

Add-Venture in Learning Newsletter

Summer 2019

Registered Charity 2234953

www.add-ventureinlearning.org.uk

Welcome to our summer edition of the Newsletter. Our courses are proving to be very popular this year. Manchester was very enjoyable and we look forward to the next two courses.

Our AGM will be held at Ampleforth when you will all have the chance to make comments. Hopefully mostly positive but we welcome suggestions of how we can do things better and constructive ideas for the future. If you are not attending Ampleforth you may like to make your comments known to our Chairman Andrew or Isobell, course co-ordinator for discussion.

As we have said before the committee are dedicated to running AddVenture-In-Learning but are all volunteers with limited abilities and busy lives, so if you feel you would like to come onto the committee or have any skills to offer then we would love to hear from you.

The AGM will be on Thursday 22nd August at 8pm.

There will be copies of last years' minutes at this meeting which run to 4 pages! Also copies of the accounts and a summary of the accounts. If you are not attending but would like copies sent to you please let Barbara know on 01460 281226 or email mrickitt@hotmail.com

FORTHCOMING COURSES

THE LIFE AND TIMES OF THE NORTH YORK MOORS NATIONAL PARK.

Monday 19th - Friday 23rd August 2019 – (4 nights)

At the time of writing this course is fully booked, but there may be a vacancy for a guide; however if you are interested please contact Isobell to go on the reserve list.

Organised by Karen Colebourn

Venue – Ampleforth College, Yorkshire

The nearest convenient station is York. A coach will be organised to pick up at York Station at 3.30pm for the 40 minute drive, and returning to York station on Friday for trains after 11.30am. There is no extra charge for this.

Price: Students £260

Guides £200

Included – Accommodation in single rooms with wash basins and shared bathrooms. There are some twin rooms but the price is the same. Breakfast, packed lunch and evening meal are provided. All visits by coach and entrance fees.

A modest degree of fitness will be required, not least to negotiate the many steps between our rooms and the refectory.

We will get a feel for the terrain by walking about half a mile from the high moor down into one of the villages. We will visit Ryedale Folk Museum, spend a whole day at Egton Agricultural Show, where we will have special access to handle some of the show animals and talk to one of the shepherds. We will visit Rievaulx, one of England's finest Cistercian Abbeys, and visit a country estate and have some interesting talks.

So hopefully we will go home feeling that we have a rounded understanding of the life of the marvellous North York Moors. Fuller details were in the Spring Newsletter.

ROMANS, MONKS AND PRINCES OF THE WELSH MARCHES

Friday 18th – Monday 21st October 2019 – (3 nights). Please note this is a weekend.

At the time of writing this course is fully booked for students but there are a couple of spaces for guides. Please contact Isobell if you would like to go on the reserve list.

Based at Long Mynd House, Church Stretton, Shropshire

Led by HF Holidays in conjunction with Barbara Rickitt

The nearest station is Church Stretton about 1 mile (uphill). The station is unmanned but help will be arranged.

Price: Students £300; Guides £260

Visually impaired will be offered single ensuite rooms. Guides will share twin ensuite rooms but a single room may be available at a supplement if there are enough rooms available at the hotel nearer the time.

Each day our leader will provide a fascinating commentary on the places visited. The trip involves active sightseeing. We will be visiting the Roman city of Viroconium at Wroxeter, discover the Anglo-Saxon monastery of Wenlock Priory, the fortified medieval manor house of Stokesay Castle. Then we go over the border into Wales to Powis Castle with its gardens, taking in Clun Castle on route.

To book on any of these courses please contact Isobell Phillips, Course-Coordinator on 07731 867931 or email phillipsisobell@yahoo.ie

A £50 deposit secures your place and full payment is due at least 6 weeks prior to the course. When booking please give full details of your name, address, phone and email and next of kin or emergency contact. Or download an application form from the website.

New guides please contact Isobell with a reference first.

Cheques made payable to Add-Venture In Learning can be sent to

Isobell Phillips
2 Holy Drive
Pen-y-ffordd
CHESTER CH4 0NE

BACS payments to Lloyds 30-00-01 a/c 02904643

Please let Isobell know if you are paying by BACS transfer.

For bookings please try Isobell first, but if she is not available for a while then contact Mary Goodlad on 0114 2492023, sistergoodlad@yahoo.co.uk.

INSURANCE – Please note that participants on our courses are advised to have their own travel insurance in line with other tour companies. We cannot refund monies for cancellations once we have paid in advance for the hotel accommodation

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**REPORTS ON “MANCHESTER THEN AND NOW” COURSE,**  
**20 - 24 MAY 2019**

**A report from Margaret and her guide Gwenda**

We came out of Piccadilly Manchester railway station and found the sculpture of the blind Tommies and then a short walk to the hotel. I had an impression of a magnificent staircase in the hotel, leading up to the heavens. Monday evening's talk about Manchester City Hall potentially might have been a bit dry, but our speaker was so enthusiastic and knowledgeable that she raised my enthusiasm to learn more. The City Hall is closed for refurbishment at the moment. When it reopens it will continue to reflect Manchester's pride in the city.

On Tuesday morning, it was a short walk to the 'People's Museum', passing the City Hall en route. Johnny was our guide in the museum telling us all about the Peterloo massacre, women's suffrage, rise of the unions, bicycles and 'pop' shops. It ended with a handling session of Union banners and medals. The afternoon started with a bus ride to Elizabeth Gaskell's house where a special session was put on for us telling us about the various rooms, her life, family and writing. We were allowed to touch virtually anything in the house as we went around it. We finished off with tea and cake, which was very nice. We then returned to the hotel and after supper we had a talk about Henshaws, the Manchester based voluntary organisation for visually impaired people. We were told about the vast amount of projects that Henshaws runs.

