Welcome to our second newsletter. We had good reports of our first issue and trust we can keep up the standard. As you can see from the adjacent index for this issue, we have a number of interesting items, so do please keep sending in your entries.

The main emphasis in this issue is an election record of our Officers and Committee members at the recent AGM. The full minutes, together with a copy of the Chairman's report, are posted on our website.

To all those retiring from the Committee, or changing their roles, we give a really big 'THANK YOU' for all the valiant work carried out in building up our U3A. For the new Committee, both those joining the Committee for the first time, and those continuing, we wish them well as we look forward to many more successful years as Preston Park U3A.

Due to tax and potential charity status, we need to keep the income in the main account to transactions covering essential PP U3A items only, such as membership and expenses relating to General meetings. Most activities relating to Interest Groups are largely of a transient nature, giving a nominal zero balance. Such transactions are now included in the Social Account, avoiding the 'peaks and troughs' we were previously showing in the Main Account. Both accounts are now managed by our new treasurer, Pam Mutton.

“That tree’s on fire”, the child exclaimed; He thought he’d seen a tree enflamed; It seemed to crackle, it seemed to burn, You could almost imagine its colours turn.

One red September, we once stood And observed, in amazement, a blazing wood; As we approached, you could see at a glance, How the yellow-red streaks performed their dance.

Yes, autumn’s the time for the celebration Of all that fires the imagination; The age old cry: “the glories of nature” Arousing spirits, heightens our stature.

Long live the forests, deep and mysterious, That summon to enter, with a beckon imperious. We cannot and should not resist its call, It makes us human, it makes us walk tall.

The leaves that in summer gladden our hearts, Must lose their green freshness when summer departs. But that is no reason for sadness or gloom; They’ll give birth to a brightness from nature’s rich womb.

Leonard Goldman
Notes from our AGM

At our AGM on 5th December 2013, there were a number of changes to our committee. The following Committee members are changing their roles, or retiring:

**JOHN COTTON**
John was a founder member of our U3A and served well as our Treasurer for six years. He is retiring as Treasurer, but will continue to serve on the Committee. In particular, John is to be congratulated on carrying out the many visits to the Bank, paying in money. John is a keen player with our Bridge Group.

**DIANE COTTON**
Diane was a founder member of our U3A and served as our Secretary for six years. She is retiring as Secretary, but will continue to serve on the Committee, initially assisting our new Secretary.

**TERRY CAREFORD**
Terry was a founder member of our Committee. For the last three years he has served as Chairman. He will now continue on the Committee with the role of Vice-chairman. He arranged for the purchase of the audio/visual equipment for our U3A and continues to look after and operate this equipment. Terry co-runs our computer group.

**ALAN BEEBE**
Alan was a founder member of our U3A and brought a whole range of useful experiences to the Committee. He served as Vice Chairman for the last two years. With his work in the larger sphere of the U3A at SUN, Alan has been instrumental in starting up one new U3A at Hassocks and is presently looking at helping to start at least one other. Due to this workload, he is retiring from the our Committee, but is continuing, with Caroline, to run social outings and lunches. Alan is keen on jazz music and has recently started our playing/singing group, which we heard at the Showcase meeting in September.

**CAROLINE BEEBE**
Caroline was a founder member of our U3A and ran our Social Account. With the support she gives to Alan, she is also retiring from the Committee, but also continues to co-run social outings and lunches. Caroline is keen on craft activities and frequently brings her hand made cards and sells them for charity. The 'chat & knit' meetings have proved popular.

**ANN KERRISON**
Ann joined the Committee three years ago and offered to co-ordinate the Interest Groups. During her time in that role, the number of groups have increased rapidly, mostly due to her perseverance in finding skilled conveners from our members. She is retiring from the Committee at this time due to family commitments, but may return in the future. Ann remains keen on our sporting activities, particularly Racketball.

**LIZ KRASNIK**
Liz served as our membership secretary for some while and stepped down from the Committee during this year once a replacement was found. She is keen to encourage members to partake in horticultural activities.

