

the title of the work will be "The Tavistock Area". This is to allow the subject to be as wide as possible and must relate to Tavistock and surroundings whether that be historical, Dartmoor, agricultural, scientific or other aspects of Tavistock.

5. The judges, who would include members of the Library committee and other invited writers, will decide if the entry is within the spirit of the competition.
6. The title of the competition is "Tavistock Subscription Library Writing Prize"

#### Details of the Prize:

- The winning article will be published in the Tavistock Diary February 2014 edition.
- The prize winner will be given a year's free membership of the Library.
- The article will be published in the next Library Newsletter.
- There will be three prizes comprising:
  - 1<sup>st</sup> £100 2<sup>nd</sup> £50 3<sup>rd</sup> £25 to be spent on books or an appropriate literary related online programme or Kindle book to be considered by the committee if the applicant would rather not receive a paper-based book as the prize, thus encompassing a modern technological means of enjoying the written word.

The closing date for entries will be 31<sup>st</sup> December 2013 and entries can be made online at the Library website [www.tavistocksubscriptionlibrary.co.uk](http://www.tavistocksubscriptionlibrary.co.uk) where there is a dedicated page explaining all the rules.

Further details can be obtained from Simon Dell the Hon. Secretary of the Library through the contacts page on the website.

#### **MISCELLANEOUS NOTES**

- ◇ Thank you John for repairing the front door lock, which is now in good working order. Remember to press C before the number and X after the number to open the door. Please also make sure that the door is locked when you leave the Library.
- ◇ Please remember that books in the Library are to be used **in** the Library and should **never** be removed from the Library building



#### **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Firstly a welcome to our new secretary, Simon Dell MBE, who's feet are now firmly under the table and is dragging us into the 21st Century. Simon first joined the Subscription Library in the early 1980s and brings some years' experience of administrative work as a co-ordinator of several charities and other secretarial functions with him to the committee. He is probably well known to most of us (for the right reasons) as a now retired, popular and efficient police officer in Tavistock for many years. He is also an author, guide and speaker. He is heavily involved in the administration of Lundy Island. We are fortunate indeed that he agreed to become our honorary secretary. He has already developed and got our new library website up and running. [www.tavistocksubscriptionlibrary.co.uk](http://www.tavistocksubscriptionlibrary.co.uk)

At our last committee meeting we agreed a proposal by Bill Lane, our Hon. Treasurer, to offer an essay prize for 11 -18 year olds from Tavistock , details of which are given later in this news letter.

Our thanks are due to Graham and Brenda Kirkpatrick for their regular Friday coffee (and chocolate biscuit) mornings and to Sue Davies for her monthly coffee morning duty and home made cakes. Graham has decided to step down from his many years service as a committee member but thankfully continues his other inputs. Thanks to the efforts of Mary Freeman and her helpers the garden has now recovered from the museum building works and was a picture of spring flowers this year. Also we must thank Juliet and Donald for the donation of a replacement for the old Dyson vacuum cleaner.

On the library front we are designing a bookcase to house the Transactions of the Devonshire Association, to be to the left of the inner doors.

The new museum entrance into the old librarian's cottage has now been operating all this season. Visitor numbers have increased enormously and the

main 2013 exhibition (the US 29th Division stay in Tavistock 1943 to the Normandy Invasion) has been a great success.

Finally, welcome to all our new members and hope they will enjoy using the Library.

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

With the collection of membership subscriptions now almost complete it has been possible to transfer a further £1000 into the COIF Charities Fund. £175 has been reserved towards prizes for the *Tavistock Subscription Library Writing Prize*. A few new books have been purchased and if any member considers that a particular new book should be purchased to be added to the Library then they should contact our Librarian, Josie Gerhold as there are funds available.

### **LIBRARIAN'S REPORT**

The computer catalogue has now been completed. It will be continually updated as new purchases and donations arrive.

The next task is to cross reference the computer catalogue and we hope to find some of those book which have been misplaced.

Through the Museum and the efforts of Roderick Martin, a variety of books were collected from a redundant source in Exeter. Relevant books have been selected and catalogued and are now on the small table by the door with the list of new additions, until space is available for them to be shelved. Our thanks go to Roderick for the collection and delivery of these books.

New shelving is in the process of being designed. Re labelling will then be necessary.

I am also grateful to Kerrie Martin for her continued help and expertise with the cataloguing and other Library tasks

We hope that all members will continue to support and enjoy using the Library.

### **WRITERS' GROUP**

Tavistock Writers' Group is still going strong. Attendance is good, with six to eight of us each week reading and discussing our work. Six members are writing novels with a view to e-publishing, one writes epic poetry and the

others poems, articles, stories and most do the regular monthly task. Jack has an article in Dartmoor On Line, Jan has had several poems in the Wharf and others have had successes in diverse fields.

### **SUBSCRIPTION LIBRARY WEBSITE.**

Simon has now designed and published a new website for the Library and this can be found on the internet at [www.tavistocksubscriptionlibrary.co.uk](http://www.tavistocksubscriptionlibrary.co.uk) The site has already successfully received interest for membership and has taken the Library into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century with links to other like-minded organisations.

### **TAVISTOCK SUBSCRIPTION LIBRARY WRITING PRIZE**

The last Committee Meeting looked at the suggestion of having a *Tavistock Subscription Library Writing Prize* and the full details of this follow and will soon appear on a fresh page on our new website. Students in secondary education in the Tavistock area are to be invited to submit some original non-fictional work relating to the Tavistock area. This will be judged and we will have three prizes for the finalists as well as having their work published locally.

### **TAVISTOCK SUBSCRIPTION LIBRARY WRITING PRIZE**

Tavistock Subscription Library, housed in the corner of Guildhall Square in Tavistock next to the Town's Museum, was founded in 1799 by a group of men including John Taylor, a 19-year-old engineer from Norwich who had come to Tavistock to manage a local copper and tin mine and it was he who built the Tavistock Canal at the beginning of the nineteenth century.

The Subscription Library is launching a "Writing Competition" at the start of the Autumn Term in 2013 for secondary school pupils in the Tavistock area. This idea came about from an aspiration to get more young people interested in the Subscription Library.

The following are the conditions relating for the Writing Competition:-

1. The age group for entries would be 11 to 18 years for pupils in fulltime education in the Tavistock area but including pupils living in the Tavistock area attending nearby local secondary schools.
2. Each entry would be looked at with its own merits as to whether it fulfilled the 'catchment' condition.
3. The written article would be approximately 700 words of factual writing and not poetry or fiction. It must be the original work of the pupil and