

BUDE & DISTRICT BRANCH
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Special points of interest: -

Branch Annual General Meeting 23rd October 2008, Nomination Form Included here Page 12.

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Chairman's Notes

11th August MMVIII

The Summer, such as it is, seems to have caught up with and possibly overtaken me. It is always a very busy time for me with holiday accommodation to look after, gardening to do (between the showers... if you can call them showers) washing and ironing and visitors in the house. And so it goes on. I seem to be forever calling up various group leaders and apologising for my non appearance at their next meeting for one reason or another although I did manage Discussion this last week. I apparently also missed a very interesting Garden Group meeting and I haven't managed to attend the last two films and the film this week coming looks unlikely with more visitors to entertain. Although I sound as if I resent these friends and family descending on us I really don't get enough of them! So I am **not** complaining.

At the last meeting we had all our chairs laid out in a curve which I thought was a big improvement. I hope you all agree. We have also discussed (with thanks to Liz Whattler for this idea) having tables with chairs grouped around them and tea and coffee being served at the beginning of the meeting. This might make it friendlier for visitors and new members; also freeing the tea and coffee people so that they did not miss the question and answer session at the end of the talk. So watch

this space.....

There was a North Devon Link meeting on Friday 8th August but neither Linda nor I could go - indeed with the cost of fuel we decided that it was not absolutely necessary for us to attend every one - maybe every alternate meeting, They are only every two months so one of us will probably go to the next one - in the Autumn for goodness sake.... it is not far off!

Enjoy your newsletter, folks.

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

31st July MMVIII

Liz Whattler chose The Class System as the topic for our May meeting. Years ago a title indicated that a person was probably from an aristocratic family, and those with titles formed the Ruling Class. Everyone else was a worker or a peasant. Over the centuries a middle class developed from the better educated and better off, but the rich man was still in his castle and the poor man at his gate.

Now more and more "ordinary" people are being given titles, and membership of the House of Lords no longer depends upon heritage. Dividing lines have become blurred, so do we still have a class system? How is it defined?

This was an interesting morning

as we explored the way our Society functions, how the country runs, and what gives power and status to those who control our lives today. Although wealth and material possessions still have a lot to do with it, as well as the “old boy network” from certain schools, there is more opportunity for those with ambition to drive themselves upwards — Sir Alan Sugar featured in this conversation, “The Apprentice” TV Series having only just finished.

Although the criteria which define the Ruling Class have changed since the Middle Ages we concluded that we are still part of a Class system ~ whether we like it or not!

Life can get complicated in U3A for anyone who has a variety of interests. Several of our members are also keen supporters of the Theatre group, and an outing to “Blood Brothers” at Plymouth on the first Thursday of June (as well as family holidays, visitors and so forth) meant that our numbers would have been too low to be viable. Trying to find an alternative day in the month was too daunting, so we agreed to cancel our June meeting and meet again in July.

This gathering was one of the liveliest (and noisiest) meetings we have had! — just as well that I don't have any immediate neighbours at the moment!! Trish Parsons started us off. Her chosen theme was “The End of the World is Nigh — or is it?” There has been a welter of doom and gloom in the media over recent months. Do we take any notice? Do we believe it — or have we heard it all before? The imminent end of the world has been predicted by almost every generation since man walked upright. Many of the early prophecies sprang from natural disasters, like floods or

earthquakes, at times when man's understanding of science was in its infancy. More recently there have been those brave enough to predict an actual date for the end of the world — these have come and gone, and we are still here.

During the years of the Cold War it seemed possible that the earth and everyone on it would go out with a Big Bang from exploding nuclear weapons, but somehow this didn't happen either.

Now however we are realising that whatever we may feel about the causes and effects of climate change, the practical problem of feeding everyone is going to present the biggest challenge, so maybe we won't go out with a bang, but a whimper, as T S Eliot predicted. However we all felt that whatever man does to his own species, the earth will live on long after the human race has finished itself off.

From here we digressed (not unusual!) onto the question of whether, if we were affected by dementia or other debilitating illness, we would want to be kept alive for as long as possible, or would prefer to be helped to leave this world. Here opinion was divided, some wanting to hang on by any means available while others thought they might be prepared to “sign off” earlier. Somehow this moved to Crimes of Passion, and especially the incidents of murder where one of a couple who have been married for decades suddenly cracks and kills their partner. What could bring them to that point? We decided that it was quite probably a trivial incident that had happened once too often. Our discussion finished in gales of laughter as the married members of our group shared their thoughts on the likeliest incidents that could (if

they were so inclined) just tip them over into polishing their partners off in a moment of passion. It's more than **my** life is worth to give you any details, but we did agree that in the interests of peace and harmony everyone with a partner needs a shed (or the equivalent) to retreat to if the going gets sticky!