**RICHARD BROWN**
Richard set up our web-site and joined the committee last year. For health reasons, he is stepping down in this role and has now retired from the Committee. Richard has been a keen walker and was a founder member of our Strollers.
The new Committee

In addition to those Officers mentioned above, who are changing their roles, the following members are new, or continuing to serve:

**TONY BEIRNE**
Tony is our new Chairman and a new member of our Committee. Tony has a wealth of admin/committee work behind him and is keen to bring new ways of working to our PPU3A Committee. We welcome him to his new role. Tony was a founder leader of our 'Strollers' walking group, but is now retiring from its leadership to concentrate on the Chairman role.

**PAM MUTTON**
Pam 'volunteered' to become our new Treasurer following our recent appeal for a treasurer to take over from John Cotton. Pam is a newer member of our U3A and continues to work as a part time accountant, so she should know her way around an accounts folder! In addition to the Main Account, Pam will also run the Social Account which has been run, very efficiently to date, by Caroline Beebe.

**JULIA CLARK**
Julia has volunteered to be our new Secretary. She has been a Committee member for some time, looking after grants and recently co-ordinating the essential tea rota for the general meetings. Julia is a keen badminton player and a founder member/leader of that group.

**ANNE DALE**
Anne is a founder member of our Committee and served for three as our first Chair. She also acts as secretary to our Interest Group sub-committee. In addition to her work with our U3A, Ann is a member of the wider area SUN group and is responsible for booking speakers and lecturing at the study days. Anne is keen on our Spanish and music groups.

**ROGER LUTHER**
When Liz Krasniuk retired as membership secretary earlier in the year, Roger volunteered to act in this capacity. He served on the Committee as a co-opted member, but has now been elected to the role. Roger is a mathematical academic, still working part time at the university. He enjoys our walking group and also convenes a number of short studies, including the Joy of Mathematics and Religion and Ethics. He is also lecturing at the SUN U3A conference at Chichester.

**ANN BURGESS**
Ann is a founder member of our Committee and has been our minutes secretary. Ann organised the recent three day outing to Thursford. She led our tea team prior to Julia and enjoys the Monday walking group.

**NORMA NOAKES**
Norma is a founder member of our Committee. She has the unenviable task of finding and booking the speakers for our General Meetings, for which we are very grateful. Norma co-runs our computer group.

**ROSE STRATTON**
Rose is a new member of our Committee. She has served on the Interest Group sub-committee for a while and has agreed to act in a co-ordinating role between the two committees.
OUR WEEKEND AWAY AT THURSFORD
NOVEMBER 2013

One murky Sunday morning in November, 42 reasonably happy members of Preston Park U3A, (not everyone is happy on a murky November morning), met, to start our long awaited weekend away to a hotel and what was described in the brochure as “A CHRISTMAS SPECTACULAR,” in Thursford, Norfolk.

Ann Burgess, the organiser, who happens to be my wife, and I already knew what to look forward to as we had been to this hotel, the Caley Hall Hotel, not once, but twice before and also to the “Christmas Spectacular”, which made it difficult to try to describe to those who were not sure what to expect. So we didn’t! How can you describe “lavish” entertainment? How can you describe non-stop music, based on a Christmas theme with a cast of over a hundred singers and musicians? And most of all, how do you describe the atmosphere of the audience that brought it to its feet in a standing ovation at the end?

You can’t. And so Ann and I, when asked, could only try to give the bare bones of what to expect, after all, supposing they had changed the format, or the Hotel was under different management? But it had not. The weekend was a great success.

Our coach driver, Martin, was a very obliging chap and whisked us safely to our hotel in Hunstanton, where we arrived at about two o’clock and we took delivery of the keys to our rooms. Not the conventional style of hotel that one would expect, but purpose, brick-built accommodation built in and around the main dining room. The rooms were smart, clean and comfortable. An hour or so later, an early dinner, taking everybody by surprise by the quality and presentation. Then on to the coach for an hour’s ride to Thursford where the show takes place in what appears to be a brick built hanger, set in gardens with the trees illuminated in lights of all colours. Inside there are shops and all sorts of decorations hanging from the ceiling. Everything with an unashamed Christmas theme, just as we would have wished for our children.

