



Bude & District

SUMMER NEWSLETTER



Registered Charity No. 1110029

August 2009

www.budeu3a.co.uk

CHAIRMAN'S NEWS

Welcome to the second of our new format newsletters.

We are now well and truly in the middle of summer with visitors flocking to our beautiful coast line. We have even had a few sunny days for them to enjoy albeit alternating with quite a few heavy showers. (So the grass seems to shoot up by at least an inch every night while we have our backs turned.)

I always feel a bit swamped by visitors at this time of year and this year has certainly been no exception but we are so lucky to live in such a great part of the country it is no surprise we are sometimes a bit inundated with friends and family.

If you were unable to attend the last open meeting you will find inside some important information for you as members and also for people attending interest groups.

At the back of this newsletter you will also find the nomination form for committee members.

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| <p>We still desperately need the following officers:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">TreasurerMembership Secretary (we may have already found a Membership Secretary) |
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If you feel you could help in any way please contact me or a member of your committee.

Sylvia Henry

SUBSCRIPTION INCREASE

Your committee is proposing to increase subscriptions to £10.00 from September 2010.

As you are aware, the subscription this September is going to be £8.00 (an increase of £1.00) because of the increased capitation fee which we pay to the U3A head office.

The proposed increase for 2010 is necessary for a number of reasons as set out below and will be voted on at the next AGM in October.

The committee agreed to substantially increase the amount we pay to visiting speakers in line with other U3A groups. Interest on deposit money has been substantially reduced because of the current financial crisis.

The hall is now more expensive.

INTEREST GROUPS' NEWS

CHARGES. The committee has agreed that from the date of this newsletter the 50p charge made each time you attend a group meeting will all go to our U3A local funds. We hope that each group member will also give their host an additional 20p towards the cost of providing refreshments.

Please note that Group Leaders do not have to pay the 50p (or the 20p for that matter!).

A REMINDER. Unless it is an emergency, please remember that it is only courteous to let your Group Leader know at least 48 hours before the meeting if you are not going to be able to attend.

NEW GROUPS. In response to various conversations about the difficulty of getting into a local Book Group, I have set up a **U3A Book Group** through the Library. At the last OGM nine members expressed an interest in joining, and it is hoped to hold an exploratory first meeting during August to decide on time and venue (and Group Leader). Ten or possibly twelve would be the maximum for one group. If any other members are interested it might be possible for you to join this group or set up a second group. Please ring me if you are interested.

Several people also expressed a wish to learn **T'ai Chi**. I have put out feelers, but have not found an exponent within our Branch yet. However, I did notice on page 27 of the Cornwall Adult Education Brochure, Courses for Autumn 2009–2010, that there is to be a T'ai Chi workshop on Saturday 21st November at the Parkhouse Centre (for more information call 01288 356629). In the absence of any other help this may be a good place for those interested to start.

There is also apparently a 'gentle exercise' class at the Parkhouse Centre on Tuesday mornings which I believe is free of charge for the over 60s!

Elizabeth Whattler

INTEREST GROUPS' REPORTS

BRIDGE meets every Monday at 2.00pm.

Richard Evans

It is with great sadness that we have to inform you that **Shirley Hildick-Smith** unexpectedly passed away on the 1st June following a short illness.

Shirley was 80 years old when she came to our Groups' Open Meeting in 2007 with her daughter, who thought it would be a good idea for her mother to become a member of the U3A. We were pleased to welcome her into the Bridge Group and she started playing with us in the June of that year. She settled in well and enjoyed the Bridge so, when she found out that Sue hosted a Scrabble Group, she was keen to join that as well.

She lived with her daughter and son-in-law in a granny annex on their smallholding in Jacobstow and was occasionally unable to come because she was minding the animals for them or had lent her son-in-law her little blue jeep, as it had four wheel drive and could cope with the winter weather better.

Shirley was a thoroughly nice person who was well liked by all the members of Bridge and Scrabble 2 and we do miss her quiet presence at our afternoons.

