

Friends of The Wharf Newsletter Spring 2017



LUNCHTIME LECTURES

The Lunchtime Lectures' series organised by **Dr Ann Pulsford** for the Friends of The Wharf **every Monday at 2.0 pm** continues to attract large audiences. Thanks are due to Directors **Angela** and **Stephen Court** for the auditorium facilities and to **David Reese** for technical support. **Colin Kilvington** offers everyone a friendly welcome and **Josie Gerhold** is duty manager. From each £4.00 ticket sold, £3.00 goes to the coffee shop for tea and cakes, and £1.00 covers speakers' fees, travel and student subsidies. Cakes and refreshments are served by **Lisa Jackson**, **Jo Clarkson** & **Margaret Richards**. The Monday lecture programme for 2017 is on The Wharf website: www.tavistockwharf.com/friends_of_the_wharf/about_the_friends and leaflets at the reception desk.

The Three Hares



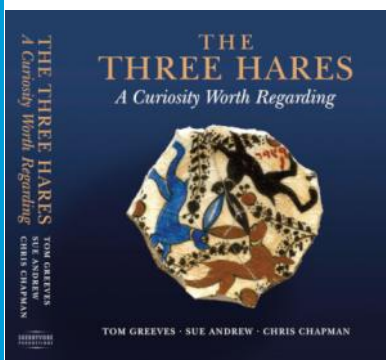
Sue Andrew & The Three Hares book*

Dr Sue Andrew's lecture on **Monday 4th April 2016** on **'The Three Hares'** attracted ninety people. Art historian Sue has collaborated with cultural environmentalist **Dr Tom Greeves**, and photographer and film-maker **Chris Chapman**, to research and document a motif carved on medieval roof bosses in seventeen churches in Devon. The motif of three hares running in a circle and joined by their ears, which form a triangle at the centre of the design, is a visual puzzle: although each beast has two ears, between them they have only three. The earliest known examples of the three hares are to be found in Buddhist cave temples at Mogao, near Dunhuang, China, dating from the sixth century AD. The motif is also found on Islamic metalwork, ceramics and glass, in illuminated Christian manuscripts, stone carving, stained glass, a bronze bell and ceramic floor tiles. Ceiling paintings in Jewish synagogues also bear the image. The design thus links diverse cultures and peoples over a period of at least 1400 years. Sue is returning on **Monday 18th September 2017** for a lecture on **'Harry Hems:**

The Controversial Career of a Church Carver'.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Friends of The Wharf AGM will take place on **Monday 22nd May 2017 at 3.30 pm** in The Wharf auditorium, following the lunchtime lecture **'Art of the Magical Cave Churches of Cappadocia'** by **Dr Geri Parlbly**. All members are very welcome to attend, but please bring your membership cards. You do not need to attend the lecture to attend the AGM. Membership forms, on the back of the lunchtime lectures programme, are available from The Wharf reception. Membership is excellent value at only **£10 p.a.** or **£8 concessions (over 60s)**.



DARWIN IN DEVON

On **Monday 12th December 2016**, Doug Herdson, dressed as Charles Darwin, gave a delightful lecture entitled '**Darwin in Devon**'. Doug explained that in 1831 Darwin was in Plymouth accompanying Captain FitzRoy for the pre-voyage preparations for the departure of HMS *Beagle* in December. The two months he stayed in Plymouth he described as "**the most miserable which I ever spent**", because it rained a lot, the preparations for the voyage took longer than anticipated, and he became anxious about his health and fitness for the long voyage ahead.

From October 1831, while awaiting embarkation, Darwin was a regular visitor to the Plymouth Athenaeum, attending lectures and socialising. For the 5-year around the world voyage HMS *Beagle* was fitted with life-saving equipment pioneered by one of the society's early members, Sir William Snow Harris. He developed a system which enabled HMS *Beagle* to survive lightning strikes and complete the voyage unharmed. At Devil's Point, near the end of Durnford Street in Plymouth, there is a plaque commemorating the sailing from Barn Pool of HMS *Beagle*.