Jo Arnold

Discussion Group 2

13th April MMVIII

We are a fairly new group and our membership has increased from four members to nine. While getting to know each other our organisation has not been structured like Group 1 and we have tended to let the meetings flow by discussing any subject that members chose to introduce on the day. Now that our membership has grown this needs to change to enable all members present to contribute equally.

Jenny Leyland

Canasta?

Christine Davies in Marhamchurch is prepared to initiate a Canasta Group probably starting in the autumn. She is happy to hold morning, afternoon or evening sessions - to be decided by the members involved. Please contact **Christine**.

Cinema Group

24th January MMVIII

We have a Googlegroup emailing system, to communicate current information on a closed circuit. Those with no internet access can - with any luck - have the information passed on by a designated friend.

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.

Just to let you know our latest exploit. We have followed a beach theme this summer. Most

people have decorated beach huts, designed by my husband, and filled them in different ways.

One lady created a fishing hut with rods, nets, wellies etc. and a lobster pot on the verandah. Others made drop out boxes to display sand castles and other beach items. I made one for a friend's 7 year old grandson which went everywhere with him including school. He was delighted with the miniature deck chair, cricket set etc.

The group made rock pools, deck chairs, sticks of rock and ice creams. The display has grown so much we are going to have a layout day when we assemble it all for a photo session. This will be in the hut either in September or October. Not decided as yet as the hut is being repainted and possibly having the ceiling lowered. At present it has an apex to copy the style of a tent but this loses a lot of heat. Very artistic but not very practical in the light of rising fuel costs. If the work overruns we may finish up in my house in September.

We took some of the pieces to a craft show at the Memorial Hall in Holsworthy last Sunday and we had bits and pieces for sale as well as our usual display. The Lady Mayoress wanted to buy one of my huts. I was so surprised I couldn't think of a sensible price. From behind the table I could not even think what I had put in it. Eventually after some very flattering remarks I sold her some bits and bobs of miniatures and she went off saying "I have your phone number". I also created two beach shops, one for ices, drinks and rock, the other for beach toys, boards, kiss me quick hats and flip flops etc. Great fun to do and discuss with visitors to our table.

Altogether a great success. Now I have to plan a Winter/Christmas project!

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 telephone

June Cann.

Enjoying Music

Meet monthly, 2nd Tuesday at 14:00. For further information

Gardening Group

31st July MMVIII

Wed. 7th. May.

Twelve of us arrived at Bolts Quarry Farm, St. Breward, on a perfect spring day. It transpired that our visit was just four days before George & Jackie Greengrass's annual 'open garden' for 'Bluebell Sunday' and the bluebells were cooperating beautifully!

We had already had a taste of what was in store for us on our journey to the farm as every verge & hedgerow was covered in bluebells, pink campions & white stitchwort.

The funds raised on both these open days will add to funds for

1. the local silver band
2. the local gardening group &
3. the local village hall.

We parked at the edge of a large yard where horse riders practice & the local band march & play on bluebell Sunday.

Jackie gave us a brief talk about their purchase of then, a very rundown farm & house then the transformation they have achieved.

They then accompanied us around their property.

Our walk from the yard took us up & along a wide path which used to be a rail track years ago when the quarry was still functioning. Over a large area downhill towards a stream, hundreds of native trees have been planted. Further along the old quarry site like a small rugged amphitheatre has been cleared (the stones used elsewhere in the garden) & the

area grassed over. The view from this level is across moorland & eventually to the estuary at Wadebridge.

There are bluebells everywhere on this walk which now takes us down through the trees & along the little stream, back towards the house.

Up behind the house are several individual gardens, one a beautifully designed, natural looking 'rockery' using the massive rocks cleared from the quarry.

In spite of the fact that neither Jackie nor George had any experience of gardening when they arrived, they have achieved excellent arrangements with many interesting & beautiful plants.

Our visit concluded, with us sitting outside in the sun, being plied with delicious home made cakes & tea.

July 2nd '08

31st July MMVIII

In unseasonably cool, windy, & sometimes wet weather, eight of us arrived at Pencarrow house & garden near Bodmin.

We began our visit with lunch, and then met up with Sally Harvey who gave us a very interesting talk about the history of the house & garden. In 1844 the owner, Sir William Molesworth, changed the house design (it was originally a doomsday manor) & laid out the garden with features that exist today. The tiered Italian garden with a central fountain would have had flower beds but is now grassed over. On the eastern side of this garden is a long very attractive Rock garden. The hundreds of tons of rock came from Bodmin moor. There is an intriguing Grotto with a winding path which joins the lower path to a higher path above the grotto.