Richard Evans

CANASTA meets on alternate Mondays at 2.30pm in Marhamchurch.

Christine Davies

Do you enjoy playing cards in a sociable atmosphere? If so you would be very welcome to join us.

CRAFT MINIATURES meets on the first Thursday of the month at 1.00pm to 4.00pm in Holsworthy.

June Cann

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

DISCUSSION meets on the first Thursday of the month at 10.30am.

Jo Arnold

In May Vicky Wilson shared something that has been concerning her for some time -- as the long-term aim of Muslims is to bring the whole world under the rule of Islam, how would we feel if they took over this Country? It was difficult to imagine what we see as an essentially Middle Eastern regime being imposed on our Western way of living. Although we know that the mainstream of Islam is non-violent and non-confrontational we certainly did not fancy the idea. We wanted to think that it couldn't happen in Britain, but were left with a worrying doubt . . . could it ? . . . would it ?

Our June meeting coincided with the height of the furore over MPs' abuse of the Expenses System, so this was where we focused our attention. After looking at some of the worst cases we agreed that the whole thing needed to be sorted out, though not by MPs. We recognised that although a hundred or so had clearly been milking the System, there are over 630 sitting members and the vast majority had only claimed reasonable sums and for good reasons. What really upset us was that most of those who had announced that they would be standing down at the General Election were nevertheless planning to hang on until then. This would enable them to claim tens of thousands more in Resettlement Allowances. We felt that the worst offenders

should have been sacked immediately and "sent down" with nothing.

We agreed that assistance for representatives with constituencies far-distant from Westminster is essential, but any scheme needs to be overseen by an independent body. We favoured the suggestion of a hostel close to the Commons for MPs unable to commute, and also that they should be paid a basic personal salary, leaving secretarial and administration costs to be dealt with centrally. Being realistic we were not hopeful that any changes introduced would make much difference.

In July Lynn Green brought our thoughts nearer home with Age, Ageing and Ageism. Everyone agreed that Senior Moments seem to increase as we get older and can be highly embarrassing, although often amusing with hindsight.

Age itself is just a number; what matters is how we think and how we act. More important than actual age is the way in which the older generation is treated by others. Do we value them the way they should be valued? GPs are still known to comment - "It's your age" when presented with certain symptoms, and age may sometimes exclude an elderly person from access to effective but expensive drugs. Does it help to be feisty, or is there a danger that as we age we may be classed as eccentric and have our wishes over-ridden by professionals? We decided that we need to stand up for ourselves and help others to do so too.

Although nothing can change the fact that old age comes at a bad time maybe belonging to U3A will keep us active and alert for longer!

Jo Arnold

ENJOYING MUSIC meets once a month 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. We have enjoyed listening to

works of all four and I always try to include some less familiar music. Now I need to put my thinking cap on to produce more themes, and am always grateful for suggestions from the group.

Iwan Davies

GARDENING GROUP meets once a month on the first Wednesday.

Marion Hall

May. North Cornwall was clothed in thick mist but grey skies had brightened when Mackenzie (Mack) Bell met 14 of us at Northwood Water gardens. He gave an interesting talk in their small gallery about the history of the house and gardens. The house was built in 1730 originally to process china clay. The gardens have been planted and landscaped for 30 years. Mack, Justin and Nick have made their own changes over the past 5 years.

Mack accompanied us round the garden pointing out developments they have made. The many water features are delightful and everywhere there are artistic combinations of colours and shapes in varied planting. The whole garden is very wildlife friendly and attracts many birds and mammals.

They are also developing a vegetable garden and hope to become self sufficient.

We ended a very enjoyable visit in the gallery, surrounded by Mack's beautiful landscape paintings while eating delicious homemade cake with our tea.

June. On a perfect, warm, sunny afternoon, Mark Sworn welcomed eighteen of us to Kings Cottage Nursery and Garden. Set in the beautiful Southole valley, near Hartland.

