



## HINCKLEY U3A September 2019 Newsletter

On Tuesday August 20<sup>th</sup>, at the Mary Forryan Centre, we had our main monthly meeting. The speaker was Philip Caine whose talk was entitled 'From Barrow to Baghdad'. Philip was very entertaining and amusing particularly when he explained why he changed careers so many times. Apparently his wife's stock phrase would be "are you going to be doing this all your life?" So Philip would change careers, very successfully.

Philip sent a shortened version of his talk.

### **Philip Caine:**

Philip has over forty years' experience, operating projects across three continents, within the oil and gas Industry providing support in facilities and project management to blue chip clients in remote and hazardous locations.

His career began in hotel management and then he transitioned to offshore North Sea, where he worked the boom years on oil rigs, barges and platforms. Fifteen years passed and Philip returned to onshore projects taking a three year contract to manage accommodation bases in North and West Africa.

From Africa Philip moved to the former Soviet Union where he managed and directed multiple projects in Kazakhstan and Russia, again supporting the oil industry; a particularly exciting seven years where dealings with the KGB were an everyday event.

The end of the Iraq War in 2003 produced a change of client that took Philip to Baghdad, where as Operations Director, he controlled the operations and project management of multiple accommodation bases for the American Military. A challenging location that required him to

provide and deliver full support for over 30,000 troops on nine separate locations throughout Baghdad and Northern Iraq. Signing up for an initial six months he ended up staying seven years.

The last three years of his career were spent running a couple of oil industry support services companies in Iraq with head offices in Dubai.

Philip semi-retired in 2014 and began writing in February 2015. He now has seven novels published (available from Amazon, Waterstones & WH Smiths) all of which drew inspiration from his ten years in the Middle East.

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### Theatre Trip

On Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> August a group from the U3A went to Kilworth to watch the musical *Cats*. A very kind nameless person ( who I would like to thank) sent in the following report.

The big Robinsons coach made the usual pickups in Barwell and Hinckley bus station, to arrive fully loaded in good time for the 8pm performance of *Cats*, the lyrics of which are based on 'Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats'. The latter has been well described in Wikipedia as 'a collection of whimsical light poems by T. S. Eliot about feline psychology and sociology'. The naming and character of the cats derive from Eliot's work but the musical stage version owes its perennial popularity to Andrew Lloyd Webber's setting of the poems, with several hit numbers, particularly 'Memory' - originally sung by Elaine Paige and excellently in this production by Emma Hudson as Grizabella the (faded) 'glamour cat'.

The overall production is well up to Kilworth's professional standards, including the iconic stage set of a semi-derelict railway siding, from and into which cats emerge and disappear in all directions. The orchestra under Francis Goodhand perfectly matched the unfailing energy of the dancers where, among the best were Mr Mistoffeles ('the original conjuring cat') and Macavity (who is never 'there').

Kilworth Park looked its usual magnificent self in the early evening sunshine although some of us were thankful for the warmer clothing the venue often demands at this time of year - still preferable to the recent excessive heat.

Thanks are due to Margaret for arranging yet another memorable evening out and thanks to (?)Bill N. for the driving and congratulations to him and his son for their charitable cycling exploits.



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Next month's meeting on September 17<sup>th</sup> is by Vince Eager entitled 'Rock and Roll Tales'.

### Trips in October

October 22<sup>nd</sup> to Bletchley Park