

Committee Messages

Zero Charges for Courses from September 2020 to June 2021

The committee recognise that due to Covid-19 we have been severely restricted in what courses and events we can offer for the membership subscription. However, we have been successful in obtaining over £3,000 from HMRC in Gift Aid and as a result we are able to make all courses free of charge in the above period, irrespective of whether they are by Zoom or in halls. During this period all courses will be offered on a first-come-first-served basis as this will reduce the administration required. We will not be able to run any face-to-face courses between January and March 2021 and will regularly review this situation as the Covid-19 Guidance is updated by Government.

In addition, the membership subscription will be held at £20 per person for 2021/22. We hope this will encourage everyone to renew when they receive the renewal letter in January 2021. However, we will have to revert to charging fees for courses in the Main Programme when it starts in September 2021.

No email address?

A number of our tutors have worked hard to provide some exciting Zoom courses and talks and these are being advertised with emails to all members with email addresses. If you have not given us an email address or indeed are not online but would like to see what is on offer (who knows, you might even be tempted to try Zoom) we will happily send you a printed version of the programme. Just contact Chris Plant on 01843 847 276 or Ursula Steiger on 01227 711 536.



We are sorry to learn that Stewart Miller has relinquished the history lead due to health problems. We are very grateful for his hard work over the years as a committee member and history lead. Gini Austin (Dr Virginia Austin) has agreed to take on the role of history lead.



Book Review

Mudlark by Lara Maiklem

This is an interesting and factual little book for dipping into. Its focus is on Lara's journey through mudlarking on the Thames. If you like picking up odd objects and quirky historical facts, this is the one for you. I have collected a few items including what are very common clay pipes. One I have is shaped as a Victorian gentlemen in a top hat. This book gave me more information on the history of clay pipes and how it fits in. There are many little 'Oh that it explains it' moments. A recommended easy read.

Published by Bloomsbury.

Reviewed by Rosemary Welsh

Spring Holiday 2021

The Historic Houses and Heritage of Northumbria

5 days from £439, departing Monday 17 May in an executive coach, and visiting:

- Bolsover Castle (EH)
- Durham Cathedral – guided tour
- Beamish Open Air Museum
- Newcastle orientation tour
- Alnwick Castle
- Cragside House & Gardens (NT)
- Lindisfarne Castle (NT)
- Bamburgh
- Beningbrough Hall & Gardens (NT)
- *Optional*: Boat trip to nesting seabirds on Farne Islands on Day 4

There will be a Blue Badge guide with the group on days 2, 3 & 4 of tour.

We will be staying by the quayside at the centrally located 4* Copthorne Hotel in Newcastle on a half-board basis. The hotel has a restaurant, bar and gymnasium. All rooms are en suite and have TV, telephone and tea & coffee making facilities.

Extra costs: single room supplement £99; insurance £24; entrance fees to places visited.

Free entry to their properties for members of English Heritage & National Trust.

For more information and an application form, send SAE to:

Roger & Margaret Lansdell

6 Priory Gardens, Nunnery Fields, Canterbury, CT1 3HT



Further Puns for Educated Minds

1. The midget fortune-teller who escaped from prison was a small medium at large.
2. The soldier who survived mustard gas and pepper spray is now a seasoned veteran.
3. A backward poet writes inverse.
4. In a democracy it's your vote that counts. In feudalism it's your count that votes.
5. When cannibals ate a missionary, they got a taste of religion.
6. If you jumped off the bridge in Paris, you'd be in Seine.

Exercise for the Brain

Answers all contain parts of the body.

