

# Dartmoor Changes

The project is up and running — recordings have taken place at Drewsteignton, Buckfast Abbey, Brentor, Lydford and Sourton. At Buckfast, *Hosannah* (third largest bell in England, it requires two ringers) was tolled and then rung together with the rest of the bells in the tower — an unusual and impressive sound! In addition to a tower full of ringers, who came from across Devon and Somerset, at Buckfast there were audio, video and photographic recorders on hand (or underfoot as the case may be...). Images and sounds were recorded from the abbey grounds, the ringing chamber and the bell chamber. There was even a video camera suspended above Hosannah (don't tell the insurance company). At Brentor there was more danger of having the equipment blown away than dropped into a bell — ringing and recording took place on 12<sup>th</sup> October (the last Sunday the church will be used until Spring). No wonder, given the gale blowing when we were there — one could imagine parishoners being blown as far as Cornwall.

In addition to the ringing and recording, there will be six sound walks scheduled so that people can enjoy the live sound. Walk locations are being selected to provide a range of listening experiences. Two will be scheduled before the end of the year; the other four will occur in the spring. Look at [www.auneheadarts.org.uk](http://www.auneheadarts.org.uk) for dates and times, or contact us at 01822 890 539, or at [info@auneheadarts.org.uk](mailto:info@auneheadarts.org.uk).

# Focus on Farmers

The Focus on Farmers artists have just about completed their on-site work. During the residency period strong friendships have developed between the artists the farmers and their families — some of the farmers are beginning to wonder if they've inadvertently gained new family members. The good news is that artists apparently make good (if not a bit unskilled...) farm hands.

As those who attended the symposium on Art and Agriculture as part of the Art Farm project back in September heard and saw — really interesting work is being developed through FoF. And from the accounts of the participants everyone involved in the project has learnt things they hadn't anticipated. Mike Malseed at Frenchbeer Farm finally conceded he now believes that when resident artists Gregg Wagstaff and Tania van Schalkwyk sit around in corners of fields, they're not skivving off, but working! We also heard about all sorts of farm and community activities and kitchen table debates which artists and farm families have joined in together. Tania even read a quote from the Old Testament on the effects on intellectual activity of spending time with bulls (it wasn't good...).

AHA and Beaford Arts are now looking for a Curator/Exhibition Designer to develop the completed artworks into a travelling exhibition (we hope to have hired someone by the 1<sup>st</sup> week of November). The completed work will 'tour' Devon beginning in Spring 2004. Watch this space for details.



Focus on Farmers group dinner (photo: N. Sinclair)

# Moor Art/Moor Business

After various discussions over the past few months we have come to the conclusion that it is neither appropriate nor feasible for AHA to take Moor Art/Moor Business any further as a project. The idea and initial discussions generated an amazing amount of interest, but despite the enthusiasm the response was generally to wait for AHA to 'do' it. Most AHA projects, even if large and wide ranging, are fairly specific and MA/MB has developed into a notion of connectedness that is far broader than our remit, and would move us into areas that are different from our aims and purposes. The MA/MB research was not in vain, however; all sorts of contacts and ideas have flowed from it. AHA is now ready to hand over its research and contacts information to another organisation, group or agency to manage. In November AHA will send out an overview document of all the information collected during its research to anyone who expressed an interest in the project in hopes that someone will come forward to take it on.

# AGM

As has become custom, a motley crew of AHA members gathered for lunch and a pint at the Plume of Feathers Inn in Princetown before the meeting. Ru made her annual appearance, announcing that she always looks forward to the lunch before the AGM — but that she doesn't do meetings (she also said some really complimentary things about AHA — asking us to keep on doing what we're doing). Thank you Ru; it was great to see you, as ever. The AGM took place at Wesley House again this year (our thanks to the Dartmoor Forest Community Workers for providing us with the meeting room). AHA's efficiency very much impressed attendee Maeve O'Brian as we finished 10 minutes within the allocated time. (Maeve, a Research Fellow at the Centre for Creative Enterprise and Participation at Dartington College of Art, is working with the AHA Board — we fear what may go into her report about our behaviour.) Despite the speed with which we demolished the agenda, a lot of ground was covered. Eighteen members attended and were treated to (that can't be right...) a report of current projects and a highly comprehensive review of the 2002 financial accounts (new software now permits information to be retrieved under a myriad of headings). Directors and Officers were all re-elected, though Richard did try to slope off.

At the end of the meeting ten of us went on for a walk to Foggintor Quarry ably led by Willem. We started on the old railway track (first walk this year for which gloves were necessary) passed bronze age hut circles and a reeve boundary (possibly the longest in Europe according to Willem), then on round and up and down the precipitous sides of the quarry (with a pool Nancy did not swim in). On the NE edge of the quarry we put up a large flock of golden plovers. The whole walk was visually stunning, partly because of the autumn light and colours, but also as it provided any number of elegant horizons. We learnt to differentiate fungi and that a post bearing the legend 'PC47' does not mark a policeman's tomb. A number of us felt that this would be a good location for a future walk where we could establish a base, then stay for a few hours while people sketch, write, sleep, take photographs... Look for a reprise when warmer weather returns.

# Annual Dinner

This year's annual dinner will take place on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> November at Moorish. You will all be glad to know there is a repeat clash with the Ashburton Winter Carnival — AHA's float will have to be postponed for another year...

Hilary, Judy & Chef Nan are again offering a mouth-watering menu. **Starters:** Red Pepper, Courgette, Sun-Dried Tomato and Basil Terrine with a Roasted Lemon & Yoghurt Dressing OR Smoked Haddock and Leek Soup. **Mains:** Baked Fillet of Lamb in a Chilli, Cream and Breadcrumb Crust with Mango & Yoghurt Salsa OR Vegetable and Fruit Tagine with Coriander and Pine Nut Cous Cous. And a choice between three **puddings:** Cranberry Pudding with Sweet Toffee Sauce, OR Dark Chocolate and Amaretto Mousse, OR Fresh Fruit Extravaganza with Clotted Cream. The per person price of £19.50 includes coffee and tea.

There will be the usual raffle of Dartmoor-related prizes and we're working on some ideas for entertainment. If you attended the AHA dinner last year you will automatically get an invite. If not, and you want to come this year, email or phone AHA soon as this is always a popular, and fun, event. 01822 890 539 or [info@auneheadarts.org.uk](mailto:info@auneheadarts.org.uk)

Bank of Devonport Leat (photo: Steve Drake)



# Recent Walks

Stalldown Stone Row (photo: John Stuart)



## River Teign Walk, July

The weather was warm and sunny for the walk around the outskirts of Chagford. There was plenty of verdant growth on our path up from Adley Lane to Nattadon Common — of the nettle variety — which caused a little consternation amongst the shorts wearers. We stopped on the top in the field belonging to Regenco, a local environmental group, and had a few minutes silence as we gazed out over the view across to Castle Drogo. The way down the other side was even more verdant: bracken taller than most of us! We then walked by the Teign and some of us had a wonderful swim despite assurances from certain members of the party that Chagford's sewage could be seen floating around. (Not true!!). I believe there is a photo of our lovely nymphs emerging from the deep (in the interest of taste, this was not included). Tea and cake at Amanda's ended the walk which, although not as 'wild Dartmoor' as some of our walks, was varied and enjoyed by all. (Amanda Strathem)

## Life & Death on Dartmoor, August

We started at Lydford, where the coffins carried along the Lich path from as far to the east as Babeny, would finally come to rest. We explored the castle, once a grim prison, and Lydford church, where besides the famous epihtaph for a watchmaker there are many beautifully carved slate gravestones, memorials perhaps to some of those whose last journey was along the Lich path. An impressively competent driver took us by mini-bus to the open moor and the clearly defined, sometimes paved track of the Lich path, over hills, across steams, by one of which we lunched and some of us (not just Nancy) bathed; past crosses where the coffin bearers might have rested and eventually down to Cherry Book and the Powder Mills and through the forest to Bellever Youth Hostel for showers, delicious aperitifs served by Helen and provided by Richard; then good food, a lot of laughter and a sound sleep. Up to another brilliant morning and the start of the walk along the Devonport Leat, water of life for Plymouth for the Last 250 years or so. The sun blazed down and we walked to the sound of running water along the level countour; sometimes there were fish and always dragonflies and butterflies, a group of ponies watched while we ate our lunch in the shade of what they clearly felt were their trees quickly taking our places as soon as we set off into the sun again. At Crazy Well Pool we plunged into the cool water with relief and delight. After a very steep descent beside the cascading leat we reached the forest at Burrator shadowy and beautiful with the late afternoon sun slanting through the trees — and we were even in time to catch the ice cream man at the car park! Thank you to Linda for leading such a splendid walk and to everyone else involved too. (Sally Cottis) Sally's text arrived with this note: "One rather long paragraph for one rather long walk".

