



Issue No.17 Post Pandemic Newsletter September 2023

Hello everyone and welcome to the October Newsletter



This month's photo is courtesy of Paul Reeve, our beloved Chairman, and the view is of Framingham Castle, Suffolk.

You do not have to be the Leader or a member of the Photography Group to get a photo in the Newsletter! So, if you have a photo that you are proud of **please** send it to me for inclusion in a future edition.

From the Chair

The Annual General Meeting was held at the Market House on the 5th of September 2023.

Jim Stalley was master of ceremonies and I presented the reports for the AGM.

37 members attended the meeting.

Thanks to Mary Melton for recording the minutes.

During the meeting we asked for volunteers to join the committee. Nominations and proposals were offered and recorded. Your new committee is as follows

Chairman – Paul Reeve.

Vice Chairman – Colin Robinson.

Treasurer – Eric Dilnot.

Secretary – Mary Melton.

Minutes Secretary – Anne Laing.

Membership Secretary – Michael Roberts.

Assistant membership Secretary – Eileen Harper.

Speaker Secretary – Jim Stalley.

Social Secretary – Sheila Palmer.

PR representative – Frank Heinrich-Tiller.

Group Leader's Co-ordinator – **Vacant**.

Non- committee members, Tony Dyer (website admin) Mike Nunn (Beacon admin).

Thanks to all those that volunteered to help out.

The Group Leader's Co-ordinator role is still vacant so please come forward and fill this role. Maybe two members could take this on and share the duties. Please contact a member of the committee if you wish to volunteer.

Best wishes

Paul

Chairman

Interest Group News

SWIG 1



SWIG (Wine Interest Group)



SWIG 1 Meeting News Letter Report - Friday 25th August 2023

Our August meeting was hosted by Cliff. His theme was wines from Bordeaux.

All the Wines were bought from the Wine Society on an offer and Cliff averaged out the cost of the wines over the box he received.

Our first tasting was Chateaux Thieuley, Blanc 2022 which was an excellent white blend of Semillon, Sauvignon blanc and Sauvignon gris. It was described as having an appealing weight with some fat and oiliness but balanced by creamy citrus. We all enjoyed it and didn't find any "oiliness" !! This cost £10.95 and was 12.5% by vol. It scored a very good 8/10.

Our second bottle was Chateaux Constant Lesquireau, Haut-Medoc 2018. This was a medium bodied Merlot-Cabernet franc blend with red berry aromas. It was 13% by vol and cost £8.95. It scored a 7/10.

Our next bottle was Chateau Pey La Tour Bordeaux superior 2018. This excellent red at 15% by volume and gave us aromas of red plum, raspberry, violet, black pepper, leather, vanilla and oak !! It was a full bodied quality wine and scored a resounding 9/10. At £10. This one was difficult not to try again!!

Our last red wine was Chateaux D'Arsac, Margaux 2016 Cru Bourgeois. This was a medium bodied ready to go, early drinking, earthy, red currant filled charmer! Again another well received wine and this again scored a 9/10 with someone scoring it a 10! At £10 and being 13% by vol.

Everyone agreed that Cliff's choices had been very successful. The cheese & biscuits were very well received (along with bread, pate etc!!). Many thanks to Cliff for another great evening.

Cliff produced a quiz which he was sure would stretch Jim and I think he achieved this even though Jim did win with Fay coming second. The rest of us were sadly also rans!!

Our next meeting is on Friday 22nd September at 6.30 and Fay will Host again at Pauls "Man Cave".

Cheers

Sheila Palmer

Baking Group

We met in September on 14th, hosted by Nanette who made a lemon polenta cake for us. As a change

from the usual use of flour, instead it was made using polenta and almond flour.

Our depleted group this month really enjoyed the different texture and it inspired much discussion in the uses of polenta and, for most of us, highlighted our lack of experience of baking with polenta.

We enjoyed a lovely afternoon of eating delicious cake, interesting baking discussion and a smattering of gossip.

Diane Scott, Baking Group Leader.

