

BUDE & DISTRICT BRANCH
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Special points of interest: -

This is the first Branch News to be available electronically, see page 14

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Chairman's Annual Report

23rd October MMVIII

First of all I want to say thank you to all our past committees and members who have made our U3A what it is today. We are now entering our 8th year with a membership total of 160 members and I think there are two members who have moved away this year - Pearl Flower moved to Bristol to be closer to her family and Wendy Smith has moved to Cyprus. Before Wendy left she had already located a U3A over there which had a very extensive programme and list of groups so I am sure the U3A will help her make new friends and settle in her new home.

We began our year with a rather shaky start, not having a Chairman. However we managed OK for about 4 or 5 months with a "revolving chair" but it was becoming a little problematic and in March the committee persuaded me to become Chairman.

Our Christmas Lunch which took place last December at The Falcon was hugely enjoyed as usual - a very successful raffle which raised £92.00 following ticket selling by Pat Netherton and myself and entertainment provided as usual by members - particularly the Singing for Fun Group. The arrangements for the lunch were handled superbly again by Audrey Armitage with her "roll of wallpaper" and a little help from Mary Dobson liaising with

The Falcon. We were very grateful to Jo Arnold, who proved once more that she is an excellent Master of Ceremonies.

News reports of our OGM's in the Bude and Stratton Post are now organised very efficiently by Lucille Opie with a list of correspondents reporting each meeting. Their reports are also posted on our web-site. A big thank you to Lucille.

The National AGM was again held almost within spitting distance, in Swansea (Falmouth in 2007 when two representatives from Bude attended) but nobody went from Bude this year. In future if we send representatives there is funding available for travel expenses and to ensure that they are not out of pocket.

We have enjoyed a lively year with a few changes and developments as we try to lever ourselves into the technological age. We now have our web site up and running very efficiently and we owe Mike Roper, our web master, a huge debt of gratitude for setting it all up, and thanks also to Eric French and Sue Evans and Mary Dobson for all their help and input. Don't forget there is free access in the Library for those of you who don't have a computer at home and help is available on a Monday and Tuesday morning to get you started. The web site address is www.budeu3a.co.uk and it really is worth a look.

Eric French who is also our

newsletter editor is doing his bit for the environment (i.e.: saving trees) and is now set up to send the newsletter electronically to all our members who are "on line" with an e mail address. It can come to you in colour with web links and photos from our various groups where appropriate. But I would like to reassure those of you who do not have access to a computer that there will still be copies printed for you to collect at the open meetings. To receive the "News" on line you need to make sure Eric has your e mail address. His e mail address is in the newsletter. A huge thank you to Eric for all his hard work producing our quarterly newsletter and thanks to all of you who send him articles for it.

Because the committee decided after much discussion to absorb the cost of posting the Quarterly National Magazine directly to your homes, most of you should now have received your first copy in this way including a copy of the "Source Magazine" which is published three times a year.

Thanks to Linda Bunker for sorting out the data base for the mailing list. The addresses are updated every quarter. Please let Linda know as soon as possible should you wish to discontinue your subscription to the National Magazine.

As for our monthly open meetings, we first acknowledge the huge debt of gratitude owed to Hazel Cook and all her tea ladies for so efficiently providing the refreshments.

This year we have enjoyed a very varied selection of speakers including contributions from two of our own members - Jill Davies in May talking about The Story and the Storyteller and Iwan Davies in July telling us about the Greek Tragedies and how

drama began. They both shared their insight and enthusiasm for their chosen subject and they also brought some of their book collection and photographs for us to browse through at the end of the afternoon.

At the beginning of the year we had an inspiring talk by Brian Morgan and Jenny Campbell about the Children of Chernobyl who are brought over here every year to enjoy the pure air of Cornwall and the hospitality of the Cornish people - some of them members of our U3A. Their visit enables the radioactive count in their blood to be greatly reduced.

Following that we heard from Michael Axworthy about the history of Persia - a huge subject about which he was very knowledgeable having lived in the country for some years as a teenager with his parents, spending holidays there and also having worked in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office as Head of the Iranian Section prior to his retirement.

We had a very entertaining talk by David Snelling in March about his travels with a hinney called Henry following one of the pilgrim routes to Santiago di Compostela in Northern Spain in the millennium year.

In April we learnt about women in Kenya knitting very ethical toys and handicrafts - a talk given by Sandy Boycott. Many of us bought items from her after her talk at the end of the afternoon.

We also had our usual Plant Stall at this meeting organised by Marion Hall and her growers and helpers. This year she raised £67.20 for our funds - thank you Marion.

At our June meeting we had a marvellous update on the Bude Canal Regeneration a talk given by Andrea Vaillaincourt Alder who works on the Project.

In August Jacky Derham came

to tell us how to write our life stories and with her encouragement I think quite a number of us went away inspired to actually have a go!

At our latest meeting in September we welcomed the well known local author E V Thompson who gave us a very interesting talk about Cornish families in History and in fiction.

My thanks to Mary Dobson and Hilary Workman for organising our speakers and my particular thanks to Hilary as well for being my vice chair and an endless source of information as to how things should be organised.

Bude and District U3A interest groups now number 18.

Our two Scrabble Groups run by Sue Evans and Gill Gilkes continue to have fun (most of the time) although it does sound as if things can occasionally get a little hairy but everyone seems to take it in their stride. I can fully recommend the reports from Scrabble 2 in the Newsletter - they are wonderful, Sue - they always make me laugh.

The Cinema Group unfortunately got off to a bad start as The Rebel decided to close immediately after the group had been set up. The Google Group which Marilyn Daly cleverly set up to contact members about forthcoming films is now defunct through lack of use but people are now going to The Memorial Hall in Holsworthy to see films on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month - a film group which is actually organised by one of our members.

By contrast the Bridge Group goes from strength to strength. Definitely no longer Bridge for Beginners but it sounds as though they have a lot of fun. Richard Evans would be glad to assist anyone wishing to start a

new Bridge Group for Beginners.

The Singing for Fun group also has a good time and keeps not only themselves entertained but also the old people in a couple of residential homes who welcome them for singalongs on a regular basis. And of course we hope we can look forward to them entertaining us old folk at the Christmas Lunch in December.

Our other musical group - Enjoying Music - is compered, if that is the right word, by Iwan Davies. Music is listened to, usually around a theme, and discussed if it proves controversial enough. Numbers vary and Iwan would be able to accommodate a few more on a regular or occasional basis he tells me.

Jill Davies continues to chair our Philosophy Group. Members study the thoughts and ideas of various philosophers and are still striving towards wisdom although Jill tells me the attainment thereof seems to elude them somewhat. However they enjoy their time together studying, discussing and arguing.

