

The Events Committee

You can pay for the visits using cash, cheque, BACs and *NEW* a card reader.

Tiverton and Knightshayes. A coach trip on Monday 25th March leaving from opposite The Bedford Hotel at 9am, and returning around 5.30. The cost will be £20.

Knightshayes is free to NT members. Non NT members, will you please pay separately for yourselves as you go into the property, see online for the cost. All the places are taken but there is a reserve list if anyone would like to join that.

Contact Norma

Join us for a stroll around Mount Edgumbe Gardens. Thursday 18th April – green sheets

The 34 bus from Plymouth will take you to the Cremyll Ferry at Stonehouse.

Meet outside the Elvira Cafe at 11am to catch the next ferry to Mount Edgumbe.

Take a packed lunch or good food and coffee at the Orangery.

Contact Chris Webb nearer the time if more details needed.

Exeter Canal trip by coach from Exmouth to Exeter on Friday 31st May £28. On the BLUE signing up sheets. Leaving opposite the Bedford Hotel at 8.30am for Exmouth and the Stuart Line ferry that will take us up the Exeter canal to Exeter. There will be time for lunch and shopping in Exeter before returning to Tavistock by around 5.45

Contact Janet

Coach trip to Bath on July 4th. Further details have yet to be arranged and will be in the next newsletter. Signing up and payment will START at the u3a meeting in the Town Hall on May 1st. and by e-mail or phone thereafter.

Events coming up; More details to be confirmed in the next Newsletter

Central Park Plymouth. Possibly a guided walk in June.

Coach trip to Looe Wednesday 11th September.

Tavy District u3a

THE NEWSLETTER



The old milestone at the top of Green Lane is always a picture at this time of year.
Photo: John Noblet

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	Angela Pitt
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 April 2024

Send contributions to johnnoblet@tavydistrictu3a.org.uk

Forthcoming Walks

Thursday March 7th

Meet at Pixon Lane at 9.30 for a 9.40 departure to car share to Zoar near Mary Tavy. This is a moorland walk to the engine house of Wheal Betsy mine. About 4-5mls on tracks that can be muddy. Optional pub lunch, bring coffee and snack. This walk will be led by Val Blair.

Thursday March 28th

Meet at Pixon Lane at 9.15 for a 9.25 departure to car share to Steps Bridge near Dunsford. This is a daffodil walk along the River Teign, walking down one side of the river and back along the other. Riverside tracks and paths, about 5 mls. Optional pub lunch, bring coffee and snack.

Thursday April 11th

Meet at Pixon Lane at 9.30 for 9.40 departure to car share to Sourton on A386. This is an open moorland walk with a steady climb at the start, 5-6 mls. Optional pub lunch, bring coffee and snack. This walk is led by Val Blair.

Thursday April 25th

Meet at Pixon Lane at 9.30 for a 9.40 departure to car share to Cox Tor car park. A circular walk on moorland tracks to Windy Post, Pew Tor and back by Vixen Tor. About 4-5 mls, bring a packed lunch, ice cream at the end.

Contacts for all walks:

Chris Webb

Jennie Youngs

N.B The walks may change according to weather conditions. Please wear clothing and footwear for Dartmoor conditions.

**And
Finally.....(Almost!)**

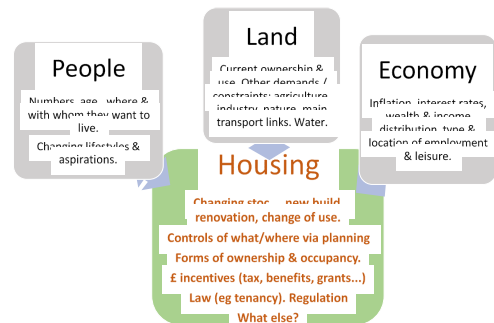
Thanks, as usual, to
Margaret Garton



So: What would you do to sort the housing crisis?

The Monday Discussion Group likes posing difficult questions. It's a sociable way to get our brains in gear at the start of a week, without the constraint of anyone requiring us to find the right answer – or indeed agree on any solution at all.

In a variant from our usual approach, our December meeting used an imagined scenario to push us to find practical answers. A high up official at the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (yes, it really is called that), had heard of our wisdom. They suspect that whichever party wins the next election, the newly appointed Minister in charge of housing will have little more to go on than their constituency postbag and manifesto soundbites. So they have challenged us, in our two hour session (minus coffee time) to propose up to five housing policy changes to put on a new minister's desk. These had to be within the Minister's remit – the green box in the diagram.



