Re MEMBERS’ MEETING

Our first Speaker will be Chris Penter who will give an illustrated talk entitled ‘The Gentle Art Of Name Dropping’ which details his short time working in the professional theatre and contains sometimes amusing anecdotes about some of the famous people he met. Chris is an experienced and popular speaker and this talk is one of a number he gives. It is certainly the most popular and Chris has delivered it over 40 times to a wide range of audiences. He is one of the most highly scored speakers on the circuit.

**Gentlemen’s Breakfast Club**

This popular diversion takes place on the first Monday in the month at the Old Star on Swanlow Lane starting at 9.00. Our last meeting in December was well attended by a group of regulars who spent around 90 minutes in convivial conversation about not very much. The group is open to all male members of the Winsford U3A so why not come along and join us in January. It costs the price of your chosen repast plus the usual meeting fee. **As the first Monday in January is NEW YEARS DAY on this one occasion we will meet on the 8th Jan.**

**FROM THE CHAIR**

All of a sudden it’s the end of 2023 and yet again, I find myself wondering where the year has gone.

Looking back over the last twelve months we have seen many changes in our u3a. Sadly, we lost about 23 members in 2023 for a number of reasons but I am pleased that we have attracted at least the same number of new members who were attracted by our message of fellowship, enjoyment and the possibility of pursuing of interests in genial company.

This year has seen the introduction of at least six new groups, more trips, a planned u3a holiday and not least, a very well-attended and successful Christmas party.

I hope we can grow further next year which will enable us to expand our activities even more but here we need your help. We have found that one of the best forms of advertising is by word of mouth so please can you talk about Winsford u3a to your friends and encourage them – or better still bring them along – to our monthly social gathering to meet us and find out what we have to offer.

This brings me to the coffee mornings, the last of which in its current form will occur on December 29th at St Andrews from 11-12. From January, the coffee morning will change to a new slot on the third Wednesday afternoon of each month, at a new time, in a new venue. Tea and chat will still be on the agenda plus the chance to book and pay for trips, find out all the latest news, enrol new members as we do now but will also include a speaker. I urge you to read the article further down for more details.

I could go on and on (as you all know!) but what I would l really like to say to you all is that I truly wish you a Happy and Healthy New Year.

“We are not living in eternity. We have only these moments sparkling like stars in our hands and melting like snowflakes.”

Let’s make the most of them together.

**PLEASE CHECK YOUR SPAM/JUNK MAIL.**

It seems that group emails sent from the committee don’t seem to be being received by some members. They **are** sent to everybody but depending on your set-up, they seem to go straight into some people’s junk or spam.

It is good practice to check your junk or spam mail regularly and if you find an email from Winsford u3a, click on it and either mark it as “not spam” or select “move to inbox” (or similar) then in future our emails will appear in your regular inbox.

If you are not sure, ask any member of the committee for help. You could be missing out on important information or exciting opportunities.

**QUEEN VICTORIA’S DAUGHTERS**

Which daughter

* Married an impoverished man 15 years older than herself?
* Had a husband who was gay and thus indulged in many affairs?
* Was a friend of Florence Nightingale and had the same, caring character?
* Was her mother’s companion for most of her life?
* Gave birth to Kaiser Wilhelm?

If you would like to know these and more fascinating facts, come to Women in History on Tuesday January 16th at 10am upstairs in the big room at Winsford Library.

Poetic Licence goes public!
Members of our Poetic Licence group were invited to submit their own work to be showcased on the cinescreen which is at Crosshatch.
At the moment there are 5 poems about winter or Christmas which can be viewed there. Please go and have a look, you’ll be amazed
I am so proud of all that the group has achieved. Poetic licence only began during the first lockdown. It was an experiment, a way to keep members connected. At first we met through Zoom, but now we meet in the Library Cafe.
If anyone is interested in joining us, please contact Kay.

Trip to Wedgewood in February
On Thursday 29 February we shall be going to Wedgewood World at Stoke on Trent.
We shall be travelling by coach from Winsford.
The cost will be around £36 + £1 session fee and will include a factory tour where we can see how the different ceramics are made.
Wedgewood have available wheelchairs and seated mobility aids which can be borrowed so this trip will be accessible to all.
There is also a pleasant cafe for lunch or snacks and a factory shop.
Payment will be needed by 15 January so that we can confirm the bookings. Pay by BACS or at the December coffee morning at St Andrews.
For further information please contact Steph or Kay (01606 884247).

Also a Panto reminder

Panto at Grange Theatre Hartford
On Saturday 30 December we are going to the Panto Goldilocks and the Three Bears.
We have an e-ticket for the whole group so we shall need to meet and probably all go in together. Please can we meet in the foyer between 1.30 and 2.00.

If you haven’t been to the Grange Theatre before, parking is on the opposite side of the road (Bradburns Lane) and there will be a board out directing where to go.