



Science Group next meet:
Tuesday 13th Nov, 2.30pm

Topic: neutrinos, dark energy and dark matter

New Group

Beginners' Bridge

10 consecutive weeks from January 10th. 2.00 - 4.30
Anne Dicker 612102

Please sign a Register of Interest at a monthly meeting

OPERA GROUP 1 PROGRAMME 2018-19 9.30am start

7 Sep Jean Thompson
12 Oct Barbara Ward
9 Nov Mary Logan
14 Dec Jane Whitehead
2019
11 Jan Ann Rowland
8 Feb Valerie Hamer
8 Mar tba
12 Apr John & Sally Morgan
(end of season lunch)

CYBER SECURITY

Extra Speaker

February meeting:
not one but two speakers

Besides **Martin King** on the work of his police dog, **Laura Cowie** of Devon and Cornwall Police will speak on the very important subject of **cybercrime**.

This is a topic of general interest, but it is also an issue which could seriously affect any of us who use computers, so the latest advice on how to keep ourselves safe online will be really welcome.

This month's meeting: Thursday 15th

Tom Soby

Curious Cornwall

(based on his book of the same name)

Cornish place-name riddles



- Mickey's home
- Canonised – it's enough but no more
- Ballpoint for Mr Thatcher



Wild Zanskar trek, Ladakh, Kashmir, India

In August/September 2018 I undertook a 30-day trek in Zanskar, a small Tibetan Buddhist kingdom lying just north of the main Himalayan range in northern India close to the borders with both China and Pakistan.

The scenery in Zanskar was spectacular, with dramatic gorges, rivers (the trek required over 110 river crossings with water-levels between knee and waist height, the water being very cold with all the rivers fed by glaciers), snow-capped mountains, mountain passes with a number of prayer-flagged passes over 5,000

metres crossed, the highest being Kong Maru La pass at 5216 metres (17257 feet), villages perched above precipices, cliff-top temples and old fortresses.

Fortunately we were lucky with the weather, with one day of light showers and one of snow showers, until our day of departure from Leh when the heavens opened and the airport was shut for 36 hours.

The trek consisted of 6 trekkers, 2 guides, 6 camp staff who catered for our every need, and up to 15 horses and three horsemen as all of our gear and food had to be carried.

Although exhausting, a fantastic time was had with wonderful scenery all of the way.

Next year's trek has yet to be decided but will certainly be in the Himalayas: watch this space again!

Steve Dimond

The Newsletter is produced 3 days in advance of each monthly meeting.

Offers of stories or other contributions are welcome – contact the editor by the 2nd Thursday of the month:
newsletter@westdartmooru3a.org.uk



Remembrance

Barbara Schofield writes:

Many years ago when my sister and I were children, our mother showed us the name of her uncle on the Naval War Memorial on Plymouth Hoe. On our way to and from the Tinside swimming pool we would delight in being able to find his name among the thousands there. The fact that he had had a short and hard life never entered our minds. We knew, of course, that it was "sad". My mother was born in 1913 and knew no more about him than did we.

Roll on sixty years or more and my grandson is doing a school project. Its exact nature escapes me, and probably always did, but it involved using a computer to research into an unknown family member. This was how we found out that our uncle died in April 1918. The date, so close to the end of the horrors, is bad enough. My grandson also discovered that the ship on which his forebear was serving, H.M.S Bittern, collided with SS Kenilworth in fog in Lyme Bay. There were no survivors from the Bittern. It's hard to explain how very upsetting we found this news which seemed to encapsulate the whole futility of war and waste of young lives.



Ten years later and my sister's granddaughter is involved in a history project requiring her to write about some family connection with The Great War. My sister told her that although she knew of at least one of our father's brothers who had fought, nobody ever spoke about it. So my grandson's research has been sent on and added to. It seems that the captain of the merchant vessel was found to be guilty of negligence. Perhaps the study of family history should be made compulsory. We are all aware of dreadful things which happened (and still happen) in many places and at other times to many thousands of strangers. However, when one of those strangers has a link to oneself, no matter how tenuous, awareness of the suffering becomes much more acute.

Next month's meeting:
Christmas Entertainment
13th December

Ten Pin Bowling

On a wet and windy November afternoon, five of the ten people who had signed up to go ten pin bowling set off from the Pixon's Lane car park.

Great fun was had by all. As someone who, when playing skittles, is usually confronted with a solitary skittle to knock down, I really appreciated the fact that EVERYBODY GETS A GO AT ALL 10 PINS. By the time the charming receptionist had taken into consideration the off peak tariff, discount for age and our only needing one lane, the cost was a modest £4.00 each, which included a drink. Several scored a strike, all enjoyed the outing and we made by far the most noise.

Many thanks to Douglas for arranging this.
Look out for the next one in the New Year.

Barbara Schofield

Check our website for the **Walking Group's** full November programme