Our next experience was to follow the path of a large Labyrinth laid out on grassland. We walked the labyrinth in the

prescribed manner; "To the centre with palms down symbolising 'letting go' & from the centre with palms up indicating 'receiving'. At the finish, facing the centre, palms together in a prayerful end to our walk." Quite a spiritual experience.

Sir William Molesworth was responsible for planting many trees. He was particularly interested in conifers. After his death in 1855, his sister continued the planting. Apparently, a guest remarked about an Araucaria that "it would be a puzzle for a monkey", hence the common name Monkey puzzle tree!

There are also many beautiful mature deciduous trees, shrubs & herbaceous plants. There is a lake & an attractive water garden.

Sadly, the walled kitchen garden where we had hoped to pick soft fruit (as advertised), was closed due partly to recent enthusiastic picking but also the weather resulting in lower fruit production.

We met up at the tea room for refreshments, concluding a very enjoyable visit.

Future meetings.

Aug. 6th. Ellis nursery & garden, Polyphant nr. Launceston.

Sept. 3rd. Tresillian House garden, nr. Kestle Mill, Newquay.

Oct. 1st. Pinsla Garden & Nursery, Cardinham, nr. Bodmin.

Nov. 5th. Planning meeting for '09.

Dec. 3rd. 'Gardeners question time' Cottage farm, Jacobstow.

For further info. phone Marion Hall

History of Art

31st July MMVIII

BUDE & District U3A

Meet first Thursday monthly at 2pm.

For our August meeting members are "doing" their own "fakes" of Impressionist paintings. This is meant to be a fun exercise! Additionally, it will give us a greater understanding of what it was like to be an Impressionist painter and the complexities involved in creating masterpieces.

The influence of Japanese prints and objects d'art on the Impressionists, will be the focus at the September meeting before we move on to the Post Impressionists. This will not be goodbye to the Impressionists of the 19th century as Monet, Cezanne, Degas, Gauguin, Renoir, Seurat and Van Gogh developed their art in different directions to become part of the Post Impressionist Movement.

Our next journey into Post Impressionist paintings will include the two new giants of 20th century art, Matisse and Picasso. We shall explore their very different contribution to art which in part was stimulated by their friendship and rivalry.

Carolyn Merrett

Philosophy

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

Play Reading Group

31st July MMVIII

We have read quite an eclectic assortment of plays this summer, beginning with "DANDY DICK" by Arthur Wing Pinero. Pinero was born in London in 1855 and was intended to follow a career in law, but became an actor instead. According to Denys Blakelock, from whose introduction I am quoting, he

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Summer 2008

Your Branch Executive Committee

Officers

Sylvia Henry – Chairman

Linda Bunker – Secretary

Vera Roper – Treasurer

Committee Members

Audrey Armitage

Pat Holdcroft

Brian Leonard – Asst

Treasurer

Jenny Leyland –

Membership Secretary

Lucille Opie

Elizabeth Whattler –

Groups Co-ordinator

Hilary Workman –

Speaker's Secretary

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 30th October 2008.**

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was not a very good actor, but this must have stood Pinero in good stead when he applied himself to writing plays. Pinero was influenced by Ibsen in his serious dramas, "The Second Mrs. Tanqueray", "The Notorious Mrs. Ebbsmith", but excelled himself with comedy, comic situations and entertaining lines as was evident in "Dandy Dick". Three of his comedies were produced at the Royal Court Theatre under the management of John Clayton and Arthur Cecil. "The Magistrate" was the first in 1885, then "The Schoolmistress" in 1886 and finally "Dandy Dick" in 1887. Sir Arthur Pinero was given his title under the Asquith government and Bernard Shaw was known to have exerted his influence in bringing this about. "Dandy Dick" begins in an atmosphere of sober respectability and Victorian quiet. The Dean of St. Marvells is a widower with two daughters, Salome and Sheba, two rather silly and repressed girls who long for a bit of excitement and dancing. Very shortly, the peace of the deanery is to be sadly disturbed and we see the Dean sink deeper into innocent immorality from which he fortunately extricates himself before the final curtain. Salome and Sheba are invited to a dance by two vacuous hussars, who happened to be stationed nearby, Major Tarver and Mr. Darbey, and run up an enormous bill when they decide they need new dresses for the ball - both the ball and the bill are kept from the Dean. However, the Dean's sister, Georgiana Tidman, arrives to stay at the Deanery and things start to become livelier. Georgiana is a betting woman and well-known around the local race courses and Dandy Dick is, of course, a racehorse, whose winnings resolve the

Dean's desire for a repaired church roof, the girls' bill and a lot more fun besides.

