

dates for your diary

Please note walks begin at differing times and some are on Sunday. Unless otherwise noted, map references are OS Explorer OL28 (2.5")

May

Thursday 1 • 10am • Writers' Group

Meet at Southway Farm, Widecombe (SX724767) info: Michael Venables 01364 621266.

Sunday 4 • 2:30pm • Bluebell Hunt • 1.5 hour Stroll

Meet at Furzeleigh Cross, Hennock. On the boundary of the National Park (SX830801) on the 1" map — not shown on the 2.5" map. Includes a couple of steep climbs. Further details in Issue 13. Very limited parking — try to fill your cars; Frances will help co-ordinate. Leader Frances Kline, 01626 853121.

Sat/Sun 10/11 • 2-6pm • Langtree Village Hall • Exhibition

Sat/Sun 24/25 • 10:30am-4:30pm • Welcombe Village Hall • Exhibition
Your final chances to see the Dartmoor Sensing exhibition. For directions, go to our website.

Saturday 17 • 11am • Cross Furzes • Walk

Meet near Cross Furzes at the bridleway to Lamb's Down (SX700666). The parking area is small, so please car pool. A walk with fantastic views and some serious climbing and rough terrain. Bring a packed lunch. A walking stick will help on the climbs and descents. 3 to 4+ hours (depending on return route). Further details in Issue 13 • January, 2003. Leaders Sally Cottis and Mike Power, 01364 643 424.

June

Tuesday 3 • 10am • Writers' Group

Meet at Bonehill Studio, Widecombe (SX725774) info: Michael Venables 01364 621266.

Sat/Sun 7/8 • 10am-4pm • West Buckland Village Hall • Exhibition

Your final chances to see the Dartmoor Sensing exhibition. For directions, go to our website.

Saturday 14 • 11am • West Okement & Black-a-Tor Copse • Walk

Meet at the Meldon Reservoir Dam carpark (SX562917). This walk, which includes a circuit of Meldon Reservoir, has many spots enroute to linger for 'artistic moments' along the W. Okement as it tumbles over boulders and by the twisted trees of the Copse. There are a selection of wonderful places for lunch. Excellent paddling opportunities weather permitting. This can be a fairly strenuous walk as it involves lots of ankle twisting clitter and some steady climbs. John cautions: "those of extreme age — even more than mine — might find it too much." Bring a packed lunch; a walking stick is recommended. 4+ hours. Leader John Stuart, johnstuart47@hotmail.com or 01392 679659.

July

Tuesday 1 • 10am • Writers' Group

Meet at Bonehill Studio, Widecombe (SX725774) info: Michael Venables 01364 621266.

Saturday 12 • 11am • Natterdon and River Teign • Walk

Meet at Landfall, Broomhill, Chagford (SX707881). Plan to swim in the River Teign towards the end of this walk. The path up Natterdon is quite steep but not too long. Wonderful views at the top. Regenco, a group dedicated to the reintegration and regeneration of land, people and spirit, owns some land on Natterdon which we can view as we walk through. The way down into Chagford is also steep. Again, not long but a walking stick may help. Then there is a lovely gentle riverside stroll to the bathing spot. Tea and biscuits at Landfall afterwards at Amanda's house. 3+ hours. Leader Amanda Statham (ably assisted by Lizzie Ropschitz) 01647 432811, amanda@penstone.demon.co.uk.

August

Saturday 2 & Sunday 3 • Life & Death on Dartmoor • Annual 2-Day Walk

Final route still to be precisely determined and recy'd by Lynda and Nancy (who had hoped Helen would be joining them on the recy and the walk — but who broke her ankle in Scotland and was last seen sporting a large purple cast?). L & N propose to begin Day 1 at Lydford, walking to Bellever via the Lych Way. We'll spend the night with the estimable Garry at the Youth Hostel and then on Day 2 it's off to Burrator Reservoir via the Devonport Leat (thus the name of the walk which is in typically tasteless AHA-fashion).