The more energetic members who walk twice a month have extended their repertoire this year by undertaking three longer walks. These are around 5 or 6 miles in length and include a lunchtime picnic. The afternoon rambles are shorter and are always a good opportunity to get out in the fresh air for some exercise and conversation and often finish with the reward of a cream tea if there is a handy cafe. We are grateful to Sally Bannister and Trish Parsons who organise the walks including a recce to make sure they know the way and that it is a suitable walk for our members. They would be very happy to welcome more walkers - the walks are not too

strenuous and they always ensure people can keep up.

Our thanks go to Carolyn Merrett who instigated the new History of Art group last year. It continues to thrive and all the members have been enjoying the study of 20th Century artists from the Impressionists onwards, increasing their knowledge and understanding of the great painters (as well as some lesser know ones)

You may have seen June Cann's description in the newsletter of the Holsworthy Miniatures Group which operates under the auspices of the U3A. Their work is incredible with amazing attention to detail. This summer their theme was The Beach with people decorating beach huts in various ways. I would recommend you reading June's account in the Summer Newsletter but it is also worth going to one of the local shows when they are exhibiting to have a look at the final display.

The Theatre Group continues to be enjoyed by a huge number of our members with visits to most of the theatres in Cornwall and a few in Devon. Thank you to Mary Dobson who continues to gather the information for us and organise coaches, collect ticket money, book seats and generally give our members an opportunity to enjoy an afternoon of excellent entertainment. Their visits sometimes include a little spare time for shopping as well!

Mary also hosts the Play Reading Group which meets in The Falcon fortnightly. They cover a wide range of plays, metaphysical, murder and mystery, autobiographical, comedy and farce. It sounds as though they have a lot of fun most of the time, providing they understand the play!

Discussion 1 has enjoyed another year of stimulating sessions, wrangling with

various topics ranging from politics in various forms, the secularisation of society and whether Judas did betray Jesus, abortion and stem cell research and today's class system. The topics are chosen by the members and they take turns to introduce the discussion with the opportunity always to ditch the chosen subject and go for something more topical instead at the last minute. Our thanks to Jo Arnold for hosting these meetings and for keeping everyone in order.

Discussion 2 is being disbanded unfortunately because Jenny Leyland has decided with regret that because of changed circumstances she cannot continue to host it. Thanks to Jenny for starting this group - if anyone would like to take over from her please contact me or Elizabeth Whattler our Group Co-ordinator.

Marion Hall runs the Garden Group which meets monthly - usually to visit either gardens open to the public or private gardens opened to us by special arrangement and occasionally visits to nurseries. A visit to RHS Rosemoor is included in the programme each year because, as with all gardens, it changes with the seasons so no two visits are ever the same. Their visits sometimes start with lunch and usually finish with tea and cakes. Tips and expert knowledge are widely shared as are seeds and young plants surplus to a member's requirements at a lunch time soup and plant swap meeting at the beginning of the year. Marion's hospitality is also enjoyed at the yearly planning meetings.

Sharing Poetry 1 has now been one of our interest groups for four years and thank you to Linda Farmer who hosts it. Usually a theme is alternated with free choice which allows a wide range of styles. It also

means many previously unknown poets (unknown to the group, that is) are discovered and enjoyed. The number of poets read is very varied, ranging from Roald Dahl to Wordsworth and many in between with the beauty of the language always appreciated even if the poem is not fully understood.

Peggy Timms runs Poetry 2 in a similar way but with the added interest of members sometimes reading their own poetry.

Both the groups feel a benefit from the poems being read aloud - a very different experience from reading to yourself.

Poetry 2 has room for two more members.

Serendipity 1 continues to thrive under the friendly eye of Elizabeth Whattler. The group usually meets at Elizabeth's house but sometimes there are visits to places of interest and in the summer there is often a meeting at her beach hut on Crooklets Beach.

Serendipity 2 meet on the same afternoon each month so there is the opportunity of combining the groups when appropriate. A talk and guided walk along the canal was enjoyed by both groups and also a visit to Cowslip Workshops at Launceston.

Linda Bunker runs Serendipity 2 and she does have room for more members. Some of their outings are very adventurous ranging from Castle Hill House near Barnstaple to Trelissick and the King Harry Ferry down near Falmouth.

In September both groups combined again to visit Carole Vincent's garden and studio in Boscastle - Carole was the artist who made the Bude Light. She specialises in coloured concrete. The visit was organised by Lucille Opie, one of the members of Serendipity 2, in

Linda's absence.

Our latest group is Canasta run by Christine Davies and we wish her every success with this new enterprise. Christine would be happy to welcome a few more people.

Lastly I would like to say a big thank you to all your committee members who conspire to make my job quite a lot easier than I thought it would be way back in March. Two of our committee members resigned earlier this year - Pat Holdcroft (although she still does a grand job meeting and greeting) and Celia Sousek who ran out of space in her diary. Thanks to both of them for their time on the committee. We always

welcome new members on the committee and today we are delighted that Melda Wilkinson has offered to join us - the more new blood we can attract the better.

I echo Jo's words of last October - the more you put in the more you get out.

Thank you everyone.

SH Chairman

Bridge Group

We meet every Monday afternoon at 2.30pm at my house. Please feel welcome to join in.

Richard Evans.

Discussion One

21st October MMVIII

It is always quite a task to condense four or five hours of wide-ranging discussion into a few paragraphs for the Newsletter, but this quarter it is more daunting than usual because the last three months have seen us trying to tackle some enormous subjects!

Two votes in Parliament in July gave Lynn Green her "Dichotomy" for our August meeting. On one hand scientists had been given more scope to pursue stem cell

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Your Branch Executive Committee

Officers

Sylvia Henry – Chairman
Linda Bunker – Secretary
Vera Roper – Treasurer

Committee Members

Audrey Armitage
Brian Leonard
Jenny Leyland –
Membership Secretary
Lucille Opie
Elizabeth Whattler –
Groups Co-ordinator
Hilary Workman –
Speaker's Secretary
Melder Wilkinson

Co-opted:

Eric French – Editor
Mary Dobson
Mike Roper – Webmaster

Editorial Contact

Our Branch News is published quarterly. We try to release it at our monthly Open General Meetings in **November**, February, May and August.

Letters and articles for inclusion in the next News should reach the Editor by **Thursday 29th January 2009.**

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research, with the aim of prolonging and improving the quality of life for those suffering with serious injuries or debilitating illnesses like Alzheimer's etc., but on the other hand there was to be no reduction in the time limit for legal abortions, thus keeping the risk that the lives of some fetuses, which could possibly be viable at 22-24 weeks, could be destroyed. These two decisions, coming close to each other in time, sent out apparently opposing messages about the value of Life in the 21st Century.

