

The Events Committee

Wednesday 15th February

Plymouth Synagogue, Catherine Street Plymouth PL1 2AD, £5 payable at the synagogue. Use your own transport (car or bus) to get there and go straight to Catherine Street for 10.45 to have a cuppa. The tour will start at 11am for around 2 hours.

Please sign up with Janet OR sign up on the Events table in January.

To find Catherine Street, cross over Royal Parade towards the Guildhall and The Treasury, look L and you will see the sign for Catherine Street. The synagogue is on the right with an ornamental lantern set high up on the wall. There will be a member of the Events Committee outside.

Tuesday 15th April

Coach trip to Bristol. £20.

Leaving opposite the Bedford Hotel at 8.45 and leaving Bristol at 4.15, we expect to be back in Tavistock around 6.45.

You have a free day to do what you would like in Bristol.

Sign up at the Events table or contact Norma

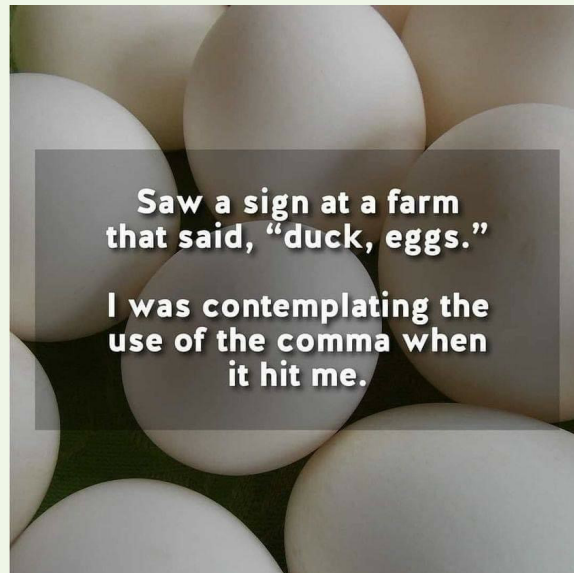
Other Events to look forward to:

Falmouth and river trip to Truro

Sidmouth

Brixham and Coleton Fishacre

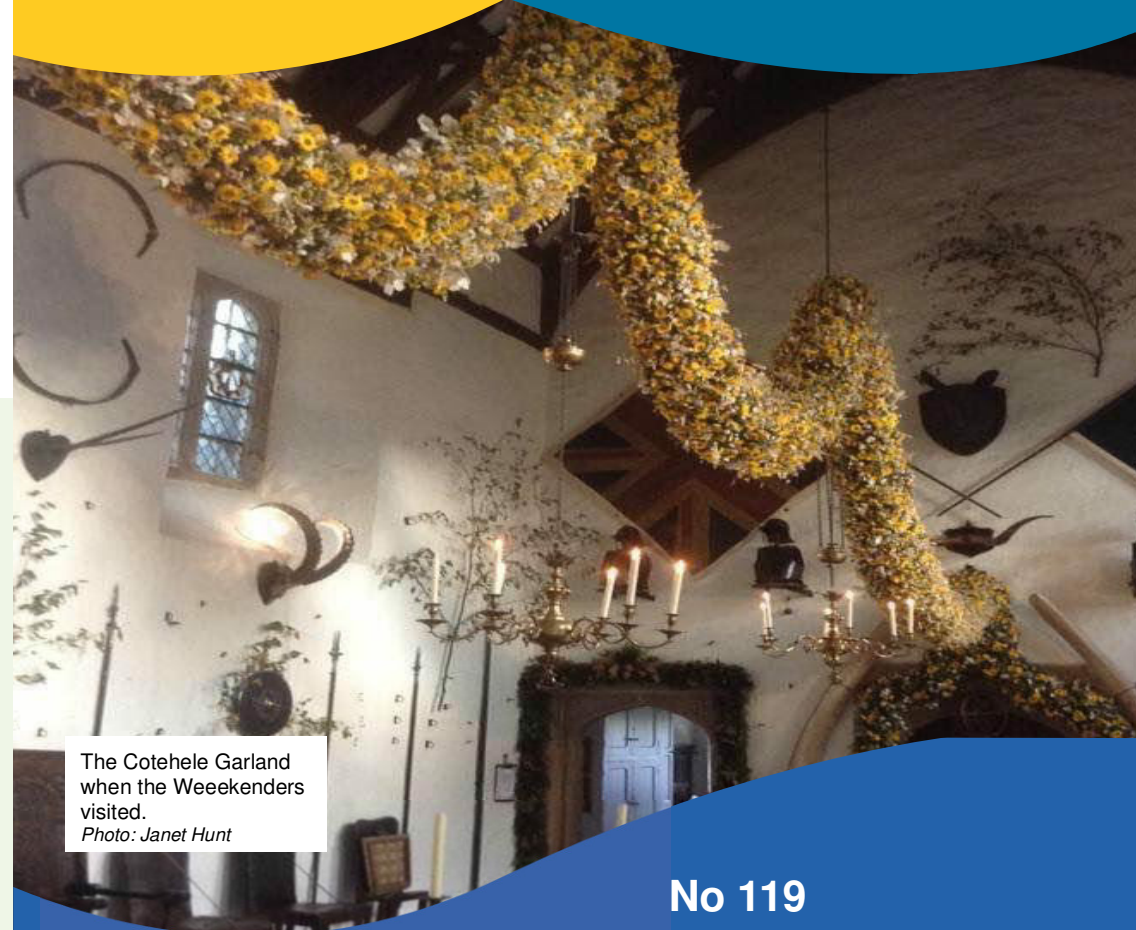
And Finally.....



