

Creative Writing 2019

January 2019: OCCASION & SLOTH

We began by hearing a story from last month on the theme **Occasion**. Remembering the first day of school, with “new” uniform, dinner money, missing mum, breaktime milk, sums and writing – and the bliss of the bell and being met by grandma and going home.

Then we moved on to this month’s theme of **Sloth**. The first author wrote of God’s upset at laziness of humans and them not being prepared for Christmas – gift shopping in August.

The second author wrote of olden times when twin girls had different attitudes to preparing for winning a suitor. However the dutiful one gave her sister the gift of her hard work to her sister so that both had the future they wanted.

The third author wrote of a slothful Nicholas being nagged by his wife when he went to his “men-in-sheds” club. However, he had been making toys for children and when his wife – who was a retired midwife – was called to the pub for an emergency birth, Nicolas had already delivered the boy child in the shed. We quickly realised the twist in the Nativity story.

The fourth author wrote of a lazy recruit in the army and the rest of the squad’s relentless help for him.

February 2019: CLERGY

Our first author wrote of a priest feeling guilty as men went to fight in WW1 and ladies doing the men’s work. He eventually becomes a padre and join in the war in his own way.

The second author wrote of a skull and bones being dug up – first in the medieval period and taken to a Catholic monastery, then in Victorian era and taken to an Anglican church, and finally by archaeologists in modern times. The ensuing debate decides that the bones pre-date all clergy and is buried in the place it was found with a simple non-religious ceremony.

The third author wrote of men returning from war and getting back to a rural life – including going to church to hear fierce sermons on ethics and morality. After a country walk, they find the vicar in the barn with a maid from the farm.

The last author wrote of a priest going into the confessional and realising the person on the other side of the grille was wearing purple. Thinking it was the visiting bishop, the priest confesses to his perverted sins. Alas it was just a local detective – who was once a young choir boy - wearing a purple shirt!

March 2019: THE FALL

Author number one wrote a very funny tale of going on a walk with a friend when a sink-hole appears and his friends falls in. It is too deep for him to get out, he has badly hurt his foot and he can smell gas. Whilst he is waiting for someone in the large crowd that has gathered (including the local bobby) to call the emergency services he decides to have a cigarette.....

The second author wrote of the things an elderly lady can see whilst lying on the floor after a fall – a bead from a broken necklace, her granddaughter’s discarded lollypop under the book case, light under the door, but not the clock. When help finally arrives was it too late?

The next author wrote of the antics of an eight-year-old – walking through the grave yard, riding pillion on grandad’s motor bike, building a den in a farmer’s field of hay bales, climbing trees and falling out. The resulting broken arm leads to a visit to the children’s hospital.

The final story told of a lady’s failing health and final demise after a fall down stairs. She had been in the Air Transport Axillary (ATA Girl) delivering spitfires and bombers to various airfields throughout the UK. Her son undertakes a tandem parachute jump to scatter her ashes which – according to a photograph taken by the instructor – form the shape of a spitfire.

May 2019: BROOMSTICK

The theme of “broomstick” didn’t provide one story of witches!

The first author told of a broomstick magically transporting a young girl to totally more glamorous world, but to get back to her humble cottage she had to find the dustpan.

The second author wrote of a young slave making a broomstick with the help of the village wise woman. She then had to jump over it to make her marriage to her young beau.

The third author told of a grandfather watching his granddaughter riding her broomstick round the garden and her brother saying she looked like a witch. He used the observations when making a bet on the horses using money taken from his wife’s holiday fund. It lost, but luckily his wife had put a bet on a similarly chosen horse and won.

The fourth author wrote of going to a wedding at a manor house. It was a pagan handfasting, followed by jumping the broomstick.

June 2019: GAME

The first author wrote of going on a trip of a lifetime to Africa. White water rafting, walking by Victoria Falls, drumming with the locals and, of course, a trip to a game reserve.

The second author wrote of a game keeper seeing lights in the wood leading to a group of people singing, dancing and laughing. He wonders if he has fairies but he doesn’t see them again for a whole year to the date. This time he joins in the celebration of midsummer solstice.

The third author wrote of a young boy in the middle ages being chased in a game of hunt. He hides in a box in a small shed. It then changes to a search for a young boy missing from home. He is found dead in a fridge in a garden shed, clutching the skeleton of a long dead young boy.

On a happier note, the fourth author wrote a poem about the childhood games we played – hopscotch, conkers, cricket, to name just a few.

July 2019: SWIFT

Only two stories this week due to holidays, medical appointments, etc.

The first author wrote of the dull, slow life of a lonely person and of how swift folks were to show up when she died and they thought they may inherit some money and how swiftly they disappear when it has gone (See the ***Creative Writing – Stories*** link for the full text).

The second author wrote of Jersey during WW2 and the swiftness of some folks leaving before the Germans arrived, the slowness of the occupation and the swiftness of the Germans leaving.

August 2019: AGAINST THE TIDE

Only two stories again – holidays and busy summer schedules took their toll.

The first author was very entertaining. A comedy, modern re-write of the King Cnut story. At a drinking session in his great hall, the King got into a situation where he was asked to go against nature – against the tide!

The second author cleverly used the themes they missed – “Game” and “Swifts” and “Against the tide” all in one story. On a bike ride, the hero stopped to watch the swifts flying above and a raven eating something dead in a field. On continuing he meets a gentleman who was looking for his dog who had disappeared whilst playing a game. After a few more miles he stops to mend a puncture and worries that his life is like going against the tide dealing with redundancy and divorce. He finds the dog and reunites it with its owner. He takes his daughter to the circus where a big cat has just been re-captured after killing game (a sheep) in a nearby field.

September 2019: PILGRIM

The theme this month was “Pilgrim” and we had four very different pieces of work.

The first was a poem focusing on the aches and pains of a walking pilgrim and the determination of getting to the destination.

The second was a story of a Jewish boy in Berlin at the beginning of the war. His girlfriend moved to London and they lost touch, but were reunited when he and his family moved there later – taking their jewels sewn into the hems of their coats.

The third story was of a widower and his daughter deciding to walk from Netherfield to Skegness in memory of his wife. It was very descriptive – but they only got as far as Newark. I guess the pilgrimage is to be continued....

The fourth was comedy take on the pilgrim fathers trip to America. The ship was called Titanic, but they changed the name to Mayflower. They were to rendezvous with Speedwell – but it sprang a leak and had to turn back. The banter between the captain, the mate and the crew had us all giggling.

November 2019: STARS

The first author wrote of different types of stars. Of the soul of dead child becoming the brightest star in the sky (Hale-Bop), of stargazing with youngsters, and of photographing the night sky. Then the stars of stage and screen, and the stars of life – emergency services and others who help. Then the chocolates named astrologically – and produced a pack of Galaxy Magic Stars to share.

The second author wrote of a school nativity play. A young lad in a wheelchair was given a small part as narrator until the teacher asked him and his dad to make a special star. Assisted by the caretaker they make the star glide above the stable – thanks to a few ramps, and a wheelchair going up them.

The third author wrote about an ex-soldier buying land in Africa and mining diamonds. He meets the love of his life and proposes under the stars and gives her a star to wear on her finger.

The fourth author wrote of someone becoming an astronaut and taking a trip of a lifetime through the stars to the space station and back to earth.

We would love more folks to join us. All you have to do is write a short story or poem and come and read it to us. The theme for our meeting in January is “Over the Water” and February is “The Mark”. Plenty of time as there is no meeting in December as it is so close to Christmas.