We then tried to work out what we thought about these issues, and enjoyed some challenging and thought-provoking exchanges, even touching on the cosmic questions of "What is Life?" and "Why is Life?". Since these are problems that Man's greatest thinkers have never been able to answer conclusively, I am sure it will not surprise you to learn that we didn't even come close!

Andrea Surgeoner has done numerous Art Appreciation Courses, so it was natural for her to choose "What Price Art?" as our topic for September. It seems that money has always been the power behind the brush. All through history patrons have been essential for budding (or successful) artists, and have been influential in setting fashion trends in painting. Before the advent of photography the artist's talent was the only means by which likenesses could be recorded, but many rich people used the huge sizes of their painted portraits as a means of displaying their wealth.

Although technology has advanced, Art is still used in this way, though actually putting a value on it is an entirely different matter. As in the case of property, a painting is worth what someone is

prepared to pay for it. Fashions in Art change over the years, and consequently so do the price tags, but even today artists (like Damien Hurst) need patrons or promoters (like Saatchi) in order to make big money.

After a worldwide discussion encompassing thoughts about many different painters' styles we came back home and finished on a personal level. We agreed that, since none of us had the sort of wealth required to purchase works of art as fashion statements, our best guide when buying pictures would be "I know what I like", since it would be for our personal enjoyment only.

Sylvia Henry took the lead in October, directing our thoughts towards our global responsibility for planet pollution and climate change. (I told you that we'd been ambitious this quarter!) With the world being such an interactive place, everybody should really accept some responsibility for the state of our planet, but is it realistic to think that we can have any influence over the way in which emergent industrial nations, like China, deal with their rubbish? Is there anything we can do, or is global warming so far advanced that we are powerless to halt or reverse it? Perhaps all that we can achieve will be to slow down the changes for the sake of our children and grandchildren?

If floods, famine, disease and disaster are inevitable they will probably result in a reduction of the world population (which may be no bad thing). The human race might even be wiped out. Because Man has such a high idea of his own importance he does not like to contemplate his total demise, but the earth managed for millions of years without us, and it probably could do so again!

Returning to our starting point, we acknowledged that it seemed not fashionable to take responsibility for anything these days. Time was when a politician or other public figure would resign as a matter of honour immediately there was any hint of doubtful dealings, but this rarely happens today. Far more time tends to be spent suing the owner of a tree because little Johnny fell from its branches than in teaching the youngster how to be responsible for his own actions. This lack of responsibility seems coupled with a lack of respect by many for their own and other people's property. Somehow this seems to be a by-product of the throwaway society and credit card culture in which we live, and no-one was sure how (or whether) it can be turned around.

On this rather sad note it was time to go home, but we are already looking forward to our future meetings, in particular the one in December when we shall look at life more light-heartedly as we try to decide what is "The Invention the World Would Have Been Better Off Without". Watch this space!

Jo Arnold

Discussion Group 2

Currently suspended, seeking a new leader/host. Please contact Liz Whattler, Groups Co-ordinator if you would like to know more.

Canasta?

Christine Davies in Marhamchurch has started a Canasta Group. Please contact **Christine**.

Cinema Group

This group has closed, but an informal group of friends have arranged cinema-going parties to visit Holsworthy Memorial Hall Cinema Sessions.

Marilyn Daly

Craft Miniatures

31st July MMVIII

We go under the name of Holsworthy Miniatures for the purposes of exhibiting and advertising for new members.

We meet in Holsworthy on the first Thursday afternoon of every month at 1.00p.m. until around 4.00p.m. If you would like to know more please contact **June Cann**.

Enjoying Music

Meet monthly, 2nd Tuesday at 14:00. For further information please contact **Iwan Davies**

Gardening group

6th August 2008

When ten of us visited Ellis Nursery & Garden in Polyphant, near Launceston, we were made very welcome by Tim & Sue Ellis. The continuous drizzle didn't dampen our spirits!

Tim guided us on a very interesting tour of the nursery then the garden, his methods of propagation, growing, planting & care. He understands plants completely, working along with nature rather than using 'high tec' methods available today.

The one acre garden is laid out with winding paths taking you through several 'themed' gardens full of complimentary perennials, bulbs, ferns & shrubs. The living Willow winding archway, extending for many yards, is really amazing. The large informal pond, full of Roach, Tench & Goldfish (Tim thinks the latter's eggs arrived, unwanted, on some aquatic plants). These fish all arrived at the surface in response to Tim's

fishfood treat!

The White garden is a restful haven with seats & a small formal pond in the centre, full of so many different plants with white flowers (pinky white, creamy white etc.) or like the new Euphorbia Silver Swan, whitish silvery leaves.

Ellis nursery specialises in Euphorbias & has applied for recognition as having the national collection.

Tim is in the process of developing a new feature, a bog garden. He has dug a well & plans to have a rill running from the large pond.

We ended our visit in the tea room with cream teas & fabulous cakes!

I got the strong impression that the group would be happy to visit again next year (perhaps in a different season).

Marion Hall

1st October 2008

Nine of us met up at Pinsla Gardens & Nursery, Cardinham, near Bodmin. This is a most delightful two acres of interesting and imaginative mixed planting on the edge of the woods. The owners, Claire & Mark Woodbine have lived & gardened at Pinsla for twenty six years, and over that time have developed areas of woodland, orchard, cottage garden, jungle, shrubberies, pools, bamboo, alpines & much more, all interspersed with evidence of the owners creativity & inventiveness. The maturity of the garden is shown in the density & varying height of the planting, which makes for a mysterious & fascinating journey around the winding paths, with something new to admire at every turn.

On a windy & showery day we were lucky with the weather & were able to listen to Claire telling us about the development of the gardens while we sat outside on her

terrace. Of course, many of us bought plants to remind us of the day, and we ended a most enjoyable afternoon with tea, cake & chat inside Claire's delightful old cottage.

A visit to Pinsla is much recommended.

Pam Watson.

5th November 2008

I somehow managed to cram seventeen of us into the dining room at Agan Chy for our yearly planning meeting. This included two new members.

We had a very productive meeting with plenty of varied ideas for the '09 program.

As it was a sunny afternoon, following refreshments, everyone explored my autumn garden which has much late colour (flowers, leaves & stems). There's also plenty thriving in the vegetable plot. The two free range chickens (great suppliers of eggs & manure) were very friendly with the ulterior motive of receiving treats!

The program will be available by Dec. either from me (**01840 230678**) or on our U3A website. Group members will automatically receive one from me.

Next meeting is on Wed. Dec.3rd. 'Gardener's Question Time' at Cottage Farm, Jacobstow at 2.00pm.

Please contact **Marion Hall** for further info.

History of Art

31st July MMVIII

Meet first Thursday monthly at 2pm. Please contact **Carolyn Merrett**.