Less than ten years ago, Mark and his wife bought the (then) run-down cottage with some overgrown land. They now have over three acres. A lovely terraced garden with fantastic views, a sloping walk down through woodland with a tumbling stream, areas of grass with mowed paths, leaving 'islands' of prolific wild flowers and grasses. The nursery area has unobtrusive poly tunnels and a huge space dedicated to the display of plants for sale. A profusion of choice, all of which may be seen growing in the garden. It is very clear from the quality of these plants that a lot of loving care is taken with their production. Very few of us went home empty handed!

Mark Sworn had given us an introductory talk, then encouraged us to 'wander at will', remaining available to answer lots of plant related queries and give good advice.

We were given tea and biscuits after our explorations. With no charge for this or entry, we made donations to the charity of Mark's choice.

July. Fourteen of us met at the Longcross Hotel Victorian garden on a very hot, humid day.

The original owner of the hotel, Captain Allerdyce, in late Victorian Times, had a team of gardeners who designed and developed the garden to resist coastal gales and salt laden air. With it's many gravel paths threading between high, trimmed hedges, it reminds you of a maze.

The maps of the garden had no arrows and with no indication in the garden of which way to go, I felt you often came upon features more by accident than design!

Positive features are the vegetable garden (produce used in their kitchen) and the wonderful coastal views from several raised areas. A relief from the claustrophobic aspect of the garden.

Future meetings

Sept. 2nd. Tapeley Park, Nr. Bideford.

Oct. 7th. Rosemoor, Great Torrington.

For details and/or a programme, please contact me. **Marion Hall**

HISTORY OF ART meets on the first Thursday of the month at 2.00pm.

Carolyn Merrett

PHILOSOPHY – meets on the third Wednesday of the month at 2.00pm.

Contact: Pat Berkeley

We continue to share responsibility for presenting various topics, all of which generate lively discussion. Unfortunately, we do not have any vacancies at present but I would be quite happy to point someone in the right direction if they wanted to start a new group.

Kate Peardon

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

Mary Dobson

We finished our William Douglas Home set of plays by reading "**The Chiltern Hundreds**".

The action takes place in the sitting room of Lister Castle in the summer of 1945 and the characters are the Earl and Countess of Lister (both reasonably dotty) June Farrell, (straight talking) from the American Embassy and a friend of Tony's (Lord Pym), the Earl of Lister's son (somewhat flakey). His sister, Lady Caroline Smith is also present and the butler, the omni-present Beecham, plays a pivotal role.

A local election has just taken place and Tony, one of the Tory candidates has lost to a Labour candidate, Mr. Cleghorn. Tony is therefore out of a job and June wants him to find "meaningful employment".

Meanwhile, the winning candidate has been telephoned by Mr. Atlee and offered a position "in the Dominions" which he has accepted. This gives Tony a second chance, but he decides to stand as a Labour candidate which infuriates June, who is romantically attached to Tony but who has second thoughts about a man who can change his allegiances so readily. Tony, in his cups, then turns to Bessie, the maid, and proposes marriage to her.

Beecham, unbeknownst to his employers, also puts his name forward as a candidate in the local election under the name of Benjamin Charles and actually wins the re-run.

It all ends happily though, with Bessie admitting that she fancies Beecham rather than Tony, and June happy now that Tony is a Lord of the Manor in waiting (and "employed") and Lord and Lady Lister are happy that Tony and June are back together to look after the castle.

The next play we read was "**The Handyman**" by Ronald Harwood, which is a story centring on Julian and Cressida Field's comfortable English home in Sussex where they employ an elderly Ukrainian odd-job man and friend of the family for some 50 years, called Roman Kozachenko, or Romka for short. Romka had been employed by Cressida's father when he was in army intelligence in the war, and looked after him when he was fatally wounded.

Romka came to Britain after the war and it was then that he started working for the Fields. One day, however, the police arrive and accuse him of war crimes and being a member of the SS. The play questions whether there is a time limit on revenge and punishment,

universal responsibility and the possibility of evil.