Context was given through statistics, policy proposals from charities and professional bodies, and quotes from stakeholders, eg “Existing English homes are in the worst condition of all European countries” (Home Builders Federation) “Housing wealth is highly skewed” (Chartered Institute of Housing) “Extreme pressures in the private rental sector, with declining housing stock seeing increasing competition among prospective

tenants and increasing rents” (RICS) “Over 1% of England's housing stock has been unoccupied for 6 months or more” (Local Govt. Assoc.) The discussion was wide ranging, but as the deadline approached, the group did manage to agree 5 policy changes:

1. Build more social housing, to high standards, through local authorities.
2. Change planning rules and building regulations to enable more use of the high quality, well insulated factory made “flat-pack” houses now available.
3. Identify suitable locations for new towns, with incentives to make such buildings, connected by sustainable transport, the norm.
4. Strengthen tenants' rights, to ensure people can have longer, more secure, tenancies in properties fit to live in.
5. Change tax treatment of homes to incentivize downsizing (by those no longer needing a family-sized home) and co-housing.

Ambitious but attainable? The vision: “A good home is a place that enables us to live in harmony with the natural environment, it is a place where we feel safe, it enables us to put down roots and belong to a community, it is a place we enjoy living in and which is a delight to come home to. In other words, homes should be: **Sustainable, Safe, Stable, Sociable, Satisfying.**” ([Coming Home, C of E](#))

Kit Harbottle

FROM THE CHAIR

How do you see your u3a? As a local organisation providing opportunities to learn and socialise in Tavistock, or as part of something bigger? I am very proud of Tavy District u3a and all who make it so successful, but I am also beginning to understand how much is on offer at regional and national levels. We are a member of the Two Moors Network comprising Tavy District, West Dartmoor, Moors Edge, Launceston, Okehampton and East Dartmoor u3as. Three or four times a year, representatives from each u3a meet to catch up to share news, information, and ideas, and discuss common problems.



The network is facilitated by a network coordinator, and the meetings are often attended by the Southwest Regional Trustee, who briefs us on what is happening at a national level. The inter-u3a bridge tournaments and quizzes are direct consequences of this collaboration.

Nationally, there are well over 1000 u3as. Every u3a is an independent charity with its own trustees, constitution, and legal obligations. We are all required to comply with charity law and manage our finances. These “back office” activities are largely invisible to the broader membership but are essential to the running of our organisation. From time-to-time problems arise that need more specialised advice and guidance than our committee can provide. In such circumstances we turn to the national u3a office or our regional trustee for help. Fortunately, this doesn't happen often, but it is reassuring that support is available when needed. The national organisation provides additional services and resources including model constitutions and policies, the Beacon membership administration system and u3a insurance cover.

Are you aware that in addition to all that Tavy District u3a offers you, there are u3a learning opportunities offered on-line? There are even on-line interest groups that you can join. By the time you are reading this, I will have “attended” a free u3a science workshop on 27th February with talks entitled “How germs made history” and “The importance of botany and the role of the citizen scientist”. If science isn't your thing, how about “Mindfulness and Meditation”, “David Hockney and the Theatre”, or “From pleasure gardens to theme parks”? Have a look at the current range of educational events being offered by going to <https://www.u3a.org.uk/events/educational-events>. You will be surprised by the variety, and most of it is free.

The national u3a is consulting on proposed administrative changes and is seeking members views. We are told that the changes would not affect the way local u3as are run. In brief the proposal is to separate a u3a Board, focusing on legal and financial matters, and a u3a Council that will be a representative body established to discuss issues that are important to all u3as. The consultation is entitled Fit for the Future. Your committee will consider the proposals at its next meeting but if you would like to know more and have an opportunity to express your views, just let me know and I'll see that you receive more information.

Best wishes to you all

Paul

The deadline for the next Newsletter is 20th April 2024

AGM Agenda

TAVY DISTRICT u3a

**Twenty first Annual General Meeting to be held at Tavistock Town Hall
on Wednesday 6 March 2024 at 2.00 pm**

AGENDA

1. Confirm whether a quorum is present and apologies for absence
2. Approval of the minutes of the 2023 AGM
3. Chair's report
4. Treasurer's report and adoption of the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023
5. Appointment of an External Examiner for the 2024 accounts
6. To approve the level of subscriptions for 2025. The committee recommend that individual and joint membership remain at the present level (£15 and £28). They also recommend that associate membership and associate joint membership be maintained at that level minus the subscription to be charged by the Third Age Trust in 2025. The reason is that we do not have to pay subscriptions to the Third Age Trust in respect of associate members, since those are paid by their primary u3a. That subscription is currently £4 per person.
7. Election of executive committee members. No committee member is stepping down this year but two members have indicated their willingness to fill vacant places as non-officer members of the executive committee. Isobel Davies has been proposed by Stephanie Steer and seconded by Joan Dennis. Linda Diggle has been proposed by Joan Jones and seconded by Jackie Rush.
8. Other business – none has been notified so none can be considered.
9. Date of Next AGM – 5 March 2025