Philosophy

Meet twice monthly, 2nd and 3rd Wednesdays at 14:00. Meetings are already at maximum membership, but for further information please contact **Gill**

PLAY READING30th October MMVIII

After our summer break in August, we read "**HAY FEVER**" by Noel Coward. This was an amusing and erudite play by the master of wit and observation. The play opens in the house of the Bliss family who are ultra-Bohemian and the time is approximately 1925. Judith is a retired actress, who thinks, literally, that "all the world is a stage". Her husband, David, is a novelist and their children, Simon and Sorel, are artistically inclined and, like their parents, are self-centred and often bad-mannered. One Saturday, they all casually announce that they have invited guests for the weekend. Each Bliss is furious and determines to cold-shoulder all but his/her own invited guest. When these aforementioned guests arrive, they suffer an uncomfortable tea and then, after dinner they are subjected to having to play a word game which only the family understands. The evening is capped by the histrionic display by the whole family which succeeds in sending their terrified guests back to the railway station to catch the first train the following morning.

The play was first produced at the Ambassadors Theatre, London on 8th June, 1925 with Marie Tempest playing Judith Bliss and W. Graham Browne playing David Bliss.

The next play was also a comedy, "**MOVE OVER MRS. MARKHAM**" by Ray Cooney which was first produced at the Richmond Theatre on 21st July, 1969 and subsequently at the Palace Theatre Westcliff with Angela Browne and William Franklyn in the cast. A further

production opened in the West End on 17th March 1971 at the Vaudeville Theatre, London with an equally famous cast, including Moira Lister, Trevor Bannister, Lana Morris and Cicely Courtneidge.

The action of the play takes place in a very elegant top floor flat in London. Joanna and Philip Markham are having the flat decorated by Alistair Spenlow, who rather fancies the au pair, Sylvie and arranges to meet her later in the flat. Philip is a publisher who seems to conduct a lot of his meetings in the evenings and in hotel rooms with his "secretary", Miss Wilkinson. Unbeknown to him his wife invites Olive Harriet Smythe, a famous author who has left her previous publisher owing to his lascivious lifestyle, round to the flat that evening to discuss taking over the publication of her books. At the same time, Joanna's friend Linda wants to meet her lover, Walter Pangbourne, in Joanna's flat as the latter explains that both she and Philip will be out all evening. Linda leaves a page of a love letter, by mistake, tucked down behind a cushion on the sofa and which is read by Philip, who thinks his wife is having an affair. Of course, the evening turns into a total disaster with no-one going out and each character taking on the others' names, so that Miss Harriet Smythe will think that they are the soul of discretion and with the highest of morals. The term farce was made for this play with characters going in and out of rooms and forgetting who they are supposed to be, not to mention double entendres. It would be very funny to see on the stage and I wondered if it had not been produced for some time as it was exhausting to read, let alone take part in it. You certainly need to be fit to be an

actor in this play and to do both a matinee and an evening performance would be extremely strenuous - but great fun.

Mary Dobson.**Scrabble 1**

Meet twice monthly, 2nd and 4th Tuesday at 19:00.

Contact Gill Gilkes.

Scrabble 230th October MMVIII

Meets twice monthly, 1st and 3rd Fridays at 2.00pm

Richard and I missed a few Fridays during the summer, (I know but what else can we call it? Well, not here anyway!) due to visiting family and friends, Jazz Week and a Bowls tour. I did manage to play a game during the Bowls tour as we were kept inside by a morning of torrential rain (Richard made up a Bridge four). It was strange playing with new (albeit very nice) people but I should have sorted out the rules before we started. Two-letter words were frowned upon. Foreign sounding words and guesses were not allowed and there was no dictionary in the hotel.

15th August

Linda and I played with Mary's sister-in-law, Andrea, but she may well not want to come again as Linda and I played in our usual (chatty but competitive) fashion. I won the first and Linda won the second but we played only these two games while the other table played three in the same time. Andrea said our games were slow because we were talking too much!

(There was a quote from Gyles Brandreth in an article on Scrabble in Woman's Weekly recently stating that he rarely plays these days as he wants to have fun and chatter, which annoys people. Well, he'd fit in very well with our Scrabble

Group.)

We had to shuffle the seating around a bit before we started as Linda likes to sit facing the sea view and Andrea suffers with a bad back.

While I went to find a notepad Linda and Andrea drew for the person to start the game and (funnily enough) I won. I found it very difficult to get started as I seemed to have forgotten the alphabet since I last played (some six weeks earlier).

Nearing the end of our first game I needed just nine points from the three letters left on my rack to beat Linda and managed to win the game by going out with GIE (and no, I didn't know what it meant).

It is worth recording here that Linda intentionally opened up a triple word score at one point.

Emily was very pleased to score 47 points from SQUITS (once again, we weren't missing Ros) but unexpectedly allowed Kate to use all her seven letters to make PARTICLE and score 89. Mary (and Andrea) had to leave early so we were all trying to help Kate put her last letter down on the board and so finish the game. Linda proved to be the quickest.

Richard had returned from his bowls match by then (unfortunately lost) so Emily, Kate, Linda and Richard carried on playing while I took Jess out for her walk. I was surprised to see that they were still playing when I got back and in fact they had started a second game that didn't finish until 6.30pm!

Kate was the highest scorer of the afternoon with 271.

Quotes:

'I don't like sitting next to Linda'.

'I can't say this game has been a pleasure'.

New words:

cay, culm, doo, euoi (to be remembered by empty

umbrellas open inwards - according to Kate), gie.

5th September

(Extracts from Linda's notes of the conversation around the board)

'I've got eight.' 'You're in the lead.' - it was the first round!

'You know puberty?' 'Well, yes, but it was a long time ago.' 'Can you spell it puberty?'

'No, it's puberty.' 'Well then, I want nothing to do with it!'

'You've used my Q three times.'

'Can I have footages?' 'Yes.' 'Oh good, I've got a seven letter word on a triple!'

'Look, I helped you.' 'Yes, you gave me pox.'

'I get very confused when you turn the board round to face me.'

New words:

prase, spitz

19th September

A glorious, warm, sunny afternoon. I even opened the patio doors.

I thought there were going to be just four of us but Jen turned up unexpectedly and we decided to play five on one table as she had time for only one game. When we have five players we take an extra 25 random tiles from another bag and not knowing what these tiles are adds to the tension of the game. It also takes longer for each turn to come around which can lead to a certain amount of nail biting. At the end of the first game Linda had a seven-letter word on her rack that would enable her to go out with a score of 83 and win the game by a handsome margin. Although she was on tenterhooks for what seemed an agonisingly long time, none of us went in 'her place' and she was able to put CHEATING on the board and go out. Phew!

