



THE SHEILA KAYE – SMITH SOCIETY

MEMBER OF THE ALLIANCE OF LITERARY SOCIETIES

PRESIDENT : Mrs Sheena Wenham

NEWSLETTER : Summer 2016

Dear Members,

As we wait for the summer to start it is time to glance back at the year so far and be grateful for the chance to meet friends again. We do miss those for whom it is difficult to attend.

The Old Town, as someone told me this week is unique. She has recently returned from two years in Rye and is glad to be back 'home'. It is though surprisingly quiet and there are fewer gulls. No youngsters on our roof and none on neighbouring roofs either. This is nothing to do with the rows of spikes glued so carefully on the tiles. These eventually become loose and the gulls toss them about like toys.

Walking past the boating lake where the gulls congregate early morning and preen and wash themselves in water which is bright blue. This almost turquoise hue does not appear to have any adverse effect – but I wonder? What have the powers that be been up to?

One bonus to this quieter atmosphere is that the smaller birds are returning, and even in our small garden the sparrows chatter away undisturbed and clear the roses of aphids.

Remember Joan and her swallows?

A happy summer to you all.



Founder's Day at St Teresa's

This year the Society has seen the setting up the Sheila Kaye-Smith web site. This is entirely due to Michael's vision and his and Dean's hard work for which we are very grateful. The web site address is: sheilakayesmith.org.uk

The year began with poetry and prose readings and despite the few members able to attend there was an enthusiastic response and we enjoyed Pam's cake and mince pies. It was a good start to the year.

For Alan Judd's talk in February, 20 people came. This included friends from Battle and Fairlight plus our friend Charlotte Moore. Alan gave a wide ranging talk on Writers in Sussex with excerpts from his own books.

The Annual Lunch in March was attended by 12 members at The Brickwall Hotel, Sedlescombe – always a popular choice and it was good to see Helen and Douglas again. Patricia Anstey joined us and thoroughly enjoyed meeting everyone. No one can say we are lax in making new friends welcome. Thank you to Josephine for making all the arrangements again.

At the April meeting the discussion was based on 'Kitchen Fugue' and evoked some varied views and comments, and generally it was agreed gave further insight into Sheila's work and life during the war years. This book certainly provided a different view of Sheila's life.

In May fewer people were able to visit Hancox, but it meant those unable to view it last year were given a guided tour. Charlotte Moore made everyone welcome and we do appreciate her making time for this afternoon.

Founder's Day this year took place at St. Teresa's where we had tea together plus a short walk. It was an especially happy occasion as Audrey and Terry were with us and we hope to meet them again soon. We were all cleared and tidied away as the rain fell. Thank you to Ursula who organised it all for us.

On 9th July Christine gave an entertaining and informative talk on 'Let's Go Hop picking'. This was accompanied by a variety of photographs and attractive postcards produced by Ida Fermor.

Accompanying this newsletter are detailed notes prepared by Shaun Cooper. We are indeed grateful to him for sharing his research concerning Sheila's early work.

Summer Party

Next month on the 13th August we have our Summer Party at Sheila Bristow's home. The usual arrangements apply i.e. please bring your own food (to share), plates, cutlery and seating. Salads and wine will be provided. The cost will be £3.50 per person.

It is important to let Sheila know if you intend to be there. We always look forward to this occasion very much.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscriptions for 2017 are due from the beginning of September.

The cost remains the same as this year at £8.00 for individual and £12.00 for joint membership.

Please complete and return the renewal form to :-

Mr. C. Morrell, 9 Croft Terrace, Hastings, East Sussex. TN34 3HG

N.B. Please make cheques payable to **The Sheila Kaye-Smith Society**

I/We wish to renew our Membership and enclose £..... (cash/cheque)**

For individual/joint membership** (** Please delete as necessary)

Name(s)

Address

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Telephone No. & Code.....