



Chairman's Bulletin – 9 October 2022

A very short introduction from me this month. Having recovered from Covid only a week or so ago, I had an accident yesterday and have broken my upper right arm. After five hours lying on the kitchen floor waiting for an ambulance and then four hours in the L&D I am afraid this is all I can manage with my left hand today. I had written the rest of the newsletter yesterday and so it must go out as is, minus a couple of items and checking

Hopefully I will be recovering well by the time of the AGM on the 20th. Details on the next page.

I look forward to seeing you there.

Viv (01582 766147)

Members' News

This month we are delighted to welcome 11 new members – **Susan Fox, Hugh Fricker, John Smith, Helen Gledhill, Jennifer Dorman, Mary Hammond, Jean Dill, Jackie Rose, Christine Kelvey and Bridget & Steve French**. We are also delighted to welcome back **Gerald Cuff** after a gap of a couple of years.

However, we are extremely sad to announce the death of **John Booth**, who organised our very successful and enjoyable Theatre Group for many years. His funeral is at 11am on Wednesday, 12th October at High Street Methodist Church.

Dates for Your Diary

Below is the programme of General Meetings up until the end of the year. They will all take place in the Trust Hall at 2.15.

20th October **Trials and Tribulations of establishing the new Harpenden Museum.** Speaker – David Keen, the Museum's Curator. This will be followed at 3.15 by our **Annual General Meeting**

3rd November **Members' Afternoon** (with tea and coffee) – short talk on **"Universal Esperanto"**. Our member, **Joyce Bunting**, with Bill Walker, will share their delight in the International Language.

17th November **Walking from Land's End to John o' Groats.** Speaker – Dave Felton. Dave says: *"On 15 May 2017 I set off from Land's End on a long walk north to John o' Groats to celebrate my 40th birthday/indulge in a multi-month midlife crisis. I reached journey's end 82 days later. It was a wonder adventure and one of the highlights of my life."*

1st December **Members' Afternoon** (with tea and coffee) – **Christmas Miscellany** with contributions from members.

15th December **Christmas Social**

SUBS REMINDER

Please make sure you have paid your subscription of £18 due on 1st August. You will have received a letter from me on 18th August with the renewal form attached for you to complete and send to our membership secretary, Alan Thomas. If you have not yet done so, could you please do so as soon as possible. If you cannot find the renewal form or have a query, please contact Alan Thomas on 07983 077197. Many thanks.

Group News

Bus Pass/Explorers Group – The first outing of bus pass group was postponed as not enough members were available and is planned for later in the autumn. The first trip will be to Hertford, where members can follow the Historic trail, either together or on their own. Hertford is a very interesting town with many interesting sites and buildings, and plenty of indoor places in case of poor weather. Also, lots of coffee shops and pubs for everyone to lunch together.

The new date will be sent to those who've expressed interest, so anyone else who would like to join us, please contact [Diana Brimblecombe](#) on 01582 713135. To fit in with members' commitments, there will be no set day of the week or month for our outings.

Creative Writing Group – The first get together of this new group will be taking place on Wednesday, 12th October at 10.30. If you are interested in joining and would like to find out more details, please contact [Brian Ball](#) on [07751667551 / 01582 624579](#).

History Group – The next meeting of the History Group will be on Tuesday 11th October In the Randall Room at the Harpenden Trust Halls at 2.30. The presentation is by Malcolm Rainbow, with the subject being, "Why did Britain lose the American War of Independence."

As usual, a contribution of £1 is requested to cover the room charge. All are welcome'.

Hot Issue Seminars (HIS) – The Group Leader, Chris Marsden, writes:

This group aims to hold a monthly seminar on hot issues of the day. During Covid we met through Zoom but have subsequently resumed meeting in members' houses and gardens. Each month one of our members researches and presents a short paper, which has been sent to group members for reading beforehand, on an issue they have chosen from a list agreed by the group. The group then discusses the issue with a view to reaching an evidence-based consensus on the nature of the problem(s) and recommended actions by government or whoever.

Among last year's topics were: Environment and the climate crisis, Artificial intelligence, Good economics for hard times, Meritocracy, 'Land ownership and trespass', China and world relationships, 'City, towns and villages post covid', The assault on truth, levelling up and the monarchy. The 2022/23 season began with 'Issues confronting the BBC' and then 'Ukraine'.

Given the nature of our discourse the optimum size of the group is probably 8 to 10. We are currently 13 but not everyone can make each meeting. Given its popularity we are considering creating a second group. We have had an offer from someone to organise the meetings. If you would be interested in joining this second group, please contact me on [07906 538159](#)

MahJong – The MahJong group started a few years ago in response to Penny Turnbull's Chinese tour, when she'd been introduced to the game when on a cruise on the Yangtse river! She'd brought back a set of tiles, and wanted to find some people to play with. Along came others who'd tried the game briefly, plus one or two who had played as ex-pats, and some who were interested in just finding an activity which might involve use of a bit of grey matter!

To ensure Penny was playing correctly and would teach everyone correctly, she attended sessions at the Redbourn u3a group, and at Welwyn Garden City, and set off following the u3a rules, which are based on the British rules. One of the ex-pat players promoted some of the extra 'special hands' she'd played with in India, and so we now play strictly British rules on the 1st Wednesday of the month, and make use of an extended list of 'special hands' for the other weeks.

We play every Wednesday, and are lucky enough to make use of a room at the Salvation Army hall, making a donation of £2 per person each session for its use.

Penny is planning to run a few teaching sessions at a time convenient to anyone interested. MahJong is a game which can be played with differing levels of competence or complexity, all at the same time. Do get in touch if you'd like to give it a try.

Penny Turnbull, tel 766824, 07901 712332

NEW! A Second Reading for Pleasure Group – A book group cannot get too big as then discussion gets difficult so for some time we have been trying to start a second Reading for Pleasure Group. It has been difficult to find someone to organise it but one of new members, Steve Gledhill, is keen to do so. At the moment he has provisionally arranged for a monthly meeting to take place at 10.30 on a Thursday morning at The Engineer pub in St John's Road/Cravells Road. However, this is not set in stone and can be decided once the group gets together. If you are interested in this, please contact Steve Gledhill for further details on 07785 381912.