Thanks to Margaret Garton

Tavy District u3a

THE NEWSLETTER



The Cotehele Garland
when the Weeekenders
visited.
Photo: Janet Hunt

u3a

No 119

January 2023

u3a
Tavy District

Who's Who in Tavy District u3a

Chair	Paul Ward
Secretary	Randall Williams
Treasurer	Angela Pitt
Membership	Tony Rose
Groups Liaison	Sonja Armstrong
Newsletter Distribution	Caroline Lorenzi
Speaker Secretary	Jane Ward
Two Moors Liaison	Tony Rose
Catering	Isobel Davies
Equipment	Graham Foster

Events Committee

Norma Woodcock

Chris Webb

Janet Hunt

Shirley Smith

Remember:

Contact details of all Group Leaders and Committee members can be found in the password protected area of the website

Webmaster: Jan Draper

web@tavydistrictu3a.org.uk

Newsletter Editor: John Noblet

The deadline for the next Newsletter is 20th February 2023

Send contributions to johnnoblet@tavydistrictu3a.org.uk

Garden Visits at Rosemoor



The Garden Visits Group had a trip to The Glow at Rosemoor. It was quite beautiful and ethereal, especially the lower wood that has been included this year.

The fish and chip supper warmed us all up at the end of the visit!

Janet Hunt

Walking

Walkers at Burrator at the end of November.

A bit wet but excellent for all that with a nice visit to The Royal Oak afterwards!

Photo: Chris Blumer



Recorder Group

2022 has seen us get back together as a group after two years during Covid of meeting in small separate groups or just talking to each other on Zoom. We have been delighted to welcome new members and we now number twenty who meet fortnightly under the guidance of Randall who combines enthusiasm and vision with great patience and support. We are able to boast a solid range of recorders, covering descant, treble, tenor and bass, enabling us to embark on a wide range of music.

Since January we have mastered several new pieces that range from medieval music to contemporary jazz and our new found confidence has resulted in our tackling more demanding pieces including playing music written for two choirs, that is two separate "mini orchestras".

This Christmas we played during the Christmas Tree Festival in St Eustachius church, an excellent venue which provides fabulous acoustics particularly for the medieval pieces. We were lucky that Randall was able to join us for this event, having only recently had an operation, and equally fortunate that during his absence Chris Caple was able to supervise our practices.



New members are always welcome. When it was first started, by Esther and Keith twenty years ago, it was advertised as "Dust off your recorders" and we continue to encourage people to seek out their instruments hidden in a box in the attic.

We look forward to mastering new music next year which hopefully you'll be able to enjoy at next year's Christmas Tree Festival.

Liz Johnson

Forthcoming Walks

Thursday 26th January

Meet at Pixon Lane to leave at 9.40 to car share to park at Grenofan.
Circular walk along the river to Double Waters and return via West Down.
About 5 miles with some ups. Bring a snack and drink, optional lunch at Drakes Cafe.

