

## New Staff at AHA

AHA has hired its first actual staff members (as opposed to temporary project workers). We must be middle-aged! As of 5th September Clare Fisher and Cat Radford are now regular members of the AHA Team.

Cat's name will sound familiar as she has been working on the Dartmoor Changes project since last autumn (and has written elsewhere in this issue about the Changes Celebration event at Widecombe). She's now working one day a week for AHA as Project Officer. She's wrapping up the Dartmoor Changes project (writing final reports and such) but her main task will be managing the Focus on Farmers book project (which is very much back in action with an anticipated publication date of late spring). She can be contacted at [cat@auneheadarts.org.uk](mailto:cat@auneheadarts.org.uk).

Clare joins us as Company Manager, and her name may be familiar, too. Since 2000 she has been an Arts Activist at Beaford Arts and where she has also been AHA's contact and partner on the Focus on Farmers project (Beaford coordinated and installed all the FoF exhibitions across North Devon and West Somerset). Clare and Nancy will be sharing day-to-day responsibility for AHA projects and activities. Clare will be working from the Princetown Office on Monday and Tuesday each week, although she is also using those days for meetings so she may not be immediately to hand should you ring her on 01822 890 539. As she's on flexitime (Clare is also mum to 2 year old Ettah) she will also be working from home and can be contacted by email on [clare@auneheadarts.org.uk](mailto:clare@auneheadarts.org.uk).



Cat Radford (photo: Alan Donaldson)



Clare Fisher with Ettah

## Nancy slacks off

Nancy was due to report for surgery on 3rd October and may be on sick-leave for up to six weeks — she swears it isn't because she had wanted a longer summer holiday and thought this would be a creative alternative (likely story). As one of those silly people who have spent their lives fooling around with horses she has totted up about four decades of injuries to her cervical spine (that's a neck to you and me). Of course it would have helped if the mare she showed as a teenager had been willing to go over the jumps with her. Then there was the fall during the Holne Moor drift a few years ago where she landed on her head and still can't remember what happened. Why is it people ride horses? Anyway, Nancy's spine and attendant muscles have now reached the point where stretching exercises and pain killers no longer do the trick and she's agreed to submit to the surgeon's knife. When she returns to AHA in mid-November — pain-free and full of energy from sitting around eating bon bons and watching telly — we anticipate she'll be a real pain in the neck! (NS)

*Richard Povall writes:* Nancy did indeed report to RD&E on October 3rd, only to be told that the consultant wanted to do another test before he felt able to go ahead with this vital surgery. She was sent home, but has unfortunately regressed rather significantly since then. As we go to press, we are hoping that Nancy will soon be re-admitted to hospital so that the surgery can go ahead.

## Dartmoor Changes Celebration 6th August

When I arrived at St. Pancras on the morning of the 6th August, Nancy and Richard were already on site, putting the finishing touches to the photographic displays, information boards and video viewing areas (thanks to the help of a team of volunteers the video kit had been installed the previous day).

It wasn't long before Mike Pascoe (Tower Captain) and his group of helpers joined in the busy atmosphere — humping tables around, digging out crockery and filling up the tea urns for the striking competition due

to start at 2pm. Last Spring Mike had very graciously suggested that our event to celebrate the completion of the project, and the launch of the CD set, could be run in tandem with the (highly regarded) Widecombe in the Moor Annual Rose Bowl Invitational Striking Competition. As Mike said, many of the ringers appearing on the CD would be in attendance to represent their local band, and it seemed appropriate to celebrate the achievements of the project to the sounds of the very best of ringing in Devon.

Our programme of events began with a peal from a team made up of a number of ringers representing towers featured on the CD. In fact enough ringers showed up for the 10am start that three different teams were able to be put together to demonstrate some traditional Call Change Ringing. At 10:45am an assembled group of 70 or so were officially welcomed by The Rev. Prebendary John Scott who spoke about the importance of such archival documents as the Dartmoor Changes CD. Reverend Scott (who is the Diocesan bell advisor) noted that with the advent of modern technology it has become possible to record the sounds of a particular community activity for future prosperity, and that although we imagine the tradition of bell ringing will continue for at least a few generations to come, this CD records the bells as they are now, rung by the ringers of today, amongst the architecture and landscapes of the present. He went on to consider the fact that time will change the subtleties of the sound heard in the future from that of today and thus the Dartmoor Changes project will become a significant record of this period of ringing on Dartmoor and of the individuals who to make it happen.