Julian had had the brilliant idea that a Jewish lawyer would be the ideal person to defend Romka, but he gets Marion Stone, non-Jewish, although married to one. However, two witnesses are found who can say without doubt that Romka was the man they saw in the forest that particular day with a gun in his hand.

Marion makes a deeply felt assessment of how, so long after the war, hatred of the Jews still continues and was at the heart of Nazism. She reminds the Fields that their father had died for King and Country so that she can practise law and Cressida can study for her degree and Julian can make money and go to the opera.

Mary Dobson

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

Gill Gilkes

SCRABBLE 2 meets twice a month on the first and third Fridays at 2.00pm.

Sue Evans

1st May. Linda thought I might have an unfair advantage playing after Mary and her fears were soon realised. Mary has gone back to producing 'good' words rather than keeping an eye on the triple word squares.

Richard proved that you don't need to be able to spell to play Scrabble as he put down 'arrid' and 'atune' without Ros or Jen noticing. Jen won both games, the second by only five points when she finished with 199, while Ros and Richard had identical scores of 194. Jen was the highest scorer of the afternoon with 245 points.

Quotes

'I've looked up some rubbish for you today.'

I want something big.'

'You can't go swimming without your thingies.'

I supplied the honk.'

'Can I have pist?'

15th May. Only four of us today. I had a terrible time and was the lowest scorer in all three games.

Ros started the first game with a seven-letter word and went on to win that game with a score of 235. Jen won the second game by putting down two seven-letter words and going out first. She was the highest scorer of the afternoon with 245 points (see 1st May above!).

5th June. Only four of us again (but not the same four). We got off to a subdued start as our thoughts were of Shirley who had died so unexpectedly on Monday. She didn't think she was very good at Scrabble and was always trying to improve, but it didn't matter to us as she fitted in well and we enjoyed her company. We still can't quite believe we'll not see her again.

Linda won the first game with 249 points (the highest score of the afternoon) but she was haunted to realise, after scoring 21 from her word and then turning the board towards Kate, that she could have scored 74. Her final total would then have been 302. This affected her play in the next game as she came last with 139. At one stage she added an 's' to 'quit' to make 'quits'. What would Ros have done? Emily did it later.

Quotes

'I need you to go somewhere so that I have somewhere to go.'

'The vowels have been breeding in the bag.'

'I'd rather have a wet bathrobe than miss Scrabble.'

19th June. Mary and I were kept waiting while Linda searched for the 'right' spectacles even though she was wearing two pairs (one on her nose, the other on her head). Apparently she has five pairs in total but had not brought the 'Scrabble' ones with her, so I was able to beat her by just one point in the first game (which took us 1hr 45mins to complete!).

In their second game, Kate, Ros and Emily finished with scores of 198, 194 and 195 respectively, after it had been neck and neck all the way. Richard joined them for a third game which he had the audacity to win (even though Ros did well with 'vomit'). He then left to change into his Dinner Jacket before going to play bowls (!).

Quotes

'What can you put on the end of sex?'

'He keeps things in his car.'

'I'm not often wrong.'

17th July. I wasn't feeling very well this afternoon (and went on to spend the weekend flat out on the sofa worrying about the symptoms of swine flu) but happily recovered on Monday.

In spite of this and with the help of my opponents to count my scores, I was the highest scorer of the afternoon with 261 (well I was sitting next to Mary, see 1st May).

Quote 'Can I have 'acorn' without the 'r'?'
Sue Evans

SERENDIPITY 1 meets monthly on the fourth Wednesday at 2.00pm
Elizabeth Whattler

Ten people attended the May meeting. We began by continuing our 'Who Do You Think You Are?' series, when I gave a brief account of my father's family history, complete with sepia tinted photographs. I recounted how the successful family firm founded by my great, great-grandfather slipped through my grandfather's hands when he played too much cricket with his sons instead of attending to business. Lindsay then showed us a beautiful montage of photographs taken during a memorable visit to New York. It gave us all ideas of how to celebrate a special event in pictures.