Chris Webb
Tony James
Please let Chris or Tony know if you want to have lunch

Thursday 23rd February

Meet at Pixon Lane to leave at 9.40 to car share to park at Princetown.
Circular walk, about 5 miles, route dependant on weather.
Bring snack and drink, optional lunch at Fox Tor Cafe.

Chris Webb
Jennie Youngs

FROM THE CHAIR

By the time you read this, Christmas will be over. I hope you have had a very enjoyable festive season. January is named after Janus who, in ancient Roman mythology, was the god of beginnings, gates, doorways and transitions. He is usually portrayed with two faces, one looking into the past and the other into the future. So, like Janus, it is pertinent to reflect on what our u3a has achieved in the last twelve months and look forward to what is planned for the next.



In many ways 2022 was a new beginning for Tavy District u3a. After spending far too long isolated in one lockdown after another, most of us began to feel more confident about going out again, armed, as we were, with four or even five immunisations against Covid-19.

Our membership had fallen to about 350 at the "end" of Covid but without even actively recruiting new members, there are now 412 of us. Two coffee mornings have been held at the Wharf to welcome our new members. New groups have been established, including a Science group and a Canasta group, and are attracting much interest and many active participants. Further new groups are in the process of being created and the monthly open coffee morning has been re-established. Some groups that were meeting in cyberspace are now meeting face to face again in a variety of venues. Our monthly speaker meetings have returned to their spiritual home in the Town Hall, with some also viewable remotely with Zoom, and we have enjoyed a varied programme of talks. The August "Picnic in the Park" was a great success and even the weather was kind to us. Thanks go to Julie Credicott of Blue Skies Catering for sandwiches and beverages, and to those members who baked cakes for the occasion. The ever-popular programme of events and theatre visits is back in action and members have enjoyed several outings and trips, including the annual u3a holiday, this time in Cardiff.

The Christmas season was particularly enjoyable. Notable u3a contributions included the beautiful Tavy District u3a Christmas tree, which included items that have been used on previous trees in recognition of our 20th anniversary, in the Christmas Tree Festival. Those of us fortunate enough to listen to our Recorder group playing in the Parish church were treated to a splendid repertoire of music, including pieces from the renaissance and more modern works. In the spirit of continued learning, we were taught about the range of different recorders, at least five. I didn't know there were so many and with such different "voices".

Our Christmas murder mystery meeting was a completely new experience. Who was responsible for the vineyard murders? Some of us worked it out, although in my table's case it was more by luck than judgement. Special recognition must go to the members who worked so hard to provide the accompanying lunchtime feast and the delicious 20th Birthday cake that was ceremoniously cut by three founder members: Caroline Lorenzi, Norma Woodcock, and Val Turner.

And finally, our u3a banner is back on display, thanks to Tavistock "Men in Sheds" who made a new frame for us and would not accept any payment. Thank you, gentlemen.

Message from the Chair *Continued*

So, what of 2023? Your Speaker Secretary has compiled a full programme of speakers for our Wednesday meetings, and we will again have a picnic in the park in August. Group leaders will be treated to a light lunch in February to thank them for their continued support and dedication to providing an ever more varied range of interest groups and activities. Our Christmas meeting will have a musical theme, which will include being serenaded by the Recorder group during tea. New groups are in the process of being planned and will start during the year. I am currently investigating the possibility of a u3a trip to Italy; more to follow in due course if it looks like the potential event "has legs". All in all, I see no reason why next year should not be even more exciting than the last.

It remains for me to thank everyone who makes Tavy District u3a such a success: your committee, the catering team, the theatre and events teams, our newsletter editor, our group leaders, and all our members, without whom Tavy District u3a would not exist. I wish you all a happy, safe, and entertaining New Year. Why not make 2023 the year that you decide to contribute even more to your u3a? Please get in touch if you have ideas for new activities or groups. All suggestions are welcome.

Happy New Year!

Paul

WITH AGE, I REALIZE...

