



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

Bude & District

AUTUMN NEWSLETTER



Registered Charity No. 1110029

November 2009

www.budeu3a.co.uk

CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT

This is an abridged version of my very lengthy annual report - the full text of which you can read on our website. For those of you who were not at the AGM and who do not have access to a computer, I will try to ensure that the main points are covered.

The committee was voted for en bloc with a few changes (see back page) largely necessitated by members standing down and I gave thanks to those who did, namely Brian Leonard, Jenny Leyland and Melder Wilkinson. Vera Roper has served her three years as our treasurer so she relinquished that post but has stayed on the committee and will be our Groups' Co-ordinator in place of Elizabeth Whattler - who has done a fantastic job.

We were very fortunate to welcome two new people onto the committee who have filled the vacant posts - namely Val Kerr who will be our Treasurer and Ann Tizzard who will be our Membership Secretary.

We have had some great speakers this year at our monthly meetings thanks to Hilary Workman our speaker secretary. My personal favourite was, I think, the Hearing Dogs for the Deaf but there were many memorable ones - David Polgase and the Marsupials in the Victorian Rain Forest, Felicity Derry Thomas and her Operation Sunshine, Sound Waves South West with their intriguing music making lasers and a talk by the fund raiser for the Hospices in Cornwall.

Our Interest Groups now number 18 - and we are very grateful to all our Group Leaders who host these groups - it is a big commitment.

I have been so well supported by your committee - they keep me on the straight and narrow and make my job as chairman very easy - so thank you to them all - and I look forward to working with your new committee in the coming year.

Sylvia Henry

GROUPS' NEWS

A NEW GROUP?

There has been a suggestion that we form a new group to consider all things French. It might cover such things as French conversation, culture, wines and regions of France. We have a French speaker who has agreed to act as leader. Coincidentally, the recent Sources Magazine contains items of a very similar nature. If you are interested please contact me.

Vera Roper

GROUPS' REPORTS

BOOK CLUB meets monthly on the second Wednesday at 2.30pm

Hilary Workman

The six members able to attend the second meeting of this fledgling group decided to take full advantage of the September sunshine and quickly set up in Hilary's extremely pleasant garden. Hilary provided some background information on the author of our first allocated book ('Unless' by Carol Shields) prior to our discussions during which we reached a general consensus that the easy-going first person narrative belied the story's skilful construction and deeper issues raised. We went on to discuss some of these issues.

The box containing our second book was met with great anticipation and excitement although the almost simultaneous arrival of delicious

muffins and cake caused some distraction!

The second book was 'The House of Spirits' by Isabel Allende. This is an epic tale spanning four generations of the Trueba family in an un-named South American country. It mixes magic, fantasy and political history as the story becomes darker and more realistic. The group discussed the use of magical realism by South American authors.

As a complete contrast, our next book is 'Hold Tight' by Harlan Coben - an American thriller.

Anyone interested in joining us would be most welcome and should contact Hilary.

Val Kerr

BRIDGE meets weekly on Mondays at 2.00pm

Richard Evans

We do enjoy playing our Bridge on Monday afternoons and now refer to it as Kitchen Bridge to demonstrate the standard of play. To the uninitiated this is basic Bridge played with no frills in a relaxed social setting.

Due to recent circumstances, we now have two to three vacancies in the Group which I am anxious to fill. Even if you haven't played for some time and are rusty but want a bit of fun, please don't hesitate to contact me. In fact, I hope to hear from you soon.

Richard Evans

CANASTA usually meets on alternate Mondays at 2.30pm
Hazel Cook

We now meet in Ceres Court which is more central to Bude. If you enjoy playing cards in a sociable atmosphere, you would be very welcome to join us even if you have not played Canasta before. Just give me a call.

Hazel Cook

DISCUSSION meets monthly on the first Thursday at 10.30am

Jo Arnold

As many have discovered, if you become involved with U3A there soon aren't enough days in the week! The Theatre Group's day out to the Rougemont open air theatre clashed with our August Discussion and as we had several members who wanted to go to Exeter we cancelled our meeting. That means I have only two to report.