The next play we read took some digesting! **"SIX CHARACTERS IN SEARCH OF AN AUTHOR -A Play in the Making"** by Luigi Pirandello begins by the audience entering the auditorium; the curtain is up and the stage is just as it would be during the daytime. There is no set and there are no wings; it is empty and in almost total darkness. This is in order that right from the very beginning the audience shall receive the impression of being present, not at a performance of a carefully rehearsed play, but at a performance of a play that suddenly happens. There are tables and chairs, the prompt box has been moved aside and a piano is almost hidden at the back. The foreman enters with his tool bag, he is dressed in overalls and he starts banging nails into two slats of wood. The stage manager rushes in from the direction of the dressing rooms and the play begins. None of the characters has a name, although there are two sets of "characters", the first being "the father", "the mother", "the stepdaughter", etc. and the "actors in the company" named "the producer", "the leading lady", "the leading man", etc. According to Pirandello's instructions he states that the play has neither acts nor scenes. Its performance will be interrupted twice; once (though the curtain will not be lowered) when "the producer" and the principal characters go away to write the script and the actors leave the stage, and a second time when the "man on the curtain" lets it fall by mistake. In this play a group of actors are rehearsing one of Pirandello's earlier plays when the six characters, conjured in an author's head without ever

reaching fruition on the page, invade the theatre and beg for their desperately unhappy family story to be told. The father visits his own stepdaughter when she is working as a prostitute, the mother is overwhelmed with grief and guilt and the children come to tragic ends. According to the Introduction by Frederick May, Pirandello extends the frontiers of drama by giving effective dramatic shape and emotionally significant utterance to metaphysical concepts, transforming ideas into cogent, living people who provoke our interest and compel our sympathy; they are in fact our secret lives made manifest. It is an ironic tragedy, the tragedy of man tormented by the enigma of personality, perplexed by the impossibility of arriving at truth, and for ever questioning the nature and purpose of existence ... and that man is, at the end and in the fullest sense, alone.

We realised very quickly that this would be seen at best in the theatre itself, rather than a group of us reading the lines in the Falcon coffee lounge, even though we might not even understand it fully then! However, this play (I read) has become a classic. It has endured, not because of any novelty of form, strikingly original though that form is, but because its vision of life is profound and entire and because it deals with the whole man alive. It seems Mr. Pirandello wanted his characters to be a blank canvas rather than characters with a personality and a plot to confine their thoughts rather than words put into their mouths.

Luigi Pirandello was born at Caos, Sicily, on 28th June, 1867. At the age of 19 after having worked for 3 months in the family sulphur business, he persuaded his father to allow him to study letters at the

University of Palermo, after which he went to the University in Rome in 1887. After an argument with his professor of Latin, he went to Bonn to lecture in Italian and then returned to Rome where he became a member of a prominent group of writers and artists. He became an exponent of the short story form, the best known of which was "The Late Mathias Pascal" (1904) and it was his first major statement of the theme of being and seeming. In 1894 he married Antonietta Portulano in obedience to his father's wishes and commercial interests. Three children were born and then came financial disaster which, following upon a severe illness brought on by the difficult birth of her last child, seriously affected his wife's mind. She became steadily more and more insane and jealous and in 1919 she entered a nursing home. In 1915 James Joyce first introduced Pirandello's work to English readers and after "Henry IV" he became famous throughout the world and gave up his academic work. In 1934 he was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature and on 10th December, 1936 he died suddenly in Rome. His last wish, which seems to be typical of the man, was that at his funeral the utmost simplicity should be observed - the hearse, the horse, the driver - nothing more.

Pirandello wrote some forty-three plays in Italian (and Sicilian); although I doubt that we will be reading any more! By chance, "Six Characters ..." is being revived at the Minerva Theatre, Chichester - to some acclaim. Charles Spencer, theatre Critic of the "Daily Telegraph" says, "...though the Italian dramatist's experiments with the concepts of truth and illusion, and his ability to

combine intellect with raw emotion, remain highly influential, the play itself is rarely revived. The dialogue has gathered dust, the theatrical folk he portrays belong to another age, and there are moments that seem floridly melodramatic". I'm still not convinced that this is a great play!