1. Ingratitude (13)
2. Dismiss this limb and gain a weapon (4,3)
3. Greedy animal has returned (9)
4. Fastener for the stomach, possibly (5,6)
5. Second class with a hosiery run (7)
6. Ezekiel connected these (3,3,5)
7. 1990s sitcom (6)
8. Snobbish part of the forehead (4.4)
9. Catheter users may store valuables here (8,5)
10. Eastern country minus the first (4)
11. Where will it be? Ask Rosemary Clooney! (6)
12. What Vincent cut off (3)

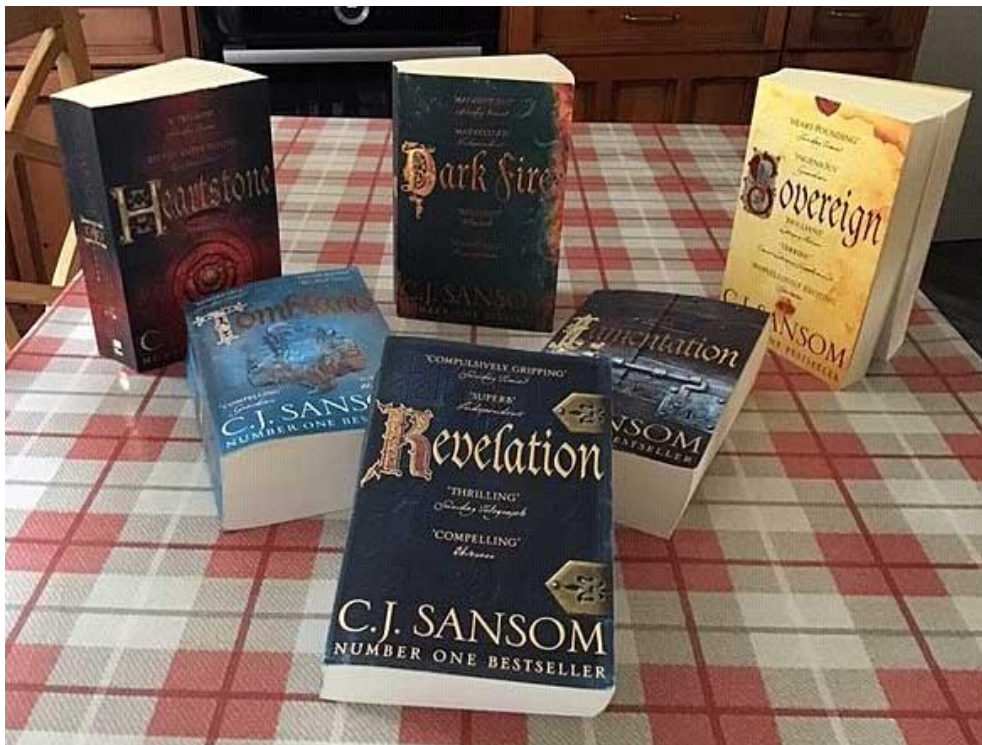
Answers in the next bulletin

What we do in Lock-down

My summers are usually spent looking after my garden in the mornings and finding a shady nook to read in during afternoons. The only difference this year was that, amongst many other books, I set myself the task to read the seven, much praised J C Sansom books, also known as the Shardlake series, set in the time of Henry VIII. I love history and thoroughly enjoyed reading about this period and the life of Matthew Shardlake, a lawyer with connections to the royal court.

For those of you who like accuracy, yes, the picture only shows six volumes because one is out on loan to a friend!

Joanie Archer



Bons Mots

- Success is going from failure to failure without loss of enthusiasm.
- The final test of fame is having a crazy person imagine he is you.
- Never believe anything until it is officially denied.
- Courage is the art of being the only one who knows you're scared to death.
- Anyone can hold the helm when the sea is calm.
- It wasn't raining when Noah built the ark.
- Rudeness is the weak man's imitation of strength.
- No one can make you feel inferior without your consent.

Submitted by Jocelyn Thomson



Fresh Apple Cake

Apples are in abundance this month and this is a very simple recipe that I find foolproof. It is delicious served with cream.

1lb diced fresh apples (do not peel)

4oz sugar

Mix thoroughly and add

4 fl oz cooking oil

2 well beaten eggs

1 tsp vanilla essence

Mix and add

8oz SR flour

2 tsp baking powder

1 tsp cinnamon

½ tsp salt

Put in greased dish* and bake at 160°C (325°F) if glass dish OR 180°C (350°) if tin

Bake for 1 hour or until cake shrinks from sides.

*Use 9" × 6" × 2" deep, rectangular glass Pyrex dish.

Serve cold with cream.

Pat Rose