Book Club 2 met on Monday September 4th at the Library in Long Sutton.

It was well attended apart from our Leader who had just had a new knee and was still recuperating. We all send our get well wishes to her and hope to see her in the chair next month.

The Book that we had just read was called "Conclave" by Robert Harris. It follows the procedure of electing a new Pope following the death of the old one. We all felt that the book was slow to get going and perhaps a little too descriptive in places. The story portrayed the Dean of the College of Cardinals, Cardinal Lomeli who presided over the prospective candidates in a journey of intrigue, power, corruption and deceit. Not qualities you would want to see in a future Head of the Roman Catholic Church!! One or two of our group just could not finish the book as it became labouring to say the least, but had they continued to the final quarter of the book they would have probably wished they had finished it. In deed when I asked a fellow Book Club member for some hints on writing this synopsis she replied that it was not easy to recall books that she did not particularly enjoy. It was quite a mixed bag of reviews. In the final chapters, after the third Ballot a new twist to the story made it intriguing and all I can say (just in case anyone wants to read it) is that No one saw that coming. Would we recommend it? Possibly not. But it was a typical Harris novel and definitely divided our reading group.

Sheila Palmer

Tea 4 Tarts

Recently we met at Gatsby Tea Rooms for our monthly Tea 4 Tarts get together. Unfortunately due to holidays and appointments we had a gathering of six. It was small and intimate but the chatter was enlightening.

The cakes were delicious as always leading to a fun time had by us all.

Marian Boone.

Xtreme Beer, Wine and Bus Pass (XBWBP)

The next adventure was planned for October 13th but I have had to postpone this as Wendy has her final appointment with her knee Surgeon on that date.

The new date is Friday, November 10th and I am hoping and planning that it will be a great event.

I have already checked the venue and am currently in conversation with one of the owners, Dean, who also is the Chef and he proposes to offer us an exclusive menu for lunch or we can tell him what we would like to have and it will be his pleasure to prepare it. Now there's a challenge!

Some good has come out of the Pandemic; the hospitality sector is now trying really hard to get our attention (and cash).

For those who know nothing about the XBWBP group it is a hybrid version of the regular Beer, Wine & Bus Pass Group. You do not have to be a member of the regular version to join the Xtreme version! There is no admission fee; everyone buys their own food and drinks.

The difference between the two groups is that the X version starts the day earlier, uses at least two buses to our destination and back, includes the opportunity to have lunch (or not) and I do try to include some

interesting elements when we reach our destination, for example when we went to Brancaster Staithe there was the possibility for those that wanted to explore the Coastal Path. So, if you have a spark of adventure in you and are prepared to take on the Bus Timetables why not come along and have a go. I promise you one thing only, it will be fun! Interested? Please contact me at the next GM.

Archery

As some of you may have seen in a recent issue of The Voice u3a Sutton Bridge has produced what can only be described as an Archery Phenomenon. We know him as Paul Milton and on Tuesday, September 26 th, at our meeting in the Coronation Park, Paul let fly with a Hat-Trick of knocking the centres out of Ted's lunch-time apples. Yes, three times Paul hit the target in just one session, unbelievable!



Now if Paul can do it isn't it time that you got out that cap with a feather in it, put on those green tights that you bought, but never dared to wear, and get yourself down to the Curlew Centre on Tuesday October 10th at 10.00am and let's see if we have another marksman/woman that can give Paul a run for his money!!

The Beer, Wine and Bus Pass Group

Dateline Friday September 29th, the BW&BP group members boarded the infamous 505 and arrived at The Wildfowler in Terrington St. Clement, a venue we have used before , pre and post Covid.

The Bus stops are most convenient though for the first time since this group was formed I used the Bus. I had Wendy and her new knee with me and the Bus would not have been the best choice on this occasion. However the good news is that she is making excellent progress and I am almost certain that our next outing will see us both on the Bus.

The Pub has ample room inside and a very comfortable outside area if the weather is good and on this day it was not bad at all.