Nancy and Lynda will be getting things sorted in May and early June and will send out details to all who came on last year's North/South walk and those who came on the Monk's Path walk in 2000. If you're not counted amongst those two groups, but want to know more — contact Lynda on: lynda.reynolds-smith@teignbridge-pct.nhs.uk or 01626 834 397 and we'll add you to the mailing list. Express your interest early as places are limited to 16.

Walk Grading Read the descriptions of the walks and review them on the 2.5" map. If you're not sure about your ability to do a walk, you must take the responsibility to call or email the leader to check its difficulty. Inclement weather (rain and/or wind) will increase a walk's difficulty. Ground can become very boggy after prolonged rain. Remember — even in summer, you need to have extra clothing, food and water — on Dartmoor it can turn cold and wet very suddenly.

Liability — walks are undertaken at the risk of the walker.

AUNE HEAD ARTS

april 2003

UPDATE 14

Dartmoor Sensing

After its successful run in Plymouth the exhibition is going on tour in North Devon. First date is at Langtree Village Hall, 10th and 11th May. The doors will be open from 2 - 6pm each day and cream teas will be on sale. Parking is good and there is disabled access.

Next on the tour is Welcombe Village Hall on the 24th and 25th May where it will be open from 10.30am - 4.30pm. Refreshments will be available and there is ample parking. There is one step up to the door.

Lastly, West Buckland Village Hall has the exhibition on the 7th and 8th of June from 10am to 4pm. Refreshments will be available. Parking is good but there are several steps for access at this venue.

Let all your friends around North Devon know about the exhibition, and please note that these are all weekend exhibitions. For further information, and directions, ring **Beaford Arts** on 01805 603201.

Focus on Farmers

a project of AUNE HEAD ARTS with BEAFORD ARTS

Focus on Farmers (FoF) is using contemporary artforms to present Dartmoor as a living landscape maintained through farming — the agricultural practices of its hill farmers, commoners and others who use the moor. The intent is not only to explore farming practice, but to look at the people themselves, and the place in which they work. Each team of artists (one lead artist and one apprentice artist) will live with their farm family for a total of 28 days between mid-April and October. Three artist teams will be based on Dartmoor, and, courtesy of Beaford Arts, a fourth team will be based with a farm family on Exmoor.

The lead artists are:

Tessa Bunney, a photographer from Yorkshire. She lives rurally, has a number of farm-based projects under her belt, and showed us some quite stunning animal portraits, amongst other work. We were very struck with the empathy of her photographic work and believe she will produce some very powerful images with her host family. She will work on Exmoor.

Tony Hill, a film-maker with a significant exhibition history, including the Tate and the ICA. He works in 35mm, 16mm as well as in video, and his work approaches documentary from a very unusual perspective.

He was commissioned to make a documentary piece for the Dartington Summer School, which is very beautiful and highly experimental in its approach. He recently retired as Professor of Film from the University of Derby, and is in the process of relocating to Cornwall.

Gregg Wagstaff, a sound artist based in Scotland, and one of the original instigators of the Sounding Dartmoor project. He produced a wonderful project on Harris and Lewis, a combination of sound portraits and

text, including working with primary school pupils to write and record their own short poems about the sounds of their home isles. This became a very impressive 3-CD set.

Kirsty Waterworth, a video artist from Tavistock. We were delighted to be able to include a Devon-based artist in the final four. Kirsty's work ranges quite widely, and she has most recently been involved in working with a group of young people in danger of being excluded from their school. Her video is expertly made and works beautifully with landscape and place, as well as with people.

In addition to the quality of their work as artists, one of the final criteria for selection was how the candidates talked about working with their apprentice and with their farm families. All of the chosen candidates impressed us with their ideas for working collaboratively, and in getting the farming families themselves involved creatively in the project.