The next two games were unremarkable or it may be that as I was suffering the after effects of a sneezing, wheezing, coughing, cold, it was all I could do to concentrate on the

game in hand. Fortunately, I kept my germs to myself.

Linda was the highest scorer with 269 (helped by cheating - see above).

Quotes:

'Who put film there?' 'My fondue was going there.'

'Can I have ciao?' (Yes I can!)

New Words

doona, gest, jiz, quag, siri, tiar, trape

3rd October

An unexpectedly bitterly cold day but the room was warmed by the sun streaming through the now firmly closed patio doors.

I made several attempts to photograph my first rack of letters and the board but failed miserably. It's more difficult than I thought and I'll need to practise so as not to irritate my fellow players. Even though we had eight people playing in the same room there's not much to report. Kate was disappointed with the low score of one word of six letters and Richard tried to go down and across in one go but that's about it.

I picked up five of the same vowel after my first turn and didn't manage to get rid of them all until my last. I even picked up another one of the same and an additional four different vowels during the game. It was most frustrating!

Linda was the highest scorer of the afternoon with 271.

Quotes

None!

New Words

beni, exode, genet, gur, japer, quight, rean, sweed, tori

17th October

Sorry to say that even after a few practice sessions I was singularly unsuccessful in taking clear photos of a rack and a board, let alone a game in progress. I don't think my little digital camera (which Richard very generously gave me after he had bought himself a new one) is up to the job. I haven't

even succeeded in getting write ups of individual afternoons onto the Group Reports section of our web site as I had so foolishly promised.

Perhaps it's just as well as this turned out to be my most disastrous afternoon of playing Scrabble ever. I hardly had any consonants on my racks during the whole afternoon. Although in one game I did pick up a J (worth 8 points), my highest scoring tiles were worth only four points and I didn't have many of those. I even missed a go to change my tiles (not something I've done before and won't do again) but it was a wasted effort as I picked out the same number of vowels that I had put in! I had to leave the room for a moment.

Ros, on the other hand, had an absolutely marvellous afternoon. She played really well and deserved to win all three of the games we played. Mary didn't do too badly either even though she missed the last game as she has to dash off early for choir practice.

Linda would have won all three of the games she played but for the fact that Jen went out with a seven letter word, scoring 75 points and gaining an extra 32 points from her opponents.

After Ros had left, I joined Emily, Linda and Richard and we had a short but enjoyable game which Linda won (again!).

Jen was the highest scorer of the afternoon with 291.

Quotes

(I'm not getting many quotes now as my fellow players are on their guard)

'Mize, no, but you can have miz.' (Someone being too helpful.)

'I don't care what it means!'

'I haven't got a flow at the moment.'

New Words

aret, hond, jawed, miz, mzee, mzungo, neafe, tway

Sue Evans.

Serendipity 1

17th April MMVIII

Since our successful display at the Parkhouse meeting last year Serendipity has continued to grow and Serendipity 2 is now well under way.

Elizabeth Whattler

Serendipity 2

31st July MMVIII

If you are interested in joining us, call me

Linda Bunker.

Sharing Poetry One

24th January MMVIII

Meet once a month - 4th Thursday at 10.30am. Please contact Linda Farmer for further information.

Sharing Poetry Two.

8th November MMVIII

October 2008

We currently have eight members. We welcomed to our October session Linda Savory who completes our group.

At one meeting "Free choice", we share poems which have a special appeal for us. We also talk about the poets concerned, often with personal anecdotes which influenced us - always interesting. On alternate months we share a theme. And hearing a poem read aloud is so different - to us so much more significant than reading to ourselves. Twice a year members are invited to bring one of their own compositions.

At our October meeting three of us did just that. The themes couldn't have been more different and I think we were all surprised and delighted at the talent and imagination which this generated. I hope that people will feel inspired to keep going - and who knows, one day perhaps there could be a book of Bude U3A members' poems!

Lucille Opie, well known in

Bude U3A for her interest and untiring work on behalf of the Bude Canal Regeneration Project brought the following, a fascinating account in verse of the canal's story - up to the present day.

"The Past, Present and Future of our Unique Bude Canal".

Our Canal, unique as it is locked to the sea

Was opened in eighteen twenty three.

For two miles it meanders to the inclined plane,

A feat of engineering the Victorians rightly claim.

Navigable only to Marhamchurch today

There's beauty and wildlife enough on display

For locals and visitors, and when time for leisure

Boating, fishing and walking give much pleasure.

Stand on the beach and watch the mighty Atlantic

Smash against the Breakwater, with waves gigantic.

It has mastered the sea for near two hundred years

To give shelter to ships and calm mariners' fears

Admire the construction of the massive sea lock,

Watch the gates open that allow ships to dock.

Vessels can be admitted of forty tons or more

And have rudders as long as ten feet at their core.

Think of all those who had the vision to start,

Think of the men who, over years played their part.

Smeaton, Edyvean. Leach; - Fulton and Green too

Were the engineers responsible to name but a few.

Those men had the innovative engineering skills

Needed to open a waterway to the hills

With locks'n inclined planes of inspirational design

That would leave the sea level
far behind.

Think also of the men who had
to sweat and toil
To dig miles of trench and
redistribute the soil.
Skilled workers were needed so
navvies were sought
To work in gangs. Five
hundred were brought.
They then had to construct and
follow to a man
The drawings set down on the
engineers' plan.
There were many problems and
hold ups throughout
And several times, of its
success there was some doubt.

Celebrations were held when
the work was finished
Though the original vision to
the Tamar had vanished.
Fertiliser to temper the acid
soils was sought, so.
Sand, limestone and other
goods were brought,
Loaded on barges and taken to
Marhamchurch
Filled to the gunnels they would
dangerously lurch.
A weight of five tons could be
pulled by one horse
That could pull the barge with
ease along the canal course.

At Hele wharf the cargo was
transferred yet again
To tub boats with wheels to
surmount the inclined plane.
From the top, the barges
continued their journey
Thro' Virworthy, Sutcombe,
Milton Damerall'n Thornbury.
When the railway came in
eighteen ninety eight
The company closed, no more
carrying of freight.
There was a slow decline for a
hundred years,
Erosion had set in and great
were the fears.

Many were conscious of its
uniqueness and potential,
To regenerate and maintain was

their duty and essential,
Not just for themselves and the
rising tourist trade
But for future generations,
efforts should be made!
Then enthusiasts and local
supporters too
Met to discuss, to see what they
could do.
North Cornwall District
Council funding sought,
Three and a half million was
enough - it was thought!

Has taken ten years (and more
millions) but the end is in sight,
The future of the canal is
looking very bright.
The workshops, the cobbles and
the Barkhouse too
Fit together on the wharf like a
well worn shoe.
The Interpretation room is
progressing on the ground
And an education programme
for students has been found.
The excellent Tourist Centre at
the Crescent has details
Of organised walks along the
prodigious canal trails.

