

# RSVP Volunteer News

Autumn/Winter 2010 Issue 15



*There is only one cure for gray hair. It was invented by a Frenchman. It is called the guillotine. ~ P.G. Wodehouse*

## Dorset East Retired and Senior Volunteer Programme

### Book Clubs

Dorset East's 4<sup>th</sup> book club was launched at Rossmore Library in May where new members met with organiser **Marion Oliver**.



They enjoyed a sociable chat with coffee and biscuits provided by library, after which they all came away with a book called 'No Time for Goodbye' by Linwood Barclay and the instruction to think of a name for themselves for next meeting.

On the second meeting in June they decided on the name of **The Alderney Allsorts**, as the Alderney area of Poole has several roads named after the Channel Islands.

Such a good friendly time was had whilst there, that the group decided to go for a lunch after their next meeting, so becoming a really friendly event, as indeed all our other book clubs are.

In addition, Rossmore Library has now asked the club to give a brief appraisal of the latest book the members are reading, as their opinions are useful feedback for the library.



### Twigs Garden Club

At the end of May there was an informal first meeting of a new idea for a project which is being run by

our latest organiser **Denise Hoy**.

Twigs Garden Club has been formed with the idea of swapping plants among members, giving hints and tips, visiting open day gardens and garden centres. There is also the opportunity of buying plants in bulk so as to save members money.

Denise (Dee) has lots of ideas for the club and produces a monthly 'Twigs' newsletter.

It is not intended that the club be an actual 'hands on' gardening club, as its members [they are not volunteers] are mainly retired with plenty to do tending their own gardens.

Even so RSVP feels that there is plenty of scope for a different sort of Garden Club like Twigs to flourish.

We are hoping for great things to come from this project and that many of our volunteers and organisers will feel like joining.

### RSVP Dorset East Special - mini biography on



**Nigel Hargreaves**  
Treasurer & Lunch Club Organiser

I was for a couple of years a volunteer driver for the coffee mornings, which is how I came into RSVP.

This originally was because I was caring for my elderly mother and wanted to try to get her to go out. She rarely did so, however, as she said they were all old people. She was 92 when she died 3 years ago.

Prior to that, I was a university graduate in design engineering, worked for a TV manufacturer and an American scientific instrument manufacturer, and then started my own business as a classic car restorer.

When I sold the business in 2000 in order to concentrate on my caring role, I decided to use the accountancy and business skills I had learned to start a new business as a book keeper. This I have been doing ever since and still am despite turning 65.

Well who can survive on the pensions and investment returns you get these days?

Apart from that, I am a keen amateur photographer, motoring enthusiast, and a great lover of Italy, where I go for holidays most years. Also, I regularly pop across to France for a couple of days.

That is it in a nutshell. One of these days, I might write a proper autobiography as I have had a very good and varied life full of excitement. Hopefully it will continue so for many years yet

*Nigel Hargreaves*

### Lunch at the Mezza Luna

This month a group of seven people came to RSVP's Lunch Club [Project Organiser **Nigel Hargreaves**] to dine in the lovely surroundings of the Mezza Luna restaurant in Poole Park.



The menu was very varied and suited to all tastes, being both reasonably priced & with generous portions.

It was a warm & sunny day with wonderful views across the water. The food was delicious, and along with the very pleasant company everyone enjoyed themselves.

## Club Stories - Bridges Book Club launched 29/04/08

In 2008, Judy Green and I discussed forming a Book Club & to begin with, we thought about getting elderly people together using their own homes. We soon realised that some would be housebound, not able to use stairs, & some would be reluctant of strangers visiting their homes etc. so back to the drawing board.

Next Judy contacted Christchurch Library, who were very helpful & agreed to advertise for suitable people. The Librarian Jenny said we could use the hall upstairs, which has a kitchen, to make ourselves coffee etc. for which they make a small charge of 25p each, & I provide the milk & biscuits.

After a few weeks, she contacted me to say a few people were interested & we agreed to a starting date, which is the last Tuesday of each month when we meet at 10.15am & finish approx 12.00 noon.