In September we considered Time. We can't exist without being aware of it, but for thousands of years its measurement was approximate, mainly by sun clocks - a stick in the ground with spaced marks to indicate how far the day had advanced. (Hence: "Time is but a passing shadow".)

As 20th century people we have all grown up with uniform time, but this concept is relatively new. In the mid 18th century John Harrison developed a marine chronometer to enable sailors at sea to establish

their longitude, but it wasn't until the advent of the railways a hundred years later that standard times were generally adopted on land.

Having looked at the history we turned our attention to how we feel about time. Most of our session was spent considering what we mean by "wasting time" and whether it is good or bad. Do we agree with Kipling that we should "fill the unforgiving minute with sixty seconds worth of distance run", or should we join W H Davies and "stand and stare" for a while? Personally I have always liked Bertrand Russell's assertion that "time you enjoy wasting is not wasted time".

In a lucid and informed introduction Pat Berkeley turned our attention to Northern Ireland and its future in October. Recently there have been more bombs and sectarian incidents which show that, in spite of the Good Friday Agreement, all the old bitterness is still smouldering just below the surface. Partition in the 1920's was thought to have solved The Problem, but it only disguised it. Following The Troubles Tony Blair claimed that there would be peace, but the fundamental question of Irish Unity remains.

In spite of wanting to believe that joint government from Stormont is the answer we had to agree that all "solutions" so far have only papered over the cracks. "One Island, One Country" remains the aim of the Republicans. If the bloodshed and feuds are ever to end it will take a

really great and courageous politician to hand back Ireland for all of the Irish to sort out together. This has to be the ultimate solution, but if this happened the United Kingdom would no longer exist. We would live in Great Britain (not all that great these days) -- and what if Scotland should win independence? The whole story of our islands could unravel -- but that topic will have to wait for another day!

Jo Arnold

ENJOYING MUSIC meets monthly on the second Tuesday at 2.00pm

Iwan Davies

The Group's number has remained constant at nine, although I could still squeeze in one or two more. The usual format has carried on, since it seems to work and be acceptable to the group: I play some discs, based loosely around a theme, talk a little about the pieces, and hope to encourage members to air their views – especially if they don't like what I play!

This year finding themes has been easy, as there are four important anniversaries in 2009 involving Purcell, Handel, Haydn and Mendelssohn.

Iwan Davies

GARDENING meets monthly on the first Wednesday

Marion Hall

August

We were very lucky with the weather when fourteen of us arrived at Ken-

Caro garden near Liskeard, the sun was shining! We were welcomed by Mr and Mrs Willcock who started the garden in 1970 when they were farming the land. Twenty years ago they began extending the garden (now four acres) into the meadow.

The design of wide winding grass paths and large island beds blends with beautiful distant views. The planting is very eye catching, colourful and contrasting, especially the many types and colours of the hydrangea family. The large pond has lovely water lilies attractive marginal plants including huge gunnera and striking ligularia.

We finished our visit in the summer house with tea, biscuits and fantastic views.

Marion Hall

September

We visited Tapeley Park in the pouring rain. It is a very imposing house in the Italian style high above the Torridge Estuary and overlooking Bideford and the Atlantic Ocean. What a shame it was such a dreadful day.

Nevertheless, ten members complete with riding macs, cagoules, umbrellas and wellies were (a) pleased to be offered cheap tickets because there were more than 5 of us and (b) dismayed to be told that the man who ran the tea rooms had just left (we had passed him on the drive) because there were no customers. However, when informed that 10 intrepid ladies had

arrived, bless 'im, he came back and opened up for us. What a result!

We had a very wet wander round the gardens - also largely laid out in the Italian manner - and what a beautiful place it would have been on a hot, dry, sunny day! Definitely worth another visit, so we are hopefully going to persuade Marion to add it to next year's programme.

