

Add-Venture in Learning Newsletter Autumn 2020

Welcome to the Autumn 2020 newsletter for Add-Venture in Learning. We hope that you are safe and well and have endured the long days of lock-down and self isolation without too many problems. We look forward to next year when hopefully most of the Covid19 restrictions are lifted and we can offer you a full programme of courses again.

There have been significant changes to the Committee following the AGM held on 26 August. We now have a new Chairman in Janet Whapples who was elected by a majority vote following the resignation of Andrew Hodgson. Andrew has successfully led the organisation for many years and we thank him for his management skills and leadership over this period. Also stepping down was Doreen Tyler, our Secretary, who looked after the membership list, produced the Braille publications and managed the website. She has been a tower of strength in these roles and she will be much missed. Although no longer a Committee Member, she has kindly agreed to continue to produce the Braille copies of the newsletter and manage our website.

Barbara Rickitt was elected as Secretary and Publicity Officer. Barbara was previously Newsletter editor and will continue as publicity officer. We thank her for her hard work and commitment over the last few years.

David Killick was re-elected as Treasurer and Mary Goodlad as Vice Chair. Paul Cripwell was elected as Membership Secretary and Newsletter Editor.

Judy James was re-elected to the Committee as Assistant Newsletter Production

Simon Wilkes and Jean Taylor were elected to the Committee. All other existing Committee Members were re-elected.

A complete list of Committee Members can be found at the end of this newsletter.

Profile of new Committee Members

Janet Whapples

I became a member of the group at the beginning of the year. Sadly due to the Corona virus I was unable to go on any of the courses I had booked. Consequently I was amazed at the AGM when I was voted Chairman. I sincerely thank you for this. Especially as the majority of you do not know me. Hopefully this will change when we can all attend courses again.

I feel it is important I tell you a bit about myself. I live in Melton Mowbray with my partner, David. We are both blind and have guide dogs. I am retired, but previously worked as a Social worker/Rehab worker for the visually impaired in Sandwell and the Scottish Borders. As part of my work I supported existing groups and developed new groups. These groups were both social and political. Within these groups I did various roles, which included Chairman, Secretary, and committee member. In my personal life I enjoy reading, walking, sailing, and exploring new places. I also enjoy educational courses and I am now attending 2 historical courses.

As far as my present role as Chair is concerned it is proving to be a big learning curve, but I am enjoying the challenge. I am very grateful to the Committee members and previous Committee members who are supporting me, giving guidance, and friendship. My previous experience is also helping me in my role. The committee is busy arranging courses for next year. I look forward to meeting you at the courses. In the meantime I hope you all keep well and active. If any of you would like to contact me about suggestions for courses or anything else, even if it is just for a chat, I would be very pleased to hear from you.

Paul Cripwell

I am new to the Committee but will probably be known to many of you as I have attended many Add-Venture courses over the last 10 years and go back to the days when the Club was run by Bristol University. I have worked with the visually impaired for many years since becoming redundant as an IT consultant with Marconi. I have been involved with adult education for some time joining the U3A in 2007. I was Newsletter editor for the Wimborne U3A for over 6 years and look forward to continuing in this role with Add-Venture. My first task has been to take over the Membership List for and it is now converted to a spreadsheet with password protection.

Jean Taylor

I am a widow, living alone, in a very small village, on the edge of the North Yorkshire Moors. I have been retired for quite some years now but previously spent many years teaching Business Studies and Economics in a large Comprehensive School in South Wales and finally was an Examinations Officer for Edexcel BTEC. I was a Guide on the group visit to Manchester and also met up with the group that visited Ampleforth in Yorkshire last year. I had hoped to join all four trips this year but unfortunately the pandemic prevented this.

Simon Wilkes

Some of you who were in at the start of Add-Venture, as I was, may remember me from the first Committee, and in those days, I also produced a large number of tapes for the organizations first few courses. My main interests are open water swimming, horse riding, and wildlife sound recording. Those interests are coupled with a love for nature, wildlife, and the countryside/outdoors, which is really where my interest in Add-Venture is, as I really like the courses that they run on these subjects.

