



Wednesday 6 March 2024

Price £30 to include coach and guided tours of both museums with tea/coffee and biscuits in the morning, guided walk (optional), add the cost for your chosen lunch

On this Spring outing we will be focussing on two museums. The Museum of English Rural Life (MERL) explores the history of the English countryside and its people and Reading Museum which has fascinating exhibits on art, archaeology, history and natural history, including an almost exact copy of the Bayeux Tapestry, and a fascinating display of Huntley and Palmers biscuit tins.

The Museum of English Rural Life houses the most comprehensive national collection of objects, books and archives relating to the history of food, farming and the countryside. Morning tea/coffee on arrival at MERL is included. Members will be divided into two groups for a guided tour of the exhibits, and there will be time to go back in the galleries and look at favourite displays in more detail after the tour. We will spend approx. 2 ½ hours there.

We will leave MERL by coach for lunch to be served in a private dining room at the Narrowboat Pub (Fullers) which is on the River Kennet Canal. Choose from the menu options below and add the cost to your booking form and cheque. Drinks, tea and coffee should be paid for individually on the day.

- A -Pan-roasted Norfolk chicken breast, crushed new potatoes, spinach, wild mushrooms, white wine sauce £16.75
- B -Vegan gnocchi with mushrooms, spinach, kale, walnuts & sage £14.50
- C -Beer battered haddock & chips with peas, tartare sauce & lemon £17.95

After lunch, there will again be two groups. One group will go by coach direct to Reading Museum for a guided tour of the Bayeux Tapestry, which lasts an hour. This will be followed by free time to have a look at the other exhibits in the rest of the museum.

The other group will have a guided walk lasting about an hour where they will see the Abbey ruins, Banksy mural, Reading Gaol where Oscar Wilde was imprisoned and Forbury Gardens, arriving at Reading Museum in time for the second tour. There is an **extra charge of £4** for the guided walk, to be paid in **cash** on the coach on the day. Numbers are limited for the walk and it will be first-come, first-served. The distance is nearly a mile so members must be fit enough to do this. The second tour of the Bayeux Tapestry will start when this group arrives at the Museum, an hour after the first group.

Tea/coffee and cake will be available (not included) in the Pantry Cafe in Reading Town Hall, where the Museum is situated. The museum closes at 4 pm but the Café will stay open until 4.30 pm to enable us to have a cup of tea/coffee before we leave Reading at 4.45 pm from the nearby coach stop.

Due to the size of the group tours, the maximum number for this trip is 40. Places are limited on the walking tour and you will be told if you have a place.

Closing date for applications – 16th February 2024

Pick up points: A bus shelter Shalford Railway Station (Scout Hut) 8.00am, B bus shelter London Road/Nightingale Road 8.10am, C bus shelter Elgin Gardens (near Burchatts Farm) 8.15am, D bus shelter opposite BP garage Burpham 8.20am. Please check any parking restrictions at your chosen pick-up point.

Instructions – please read carefully

To join this trip please complete the form below and send with your **cheque payable to Guildford Area U3A** (and a SAE **ONLY** if you do not have an email address) to **Ann Elms, High Hedges, Send Barns Lane, Send, WOKING, GU23 7BT**. Please ensure your email address and telephone numbers are completed to enable us to confirm whether or not there is a place available or to contact you with a query. Please take care to complete your pickup point. All trips are only available to fully paid-up Guildford U3A members (for insurance purposes) and membership numbers must be given. Refunds cannot be given unless a replacement can be found. **If needed – Email: annelms1@hotmail.com**
Tel: 01483 222913 or mob: 07710746236.

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Name	Home No.	Your Guildford U3A Membership No.			
	Mob No.				
Others booked by you on the visit		Their Guildford U3A Membership No.			
Email address					
Postal address					
Details of any dietary requirements, food allergies, etc.					
Date	Outing and Prices	Cost	No. of places	Total	Coach pickup times
Wednesday, 6th March 2024	Coach and visits MERL and Reading Museum and guided walk	£30			A 8.00 B 8.10 C 8.15 D 8.20
	Select your menu choice and add on the cost				
	A – Chicken breast	£16.75			
	B – Vegan gnocchi	£14.50			
	C- Fish & chips	£17.95			
	Cheque Total – to include museum tours & meals				
	Guided Walk – to be paid in cash on the day	£4 cash			