

Committee News



A very Merry Christmas and A Happy New Year to all our readers !

Thank you lovely people for continuing to support our vibrant u3a community here in Callington. Special thanks to our dedicated group leaders and all our amazing helpers who work so hard to keep us socialising together in fun ways with drinks, tea, coffee and cake etc.

You all deserve a wonderful Christmas and however you choose to celebrate, we wish you and your families a very special time ! 🙏

Christmas Lunch - Honicombe Manor (photo right) - Monday 8th December 12.30 for 1pm. Bookings are now closed. Thanks to the 57 who have booked to come to the Christmas lunch. we are looking forward to a great afternoon in your company !



Theatre Royal Backstage Tour Many thanks to Helen Redden who has organised an interesting tour of the backstage area at the Theatre Royal in Plymouth for Friday 23rd January 2026.

Out of 20 reserved places she has 16 members who want to do the trip, so there are four spaces left ! The closing date for booking is 30/11/25 and the cost for the tour is £15 per head, so please contact Helen by then if you would like to join the trip.

Phone Helen on 01579 382612 or mobile: 07770 402242 or email: ladywholunches3@gmail.com

Council Room Hire etc. fee increase : The rate for all council rooms for new bookings made on or after 1st January 2026 will increase by £1 per hour but there will be no charge for projector/screen and smart TV.

The updated website: The new website can be viewed on callington.u3asite.uk . Group leaders can email Neil for editing guidance at CallAdmin@lankidden.com

Books: Books are sold at 50p each or 3 for £1. If anyone has some books they would like to donate, they would be very welcome.

Raffle: Given our currently healthy financial situation, the committee have decided to provide the monthly raffle prizes from now on. Our thanks to those who have donated prizes in the past, but your kind donations are no longer needed.

Phones: Please could we ask that phones are turned off at the Monday meetings, thank you.

Suggestion Box: The Committee is happy to receive any suggestions on ways to improve our u3a, subjects for new groups, or anything else you may wish to contribute. A box is available for your offerings.

Groups' News

Art: The Art group continues to meet in Stoke Climsland Old School on Thursday afternoons from 1-4pm. The sessions are once a fortnight. We would love to see a few more folk join us. Please contact Ann Henderson, email annatpillaton@yahoo.co.uk, for a chat if you are interested.

Backgammon: The new Backgammon group has now settled into its new Wednesday afternoon slot every 3rd week from 2 till 4. 6 people attended this month so 3 sets were played this time. There's plenty of space for more to join who would like to come along and learn a new game or revisit an old favourite and share your skill. If you're interested call Ann Moore on 01822 648281 or email aemoore4521@gmail.com

Chairobics: We meet in the council chambers at 10.30am twice a month for a laugh and good easy movement taught by professionals. Where else can you get all that for £1/£1 50 ? Interested? Get in touch with Sue McMunn siouxmack@hotmail.co.uk or Jo Earl greenjo1951@gmail.com. We'd love to see you.

Crime Fiction: Dates until the New Year: Thursday 27th Nov. will be as normal at Lucy's house from 2pm until 4 pm : Sunday Dec 14th starting at 12 noon is the date of The Xmas Party for the three groups held in Lucy's house. The next meeting which would normally take place on the fourth Thursday of the month falls on Dec 25th so **no** meeting this month. lucydtomas22@gmail.com

Cribbage and Cards: We meet in the Committee Room on the first Thursday, 10 - 12. Costs £1.50 to cover room rental and refreshments. For more information call Carl on 01822 648281. Pop along and join in the fun, new members are always welcome.

Game on: Dates for the Dec meetings: Sunday 7th Dec, will be as usual in the basement of Lucy's house from 2 - 5 pm. The Xmas Party for the three groups held in Lucy's house will be on the 14th Dec. at 12 noon until approx. 5pm. Please can members come to the upper floor with their plates of food. There will be **no** meeting on the **21st Dec**. Further details from Lucy Thomas on email lucydtomas22@gmail.com

Jazz Appreciation:

For our November Jazz in the Afternoon session, we decided to change the monthly theme for something completely different. This time we went back to the early days of jazz and enjoyed music from the 1920's and the 1930's.

These two decades were the period when arguably, jazz went through it's greatest development. In the very early twenties, jazz, which had developed in the American southern states, had a simplistic style but this rapidly changed. By the end of the thirties, much more sophisticated styles had been developed. Large bands, featuring 20 or more musicians, were popular and their influence spread, not only across North America but across the pond, particularly to France and Britain.

But to get back to our session. King Oliver and his 'High Society Rag' from 1923, got us going. Then we just had to have Louis Armstrong, one of Jazz's all time greats. From his 'Hot Five' we heard 'West End Blues' and from one of his later groups, 'Mack the Knife'.

Bob (younger brother of Bing) Crosby and 'South Rampart Street Parade' from 1927 and the Dutch Swing College's 'Bad, Bad Leroy Brown' were followed by Earl Hines piano with 'A Monday Date' and Roxy Music's 'Dance Away'.

Ma Rainey, a great old time gospel and blues singer, sang 'Chain Gang Blues'. We heard 2 numbers from Bunny Berrigan, 'Blue Lou' and 'Jelly Roll Blues' and Harry James gave us 'Moten Swing', honouring a very early jazz pioneer, Benny Moten.

'At The Jazz Band Ball' came from Bix Beiderbecke, followed by Meade Lux Lewis with his unmistakable 'Honky Tonk Train Blues'. We again heard Earl Hines, as part of Louis' Hot Five, playing 'Fireworks'. The session finished with Charlie Barnet's 'Skyliner', Lonnie Donegan's 'Grand Coulee Dam', Stephane Grappelli's 'Have you met Miss Jones' and 'Young and Beautiful' from Roxy Music.