Minutes of the 2022 AGM will be available in printed form at the AGM but a copy is available in advance on request to the secretary. Voting through a proxy is available on request to the secretary.

Randall Williams, Secretary

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Send contributions to johnnoble@tavydistrictu3a.org.uk

Why weather forecasts are always right

When you need a weather forecast you probably go to the app on your phone and plan accordingly. Mistake number one. Never place your trust entirely in a single prediction.

There are at least twenty websites offering weather forecasts, about fifty apps for each of Android and iOS, and every newspaper, TV channel and radio news programme will have one. The five-word radio summaries are useless and newspaper forecasts are out of date before you read them.

The phone and computer-based sites all have symbols to show the type of weather expected plus details which range from basic to more or less relevant to impossibly comprehensive, the latter intended to make you think their forecast must be pretty good. Mistake number two: more detail does not imply more accuracy.

Once the forecast is agreed it is sent through the software mangle and stretched out to cover every hour of tomorrow, next week, next month, for every city and town in the world.

The result is that Tavistock does not get a simple message like 'Next Tuesday will be cloudy with occasional showers.' Instead you will find something like: at 2 pm on that day there is a 60% chance of precipitation, 80% cloud cover, NW wind gusting to 18 mph, temperature of 13 deg C which feels like 12, 85% humidity, and 0.6mm of rain.

Nearly all the forecasts have that kind of detail, and many of them will add dew point, air quality, visibility, cloud ceiling, times of sun and moon rise and set, and whatever else they can think of.

That first simple version for Tavistock stands a very good chance of being correct. The second one will almost inevitably be wrong. It is simply too precise.

If your app says there will be a 37% chance of rain at 3 pm in twelve days' time (and some of them do), then you know the impetuous software chap has overruled the cautious meteorologist. If your app gives you the forecast for every day until June 2024 (yes, there is one), or offers a cloud amount and the exact quantity of rain (in tenths of a mm) that will fall, for every hour over the next three weeks, then you know the meteorologist has gone home in despair.

What use is all that to someone who simply wants to know whether it will rain or not? These predictions follow the Williams' Laws of Forecast Confusion.

The First: no two will ever be the same unless they are short statements in plain language.

The Second: more detail brings less accuracy.

Third Law: tomorrow's forecast is doubtful, after that they are dubious.

The Third Law came about because I discovered that even today's forecast can sometimes change before your morning coffee break. 'Cloudy with occasional showers' would nearly always be accurate, so would 'rain spreading from the west'. But to tell Tavistock there will be '40% of light rain at 10am tomorrow' is asking for trouble. It would almost amount to fraud except for that '40%'. It means they can never be wrong.

If it rains the forecast was right and if it didn't it was correct. That percentage idea means that weather forecasts are always right.

Ivor Williams

Much of this article first appeared on the TCW website.

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Rocks N Ruins

The Rocks N Ruins group has started the year with two low level outings, leaving the hills of Dartmoor until warmer days.

In January, they went to the Devonport Royal Naval Heritage Museum, which is tucked away in a motley collection of old buildings just outside the Royal Naval Base perimeter wall.

It is packed full of interesting artefacts relating to the history of the Royal Navy and of the Devonport Royal Naval dockyard. If nothing else, it was a lesson in enthusiasm imparted by the two tour guides, who conducted us around the premises, explaining the significance of the more notable displays.

A couple of hours is not long enough to take in all that is there, and it is certainly worth a return visit when the museum opens to the general public later in the spring. Some then visited the historic Devonport Market Hall for lunch.

February was very different, as was the weather. This was a walk from Central Park to the Royal William Yard by a very devious route, packed full of history. Without a doubt the group saw aspects of Plymouth that they did not know about and most certainly had not seen before. Starting at the Jack Leslie statue outside Home Park, we walked past the site of Plymouth Zoo and of the reservoirs connected with the Stonehouse Leat, alongside Ford Park Cemetery and the site of the Devonport Borough Prison. It is interesting to note that all of these locations were, in the not too distant past, outside the boundary of all of the three towns of Plymouth, Stonehouse and Devonport and on land that was privately owned by the St Aubyn family.