Liz and I had planned a Treasure Hunt for June, but unfortunately owing to a number of last minute cancellations, only Liz, Sylvia and I attended so the Treasure Hunt was postponed. We spent a beautiful afternoon enjoying tea in the garden and discussing wedding venues in Cornwall, since both Sylvia and I have children getting married next year.

Unfortunately the good weather had disappeared by the July meeting so the seven of us who gathered together abandoned the Treasure Hunt for another month. We spent the rainy afternoon drinking tea in the kitchen, discussing RHS gardening courses, the newly formed U3A Book Club and ideas for future meetings. But the main attraction was Liz's new, as yet unnamed, Black Lab puppy. Once she appeared we talked of nothing else!

Celia Sousek

SERENDIPITY 2 meets monthly on the fourth Wednesday at 2.00pm
Linda Bunker



Our June meeting found us returning to Castle Hill House. We had been determined to return there after our visit a year ago when the day had been wall-to-wall torrential rain.

Despite this, we had enjoyed our day and had been impressed by the gardens and wanted to see them on a sunnier day. We were not disappointed and the weather was glorious.

We had lunch at the nearby Stag Inn beside the lake and then proceeded to the House.

This visit we climbed to the castle behind the house and our efforts were rewarded with spectacular views. Black and white pictures do not do this justice, but they do give you some idea. (In colour here!)



At our next meeting, we will be dows-ing again, this time at Penhallam Manor.

Anyone interested in joining our group, give me a call. We will be pleased to welcome you.
Linda Bunker

SHARING POETRY 1 meets once a month on the fourth Thursday at 10.30am
Linda Farmer

We weren't able to hold a meeting in May but got together again in June for a 'free choice' of poems. As usual there was an eclectic mix, varying from 'Dover Beach' by Matthew Arnold to 'The Cat's Protection League' by Roger McGough via 'They Should Have Asked My Husband' by Pam Ayres and 'O Tell Me The Truth About Love' by W H Auden. Copyright prevents me from reproducing any of them here unfortunately.

July saw us looking at poems by Poets Laureate. We learnt that there have been twenty Poets Laureate including the current one, the first female laureate, Carol Ann Duffy. He (or she) is chosen by the monarch from a short list of nominees submitted by the Prime Minister, with several people over the years declining the post.

The first official Poet Laureate was John Dryden appointed by Charles II in 1688. The best? Probably Alfred Lord Tennyson, in position from 1850-92, incredibly he was second choice after Samuel Rogers declined the post. Several appointments were political rather than on artistic merit. Have you ever heard of Colly Cibber, Henry James Pye, William Whitehead or Laurence Eusden? No, neither have I.

Originally each Laureate was appointed for life but sometime after Andrew Motion was appointed in 1998, the current government meddled with a 400 year old tradition and changed the tenure to ten years only.

Much of the poetry written "to order for court and national occasions", is generally agreed to be, at best mediocre and at worst, bordering on doggerel, whoever the poet. Certainly we struggled to find anything of this ilk that really appealed.

Several of John Masefield's poems were chosen and these made all of us determined to revisit his excellent poetry.

Linda Farmer

SHARING POETRY 2 meets once a month on the fourth Wednesday at 10.30am

Peggy Timms

Perhaps I've said this before - if so it's worth repeating! This group's main attraction for me is the way sharing by reading aloud in a group can present a poem in an entirely new way. Then in the ensuing discussion listening to members' personal views and insights we are given fresh food for thought. We learn too about the poets themselves when we are given a short description of their lives and backgrounds.

Sometimes a poem, incomprehensible at the first reading makes sense if we hear it again. It is interesting too to hear a few reminiscences as we are told why it is close to one of our members' heart.

