

Punch and Judy: a report on the talk by Alix Booth on 9th October 2014 at the Northbourne Centre

Alix has been a puppeteer for over 40 years.

The talk was presented in an unusual way with the history of Punch and Judy presented by her puppets, in particular Samuel Pepys, who explained how the characters were at least 350 years old, originating in Italy and then spreading throughout Europe and as far away as Russia.

Today we associate the show with audiences of children, but originally it was purely for adults.

Alix explained the origins of each of the characters that we see at Punch and Judy shows and how, over the ages, these various characters have been loved or hated by audiences, particularly the Beadle who was the main law enforcer prior to the founding of the Police Force in 1829. The macabre character of the hangman was based on the real life Jack Ketch, the executioner employed by King Charles II.

It was an extremely entertaining and knowledgeable talk.

Our next talk is on Thursday 13th November at the Northbourne Centre Church Street entitled 'Poets of the Great War'. This will take place straight after the AGM. The evening starts at 7.30pm.