The garden is laid out on terraces linked by steps, with topiary, herbaceous borders, statues, clipped yews and wonderful little Italianate buildings at the end of the vistas. There is a permaculture garden, a border designed by Carol Klein, an 18th century ice house, a walled kitchen garden full of fruit and vegetables and a lovely curved roofed green house home to a grape vine at one end. And so much more which we didn't see because we were cold and wet and gasping for a hot cup of tea.

Sylvia Henry

October

In spite of grey skies and pouring rain, ten of us braved the weather to go to one of our favourite, most visited gardens, RHS Rosemoor. We have visited during every season over the years. As on other occasions, we have an early start so we can treat ourselves to a delicious Rosemoor lunch.

We then walked around their gallery, admiring an amazing collection of paintings and in-depth descriptions of a huge number of apples. This

leading up to 'Apple Day' celebrated every year in October at Rosemoor.

In 1988, Lady Anne Berry donated her 8 acre garden and 32 acres of pastureland to the Royal Horticultural Society. The garden now covers 65 acres!

Rosemoor has many individual gardens, ie winter, spiral, square /hot, rose, herb, plantsman's, fruit and veg., stream, Mediterranean, stone, cherry and woodland. There are lovely walks passed beds and borders, a lake and stream, through an orchard, passed huge mature trees and many other features. In October there are still an amazing number of plants in bloom, their colours complimented by fantastic shades of red and yellow autumnal leaves on trees and shrubs.

If anything, the rain seemed to intensify colours, make bark and leaves more shiny and enhance some foliage with sparkling droplets.

We finished up in the shop, most of us being tempted to buy some attractive item or plant we really needed, before a treat of gorgeous cake and a cup of tea.

Marion Hall

Future meetings

Nov 4th. Planning for 2010. Share your ideas for next year. 2.00 pm. at Marion's.

Dec 2nd. Speaker 'Flowering plants for Oct and Nov'. 2.00 pm. at Sylvia's.

HISTORY OF ART meets monthly on the first Thursday at 2.00pm
Carolyn Merrett

This year group members have researched and discussed the paintings of Matisse and the Fauves (1898-1908) and Picasso and the Cubists (1907-1914).

The Fauves were an easier group to study, as their paintings are a more natural progression on from the Impressionist artists we looked at in 2008. Fauve artists explored the use of intense colours and varied brushstrokes, to give form to their compositions. Matisse, remained a Fauve painter, in terms of colour, to the end.

The Cubists were the greater challenge for the group to grapple with, partly because of their disparate work. Their focus in the analytical period (1909-1911) is form, and form and materials in their synthetic cubist period (1912-1914). We found ourselves looking at cubes, tubes, squares, triangles, all angles. Objects overlaying other objects, portraits and figure paintings distorted into multi-faceted views. The addition of sand, sawdust, wood and newspaper materials applied to the picture surface. Despite all of this, group members seemed to enjoy deciphering the paintings. Picasso remained a highly competitive artist, with his contemporaries, and great artists of the past, which shows in the variety of his work.

Of the fourteen Impressionist artists we studied in 2008, two were women with painting skills equal to

those of the male artists, Berthe Morisot and Mary Cassatt. In the Fauve and Cubist artist groups there are no women. We did look at two female artists in Paris at the time who painted Cubist works but finding information about them was difficult.

The effect of the First World War on some of the Fauves and Cubists is noticeable in a change in their use of colour and subject matter which becomes more sombre, with less detail in their composition. Many of the artists changed what and how they painted after the war.

In our 2009 "Fakes" Exhibition group members could draw or paint copies of Fauve and Cubist paintings to give us added insight into how the artists paintings evolved.

Next, we intend to explore the beginnings of Abstract art. The Abstract artists that we shall be looking at are those influenced by the Impressionists, Fauves and Cubists. This will give us continuity and the scope for greater comparison between the artists.