Come, - meander to the marshes
and drowse for dragonflies,
Find the flora `n fauna, birds
and butterflies.
Watch the defiant ducks, and
graceful, gliding swans
That nest among the reeds in
what we call the pond!
As you wander t'wards Rodds
Bridge you'll find perfect
peace,
The wonders of nature, they just
never seem to cease.
To Hele wharf and beyond the
canal has been enhanced,
You'll be amazed, and keep
pausing, to gaze - entranced.

Thank you **Lucille**.
So, never a dull moment. One
thing we do know is that there
will be plenty to share - and to
talk about.

Peggy Timms

Singing for Fun

11th August MMVIII
2nd and 4th Fridays, 2.30 p.m.
Our emphasis is on "fun" as
much as "singing", so if you
think you might like to join us
please contact **Ros Dolphin**

Theatre - "Far From the Madding Crowd"

30th October MMVIII
In September we saw a really
good production of "**Far from
the Madding Crowd**" by
Thomas Hardy at the Northcott
Theatre, Exeter. We hadn't been
to the theatre since its
refurbishment last year and they
have made quite a few
improvements, not least in the
coffee shop, bar and restaurant
upstairs. The play was
performed by the English
Touring Theatre and they made
a superb job of making us
imagine harvesting the corn and
the subsequent fire which
destroys the haystacks in a
storm. The physical scenes were
almost choreographed as the
characters dashed here and
there with buckets and tools and
somehow they set a trough/well
into the stage which served for
washing, sheep dipping and the
well for quenching the fire.
Thomas Hardy isn't everyone's
cup of tea as his stories nearly
always end in tragedy and/or
unrequited love, but we felt this
was a production well worth
seeing.
For those who don't know the
story, the heroine, Bathsheba
Everdene inherits her father's
farm and she finds herself
playing mistress in a man's
world. She is pursued by three
eligible bachelors; the faithful
and reliable shepherd Gabriel
Oak, the confirmed bachelor
and landowner William
Boldwood whose "head is
turned" when he receives a
valentine card (unsigned of
course, but from Bathsheba,

who was persuaded to send it as a joke), and Sergeant Troy who is in love with Fanny, but who on her wedding day goes to the wrong church and Sergeant Troy leaves in disgust at being humiliated. Bathsheba's high spirits and subsequent headlong love affair with Troy lead her into a secret marriage with him and Mr. Boldwood's life, having imagined that she might say 'yes' to his proposal, ends in tragedy, as does Bathsheba's marriage. The faithful Gabriel Oak gets the girl in the end, but you are left not entirely convinced they will be happy. Not a barrel of laughs you may say, but a very moving play.

Theatre - "Beauty and the Beast"

In October we went to see the Birmingham Royal Ballet's production of "Beauty and the Beast". The choreography was by David Bintley and the music by a Canadian from Winnipeg, Glenn Buhr. The sets were really spectacular. The castle rooms were suitably gothic and very ornate with huge old mirrors half covered in ivy and similar creeping plants, which could be reversed to become the forest. Sometimes the set was gloomy and dark when the story was unfolding and then beautifully lit with a golden light when the Beast held a ball, turning again to a cold, silver and chilly feeling when the Beauty asks to leave and the Beast is bereft.

No-one seems to know where the story of Beauty and the Beast comes from, but the ballet opened with the Prince, tall, handsome, vain and cruel, hunting in the forest with his friends. They corner a vixen and are about to kill her when a woodsman shields her with his cloak and thereby hides his pet from the hunters. So incensed is the woodsman by the behaviour of the Prince and the others that

he turns them into the Beast and creatures of the forest and his vixen turns into a "wild girl" to keep an eye on them. Meanwhile, a wealthy merchantman with three daughters is seen to have the bailiffs removing furniture from his house because the ship bearing his goods has failed to return to harbour and he has fallen on hard times.

However, the ship does return and later, the merchantman is seen dragging a chest containing his treasure back home through the forest, but he gets lost. He takes shelter in an old castle where a table is set with food and wine which, unbeknown to him is drugged and he subsequently falls asleep. When he wakes up the next morning, he remembers the promise he made to daughters when he asked them what they would like him to bring home for them. One wanted jewellery, another clothes and the youngest, a rose. On leaving the castle, he picks a rose from a rambler growing round the door and immediately the Beast appears and threatens to kill him. To save his life, the father asks what he might do to redeem himself and the Beast asks the merchant to return with his youngest daughter, which he, reluctantly, does.

Belle, the youngest and most dutiful daughter, agrees to save her father's life and goes to the castle, where the Beast is very attentive and grants her every wish - apart from her freedom. At a ball the Beast gives for the creatures of the forest, he falls on one knee and asks Belle to marry him. She says she cannot because she is pining for her father and does not love the Beast. He lets her return to her family, but says she must return before the rose her father picked dies.

The scene changes again and we are back at the merchant's house, where a feast is in progress and to which suitors to the daughters have been invited. One, aptly called "Cochon", is seen eating, literally, like a pig and Belle, disillusioned by the scene before her and appalled by her sisters, realises that she loves the Beast and returns to the castle. The Beast is dying, as is the rose, and Belle reaches him not a moment too soon. On kissing him, he is returned to human form with his friends, and he and Belle live happily ever after. The woodsman and his vixen are happy with their work and disappear again into the forest. A thoroughly enjoyable afternoon was had by all. MD

Theatre - "Carousel"

5th November MMVIII



Wow! What a wonderfully nostalgic three hours the U3A theatre group had at the Plymouth Theatre Royal on the 1st of November watching Rogers & Hammerstein's "Carousel", which was melodious, moving, merry & at times genuinely philosophical. Perhaps the main attraction, playing the part of Nettie Fowler was Lesley Garrett, well known as an opera singer. Lesley didn't disappoint, however it has to be said that all the soloists were superb as was the acting & the singing of the

whole cast. And as for the stage management, the technological age of the new millennium has made stage scenes & scene changing amazing! Gone are the separate scenes with curtains drawn whilst audiences wait, listening to the banging & clattering behind stage! Enormous buildings drop from the heights so slickly & smoothly one is immediately transported to a different place & time. The production team under their director Lindsay Posner were to be applauded as was the orchestra. The musical director was Davis Firman.

Most people will remember with nostalgia shows like Oklahoma, produced in 1943. That marked the beginning of the most successful creative partnership in Broadway musical history – that of Richard Rogers & Oscar Hammerstein II. The idea of the carousel is embedded deep in our cultural consciousness. Its history is fascinating in itself, stretching back over some 1500 years. Suffice to say here however, that public demand for carousels increased greatly in the 2nd half of the 19th & throughout the 20th century, the rides being accompanied with music, mainly organ.