Returning to Falmouth in 1836 Darwin married Emma Wedgwood, daughter of Josiah Wedgwood. *On the Origin of Species* was published in 1859, and in 1862 he stayed in Torquay with his daughter while she convalesced from typhoid. Darwin died in 1882 and is buried in Westminster Abbey. Doug will be returning on **Monday 3rd July 2017** for a talk on '**The History of Shark Attacks in UK Waters**'.



Doug Herdson dressed as Charles Darwin at The Wharf

DRAKE OF CROWNDALE



Drake's statue in Tavistock

Sue Jackson, from Wellington in Shropshire gave an engaging talk about '**Drake of Crowndale**' on **Monday 22nd August 2016**. Sue is a retired history teacher who has been studying Francis Drake for over 40 years, specialising in his life while ashore in Devon. She delighted the audience with the story of the young Francis Drake, who is thought to have been born at his grandparents' Crowndale farm near Tavistock. Her talk brought to life the 16th Century Tavistock of the young Drake's time. Drake went on to serve Tavistock as a JP and Devon's Deputy Lord Lieutenant. Sue will be returning to The Wharf on **Monday 28th August 2017** for a talk on '**Drake's Image as Victorian and WW1 Propaganda**'.

19th PAROLE TOWNS NEAR TAVISTOCK

Barbie Thompson's talk on **Monday 21st November** was about the parole towns near Dartmoor, including Ashburton, Moretonhampstead, Launceston, Okehampton and Tavistock. During the Napoleonic Wars captured French officers were granted parole and allowed to rent accommodation in designated 'parole towns'. They gave their word of honour that they would not try to escape, or travel beyond one mile from the parole town. Most towns had boundary marker stones and Barbie showed a photo of one at Ashburton. In Tavistock a corresponding boundary marker was the Honour Oak Tree at Whitchurch, to which officers on parole were allowed to walk from Tavistock. They could be sent to prison if they ventured beyond it. In many parole towns the French officers gave lessons in French language, dancing and music to the locals. Barbie included personal stories of French officers from each of the towns. Some had married local girls and some had made daring escapes in disguise. Barbie will be returning to the Wharf on **20th November 2017** for her lecture about '**POW Depots, Dockyards and Spies**'.



Honour Oak tree plaque, Whitchurch

ESCAPE FROM RUSSIA 1917

Catherine Deytrikh-Smith wore a traditional Russian peasant costume for her talk **'My family escape from Russia 1917'** on **Monday 23rd May 2016**. Catherine explained how her grandfather had escaped from Russia at the time of the Russian Revolution in 1917, travelling south to Odessa dressed as a peasant. Her grandmother made *piroshky* (small Russian pasties) for the one week journey in a coal train to Odessa. Many *piroshky* concealed jewels to be used for bartering. The family caught the last ship out of Russia: HMS *Heliotrope* and sailed via Constantinople to Malta. Her grandfather came to England to obtain a visa for family entry and bought a house and factory for income. The journey from St Petersburg to London took one year. Catherine emigrated to Ottawa in Canada to study pharmacy and on returning to England in the 1960s she worked at Heathrow Airport Terminal 3 information desk, and later at Westminster Hospital in a large pharmacy team.



DARTMOOR'S CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTORS

One hundred people attended Simon Dell's **'Dartmoor's Conscientious Objectors'** on **Monday 9th January**. Simon's great uncle, a religious man, was a conscientious objector (CO). After 10 years of personal research, Simon's book ***The Dartmoor Conchies*** is to be launched in Princetown at Dartmoor Prison Museum, on **12th March 2017**, 100 years after Dartmoor Prison became the Princetown Work Settlement for Conscientious Objectors.

From 1850 to 1917 Dartmoor Prison housed convicts, but in March 1917 it became the Princetown Work Settlement for Conscientious Objectors, men who refused to go to war, disparagingly called 'Conchies'. Over 1000 COs were sent to Dartmoor prison ostensibly to engage in work of 'National Importance'. This work was in reality for the Duchy Estate, such as setting up two new farms and digging drainage ditches and walls. The men were often treated abominably and two of them, Harry Firth and Harry Haston, died as a result of the working conditions on the moor. The COs were kept in Dartmoor Prison until 1919 and when released continued to be criticised for cowardice. Simon will return for talks on **Monday 24th July** on the **'History of Forensic Science'** and **Monday 11th December 2017** to describe **'Devon's Coast to Coast Walk'**.



