

January 2020 Newsletter

Dear members,

Happy New Year to you all. I hope you have started the year ready to **Learn, Laugh and Live**. I certainly have.

We have recently had a Committee meeting and there are a few action points from that, that I would like to tell you about.

Role Descriptions. As you know, we are always looking for new members on the committee and quite a few members asked us for role descriptions. We have now developed a full range so that you can see what each role entails. The full list is : Chair, Vice Chair, Business Secretary, Treasurer, Membership Secretary, Programme Secretary, Group Facilitator, Systems Manager, Webmaster, Asset Manager and Committee member.

If you would like to look at any of these role descriptions, please let me know and I will email them to you.

Archive. Many thanks go to Vee Holliday who has sorted through boxes and boxes of material relating to our U3A's past. If any member/s would be interested in looking at this material and possibly producing a short history of our U3A please contact Margaret, who is currently looking after this precious material.

Certificates. We have found the original U3A membership certificate and Marie White was recently presented with a 20 Year South East regional certificate. We are having them framed and they will sit proudly on our welcome desk at the monthly meetings.

Chair recruitment. As you know, Margaret Hayes plans to stand down as Chair this year and she will be writing to you soon with the process and time frame for the recruitment of her successor.

Monthly meeting parking. We would like to remind you that the extra parking at the church in Hook is a privilege for us and not a right. If the church has another event taking place, those people take priority for the parking places.

November 13th feedback from members Thank you to everyone who contributed to the discussion at the November monthly meeting. Linda has collated all the feedback and we are working through the information and deciding how we can action some of it.

January 8th 2020 Monthly Meeting

Ian Caskie – SS Great Britain from launch to re-launch:

Ian took us on an historical journey of the SS Great Britain's construction and how this developed as a consequence of progressive engineering innovations, by Isambard Kingdom Brunel, and became the biggest and fastest luxury transatlantic liner. Ian took us through life on board for the passengers and crew. It only made 4 crossings, then other demands on transport for emigrants on the gold rush to Australia, plus soldiers during the Crimean War and later for the Indian Mutiny.

After it was converted to a cargo ship due to the growing demand for coal to run steam transport, it was caught in a storm around Cape Horn causing considerable damage. After repairs in the Falkland Islands, it was sold off for £2000.

In the 1960s, a maritime architect funded a salvage team to rescue it. It is now resting fully refurbished to its original state as a transatlantic liner in the internationally renowned museum in Bristol. A visit has been highly recommended as there is so much to see, learn and experience. Watch out for an invitation from Joyce Cook to join an excursion there, as it is now on her list of potential visits. This may be even later this year or in 2021! Keep an eye out for this.

12 February 2020 next Monthly Meeting

Ann Chase – Saddle Sore in Montana!

Intrigued? Then come and join us to find out more of Ann's experiences riding in four cattle drives.

New Members' Meeting – 8 April 2020

12-1.30 pm

Following our new members' meeting in October 2019, we are holding a second one for new members joining after 9 October or any new member who was unable to join in October. This could also apply to any late new member joining last year who also missed an invitation to the meeting in October.

Please make a note in your diaries and more details will follow.

This will be followed by our Monthly Meeting starting at 2pm, so we would hope you will stay on for this too.

Christmas Quiz Answers

If any of you tried the Christmas quiz supplied by Joan, here are the answers.

1. B The Met Office defines a White Christmas as a single snowflake falling in the 24 hours of December 25. A proper covering of snow on the ground has only happened four times in the period – 2009 and 2010 were both "properly" white.

2 C Geographers define an ice age as a period in the Earth's history when there are polar ice caps. We are technically now in an "interglacial" period (when the ice is in retreat), which began 10,000 years ago.

3 A Saturnalia (December 17 to December 23) was marked by a reversal of slave owner roles, a ban on punishing servants and the wearing of the Greek synthesis – colourful dinner clothes considered too gaudy at other times of year

4 B "Winter" is one of the imperial eggs made by Fabergé for Tsar Nicholas II. Every year the Tsar ordered two – one for his wife and one for his mother. "Winter", the most expensive egg Fabergé ever made, was a gift for his mother in 1913.

5 B It's like a violent Blind Man's Buff: you and your opponent are both blindfolded, and when you've said, "Are you there, Moriarty?" your opponent has to say "Yes". You can then hit them. Then it's their turn...

6 Yossarian 7 Apollo 8 8 Devon 9 364 10 Ernie Wise
11 Merry Wives of Windsor 12 Cinnamon 13 Stone of Scone 14 William 1st
15 All films released on Christmas Day. 16 Wintersweet 17 Lassie
18 Usain Bolt 19 Paul Young 20 Rudyard Kipling 21 Donner and Blitzen
22 The Beatles 1963, 1964, 1965 & 1967 23 Twelfth night 24 Middlesborough
25 Y U L E (first letters of the answers)

Group Information

Houses of Parliament trip

You may remember that Mel McMahon organised a trip to the Houses of Parliament last year and it was very enjoyable. Her contact at the HP have offered her a second invitation, this time it's Monday 30th March at 10.15 am. There is no charge for the tour. Maximum group size is 25 and reservations are on a first come, first served basis. If you are interested in going on this visit, please contact Mel by email melinsolitaryman@btinternet.com

U3A Events

National U3A Summer School dates

3rd – 6th August 2020 Aston University, Birmingham

7th – 10th September 2020 Royal Agricultural University, Cirencester

South East U3A Region Summer School dates

15th – 18th June (13 courses available) University of Chichester

Check www.u3a.org.uk for more details