Lastly and with light relief, we read "**HOTEL PARADISO**" a splendid French farce by Georges Feydeau and Maurice Desvallieres. This was a straightforward play about the comic horrors that beset ordinary men and women in their determined pursuit of their follies and foibles. The characters include Madame Boniface, the imperious bully of a wife; Boniface, the timid husband with roving eye; Cot, the pompous architect neglectful of his pretty wife, etc. The central situation is a disreputable Paris hotel where all but one of the first act's characters meet. The down-trodden husband is offering consolation to the dissatisfied wife of his best friend. His friend has been sent by the sanitary authorities to investigate ghostly noises in the haunted room suggestive of a defective water tank. A country innocent, an acquaintance of both families, is trying to find cheap accommodation for a large family of daughters. A studious youth whose subject is Spinoza on Passion, arrives with the parlour maid, who shares his interest in the subject. The number of rooms and doors are barely equal to the strain of the complications that follow. This provides a wonderfully funny picture of bourgeois French life in Paris in 1910.

"Hotel Paradiso" was first presented in London at the Winter Garden Theatre on 2nd May, 1956 with Alec Guinness,

Martita Hunt, Irene Worth, Kenneth Williams and Billie Whitelaw among members of the cast.

We now have a bit of a breather in August and start again on 1st September.

Mary Dobson.

Scrabble 1

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

Contact Gill Gilkes

Scrabble 2

31st July MMVIII

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

I have changed the layout as I'm planning to send in regular bi-weekly reports for inclusion on our website together with photos of one or two individual games as they progress (we just need to sort out the best way of doing this). I'll collate the website reports for the Newsletter as usual.

2nd May

Kate was playing with Shirley and Mary and she won all three of their games - see 13th June below*. In that time, Richard, Linda and I only played two games and took so long between goes that we couldn't keep track of whose go it was. I managed to win both games as Richard had dreadful letters and Linda wasn't playing with her usual concentration. In fact, she very kindly handed me three triple word scores on a plate.

Quotes from the boards:

'This is really horrible today. I should have stayed at home.' (Richard had obviously forgotten where he lived!)

'I just haven't got the right letters.'

'I think I'll have to take a holiday.'

'Is that 'sex' Shirley? Yes, twice today.'

'You're on the wrong table for 'lust'.' (So we weren't missing

Ros!)

New (to us) words:

Dor, moog, treeman, vid.

16th May

Linda, Ros and I had a very interesting discussion on the pros and cons of elasticated waists. Ros told us a cautionary tale from her past, which I couldn't possibly repeat here (but don't let that stop you asking what happened to her skirt during Holy Communion). Mary was scoring but not winning so thought she could improve her chances by omitting one of Linda's scores (by mistake, of course, Mary). It made no difference as she still came last.

Linda was celebrating a seven letter word score of 81 but as she turned the board round for the next player she realised that she could have put it down elsewhere and made a score of 105. How annoying!

Quotes:

'It took me nearly ten minutes to come up with 'gas'.

New (to us) words:

Grue, moi, piu.

30th May

Linda and I played such a tight game that we played ourselves to a standstill. It had taken us two hours and we had only used half the board. By the end of the afternoon Kate, Ros and Mary had played five games and Linda and I had played one and a half. We're not going to play against each other again anytime soon.

I told Linda there was no such word as 'jor' but I was wrong so perhaps I inadvertently affected the end of the game. In my defence, I had probably lost all hope by then.

One of the words on Ros's rack was so rude that not even she could use it!

Ros, Kate and Mary played two games that finished with the same score of 531.

Quotes from the boards:

'No grumbles today!'

'I've lost an A.'

'Did it go down your cleavage?'

'This is a speed game so no thinking and no singing.'

New (to us) words:

Ene, flimp, hox, jor, kat, sog, teg, vele, yate

13th June (at Ros's – notes by Linda)

Mary had a senior moment and went to Sue's where the sight of a highchair and a pushchair in the garden reminded her that she should be at Ros's. She was not only fifteen minutes late but also stole my parking space whilst I went home to get a second Scrabble set! Her excuse was that she was tired because she hadn't been sleeping in her own bed! (Don't ask!)

Kate won all her five games.

*We'll have to stop her visits to her sister-in-law who just happens to be a Scrabble Champion!

Such are the ups and downs of the game that Emily went from winning one game spectacularly to picking out six vowels at the start of the next.

I picked out two blanks and one 'S' in my initial set of tiles and managed to get a seven letter word – 'wasting' – but then I should have done, shouldn't I?

New (to us) words:

Fiz, nonet (well, new to me as Mary and Ros knew this was to do with music).

20th June

Jen has not played for a few weeks as she has been heavily involved in her daughter's wedding arrangements but came back strongly to win the first game against Mary and me by nearly 100 points.

Emily has not played regularly either. Her family keep coming down to Bude and taking her away.

Kate, Linda and Richard played a marathon game lasting 90 minutes, which Richard won by just one point.

Quotes from the boards:

'Windsock? Not that I've got windsock but I do have airsock.'

'There are four ways of spelling meow. Oh, no, only two.'