We numbered 19, a few of our group could not make it because of Hospital appts, colds, and other health problems, errant grandchildren that needed attention etc, but those that did attend all had a jolly good time.

If you have not been on one of our BWBP outings and are interested in finding out what we get up to why not let me know and join us on just one trip, I can guarantee that you will have a great afternoon.

Chris Livesey

BW&BP Group Leader

Peckover Christmas trip update

There are a very few places available on the Peckover volunteers and friends trip to Birmingham on Thursday 23rd November.

This coach leaves Long Sutton at 8am and on arrival there are tours of the National Trust's Back to Backs (a row of Victorian houses, each one furnished for a decade from 1840s to 1970s). From there, the rest of the day will be spent at the renowned Birmingham's Christmas market.

The cost is £30 but as the number signed up already surpasses the minimum making the trip cost effective, then a refund is bound to be coming.

Diane Scott u3a Tour Leader and Peckover Volunteer

Does this make you think that perhaps we should be alone in the Universe?

"I live in a semi rural area.

We recently had a new neighbour call the local council office to request the removal of the DEER CROSSING sign on our road.

The reason: 'Too many deer are being hit by cars out here! I don't think this is a good place for them to be crossing anymore.' "

I was at the airport, checking in at the gate when an airport employee asked, 'Has anyone put anything in your baggage without your knowledge?'

To which I replied, 'If it was without my knowledge, how would I know?'

He smiled knowingly and nodded, 'That's why we ask.'

The pedestrian light on the corner beeps when it's safe to cross the street.

I was crossing with an 'intellectually challenged' work colleague of mine.

She asked if I knew what the beeper was for.

I explained that it signals blind people when the light is red.

Appalled, she responded, 'what on earth are blind people doing driving?!'

She is a government employee.....

When my wife and I arrived at the car dealers to pick up our car after a service, we were told the keys had been locked in it.

We went to the service department and found a mechanic working feverishly to unlock the driver's side door.

As I watched from the passenger side, I instinctively tried the door handle and discovered that it was unlocked.

'Hey,' I announced to the mechanic, 'it's open!'

His reply, 'I know. I already did that side.'

One of the risks of using KwikFit?

HISTORY GROUP

As season draws to a close 26 members of the History group were delighted to welcome Paul Smith to the Market House as our speaker the summer holiday on September 25th.



Paul is a qualified archivist. He studied medieval history, languages and literature at university, but his professional career has been spent almost exclusively in corporate archives. He worked for Barclays and Guinness in the early 1990s, before joining Thomas Cook in 1996.

We were to learn how Thomas Cook began his fascination with travel when he hit on the idea of using trains to transport people to Temperance events way back in the 1840s. The distances grew as did the duration of the trips with Thomas accompanying groups abroad; he became a world traveller.

Next meeting:



Richard Gibbons speaking about Operation Market Garden

Montgomery's attempt to end the war quickly in late 1944, intentions, plans, the failure of the attempt, the aftermath.

And then...



November 27th – another one of our very own, Frank Little. Frank will be sharing his passion of the history of Freemasonry

And now some important events for you to add to your diary

General Meeting October 3rd This will take place at **The Curlew Centre**, doors open at **1.30 pm for a prompt start at 2.00pm.**

The programme for this meeting includes a presentation from Sandra McDonough, The Eye Guide MC so do please make sure that you arrive early.

General Meeting November 7th.

Our speaker for November is Sue Jakeman who will be talking about her Auntie Peggy Spencer MBE, who apparently has had an incredible life. Please remember that this meeting will be at The Market House, Long Sutton. Doors open at 1.30pm for a 2.00pm start.

General Meeting AND Christmas Social December 5th

This meeting will take place at The Curlew Centre and is being planned and prepared by our Social Secretary, Sheila Palmer. Please make sure that you read next month's Newsletter for all the details but save the date NOW!

The Committee has decided not to have a General Meeting in January 2024 as the usual Tuesday falls the day after New Year's Day. Please note.

Thank you to all the contributors to our Newsletter, please keep them coming.