusted for picnic outings.

This simple meteorological tale quickly becomes one of mystery and imagination. A brother-in-law, who spends far too much of his time roaming the web, tells you that there are at least half a dozen forecasting organisations, most of which will tell you about your weather two weeks ahead and more. The smart-phone obsessed son texts to say he has found ten, and one of them has a daily forecast 12 months ahead.

There are actually eight, plus two you have to pay for. Accuweather will provide daily forecasts 4 months ahead. BBC (MeteoGroup): 14 days, hourly and very detailed. Weathercast: 2 weeks, very basic. Met Office: 2 days hourly, plus 5 days at 3 hourly intervals, very detailed. Netweather: 2 weeks daily at 3 hourly intervals. The Weather Channel: 10 days with some detail, then daily for a year ahead. Weatherquest: very simple 5-day forecast.

Weatherunderground: hourly for 2 weeks, detailed, good for astronomical data.

Useful warning here: the amount of confusion suffered will double with each additional organisation consulted after the first. Planning a picnic has now become more of a problem than who-will-eat-what and how-far-will-granddad-walk. Where do you look? Who do you trust?

Amuse yourself by carrying out an interesting experiment. Go to the Met Office website and write down what they tell you the weather will be in Tavistock (or wherever you live) one week ahead at 3 p.m. Do the same on the BBC website for their MeteoGroup forecast. One week later check the results. Do this two or three times.

Except in very settled weather you will almost certainly find the forecasts are not the same and neither is right. This is not surprising, as data is flowing into the computers all the time, so the forecasts are constantly being altered. In fact, your experiment shows that any company saying they can forecast months ahead can be ruled out.

The oh-so-clever software people could not resist breaking down the basic forecast firstly into very small areas – like Peter Tavy, for instance. Then they went further and expanded the data into 24 separate hourly slots for each day. And here, in my opinion, is where it has all gone wrong.

Those same experts are saying they can give the folk of Peter Tavy a detailed weather forecast for 9 a.m. a week on Thursday, including a percentage chance of rain. They can't. You can sometimes check your forecast at 7.30 a.m. only to find that by 10 the same morning it will have changed. How much confidence can you have for one or two weeks ahead? It was a step too far. But if on Monday us folks in Devon were simply told there's a likelihood of showers on Thursday, the forecasters would have a much better chance of success.

And People Stayed Home

*And people stayed at home
And read books and listened
And rested and exercised
And made art and played
And learned new ways of being
And stopped
And listened deeper
Some meditated
Someone prayed
Someone danced
Someone met their shadow
And people began to think differently
And people healed
And in the absence of people who lived in ignorant ways,
Dangerous, meaningless and heartless
Even the earth began to heal
And when the danger ended
And people found each other
Grieved for the dead people
And they made new choices
And dreamed of new ways of life
And healed the earth completely
Just as they were healed themselves.*

This was a poem written by Katheleen O'Meara, Irish poet, in 1869, after the famine.

Liz Johnson

Craft Group 1 and Covid

Not only do we like to do craft together, we have become good friends, so it was important to keep in touch with emails and phone calls during lockdown to check that everyone was alright.

Once it was over we were able to meet in my garden, socially distanced on the patio. There are eight of us but somehow it worked out that two couldn't come each time anyway. We didn't actually do any craft (I think enough had been done when we were stuck in our homes on our own). We did celebrate a member's significant birthday though and the weather was very kind to us.

Now we are meeting at the library where we have been made very welcome and we have actually done some craft.

How lucky we are to have a hobby that has helped us to cope in these strange and difficult times but it would be so good to have a proper U3A meeting in the Town Hall. Oh well, one day and till then we hope everybody keeps safe and well.

Mary Brock

Everybody, Somebody, Anybody, Nobody

I have little news about our Music Appreciation group as we have not been meeting. I phone our members to remind them that it would have been our meeting date, but they might like to put their feet up, listen to their own choice of music and think of us all maybe doing the same.

Now I realise that this does not of course make headline news so thought you may or may not like to see something totally unrelated that I came across when turning out some old files.

This is a story about four people named
Everybody, Somebody, Anybody and Nobody.

There was an important job to be done and Everybody was
sure that Somebody would do it, but Nobody did it.

Somebody got angry about that because Everybody
thought Anybody could do it, but Nobody realised that
Everybody wouldn't do it.

It ended up that Everybody blamed Somebody when
Nobody did what Anybody could have done.

The author of this is unknown but I think Somebody did it, but on the other hand it could have been Anybody!



Opera Appreciation

During the early months of lockdown the Opera Group entertained itself by sharing YouTube clips of operatic and concert performances given by some of the modern stars of the genre.

Finally, and after the odd false start, we met in the Covid friendly room at the Library to view a challengingly updated, and some might say a seedy, Manon Lescaut, the story of a woman handed over to prostitution by her brother.

It was written in 1892, and one ponders what Puccini might think of this version. However, whilst the production might have changed neither the drama or the soaring music has.

Much thanks and gratitude to the staff of the library for installing blackout blinds and giving technical support with the equipment and plenty of Covid distancing.

Margaret Garton



Music Appreciation

Covid struck in time to thwart our March meeting and we've been corresponding by email ever since. Mick and I have taken it upon ourselves to choose a composer each month and have sent out a summary of the composer's life and works and a programme of pieces to be accessed through YouTube links. The group has sent feed back with their responses via email.

The composers chosen have covered a range of styles and we've also tried to reflect world events a little. For example in June, as the Black Lives Matter movement came to the forefront of the news, we chose music by Samuel Coleridge Taylor, an English composer and conductor of mixed race birth who achieved such success that he was referred to by white New York musicians as the "African Mahler" when he had three tours of the United States in the early 1900s. He was particularly known for his three cantatas on the epic poem, *Song of Hiawatha* by American Henry Wadsworth Longfellow.



Generally we've aimed to be relatively cheerful and also to introduce some pieces of music by less well known composers. In September, for example, we sent out links to music by Gottschalk, 1829 –1869, an American composer and pianist, best known as a virtuoso performer of his own romantic piano works. (You may like to try this one called The Banjo <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cNsG5U4SqEY> written long before ragtime became popular).

Other composers have included Prokofiev, Szymanowski and Respighi.

Very few of us, if any, have been attending weddings this year. Even if we had, it's unlikely the feast would have resembled anything like that shared at Hiawatha's wedding, the subject of Coleridge Taylor's most well known piece of music. Here is part of the description of that feast, as described by Henry Wordsworth Longfellow in his poem for which the Coleridge Taylor music is written.

*Sumptuous was the feast Nokomis
Made at Hiawatha's wedding;
All the bowls were made of bass-wood
White and polished very smoothly
All the spoons of horn of bison
Black and polished very smoothly*

While it's likely that we'll be sending out links for a few more months yet, we both look forward to being able to meet up in person at some point in 2021.

Liz and Mick Johnson

The deadline for the next Newsletter is 20th December
Please send to johnnoble@tavydistrictu3a.org.uk