'We have a long skinny board.'

'What did I say I wanted?'

New (to us) words:

Napa, nipa, pyknic, tither, twink.

4th July

Here's another ear story. Ros went to the hairdressers that morning and it wasn't only her hair that got cut! Blood everywhere but no reduction in the price.

Kate said she was opening up the board for Ros but Ros was not playing on her table (another senior moment in Scrabble 2!).

Linda put down 'vent' and scored 14, which allowed Mary to put down 'breeze' and scored 86.

Mary, Kate and Linda played a speed game, which took only 22 minutes from start to finish.

Kate couldn't find anywhere to put down her seven-letter word 'flasher'.

Linda was so keen to avoid giving up a triple word that she didn't notice another lurking nearby allowing me to score 57 and Kate 35. Thank you Linda. Ros was being Richard that day – complaining about the noise from the other table.

Quotes from the boards:

'I need a spare diddly-doo.'

'Tork? Or turk? Oh, no I haven't got an 'R''.

'I can't hear myself think!'

New (to us) words:

Ging, jeel, pye, tye.

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

What happens to time? It was six months ago that I wrote my last article for the newsletter and here we are half way through the year. We continue with the same members, although we have had some interest from potential members. As I said before, we would enjoy a few more to swell our group, so please give me a ring if you are interested.

Our monthly meetings over the past few months have been on excursions. As I said before, in January we enjoyed a canal walk with Chris Jewell and we were joined by members of Serendipity 1. We had an enjoyable morning and then had lunch in the new restaurant in the Castle. All round a great success. In fact for our meeting in June we arranged another walk with Chris only from Hobbacott Plain and the Plain Keeper's Cottage down to the Barge House at Helebridge. Another very enjoyable expedition, this time with refreshments at Whalesborough tea rooms. *See photos at*

www.budeu3a.co.uk

Click the "Group Reports" button and select Serendipity 2

We were very adventurous in April, visiting Trelissick Gardens and going via the King Harry Ferry. It was a truly beautiful day, we could not have wished for better weather and we had lunch in the tea rooms there before exploring this beautiful property. *See photos on the web.*

Again in May we ventured out to Castle Hill House, in the other direction to the previous month. *See photos on the web.*

This property is at Filleigh, near Barnstaple and South Molton. In total contradiction to the previous outing, the day was as wet as it could be and we had

the gardens to ourselves. However, the rain did not detract from the beauty of the place and we thoroughly enjoyed ourselves, despite the weather. We visited the local award winning inn for lunch.

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

Currently we have nine members, and thus have room for one more person, ten being the optimum number so that each person can read a couple of choices, also we are limited by the size of my house!

Linda Farmer

Sharing Poetry Two.

17th April MMVIII

We meet at my home on the fourth Wednesday of each month.

At our monthly meetings we alternate between free choice and a topic of special interest. We always find time to have a chat and a cuppa in true U3A fashion!

Peggy Timms

Singing For Fun

11th August MMVIII

2nd and 4th Fridays, 2.30 p.m.

We are currently having a Summer break, but plan to visit "our" Homes again in September — Fairfield on 1st and Red Gables on 5th. Our regular twice-monthly group meetings will start again on 26th September.

Our emphasis is on "fun" as much as "singing", so if you think you might like to join us please contact **Ros Dolphin.**

Jo Arnold

Theatre – "Blood Brothers"

31st July MMVIII

In June we went to the Queen's Theatre, Barnstaple to see "**BLOOD BROTHERS**" by Willy Russell. Several of our

members had seen it when it opened in London in 1988, but thought it was so good that a second viewing was in order. The musical told the moving story of twin brothers who had been separated at birth and grew up in different parts of Liverpool, one in the more affluent side and the other in the poorer side. Micky and his brother and sister were brought up by a single mother, Mrs. Johnson, whose husband had left home with a Marilyn Monroe look-alike. Edward, Micky's twin, had been "given away" to Mr. and Mrs. Lyons, who couldn't have children of their own. Each child was told by their mother that they couldn't play on the other side of town, but inevitably Micky and Edward met. Edward thought Micky was wonderful and could get away with anything and Micky wondered at Edward's good manner and smart clothes and wished he could have had the same opportunities. They were so different that they became good friends and swore to become blood brothers by cutting themselves and mixing their blood. They went their separate ways; Edward was sent to a good school and afterwards to university and eventually became a councillor. Micky, on the other hand, became a manual worker and married Linda, his long-term girlfriend, who was pregnant with his child. The story of how they got to know that they were, in fact, brothers and what happened at the end was dramatically told and sung by an excellent cast and atmospheric staging. Queen's Theatre has a very small stage area compared to modern theatres, but the different ways the boys were brought up was well imagined with minimal props. A recommended "go and see" if

you can.

