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newsletter
(October/November)
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20 September 2019

Chairman and Meeters and
Greeters Co-ordinator:
Margaret Wakeling
Tel. 01923 773672

Vice Chairman:
Don Sutton
Tel. 01923 443171

Treasurer:
Pam Bushell

Secretary:
Kerry James
Tel. 01923 284600

Meetings Registrar:
Susan Roberts
Tel. 01923 777300

Membership Secretary:
Penny Bulgin
Tel. 01923 776143
Email:
penny.bulgin@ntlworld.com

Study Group Co-ordinators:
Sue Bussey
Tel. 01923 245454
Debbie Kingston
Tel. 01923 896925

Programme Secretary:
Jean Machin
Tel. 01923 231865

Webmaster:
Benny Michel
Tel. 01923 264231

Newsletter Editor:
Stan Hough
Tel. 01923 263283

Hall Manager:
Colin Plummer:
Tel. 01923 263123

Gill Fay
Tel. 01923 232843

Sally Lewis
Tel. 01923 261197



A word from the Chair

Hello

Welcome to the summer edition of our Newsletter.

When I started to write this the sun was shining but then the clouds came over and a few drops of rain fell but that is a British summer for you. Variety is the spice of life. I must admit I have been torn between watching Wimbledon and pulling up weeds in the garden. Tennis won but now that is over the gardening gloves will come out, probably. For sports' enthusiasts there has been a plethora of sports to watch - cricket, netball and women's football

Summer is a busy time for many of us who have grandchildren as we find ourselves looking after them but it is a time to celebrate as they soon grow up and leave the nest. It doesn't seem very long ago that we were leading ours by the hand exploring both countryside and the sights of London but they are now off travelling on their own around the world and good luck to them.

Now I am going to mention coffee! We could do with some more volunteers please as it helps to spread the load. A couple of months ago the men had a go and they did a

wonderful job so: Men don't be shy coming forward. Seriously if any of you feel you are able to help, male or female, please see Sue Sutton and she will be glad to add your names to the list.

I hope everybody is managing to join the groups of their choice. We would like to see more start up and I know there are a lot of lists of 'interests' but many, for some reason or another, don't seem to get off the ground. My mission is to get more going this year. Remember we are a self-help group, we come together to share our knowledge and interests, together we find out more about subjects that we are interested in - it is a learning experience and one that is enjoyable so please don't be shy in joining with others to get a group going. Sue and Debbie, our Study Group coordinators, will help you on your way and other group contacts will also pass on advice.

Enjoy the rest of the summer whatever the weather.

Margaret

MONTHLY MEETINGS DIARY 2019

Meetings held in Sarratt Village Hall at 10.30 am - 12.30 pm

14th August	'Protecting Yourself Against Frauds and Scams'	Steve Roberts
11th September	'Forensics in the Police Force'	Chris Truran
9th October	'Failed to return - Amy Johnson and Leslie Howard'	Tony Eaton
6th November	'The Roll of the Coroner'	Edward Thomas

ROUND THE GROUPS

NEW WORK GROUP - SAVING OUR PLANET

There have been a lot of press articles and programmes this year about the effect our use of Plastics is having on our beautiful planet. The most recent was Hugh's War on Plastics which to me raised many issues. It also suggested some ways each of us can do our bit to help limit the damage.

I know it can seem daunting, confusing & also futile in a way as one person stopping one carrier bag doesn't feel much help. However I thought if we could band together and help and support each other to change, we would feel we were actually achieving something to help preserve our World for future generations.

So I would like to set up a Working Group to research solutions - such as what we should really be putting in our area recycle bins, or cheap, easy non-plastic alternatives. Then we would report back to the other members at meetings and in this newsletter.

I need a few people with commitment or ideas or time to research or test different products. Please email me at chrisheeler@yahoo.com if you are interested in getting involved.

And if you have any good tips or ways from the pre-plastic era to share, please contact me too.

Thanks

Chrissy

(You may know me from Gardenng, or just my red hair!)