1. I talk to myself. Sometimes I need an expert's advice.
2. Sometimes I roll my eyes out loud.
3. I don't need anger management. I need other people to stop pissing me off!
4. My people skills are just fine but my tolerance for idiots needs a little work.
5. The biggest lie I tell myself is, "Oh, you'll remember."
6. Nap time is not a punishment. It's a reward.
7. The day the world runs out of wine is too terrible to even think about.
8. Duct tape can't fix stupid, but it can muffle the sound.
9. Wouldn't it be great if we could put ourselves in the dryer and come out wrinkle-free and 3 sizes smaller?
10. "Getting Lucky" actually means walking into a room and remembering why I came in.

Is this really true? says Janet Hunt

High Tide at Saltram

Remember back in August when we were being told that leaves had started falling, there would be none left for a proper autumn? The colours on the trees that greeted us in November were simply beautiful.

So, where were we? A bright sunny day had lured several of us out for a few hours' birding at Saltram. *What would we see, we wondered? Had we got the tides right? Would there be any rarities?* Two hours either side of high tide produces the most number of birds on an estuary. It's the food, you know. Little tit bits pushed in on the tide, leaving a relative feast for waders. We saw Curlews, probing deep for some little gem down there; Oystercatchers, using their strong bills, digging down for crabs, mussels and marine worms; Turnstones, with their sturdy bills, doing just what their name suggests; and others - Greenshank, Redshank, even a Snipe, and of course Black Headed and Herring Gulls.



We were treated to a wonderful display of Dunlin, a murmuration sweeping backwards and forwards over the water. Bit like us at times, I thought - sweeping up and down the aisles of the local supermarket, frantically looking for something on our list. The Saltram supermarket was clearly the place to be for these birds.

Now I know we all have a job to do, but really! Didn't those guys on the bank know we were there quietly birdwatching?

Cutting down trees with their noisy chainsaws indeed! A 'Quiet please!' sign just wouldn't cut it. The noise and their fluorescent orange jackets must have spooked most of the birds as suddenly they were all up, flying off to a quieter spot for their meal.

Ah, but not before someone had spotted two kingfishers flying off on the far side. The sudden blue flash is unmistakable as well as exciting, but alas, it was only me who managed to catch sight of them. To cries of "*Where, where?*", "*Over there*" is not very helpful. I'll try better next time. A seasoned birder who was watching with us, regaled us with a story of two kingfishers at Lopwell fighting to the death of one of them. Ugh! *Didn't he know we're wimps at heart?* Some of us can't even watch the bad bits on Planet Earth.

OK, so after some warming soup and snacks in the National Trust cafe courtyard, we set about doing the bird count for the day, including a late Red Crested Pochard in the adjacent lake. An unusual blackbird then came to Hoover up our crumbs. Unusual, in that he had white patches on either side of his face, a condition known as partially leucistic and often genetically inherited. You may have seen one or two birds like this in your gardens. So our bird count eventually came to 29. Not bad, not bad at all.



Thanks for a great day must go to Rosemary for organising and to our natural environment for still being there - just!

Shirley Smith

Weekenders

Pantaloons began life 18 years ago, busking open-air plays for donations in parks and on the streets, making theatre which was accessible, producing works in an imaginative and innovative way.

Pantaloons say
“Our main aim is to reinvent classic literature as post modern folk theatre. We perform texts which are so much part of the fabric of our culture that almost everyone will have heard of them. We do so, however, in order to turn peoples’ conceptions on their heads”

And it was so. Four players sang and played a wide variety of instruments, as well as swapping props and costumes to play the 15 parts needed by the production! It was joyful, fun, and quite unique!

The Weekenders survived the on-line booking, mainly thanks to Margaret, and had the most enjoyable evening out in Clearbrook Village Hall. Great Expectations by Charles Dickens will never mean the same, having watched this superb production!

If you ever get the opportunity to see a Pantaloons production do book yourself in!

Janet Hunt



Photos by Janet Hunt

See also the cover of the Newsletter



The Weekenders went to see the Garland at Cotehele House being put together. The group is pictured outside the Great Hall together with some of the flowers ready for assembly.

Subscriptions

A reminder that membership is renewable from 1st January 2023. A number of people have already paid their subs for 2023 – thank you!

Details about what and how to pay are on the Tavy District u3a webpage (<https://www.tavydistrictu3a.org.uk/membership/>) and were sent out to all members via email or post at the start of December. (If we have your email address and you didn't receive it, please look in your Spam / Trash box – we may be lurking there!)