Carolyn Merrett

PHILOSOPHY – meets monthly on the third Wednesday at 2.00pm
Pat Berkeley

We all take it in turn to present a topic at the meeting. The last time I hosted the meeting, I decided to introduce the group to the Meditations of Marcus Aurelius, who was Emperor of Rome from AD 161 to his death in 180, during which time

he witnessed the gradual crumbling of the Roman frontiers, as well as famines and plagues. At this time he turned more and more to the study of Stoic philosophy, founded by Zeno of Cyprus (334 - 262BC), who lectured from his porch, known as a stoa, thus the name. Zeno held that virtue and happiness can only be obtained by submission to destiny and natural law and is characterised by impassivity, resignation and indifference to pleasure and pain. Life is a never ending sequence of birth, death, creation and destruction. The mind is a blank slate and all knowledge comes from sensory experience and is subjective. Wisdom is the greatest virtue, giving rise to bravery, self-restraint and justice. People are either totally good or totally evil. There are no grey areas.

This is an abridged version as the presentation and discussion usually last about an hour, but I hope this will give you some idea.

Kate Peardon

PLAY READING meets at the Falcon Hotel approx every two weeks on Mondays at 10.15am.

Mary Dobson

We have recently read a fascinating story of the conquest of Peru by Francisco Pizarro, the Spanish Commander of the Expedition, namely "The Royal Hunt of the Sun" by Peter Shaffer.

Apart from the early scenes in Spain and Panama, the play is set in the

Upper Province of the Inca Empire - what is now South Ecuador and North Western Peru. The time is June 1529 - August 1533 and the story is told by "old" Martin Ruiz, Pizarro's page, but through his eyes when he was "young" Martin and a devoted servant of Pizarro's. We had to imagine the settings for the play and all the Inca gold (masks, statues, medallions, treasure chamber) which the Spaniards had come to plunder and the music for the bird cries, freezing sounds for the Great Massacre and the Mime of the Great Ascent and death of the two main characters.

What was really interesting was the Incas' way of life before the invasion of Westerners, as told by Old Martin. The story of ruin and gold and how one hundred and sixty-seven men conquered an empire of twenty-four million. All that the Incas produced in the way of food and clothing and shelter was equally shared between the people, the young ones learned what to do from their elders and the elderly were looked after by the tribe in recognition of the hard work which they had done during their lifetime. The true meaning of communism, I imagine.

Atahualpha, the Sovereign Inca of Peru and Pizarro come to recognise that they are the respective leaders of their people and have no fear of death, in contrast to their tribesmen and soldiers. The greed and man's inhumanity to fellow man are brought out in the massacre of the Incas by the Spaniards, purely because they, the Incas in their

innocence and ignorance, see no need to convert to Catholicism as they have their own Sun God. The Spaniards use their "Christianity" as an excuse to destroy all opposition in their search for the gold and riches, which presumably if they did not die by their own hands or through disease, they shipped back to Spain.

A very powerful story (written in 1964) and one which would be well worth seeing if it ever came to the West Country.

Mary Dobson

SCRABBLE 1 meets on the second and fourth Tuesday of the month at 7.00pm.

If you have any queries regarding this Group while Gill is recovering in hospital, please contact Vera Roper.

SCRABBLE 2 meets on the first and third Friday of the month at 2.00pm

Sue Evans

7th August

Only five of us this afternoon so instead of splitting into three and two, I joined two tables together so that we could all play together. We may not play a 'five' again as we only managed to play two rather tortuous games in three hours and spent more time chatting than concentrating on the game. We did cover a lot of ground though, including such diverse topics as the Church, Sainsbury's, grandchildren, foot care and the best polish for our new coffee table. Jen won both

these games and was the highest scorer with 216. This turned out to be Emily's last game with us before she moved to be nearer her family.

Quote 'My brain has short-circuited'.