EXPLORING LONDON GROUP 1

6 September – A Walk on the South side of the Thames – £8

We meet our guide Steph outside Embankment station at 11am. After crossing the river we discover where 200 years ago working people crammed into tiny terraced streets, living in houses built just after the Battle of Waterloo, which gave the area its name. We finish near Waterloo station at the oldest theatre still working in that part of London and hear what it was like to be entertained in those days by some of the biggest names in the business – Edmund Kean and Charlie Chaplin. Suggested route: 9.35 Met line from Chorleywood, 9.39 from Ricky to Baker St, Bakerloo to Embankment.

4 October – St Bride's Church - £6

This is an afternoon visit. We meet beside the information office in front of St Paul's at 1.40pm and we'll walk round to the church together. Café 101 is very close and would be a good place for lunch beforehand. We are having a 90 minute guided tour of St Bride's Church, Fleet Street. The current Church is the eighth on this site and is well known for its 'wedding cake' steeple. It is reckoned to be one of Wren's finest achievements. Our visit also includes a visit to the extensive exhibition in the crypt, which was only discovered after bombing in WW2. The tour will start at 2pm.

Suggested route: Met line train from Chorleywood and Ricky to Finchley Road, Jubilee to Bond Street, Central line to St Paul's.

Contacts: Jan and Judith

ART

We had a very enjoyable session in May when Gloria Breeze, a very talented self taught artist, introduced us to acrylics. Although some of our group were already familiar with the medium it was a new experience for the rest of us. Acrylics are fairly quick drying which can have its drawbacks. Any spilt paint needs to be mopped up straight away and brushes are difficult to clean if left to dry out. However, the big advantage is that if one makes a mistake it can soon be rectified by just painting over it! We all produced a pleasing painting - those of us who hadn't quite finished in the allotted time carried on at home (before the paint palette dried out).

Last month Roz brought along a selection of different glassware which she arranged for us - quite a challenge for those who chose to have a go. She put varying amounts of water in some of them which added more interest. Next month she has suggested that we each take a jug to add to her collection and she will set up an arrangement for us. I'm sure we'll end up with a real assortment of shapes and sizes!

We are looking forward very much to our visit to the Leonardo da Vinci Exhibition next month at the Queen's Gallery, Buckingham Palace.

Contacts:- Agnes Bonwick and Scilla Roe

RAMBLES

Wednesday 21st August.

Meet at the Car Park in Rickmansworth Road, Chorleywood (just past the cricket ground if coming from Rickmansworth) at 10.00am. This 4 mile ramble will take us through the grounds of Chorleywood House, down to the River Chess towards Chenies.

Wednesday 18th September.

Meet at 10.00am in the Ruislip wood car park on Ducks Hill Road. For those unsure of the location: A404 from Rickmansworth towards Pinner pass Mount Vernon Hospital and at traffic lights turn right into Duck's Hill Road (A4180). Continue along the road and after passing 'Youngwood's Farm' on the right is the commencement of the woods. A short distance after this on the right side of the road is the car park that is sign posted 'Ruislip wood car park'. Should anyone reach Ducks Hill garden centre on the left, then they have passed the car park. This ramble of approx three and a half miles goes through Ruislip woods and Lido. The underfoot conditions are likely to be muddy during certain parts of the ramble, but there are no stiles and there are toilets at the lido.

Contact: Don Sutton

GARDENING

July visit to 'Huntsmoor'

We had a good turn out (22 members), the weather was good to us and the garden was glorious. Jane and Brian Braddock were welcoming and knowledgeable hosts and the £165 raised in entrance fees went to the Cure Parkinson's Trust. Thank you, everyone who participated.

Jane Worthington

Contacts: Gill, Chrissey and Jane

Walking

Exploring the hills, woods, chalk downlands and hidden valleys of the Chilterns, we often comment on how lucky we are to have such wonderful countryside on our doorstep. Many of the group have been walking the same paths together for more than 10 years, yet the changing seasons, weather and companions mean that no two walks are ever the same: bluebells, primroses and blossoms give way to poppies in the cornfields and orchids on the hills, then comes the splendour of the beech woods in autumn, and the sharp outlines of trees and newly ploughed fields in winter.