After rising to the challenges of being a District Councillor, and hearing that there were places on the Committee I decided to give it another go and to help support an organization, that offers unique opportunities for blind and visually impaired people.

Courses

Cancellation CLASSICAL MUSIC MEDLEY –

We regret that this course which was scheduled for March 2020 has had to be cancelled. It will not be running next year either due to the ill health of the tutor.

NORWICH PAST AND PRESENT

14 – 18 June 2021.

Cost: Students £350, Guides £250 (NB: there may be a slight increase due to inflation).

This course has been organised by Sandra Walster assisted by Judy James. Sandra has worked hard on making this a very attractive course and will be going ahead subject to the lifting of Covid19 restrictions.

Accommodation: Broad View Lodge on the University of East Anglia campus, near Norwich. All rooms are en-suite with tea making facilities. There is plenty of space for guide dogs.

Please note a reasonable level of fitness is required to walk around the campus and Norwich and travel by public transport .

Breakfast and a 3 course evening meal are provided on the campus, which is a 10 minute walk from the accommodation. There will be places to buy your own lunch each day. We will catch the bus from the campus into Norwich city centre, which is a 30 minute ride away.

HISTORY AND ARCHAEOLOGY IN YORK

Monday 16 August – Friday 20 August, (4 nights)

Organised by Eleanor Tew and Mary Goodlad.

Cost: still to be decided

Accommodation: York University in single en-suite rooms, a short bus ride from the centre of York. Breakfast, packed lunch and evening meal are included.

Please note that this course will involve active sightseeing to walk around York and travel by bus from the accommodation

The history of York goes back at least to the Romans and a lot is still being done to uncover it. There are plans for a big Roman Dig in the centre of York and a Roman Museum to rival the Jorvik Viking Centre which we will visit. We hope to visit an actual dig but this has not yet been confirmed. In any case we will visit “dig” a centre designed primarily to introduce children to archaeology, which is very accessible and great fun. We will visit the Minster and perhaps other historic buildings and probably have talks on ceramics and conservation.

This course was originally scheduled for August 2020 so priority will be given to previous bookings.

AUTUMN BIRD MIGRANTS AT GIBRALTAR POINT SKEGNESS

Monday 4th - Thursday 7th October (3 nights)

Organised by Karen Colebourn

COST- Student £320 Guide £240. These are 2020 prices but please be aware there could be slight increases. The price includes hotel accommodation in single en-suite rooms (doubles available), breakfast, 2 packed lunches, evening meal and transport for outings. The 2020 course was fully booked so priority will be given to those previously booked

This course will involve a reasonable degree of fitness to walk on uneven ground and stand around birding. Gibraltar Point Nature Reserve is known for its diversity of wildlife. In Autumn we will hear various migrants and flocks of waders. We will be going out early each morning and taking a late breakfast at the reserve cafe and having a packed lunch. We will be discovering other areas of wildlife interest in the afternoons. If you are interested please contact Isobell by phone or text to put your name on the waiting list.

BOOKING ON COURSES

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

A £50 non refundable deposit is required at the time of booking and full payment is due at least 6 weeks prior to the course.

A booking form can be down loaded from our website.

Cheques should be made payable to Add-venture In Learning and sent to Isobell Phillips at:

2 Holly Drive
Pen-y-ffordd
CHESTER CH4 0NE

BACS payments to Lloyds bank sort code:30-00-01, account number: 02904643 with reference stating name and reason for payment, e.g. 'Norwich deposit'.

Please let Isobell know that you are paying by BACS. Alternatively if Isobell is unavailable contact Mary Goodlad on 0114 2492023, email: sistergoodlad@yahoo.co.uk

Newsletters are usually available in the following formats, Standard Print, Large Print, email, Braille or audio on memory stick. Please visit our website at www.add-ventureinlearning.org.uk for more information.

You are receiving this newsletter because you have elected to be on the mailing list of Add-venture In Learning. If you no longer wish to be on this list, or prefer the newsletter in a different format, please inform our membership secretary, Paul Cripwell.

COMMITTEE CONTACT DETAILS

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