People aged five to eighty-five — experienced ringers, novices and absolute beginners — lined up to give the small demonstration bell a try (provided by Lester Yeo and the ringing centre at St. Petrock's church); completely fascinating to those laymen amongst us who had no idea of how the technology worked. I spent a while being taught (whilst no-one else was around) and after a very frustrating 20 minutes trying to understand the logic of the hand stroke and the backstroke (you'll have to buy a copy of the CD set and read the booklet's glossary if you don't know what I'm talking about!) I managed to settle into a rhythm. Under the expert eye of Lester, many others did too.

Another highly popular aspect of the day (amongst competitive members of the audience) was the 'Name the Tower' competition. Andy and Nancy pulled together thirty-two 'cryptic' photos of the towers to which participants had to put the correct name. The competition photos were a mix of easy, a bit tricky and all but impossible, so we didn't expect too many people would be able to recognise all of them. To help, we encouraged participants to look at the 'named' portrait photographs of the each of the towers for clues. As the competition photos were found on the inside of the display boards, and the portrait photos on the outside, there was a constant back and forth movement as people competed with each other to name as many as they could. The highest number of correct answers from participants who lived the furthest from Dartmoor was 27 out of 32 — submitted by the Legreneur family from France (which put them in joint fourth place). Our winner, who correctly guessed all thirty-two towers and was awarded a copy of the CD set and booklet, was Philip Stevens. This caused much embarrassment to Project Manager, Andy Stevens, as he was certain it would look like the 'fix' was in when his brother won!

Just before the Rose Bowl Striking Competition began (before they retired to their secretly located caravan judging station) the team of judges demonstrated how striking should be done. As was the case throughout the day, a live feed from a video camera in the ringing room was displayed on two TV screens in the church, so the audience could watch ringers in action. Ringers and non-ringers were entranced by their ability to be 'a fly on the wall' in the ringing room. In the afternoon, competing ringers especially enjoyed this unusual opportunity to watch their opponents at the ropes — no doubt appraising their techniques. Non-ringers were pleased to be able to see what it takes to make the bells ring and how the teams communicate with one another to achieve the changing patterns and sequences.

Knowing that I would be at St. Pancras during the six hours of the competition, I had thought that ear plugs might have been necessary(!), but although the bells of Widecombe can be heard for miles across the parish, inside the thick walls of St. Pancras you can barely hear them, so from time to time I left my post inside the Church to sit in the graveyard and listen to the striking of the competition entrants. It was here that I noticed the nature of the movement of people during the day; some would sit and listen outside for a while, go inside the church to watch

the practice bell (photo: Richard Povall)



the TV screens, perhaps try the demonstration bell or look at the project photos, before wandering outside again to hear the next team ring. The occasional bus load of tourists arrived in the village, were attracted by the sounds of the bells, and took part in the events inside the church. Many people also took the opportunity to watch the 'Ring of Bells' video, commissioned by AHA of Marcus Vergette and Jonnie Williams, and on view in the Church House (courtesy of the National Trust).

Most noticeable of all I witnessed the coming together of a diverse community who used the opportunity to share stories and jokes, commenting on what they'd seen and heard throughout the day. I was grateful that I had been given the opportunity to participate in the day's event, to meet and talk to some of the people and to contribute something to such a fantastic celebration.

We sold a total of seventy-seven Dartmoor Changes CD sets on the day, and orders are still coming in steadily. If you don't have your copy yet, you can get one directly from Aune Head Arts (01822 890 539 or [info@auneheadarts.org.uk](mailto:info@auneheadarts.org.uk)), but when they're gone, they're gone! [Cat Radford]

## Annual Two Day Walk

As most of you Dartmoor aficionados will know, the Perambulation of the Forest Boundaries on Dartmoor refers to the 1240 walking/riding of the bounds by order of Henry III. Some of AHA's walkers have been talking about walking the Perambulation route for years and this year we started the process during the two-day walk (the suggested time for walking the Perambulation in one trip is five days).

Due to various (possibly plausible) excuses many of our usual 2-day walkers were otherwise engaged this year. Juliette and Toinette had the temerity to have booked a week's walking trip on Exmoor! So there was a very select group of seven who started out on Day 1: Lynda Reynolds-Smith (leader), Helen Flint (leader), Nancy



there were some strange people on the 2-day walk... (photo: Joanna Radford)

Sinclair (leader), Liz Fiddock, Jackie Parsons, Joanna Radford and Richard Wells. (There seems to have been an overabundance of leaders this year!) Our first point of contact with the Perambulation route was near Rattlebrook Foot — the coach left us at the top of the drift lane near the Dartmoor Inn outside Lydford as we had left our cars at the end point. Despite the forecast of sun and a light wind we found ourselves heading up the ridge between Brat and Arms Tor in enough fog to make the views back over the Tamar invisible (and was that a 25 knot wind?). However, we were delighted to meet some letterboxers who duly stamped Jackie's walk route info and Joanna's sketch book with a beautifully carved stamp of a buzzard.