The show itself! It had musicians. Loads of musicians! Serious musicians, musicians that played the fool, and there were Scottish pipers and a harpist and "the Mighty Wurlitzer Organ", and yes, he did come up from the ground as he did at the "0deon" cinema. I wonder if it was the same man?

Then there were the dancers. Loads of dancers. Pretty girls, sometimes in lavish costumes and sometimes in hardly any costume at all! And, of course, the Singers. What singers they were! They were on the stage, up and down the aisles singing their hearts out and with great beauty and professionalism.

The show had to come to an end sometime and that ended with a flurry of snow, balloons and, to cap it all, white doves circling above, wishing peace to all of us on earth. Yes, the show was unashamedly about Christmas, but Christmas is about peace and happiness and goodwill to each other.

The next day, Monday, some of us went to a nearby lavender farm, for which Norfolk is famous, where they also have a variety of assorted rare types of animals. Others went for a walk along the beach and in the afternoon we all went to Kings Lynn and the Minster. After another magnificent dinner at the hotel, we were able to wish Heather a Happy Birthday.

Tuesday, we set off for home via a stop at Ely, arriving home at about five o’clock.

It was a great weekend. And it was a great weekend because there were 42 great people who came on the trip. So our thanks to you all.

Ann was thanked most generously for organising the weekend, which all went perfectly.

David Burgess
PRESTON VILLAGE

The village of Preston (meaning ‘priest’s settlement’) was originally a small agricultural community, some two and a half miles to the north of Brighton, and is mentioned in Domesday Book of 1086. It stands at the crossing place of the drovers’ road (for bringing the sheep down from the hills), and the river Wellesbourne, which now flows under London Road.

The church of St. Peter was built in 1250, and contains medieval wall paintings. The altar is the chest tomb of Edward Elrington of Preston Manor, who was a wealthy sheep farmer, and died in 1515. The manor house was re-built in 1738, and its owners’ estates included all the surrounding land and also large areas of Hove, and for many centuries, village life was controlled by the Lord of the Manor.

Many Brighton streets are named after previous owners, such as Shirley Drive (the Shirley family owned Preston from 1569 until 1705), Western Road (Western family 1705-1794), and Stanford Road (Stanford family 1794-1932).

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The Stanford family had always resisted selling any of their land for building, but in 1871 Ellen Stanford decided to sell, to help her husband out of financial difficulties, and the Stanford land was changing from an agricultural to a building estate. Brighton had been in desperate need of land for expansion, and by 1884, 550 acres had been sold, at an average price of £1.000 per acre.

In 1841 the London to Brighton railway line was built, but it was not until 1869 that Preston Station was opened, and then Preston became a very desirable place to live. You could buy almost everything you needed in Preston Village. The village shops listed on the 1903 census, included a general store, a Post and Telegraph Office, a bakery, a pharmacy, a stationer and bookseller, two grocers, an ironmonger, two butchers, a draper, a boot maker, a builder, a dressmaker and a milliner!

If you walk around the ‘village’ today, you can see many reminders of its past. Preston Manor is open to the public from 1st April until 30th October. St. Peter’s Church is open every day, from 10.30am until 3.30pm. The Wellhouse, which stands behind the clump of trees near the entrance to the churchyard, provided water for the manor, and dates from the 1730s. A horse or donkey-operated the iron pump and capstan, to raise water from the well.

The ‘Old House’ at 199 Preston Road, is an 18th century listed farmhouse of knapped and squared flint, which was later used as tea rooms and then a solicitor’s office.

The present Crown and Anchor public house dates from 1711, and coroner’s inquests were held there (as in many pubs), as the cold cellars were good for storing bodies. The inquest of Celia Holloway, whose dismembered body was found in Lovers Lane in 1831 was held here, and large, unruly crowds gathered outside. A plaque on the wall of St. Peter’s churchyard commemorates Celia.