We look forward to next month when we expect some Christmassy jazz will be sprinkled among our special favourites.

We meet on the second Wednesday of the month. Please contact Roy; email burridgeroy@gmail.com

Nostalgia: Ten of us talked about our pets at the November meeting. I hope a few more will be attending the meeting on 15th December when we will be discussing anything to do with... you guessed it... Christmas!! We meet in the Council Chamber on the third Monday afternoon, 2 - 4pm. Only £1.50 including hot drinks and biscuits. Contact Jo - greenjo1951@gmail.com

Philosophy: If you want to join us, come along to Callington Town Hall on the last Thursday of the month at 10am in the Committee Room or contact Gillian Brown, email gillian.brown@gmail.com

Pub Lunch: Fifteen of us went to the Ploughboy in Saltash for our lunch in November. There will not be a pub outing in December, and hopefully January's will be just a short hop to the Bull's Head on the 12th. Happy Christmas, and thank you to all those who have supported our outings this year. Contact Jo - greenjo1951@gmail.com

Quiz Group: If you would like to join the quiz group, please let me know. We meet on the first Wednesday in the month at 2pm in the Council Chambers and finish around 4pm. Cost is £1 which includes tea/coffee and biscuits. Mel. melkenhammond@outlook.com

Rummikub: Rummikub runs on the 1st and 3rd Fridays in the council chambers of the town hall. We will be having our annual Xmas lunch on Friday 5th dec (we all need extra Xmas lunches) so if you think you might want to give us a try give me a ring ,text or email Sue McMunn. 01579 532777 or 07980049562 or siouxmack@hotmail.co.uk

Science of Astronomy: Many thanks to Jo Earl for a most informative talk on the Moons of Jupiter at our October meeting. Thanks too to Mark Robertson who gave a very interesting talk on LiDAR at the November meeting. Lidar uses Laser light to provide very precise measurements and has among other things, been used to map planets and to investigate their atmospheres. It's is also being used to guide self driving vehicles.

The Science of Astronomy Group meet at Ray's house on the fourth Monday of each month, 2-4pm. If you are interested, please contact Ray Lawrence, rayg8awb@gmail.com or 07566781800.

Scrabble and Word Games: Dates for Scrabble Group in Dec. Thursday 11th Dec: Meet as normal in the basement of Lucy's house. Sunday Dec 14th starting at 12 noon is the date of The Xmas Party for the three groups held in Lucy's house. Further details from Lucy Thomas on email lucythomas22@gmail.com

Scribblers: meet on the 3rd Thursday of the month from 2 to 4pm. Contact Gillian Brown : gillian.brown@gmail.com

Strollers: Only managed 1 stroll this month as the weather was not kind and that was around St Mellion and then on to Tamar Nurseries to check out the Christmas decorations and see the Singing Reindeers.

Unfortunately one of the reindeers had a sore throat and was unable to join in, but the other two were in fine voice.

Anyone wishing to join this group please contact Anne Ellard on 01579 383864 or 07443 473799 or by email: ellardanne@gmail.com



Walking 1: It's no wonder we Brits constantly talk about the weather ! Walkers 1 have been very much at its mercy this month and we had to cancel the first two walks of the month due to heavy rain. It didn't dampen our spirit of camaraderie though and a number of us met at Louis' Tea Rooms for a welcome cup of coffee. One of us even had a breakfast bap but the rest behaved themselves until a tea cake just seemed to appear !!



And so, preparations and building energy for the next walk had started a week early and with expectations mounting, on the third Friday, we were treated to wall to wall sunshine and spectacular views on a lovely walk above the coast at Kingsand and Mount Edgcumbe. Thank you Gill for finally banishing the rain !

Our last walk of the month will be a Calstock circular courtesy of Ann so fingers crossed we can keep the autumn rain at bay for another week.



If you'd like to join us on a walk, please contact Richard Ketley on richard.ketley@icloud.com or Gina Davies on ginadavies8@hotmail.co.uk.

Walking 2: Yet again walks were cancelled due to the bad weather and we only managed a walk around Lanhydrock and also a walk up to Louis' Tearooms from the free car park and back again.

Anyone interested in joining this group please contact Helen Redden on 01579 382612 or 07770 402242 or email: ladywholunches3@gmail.com

Dates for the diary:

Dec 1st - Performance by PRIMRAF of Cornish winter Anna Chorlton's "The Silver Bell"
Mince Pies and refreshments will be FREE for this event - Merry Christmas !!!



Jan 12th - "Age Concern Cornwall" How they can help with Kelvin Yates

Feb 2nd - "Christmas Island H-bomb" with Gavin Wilson

Mar 2nd - "Conchies" A history of conscientious objectors with Simon Dell

April 13th - AGM, no speaker

May 11th - "Alternative Medicine. Fact or Bull****" with Mike Moore

June 1st - "Bible or Bullets" with Rev Tim Wilkinson

July 6th - "Tax, Care and The New Guy" With Poppy Jones

Aug 3rd - "Hedgehog Rescue" with Chris and Dee

Our Committee:

Chair - Phil Clift 07900 956980

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Vice Chair - Neil Carter 07896002932

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Treasurer - Jae Damarell 07756 411253

email: treasurercallingtonu3a@gmail.com

Secretary - Marcella Payne 07727255782

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Membership Secretary - Phil Clift 07900 956980

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Speaker Organiser - Edna Southey 07889 239454

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Website - Neil Carter 07896002932

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Groups Co-ordinator - Gina Davies 07738 014845

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Minutes Secretary - Jo Earl (non committee) 07742 362993 email: greenjo1951@gmail.com