The apprentice artists are:

Louise Cottey (Somerset) textile artist (working with Tessa Bunney)

Beth Hamer (Chagford) installation artist (working with Tony Hill)

Tania van Schalkwyk (Bristol) writer (working with Gregg Wagstaff)

Hannah Standen (Exeter) sound artist (working with Kirsty Waterworth)

The farms are:

The Coles, **Greenwell Farm**, Meavy

The Coakers, **Runnage Farm**, Postbridge

The Malseeds, **Frenchbeer Farm**, Chagford

The Hawkins, **Warren Farm**, Simonsbath (Exmoor)

As a result of experiences gathered during their residencies, each lead artist will generate a work or series of works; as will the apprentice artist, working with the support of their lead artist. The work will be exhibited across Dartmoor, Exmoor, and Devon, during 2004/5. We expect that the work will be very wide-ranging in nature.

We're were delighted to receive a significant award from The Esmée Fairbairn Foundation towards this project. This comes in addition to support from Arts Council England, West Devon Borough Council, and the Dartmoor National Park Authority (see Update 13).

Dartmoor Changes

We're still waiting to hear from the Countryside Agency about our application to the Local Heritage Initiative for support of *Dartmoor Changes*. We have heard, however, that the application is "likely" to succeed, so we're planning to begin recording all the peals of bells on Dartmoor this summer. We expect final word sometime in May.

To help us on our way, we need you. If you live in a village on Dartmoor, or if you just have a story to tell us about church bells, we'd love to know. If you have any special memories about the sound of church bells in any of the villages or towns on the moor (as always, our definition of "on the moor" is anything within the boundaries of the National Park), we'd love to hear them. If you are a bellringer, we'd particularly like to hear from you. We won't use your stories without getting your permission first. If you have always been fascinated by or even vaguely interested in ringing, but don't know where to begin, we'd also like to hear from you. Part of the project will be three



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Philip Guy Stevens (Image courtesy of Andrew Stevens)



beafordarts

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AHA Membership

Memberships are valid for the calendar year (January to December)

New memberships received in November or December run until end of the following year. Please make cheques payable to Aune Head Arts and allow 2-3 weeks for processing. Send to: AHA, c/o Court Gate Cottage, Harbournford, South Brent, Devon TQ10 9DT

- £5 Under-16, unwaged, single parent, conc.
- £8 Single full membership
- £10 Family membership
- £30 Organisational membership
- £250+ Dartmoor Angel non-expiring membership

Date _____

Name _____

Address _____

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A Standing Order Form is available on our website.

AHA Order Form

Please make cheques payable to Aune Head Arts. Send to: AHA, c/o Court Gate Cottage, Harbournford, South Brent, Devon TQ10 9DT

Lives & Landscapes video

___ VHS @ £10 ___ DVD @ £15

Dartmoor Profile CD Rom*

___ CD-Roms @ £10 each

* will run on most PCs and Apple Macs with CD drive

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED

£ _____

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

bellringing workshops for complete beginners, so this may be your chance! Send us a letter (address on the mailface of this Update), or e-mail us at dartmoorchanges@auneheadarts.org.uk.

Membership

Any member who renewed by standing order — would you please ring or email Nancy and tell her. We omitted to put a note in with the standing order form to that effect and, as the bank doesn't notify us directly we don't know who has renewed in this way. So if you have used, or are about to use the current Standing Order form (included in Update 13) please let Nancy know — in future the S.O. will have a notice to that effect! A list of those who have renewed follows so if you're not there it's because you sent a standing order OR because it must have slipped your mind!!!! We look forward to hearing from you either way.

Many thanks to those who have renewed: Diana Brueton, John Curno, Angela Holyoak, Nina Inglis, Frances Kline, Rebecca Lesley, Russell Luscombe, Cory Lyons and family, Anne and Mike Malleson, Willem Montagne and family, Jackie Parsons and family, Nancy Sinclair and Richard Povall, Paul Sharman, Phil Smith, Amanda Statham, Ian and Barbara Steele, John Stuart, Veronica Towler, Kirsty Waterworth, David Whitfield, Dilys Williams.