Notice of AGM

This is to give notice that the Twentieth Annual General Meeting of Tavy District u3a will be held on Wednesday, 1st March 2023 at 2.00 pm.

It is anticipated that this will be a hybrid meeting which members may attend in person or by electronic means through Zoom. However, the Committee reserve the right to change the format if necessary. The following business will be carried out.

1. Apologies for absence
2. Approval of the minutes of the last AGM
3. Trustees' annual report
4. Treasurer's report and adoption of the accounts for the year ended 31st December 2022
5. Appointment of an External Examiner for the 2023 accounts
6. To approve the level of subscriptions for 2024
7. Election of committee members – there are two vacancies for committee posts
8. Vote of thanks to any retiring committee members
9. Consideration of any formal proposals that have been submitted by the deadline
10. Date for the 2024 AGM

Any member wishing to nominate a committee member or submit a formal proposal for consideration under item 8 should do so in writing to the secretary, Randall Williams, by Monday 6th February 2023. Voting through a proxy is available on request – members wishing to take advantage of this should contact the secretary for further information.

Randall Williams
Secretary

Monthly Meetings 2023

For the first time since 2020, it has been possible to arrange a full year's programme of speakers and a list of meetings for the whole of 2023 is below. With the exception of the August meeting, all meetings are held on the first Wednesday of the month in Tavistock Town Hall, with the formal meeting starting at 2pm. **Please note the date and brief details only of the August meeting.**

For the time being, we shall continue to broadcast the meetings via Zoom, although a decision has yet to be made as to how much longer this will continue. **Please feel free to email or telephone me if you have a view on this one way or the other.**

As always, many thanks to those members who have put forward suggestions for possible speakers since the last newsletter. I have already started to put together the programme for 2024 and speaker suggestions are always very welcome.

Incidentally – and this is aimed at all members, but, in particular, those who have joined our u3a since the first lockdown – please do contact me if you yourself may be able to offer a talk. Each year, we have one or more talks from our own members – we have two in 2023 – and they are always well received.

Jane Ward

2023 PROGRAMME

WEDNESDAY 4TH JANUARY

“Adventures behind the lens - hot rocks and high places”.

Alex Leger, former BBC Blue Peter cameraman

WEDNESDAY 1ST FEBRUARY

“What is ‘Creative Writing’ – how has it changed over the Centuries?”

Vanni Cook, “creative enabler”

WEDNESDAY 1ST MARCH (AGM)

“The History and Restoration of Tavistock Rail Services”

Richard Searight, Chair, Peninsula Rail Group/ TaviRAIL

WEDNESDAY 5TH APRIL

“Waste and Recycling”

Dilys Lord, West Devon BC

Sausage, Veg and Butterbean Bake

The antidote to turkey!

- 400-475g pack ready to roast Mediterranean style vegetables
- 6 good quality pork sausages
- 1 tbsp extra virgin olive oil
- 210g can butterbeans or mixed beans in water
- ½ tsp dried chilli flakes (optional)

1. Preheat oven to 220c/200c fan/gas 7. Scatter the vegetables over a baking tray and nestle the sausages among them. Drizzle with 1 tbsp of olive oil and roast for 15 minutes.

2. Take tray out of the oven and turn sausages and vegetables. Return to the oven for 10 minutes. Drain the beans thoroughly in a sieve and rinse under cold water.

3. Take tray out of the oven again, add beans and stir gently through the vegetables.

4. Sprinkle with chilli flakes if using, season with a pinch of sea salt and lots of ground black pepper. Return to the oven for a further 5 minutes, or until the beans are hot.

Shirley Smith



Ballet Visit

On November 17th a group of u3a members had a real treat when they went to see Sleeping Beauty, a Gothic romance. To tell a story without words is a rare gift but Matthew Bourne and his company, New Adventures, achieve this and took us to a magical world.

We were all familiar with the tale but this version had many surprising twists and new characters. It also took us from the Victorian period, through the Edwardian era to the present day. It did not move too far from the original story but it was certainly full of surprises and filled with action.

The set was dark but a fascinating background to the dancers. They danced with such skill and enthusiasm and appeared to be having a wonderful time. Their costumes were magnificent making the whole performance stunning. They had bare feet most of the time and I was struck by how quiet that made them allowing the music to be heard so clearly as well.

In all a memorable afternoon and thanks to Carole for organising it.