21st August

Six players today, split into two tables of three. Linda, Jen and I played together and as we all play the same sort of game, it was a long afternoon! Our two games took three and a half hours, during which time Ros, Mary and Kate played three games and Ros, Kate and Richard got halfway through a fourth, after Mary had left. Ros and Jen then left so Linda took over from Ros and I took over from Richard (who wanted to watch the test match). Kate stayed where she was.

Quotes

'We're passed desperate.'

'I had it and now I've lost it.'

'I can't think sideways.' (I think we've had that one before)

18th September

Only three of us to welcome Julia to her first game but then Mary arrived hot and bothered ten minutes later. She had inadvertently gone to Ros's even though she knew that Ros wasn't playing this afternoon (!).

We decided to play a three and a two. Jen won both games, Julia held her ground and I failed to shine. Linda won both her games and Mary even tried to help her win by an even bigger margin by adding her own score to Linda's.

Quote - 'I've got to strip, I'm too hot.'

2nd October

Mary, Ros and Richard played together and each managed to win one of the three games they played. Unfortunately, if there were any interesting quotes to be had, I'm afraid I missed them as I spent another challenging afternoon battling with racks of vowels and no 'big jobbies'.

Once Linda had checked that she was wearing the right glasses (see earlier reports), she went on to win the first two of our three games. Kate started the last game with a seven-letter word and kept her lead to the end. Luckily, Julia was not put off too much by my continually bypassing her as I turned the board directly to Linda and Kate showed great forbearance when Linda kept trying to help her count her scores.

Quotes

'It's no good asking for sympathy.'
'She has the worst cough I have ever seen.'

16th October

Another difficult afternoon for me as this time I hardly had a vowel all afternoon and, again, no 'big jobbies'. Mary started our game by dropping her tiles on the floor and then Linda advised her to make better use of her S but, despite this apparently poor start, Mary won the game.

Linda then got so bored waiting for me to decide what to do that she started advising the other table.

Richard didn't mind at all when she told him that if he added that T left on his rack to 'hurling' he would then have a seven-letter word enabling him to score 89 points. Of course, Jen and Ros were only too happy for him, especially as he went on to win the game.

Quotes

'I think all I can do is sex.'
'Have you lost your mojo?'

A lengthier report is on our website.
Sue Evans

SERENDIPITY 1 meets monthly on the fourth Wednesday at 2.00pm
Celia Sousek

The August meeting was yet again meant to be the Treasure Hunt, postponed from the June and July meetings because of bad weather but for the third month running the weather let us down and it was decided to abandon the Treasure Hunt until next Summer! (Our next meeting in November is a planning one during which we will eat this year's Treasure, just to make sure it doesn't go past its 'sell by' date). So the afternoon was again spent in Liz's kitchen drinking tea and the conversation ranged widely although a considerable time was spent discussing slugs and various ways of curbing their nocturnal munchings.

We decided not to have a meeting in September since quite a few of us were away on holiday.

In October we were introduced to Parchment work by Pat's friend, Jo, who is a member of the Marham-church Parchment group. The task was for all of us to produce a small decorated bookmark using parchment and embossing tools. She had kindly traced the design on to the pieces of parchment in advance so we just had to concentrate on the embossing. We were delighted that we all managed to produce quite satisfactory results, although it was agreed that Sylvia's was outstanding.

Jo showed us various beautiful items of parchment work that she had done herself, together with magazines and books to inspire us. It was a very enjoyable way to spend the afternoon.

Celia Sousek

SERENDIPITY 2 meets monthly on the fourth Wednesday at 2.00pm

Linda Bunker

As mentioned in my last report, we went dowsing at Penhallam Manor in July. The day had been damp in the morning, but turned out fair for our trip and Lucille had gone to a great deal of trouble giving us a plan of the Manor and suggested dowsing tasks. We had an extremely fascinating afternoon and I feel we could well be returning some time in the future.

In August, we felt it best not to travel too far as the roads would be busy with visitors and we decided to have an old fashioned "high tea". We all brought a plate, cucumber

sandwiches and old-fashioned lemonade and tea poured from bone china teapots.