At Pennycomequick (the head of the creek) we met Richard, who then took us through Victoria Park past what was once a toll bridge over the creek (still known as Millbridge) to Stoke Damerel Church. Although the church was not open there were interesting stories to be told.

We paused by the grave of Tobias Furneaux who must surely be one of Plymouth's forgotten heroes. Not only was he the first person to circumnavigate the world in both directions, but he was Captain Cook's second in command and brought the expedition safely home after Cook's murder in Hawaii. It seems rather ironic that he has a forgotten neglected grave in a corner of an urban churchyard when there is a rather flamboyant memorial to a heroic failure and household name just a mile or so away at Mount Wise.

We returned to the creek by way of the former military hospital, now Devonport High School for Boys, before crossing the bridge (Halfpenny Bridge) designed by John Smeaton and then alongside what is said to be the oldest wall in the present city of Plymouth before finishing just outside the Royal William Yard.

A fascinating if rather damp walk. The next few outings of the group are on the website, the first being to Eylesbarrow and Drizzlecombe with our very own Randall Williams.

Come and join us.

John Noblet



'Understudy' Wanted for Group Liaison Role

Dear Members

As you will be aware, our Tavy District U3a is alive and well and increasing both in membership and Interest Group numbers. However, the organisation can only run as such because of the input of our many volunteers as well as the main Committee. Several of us will be coming to the end of our 3-year tenure at the AGM in March 2025 and will need willing volunteers to take on our roles.

The role of Groups Liaison secretary has been simplified since we re convened post covid, and there have been around 20 new groups formed. What was previously considered to be quite onerous has now become something which I am enjoying hugely and look forward to each month.

The duties of Group Liaison Secretary include attending and overseeing the Group table each month, attending a committee meeting approximately every two months, arranging the annual Group leaders lunch (with lots of help from the committee) and coffee mornings. There is also a small amount of record keeping which I do from home.

I liaise with our membership secretary, Tony Rose, to ensure that the group records are up to date, Jan Draper, our excellent website administrator, and John Noblet, who produces our wonderful newsletter.

Quite apart from anything else, I should add that I have made some good friends and am thoroughly enjoying my role as Group Secretary.

Each of us will be writing an article for the newsletter in the coming months outlining our roles on the committee, in the hope that some of you will be tempted to volunteer to shadow us with a view to taking on the role when we step down.

SO, if anyone is interested in understudying me, please get in touch, either at a meeting, or by email/ phone. My contact details are in this newsletter and on the website.

With fingers crossed.

Sonja

In Case of Emergency

As you will know if you were at the February meeting, Tavy District u3a now have ICE cards available for you to pick up and keep in your purse or wallet.

But don't forget to complete the health data on your phone. There is much more health and contact information that can be stored on your phone and which can be accessed in an emergency without the need to know a passcode.

Emergencies are unplanned. Be ready!



Monthly Meetings

MONTHLY MEETINGS MARCH – MAY 2024 (AND AN AUGUST DATE)

Below are the details of the next three monthly meetings, all of which will take place in Tavistock Town Hall at 2pm.

Once again, thank you to those who have provided me with speaker suggestions since the last newsletter. Do keep these coming.

Jane Ward

PROGRAMME – MARCH – MAY 2024

WEDNESDAY 6TH MARCH 2024 2pm – Tavistock Town Hall
Note that the talk will be preceded by the AGM

Vaccination & Immunisation: smallpox to shingles

Topics covered will include:

- What vaccines should we have as we get older?
- Why do we need them?
- Why has the age for getting the shingles vaccine recently been changed?
- Who takes part in clinical trials of new vaccines?
- Who decides on vaccination policy?

Speaker: Dr. Linda Diggle – Tavy District u3a member and former Head of Preventive Programmes, Government of Jersey

WEDNESDAY 3RD APRIL 2024 2pm – Tavistock Town Hall

Gardening The World

A talk about the history and work of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission – how it began, its work during the First and Second World Wars and its work today in maintaining and preserving its historic estate around the World – including a focus on the war graves in our local area and the stories of some of those whom the CWGC commemorate.

Speaker: Rebecca Smith - South West Public Engagement Coordinator, Commonwealth War Graves Commission

Weekenders

Just what do we get up to in the Weekenders group? Anything legal and everything else might be a good answer!

