

## Life and Other Problems” A talk by Judy Theobald



Judy Theobald, journalist, radio presenter and writer, entertained us at the April talk. Her claim to be neither educational nor instructive may have been true but she was certainly highly entertaining as she led us through the story of her life and career and the problems she encountered along the way. Interspersed with witty anecdotes and humorous poetry, Judy focussed on matters horticultural confessing to being a hopeless gardener herself, likening gardening to algebra; she would look at a space and have no idea what to put in it.

It was her aim to be a journalist from the age of 7, but after she finished school she was channelled down the secretarial training route as did many other girls at that time. Whilst she has found the skills of typing and shorthand useful in her subsequent careers, bored with office life, she decided to join the police force in the hope that she would find more excitement and fulfilment.

She spoke of her time as a policewoman, confessing she had been hopeful of being attached to a ‘posh’ station like Oxford only to end up at Brixton. Having discovered the realities of policing bore no resemblance to those depicted in fiction or on the television she married her first husband and moved to Lincolnshire. This was where her career in journalism commenced with a monthly poetry column in the local paper which continued for 23 years-resulting in having published over 1200 poems. Her books can be purchased online.

This led on to more salubrious roles, most notably as a presenter for Radio Lincolnshire. Judy amused the audience with anecdotes on her time as a presenter and explained that swearing on any level was considered unacceptable. Audience members fully aware of this would therefore attempt to hide obscenities in their submissions to trip the presenters up. During this time she dispensed with one ‘horrible’ husband only to replace him with a second ‘horrible’ husband, finally deciding to go it alone with her two children.

She returned ‘home’ to Hampshire to live near her daughter and has most recently decided to try her hand at writing romantic literature having attended a dinner with writers of the Mills and Boons series. Judy concluded by reading a hilarious extract from her first foray into this genre entitled *“The Heart has new horizons”*. We will have to wait and see if the complete novel comes to fruition! Apparently the most popular genres in the series are the *“Sheik genre”* and most recently the *“Royal genre”* loosely based on the concept that princes and princesses lurk in ordinary society waiting to reveal themselves to the unsuspecting hero or heroine!

Chairman Bill thanked Judy for her talk which had kept all captivated and amused, reminding everyone of our next talk which takes place on Wednesday 26th September and is entitled *“Confessions of a Gardener”* by Alan Sargent.