## Stall Moor, September

Sixteen people met for this walk, some having followed Nancy's scenic and touring route to the start through Harford, others who had travelled the shorter one from Cornwood. It was a hot day and we set off at speed toward Yealm steps (after a bit of a discussion on pronunciation) taking a break on the banks amongst the tinner's spoils — wonderful views up and down this deightful little river valley. Then it was time to circle around toward the stone row on Stalldown — enroute we stopped at the head of Rany Brook for lunch. A steady climb took us to the evocative standing stones, a long row pointing across to a barely visible circle that, at this distance, looked not unlike a flock of sheep. From here we went to a tiny, grim and, even on this hot day, damp and moss covered ruin that it was almost impossible to believe was once home to an orphan of the moor who made clocks. We meandered down the final slope through a variety of cattle rejoicing in such a splendid start to autumn walking. (Susannah Lash)

## What is AHA anyway?

AHA promotes the creation of new artworks on and about Dartmoor:

- commissions local, regional and national artists
- provides exhibition opportunities for local, regional and national artists
- provides professional training and mentoring opportunities for early career and professional artists

AHA responds to the Dartmoor and regional community:

- collaborates with other organisations and groups to produce projects which culminate in new work, workshops, events, etc.
- assists individuals, organisations and communities with the development of project ideas for new work, workshops, events, etc.

AHA provides advice and assistance to artists and arts groups in Devon:

- Informal provision of links to networks, signposting to resources, opportunities and issues of self, project and organisational development via phone & email
- training through workshops organised by other cultural agencies in the region

## Who is AHA?

We have a five-member Board of Directors: Susannah Lash, Willem Montagne, Richard Povall, Joanna Radford and Nancy Sinclair. Jackie Parsons was an early Board Member and when she resigned that position she stayed on as Secretary to the Board. All six of us share a common passion for Dartmoor. We also value creative collaboration between artists and others through high quality arts-based activities. Through AHA we try and link our passions for art and Dartmoor through the development of imaginative, inspiring and meaningful artwork with individuals, artists, and communities.

## Why Members are Important

In connection with a review of AHA and its activities, it is important to mention how central members are to AHA. It's clear that people join AHA for all sorts of reasons (opportunities to meet fellow artists, to come on our walks, to show support for our work, etc). People also participate in AHA projects and activities to varying degrees. Not everyone may be aware, however, that in addition to the modest amount of funds membership fees generate (about enough to support the printing and mailing of this newsletter each quarter) their involvement is significant for other very vital reasons. AHA's local and regional funders (Devon County Council, Teignbridge District Council, West Devon Borough Council, Arts Council England South West and others) need to see evidence of support for AHA's projects from the community we serve. Members are one of the most tangible bits of evidence to show that we are responding to the Dartmoor and regional community — and that they approve of and support the work we are doing. Your £5, £8 or £10 per year enables us to bring in the £1000s necessary to produce projects such as Dartmoor Sensing, Focus on Farmers, Dartmoor Profile, the monthly walks, the members-only Equipment Rental Programme, this newsletter, the email bulletins of activities and opportunities, and occasional special events. It also enables AHA to continue to grow as a regional voice representing the arts and artists to the funders, policy makers, educators and others who make and influence the decisions about how the arts go forward in the region.

If you are a Member we thank you for your support and encouragement — and don't forget your Membership means that you can attend the AGM and voice your opinions and ideas about the work AHA does. If you would like to become a member, or know someone who might like to, please use the Membership form on this newsletter — or if you'd like to set up a Standing Order you can download one from [www.auneheadarts.org.uk](http://www.auneheadarts.org.uk) or ring us on 01822 890 539 and we'll post one.

