

Good Morning and a very happy New Year to you all.

I would like to welcome you to our first Meeting of 2019 and may I remind you that if you are writing a cheque this morning, please can you ensure that it has 2019 on it.

May I give you all a New Years' Resolution to wear your lanyards so your name is visible and that you carry the in case of Emergency Card at all U3A meetings and visits? If you have lost yours a replacement can be collected from our Membership Secretary, Mandy Valentine who was unable to be with us last month so I would like to introduce her to you now.

As you know, John Smith our Vice chairman will be leaving the committee in mid-January as he starts his 2 year course at Buckingham University. He has been on the committee for just over two years and has helped put in place many of the policies which a U3A now has to have. He has been a great support to all the committee and the local liaison group. I am sure you would like to join with me in thanking him for his work during this period.

Last month I asked for your help in identifying some members who would be willing to join the committee in this capacity, ideally they should like public speaking and have good computer skills. I am hoping you have all done your homework over the Festive period and have persuaded someone that they would like to join the committee with a view to taking over the Chairmanship by November 2020. I shall be near here during coffee waiting for names.

**U3A New Year Dinner and Entertainment** -There are still a few tickets left for this at 7.00 for 7.30pm on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2019. Tickets are on sale price Tickets £23.00 to include a three course buffet style meal.

**Please bring your own drinks and glasses.**

The entertainment will be provided by our Folk Music Group. Last year it proved to be a very enjoyable event. John Cotterill is selling the tickets today.

**Today our speaker** is Hugh Granger with **Frauds and Swindles** we will be hearing about the man who sold the Eifel Tower, twice; the invisible pig farm and many more frauds. February's presentation is **Climbing Everest from Tibet** by Peter Ellis. His talk is about the final stage of climbing to the top of Everest. A personal story, with lots of photographs.

**The Travel Team's** two visits to Arla Dairy in Aston Clinton on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> January starting at 1.45 for approximately an hours tour.

These visits were booked up extremely quickly and I have asked whether another visit would be possible for the people on the waiting list. Arla have said that this will be dependent on the success of the two planned visits. They have since been approached by our Architecture group and another local U3A.

**New today the Travel Team** have a visit to Delapre Abbey and Stoke Bruerne Canal Museum the Cost is £37 (including morning coffee, a carvery lunch and a twenty-five minute canal boat trip)

Delapré Abbey has managed to survive 900 years and has recently been restored and partly furnished. The visit will start with a talk on the background to the history of the Abbey and how the restoration in 2015-2017 was conducted. Then time to explore the abbey, stable block and gardens on an individual basis.

After lunch at a Toby Carvery, a short journey to the Stoke Bruerne Canal Museum which tells the story of Britain's canals and navigable rivers over the last 300 hundred years. Also included is a boat trip to the entrance of the Blisworth tunnel. **There are stairs at both venues.**