



Newsletter

6th April 2010

In Attendance:

HWG:

Hazel (Newton) - Chair	Roger (Purssord)	Noel (Fletcher)	Stephanie (Tempest-Roe)
John (Williams)	Matthew (Rix)	Sue (Worthington)	Peggy (Chaffe)
Alan (Tillman)	Liz (Kelly)	Diane (Ashmore)	Sue (Blight)
Linda (Canalella)	Olive (Cutting)	Anne (Wingfield)	Deborah (Hall)
Maria (King)	David (King)		

Apologies from: Ruth (Ekblom)

Visitors were : Claire (?)

Hemingford Writers: Cherry (Foster) Chris (McDonald)

News / Information from Committee and attending members

The meeting was held in the conference room of the Huntingdon Indoor Bowls Club. At 7.30 Hazel welcomed members and visitors and asked that at the end of the meeting, members of the HWG express their comments, concerns and preferences regarding the venue for our future meetings.

Roger:

In his role as Secretary to the Bowls Club, outlined the available facilities which include: ample illuminated parking with no access restriction, a large comfortable room at a charge of only £7.50 per hour, a licensed bar, toilets, provision for out own coffee/tea making facilities in the room, a kitchen and ease of access to the building throughout the year.

Hazel:

Reminded attendees that the theme for the evening was a read and comment activity. The subject: "Full Circle" would be a competition for prose of 500 words or a poem of 32 lines. A prize of £5 would be awarded to the reader who, in the opinion of all those present, offered the preferred entry. Each person was provided with a marking slip, on which to record the name of their preferred reader; the person with the most votes would win. *Schimples!*

The readings were as follows:



Sue Blight	Full Circle	(About a prospective GCHQ interviewee)
John Williams	Colliers Lament	(Poem)
Linda Canalella	Lamenting Lettuce	
Noel Fletcher	Full Circle	(About Northern Ireland in 1974)
Olive Cutting	Dancing in Circles	
Diane Ashmore	The Storyteller	
Anne Wingfield	On a Sunday	(Poem)
Cherry Foster	Full Circle	(About grandmothers)
Peggy Chaffe	Butter Ring	
Stephanie Tempest-Roe	Full Circle	(About dreams)
Deborah Hall	Nine Lives	
Alan Tillman	Full Circle	(About a daffodil)
Chris McDonald	Full Circle	(About the Moon)
Hazel Newton	Full Circle	(About a doting grandmother)

The voting slips were collected up and counted during a refreshment break, after which Roger announced the winners in traditional reverse order (there was no prize for silver or bronze positions) but these were:

3rd: Linda Canalella 2nd: John Williams 1st: Anne Wingfield

Congratulations to all three at the top of the popularity poll and particularly to Anne. It was encouraging to see such a good entry list and there were at least two others who might have entered with a strong chance of changing the result.

Roger:

Took the opportunity to announce the publication of his book: "The Blue Box" which, he says, is not so much a "whodunit?", but more a "Whydunit?" He describes it as somewhat macabre, not too naughty, a cliff hanger to the last page and with good reviews from ardent readers.

He mentioned that Waterstones in St Neots was running a promotion for local authors and local interest. Anyone interested should contact the manageress for further information.

Alan:

Introduced a book titled "Publish Now". It is presented in A4 portrait format, in full gloss and is full of useful and interesting articles. The format is known as "Card Cover", as opposed to hard back or paperback.

Hazel:

Offered a selection of competition entry forms and magazines for anyone interested.

She reminded members that next month's meeting would be held on 4th May (may the forth be with you! – yuk) The subject of the meeting would be "Dear Diary", the reading of a prepared piece with the first line of: "It was still dark when I heard the 'phone ring". As usual it will be a maximum of 500 words.

The AGM is scheduled for the June meeting and members are asked to submit any ideas for 2011 to Hazel well before June so that they can be added to the agenda.

Claire:



Our first time visitor was invited to read some of her “fan fiction”; she declared herself as a Gene Hunt addict (TV show “Ashes to Ashes”) using the characterisation from such shows as a method of developing the strength of the characters in her writing. She received a considerable amount of well earned praise for her work and we look forward to hearing more.

Hazel:

Asked the opinions of the HWG members regarding the venue.

John:

Suggested that the current table layout might be improved if the table were rearranged into a dumbbell effect using some of the rectangular tables. A circle of the round tables might also be considered so that members can focus their reading to the assemble group.

Roger:

We can try any formation of table that we wish so long as the room is left with the same arrangement as when we arrive, namely round tables with eight chairs to each.

The next meeting:

Will be held on 4th May in the Bowls Club conference room. Come prepared to read your “Dear Diary” creation. We look forward to seeing and hearing you there.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 21.30.