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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 \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

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 \_\_\_\_\_

# dates for your diary

## October

### Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> • 10:00am • Widecombe • Writers' Group

Southway Farm, Widecombe-in-the-Moor. £10.00. Contact Michael Venables for details and directions, 01364 621 266 or anthea@southwayfarm.fsnet.co.uk

## November

### Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> • 11am • Heathercombe and Easdon • Walk

Meet at Juliette's, Wingstone Farm, Manaton (SX746811). A relatively easy walk (says Juliette!) from Wingstone Farm to Heathercombe Brake, through Easdon and back with a little scramble up to Jay's Grave. The walk is part of the Mariners' Way. 3 to 4 hours. Bring a packed lunch. Leader Juliette Rich, 01647 221215.

### Friday 28<sup>th</sup> • Moorish, Ashburton • Annual Dinner

See further details inside

### Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> • 10:00am • Widecombe • Writers' Group

Southway Farm, Widecombe-in-the-Moor. £10.00. Contact Michael Venables for details and directions, 01364 621 266 or anthea@southwayfarm.fsnet.co.uk

## December

### Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> • 10:15am • West Moor • Walk

Will start promptly at 10.30 to avoid having to find our way off the Moor in the dark! Meet at 36 Great Fellingfield, Mary Tavy (SX 502792). Directions: take the Brentor Road in Mary Tavy by Downs Garage, then 1<sup>st</sup> left & 1<sup>st</sup> left again. No.36 is at the bottom of the cul-de-sac. Since we may have MOVED HOUSE before this walk, telephone 01822 811 045 to confirm the meeting point. An easy walk but one short steep climb near the end. Only one or two short wet bits to cross. We shall be walking the fields and woodlands and open part of the Moor's western border, going down to the River Tavy for the lunch break. Constant changing views of what William Crossing considered to be the best panoramas of the Moor. Lots to see, hear, draw and write about. Swimming at lunchtime for those who dare (bring a packed lunch). 5 hours. Leaders: Mike & Anne Malleon, 01822 811 045.

## January

### Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> • 10:45am • Christow • Walk

Meet at Christow Village Hall car park. Map Ref SX 837850 (1:50 map). The walk begins with a longish uphill pull (quite steep in places) on the tarmacked lane to Bennah Hill. Frequent pauses to admire the view/take photographs will be provided. Next a gentle uphill green lane through woodland, and a descent back to the village on woodland footpaths (this bit may be muddy and/or a bit slippery — depending on the winter rains). As seems appropriate for winter walking, there will be a mid-point stop for lunch at the 12th Century Artichoke Inn. Post-lunch there will be very gentle amble through the village on tarmac then, following footpaths, bridle ways and pastures we'll return to the church and the start. 2+ hours, plus pub lunch mid-way. Leader: Shane Edgar 01647 252 802 or shane.edgar@digitalsplash.co.uk

### Monday 12<sup>th</sup> • 10:00am • Widecombe • Writers' Group

Bonehill Studio, Widecombe-in-the-Moor. £10.00. Contact Shan Palm for details and directions, 01364 621 230.

## February

### Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> • 10:30am • details tba • Walk

Mark your diary. Details in January newsletter.

### Monday 16<sup>th</sup> • 10:00am • Widecombe • Writers' Group

Bonehill Studio, Widecombe-in-the-Moor. £10.00. Contact Shan Palm for details and directions, 01364 621 230.

**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. Walkers are expected to wear appropriate clothing and footwear, and to bring suitable extra items for changes in the weather. Please note that the walk leader is responsible for making decisions about the final route details on the day.

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



Nattadon Common (photo: John Stuart)

# AUNE HEAD ARTS

october 2003

Guest Editor: Susannah Lash

## In this issue:

**Dartmoor Changes:** recent recordings have included Drewsteington, Brentor, Lydford, and Sourton, and by special arrangement, the full peal at Buckfast Abbey, including the extraordinary *Hosannah*. See inside...

**Focus on Farmers** is producing some fabulous and exciting artwork as the artists complete their residencies. See inside...

### also inside...

Moor Art/Moor Business

Annual General Meeting

Annual Dinner

Recent Walks

Dates for your Diary

### Aune Head Arts

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image: Philip Guy Stevens (courtesy of Andrew Stevens)



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Laurence Bennie, Drewsteington (photo: N. Sinclair)