Mary Brock

Mind the Larks

Better to see a mad dog in January than a hot sun, says an old proverb, but reading this on your phone while stuck in the snow on Haldon Hill coming back from Exeter, you may not agree. It was probably coined by ancient farmers who thought the more sun they had in winter, the less for the summer. Proverbs can be puzzling. There's another ancient and vaguely meteorological one that's been niggling me for years: *if the sky falls, we shall have larks*.

The UK tends to have quite nasty cold spells this time of year, so would you know where to go for the best weather in January? T S Eliot had it right, perhaps: 'I read much of the night, and go south in winter,' he wrote. But that's too vague, so I offer you Sarmiento, in a lake district of Patagonia: nine hours sun a day, average maximum a comfortable 26C (78F), and no rain to speak of. Mind, I'm not sure how you'd get there. Or back. But don't go to the other Sarmiento further south in Tierra del Fuego, it's too stormy.

A better-known location is Perth, Western Australia, 10 hours a day sunshine, no rain, warmer than Sarmiento but more crowded. Fancy a Pacific island? Forget it: high temperature, high humidity, lots of rain. Diverting somewhat – there is a St Januarius, but rather curiously his Day is 19th September and he is the patron saint of Naples.

This month we often have a spell of easterlies with a layer of gloomy cloud, always cold, and bitterly so when the Scandinavian anticyclone settles over Bergen, bringing us well-chilled air from frozen lands between Kazakhstan and the Arctic Ocean. Luckily the North Sea takes some of the bite off, but it can be an expensive time for the central heating.

An anticyclone over southern Norway will inevitably bring gentle east winds to the

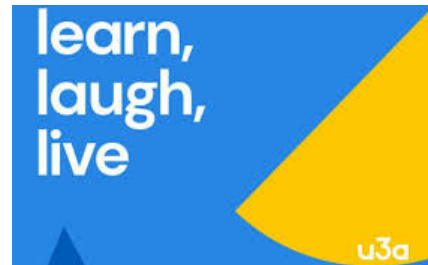
UK. In September that's good, because Germany, Poland and even Sweden have nicely warmed up and are kindly passing their blue skies and sunshine across to us. But January in Warsaw is cold: its average *maximum* is 0°C and the thermometer has occasionally been seen at minus 29 (-20F).

If we have power cuts this winter, it will be due to those specific weather conditions. Watch out for those light easterlies in the forecast, hardly enough to stir the turbines and nothing from the solar panels after three o'clock. Make sure you have friends with wood-burners.

Not many of us know what minus 29 in Warsaw feels like, but if you've a lively imagination you probably need an excuse for warming up with a stiff drink; why not celebrate midwinter's day? This is actually 15th January, as the climate people decided long ago that our seasons each have exactly three months, even though for most years this is so patently untrue. Winter is therefore December, January and February. You can work out the rest for yourself, which process will bring up the other interesting climatological fact that midsummer is actually 15th July, which of course is St Swithin's Day. I bet you thought climatology was a serious science.

Still on the A38? Sky falling? Mind the larks.

Ivor Williams



Monthly Meetings 2023

WEDNESDAY 3RD MAY

“Better Balance and Improving Mobility”

Prof. Sallie Lamb, Professor of Health Innovation, University of Exeter

WEDNESDAY 7TH JUNE

“Death of Venice?”

Prof. Peter Edwards, former Professor of Engineering Mathematics Education, Bournemouth

WEDNESDAY 5TH JULY

“The 3 Hares - the Journey of an Iconic Symbol from Chinese Buddhist Caves to Devon Churches”

Tom Greeves MA PhD, “cultural environmentalist”

WEDNESDAY 23RD AUGUST – NOTE DATE

Outdoor event – further details will be circulated in due course

WEDNESDAY 6TH SEPTEMBER

“A Cook's Tour - Baking Blind Goes Global”

Penny Melville-Brown Cdr RN Ret'd, founder Disability Dynamics Ltd

WEDNESDAY 4TH OCTOBER

Rip Off Britain - Tales from a Trading Standards Officer

John Hillier, former head of Trading Standards, Vale of Glamorgan

WEDNESDAY 1ST NOVEMBER

“Papua New Guinea: tribes, culture and birds of paradise”

Ian Gasper, “educator and ornithologist”

WEDNESDAY 6TH DECEMBER – CHRISTMAS MEETING -TALK AND MORE

Composing Music with Computers

Prof. Eduardo Miranda, Professor in Computer Music, Plymouth University

Rocks N Ruins Visit Wheal Martyn

The Rocks N Ruins group visited Wheal Martyn China Clay museum on Armistice Day and were joined by members of the Geology group and by visitors from Plymouth and Launceston u3as.

