

February 2020 Newsletter

Dear members,

Thank you to Linda Wain for finalising this Newsletter and distributing it for me while I'm on holiday.

February 12th 2020 Monthly Meeting

Anne Chance – Saddle Sore in Montana

Anne thoroughly entertained us with her tales of learning to ride a horse in England and then going on a real cattle drive in Montana, as a cowboy. She did all this in her 60's after she had retired.

She brought along her cowboy hat, cowboy boots and spurs and a lasso to add authenticity to her story. She told us about some of the scrapes she got into riding her horse, which were hilarious.

She rounded up 150 cattle, then in the evening sat around the campfire with the other cowboys, singing songs and eating beans!

Anne had wanted to be a cowboy since she was 8 years old and for her, this really was a dream come true.

March 11th 2020 Monthly Meeting

The next meeting at Hook will be Christopher Massey Beresford talking about the Rise and Fall of the Portuguese Empire from the 15th Century, with trade spanning the world for three centuries, through to its role in the two world wars.

There will be a meeting for new members before the April 8th Monthly meeting. Invitations will be going out soon.

Group Information

Houses of Parliament Trip

Everyone who is going on this trip should have received details about time, where to meet etc. If there is anyone who has not received details please contact Mel on melinsolitaryman@btinternet.com (07788 426380)

On the day please form a group with Mel in Westminster Hall. Mel should be easy to see in her wheelchair and hard to see for the same reason!

Ballroom Dancing

This group has become so successful there is now a waiting list.

New Psychology Group

Jemima Nielson has offered to set up a Psychology group. The group will be using MOOCs (Massive Open On-Line Courses) as a structure for the meetings. The group participants would be able to discuss the latest chapter of study which they've done online. It's a new way of learning which removes the onus being on one member, when none is an expert.

If anyone is interested in finding out more or joining the group please contact Joan Carnell joan.carnell@gmail.com

Trips and Excursions

A message from Joyce Cook

May 22nd. Visit to Houghton Lodge & Gardens.

This is a Grade 2 listed building and we have a guided tour round the house and gardens. We will then visit another venue with a café before returning back to Basingstoke. Final details will be announced later.

I did take a laminated description of this to the HOOK meeting. Someone took it to read and did not return it to the desk.

If that person could return it to me I would be most grateful. Probably it went into a pocket or bag without the person realising it was the only copy. We still have seats available and these can be secured at £10 deposit.

29th June. Visit to Stratford upon Avon

The idea is a drive to Stratford, some free time then a trip about 45 minutes on the river, more free time then return home.

This is filling up so do not delay too long before sending your deposit in.

6th August. Buckingham Palace.

Coach to London where we are booked to do the tour of the State Rooms at Buckingham Palace. After the tour there will be some free time before returning to Basingstoke. Only 8 places left at the time of me writing this. To book send your £10 deposit along with your date of birth please.

22nd October. ss Great Britain.

Following the excellent talk at the January meeting I arranged a tour of this ship. There will be a meal on board as well. At present only 6 seats remaining so once again £10 and date of birth as soon as possible. It could be that we need a second bus or alternative date if your response is this productive.

4th November. Royal Albert Hall. Beauty of Ballet and Russian music.

Your response was amazing and it our seats were sold out almost in 3 weeks. I had a waiting list but have managed to obtain more tickets. So please send in as soon as possible the deposit of £30 and I hope to get a second coach. I have the seats so I can say you could bring a friend now.

Croatia and Greek Holidays the lists are closed.

You do not need to do a separate cheque for each tour but please write on the reverse of the cheque which tour the money is for. I also need your choice of pick up and your date of birth (this is to get the best prices).

By the way after the wonderful humorous talk last meeting I regret I am not thinking of a horse riding holiday for the group. Well done Linda for arranging that speaker.

33, Pages Bungalows, New Road, Basingstoke, RG21 7PR

An idea for another support group for members from Sue Curtis

Do you like doing jigsaws, would you like to swop jigsaws? Once I know if there is any interest, I will work out a plan. So, please email me if you are interested. Apparently jigsaws use both the analytical and creative sides of the brain, so can only be good for us all!

I look forward to hearing from anyone who is interested.

Sue Curtis David.sue@btinternet.com

Strings & Things Group

A message from Mike Fox

The Strings & Things Group has been in existence for seven years now and still meets regularly every month for rehearsals. We perform publicly, by invitation, around six times a year for charitable events as well as occasional U3A Meetings at Elizabeth Hall.

The group currently consists of two piano accordionists, two six strings guitarists, a ukulele player and a bass player. We have around 70 tunes and songs in our repertoire and add a few new ones each year. The two piano accordionists drive us along musically and melodically when playing and singing – whilst the guitars and ukulele play along and more importantly sing together as strongly as we can.

When we perform in public we concentrate on well-known traditional and popular songs with choruses that members of the audience can sing along with. It is a constant surprise and pleasure to hear audiences singing strongly along with us as they love to do. We help them by preparing song sheets with the choruses – normally around fifteen songs for a performance.

New musicians and singers are always welcome to meet up with the group and try a rehearsal to see if they like the idea of performing with us.

U3A Events

National U3A Summer School dates

3rd – 6th August 2020 Aston University, Birmingham

7th – 10th September 2020 Royal Agricultural University, Cirencester

South East U3A Region Summer School

15th – 18th June (13 courses available) University of Chichester

Check www.u3a.org.uk for more details.

National Educational Events

12th March Close Encounters of the Animal Kind at the National Gallery

30th March Discovering Children's Literature at the British Library

21st April Behind the Scenes of Dame Mary Quant

More information about these courses are on the website www.u3a.org.uk