



Oversteps News 16

May 2011

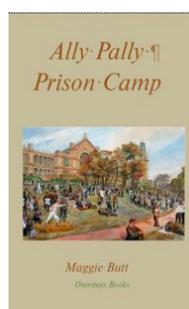
There are two new books out from Oversteps. The first one, *Planting the Snow Queen*, is by **Denise Bennett** (ISBN 978-1-906856-20-5; price £8). Denise's name will be known to many of you as she won the Poetry Society's inaugural Hamish Canham prize in 2004. She teaches creative writing at Portsmouth College of Adult Education, and her work appears regularly in poetry magazines.



Ally Pally Prison Camp (ISBN 978-1-906856-21-2; price £10)

The other new book is a first for Oversteps, in that it is illustrated. The poet **Maggie Butt** discovered that Alexandra Palace in North London was used as a prison of war camp in the First World War. Although the 3000 men who were interned there were of German nationality, many of them had lived and worked in England for many years and had English wives and children.

Further research, particularly at the Imperial War Museum, uncovered letters from these men, as well as photographs of life in the camp and a number of fine paintings by the artist, George Kenner, who was one of the prisoners. Maggie has brought this material together, with a series of her poems based on the Ally Pally Prison Camp, to produce a fascinating, and moving record of a piece of little-known history.



Both these books, along with a sample poem from each collection, can be seen on our website. They can be ordered either by post or on-line from www.overstepsbooks.com.

The Oversteps readings continue unabated. There will be three group readings in June: at the Exmouth Festival on June 1st, at the Walpole Old Chapel in Suffolk on 18th and at the Worcester Festival on 24th. The other exciting news on this front is that we have been invited

to put on a whole day of Oversteps events at the **Ways with Words Festival** at Dartington on **Friday July 15th**. The programme for the day is as follows:

- 11.00 **New Steps**: Launch of recent publications.
Angela Stoner, Anthony Watts, John Stuart and Denise Bennett
- 12.00 **Other Lives**: Introducing poets who combine writing with very different activities and high profile professions. The following will talk, read their poetry and answer questions.
Michael Swan – international linguistics scholar
Giles Goodland – lexicographer who works for the OED
Anne Stewart – manages the poetry pf website
Alwyn Marriage – Managing Editor of Oversteps Books
- 2.00 **Out of the Ordinary**: Four poets who have recently published unusual collections
Hilary Elfick – a Maori interpretation of Shakespeare’s *Tempest*
Maggie Butt – an illustrated collection about Ally Pally Prison Camp
Christopher North & Terry Gifford – bilingual English/Spanish poems & conversations
- 3.30 **Oversteps Scholars**: Two of our poets who have recently embarked on PhDs will talk about their research and read some of their work
Miriam Darlington – studying the wild otter in landscape & literature
Andrew Nightingale – producing a long narrative poem about Alan Turing & artificial intelligence
- 5.00 **Touching the Sky**: Poems by **Simon Williams** and **Susan Taylor** and original guitar compositions by **Stephen Yates**, inspired by all things aerial.

We hope some of you will be able to come along for what promises to be an exceptional day. Individual tickets cost £5 each, or you can buy a whole day ticket for £20.

Oversteps Books welcomes Christina Webb, an English student at Surrey University, who is doing work experience with us. At present she is managing the reviews department; and over the coming months she will be gaining experience of different aspects of our publishing programme.

We were sorry to hear of the death of Bill Petty, whose book *But Someone Liked Them* was published by Oversteps in 2009. Bill combined a long and distinguished career in public service with his poetry, and *But Someone Liked Them* was a collection of his poems that had done well in competitions. Like many of us, he had the experience of finding that the poems he least expected to succeed were the very ones that were chosen by editors and judges. Further details of Bill’s book can be found on the website.

There have been some excellent reviews of Oversteps books recently. Some time in the next few months I’ll try to get some of these up on the website.

best wishes

Alwyn

Managing Editor, Oversteps Books

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Please send

.... copies of *Planting the Snow Queen* by Denise Bennett at **£8** each ... £

.... copies of *Ally Pally Prison Camp* by Maggie Butt at **£10** each ... £

Combined price for both books together (£17) ... £

plus postage and packing, for one book (**£1 UK; £3 if ordering from abroad**) £

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