During our tea break at the not so Bleak House the sun broke through and warmed us up from the effects of the fog and wind. Everyone was wowed at the views across the North Moor and up and down the West Ockment valley when we arrived at Kitty Tor (during the reccy walk Helen, Lynda and Nancy honoured the traditional route and went via Stenga Tor where they squelched through the bog and were bitten to pieces by midges before descending the precipitous drop through clitter down to the river, at which point we thought that on the day detouring via Kitty Tor might have a lot of merit). So on the day, after another tea break in the soft short grass on the banks of the W. Ockment (where Nancy, of course, tossed off boots and socks and had a good wade) we steadily trundled up (and up and up) to Fordisland Ledge for a much needed lunch break, whereupon Jackie pulled the day's Western Morning News out of her rucksack to catch up on local activities. After that we climbed gently to High Willhays, managed to admire the view from the top without being blown off toward Oke Tor (is it ALWAYS windy on High Willhays?) and after admiring the views from Yes Tor headed down amongst the clitter to cross the Red-a-ven and made our way to the edge of Okehampton Camp and the (seemingly) endless trudge to Klondyke Corner and on the footpaths to the Okehampton Youth Hostel. Dear old Richard P. had done his usual job of supplying a fine selection of wine, nibbles and chocolate to help us get over those end-of-day aches and pains.

Day two we arose to a forecast of thunder and lightning storms due in late afternoon so we set off with our weather eyes on the alert. We also managed to lose Lynda and Jackie after dinner on Saturday night (how careless). The intrepid five followed the East Ockment up lovely woodland trails, entertained by the movement of water through cascades, rapids and plummeting down a very impressive waterfall, to where

the river joins the open moor at the ford near Watchett Hill. We had planned for a long tea break and swim near Cullever Steps (where we rejoined the Perambulation Route) but a distinct chill and heavy cloud cover discouraged even Nancy from giving it a try — tea and chocolate were very much in order instead. Then up Belstone Ridge following Irishman's Wall and as we descended toward the Taw Plain the clouds grew distinctly closer, and blacker, and faint rumbles of thunder began to make themselves heard. When we reached the track at near the river the thunder began to sound ominous and Cosdon Beacon disappeared inside a very nasty looking cloud. Then lightning was spotted in clouds near Steeperton Tor which were racing toward Cosdon. As the rain began to come down in earnest, much discussion was had as to whether we should continue on or turn toward Belstone. Helen, as the most intrepid of us all, was hesitant to turn away from the route but we all decided that the walk would be there another day and if we got fried by lightning on Cosdon, we wouldn't. By the time we reached the moor gate it was raining stair rods and thundering regularly. As we rounded the corner of the pub (where else would we have headed?) a very impressive thunderous boom echoed from the top of Cosdon followed by a tremendous crack of lightning and the loss of power in the village. Right decision! After some liquid refreshment we lunched in the porch of St. Mary's and found ourselves compelled to have a cream tea in the village hall (all in a good cause) before Richard returned us to our cars near Gidleigh. Next year the walk will begin with the ascent of Cosdon!

## WORKSHOPS

### Digital photography taster session

John Curno, experienced Dartmoor photographer (and AHA-commissioned photographer for the Dartmoor Sensing project in 2002) has kindly agreed to host a free taster/information sharing session on black & white digital photography. This will be an opportunity to ask questions, discuss the techniques you currently use (or wish you were better at using...) and/or have a go at converting a colour image into black and white. Equipment will be provided but you might want to bring an image with you to use.

The session is scheduled for Saturday, 5th November from 11am to 3pm at John's home in Drewsteignton. There are a limited number of places available and participation is by **advance booking only on or before Friday, 28th October**. There will be an informal buffet style lunch to which each participant is asked to bring a contribution. To book a place and get directions to John's, please ring Clare on 01822 890 539 or send her an email on [clare@auneheadarts.org.uk](mailto:clare@auneheadarts.org.uk).

### Handmade Book Workshops

Nina Inglis, who with Bindy Wollen led a highly successful series of Handmade Book workshops for AHA last autumn and spring, said she had such a great time leading them that she is going to run another series under her own steam.

They are scheduled for three Saturdays in November (5th, 12th, 26th) and will be held in the Cheriton Bishop Village Hall (just off the A30 between Exeter and Okehampton) from 10am to 4pm. Nina says the series will offer three distinctive one-day workshops, each day providing a look at different structures such that participants may book for all three or for individual days.