Even more important: we are a very sociable group, with plenty of opportunities for conversation and laughter, both as we walk, and as we enjoy our well-earned pub lunches!

In recent weeks we have discovered an almost hidden Martyrs' Memorial at Amersham, revisited the splendid Maharajah's Well at Stoke Row – a gift from the Maharajah of Benares, walked the Croxley Boundary Trail, and gazed down on Fingest in its green valley – definitely one of our favourite views.

Our average distance is 10 miles in summer, 8 in winter, and the pace approx 2mph including breaks. If this appeals to you, **please contact** Neil and Frances Ashley, or Margeret Wakeling.



ENGINEERING HERITAGE

On Tuesday 26th March we visited the London Transport Museum, situated in Covent Garden; a very rewarding venture with so much to see. Starting with horse drawn mail coaches and details of their often hazardous journeys in the pursuit of delivering mail over considerable distances from the Capital we then studied passenger transport about London – Railways/Road/River. Fascinating early transport maps were provided and Hackney Carriages and early horse drawn buses were on display.

Moving forward in time to the 1920/30 examples of a trolleybus and the old Metropolitan compartment train carriage in its familiar brown livery was there to sit in which some of us did and reminisce- well they were still around in the late 1950's. Posters from this time were also there depicting life outside and away from London including attractive views of Watford, Rickmansworth and Chesham – "Metroland".

From the underground railway we appropriately descended further to an example of a tube train carriage and nearby a splendid collection of buses from our last century including the much loved "Routemaster" bus.

Contact: Sheila Malin

CYCLING

We've generally had good weather for our rides over the past few months.

Our longer rides to Burnham Beeches and around Windsor and Windsor Great Park were particularly good. Ash is now recovered from his fall last November and re-joined the group starting with the Windsor ride.

Over the next two months we'll be making use of the train to allow us to see more of our lovely countryside. Starting at Chesham and Great Missenden stations will allow us to take in Wendover Woods and Hughenden Manor. We've also got some shorter rides around the local area.

We welcome any riders who would like the opportunity to cycle in company and have enjoyable exercise whilst exploring our lovely Chilterns countryside and helping their immune systems. Our rides are not fast, we ride at the pace of the slowest rider and we won't lose you (though apologies to the two riders who were misled on our July short ride).



Contact: Brian Johnson

BRIDGE

In the first week of July we were pleased to congratulate Peter Jennings on his 90th birthday. Peter and his late wife Jean were founder members of the group eleven years ago, after having graduated from Ken and Sue Walker's Bridge Beginners Group.

With lifts from other group members Peter keeps up a regular attendance at meetings and frequently gets a mention as one of the highest scoring pairs - with his partner John Kelly – which is amazing since Peter always has such "rotten cards"!

Later this month we have our 2nd social gathering of the year with a bring and share lunch at Pam & Stan Hough's home. We are only sorry our new member Terry Down is unable to be there. Terry assures us he is enjoying re-discovering duplicate bridge, as his regular presence at meetings indicates.

Our learning this year is concentrated on revising basic ACOL, such as standard responses to and doubles of 1NT openers, and points needed and appropriate responses to partner's opening in a suit. We are grateful to Neil Milbank for preparing and delivering his refreshers. His technique of asking questions and seeking appropriate replies from the group usually gives rise to a variety of answers... however we usually agree the correct response after further discussion.



Contact: Valerie Macdonald

EXPLORING LONDON GROUP 2

In June our trip was to lesser known Bermondsey. We came across the not well known story that Tommy Steel (Bermondsey boy) showed Elvis Presley the sights of London. On one of the shop shutters we discovered evidence of this. Unfortunately the narrative is not readable.

Our July trip was entitled Hops, Horses, Potters and Plays: discovering London South of Tower Bridge. Our tour started with the opening of Tower Bridge. We saw London's newest theatre called Bridge Theatre and ended up by the Victorian warehouses in Shad Thames Street.

In August we will be visiting old Marylebone.

Contacts: Marilyn and Mike West