

NB: all walks have differing start times

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

August

Saturday 18th • 11:00 a.m. • The Abbey Inn, Buckfastleigh
Lynda Reynolds-Smith suggests we start this walk with a bit of refreshment. Glasses down and it's off to Cross Furzes for a noon start. Then a roundtrip walk to Huntingdon Cross via Lud Gate, returning by Water Oak Corner and Lambs Down. This is an easy 3 hour walk to get those walking muscles back in action!

September

Saturday 15th • 10:00 a.m. • Venford Reservoir carpark
One more try! *Technical difficulties* stopped this walk in January — F&M stopped it again in May... Third time lucky. Meet at the carpark on the west side of the reservoir.

Mike Power and Sally Cottis will lead us to the Forest Inn, Hexworthy for lunch and then follow a different route for our return to Venford Reservoir. Mike has done research into the history of the area we'll be crossing on Holne Moor and will share it with us en-route.

October

Saturday 13th • 10:30 a.m. • Drakeford Bridge carpark
Unfortunately we missed the bluebells in Lustleigh Cleve due to F&M — so we'll see the autumn colours instead. Susan

Gilderdale will lead this circular walk through the sheltered beauty of the Cleve. The walk will allow us to arrive in Lustleigh in time for lunch at the Pub. There will be approximately 3 climbs — nothing too strenuous.

Directions to Drakeford Bridge carpark from Haytor Road, Bovey Tracey (B3387). The road is signed from the Bovey Tracey roundabout to *Haytor/Widecombe/Manaton* and to *Becky Falls*. Go past the DNPA Headquarters at Parke, on your right. At *Five Wyches Cross* take the right fork, signed *Manaton/Becky Falls*. Continue to Reddaford Water and turn right (signed *Lustleigh*). If you get to the entrance to *Yarner Wood* you've gone too far. After the turn at Reddaford Water proceed to Drakeford Bridge — just before the bridge is a small carpark on the left with room for about 6 cars. Please plan on carpooling — ring Nancy on 01822 890



Listening Walk, February 2001



Aune Head Arts

The High Moorland Business Centre
The Old Duchy Hotel
Princetown, Yelverton PL20 6QF
01822 890 539
nancy@auneheadarts.org.uk
www.dartmoorprojects.org.uk

Philip Guy Stevens (Image courtesy of Anrew Stevens)



AHA ... THE DARTMOOR PROJECTS

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Welcome back to Dartmoor!

By the time you receive this Dartmoor should be open again to walkers, riders, cyclists and all of us who love our time spent on the moor. Rejoice! Our thoughts have been with all the farmers, small business owners and others who have suffered so during the F&M crisis — we send our best to them for a fast and painless recovery.

While AHA's activities were all but on hold from February through June, there is a surprising amount of information to report. We hope there is something of interest for everyone in this issue.



Cotton Grass, Holne Moor. Summer 2001

Annual General Meeting

Now set for Sunday, 29th July. Location: Conference Room, High Moorland Business Centre, Princetown. Meeting begins at 3:00 pm (doors open at 2:30) and continues until 4:00 pm. Please use the Business Centre entrance to the building — not the entrance to the Visitors Centre — when facing the HMVC the Business Centre entrance is to your right.

Before the AGM the AHA Board will be having lunch and a pint at the Plume of Feathers Inn, Princetown. Everyone is welcome to join us for a natter and to catch-up on things.

The AGM is open to all. Current AHA members should have received a formal notice of the AGM in early July. Non-members who would like to vote at the meeting are encouraged to join AHA — memberships can be taken until the AGM is called to order on the 29th. Single Members have one vote and Family Members have two votes.

New Project Developments

The projects outlined below are in the development stage — some funding applications have been sent out, others go out soon, project partners are getting involved. By the next *Update* more details will be available.

Jackie's ever-active mind came up with a super concept entitled **Moor Art/Moor Business**. The idea is to involve 50 Dartmoor businesses in a 3-year project to commission Dartmoor/regional artists to create, exhibit and/or perform new arts activities on the premises of the businesses. Each business (& artist) will benefit from a high-profile public relations campaign designed to get people to return to Dartmoor. In principle the Dartmoor Tourist Association and the West Country Tourist Board have agreed to partner AHA on this. A period of Research & Development into the feasibility of *Moor Art/Moor Business* this Autumn will led by Nancy.

DARTMOOR PROJECT NEWS

As a p-t staffer at Dartington College of Art (DCA) Nancy was successful in receiving a grant to fund the R&D through DCA's new *Creativity at Work* programme. The programme has a funding scheme to enable DCA staff to undertake consultative work with regional arts organisations. The proposed start date for *Moor Art/Moor Business* is Spring 2002. Major funding will be sought through the Objective 2 European Funding scheme.

Firing on all cylinders, Jackie also came up with the idea for **Dartmoor Sensing** — an artist-led digital media project using interactive image, text and sound. Four professional artists and ten young emerging artists will be involved, all using Dartmoor as their theme. The primary objectives are to stimulate artistic and professional development amongst the participants; to assist young artists in the development of their careers; to provide encouragement for artists to continue living & working on Dartmoor/in the region; and the creation of a number of high-quality new artworks about Dartmoor. The named artists have agreed to become involved — John Curno, Carol Ballinger, Clare Seal and Richard Povall. Major funding is being sought from the Regional Arts Lottery Programme. Start date: 1st November, 2001. Exhibitions will be held in Exeter, Plymouth and North Devon in Autumn 2002.

Focus on Farmers (Nancy's brain finally came on-line) is intended to bring the farmers/farming families of Dartmoor to life for visitors and tourists through a series of exhibitions over three years. Materials for the exhibitions will be developed by a team of Dartmoor/regional artists working in residence on selected Dartmoor farms. Exhibitions will include text, sound, music, photography and video. The objective of the project is to bring audiences a dynamic experience of *contemporary* farm life on Dartmoor. The exhibitions will examine why and how the commons system works; the nature of raising a family (and being raised) on a Dartmoor farm; the interaction between farmers, MAFF, the DNPA, the DCC and other agencies; etc. Major funding will be sought through the Local Heritage funding scheme. Start date: tba.

Call for Projects

In the January *Update* AHA asked folks for new project ideas involving contemporary Dartmoor. AHA would like to continue to help individuals and/or community groups make their ideas for arts projects a reality

We received a proposal from Shane Edgar, but no one else has come forward! At the AGM on 29th July the Board will officially acknowledge project proposals received. Then, at the Board meeting in Autumn 2001, all those project proposals will be considered under the following criteria: artistic merit, suitability of concept to AHA's programme, financial and funding feasibility. AHA can offer assistance on several levels: advisory, limited co-production, or joint-production, to selected projects.

Send your ideas to AHA, High Moorland Business Centre, Princetown, Yelverton PL20 6QF, or bring them to the AGM. Due to limited resources we regret that AHA won't be able to get involved with every project concept put forward and, in fact, may not be able to adopt any new projects in any given year.



For further information please ring Nancy on 01822 890 539, n.sinclair@aunehead.fsnet.co.uk or Jackie on 01364 631 195, jackie@parsons26.fsnet.co.uk

Current/Recent Projects

Lives & Landscapes

Foot & Mouth put this video project on hold from February to early July. Fortunately the Devon and West Somerset Key Fund, major project funder, agreed to extend the deadline until October 31st. While, sadly, we lost a few of the original participants, there are an enthusiastic 12 folks remaining and we anticipate excellent results. Details of screenings of the final video(s) in an upcoming Update.



Lives & Landscapes — Video Artist/Editor Commission

AHA seeks proposals from video artists in the SW region to oversee the final editing of the Lives & Landscapes video project. Each of the teams/individuals are working on concepts around a topic of their choice, centring on contemporary Dartmoor. There are two aspects to this commissioning/editing project: 1) to work with the participating teams/individuals to complete the editing of their short video projects; 2) to create your own finished short video work using the raw footage from the project.

The fee is £2,000. Studio space, cameras, editing facilities and tape stock will be provided by AHA. For more information ring Richard Povall on 01822 890 539, or richard@halfangel.org.uk, or see AHA's website. www.dartmoorprojects.org.uk

Creators — Family of the Moor

While Buckland Abbey closed to the public (F&M) shortly after the *Creators* was installed, the exhibition re-opened in April and was seen by many delighted visitors through the first week of June. Located in the Great Barn the photographs and sculptures looked fantastic! In fact, the folks at Buckland Abbey were so taken with the exhibition that the sculptures are currently installed on the grounds. Michael Coxson, Property Manager, has been an aficionado of the project and made arrangements for this temporary extension to the display of the sculptures. Thanks to you Michael, and to your wonderful staff.



Sounding Dartmoor

Waaaay back in February, AHA co-ordinated listening walks on Dartmoor in conjunction with the *Sound Practice Conference* at Dartington Hall. Over 40 conference participants (from around the globe) joined AHA for the walks. Three walks were led by: Willem Montagne, Head of Education for the DNPA; Brian

Maddock, DNPA Guide; and Gillian Taylor, Press Manager for South West Arts (former Communications Officer for the DNPA). see photo back page

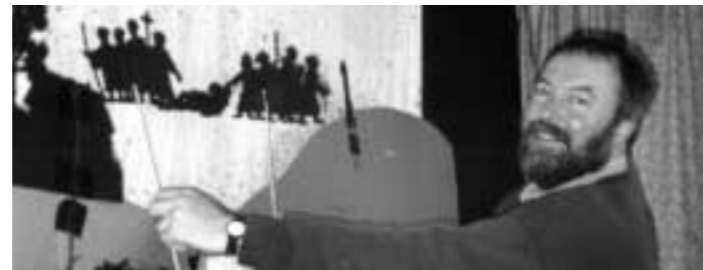
Two of these 3-hour walks began at Venford Reservoir and the third at Combestone Tor. Walkers/listeners were given tasks during the walks — drawing sound maps, listening whilst blindfolded, etc., to enhance their experience of listening to Dartmoor. It was a gorgeous day — blue sky, puffy white clouds. Sounds abounded — twittering birds; dripping, rushing, gurgling water; jets; tractors; sheep; cars and trucks; rustling grasses; squelchy footsteps. And the sound of camera shutters, people nattering and chewing — two of the groups found the same spot for their picnic lunches. Feedback from conference delegates, and AHA attendees, was uniformly positive. New Dartmoor aficionados were born!

Now the moor is opening *Sounding Dartmoor* is operational again. There is still plenty of time to send in Sound Nomination Cards as the project will have a multi-year lifespan. Listening walks, and recording walks, will be organised beginning in Autumn. Look for notices announcing walks in parish bulletins, local magazines and newspapers, on village notice boards, on the AHA website: www.dartmoorprojects.org.uk, and in the next Update.

Monks Path Theatre

Jackie, as ever, had an idea — a project to keep the residents of Holne, and AHA folks, busy over the winter months. (Something has got to be done about Jackie!) Thus was born, in dramatic persona, the *Monks Path Theatre*. Jackie first considered the idea during AHA's walk last August when 17 folks and 3 dogs walked from Buckland Abbey to Buckfast Abbey, staying overnight at Nuns Cross Farm.

Thursday evenings from February through April a disreputable group of rogues could be found in Holne's Church House Inn, conspiring about how to proceed with this venture. Many thanks to Tony and Jan for their forbearance during this process.



So — was it theatre, was it panto, was it wonderful — yes, yes, yes! The story (loosely following reality...) began in 997 A.D. with the Viking invasion of Buckland Abbey, followed the travails of two contemporary Dartmoor farmers on quad bikes, encompassed an Elizabethan auction where Sir Francis Drake purchased the Abbey, had a horrifying scene of the death of Childe, and scandalous goings-on at Crazy Well Pool (you had to be there...). Local actors featured in some scenes, while the amazing shadow puppets of Willem Montagne stole the show in others. All in all it was a fantastic evening's entertainment of theatre, shadow puppets, music, video, storytelling and great fun. Holne Village Hall was packed to capacity for the only performance on Saturday 28th April. The audience was brilliant — the applause was uproarious.



The Monks Path Theatre was a *Rural Creative Project* supported by The Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation.

Cast & Crew

- Helen Flint
- Willem Montagne
- Jackie Parsons
- Ollie Parsons
- Richard Povall
- Lynda Reynolds-Smith
- Robbie Richardson
- Nancy Sinclair
- Judy Gordon-Jones
- Frank Neiring
- Libby Parsons
- Richard Parsons
- Joanna Radford
- Jessie Richards
- John Roberts
- Hilary Townsend

The residents of Holne & AHA extend special thanks to

- Villages in Action
- The Church House Inn, Holne
- Dartington Arts
- Puppetcraft
- Buckland Abbey (Elizabethan costumes)
- Holne Fete Committee 2000
- Andrew Davis Estate Agents
- Dartington College of Arts
- 3663, Ivybridge

Ten Journeys

Suky Best finished her artworks developed over the winter from her video recordings of the daily journeys of ten Dartmoor residents. She delivered the artworks to AHA at the end of March — they are stunning, a true delight to view. (Photos of two works were in the January Update.)