We decided to dress for the occasion and even had hats, although these did not stay on for long. In fact a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon was had by all.



The September meeting was cancelled as I was away and we had a quiet discussion afternoon in October. We still have spaces for anyone interested in joining us. Please contact me.

Linda Bunker

SHARING POETRY 1 meets monthly on the fourth Thursday at 10.30am

Linda Farmer

We have been a bit low in numbers over the summer for reasons various, only four members present in August and three in September, but none the less have had good sessions, with more time for discussion than usual. We had free choice in August. September required a little more work, with everyone having to find up to four

poems by the same poet showing the breadth of his/her work.

Two to enjoy; to make you laugh, try 'Bitcherel' by Eleanor Brown (the word bitcherel based on doggerel); to make you weep, (well almost) 'Song In Space' by Adrian Mitchell.

Unbelievably, October saw us celebrate our fifth birthday. It was decided that we would revisit some of the many choices we had made during the last five years. Each member chose some favourite poems from those that they personally had read. It was a great meeting, (well they are all good meetings but this was fabulous). Some of the poetry was so well known and loved, that there was almost a Greek chorus reciting the words!

Linda Farmer

SHARING POETRY 2 meets monthly on the fourth Wednesday at 10.30am

Peggy Timms

With eight members we have our full quota - determined by the size of our living room! As always we find things to laugh about and we learn something about the lives of favourite poets. Sometimes meanings that are obscure to some of us at the first reading of a poem make more sense as we share perceptions, ideas and memories.

It's not unusual to hear of an incident from the past like the one Eve recounted at our October meeting. A young and unknown

Pam Ayres was in the audience when Eve read some of her own humorous poems to an audience of Service personnel and their families in Singapore half a century ago. Some time later a friend rang to say that she had heard Pam Ayres reciting "- on the wireless - Just the sort of funny poems you write Eve!" And to give you an example here's one she gave us.

The Poetry Group by Eve Tilsley

On Wednesday morning our group will meet,

We tiptoe in and take a seat.

Polite greetings are then heard

Before the first poetic word.

We put our pennies in to pay

For what's on offer for us today.

Coffee and tea and a biscuit or two.

"Just help yourselves dear ladies, do."

Books appear and we glance around
To see which poems have been found.

The when we all have quenched our thirst

We wait to see which lady's first,

She charms us all with words so sweet

Until her poem is complete.

We then discuss the poet's worth

And find his dates of death and birth.

We study carefully our text

In case our turn is coming next

We hear each offering till it's done,

Some are moving, some just fun.

We all enjoy the words we've brought

And some provoke a depth of thought.

But at the end I'd like to say

We do enjoy our poetry day.

The trouble is after every time

I speak to everyone in rhyme!

Also, our good wishes go to Lynda Savory who, after a recent operation on a foot, has to keep said foot (encased in a non-weight bearing cast) at an angle of 45 degrees until she is fitted with a boot. After that she will be able to walk with crutches and as she puts it "resume my social life!"

Peggy Timms

SINGING FOR FUN meets every second Friday in the month.

Ros Dolphin

We have only met for a couple of times since the summer break. We now have a new member which is great but we would love a few more especially a pianist as Jo does a wonderful job but she did join to sing and not to play.

We had an excellent session on Monday at Fairfield Residential home, the lounge was packed with residents and guests, and the guests so enjoyed themselves that they were asking when we would be visiting again. It is so lovely to see the residents singing away, not always in tune but with such enthusiasm.

We are now preparing for Christmas and only have a few more meetings before the Christmas Lunch. I would like to thank everyone in the group for coming to sing and also for the laughter which we share.

Ros Dolphin

THEATRE

Mary Dobson

We hadn't been to the theatre for a few weeks, either owing to lack of interest or holidays, or both, so I am squeezing into this edition our trip to the Theatre Royal to see a touring production of "Six Characters In Search of an Author" by Luigi Pirandello. I took along a newspaper review of the play and the gist was that this production is a "travesty" of the original. Nothing daunted, those of us who had read the play some months ago in Play Reading.