Theatre – “Relatively Speaking”

The Theatre Royal Bath Productions presentation of the Alan Ayckbourn play “RELATIVELY SPEAKING” was a complete change, but a really funny one. Peter Bowles played Philip and Diane Fletcher his wife, Sheila, a fairly affluent couple who have a lovely house in the country. Greg, a young man with a very untidy and cramped flat in London, wants to marry his girlfriend Ginny, but she seems reluctant to introduce him to her parents so that Greg can ask Ginny's father for her hand in marriage. Suspicious phone calls and numerous bouquets of flowers and boxes of chocolates which keep arriving, plus an incriminating pair of bedroom slippers confirm his nagging doubts and he follows her down to Buckinghamshire, where she says she is going to see her parents. Philip and Sheila are enjoying a peaceful Sunday morning breakfast in the garden, when Greg's arrival quickly disturbs the rural idyll. Philip and Sheila aren't Ginny's parents and after a disjointed conversation, Philip thinks that Greg has designs on his wife, Sheila. Hilarious confusion reigns until almost all is revealed at the end, with a mischievous twist concerning those bedroom slippers. A very enjoyable afternoon was had by all.

If you would like to join the Theatre Group, please contact

Mary Dobson

Forthcoming Trips-Summer/Autumn 2008

31st July MMVIII

WEDNESDAY, 24TH SEPTEMBER

Northcott Theatre, Exeter

“FAR FROM THE MADDING CROWD”

(Price £24) Leaving Splash Car Park at 11am

SATURDAY, 18TH OCTOBER

Theatre Royal, Plymouth

“BEAUTY AND THE

Summer 2008

BEAST”

Birmingham Royal Ballet with music by Glenn Buhr and Choreographed by the Director David Bintley (Price t.b.a.)

Leaving Splash Car Park at 11:30am

SATURDAY, 1ST NOVEMBER

Dress Circle Theatre Royal, Plymouth

The Musical “CAROUSEL”

(Price t.b.a.) Leaving Splash Car Park at 12 noon

SATURDAY, 13TH DECEMBER

Stalls Theatre Royal, Plymouth

“CALENDAR GIRLS”

(With All Star Cast!) (Price t.b.a.) Leaving Splash Car Park at 12 noon

I had to take an executive decision about the November and December choices as I knew the good seats would be sold out very quickly and when I telephoned through my request for our U3A, the choice of seats for performances for the Thursday matinees left only the upper circle available in any number. If you would like me to put your name down for the above, please contact **Mary Dobson** as soon as possible

Walking Group

31st July MMVIII

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

On Tuesday 15th July the walking group drove down to Daymer Bay and walked the coastal path to Rock, caught the ferry over to Padstow and walked up to the war memorial for a picnic lunch. After lunch some walked on round the coast to Hawkers Cove whilst others browsed the shops in Padstow.

Our return took us across the golf course at St Enodoc to the little church where John Betjeman is buried and then back to our cars. A day which started out very misty and a bit wet, but eventually came (almost) good - a glimmer of sunshine at one point, but enjoyed by all.

It is important to telephone

18/08/2008 9:22 PM

Sally or Patricia to make sure of meeting and departure times.

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

The National Magazine – Postal Delivery Annual Membership Subscription

16th August MMVIII

The National Executive Committee prefer posting the magazine to members because it attracts more advertising (which keeps costs down) when they can give a figure to potential advertisers of how many copies are distributed in this way.

Therefore your committee have decided after much deliberation to arrange for the National Magazine to be posted to all our members. There are four copies per year and with three of them there is also another magazine called "Sources" which covers a different subject in depth each issue. The cost for the magazine to be posted will be £1.50 per year and we feel that this is very good value.

As you are aware the capitation fee to Head Office has increased by £1.00 for the coming year and your committee have decided to increase the local membership fee by 50p. This means that the amount you will be asked to pay on renewal of membership this year is £10.00 which is made up as follows - £3.50 capitation fee, £5.00 local membership and £1.50 for the posting of your magazine.

However there are two issues which need to be brought to your attention.

1. Head Office will need to be furnished with a list of members' addresses and post codes. This will need to be updated every quarter. and there may be people who do not wish their address to be on our data base. If your address changes

we will also need to be notified so that the data base is kept up to date.

2. We are aware that some people may not wish to receive the magazine because they do not read it or find reading it difficult. If any member does not wish to receive the magazine they will be reimbursed £1.50 by the treasurer at a later date and their name will be removed from the data base. The £1.50 will also be refunded to couples who only receive one copy of the magazine. The initial cost of the next two magazines being posted to you will be borne by the funds currently in our account. In other words, your name will be on the data base from the start unless you specifically request that it is not.

