

NEWPORT u3a NEWSLETTER - MAY 2023

Welcome to the first of our new format Newsletters which will be published every month. It will be sent out via e-mail, posted on our website and a hard copy will be available in The Cafe. It will inform members of what we did during the month and will include any interesting items that they would like to share.

MEMBERS CHUFFED WITH DAY TRIP



A day trip to Swindon Railway Museum was organised by the History Group. The venue is housed in the Grade 2-listed buildings of the Great Western Railway Works and also incorporates one of Europe's largest covered shopping outlets where some of us enjoyed some retail therapy.

Others were given an excellent guided tour of the museum which explained

the story of the men and women who built, operated and travelled on GWR's network. This pioneering vision from the genius Isambard Kingdom Brunel set the standard for rail travel. We got up close to the rolling stock and road vehicles and were able to inspect some iconic GWR locomotives such as 'King George V' and the 'City of Truro' (the first locomotive to reach 100mph). Particularly memorable was the fascinating view of the 'Caerphilly Castle' from an inspection pit below

SCENIC TOUR FOR THE INTREPID

Out & About Newport organised a weekend coach holiday staying at Plymouth. En route we visited Buckfast Abbey and Gardens where some took time out to attend the midday mass officiated by the monks. A scenic harbour cruise on day two was an enjoyable way to see Plymouth Sound and one of



Europe's largest naval bases, where the mighty warships and a nuclear submarine awaited. We witnessed a number of descendants of the Pilgrim Fathers being welcomed onto the Mayflower steps by the Lord Mayor. There was also time to explore the city, the market and the Barbican's Tudor and Jacobean listed buildings that house many individual shops.

On day three we visited the Lost Gardens of Heligan, where the National Collection of Rhododendrons was magnificent, and many did the steep walk down to the Lost Valley and tackled the biggest rope bridge in the UK.

On the way home we took the opportunity to visit RHS Rosemoor' Gardens, which provided us with more inspirations - something very apparent by the number of plants that jostled for space on the coach!

A RIGHT ROYAL OCCASION

Several of our groups incorporated a celebration for the Coronation of King Charles III into their curriculum. Listening to Music Group enjoyed a morning of pomp & circumstance as members each chose a track from their personal collections, whilst the Crossword Group included a quiz of cryptic clues with a royal theme. The Classical Music Appreciation Group listened to a prepared programme of music from past coronations and discussed how the ceremony has changed since being televised and how music has become more important.

Ladies of the Craft Group dressed up in patriotic outfits and brought in teddy bears that they



had dressed in royal regalia, whilst the Reminiscing Group shared memories and photos of the previous coronation. Also two short films of Newport street parties were e-mailed to all members.

The Choir entertained at St John's Church Coronation Party and sang a programme of varied music including some rousing patriotic songs.

IN THE FAST LANE FOR GLASTONBURY

Members went on a day trip to Glastonbury where there was something to please everyone. The Chalice Well Garden was an ideal place for our Meditation Group Members to enjoy some quiet reflection. Our History enthusiasts visited the tourist sites, museums and specialist shops whilst others preferred the convenience of Clarke's Village's 90 branded outlets, eateries and landscaped gardens



The petrol heads amongst us visited the Haynes Motor Museum on the site of a WW2 aviation depot. There they swooned over 400 international cars and motorbikes that have been collected over 30 years by John Haynes OBE. They have been lovingly preserved to working order and are run regularly so that we can hear, see, touch and smell them!

CRAFTY MEMBERS GO POTTY!



Members of the Craft Group visited a friend's pottery studio for a taster session. We were shown some hand-building techniques to get used to handling the clay before having the chance to make our own pot or vase. We were shown various ways of adding texture and decoration before they were stacked for firing in the kiln.

A few weeks later we returned to glaze our pots and prepare them for the final firing. All agreed the experience was a very sociable and therapeutic activity.

Contact Angela Robins at publicity.newportu3a@gmail.com if you would like to have anything included in future Newsletters.