Carousel, the 2nd great collaboration between Rogers & Hammerstein was based on the Hungarian classic play "Lilliom" by Ferenc Molnár that was set in Budapest. Molnár had refused Gershwin & Puccini permission to use it to make an opera or musical. He wanted it to be remembered as his play, not as someone else's opera. The storyline was very depressing as the hero was killed & descended into hell. Too pessimistic for a musical, but when the Theatre Guild of New York suggested the play to

them, Hammerstein redefined the story. He took the genre to deeper waters than ever before, daring to kill off the hero half way through, and even though the plot doesn't shrink from exposing the tough realities of life he gives messages of hope with songs like "You'll never walk alone" and the wonderful soliloquy of the hero "My boy Bill". He even allowed Billy Bigelow to redeem himself & ascend into heaven in the final scene.

Molnár approved the first run through & the musical opened in New York on 9th April 1945 at the Majestic Theatre, right opposite the St. James's Theatre where Oklahoma was still enjoying its phenomenally successful run. One critic commented, 'Rogers & Hammerstein have become their own worst competitors!' The show reached London in 1950 & the film, which is probably what most of our U3A members remember, came out in 1956.

The National Theatre's revival in the 1990's proved its enduring popularity & Carousel remains a firm favourite still & although we are now able to see performances on cinema & TV screens there is nothing that satisfies us or entertains us as well as - 'Live Theatre'!

Lucille Opie

FUTURE THEATRE TRIPS

The Welsh National Opera is on tour in March 2009 and during the week 3rd – 7th March they are performing "The Marriage of Figaro" by Mozart, "The Elixir of Love" by Donizetti and "Salome" by Handel. These are all evening performances and although we usually go to matinees, I was wondering how many people would be interested in going to one of the above? Do let me know.

Mary Dobson.

Walking Group

31st July MMVIII

We continue walking on the First and Third Tuesdays of every month.

It is important to telephone **Sally** or **Angie** to make sure of meeting and departure times.

Why not sample a walk in 2008/9 - we do not gallop along and like to stop and look at the scenery.

Digital Switchover

Together with Digital Outreach we aim to circulate information concerning the digital switchover next year to groups and individuals who are eligible for the Switchover Help Scheme and those who help and support eligible people.

We will be offering training on the scheme for volunteers and workers with support groups and organisations and distributing leaflets giving information on the Switchover and the Switchover Help Scheme.

The Switchover Help Scheme has been set up to help eligible older and disabled people to make the change to digital on one of their TV sets.

They are eligible if they are aged 75 or over, get or could get, disability living allowance, attendance or constant attendance allowance or mobility supplement, or if they are registered blind or partially sighted.

For a one-off payment of £40, they will be offered easy-to-use Freeview equipment to convert one television set, installation of that equipment, a demonstration of how it works and someone to call for help while they are getting used to it. If it's needed to make the new equipment work, the Help Scheme will fit a new aerial where they can.

This service is free for people

who are eligible and also receive pension credit, income support or income based jobseekers allowance.

Between November and next spring every eligible person in the ITV West Country region will get a letter and an application pack from the Switchover Help Scheme. They will receive their pack in plenty of time to get help before switchover.

This options pack will invite people to apply for the help available. It sets out the standard offer which is available for £40 or free, as well as offering a range of other ways to go digital with the Help Scheme.

The standard offer is for an easy-to-use Freeview set top box to convert one TV set. It can be delivered to the eligible person's home, or they can choose to have it fully installed. Eligible people unable to receive TV through an aerial after switchover will be offered a freesat satellite system instead.

If you would like further information or have any questions on the Switchover Help Scheme, the training or circulation of information please contact me via e-mail, nigel@ageconcerncornwall.org.uk or telephone **01872 266388**.

Nigel Newberry
Digital Outreach Project Co-ordinator
Age Concern Cornwall and The Isles of Scilly.

www.budeu3a.co.uk

Please try the above address and let us know what you think of your website?

The editor would be delighted to receive e-mail or snail mail with your comments about this News, your adventures with your group, your part in our Monthly Open Meetings or about the Web Site.

Editor

North Devon Link - Marine Environment

30th October MMVIII

Lucille Opie, Hilary Workman and I spent Monday, 13th October in Filleigh Village Hall with about 167 other U3A members and friends learning about the marine environment in the 21st century. The National Chairman, Jean Goodeve was there, as was Fran Elkin, Regional Chairman and Paula Ferris of Coast Watch. We settled down after a welcoming cup of coffee to hear the first speaker, Dr. Jeff Ridley who is a Climate Scientist working at the Meteorological Office, Exeter. His talk was entitled "Melting Ice, Sea Level Rise and the South West". He said he was called the "Ice Man" as this was his speciality. The rise in sea level is about 3 metres per year and it is rising faster in the Indonesian/Indian region where about 50 million people are at risk in the islands in the short term and where a quarter of a billion people will be at risk around this area by the year 3000. Statistics show sea levels have been rising slowly for the past 100 years and in England, the Thames barrier would not be sufficient to hold back floods with its current structure. CO2 remains in the atmosphere for approximately 100 years, although if we didn't have any greenhouse gases, methane in particular, the temperature of the earth would be -18C. The earth is still "taking back" its shape since the Ice Age and 30 GPS satellites in space monitor the changes to the nearest mm. Happily the South West is not so much at risk (perhaps Weston-Super-Mare and Plymouth being the exceptions) from the melting glaciers as say, Holland or Denmark. Food for thought!

The second lecture was by Dr.

Richard Kirby, a Royal Society University Research Fellow, Marine Biological Association, Plymouth. This lecture, "Studying the Plankton and the Effects of Climate", was about the creatures which live at the bottom of the sea which underpin the whole of the food chain. He named and showed slides of plankton, (both phyto- and zoological) – (did you know it was the Greek word for "drifter"?) of various varieties (why do the smallest creatures have the longest and most complicated names)? One of the most interesting pieces of information Dr. Kirby mentioned was the apparatus designed by Alistair Hendy in 1986 which, in effect, is a large box with a filter in it to catch a sample of plankton and anything else in the sea which is floating at the same level. He said that Brittany Ferries regularly trawl these "boxes" behind their boats in the Channel at a depth of approximately 7 metres and there is a similar survey in the North Atlantic and they hope to get one under way in the Pacific. He talked about the complicated food chain of pipe fish, cod larvae, jelly fish, not to mention the marine bird life and how the sea needs to be between 4-6 degrees to trigger the reproductive cycle down in the depths. A very scientific lecture and I think Dr. Kirby hoped we were a lot brighter than we thought we were!