Nina says: "Day one will be on exposed spine binding which uses a traditional sewing technique, but the sewing is left exposed. It is weaker than a full binding, but the book opens out flat. Day two will look at the concertina which is a versatile, simple structure for prints and artists books. We will do a simple Japanese stab binding which is a good way to stitch together single sheets. Day three we will sew a cross structure in the morning and longstitch in the afternoon. These are both sewn using a traditional stitching pattern, but directly onto the cover material."

The fee is £20 per day. To reserve a space, and receive a materials list and directions, contact Nina at Clifford Barton, Drewsteignton, Exeter EX6 6QB or [nina@ciredor.demon.co.uk](mailto:nina@ciredor.demon.co.uk).

## AHA Membership/Order Form

**Memberships are valid for the calendar year**  
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*

**A Standing Order Form is available on our website**

Date (today) / / 200

Membership No. (if known): \_\_\_\_\_

### Lives & Landscapes video

DVD or video (pls circle) £10

### Dartmoor Profile CD Rom\*

CD-Rom £10

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

### Focus on Farmers

Gregg Wagstaff & Tania van Schalkwyk

> Frenchbeer  
DVD £10

Tony Hill & Hannah Standen  
> Farm Film/Greenwell Barn  
DVD or video (pls circle) £10

Hannah Standen  
> Farming Greenwell  
2 CD set with booklet £10

### Dartmoor Changes

3 CD set + 28pp booklet £10

### Postage & Packing

£1.50 first item

75p each additional item

### TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED

£

Name

Address

Phone

E-mail

## dates for your diary

**Please notify the Leader if you are coming on a walk — many thanks.**

Walks begin 15 minutes after the noted start time. Not all walks begin at the same time and not all are on a Saturday. Please check the dates carefully!

### November

#### Saturday 5th • 11am to 3pm • Drewsteignton • Digital Photo Taster Session

Limited number of places. Participation is by **advance booking only**, on or before Friday, 28th October. (See inside for further details.)

#### Saturday 12th • 10:15am • “Granite Awareness” • Walk

Meet at 10:15 for 10:30 start at the viewing point at the west end of the car park at the top of Pork Hill, off the B3357 Tavistock Road, SX532752. We will be taking a route that includes Barn Hill, Windy Post, Feather Tor, Vixen Tor (if available), Merrivale, and Middle Staple Tor: a distance of between 4 and 5 miles. Moderate difficulty (I'm thinking of the climb up from Merrivale to Staple Tor!). We should finish in time for those who wish to socialise further to have a pint and/or lunch at the Dartmoor Inn at Merrivale or at the Plume of Feathers in Princetown, where they are open all day. As well as the classic features of Vixen Tor, we should sample stepping stones, a cross, new and ancient boundary stones, boundary walls, a bull's eye stone, stone dresser's seat, a wheel-wright's mound stone, blacksmith's workshop and tinner's huts. No clapper bridges this time! Leader: Andy Stevens. 01392 438064 or Andy@yorkcottages.freemove.co.uk.

### December

#### Saturday 17th • 10:00am • Wingstone Farm • Walk

Start from Wingstone Farm, SX746811 (just west of Manaton village) at 10am (although we will have a coffee before we go), then up to Manaton Rocks where if it is a clear day there are some beautiful views. Then we will go down to Langstone Farm onto Luckdon and up over Easton Down and back through Barracot to home. Total distance is approx. 4 miles (a nice December stroll - Ed!) Leader: Juliette Rich. 01647 221 215 or julietterich@tiscali.co.uk.

### January

#### Sunday 15th • 10:30am • Trenchford Reservoir/Christow • Walk

Meet at the main Trenchford Reservoir car park near Bullaton Cross SX804824 (OS Explorer Series 110 — Torquay & Dawlish). A one-way walk along a mix of waterside and woodland paths with one steep descent to finish in the Artichoke Inn in Christow for lunch (around 1:00pm). Given the time of year, paths may be a bit wet (muddy & slippery). Walk Leader: Shane Edgar, shane.edgar@digitalsplash.co.uk or 01647 252 802. Please ring Shane if you intend to join the walk so he can reserve seats at the Artichoke Inn and arrange post-lunch return lifts to the start point.

**Walk Grading: Read the descriptions of the walks and review them on the (1:25000) 2.5” map of Dartmoor, OS Explorer 128 (unless otherwise noted). 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/muddy 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. NB Walk leaders are responsible for making decisions about the final route details on the day. All walks are undertaken at the risk and responsibility of the walker.**



this year's 2-day walk (photo: Joanna Radford)

# AUNE HEAD ARTS

October 2005

In this issue:

The 2-day walk  
New Staff for AHA  
Dartmoor Changes Celebration  
Forthcoming workshops

and more: dates for your diary, etc.

# 23

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image: Philip Guy Stevens (courtesy of Andrew Stevens)



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