Our last free choice session contained a fascinating variety from serious and thought-provoking to frivolous and funny. Who couldn't laugh, some a little regretfully at Lucille's presentation of "The Monday Wash Blues" by Clarice Westlake? And Margaret Sackville's "Vanished Summers" read by Marguerite gave rise to much comment!

Peggy Timms

SINGING FOR FUN meets every second Friday in the month.

Ros Dolphin

We have had a quiet time recently as people have been away or having visitors. On the 26th June we had a real session of singing for fun. While I was sorting out the books at the charity shop where I help out I came across two News Chronicle Song Books. We went through the books and sang some real oldies, Vicar of Bray, Widdecombe Fair, John Peel, Bobby Shaftoe and many others and as it was a hot afternoon we had the patio doors open. So watch this space to hear what the neighbours thought!

After our meeting on the 10th July, we will be having a break until 25th September. My dog Barney will be very sad as he waits in anticipation for everyone to arrive and greets them with a toy in his mouth and then he lies on his bed for the rest of the afternoon with the occasional thump of his tail.

Ros Dolphin

THEATRE

Mary Dobson

In May we continued our theme of musicals by seeing "**Evita**" by Tim Rice and Andrew Lloyd Webber.

We sometimes find that by going to a matinee the main cast are different to those who perform in the evenings, but I can't say that we have ever felt short-changed by the fact that maybe the evening performance has a better known-name cast. This proved to be the case with "Evita" as the standard of singing and acting was excellent. Juan Peron has a really fine voice and certainly looked the part, whilst Evita was a tiny blonde with a powerful soprano delivery.

The famous songs, "Don't Cry For Me Argentina" and "Another Suitcase in Another Hall" were particularly good and the sets ranging from the famous balcony scene and inside the presidential palace were well imagined.

The hospital scene when she died was also quite an emotional one and I had forgotten that her body had been "lost" for some years during the war when it was sent abroad for safe keeping. The authorities were afraid that, owing to her popularity and ultimate rise to sainthood, her body might have been disinterred and used as a political tool by her enemies. However, it is now back in Argentina and, I am told by those who have seen it, the place of her grave is quite unremarkable and unguarded.

We couldn't find anything we wanted to see in June, but July saw us on our way back to the Theatre Royal to see another musical, "**Chitty Chitty Bang Bang**" by Ian Fleming. It was a fast moving story of the magical car of the title and its inventor, Caractacus Potts and his two children Jeremy and Jemima and their grandfather. Together with the fantastically named romantic lead of Truly Scrumptious, they all try to outwit the dastardly baron and his wife and the famously evil Childcatcher.

The cameo roles of the baron and his wife were wonderfully over the top, but great fun and the famous car was all that we had expected. It certainly flew and I really couldn't see how it did. My eagle-eyed friend sitting next to me, said that she thought she saw wires suspended from above, but I didn't! I did at one time think that they ought to have seat belts on as it lurched from side to side, but then I thought I really must get out more!

The theatre was full of children (end of term treats?) and I felt the Theatre Royal had a pantomime atmosphere about it and everyone seemed to get into the spirit of the story.

I was amused to read in the programme that the name, "Chitty Chitty Bang Bang" came not from the noise the car made, but from soldiers in the last war stationed in Paris. In order to obtain a pass into the city to meet the girls and have a drink, they soldiers were given a "chit" for the evening and the rest of the title, I will leave to your imagination! As Ian Fleming wrote a large number of books involving powerful men and glamorous ladies, I suppose it's not as surprising as it might have been.

Mary Dobson

(our Autumn Programme is on Page 10)

WALKING GROUP walks twice a month on the first and third Tuesdays

Angie / Chris Walker

We meet at Stratton car park at 1.30pm (prompt) but if a walk is cancelled, there will always be someone there at that time to let you know. If you need any further information, please give me a call.

Angie Whitehurst

MISCELLANY

Coast Along - the Walking Group is Walking For Water Aid on Saturday 12th September when they plan to walk a section of the South West Coastal path. The aim is for the entire length (over 600 miles) to be walked by groups from Cornwall, Devon and Pembrokeshire.