The library provides us with lists of books to choose from, which they then order ahead for 3 months, ringing me a couple of weeks before our next meeting to confirm they have arrived. I then was asked to find a name for the book club. After some thought I came up with Bridges Book Club as there are 2 Bridges over 2 rivers between Mudeford where I live & Christchurch, so this was agreed on.

At the first meeting I was joined by three other ladies & 2 years on two them still remain - the third unfortunately having to resign due to domestic problems.

We discuss our likes & dislikes, chose our books for the next 3 months, except that is for one lady Angela who has partial sight, so we order an Audio cassette for her. She has a Guide Dog called Lizzy who has become our favourite dog & is happy to lie under the table as a good as gold.

Ladies have come & some have gone. One thought we all talked too much & never returned. Two men have made enquiries to join, but one only wanted poetry, & the other only non-fiction - so not suitable. However, we would be happy to have some male members.

We average 8/9 members who come as & when they can, there being no pressure. We have one lady who hasn't been for a while but promised to come back in the autumn, as she had to look after her grandchildren whilst her daughter was abroad.

From the eldest member down, we have three a bit younger & a further four that average 40-50ish. We also have a young mum with three youngsters who has to fit us in between school holidays & illness etc. I would go to 10 members, which is manageable, as we all talk a lot, obviously.

We have had good books, interesting ones & boring ones. But there was only one I could not finish, as it was so was harrowing throughout, so didn't put myself through it. But one member loved it. That's what a book club is all about!

We have such interesting discussions some short, some long. And occasionally we all agree, that yes we either like it - or not!

We break for coffee after the first hour, then some members leave & some stay on for a chat. All very casual, no pressure, but with only one rule - people must love to read!

Today as I write, I will post this on the way to taking a cake to celebrate the 2 years we have been going. The real anniversary would be the 27<sup>th</sup> April but I'm on holiday so brought it forward one week.

Just one more thing, we cannot order books until they have been in print for one year, as obviously everyone would want to order the latest best seller!

Judy Bailey [Book Club Project Organiser]

## The Crime Squad launched 26/09/08

I am the organizer of 'The Crime Squad' book group at Charminster Library, Bournemouth, which has grown to 10 members in just over a year. Not everyone can come every time but we normally have around 8 of us at the meetings, with another lady who joined us last May.

The library select the books for us to read each month & one particular lady Judith goes online and does a lot of research into the authors which we all find very interesting.

Each person has their say about what they think of the book and generally, it's a mixture of differing opinions. Even so, it's good to hear all the comments.

Everybody seems to enjoy themselves & we have refreshments, with occasionally homemade cakes, leaving the leftovers for the library staff.

Patricia Darby [Book Club Project Organiser]

## Book Ends Reading Group launched March 2010

Our third Book Club is based at Creekmoor (Poole) library. Again working with the help of Jenny Oliver from Poole Library RSVP advertised the book club which meets once a month on Friday mornings. And from the friendly, relaxed first meeting it was anticipated the club would be a successful one.

Cicely Wright its Organiser tells us she now has the maximum of 10 members in the club [the most the library can manage for multi-copy books], with one reader on the waiting list. If the waiting list increases, Cicely will be happy to run another group at the library.

## Poole Library

Some cards were given out by Jenny Oliver from Poole library of *The Things Reading Groups Say*, 2 quotes from which are:-

'I'm really glad you chose that - I'd never have read it otherwise'.

'It's not just a book group, more of a tea & laughter group'.

## Editor notes

If you would like to receive future copies of this Newsletter direct to your computer or have any other general enquiries please email:

**Office Admin - [rsvpdorseteast@virginmedia.com](mailto:rsvpdorseteast@virginmedia.com)**

For further information on all of the Dorset East projects we organise, please log on to our website at [www.rsvp-dorseteast.org.uk](http://www.rsvp-dorseteast.org.uk)

## Please remember:

Rather than bin your copy of the latest RSVP Newsletter recycle it to a friend, your local surgery waiting room, or indeed wherever else you think that it might be of interest to other people and in so doing help promote the work of RSVP.

Please note that the comments expressed in this N'Letter, are those of either the contributors or the editor, and not necessarily those of RSVP, and whilst every care is taken to ensure accuracy, RSVP Dorset East cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions.