

TAVISTOCK SUBSCRIPTION LIBRARY NEWSLETTER



AUTUMN 2016

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Visits

Thanks to Simon for organising an excellent trip to the Exeter University Library “Special Collections” on 9th July. It would be nice on future visits to have just a few more members joining. Apart from spreading the cost of the minibus it would make the day even more enjoyable.



A few pictures of our visit to the Library in Exeter



Tavistock Heritage events:

There were recently two Heritage events in Town. The Library was open Friday 9 September to Sunday 11th September when the Reading Room was used for the start and finish of **the Children’s Heritage Trial**. The youngsters and their families came to the Library to collect their certificates. I don’t suppose they will rush to join immediately, but the place will hopefully be associated with a happy memory ever after, and they may be inclined to think of subscribing

when the time is right, later in their lives! The second event, from Thursday 15 to Monday 19 September, **the Tavistock Heritage Festival**, did not involve the Library.

Ted Sherrell

visited the Reading Room, where we have a complete collection of his published work. He was delighted with his visit. I am grateful to Simon and Josie for attending and helping to make the occasion special for him



Improvements to the Reading Room

Jodie Hazelhurst has repaired and returned our “Symons of Tavistock” lobby clock, which now keeps perfect time. It is wound each week by Simon. John Davies continues to look after our restored Regency mantel-clock, which now keeps better time but still needs some fine tuning – which Jodie has offered to do free of charge.

Thanks again to Simon for continuing our programme of improvements, with welcome help from his brother and from regular library user Kevin Jago. Our magnificent Art Nouveau umbrella stand has now been cleaned and repainted. The net curtain has been washed. All the glass in the windows front and back, and in the inner and outer doors, has been cleaned, the perspex sheeting (and dead insects behind it) removed, and unnecessary notices taken down – though it will take further painstaking efforts to get rid of the hardened residue of sticky-stuff from the use of sellotape and bluetac without scratching the glass. I hope you all agree it looks much neater now. Please in future refrain from sticking up notices anywhere other than on our two notice-boards, which have also been tidied up a bit.

Simon and his brother have fitted adjustable shelving behind the curtain in the lobby, and 24 storage boxes have been installed. Gradually these can be used for items not needed on open shelves, material including old press cuttings from the suitcases formerly inaccessible on top of “Graham’s cupboard”, papers from the filing cabinet that do not need to be kept under lock and key, and anything else suggested by our Librarian.

I hope the cleaner, tidier physical atmosphere will encourage higher standards among our users. There is an issue about bringing food and drink into the Reading Room, and I hope you will agree today that other than during our Friday Coffee Mornings, this practice should be discouraged. And I would urge everyone to replace chairs and papers neatly after use.

Thanks too to Kevin Jago who has not only cleaned the windows but polished the furniture and often hovers the carpet.

Local Authors Collections & New Acquisitions

Thanks to our Writers Group we now have a fine collection of the works of the late **Enid Gill**, including a ring-binder of her published work personally compiled by Enid during her lifetime and a number of papers detailing her life, funeral etc – all donated by her friend Jan Robinson. **Barry Wilson** has donated a collection of his stories and poems, in approx 25 A5 and smaller pocket-book size. I have typed a list of these – which needs a little further work before I can pass it to our Librarian. There are also some photos of Barry, reviews and notes which have been added to our Local Author's file.

Brian Fyfield Shayler (Chairman)

A WORD FROM THE TREASURER

Our overall funds this year are in good health although they will show a deficit of approximately £900 which is entirely due to buying some new books and also repairing some books which were in need of urgent repair.

It has been agreed that the membership subscriptions for 2017/18 remain at £10 for single and £15 for family members. The subscription for members in full time education will be £5. Members are asked to pay their subscription by cheque or online banking and not by cash. The Treasurer will give the bank details to those wishing to pay on line on request (01822 810630).

For 2016/17 the rules for the taxation of interest and dividends have changed which may mean that some members may no longer pay sufficient tax to cover all their Gift Aid donations. Interest is no longer deducted at source by banks or building societies and for basic rate tax payers the first £1000 of this interest will not be taxed and also the first £5,000 of dividend income will be taxed at 0%. Members should review their position and advise the Treasurer when they renew their subscription if they consider that they can no longer claim Gift Aid relief. If HMRC should discover that a wrongful claim has been made the member will be required to refund the Revenue and not the Library however both the Library and the Member may suffer an HMRC investigation.

Bill Lane (Treasurer)

LIBRARIAN'S NOTES

I would like to thank the members who have very generously donated a considerable number of book over the past few months.

These have been catalogued on the computer, displayed and after suitable time shelved. A current list is in the green file . This is not in alphabetical order.

The updated catalogue will be printed for the AGM.

The Dartmoor News magazines have been relocated to H5 to provide more shelf space. I apologise for any inconvenience this may cause.

Thank you for your continued support.

Jose Gerhold (Librarian)

Writers' Group

The Writers' Group continues to meet on Tuesday afternoons, with varying numbers. We are a little low on membership at the moment, for a variety of reasons. At present we are following an interesting course of lectures on CD on the art of creative writing. This leads to discussion and laughter. Afterwards we read in turn and comment on each other's work, which is always valuable. We each pay 20p per week, which has enabled us to buy the CDs.

If anybody wants to join the group, we offer them two or three trial sessions, after which they join the Library, as we all have done. Many of us find membership of the Library useful in a variety of ways.

EDITOR'S NOTES

Just a reminder that subscriptions are just about due. You will see from the Treasurer's notes that they remain the same as last year. Please send your subscription, or post it through the Library letter box, addressed to me (Juliet Hill, Membership Secretary) together with your cheque and I will send you your membership card. Should anyone wish to give someone a subscription as a Christmas present I will put some gift forms on the shelf or you can download one from the website, fill it in, send it to me in my capacity as membership secretary, with a cheque for the appropriate sum and I will send a gift membership to you to pass on to the recipient. And problems or questions please let me know by email (julietanddonald@gmail.com) or phone 01822 615871.

MISCELLANEOUS

Graham's birthday party

The cover picture shows members outside the Subscription Library and the Museum congratulating Graham Kirkpatrick on his 90th birthday. The Museum organised a lovely

surprise party for him. For many years now Graham has arranged the delivery of our newspapers and also organised our Friday coffee mornings. Sadly he is giving up the paper run so that he can spend more time looking after Brenda. (Kevin Jago has kindly volunteered to take over this task.) Thank you Graham for doing this for so long and so efficiently.

Membership

Our membership has increased during the last year and is now standing at over 100 paid up members. It has been suggested that we should design and offer a Gift Subscription voucher – which could be customised for Christmas, Birthday and Retirement as an ideal gift.

TASS membership

The Subscription Library is now a member of TASS so we can use its minibus on our outings.

Wharf talk programme

Dr Ann Pulsford, TS; Member and chair of the Friends of the Wharf organises the Monday Lunchtime Lectures series

Two recent lectures which attracted large audiences have been by Dr Todd Gray FRHistS, MBE and historian of Devon and President of the Devonshire Association and Simon Dell MBE Tavistock Subscription Library secretary. Simon's talk titled 'Policing The Peninsula' Simon Dell took an audience of 85 people on an entertaining historical photographic journey around the west-country peninsula looking at the history of policing, from the days of the parish constable up to the 21st century.



Simon drew upon his experiences in policing in five different decades from the 1970s to the 2010s and provided a humorous and light hearted approach to a serious subject. The halcyon days of policing were revisited- a time when we believed that there was a policeman on every street corner and a policeman in every village. Simon's sometimes irreverent trips down memory lane to a different century of policing explained how, after almost 20 years of policing Tavistock, he was appointed an MBE by The Queen for service to policing our town.

Gerry Woodcock

We are sorry to report the death of local historian and long standing TSL member in September. He donated a copy of each of his books as it was published and in his last few months took trouble to ensure that our collection was complete. The final volume 27 of his *Tavistock's Yesterdays* appeared posthumously and is now on our shelves. We hope a History Society proposal to organise an index to his works goes ahead.