The original play, which was written in 1917, starts with the audience looking at an empty stage and the theatre company enters from the back and prepares for a rehearsal of Pirandello's "Mixing It Up". The Manager enters and calls for the second act. In the version we went to see, the play starts with a television crew filming a docu-drama about a young teenager, who is presumably terminally ill, being taken to "Dignitas" by his parents. As you can imagine, we knew we were not about to sit through a lot of comedy!

True to the original, in come six characters and the Father tells the TV crew that they are in search of an author to tell their story as their author unjustly denied them stage-life and its immortality. The seductive step-daughter continues : after what took place between her and Father, she cannot continue in

society and she cannot bear to witness her widowed Mother's anguish for her legitimate Son. Confused, the Manager asks how the Mother is a widow when Father is still alive (the Manager actually said, "I'm lost!" and the person in the next seat to mine said, "So am I!"). It appears that Father sent Mother off with a friend of his and he took her Son and the family fell into poverty and Step-daughter became a prostitute for a Mme. Pace.

The other two characters, Child and Boy will die (in a "fountain", or in this case, a fish pond and stabbed by a hypodermic needle) and meet tragedy respectively and the Step-daughter will flee (almost as good as "Midsummer Murders").

To cut a long and complicated story short, there are four deaths and what is real and what is imagined, as well as what was then and what is now, is left to the audience to decide. In other words, one person's perception of what he sees is different from another's.

In the coach coming home, we asked everyone to put their thoughts of the play on paper in one sentence and a précis of them follows..... "what was that all about?"....."if you are going to mess a play about, call it something different" "very thought provoking and promoted much discussion on the return journey".... "pretentious - the director had lost the plot, but well acted"...."it is a travesty, a pointless version of the writer's play. They destroyed the heart of it. Why does a director of

his intelligence (Richard Gould) do it?"...."weird strange unlikely characters behaving very oddly - where was the beginning, the middle and, thank God, it ended!""shocking, confusing, brilliantly imaginative" "a philosophical exercise: what is life about? The play challenges us to explore the meaning of 'time' and 'reality' - it made me want to read the original"...."disturbing"...."well done to the actors, but the storyline I found baffling"..."entirely unexpected and confusing, but a production that stretched the mind and led it off in many directions" "found the second part quite startling. Enjoyed extracts from Italian opera and they illuminated some of the contrasting strands of the play - worlds within worlds. What is 'real' in life"?

Mary Dobson

WALKING GROUP walks twice a month on the first and third Tuesdays meeting at Stratton car park at 1.15pm

Angie / Christine

We've done some interesting new walks in spite of the bad weather. Unfortunately, due to the aforementioned we were unable to do any long day walks.

But we did manage to do our sponsored walk for Water Aid. Some of us walked five miles from Bude to Duckpool. Two, Chris Simmons and Margaret Dickinson, walked ten miles from Bude to Crackington Haven and one, due to unforeseen circumstances walked

from Bude to Widemouth and back.



The distances walked correspond with distances some women have to walk to get clean water for the families, carrying up to 20kgs of water.

In all we raised £300 which contributed to a grand total of around £70,000 for help with clean water, sanitation and education in Africa. Thank you to all who sponsored us.

Angie Whitehurst

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this edition of our Newsletter. I look forward to receiving your contributions for the next one.

We would be pleased to know what you think about the newsletter, so please don't hesitate to get in touch with me or any member of the Committee, if you have any comments or suggestions.

The deadline for the next edition is the 31st January which gives me about two weeks to put it all together in time for printing and distribution at the Open Meeting in February. But I'll be happy to accept your contribution any time prior to that date.

Sue Evans

suemail65-news@yahoo.co.uk

Hilary met **PCSO Lisa Jasper** at a North Devon Link Community Event and she kindly agreed to write a piece for our newsletter.