After lunch, Dr. Andrew Turner, Reader in Aquatic Geochemistry, School of Earth, Ocean and Environmental Sciences, Plymouth talked to us about Pollution and started with the oldest of sea-going activities, that of painting boats with anti-fouling paint. About 4,000 species colonise the hull of a boat (oysters, mussels, corals, etc.) and this anti-

fouling substance contains mercury, arsenic, copper, polymers, plastic and various other toxins and can cause the change in sex of some organisms. The manufacturers have been very active in making this substance less toxic and it is now possible to buy anti-fouling paint which is biologically safe. When we think of pollution, we think of the things we can see, mainly plastic bags, fish nets and all the other detritus found either floating in the sea or left on the beach, but old boats are also sunk or left in the water to rot. Public awareness is being raised and is essential if we are to keep the waters round our coasts clean and unpolluted.

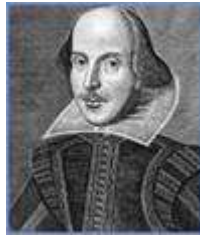
The last lecture was by Dr. Keith Hiscock, Associate Fellow, Marine Biological Association, Plymouth, about Lundy Island Marine Nature Reserve - 2008 Update. No pie charts and not many statistics here, but lovely slides of Lundy Island and pictures of divers discovering some of the 307 marine species of algae in Great Britain. Dr. Hiscock was pleased to have found the Sunset Cup Coral on Lundy and talked about the huge difference the No Take Zone on the west side of the island had had in regenerating both the flora and fauna in the area. There is a Draft Marine Bill 2008 going through which will make Lundy part of a marine conservation zone and, although there are no new laws, it is essentially a tidy-up bill.

We all enjoyed the day and left feeling we had been to university ourselves for few hours and admired the organisation and thought that had gone into the day and the hospitality we had enjoyed with the seven U3As which make up the Taw and N. Devon Link.

Mary Dobson

Coach Holiday to London 2009

12th October MMVIII



If you would like details of the U3A coach holiday to London in September or October next year with the option of seeing two Shakespeare plays at the Globe theatre please contact **Shirley Davis on 01872 - 270030** to have your name put on the interest list, or look at www.u3aroseland.org.uk Pick-up points will be Falmouth (8.00 am), The Norway Inn, Truro (8.30 am), Probus (8.40 am), St Austell, Liskeard, Saltash and Taunton Dene Services.

E-News

I am attempting to introduce "Autumn News" by e-mail with this issue. I invited on line members to subscribe (i.e. register, there is no fee payable). I shall confirm by e-mail that your subscriptions have been registered. Subscribers should receive the November "Autumn News" as an attachment to an e-mail, shortly before the November OGM. Your personal paper copy will be discontinued (saving trees).

If you wish to subscribe please e-mail

edbudeu3a@waitrose.com

state "Full News" or "Text Only News" or "Rich Text Format".

Full News - an attachment in the form of a PDF, will soon contain colour pictures / diagrams / automatic web-links and any other enhancements that I can insert. This is

recommended for Broadband Users only.

Text Only News - an attachment in the form of a PDF, will not contain pictures, may have automatic web-links, this is recommended for Dial-up connection users or users with limited download contracts.

Rich Text Format - an attachment in the form of basic text which may be read by almost all word processor software. This should be accessible by all subscribers as the simplest and most economically downloaded file.

No pictures and no frills!

Thank you all, best wishes

Eric (Editor)

WHICH WAY TO EDEN

21st August MMVIII

The next item is a poem inspired by Audrey Armitage's family holiday in the north of England, where she enjoyed the rather special ambience of a National Trust Holiday.

Thank you Audrey for sharing your pleasure with us.

It is printed as a whole page item, for, unlike Lucille's contribution (pages 9 and 10), it does not sit well in the narrow columns of our normal format.

WHICH WAY TO EDEN

Fast up the motorway past chimneys and factories, land scraped and ravaged, monument to mammon,
Great cooling towers - man must have electricity - light from his streets blotting out stars and moon,
On, up through farmlands, yellow on yellow; mile upon mile of oil-seed rape;
Mechanised farming, where are the green fields, cows chewing the cud? Where are the sheep?

Ah! Here in green byways, here are the sheep, and far rising hills, trees kissing the sky;
Quiet little homesteads by rippling streams, woodlands and hedgerows, wild flowers by the way
Goal of our journey, sturdy stone cottage, welcome and warm; tea tray waiting,
And down from the terrace, such lovely gardens, senses delighting, blackbird singing.

Scented blue phlox, frilly pink tulips, bright orange globe-flowers, shy valley lilies;
Smooth green lawns with daisy-lined borders, tall blue camassia, her virgin white sisters.
Wind the paths, climb the steps, see lily-pads floating; Carp, white, black and golden, weaving,
gliding,
Colour regardless, swimming together, in and out, round and round, a water world ballet.

Rockeries green with tropical ferns, tree fern hosting cheeky mimosa, Orange trees, grapefruit, food for the table, salads and herbs in orderly rows; Seats for relaxing in quiet meditation; friendly young gardeners and Lily the cat. Backdrop of hollies and tall pointed evergreens grouped and sculpted with artist's eye.

On from the gardens, down wooded valley, rustic bridge over untroubled water Flowing to lakeside, ducklings paddling; up through the trees, haunt of red squirrels, Massed rhododendrons, pale pink, red and purple, banks of azaleas, golden, sweet smelling, Embracing a courtyard: threshold of Crag-side, commanding the valley, a great house of stone.

Rugged, and named as befitting its setting, founded on wealth gained in shipyard and factory, Rich in its treasures, its art works and porcelains, portraits of huntsmen and ladies in finery: Museum of life in Victorian history with children in nursery, butler in pantry, Cook in her kitchen with long spit turning, paying its tribute to man's ingenuity.

Were it not for the drive of that captain in industry, the toil of our forebears, hard noisy days,
Crag-side might not be there; wild flowers there would be, with birds in the trees and fish in the streams;
But man, with his gifts and his urge to create, has ordered wild nature, fashioned rough clay,
With eye for its beauty and work of his hands, and vision of Eden for Adam today.
Pleasantly cool in the dawn of the morning; flowers lift their faces to noonday sun;
Peaceful to walk in the quiet of the evening – the gardens of Crag-side. Divine inspiration.

Back down the motorway, back to modernity, rushing and weaving, sat-navs directing
To where?
Busy man, where are you going? To the moon outer space, or into oblivion?
Stop! Man: look around you. Eden is here; in valleys and mountains with footprints non carbon
And up in those northlands, their wide-open space^ their islands and seabirds, their forests and flowers;
With land for the tilling, lakes for your fishing, fells for your walking and clear flowing beckes;
Trees for the squirrels, moors for the deer, sheep safely grazing

Eden is Here.