Simon Dell and Ann Pulsford in the Wharf auditorium

DARTMOOR MINDSCAPES

On **Monday 31st October 2016** ninety nine people attended Peter Knight's lecture on **'Dartmoor Mindscapes: Re-Visioning a Sacred Landscape'**. Peter's lecture was based on his book, ***Dartmoor Mindscapes***, which is a study in 'cognitive archaeology', a branch of archaeology that seeks to relive what the ancestors experienced. We were invited to perceive landscapes as interfaces, saturated with cultural and mythic memory.

Peter is a professional speaker, tour guide, and author, runs an annual convention in Wiltshire, and has spoken at conferences in UK, USA and around Europe. He has appeared on BBC, Channel 4, and on local radio. He is returning on **Monday 14th August 2017 at 2.0 pm** for a lecture on **'Walking Dartmoor's Stone Rows'**.



Peter Knight walks one of Dartmoor's stone rows

FRIENDS' FUNDRAISING & MEMBERSHIP

The Friends are pleased to use all the funds collected from membership fees and fundraising for the maintenance and enhancement of The Wharf Arts and Entertainment Centre and facilities. In 2016/17 we have funded the replacement and installation of a new pump for the central heating boiler, purchased three new microphones for the auditorium and replaced the one for the lectures. Additional cups and a microwave oven have been purchased for the coffee shop. The bar area has been repainted and a new blind fitted and new hand dryers installed in the toilets. Various repairs have been done to the auditorium floor and the dressing rooms and auditorium walls painted. Exterior guttering has been replaced and the patio tables repainted. We would like to thank Mansbridge Balment who presented the money collected from a raffle at their staff social held at The Wharf to the Friends. This was used for the purchase of new exterior and interior poster boards.



Nick Henderson presenting the cheque from Mansbridge Balment to Angela Court and Ann Pulsford

The Friends have maintained their high level of membership in 2017 which is currently **734**. Members find that the fee is good value, with discounts on a wide variety of educational and entertainment events. The Friends' volunteer committee currently includes : **Wendy Cronin**: membership secretary, box office & stewarding; **Eunice Burr**: gardens & stewarding; **Gail Reed**: treasurer; **Frank Woodcock**: committee; **Christopher Kirwin**: vice chair; **Sheena Odle**: committee; **Rebecca Garland**: secretary & box office; **Chris Talbot**: box office & committee; **Sue Boxall**: committee and **Ann Pulsford**, chair. Contact Membership secretary: **Wendy Cronin**: wcronin386@aol.com or you can print the form on The Wharf website.

FILMS, LIVE BROADCASTS & LIVE MUSIC

Wharf Director Angela Court has programmed a range of new films and live performance broadcasts. Friends have been able to enjoy, with discounts, plays from the Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-Upon-Avon; live broadcasts from the National Theatre in London and Royal Ballet and Opera from the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden. The cinema also shows a range of new films to suit all ages and interests, including the award winning La La Land. The weekend live music continues to be at the core of The Wharf business attracting large audiences. The Wharf is a unique venue with something for the whole community and Tavistock is fortunate to have such a wonderful facility which the Friends are pleased to support.



THE CANALSIDE CAFE

Friends enjoy a 10% discount in the café and the staff give you a warm welcome. The canalside patio is a delightful place to enjoy lunch and watch the ducks and kingfishers. The canal, which links Tavistock with the river port at Morwellham was completed in 1817 so this year celebrates its bicentenary. The Wharf building was once a warehouse at the terminus of the canal, and today is a unique venue providing a diversity of events for all ages and community interests.

FRIENDS EMAIL LIST & BOOK DONATIONS

If you are not already on the Friends of The Wharf emailing list and would like to be, please could you email fowntavistock@gmail.com so that you can be added to the list and receive updates on talks, events and changes in the programme. Please leave your unwanted books and DVDs in the bar area bookcase for The Friends to sell and raise extra funds.

*The Three Hares Bbook is £30 available through Chris Chapman's website: www.chrischapmanphotography.co.uk

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