Firstly, let me introduce myself, I am Police Community Support Officer Lisa Jasper of the Devon and Cornwall Constabulary.



I am part of the Neighbourhood Policing Team currently stationed at Bude, covering the areas of Bude, Stratton, Flexbury and Poughill, and I have been here now for a year.

In order to undertake the role as a PCSO we have to undergo 10 weeks of training which includes learning the laws, practical sessions, along with learning how to use the radios and force computer systems.

PCSOs in Bude work between the hours of 8:00am and 10:00pm, which also includes weekends. However, the Police Station at Bude is manned 24/7 by response Police Officers, and the front desk is open Monday to Friday between 9:00am and 5:00pm.

For those of you who aren't aware how to distinguish the difference between PCSOs and regular Police Officers, we wear blue epaulettes, rather than black, and we also have a blue checked band on our hats, whereas Police Officers have black checked bands.

My role as a PCSO means that I am a visible presence on the streets and work to increase public confidence. I

can often be seen walking around the town, and you may also have seen my colleague Stuart Baxter out and about on bicycle patrol. We deal with low level and anti-social crime, for example criminal damage. However, we can also be involved in gathering CCTV evidence, undertaking house to house enquiries and face to face contact with victims of crime, and we can also assist with neighbourhood disputes.

We have recently been designated powers to deal with dog fouling offences, and if a person is caught letting their dog foul, and not picking it up, we will be issuing an £80 fine. This is an issue which has been brought to our attention time and time again by the public, and rightly so, as a dog owner should be responsible enough to pick up after their dog.

I work closely with our partner agencies, i.e. housing, environmental health, the health service, and Cornwall Council as a whole. I also work to promote Neighbourhood Watch and would recommend anybody not part of a scheme, to consider joining up.

Should you wish to contact the Bude neighbourhood team, you can do so by telephone on 01288 357502, at e-mail on

[bude@devonandcornwall.pnn.police](mailto:bude@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk)

[.uk](http://www.bude@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk) or for those on the internet we are also now on Facebook as Bude NPT.

THE NEW COMMITTEE

Officers

Sylvia Henry

Chairman

Val Kerr

Linda Bunker

Minute Secretary/
Newsletter Team

Hilary Workman Speaker Secretary/
Vice Chair

Members

Anne Tizzard Membership Secretary
Vera Roper Groups Co-ordinator
Lucille Opie Press Reports
Co-ordinator
Sue Evans Newsletter Co-ordinator
Audrey Armitage
Pat Holdcroft

Co-opted

Mary Dobson
Sandra Malschuck
Mike Roper Website Editor
(romper@onetel.com)

New Members

We are very pleased to welcome new members Valerie Adams, Maureen Glew, Judy Johnson, Liz Jones, Ann Kennedy, Janet McCulley, Margaret Swayne, Eve Tilsey, Marie-Claude Woodward and Wendy Wright.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Please note that subs for 2009-10 are now due. Would Group Leaders please check that their members have renewed. The amount is now £8 for the year.

We currently have 71 paid-up members.

MONTHLY PROGRAMME

17th December

Christmas Lunch at the Falcon Hotel. £18.50 (to include tip) for two courses. Please contact Audrey to book your place.

21st January

Christine Pryce from Volunteer Cornwall will explain how this organisation operates across Cornwall and as a manager responsible for the development of volunteering in North Cornwall will give an overview of all aspects of volunteering and how it can change peoples lives.

18th February

Jill Lamède the Tintagel Story Teller, through folk tales old and new will create magical images and moods to enthral us all.

March 18th

Tim Dingle. Butterflies of Norfth Cornwall. Although not as large or striking as many tropical butterflies, many of our British ones are very beautiful. The variety of habitats in North Cornwall means that we have a good variety of butterflies, some of them nationally scarce. It is possible to see most of the approximately 40 species on the Cornish list

The complete Programme for 2010 is available on our website.

Please contact Hilary if you have any requests for speakers