

Report on Irvine Hunt's talk about Norman Nicholson—September 30th 2006

by Peggy Troll (p. 2)

On Saturday, 30th September, members gathered at the Guide Hall, Millom, for the first of our events in this inaugural year.

The afternoon began with a visit to St. George's Church to view the Norman Nicholson Window. Dorothy Hodgson, leader of the committee which steered the project through to the window's installation and dedication in July, 2000, described how the artist, Christine Boyce, drew her inspiration from the poems, so many of which find direct expression in the structure and breathtaking colours of her design. Our thanks are due to Dorothy for her clear and enthusiastic presentation.

Irvine Hunt then shared some of his memories of NN. His deceptively easy, informal style hides a wealth of experience in establishing a rapport with his audience and his recollections, together with a choice of readings introduced with perception and humour, soon had them responding with reminiscences of their own – Norman's visit to Buckingham Palace to receive the Queen's Medal for Poetry, the letter Norman wrote to the teenage daughter of Harry, the subject of his poem, 'To the Memory of a Millom Musician' – these and many more contributed to our knowledge and appreciation of Norman, the man. Our thanks to Irvine for an enjoyable and inspiring talk.

A measure of the audience's enjoyment was their reluctance to leave – or was it also the truly sumptuous refreshments kindly supplied by the ladies of St. George's Church! Our grateful thanks are due to them and to all who made the afternoon such a memorable occasion.

Peggy Troll