In South Road, Preston Farm was on the south corner until the 1930s, and the farm house is now used as offices. The attached Mulberry Cottage and Little Barn were farm buildings. ‘Stanford House’ was built in 1908 as the Estate Office, for collecting rents and for other estate business.

Middle Road was part of the old drover’s road, and sheep were regularly driven down Millers Road, under the railway bridge and along Middle Road, then across Brightelmstone Waye. and up the Drovewaye. From 1871 until 1928, the village Police Station was in Middle Road, and had three cells plus the policeman’s living accommodation. There was also a stable for the horse which pulled the village fire engine. The building has been made into flats.

In North Road, Preston School was built in 1850, with money given by William Stanford. After it closed in 1959 it became sheltered workshops for handicapped people, and in 1986 it was converted into four houses. The Old Forge was built in 1841, and after WW2, small coaches were built there, for children to drive at Peter Pan’s Playground. It has now been converted into a house.

Preston Cottage is an early 19th century cobble-fronted farmhouse, and next to it, Garden Cottage has an 18th century façade of knapped and squared flint, over an earlier building.

About half way up Millers Road, stands a building dated 1899, which many people remember as a school of dancing. This was Preston Grammar School. A notice from 1908 advertises fees of 2 guineas per term for boys aged 7 – 10 years, and ‘special attention to backward and delicate boys’.

So when it’s a fine day and you have time to spare, why not take a stroll around, (try to forget the roar of the main road), and get a fascinating glimpse of what Preston village was once like.

Hazel Tapsell
L. S. Lowry brings life, as no other artist has ever done, those “dark satanic mills” of William Blake’s Jerusalem and shows in graphic detail how the city dwellers’ lives are dominated by the brutal architecture towering above them. Tiny, emaciated figures plod endlessly across his canvasses beneath unremittingly grey skies where, he implies, the sun can never penetrate through the smoke that belches from the endless chimneys. His figures move from left to right, right to left either towards or away from the wrought-iron gates that mark the mill entrances where they spend the largest proportion of each twenty-four hour. His paintings express the grinding monotony of their lives depicted by the downward slope of their shoulders and their heads bent to the ground as their legs move in unison with an almost robotic rhythm, echoing perhaps the mechanical dominance of the cotton mills. Trapped in a world they can neither change nor escape, each man, woman and child’s life is dogged by the harsh degradation and the hopeless inevitability of spending long hours, day after day in noisy dust-filled factories which ruined their health and shortened their lives.

Yet their indomitable spirit is not entirely crushed. A child rolls a hoop with a stick, a knot of neighbours huddle together for a chat. There is a vase of flowers in the window of one of the terraced houses; in another, people surround a street vendor. In one painting, a crowd gathers in a football ground to watch the Saturday afternoon match reminding us that Lowry was an avid and lifelong fan of Manchester City. The dates of these paintings may have decades separating them but Lowry, like many artists, has a central theme, an ongoing preoccupation which informed his work throughout his life. For Lowry, this preoccupation was the working classes. They intrigued him, fascinated him and he spent most of his life observing them. His was a lonely, restricted childhood and he grew up and remained largely a loner, more an observer rather than a participant in the normal activities of everyday life. Areas of his life are cloaked in mystery and there are some of his paintings which show a very different side of his character and can only be viewed by special request.

Many of his paintings are 1920s and 1930s are representations of Pendlebury, where he lived as well as of nearby Salford. He records the minute scenes he observes with stark attention to detail and in so doing, expresses his anger at the exploitation of the working classes and his fears for the ecological disaster which the industrial age may bring as the scenes he paints become increasingly apocalyptic. Lowry considered feeling was the main requirement for a painter and he admits to invention in his paintings as well as using composites, i.e. scenes, or memories of scenes rather than creating faithful representation of a town or district.