On Wednesday morning, we took another short walk to the Museum of Science and Industry focusing on spinning cotton. That evening was the high spot of the week for me with a visit to the Exchange Theatre for an excellent performance of West Side Story. At the theatre there was an amusing incident when one of the guide dogs was accidentally smeared with fake blood. This happened because one of the actors who was 'bloodily killed' in the first half of the production took a shine to Doreen's dog Pumpkin and went to cuddle him in the interval!

On Thursday morning we queued to buy our tram tickets and travelled to Media City in Salford. It was a very interesting journey. Our tour of the BBC building took in the studio where BBC Radio drama is recorded. We were told about various means of making sound effects including trying a pair of rubber

gloves taped together to create the sound of a flock of birds. We also visited the Dead Room where there is no external sound at all and because of its shape and insulation, special sound effects could be created including someone walking towards or away from you. I found this very fascinating and would have happily spent longer there. I shall never listen to a radio play again without trying to interpret the audio effects. We then went upstairs to the studio which broadcasts BBC TV 'Breakfast'. Then to another room where we were able to do some 'hands-on'. Andrew and Doreen read a news bulletin from Braille and we were able to feel dresses from 'Strictly Come Dancing', Daleks and other props from well known BBC programmes.

We returned to the centre of Manchester and visited the cathedral. We were able to dip into a lunchtime concert by pupils from Cheltenham School of music. What talented youngsters! The Cathedral was badly damaged during World War 2 but its history goes back to the 14<sup>th</sup> Century at least. The cathedral staff had taken a lot of trouble preparing for our visit and for me to touch and get close to the needlework in the vestments was great. A cathedral organist showed us what the new organ, only 2 years old, could do. From rattling the rafters down to contemplative moments, it was very impressive. Thursday evening was great fun with folk singing and plenty of laughter.

The course finished after breakfast on Friday. While we waited for my husband to fight his way into the centre of Manchester to pick us up, Gwenda and I decided we had to climb to the top of the stairs in the hotel. There were 141 steps!

Many thanks to Michael Hartley who had done most of the planning for the course and to Mary Goodlad for taking it over due to Michael's ill health. It was a very successful and enjoyable course.

### **A NEW EXPERIENCE from guide Jean**

A letter in the Spring issue of U3A 'Third Age Matters' intrigued me. It was a request for volunteers to act as guides to accompany sight-impaired adults on 'adventurous holidays'.

My email enquiry gained a quick response from a very friendly and enthusiastic lady and within a few days I was signed up to accompany a group of 'students' on a four night stay in Manchester. A few weeks later I took the train from my home in rural North Yorkshire and my adventures began.

As I entered the foyer of the hotel I was pounced upon by two ladies who were sitting on the stairs in front of the entrance door – 'Are you Jean?'. 'Yes' I replied and within a few minutes they had both disappeared to do other things and I was left in charge of greeting group members and directing them to reception. From then on I was totally involved. Everyone was very friendly, kind and welcoming and the four identical guide dogs were lovely.

The next day my big culture shock began! For almost the last 40 years I have lived in small villages, usually only visiting large cities on carefully planned

outings. To be thrown into finding my way to various venues, surrounded by crowds of people, getting on and off public transport and tramping the City pavements, turned out to be quite challenging. I really enjoyed the visits to the museums, the BBC and the theatre and it was all a great deal of fun.

When I arrived home I was totally exhausted, especially after a difficult Bank Holiday rail journey, but on reflection, I'd had a super experience, visited many interesting places and made many new friends – AND I will certainly try it all again.

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PLANS FOR NEXT YEAR

NORWICH PAST AND PRESENT 15th – 19th JUNE 2020

Norwich is a beautiful medieval city, with a poetic mix of contemporary culture and historic architecture, all situated within a compact centre spanning cobbled streets and riverside pathways.

We will visit the medieval castle and the Norman cathedral, the Sainsbury Art Centre and many other places.

Accommodation will be in student rooms at the UEA with plenty of space for guide dogs.

YORK – ARCHEAOLGY 17th – 20th August 2020

Accommodation has been booked at the University just a short bus ride from the centre of the City.

NEWSLETTER FORMATS

NEWSLETTERS are usually available in the following formats, Standard Print, Large Print, Email, Braille or Memory Stick. If you would like anything different from what you are receiving please let Doreen Tyler the Secretary know.

You may also like to check our website for information.

You are receiving this newsletter because you have elected to be on the mailing list of AddVenture In Learning. If you no longer wish to be on this list please let our secretary Doreen know.

COMMITTEE CONTACT DETAILS

Chairman: Andrew Hodgson:
0208 740 1109 - andrewhodgson55@gmail.com

Vice Chairman & Deputy Course Co-ordinator: Mary Goodlad:
0114 2492023 - sistergoodlad@yahoo.co.uk

Secretary and Membership Secretary: Doreen Tyler
01782 286532 - doreen.tyler@btinternet.com

Course Co-ordinator: Isobell Phillips
07731 867931 - phillipsisobell@yahoo.ie

Treasurer: David Killick
01753 891539 - davidkill@aol.com

Publicity, Editor and Newsletter Production: Barbara Rickitt
01460 281226 - mrickitt@hotmail.com

Committee: Dorothy Killick - 01823 283237 - dmkillick@aol.com
Committee: Lyn Oliver - 01367 241931 - doggylyn@talktalk.net
Committee: Cheryl Beech - 01275 845052 - cherylbeech@yahoo.co.uk
Committee: Mary Collyer - 01483 760681 - mary_collyer@btinternet.com