Dry but overcast, the biggest challenge of the day was getting there! It seemed that between them, South West Highways and Cornwall Council had succeeded in turning most of mid Cornwall into one massive road works. However, all safely arrived and started in the coffee shop with exchanges of experiences of how they had managed to find the place interrupted only by the one minute's silence.

Our guide for the morning was Mike Harris, and what a fount of knowledge and information he was. He had worked in the China Clay industry in the St Austell area for 42 years. He had started as an assistant in a laboratory and had worked his way up through the same company to Production Manager. Most of his family had also been employed in the industry. There was hardly a question to which he did not have the answer.

We were taken on a tour of the site in fascinating detail before returning for an excellent (good value!) lunch.

The Cornish china clay industry is generally less well known than the tin and copper mining industries, which are often perceived as the iconic industries in Cornwall. However, they pale into insignificance when compared with the china clay industry, which has produced some 170 million tons of china clay from deposits across the Duchy over 250 years.

Approximately 70% of this output has been exported, which is why the industry has been recognised as an important

contributor to the national economy and to the earning of foreign currency.

William Cookworthy discovered the potential of china clay as the 'secret' ingredient in porcelain, in 1746. A Quaker apothecary from Plymouth, he patented his formula for hard-paste porcelain in 1768, before opening a pottery in Plymouth which later moved to Bristol.



This discovery was a springboard for an industry which has seen the scientific and technological innovations from Cornwall spread across the world. China clay has been exported across the UK and the globe to be used in a huge range of products – from everyday paper and ceramics to components in spacecraft and pharmaceuticals.



The deadline for the next Newsletter is 20th February 2023

Send contributions to johnnoble@tavydistrictu3a.org.uk

expectation, consequence, and emergence

Sleep forced from us by the eager anticipation of the forthcoming lifetime event, the early morning sun shone through the curtains that seemed brighter than ever. We rose quickly chattering excitedly ready to prepare everything to be perfect. The fire lit, breakfast swallowed, and jobs done without complaint. Minutes ticked slowly as our anticipation increased. Tables were shone, windows polished, floors swept, hair brushed, and clothes smoothed. The best cups were unwrapped and checked for chips following the trek over the prairie. Built from a wagon ours is only a lowly household and not grand. To have such a distinguished event in our very own house seemed unreal. The best silk embroidered tablecloth was carefully revealed. Only used once since the death of our great grandmother, this cloth, brought overland from the old country, held its holy awe over us as we smoothed the creases. Constant checks revealed that time passed more slowly on this auspicious morning. Our spirits rose with the steam as water boiled on the iron range. Previously, three different types of coffee had been tried and tested to find just the right one to engage the palate of our distinguished visitor. All had been rejected as being unsuitable. With our last savings a stage to town procured probably the best beans in our land. Carefully ground, almost with religious reverence, the grindings were doused with scolding water. Care was taken not to boil the water for too long so as not to flush out the oxygen. (We heard this from talk in the general store). The aroma flooded the house. Our small rooms were instantly filled with the delicious smell and our, by now, souring expectation. Had the moment really arrived? Was the table exactly straight? Are the corn biscuits, specially baked that morning, still warm? We sat ready for the expected sound at the door. Will there be one knock or two? How many minutes have passed now? Was that five minutes or six? No one spoke. Only our breath could be heard. Time seemed to stand still as our eager anticipation slowly turned to despair. No word came. Thirty minutes, Forty-five. The coffee grew cold, and our spirits darkened. An attempted nibble on a cold biscuit? The crumbs turned to barbs and the throat dried. Eventually sadness enveloped the house as the evening twilight forced us from our once expectant chairs to accept our distinguished visitor was not to arrive. The once bright curtains now seemed dull and lifeless as the evening light shadowed our reluctant efforts to clear away the unused food and crockery. The coffee had turned dark and oily, the blackness of it only mirrored by our low downcast brows. Would it be possible to overcome the disappointment and hold our heads high again? Will our confidence return after such a sad event? But what's this? Could we even contemplate that we don't need the old world influencing our grand new household!