As we move from one gallery to another, gradually those ‘dark satanic mills’ are interspersed with paintings by L. S. Lowry’s contemporaries, namely Camille Pissaro, George Seurat, Maurice Utrillo and Vincent van Gogh as well as Adolphe Valette who taught Lowry at a college in Manchester. We see Valette’s influence. His painting of a Parisienne park populated by crowds of city dwellers is echoed in so many of Lowry’s street scenes. And we learn how this preoccupation with city life, the new art of the industrial age, heralds the beginnings of the Impressionist Movement.

Between the years of his industrial paintings and his death in 1976, Lowry began to widen his horizons. With the demise of the cotton mills, he briefly turned his attention to landscape painting. Perhaps it is over-fanciful to imagine that he found some solace there, a sense of hope for the down-trodden, yet spirited, people from his northern roots. He shared their sense of humour as expressed in his paintings of the music hall just as he shared their passion for football. He was a lifelong Manchester City supporter. The mood of his work lifts in later years as he turns his attention to the hustle and bustle of London in his painting of Piccadilly Circus and he captures the excitement of the crowds in his depiction of The Festival of Britain.

An interesting fact about Lowry– and this is but one of many – he is said to be the artist who has turned down the most awards. Among these accolades were knighthoods. Twice he was awarded one. Twice he turned them down.

Twenty-two of us enjoyed this exhibition. We took the train to Victoria, a bus to the vicinity of Tate Britain and walked the short distance to the gallery. We had time for lunch before our time slot to enter the Exhibition and once inside, we were free to wander at will through the various rooms. There was both audio equipment to hire and free literature and booklets which enhanced our understanding of Lowry’s life and art.

Before we were due to meet up again for our return to Victoria Station, there was time for further refreshments and a rest, for those with the energy and inclination, time to wander through other parts of Tate Britain where there are magnificent displays of paintings and sculptures both classical and modern.

Four of our party chose to remain in London and catch the later train (as allowed under the rules of group train tickets) and I believe they headed for Piccadilly Circus and ended up in a bar! Not a bad way to round off an enjoyable day out. The rest of us trickled home in dribbles and drabs.

The trip was not without incident and one or two hitches. Whilst I have been involved in the organisation of quite a few Brighton Youth Orchestra trips abroad, it is the first time...
have organised a trip on my own and there were a number of stressful moments. These were mostly before and after the trip itself and largely about money and getting answers to my emails!!! I believe the rule of thumb is to appear calm and unruffled no matter what (at which I spectacularly failed at times) whilst disguising the fact that you are swan-like (or in my case duck-like) pedalling madly beneath the surface. However, despite being heard to say that it would be the last trip I would organise - like Steve Redgrave asking to be shot if he attempted to row in another Olympics, I hereby declare that I SHALL organise another one. Why? It’s quite simple. I enjoyed it as much as everyone else did. How do I know they enjoyed it? Because they have told me so - over and over again. So thank you everyone who came on the trip for being such good fun, for being kind to me and for behaving yourselves (mostly!) and thank you to Sam Hammond for waving her Union Jack and generally hustling everyone along. She will move to Kuala Lumpur next year, prior to a return to Australia, so I shall need a replacement. Any offers?

Wendy Manktellow Convenor

Thoughts from the Linguistic Corner

Foreign languages are not the favourite subjects in schools, we are told. They require mental stamina. And why bother anyway when everybody (!) in the world speaks English. And if you are not understood, just raise your voice.

This notion, however, is not shared by us in the U3A. The language groups of our U3A seem to be thriving. I can certainly testify to this as far as the German Interest Group is concerned. We are trying hard to grapple with the grammatical problems, the word order in the sentence, the false friends (words that are similar but have completely different meanings) etc. Especially the pronunciation of all these foreign words is no longer such a mystery as, at least, there are some rules. But, dear Reader, spare a thought for the poor students of ENGLISH! No rules here. Homophones galore.

A little poem I read recently might illustrate what I mean.

I take it you already know,  
Of tough and bough and cough and dough?  
Others may stumble, but not you,  
On hiccough, thorough, touch and through.