We have also received many new members (for 2003) through the *Dartmoor Sensing* exhibition, where a complimentary one-year membership was on offer for those who found the secret stamp. We will process them soon.

Dartmoor Trust Exhibition & Sale

The Dartmoor Trust in association with Delamore House are presenting an exhibition of fine art by some of the leading artists from the South West from 2nd to 31st May, 10.30am - 4.30pm, daily. Delamore is an imposing house set on the fringes of Dartmoor, near Cornwood. The Delamore exhibition presents an exciting new prospect for artists and art-lovers as well as a unique opportunity to visit the house and gardens, rarely open to the public.

For every piece of art sold at the month-long exhibition Dartmoor Trust will receive a contribution. AHA will also benefit from the exhibition as member John Curno generously donated five of his Dartmoor Sensing photos for sale on behalf of Aune Head Arts.

Dartmoor Trust is a charity whose aim is to conserve and protect the landscape of Dartmoor and has, for the past three years, been pursuing its aim to establish an archive of the thousands of photographs taken of the Moor over the years. The photos will be made available on their website soon.

To find complete details of the exhibition and how to get there visit the



Joanna Radford: sketch of Judy, Jesse and Sue on the March walk

Delamore website (www.delamore.com).

River Dart Book

Report from Joanna Radford

I've just finished my second workshop day at Dartington School and am delighted to tell you that I have two sets of wonderful prints to make up two pages of the book plus end-papers for the copy of it that the school will have. The images are all so good I am sorely tempted to cheat and use them all!!

So not only do we have school pages proofed, but we also have several individual ones, including Barbara Steele's, Cory Lyons's, Frances Kline's, Sally Cottis's and since the last meeting, Moira Mellor's & Joe Oswald's. Heather Cowie has worked on an icon for the back of the image pages.

Moor Poets

Congratulations to Pat Fleming, a member of Aune Head Arts, who has just been given a Tarka Country Millennium Award to produce an anthology of contemporary poetry from Dartmoor. She's hoping to hear from people interested in taking part, and the award includes writing workshops under the direction of people like Caroline Wilson and Roselle Angwin. More information from her at pat@spitchwickherbs.co.uk, or on 01364 631233. **Workshops:** April 12 and 21, and May 8; deadline for poetry submissions May 11. *You do not have to take part in the workshops in order to submit work — so start writing!*

Writers' Group

Report from Anthea and Michael Venables

In the middle of last year we attended an excellent creative writing workshop in Princetown organised by Nancy and from this has been created the Dartmoor Creative Writing Group which, since the workshop, has been a self help organisation run by the teacher/writer Caroline Wilson. It has become a very popular monthly activity and, as well as learning to write, the social activity emanating from the meetings has been both infectious and rewarding. In starting this activity on Dartmoor, Nancy has served our group well as have so many of her other inspirational ideas. On average there are about 8 or 9 regular members and the work produced covers prose and poetry in a variety of ways. (Nancy adds: *I blush at Michael and Anthea's praise! Besides I think it was Caroline's brilliant idea...*)

Recent AHA Walks

March

John Stuart reports: March 16 was fine and sunny and 17 walkers met at New Bridge on the Dart under the command of Joanna Radford. Also present were Josh and Jessie, who, despite some initial cynophobia, contributed to the enjoyment of the walk. We set off upstream beside the river, past Spitchwick to Buckland Lodge. By arrangement with Fountain Forestry we went into the woods along what became an alpine path with the river far below, crystal clear with sandy banks, foaming falls and dark green depths. Brimstone and tortoiseshell butterflies just getting going after the winter lightened our way.