Please be generous with your Sponsorship

Barnstaple & North Devon Study Day

Monday, 12th October at Filliegh Village Hall

Jonathan Weekes and his amazing Mediaeval Musical Instruments.

There are still two tickets available at £4.00 each, to include refreshments.

Please get in touch with Sylvia Henry if you are interested.

Outing to 'Greenway' - Agatha Christie's House near Brixham

We are planning a coach trip in the Spring - late April or early May. This could include a little river trip as well since it is an alternative method of approved transport as parking is very limited.

Make sure you have your name on the list if you want to go.

NADFAS

If anyone is interested in fine arts, paintings, museums, art galleries, etc., I belong to an organisation (NADFAS) which meets in Bideford once a month during the autumn/winter and we would welcome new members. Please contact me for more details.

Mary Dobson

PROGRAMME FOR THE YEAR

17th September Operation Sunshine :
Felicity Derry-Thomas

22nd October AGM

19th November Daphne du Maurier :
Lynn Gould

17th December Christmas Lunch

OUR COMMITTEE

Officers

| | |
|----------------|--------------------------------------|
| Sylvia Henry | Chairman |
| Vera Roper | Treasurer |
| Linda Bunker | Minute Secretary/ Newsletter Team |
| Hilary Workman | Speaker Secretary |

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| | |
|--------------------|----------------------------|
| Brian Leonard | Assistant Treasurer |
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| Melder Wilkinson | |

Co-opted

| | |
|--|-------------------------|
| Mary Dobson | |
| Sue Evans | Newsletter Co-ordinator |
| Mike Roper | Website Editor |
| romper@onetel.com | |

POETRY

Hearing Silence by Audrey Armitage (2008)

'Silence in Court', imperious voice demands,
But – 'tis not silence; 'tis merely space for other
voice to fill.

'Twere silence, legal eagles would no money
make

And red robed judge would portly snoozing take.
The school room bell has rung, the children filed
inside

To learn their ABC, their numbers and their
history.

The playground rests, no noise of pounding feet,
No bouncing balls, nor shouts disturb the quiet.
But 'tis not silence; 'tis but a pregnant pause
Till freedom bursts again upon the air.
Excited offspring rush to four by fours
And noisy motors rev to take them home.

Silence is a sleeping baby's breath,
The flick of flame on cosy cottage hearth;
The plop of frog leaping into pool,
The tiny tap of falling autumn leaf.

Silence is the hum of sucking bees,
The tweet of baby birds in hidden nest;
The lingering note of final touch on concert grand
Ere joyous ears give vent with clapping hands.

Silence is the hoot of ghostly owl,
The whispering wavelet on the darkened shore;
The barking fox on nightly courting bent;
The rustle of the grass on windy moor. Have you
heard butterflies in a flowering tree
Fluttering fragile wings on fragrant leaf? The
amorous cricket in meadow grass,
The horsy chestnut's drop to earth beneath?

Silence is not silent; it is the sound we hear
When all life's noisy clamour stills.
He who tunes attentive ear, eyes lifted to the
hills
May hear, as listening Samuel did, - the voice
of God.

(Unfortunately I could not reproduce the
shape of Audrey's poem here)

Grains of Sand by Kate Peardon

I am counting the grains of sand
In the deserts of the Middle East
Imagining each one to be a soul
Sacrificed, for what we euphemistically describe
As everlasting peace
Each one, a mother's child
Mourned, for an early passing into the next world
Each one, upon his mother's breast once curled
Each one loved
Through joy, through pain, through sorrow
Each one looking for a happier tomorrow
But it never comes, that good tomorrow
And someone, somewhere, must learn to live with
that pain
The sense of loss, that will never go away
You can rant at God, you can weep, can pray
Look eagerly towards tomorrow
Yet another pain filled day
There's no such thing, of course
As everlasting peace
Whilst those in power crave more land
So still, forever, will the young who die
Be counted in those grains of sand

(This poem was written on 25th March 2003
and as Kate says 'nothing changes')

Thank you to everyone who has contributed
to this edition of our Newsletter. I do hope
more of you will be encouraged to contribute
in future so that it reflects all our varied
interests.