We meet up once a month in the Wharf, have a coffee and share information about what social/interesting events we know are coming up in the next few weeks. It's very much dependent on everyone contributing. So any one person can be found organising a monthly Sunday roast in a local restaurant, a trip to diverse theatre shows, garden/craft shows, the Dartmoor Line from Okehampton to Exeter, shopping in Plymouth via the Gunnislake line, music events, local talks, National Trust locations, etc.

It's varied. It's interesting. It's whatever anyone comes up with! And lifts can generally be organised for those who need one.

We encourage members to step forward to organise an event, with support happily given if necessary. Who knows what you could achieve!

The group is very ably coordinated by Janet Hunt.

Shirley Smith

Opera Group 1

When I lived in Hertfordshire, the occasional treat, greatly enjoyed, was attendance at an opera performance at the Royal Opera House, the English National Opera or, even more occasionally, at Glyndebourne. When in Devon, I would take advantage of visiting Opera Groups at Plymouth's Royal Theatre. They were always very enjoyable, special events.

At one level there is nothing like live performance, but I have to confess that membership of Tavy District u3a's Opera Appreciation Group is giving me even greater pleasure. This is not only because it is a more regular treat, avoids the stress of finding parking, transport, queuing at the theatre, climbing over people's knees to get to your seat, the distraction of being able to see over taller peoples' heads, not to mention the soaring cost of seats, but because I am getting so much more from watching filmed performances on DVDs.

We are so privileged in having access to Margaret Garton's large collection of DVDs of operas performed in the finest opera houses in the world. I am so impressed by the access this gives us to the facial expressions of the singers and the quality of their acting, as well as of their voices, which is not accessible from a seat, even in the stalls! There is also far better access to the orchestra, and somehow more time and opportunity to appreciate the quality of the settings, costumes and whole design of the performance.

It is usual for us to take two sessions to watch each opera, but that allows for discussions and exchange of views on the performance, not to mention a cup of tea or coffee!

We have been fortunate to see some of the less frequently performed operas, as well as popular ones, so a number of us are seeing ones that we have never seen before, or possibly even heard of. So we are certainly fulfilling the u3a's commitment to lifelong learning!

Melody Dougan

History Group

History continues to be made at King's on (generally) the first Friday of the month. This year we have seethed at the misdeeds of various historical figures; the usual suspects of course – name any dictator in the twentieth century – but also the ghastly Leopold II, King of the Belgians, not to mention Henry Morton Stanley. We tut-tutted over Henry VIII, Edward I and Bismarck and thrilled with horror at a dastardly plan to assassinate none other than Charlie Chaplin on a visit to meet the doomed Japanese prime minister, Tsuyoshi Inukai.

We have also sought to change history a little too by granting a stay of execution, so to speak, to other historical figures. We sought to understand what might have happened if the Black Prince had lived a little longer and thought too to allow Charles Stuart's older brother to live the full span (well, for pretty obvious reasons).

More recent figures, Hugh Gaitskell, Ian Mcleod and John Smith were given an extended lease of life and we have more such generosity for others in the pipeline, one of them (and about time, you may think) a woman; Rosalind Franklin.

We have been travelling also, marching through the well tended acres of the War Graves Commission on the European mainland and also visiting that other Mainland, the chief island of the Orkneys, where extraordinary excavations tell us so much about life in neolithic times.

My very sincere thanks to all who have contributed over the last months, not least to those who have reviewed or brought along fascinating material and also my grovelling gratitude to the stalwarts on kitchen duty.

Kevin Dickens

History is only the register of crimes and misfortunes.

I like the dreams of the future better than the history of the past.

A generation which ignores history has no past and no future.

History repeats itself, first as tragedy, second as farce.

History is written by the victors.

Ideas shape the course of history.

There is a history in all men's lives.

What is history but a fable agreed upon?

We are not makers of history. We are made by history.

Who said these words?

Monthly Meetings

WEDNESDAY 1ST MAY 2024 2pm – Tavistock Town Hall
A London to Sydney Car Marathon and Ukrainian Action

2 illustrated talks:

- driving competitively between London and Sydney in the 1970's and 1990's
- a unique charity driving and donating, now, 250 vehicles, to Ukraine.

Speaker: Anthony Showell - former competitive driver and now charity driver

FOR YOUR DIARIES: WEDNESDAY 21st AUGUST 2024 – PICNIC IN THE PARK



TAVISTOCK NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN PUBLIC CONSULTATION

Time to look to the future
TAVISTOCK PLAN

COMMENT FROM FEB 12TH - MARCH 25TH

HAVE YOUR SAY!