The data base has to be submitted to Head Office by 22nd September. Please will Group Leaders stress this point to members of their group in case they wish to opt out?

SH Chairman

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

Touching History

11th August MMVIII

“When last I was at Exeter, the mayor in courtesy show'd me the castle and call'd it Rugemont”.

Five hundred years passed.

Then, in August 2008, our Theatre Group members were part of the audience in the grounds of that very same castle, listening to those very words. Until that moment, as far as I was concerned, Shakespeare belonged to Stratford on Avon and London; I had never thought of him knowing much, if

anything, about the West Country. The possibility that he might actually have visited Rougemont Castle and even stood or walked where our feet trod that afternoon sent a tingle down my spine.

I was reminded of my visit to York Minster. Some years ago vast excavations were made in the foundations so that reinforcements could be put in place to stop the building collapsing. During this process the bases of the walls of the Norman Cathedral were found, as well as part of a Roman street remains of houses and the Forum. Although the Minster is staggeringly impressive above ground, it is the sensations I experienced when encountering the Normans and Romans underground that I shall always remember most vividly.

I expect many of you can recall similar occasions; times when you have suddenly felt amazingly close to people who centuries ago lived where you were standing at a particular moment.

Why is it, how is it, that sometimes we can feel closer to those who lived centuries ago than to our contemporaries?

Those with a matter-of-fact nature would no doubt observe that at least as far as England is concerned, the whole of it has been trodden by countless thousands for a couple of

millenia, so of course many people from past generations have probably stood wherever you happen to be. But that's not my point. What I think is strange is not that these "close encounters" happen, but that they happen relatively rarely, so that each one becomes an especially memorable occasion. Is it that we have become desensitised to the spirits of our ancestors, or is there something about that strange phenomenon called Time that requires certain factors to be in alignment before we can experience the powerful force of a timeslip?

Whatever the answer to these philosophical questions, we had a great afternoon at the Rougemont this year following Shakespeare's version of the life and death of Richard III. The

acting was of the same high standard that we have come to expect from the Northcott Theatre Company over the years. Some of us would claim that the Plantagenet king wasn't really as black as he was painted, but we have to remember that the Bard was writing during the reign of the Tudors, so it was more than his life was worth to tell it otherwise. I found it fascinating, though, that in the play Richard claims that the Princes in the Tower were illegitimate so could not succeed to the throne. In fact documentary evidence has recently been discovered that shows it was Edward IV (their father) who was conceived outside the Royal bed, so neither he nor his heirs had any regal rights. Maybe there was a rumour around at the time ... who knows?

Good weather added to our overall enjoyment and once again our sincere thanks go to Mary Dobson for arranging this trip (and indeed for her tireless efforts in organising all our theatre visits) with such cheerfulness and efficiency.

Jo Arnold

Thought for the Day:

Birthdays are good for you.

Statistics prove that people who have the most birthdays live the longest

**PRELIMINARY LIST OF OGM SPEAKERS
UNTIL November 2008**

<u>21st August</u>	Write your life story	Jacky Derham
<u>18th Sept</u>	Cornish families in fiction and in history	E.V.Thompson
<u>23rd October</u>	Annual General Meeting (Members and Invited Guests only)	
	Note this is the 4th Thursday of the month.	
<u>20th November</u>	Beekeeping	Alan Pedrick
<u>18th December</u>	Christmas Lunch at the Falcon Hotel (members only)	

Bude & District University of the Third Age

Nomination Form for the Branch Executive Committee 2008/9

The election of the Branch Executive Committee is scheduled for Thursday, 23rd October 2008 at the Annual General Meeting to be held in the Ivor Potter Hall at the Parkhouse Centre, BUDE.

Please note that this is the 4th Thursday of the month, breaking with normal sequence because the Ivor Potter Hall is not available on the 3rd Thursday.

Office	Nominee	Proposer	Second
Chairman			
Vice Chairman			
Secretary			
Treasurer			
Committee			
Committee			
Committee			
Committee			
Committee			
Committee			

Please complete the columns above, nominations will be accepted for all or any of the places on the committee, should there be an election for Officer (Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary or Treasurer), an unsuccessful nominee may also stand for subsequent office/committee election by personal declaration at the AGM.

Please ensure that you have your nominee(s) endorse this form, below, to signify their agreement to stand for election.

Please hand your completed nomination form to the Hon Sec or any member of the committee, as soon as possible, preferably no later than 9th October to facilitate the preparation of ballot papers should there be a contest for committee/officer seats.