The cut off point for the next edition is the
31st October but I'll be happy to accept your
contribution any time prior to that date.

Please don't hesitate to have a chat with me
at an Open Meeting, by telephone or by email
at suemail65-news@yahoo.co.uk.

Sue Evans – Newsletter Co-ordinator

THEATRE GROUP - AUTUMN 2009 PROGRAMME

Thursday, 8th OCTOBER "THE GRAPES OF WRATH" by John Steinbeck
Matinee 2.30pm at Theatre Royal, Plymouth (Stalls) £21 incl.

Thursday, 29th October "SIX CHARACTERS IN SEARCH OF AN AUTHOR" by Luigi Pirandello
Matinee 2.30 pm at Theatre Royal, Plymouth (Stalls) £23 incl.

Thursday, 12th November "ABSURD PERSON SINGULAR" by Alan Ayckbourn
Matinee at Queens Theatre, Barnstaple (New Programme not issued until end August. Price TBA)

Thursday, 26th November "THE PITMAN PAINTERS" by Lee Hall
Matinee at 2.30 pm at Theatre Royal, Plymouth (Stalls) £23 incl.

Saturday, 12th December "SCROOGE" (THE MUSICAL) with Tommy Steele
(Thursday not available) Matinee at 2.30 pm at Theatre Royal, Plymouth (Stalls) £45 incl.

Advance Notice of Booking for the Welsh National Opera for 7th April, 2010: "TOSCA" by Puccini
Evening Performance 7.15pm, Theatre Royal, Plymouth (Circle) £36 incl.)

PLEASE NOTE that these are tentative bookings. If you put your name down to go on these trips, I would be glad to receive your money as soon as possible, not least as proof of your commitment. The prices are based on our usual number of 24 going in the coach, but if this number is not attained, the prices will obviously have to rise and the trip may therefore not be viable. However, I need to know as soon as possible (within reason) because once I have paid for the tickets they are non-refundable. I would be glad also if you could find a friend to take your ticket if you are not able to go.

WHERE POSSIBLE, I have booked for the Thursday matinees as the tickets are usually cheaper than on the Saturday. Unfortunately, this is not always possible as some shows are very popular and the stalls seats sell out very quickly, as was the case with "Scrooge".

YOU MAY have noticed that two plays have been booked for October and November, but nothing in September. If there is not a large response to one of the plays each month, I will probably have to cancel, but at our planning meeting we thought that all the plays would give you something of a choice, or you may like to go to both, of course!

I WILL try to issue some sort of four to six weekly Theatre Newsletter to let you all know what's going on as not everyone attends the OGMs on the third Thursday of every month when I can let you know what's happening. Don't forget that the information is available in our U3A book in Bude Library.

IF IN any doubt, or you have a query, don't hesitate to get in touch and if you do not have the cash to pay at the OGMs, I am very glad to receive your cheques through the post.

PARKING IS going to be a problem as Splash and Harlequins have refused us permission to park all day. Please get a lift, share a car or be dropped off, if possible and I will try to make alternative arrangements and e-mail or telephone you.

Mary Dobson

BUDE & DISTRICT U3A

Nomination Form for the Branch Executive Committee 2009/10

The election of the Branch Executive Committee is scheduled for **Thursday, 22nd 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 fourth Thursday** of the month, breaking with the normal sequence, because the Ivor Potter Hall is not available on the third Thursday.

| Office | Nominee | Proposer | Secunder |
|---------------|---------|----------|----------|
| 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 any member of the committee, as soon as possible, preferably no later than 10th October to facilitate the preparation of ballot papers should there be a contest for committee/officer seats.