DRAFT PROPOSALS

Do the published policies address your concerns about housing, sustainable development, heritage and the protection of your local green space?

ATTEND OUR CONSULTATIONS

Come and scrutinise the draft proposals at the following times:

- 17TH FEB | TAVISTOCK GUILDHALL 11AM-2PM
- 20TH FEB | RED & BLACK CLUB 6:30-7:30PM
- 9TH MARCH | TAVISTOCK GUILDHALL 11AM-2PM
- 13TH MARCH | STANNARY BREWERY 6:30-8:30PM

FOR MORE INFORMATION: VISIT THE TAVIPLAN WEBSITE, TAVISTOCK LIBRARY OR TOWN COUNCIL OFFICES

tavistockplan@gmail.com

Tavistockplan.info

The Wine Group think January is a long month

January is a long month. In recent years amongst wine quaffing circles it has frequently become known as 'Dry January'. (Apparently 8.4 million people in the UK indulge in 'Dry January'). Not wishing to be left out The Wine Group met on 19th January to sample 'low alcohol or non-alcoholic' wines. These were acquired from well-known supermarkets and with a price range of £2.79 to £7.75 per bottle (no excise duty is paid on non-alcoholic drinks). Before popping the corks we explored the process of 'dealcoholisation'. It seems the alcohol is poached or steamed off the liquid with two obvious effects, the loss of alcohol and the expenditure of energy, neither of which struck us as very attractive.

Seven bottles were tabled. Four were white and three were red. Two of the whites were 'sparkling'. These revelled under the names of 'Fizzero' and 'Zerosecco'. Both are produced from Grape 'Must', the first step in winemaking after the grapes have been harvested. The word 'must' incidentally comes from the latin, 'vinum mustum' meaning 'young wine'. Both had an underlying taste of sweet apple and virtually

no bouquet at all. The remaining white wines were produced from Muscat and Sauvignon Blanc grapes although we agreed they could not be identified as such. Again the prevailing flavour was of sweetish apple.

We moved on to the 'reds'. Each of the three bottles was produced from a different grape, Tempranillo, Merlot and Shiraz. The underlying fruit changed from Apple to Plum or Raspberry and again they were sweet or sweetish. The Tempranillo had, on opening, a suggestion of vinegar but happily this dissipated after a minute or two. They all lacked substantive 'body' which wine drinkers find so attractive.

It is customary for us to spend a couple of hours at our deliberations but on this occasion we finished in not much more than half that time. We all agreed the samples had underwhelmed and for price did not compete with fruit juices such as 'presses' and other soft drinks. Finally, we reflected that February was only twelve days away!!

Peter Luff



The deadline for the next Newsletter is 20th April 2024

Music Appreciation

Our Music Appreciation Group has continued to meet on the last Monday morning of the month although we decided to give 25th December a miss. The general opinion of the members has remained that it is a good way to start the week as any trace of Monday morning blues is soon dispelled when the music starts.



In early January I had a welcome visit from Mary and David Hawkins, who were long-term members of this group and who many people will remember from their groups involvement before they moved

to Wales. They brought with them some delicious Welsh cakes and a CD by the Welsh harpist Sian Angharad Williams, and we sampled some of this music at our recent gathering.

Mary and David are very happy with their life in Wales, which was good to hear. They are very much involved with group and other activities there, as they were when they were here. They visit Tavistock and other local areas from time to time, especially when music festivals and events are in progress, so many of us will be seeing them again before long. Look out for them in St Eustacious. They send their good wishes to all who remember them.

Jan Willie

National Trust Visits Group

The National Trust Visits Group is awakening from its winter slumbers and now that Spring is just around the corner (hopefully) there are a few outings being arranged to NT and EH properties.

The original idea was to use public transport where possible for all the best reasons but, as we all know, this is not always feasible.

The provisional programme has a mixture of trips where this is possible (and adds to the sociability of the day) and those where we will need to use cars.

We have also strayed beyond National Trust sites to provide more variety.

Dates for your diaries:

Wednesday 20th March: Plympton Castle and Saltram House and Gardens

Monday 22nd April: Launceston Castle

Tuesday 21st May: Lanhydrock House and Gardens

Thursday 6th June: Pendennis Castle

Friday 7th June: St Michael's Mount

Further details will be circulated nearer the time.

If you have any ideas for where you would like to go, then get in touch.

Why not join us?

John Noblet