

Welcome to the May newsletter,

April saw our AGM at the start of the Open Meeting. You have already received all the paperwork, but if you missed the chair's report and the financial report, these can be found in the documents section of our website. We successfully made some small changes to the constitution and the new constitution is also on the website. A new committee was elected, and this is shown at the bottom of this newsletter. I shall be introducing them to you over the next few months in the newsletters.

Members continue to renew membership. If you've not done so, remember that you can do it at the Open Meetings, or online via the website. You can also do it by BACS transfer. If you do use BACS please make sure you add your name to the comments box as all we get is your bank account number. Looking forward to seeing you all soon,

Liz Ouldrige (Chair)

Important dates

May 16th Monthly coffee morning for all at 'The Hayloft' Mole Avon Country Store from 10:30am

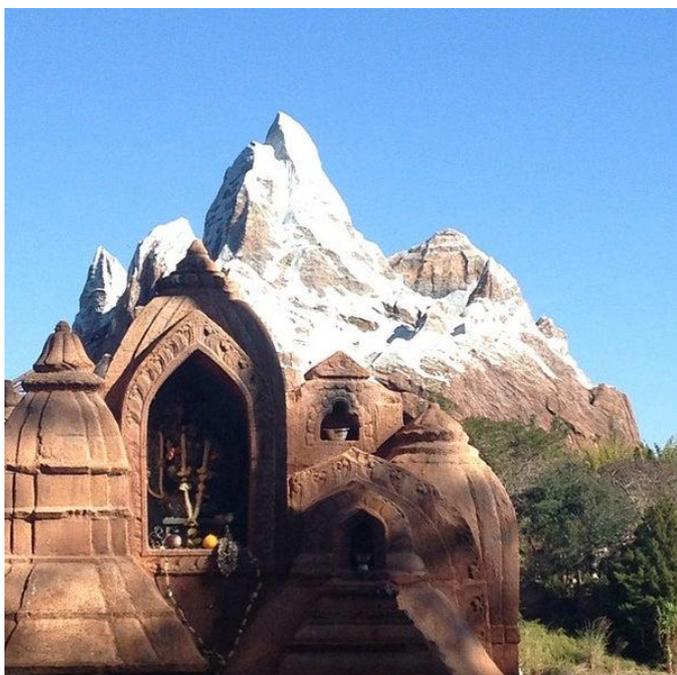
May 17th Open Meeting at the Boniface Centre, Prof. Roy Sambles 'Some Light Reflections' at the Boniface Centre, refreshments from 9:30am, the talk starts at 10:15.

June 20th Monthly coffee morning for all at 'The Hayloft' Mole Avon Country Store from 10:30am

June 21st Mark Branwell 'The Spanish Guitar for Today'

April's Talk: talk: In Search of Disney's 'Yeti' by Martin Pailthorpe

Martin spoke about his adventures in Nepal and China with Joe Rohde of Disney's Animal Kingdom as they 'searched' for the 'yeti'. Joe was constructing a ride for the Florida theme park based on myths from this part of the world called 'Expedition Everest' (ride pictured below). He went to Nepal and China to study the culture and collect 'yeti' stories so that the ride was 'authentic'. Joe and Martin spent a lot of time talking to the local people about their traditions. 'Yeti' stories originated with the Sherpa peoples. Now they live at high altitude, but they used to be more widespread across China, particularly Szechuan. Their tales speak of a large monster with long claws and feet. Details varied, but there was always a pointy head. For some



local people, the 'yeti' were real. Although fierce, these creatures protected the environment around them from invaders and their presence was regarded as good luck. The 'yeti' only ate people at night, which was fortunate!

Part of the project was to give something back to the community and so Disney was funding an environmental survey high in the Himalayas. Jo and Martin visited the scientists at work in some of the most isolated parts of the world. Access was difficult and sometimes dangerous. The people were poor subsistence farmers, but satellite dishes were everywhere.

If you visit Florida today, you can see the ride created by Joe in action. It is both exciting and educational.

Your new Committee

Position	Position holder
Chair	Liz Ouldrige
Vice Chair	Ian Fenn
Treasurer	Pamela Ismail
Deputy Treasurer	Jerry Lee
Business Secretary	Ros Reeves
Groups' Coordinator	Jo Penning
Speakers' Coordinator	Fenella Rundell
Membership Secretary	Lyn Padley
Publicity Officer	Keith Barker
Technical Support Officer	Ian Fenn
Other Committee members	Carole Thomas, David Greenwood Robin Kear, Betty Shipp