Now that the moor is opening AHA is scheduling a series of exhibitions of Suky's work in various village locations. As soon as the exhibition schedule is final, announcements will be posted to members of AHA's mailing list as well as to local newspapers, parish magazines, posted to our website, www.dartmoorprojects.org.uk, etc.

If you have any suggestions for venue locations to exhibit the work contact Nancy on 01822 890 539 or n.sinclair@aunehead.fsnet.co.uk We're looking for unusual, or non-typical exhibition spaces to show the works — but the space does need to have uncluttered walls or display areas to do the work the justice it deserves.

Dartmoor Profile

Joanna has provided the following update. *First of all the good news — Teignbridge District Council and Dartmoor National Park Authority gave us grants of £100 and £125 respectively. West Devon Borough Council granted our request for £50.*

Data Protection Act

A revised *Data Protection Act* ensures that individuals control the information about themselves kept by organisations. If you receive the *Update* and mailings from AHA, you are on our database along with your contact information, address(s), phone number(s), email and/or website. AHA needs your permission to continue sending you information about our activities. We would be very grateful if you would complete and return the form below.

Name _____

- I want to continue to receive information about AHA events. Please keep my name and contact information on your database.
- I want you to remove my name and contact details from the AHA mailing list.
- You may share my name and contact details with arts organisations in Devon and the South West who do work similar to AHA.

Please return to: Aune Head Arts, High Moorland Business Centre, Princetown, Yelverton, Devon PL20 6QF or fax to 01364 72 046

Aune Head Arts Membership

Membership will be valid for the calendar year (January thru December).

Please allow us 2-3 weeks for us to process your membership.

- £5 Under-16, unwaged, single parent, concessions
- £10 Family membership
- £25+ Dartmoor Angel (Non-expiring membership)
- £8 Single full membership
- £30 Organisational membership

Date _____

Name _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Telephone (____) _____

E-mail _____

Please enclose a cheque payable to Aune Head Arts, and send it together with this form to:
Aune Head Arts, c/o Court Gate Cottage, Harbournford, South Brent, Devon TQ10 9DT

At *Widcombe School* I had two enjoyable and hectic afternoons helping *Years 5 & 6* turn their lively drawings of their impressions of *Dartmoor* into two pages of the book. Since then I've been back to the *School* and we made 20 little books of poems the students had written to mark *F&M*, printed with some of their pictures for *Dartmoor Profile* and some wood engravings. Each child received a book, as did the *School* and myself; one was purchased. Three books remain for sale — we're raising money for repairs to *Widcombe Church* tower and plan to raffle one at the *School Fete* (3rd July) and to persuade the *DNPA* and the *Widcombe History Society* to buy the other two — a bargain at £10 each as they will surely become a collector's piece.

I realised we could hardly make a book about *Dartmoor* in 2001 and not include the *Foot & Mouth* epidemic. Some of you may have read *Anton Coaker's Lament for his cattle in the Western Morning News*. I was moved by this and he has very generously said 'yes' to our including it in the book.

A Book Launch is scheduled as part of the 50th Anniversary celebrations of the *Park*, thanks to *John Weir* and the *DNPA*. It will be held in the Meeting Room at *Parke*. Date/time announced in the next Update. *DNPA* will be given two books, one to be on permanent display at *Parke*, and one for preservation in the *Library*.

Membership Renewal change

Our thanks to those of you who became members of AHA over the past year — over 40 of you at last count. In administrative hindsight we've decided to make membership concurrent with the calendar year. So — you original members need not renew your memberships until January, 2002.

Reminders will be posted after the first of the year. In the meantime we welcome new members. Even though those of you who join now will not have advantage of a full year of your new membership, you do have the benefit of knowing that your membership helps AHA publish this *Update* and assists us with continuing to develop and produce new arts projects on and about *Dartmoor*. Many thanks!