Stopping for lunch (first sitting) on Eagle Rock, a grey wagtail visited, gorgeous in yellow, white and orange below his green-grey back, combing the rocks for his lunch. On down towards the river and a buzzard cruised low over the river. Few noticed the ducks also on the water, probably the intended lunch for the buzzard. Of all things they turned out to be two pairs of Mandarin, drakes splendid in spring finery. Idling in a calm backwater, on



the April walk photo: J. Stuart

seeing us they took off down the rapids like little corks, flying up onto the rocks when out of harm's (our) way. Repeat performance on the way back. How many noticed that?

Down by the river we had a second sitting for lunch at a medieval iron-work site, found

the glassy remains of their fingers and did some drawing in our various ways. More ducks, robins and sundry crows appeared and a pair of geese flew downstream. How many saw that? Sadly, not I. What a nice walk, what a treat for observers of the interesting things of life.

April

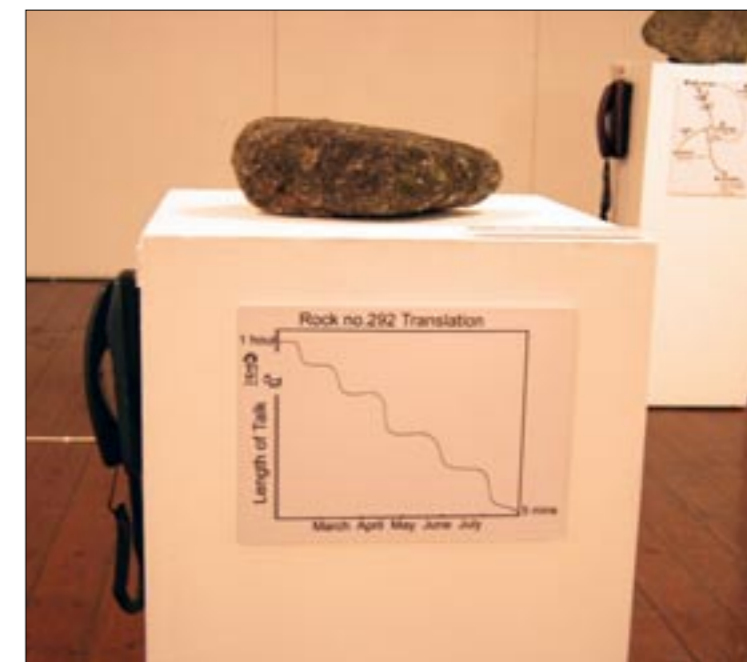
Contrary to depressing, if not tempestuous forecasts, the weather on April 11 was fine and sunny although there was quite a cold wind. The group set off at a cracking pace up through the village of Belstone until somebody (it could have been me) called for mercy and we slowed down to a more gentle pace. Up onto the open Moor and we were treated to blue skies and fluffy clouds with a bit of a haze in the distance which made the whole scene quite ethereal and mysterious. We had a bit of a 'which tor' competition and John and Mike did rather well naming Yes Tor, East Mill Tor, as well as Belstone and Higher Tors.

We passed East Okement Farm and Mike told us the story of the secret woman and the farmer who lived in that farm once upon a time. Apparently farmer's wife found out about said secret woman and pushed dear hubby down the well. A true story? Some said it was a story made up by Eden Phillpotts... Believe what you will.

There was quite a lot of clutter to walk through which slowed us down rather so Nancy decided that her original intention was too long and cut a chunk out of the walk. This was fine by some of us less fit mortals but one or two looked as though they could have gone on all day. We had lunch down by the Taw and heard skylarks singing. That wonderful, joyous sound, marking the coming of summer, seemed a little early in the year to some of us. But I expect the birds know what they're doing. A very pleasant walk with lots of good company and interesting talk as well as sweeping, open scenery. (report by Amanda)



Many, many thanks to Amanda Stratham, Guest Editor for this issue.



Dartmoor Sensing at Plymouth Arts Centre photo: R. Povall