



October 2019 Bulletin

MONTHLY MEETING

Tuesday 8th October 2019 2pm

St John the Baptist Church Meopham

"Passports, Assassins, Traitors & Spies" - Martin Lloyd

Martin worked as a Border Control Officer in the H M Immigration Service and has gained a first-hand knowledge of passports and their use or abuse.

He will give us some of the background to the development of the passport using examples from history, that show why and how the nature of the passport has had to develop and change over time and to meet new circumstances. These include how the actions of a group of assassins brought about a change in the passport regulations; how the unmasking of a spy caused a modification in passport design and how, for one man, the passport itself turned into a killer.

The meeting will be followed by refreshments in the St Johns Rooms.

PLEASE DON'T FORGET TO SIGN IN WHEN YOU ARRIVE AT THE CHURCH

A PLEA FROM YOUR GROUP CONTACTS

This is a very simple plea....please please please answer our emails.

Your group contacts try really hard to keep you up to date and in the loop with what is happening in the groups you belong to. Please help them by replying, in a timely manner, to the emails they send you. This is particularly important for groups that go out or book talks etc.

Thank you

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

WHAT IS THE ICE NUMBER ALL ABOUT?

The **ICE** (In **C**ase of **E**mergency) number on your new membership cards is so that the group leader can ring someone if for some reason you have hurt yourself or need help in any way from a family member or a friend while attending a MU3A group or event.

If you have given your partner's number, your home number or no number at all, then please reconsider if this is the best contact. If you wish to change your ICE number then e-mail Di at u3ameopmemsec@gmail.com and she change your information on the system. Please make sure you change it on your card too.

WHY HAVENT I RECEIVED MY MEMBERSHIP CARD YET?

Quite a few membership cards have not yet been collected. Di will have them with her at the coffee mornings and monthly meetings. If you wish her to post it to you, then please send her a stamped addressed envelope to Membership Secretary c/o **Sixpence, Southfleet Avenue, Dartford, DA3 7JQ**

You can still join or attend groups without your card provided if you have renewed.



MU3A HOLIDAY IN NORTH WALES

See the following page for more about the holiday kindly compiled by David Burkitt.

MU3A HOLIDAY IN NORTH WALES

From the 1st to the 6th of September, 14 U3A members from Meopham and Gravesend enjoyed a “Rail Discoveries” holiday in North Wales. We were part of a group of 41 on the holiday.

The Tour Manager was David Denman, a Meopham U3A member.

The holiday was based at the Kensington Hotel, located on the sea front at Llandudno.

On 3 of the days we were transported by mini-coach to the bases for journeys on steam trains. Our coach driver, Arwyn, provided a continuous commentary on the villages and communities we passed through, tried to teach us a few words in Welsh and, on the first day only (!), also shared with us a few of his personal jokes!

DAY ONE entailed a coach ride to Ffestiniog to join the Ffestiniog Mountain Railway for a journey of 13.5 miles to Porthmadog. This line was originally built to transport slate from local quarries and evidence of this is still visible. It runs through the amazing scenery of the Snowdonia National Park and has magnificent views of valleys, cascading waterfalls, ancient woodlands and mountain peaks.

From Porthmadog we made the short journey by coach to Portmeirion. All of the interesting buildings in the village are registered Grade 1 or 2 and are now either self-catering cottages or hotel rooms and suites.

DAY TWO (Tuesday). We made a return journey from Llangollen to Carrog. A good part of this trip was through the beautiful River Dee valley, an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and of Special Scientific Interest.

On our return to Llangollen we enjoyed a 45 minute ride on a horse drawn barge along a stretch of the famous Llangollen canal.

On our **FREE DAY**, Wednesday, there were local attractions, notably the Great Orme. Unfortunately it was extremely windy and as a direct result the cable car to the summit was not operating.

The tramway to the summit was extremely busy and some of our group did not make it to the top. Those who did were almost blown away! I think I was the only one who went down the Bronze Age mine, an extraordinary and memorable experience.

Some members went to Conwy on that day and found it a very interesting city with many attractions.

DAY 4 (our final day). From our hotel we initially travelled by coach through stunning mountain scenery to Caernarfon. On arrival we were split into two groups and given a fascinating guided tour of the castle, which is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

In the afternoon we rode on the Welsh Highland Railway, a narrow gauge line running along the foothills of the Snowdonia Mountain range to Beddgelert. In this attractive small village, many of us enjoyed light refreshments alongside the nearby stream.

Llandudno itself proved to be a very popular base. In the evenings there were walks along the promenade and a small number extended their walks to the pier and on one occasion were lured into the amusements area! Other evening activities included card schools and enjoyment, on two evenings, of concerts given by Welsh male voice choirs.

All of the holiday arrangements ran very smoothly, largely due to the professional and efficient efforts of our Tour Manager, David Denman. Everyone enjoyed the holiday and learned a great deal about the outstanding railway heritage of North Wales.

COFFEE MORNINGS FOR MEMBERS and NON-MEMBERS

Our coffee mornings are usually held **10.00 - 11.30 on the last Monday of each month at The Cricketers Inn, Meopham Green, DA13 0QA. N.B.**

Attendance is free and welcomed, but the venue charges for tea/coffee/biscuits. Sometimes we will incorporate a meeting for group contacts or other groupings as well.

Members of the committee will be there including Di our membership secretary and you can often sign up for outings and groups during the morning. If you have friends, relatives or neighbours who are interested in joining this is an ideal opportunity to bring them along to find out more.

The dates of the next few coffee mornings are -

28th October 2019

25th November 2019

December – no coffee meeting. Coffee mornings restart in January 2020

Please come along and do bring neighbours, family or friends who might be interested in joining MU3A.

THANK YOU FROM CAROLE

Thank you to everyone at MU3A for the gift card that you presented to me at the 3Rs meeting. I was very touched by your kindness and generosity.

My aged Fit Bit has recently stopped working so I was able to treat myself to a very smart Charge 3 wristband that track my every move ...or lack of it. I need to join the walking group!

Carole