Beware of heard, a dreadful word,  
That looks like beard and sounds like bird,  
And dead, it’s said like bed, not bead –  
For goodness sake don’t call it deed.

Watch out for meat and great and threat,  
They rhyme with suite and straight and debt.

A moth is not a moth in mother,  
Nor both in bother, broth in brother,  
And here is not a match for there,  
Nor dear and fear for bear and pear,  
And then there’s dose and rose and lose,  
Just look them up – and goose and choose,  
And cork and work and card and ward,  
And font and front and word and sword,  
And do and go and thwart and cart –  
Come, come, I’ve hardly made a start.

A dreadful language Man alive,  
Who mastered it when they were five?

Rita Goldman
**DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

**OUR MONTHLY GENERAL MEETINGS AT 1.30 P.M. KNOYLE HALL**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Thursday 9(^{th}) January 2014</strong></td>
<td>Talk by Rena Feld entitled <em>Women Conscientious Objectors in the Second World War</em>. Some of the stories of the 30 women Rena interviewed and their experiences and beliefs at the time.</td>
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<td><strong>Thursday 6(^{th}) February 2014</strong></td>
<td>In the centenary of the first ever Pier, Brighton social historian Jackie Marsh-Hobbs' gives a digitally enhanced talk <em>A Passion for Piers</em>, with an indication of why they are still so loved and admired a century on.</td>
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<td><strong>Thursday 6(^{th}) March 2014</strong></td>
<td>A digital presentation by a representative of the Kent, Surrey and Sussex Air Ambulance Service entitled <em>The work of the Air Ambulance service</em>, that valuable facility to which so many owe their lives</td>
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<td><strong>Thursday 3(^{rd}) April 2014</strong></td>
<td>The very knowledgeable and highly recommended U3A speaker Ian Rumley-Dawson, will give a digital presentation detailing the diverse <em>Wildlife in East Sussex</em></td>
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**CATHEDRAL & CHURCH VISITING**

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<tr>
<td><strong>Friday February 21st 2014</strong></td>
<td>Visit to St Nicholas CofE &amp; Arundel RC Cathedral. Free admission. Car sharing</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Friday March 28th 2014</strong></td>
<td>Visit to Canterbury Cathedral. By coach. £28</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Friday May 16th 2014</strong></td>
<td>Visit to Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford. By coach, includes Guide and entry. £24.</td>
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<td><strong>Friday July 11th 2014</strong></td>
<td>Visit to Gloucester Cathedral. By coach</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Friday September 19th 2014</strong></td>
<td>Visit to St Albans Abbey. By train &amp; walk. £22</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Friday October 10th 2014</strong></td>
<td>Visit to Botolphs &amp; Bramber Churches. Free admission, car sharing</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Friday November 7th 2014</strong></td>
<td>Westminster Abbey. To be confirmed</td>
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### CLASSICAL MUSIC CONCERTS

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### MILITARY MUSEUM VISITS

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<tr>
<td>Friday February 7th 2014</td>
<td>Visit to Tangmere Aviation Museum. Car Sharing. Entry £7</td>
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<td>Friday March 7th 2014</td>
<td>Visit to HMS Belfast, London Bridge. Walk from the Station to HMS Belfast. Including train, £19</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday April 25th 2014</td>
<td>Visit to Chatham Historic Dockyard. Includes travel by coach. £25</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday June 13th 2014</td>
<td>Visit to the Tower of London. Including train. £25</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday September 5th 2014</td>
<td>Visit to the Submarine Museum, Gosport. Including coach, tours, talk, coffee &amp; lunch, £33</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday October 24th 2014</td>
<td>Visit to the Churchill War Rooms. Including train and tube, £21.</td>
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On behalf of our Committee, we wish you a good New Year and look forward to seeing you shortly.

If we have sufficient material, we hope to publish a newsletter each quarter.

Please send any items for the next newsletter by: 20 APRIL latest

to Terry Careford  terry.careford@ntlworld.com