Roger Plumb

Newsletter Contributions

Contributions for the Newsletter are always welcome. The topics do not have to be u3a related, just something in which our members might be interested.

BUT PLEASE: send text as a Word document or as text on an email and send photos or other images by email.

Contributions by social media or as PDFs cannot easily be used

NEW

SKITTLES GROUPS

Two new skittles groups are to take place at The Blacksmiths Arms, Lamerton, at 11.30am on the 2nd Wednesday and 2nd Thursday of each month with the option of lunch.

These are being coordinated by Sue Welch

This was previously a very successful social committee event and its popularity has now prompted the setup of a group monthly meeting. We look forward to meeting everyone for a really sociable get together.

PS: please note that the first meetings will start on January 11th 2023

Garden Visits

The Garden House, Buckland Monachorum
Snowdrop Festival on Friday 24th February.

Meet in the café for around 12.30 to have a light lunch and then enjoy a leisurely walk around the garden. RHS cards are valid.

Lukesland Gardens, Ivybridge Sunday 23rd April.

We will meet at Pixon Lane ready to leave at 12.00 noon. We will be there about 1.15 in time for a soup lunch, and tea and cake later.

Stop press. A visit to Caerhayes Castle is being arranged for the Spring.



Rocks N Ruins Visit Wheal Martyn *Continued*

The company English China Clays Ltd. (now part of Imerys Minerals Ltd.) was one of the UK's top 100 companies and leading exporters in the 1980s and the industry was a driver of the Cornish economy for 100 years.

The clay works at Wheal Martyn began in the 1820s and were started by Elias Martyn on the Carthew Estate. Elias became one of the major clay producers in Cornwall and by 1869 he was producing 2,000 tons of clay a year at Wheal Martyn. After his death in 1872, the family kept the land but leased the works to other operators and the site continued to operate until 1969. The adjacent Wheal Martyn clay pit continues to operate today under the global mining company, Imerys Minerals Ltd.

The museum was established at Wheal Martyn in 1975 by English China Clays

Ltd, the producers of china clay at the time and we are very fortunate today that they had the foresight to do this. The museum is located within two former Victorian clay works, one of which is preserved in its working state and is the only example of its kind which is open to the public.

The site marks a period of the industry's history, spanning from the 1820s through to the 1960s, when the industry was labour intensive and physically taxing. This is in stark contrast to the modern industry which is largely mechanised.

A splendid day out and with the added bonus that our tickets are valid for 12 months, so we can go back and explore the bits that we might have missed.

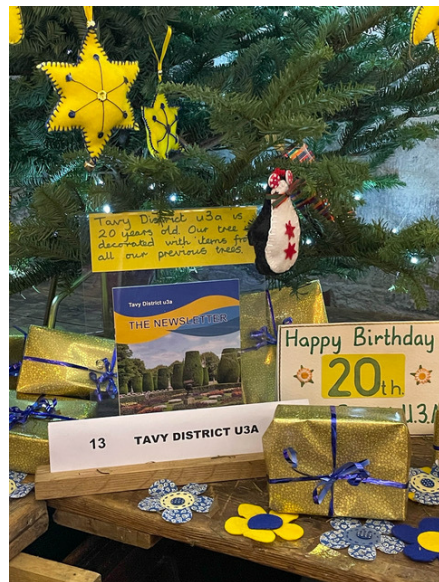
Recommended!

John Noblet



Photos by John Noblet and Isobel Davies

Tavy District u3a at Christmastime



The tree that was part of the Christmas Tree Festival in St Eustachius. Thanks to the Craft Groups

The Recorder Group concert in the church

The deadline for the next Newsletter is 20th February 2023

**Send contributions to
johnnoble@tavydistrictu3a.org.uk**

Tavy District u3a Christmas Meeting



Clockwise from the top:

The full house in the Town Hall.

The cake made for us by Jan Draper.

Founder members, Caroline Lorenzi, Val Turner and Norma Woodcock, cutting the cake.

The u3a banner on its new stand, made for us by Men in Sheds at no charge.

The catering team.

Photos by Paul Ward

