

with this. Amanda was also with Mrs Thatcher on her first trip to Moscow to meet with President Gorbachev. Driving from the airport to the British Residence it was noticeable that there was no-one on the streets. Asking why, they were informed that the KGB had imposed a curfew but by the end of the five-day visit the streets were thronging with people eager to see Mrs Thatcher and the KGB had no control over it. Moscow had never seen the like of it before.

Amanda said that in her early years Mrs Thatcher's ambition had been to be Chancellor, as there had never been a woman Prime Minister. Amanda felt that Denis Thatcher had been a wonderfully devoted husband. She reflected that in

high office women often sacrificed more than men and probably what had suffered most was Lady Thatcher's relationship with her children. Lady Thatcher's last years after her husband's death had been hard for her with her failing health.

Amanda has very special memories of her time with Lady Thatcher and hopes one day to put them into a book.

Milton WI felt very privileged to hear Amanda's thoughts on the very moving service that she had attended that day at Westminster and that she had still managed to come to speak to us.

We meet on the **3rd Tuesday** of every month, in **Milton Village Hall**. Do come along and join us. For more information phone Linda Dixon on: 01993 830411.

Rose Hartley

Trudy Reflects on... The Art of Criticism

What exactly is a 'critic'? I looked up the word in my trusty O.E.D. and was quite taken aback by the first meaning given: '*a person who censures*'. Ugh, not for me. The second meaning is an improvement: '*a person who reviews or judges the merits of literary, artistic or musical works*'.

I began to learn the art of criticism at an early age. My colleagues (other disenchanted with authority 15-year olds) and I, made the Chicago Tribune when we walked out of our Junior Speech Class on strike after the removal of our beloved teacher. He had, you see, endangered the school board by giving everyone in his class an 'A' grade for the semester. To these prosaic board members, the possibility that every single member of that class could have achieved such a standard of excellence was impossible to believe. They asked for Mr. Colcord's resignation. Dave Colcord patiently

explained that each of his students, to his (critical mind), had performed to the very best standard that he or she could achieve. In his opinion, such effort deserved an 'A' grade. It made no difference. Authority had spoken. Disgruntled and far from being convinced of the fairness of the decision, we eventually straggled back to class where we made the supply teacher's life a total misery for the rest of the year.

I have never forgotten this incident and I have never been sorry for my part in it. Dave Colcord had thoughtfully critiqued the efforts of his class and graded them accordingly. I read somewhere that every individual is a unique blend of DNA, experience and psychological complexity. It is always worth keeping that in mind when judging or censuring.

Trudy Yates

Trudy gives an 'A' grade in her review of Hound of the Baskervilles, page 33.