



THE SALTY TIMES

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BRIGHT FUTURE FOR LOCAL HISTORY

New faces on the Local History team at Fairlynch include (l-r in the above picture), Museum Chairman Trevor Waddington, Mike and Margaret Wilson, Anthea and Michael Downes, Di Waddington, Nick Loman and Roz Hickman .

Following the news from Joy Gawne, President of Fairlynch, that she would no longer be able to attend meetings at the Museum, Michael Downes accepted an invitation from Trevor Waddington to chair the Group. Bernard Hadley, a steward at Fairlynch, has also joined the team.



FAREWELL TO SHEILA

Commitments outside the Museum have meant that our genealogy expert Sheila Jelley has had to stand down from the Local History Group. Fairlynch is indebted to Sheila for the sterling work that she did on the WW1 project. Valuable data that Sheila gathered is now available for the Group: it includes the Parish Register Index that she has compiled, listing baptisms, marriages, burials, directories and memorial inscriptions. Many thanks, Sheila.

ON THE AGENDA

We don't spend all our time eating and drinking whatever you may think of this group photo taken at The Feathers. The first business meeting of the Local History Group is scheduled for Friday 23 October at 10.00 am in the Museum.

Items for discussion will include the Group's plans for next year's exhibition, for which a centenary tribute to the comic actor and former Budleigh resident Reg Varney has been proposed. This will tie in nicely to the theme of 'Budleigh Entertains' to be used in the Museum's publicity for 2016.

Many of our members have a special interest in an aspect of the Lower Otter Valley's history, such as fishing, cider-making, or the area's North American links. They are looking forward to the challenge of designing high quality exhibition panels. It is hoped that these will match the standard of those produced recently for the Sir Walter Raleigh Room.



NEWS FROM FAIRLYNCH MUSEUM'S LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

COMPOSER'S GIFT TO FAIRLYNCH

Friend of Fairlynch Meg Peacocke, sister of the late Sir Richard Rodney Bennett, was kind enough to think of the Museum when going through her brother's papers. Among these are music scores by Sir Richard's mother, known as a composer in her own right under the name Joan Spink.

The scores, written for the Salterton Drama Club and the local WI, give a fascinating insight into the town's theatrical life of the 1950s. Performers for whom the music was written include Budleigh artist and playwright Joyce Dennys, pictured right, and Fairlynch President Joy Gawne.



Joyce Dennys on stage



The scores, along with a signed copy of Joyce Dennys' play 'Worlds Apart', were among various donated items presented by Local History Group Chairman Michael Downes at the Museum's Acquisitions and Disposals Committee meeting on Thursday 10 September. Also presented were an edition of the recently published diaries of Budleigh-born bibliographer Robert Proctor, and the book by Antarctic expert Meredith Hooper entitled *The Longest Winter*: this is a study of the six members of Captain Scott's 'Terra Nova' expedition, which included its zoologist and doctor Murray Levick who retired to Budleigh and was the subject of Fairlynch's 2011-12 exhibition 'Survival!'

Also presented at the meeting were documents relating to the Otterton Temperance Society which should provide a useful source of material in any exhibition about local cider-making.

USING CYBERSPACE

Enquirers at the Museum are warned that it can take as long as six weeks to respond to specific requests for information and photos. For those visitors who provide an email address, however, the delay could be as little as minutes. And a jpg is rather more useful than a posted photocopy. Not all enquirers use the internet of course, but the times they are a' changing. Watch this space for some examples.