

Society of Authors: Thumb-nail sketches of those attending a get-together held on Thursday 16 October at the Greenbank Hotel in Falmouth

Dea Hicks Langmead: Writer – short stories, articles and two novels, *The Lady of Lyonesse* and *Swing High, Sweet Bird*. The first is an imaginary description of the fabled island and the other is a murder mystery set in pre-last war West Country. Ancestry begins in the Isles of Scilly. Began life as a ballet dancer and then worked in the theatre. Born in London, but could not keep away from Cornwall.

Diana Ayres: Former reporter, worked for over 18 years on the *Cornishman*, Penzance. Has also written for magazines and carried out interviews for television. Interviewed Land Girls for the Hypatia Book, *Digging for Memories* – helped Wilmay Le Grice with her autobiography, *Wilmay* and this year, brought out the book, *A Small Hotel in Cornwall – The Lobster Pot of Mousehole*.

Louise Cooper: Since the age of 20, has had more than 80 novels published, (for adults and children), mostly in the fantasy and supernatural genre. She and her husband live in St Agnes and both sing with the shanty group Falmouth Shout. Louise is an assessor on the Pg. Dip. MA course at WCF. Her newest published work is the *Mermaid Curse* children's quartet for Puffin.

Noel Stuart: My life's passion is animals which I have enjoyed so much that I continue writing about them. I enjoy people talk, the English language and my Celtic roots. Travel is limited to New Zealand and back to enjoy the grandchildren – watching rugby and real ale.

Peter Levin: Former academic (LSE), now refugee from London, living in Penzance. Since 2004 I have published seven 'student-friendly guides' (OUP), currently working on new editions of two of them. Active in Penzance Civic Society, performing with Trosan Treys Cornish Dance Group, and regular pub quiz participant.

Angie Butler: Teacher for 40 years – self-published five books and an art card pack. I've worked with local schools and publishers on projects including the Land Girls' *Digging for Memories* and the Health Authority *Eatsome* project. I work with the Gifted & Talented throughout Cornwall, going into schools as a writer. I am a member of Arts for Health and Lapidus.

Sheila Bird: West Country writer – I gave up teaching in 1992 to become a full-time writer, combining my love of the English countryside and the written word. I began by writing for local, then national newspapers and magazines, before being approached by publishers. I particularly enjoy my adventures around the countryside, meeting interesting characters and yarning by cottage firesides.

Rosemary Aitken: (Also Rosemary Rowe) has written 15 textbooks on English language teaching, which was her academic field until an industrial accident forced her to retire from lecturing – at which time, she turned to writing fiction. She has now published two lightweight romantic thrillers (as Brenda Lacey & Bessie Reynolds), ten Cornish historical novels under her own name and ten in the Liberto series of Romano-British 'detective' books, as well as a commissioned *Writing a Novel – A Practical Guide*. She is currently chairman of the West Country Writers' Association.

Jilly McNair: Author of *A British Army Nurse in the Korean War; Shadow of the Far Forgotten*, published by Tempus in 2007 in hardback. Also a military history, based on 160 letters written to her parents whilst serving as a young (24 year-old) Nursing Officer in the Queen Alexandra Royal Army Nursing Corps in Japan and Korea with the United Nations Forces, 1952-53. The letters are now in the Imperial War Museum, London. Clive McNair, Jilly's husband, has illustrated the history with small black and white infills.

Moirira Andrew: Poet, born and educated in Scotland. Ex-teacher, lecturer, Headteacher. Was part-time creative writing tutor at the University of Glamorgan for four years. Now living and working in Cornwall. Currently an occasional poet-in-schools. Writes mainly for teachers and children, published by Folens, Scholastic, Pearson, Collins etc. Organises writing workshops for Lapidus. Three adult collections of poetry in publication, the most recent being *This Year, Next Year*, (Marvin Katz Press, 2004).

Compiled by Moira Andrew
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