



Add-Venture in Learning  
Registered Charity Number 1124953

## Newsletter December 2016

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## **NOTE FROM NEWSLETTER EDITOR**

**Hi folks:**

**Let me start by welcoming any new members. If you have attended one of our courses already, I hope you enjoyed it. If you want to attend a course, I hope it turns out to be a good experience for you.**

**This time we have a bumper edition of the Newsletter so without further ado I will move onto the meat of the Newsletter.**

**I would ask that anyone who has changes to their contact details or does not wish to receive future Newsletters, please let me know so I can update my records.**

**Hoping you all have a wonderful festive season and I hope that 2017 is a good one for you all.**

**Warm regards,  
Doreen Tyler  
Newsletter Editor**

## **CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE**

**Hello all:**

**I hope that this newsletter finds you well and looking forward to the festive season.**

**Since last writing some members have enjoyed a stimulating and varied course in the bracing climate of Scarborough studying the literary work of J. B. Priestley. I was sorry that I was unable to attend this course as it would have brought back fond memories of Scarborough from my childhood and early adulthood.**

**Next year we will be continuing with a varied selection of courses, featuring urban, rural and historic environments, so please read on for further details.**

**I would like to encourage you all to check out our website at [www.add-ventureinlearning.org.uk](http://www.add-ventureinlearning.org.uk) where you will find all the information you need about our upcoming courses.**

**I wish you all the best for Christmas and the New Year and hope that I will have the opportunity to meet with you on future courses in 2017.**

**Andrew Hodgson  
Chairman**

## **APPEAL FOR NEW SECRETARY**

Many of you will know that I will stand down from the position of Add-Venture Secretary at our AGM next year. Now we are looking for positive volunteers for the post. Anyone who can produce Agendas, Minutes and write the occasional letter qualifies for the job and there is always plenty of support from the Committee. Meetings are conducted by telephone so no travelling involved and these meetings generally occur bi-monthly.

Please give consideration to this and help keep the organisation afloat. If you have any questions or would like to indicate your interest in taking up the secretary post, please contact me or another member of the committee. Our contact details are at the end of the newsletter.

Thank you,  
Rita Allsopp

## **MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT**

Hi folks:

Annual subscriptions are now due, folks, and at £12 per year, I hope you will think this is a great bargain. Therefore, if you would please send your 2017 subscription of £12 to me by 1 January 2017 this would be appreciated. My address is in the Committee Contact List at the end of this Newsletter.

You can pay through telephone banking. Our bank details are as follows: Lloyds Bank, sort code 30-00-01 and the Account number is 02904643. If you do use this method of paying your membership fee, please add an appropriate reference when making your payment, i.e., your name followed by Add-Venture in Learning membership subscription. Also, if you would let me know when you pay directly into the bank this would be appreciated.

In addition, Add-Venture can claim Gift Aid on subscriptions and this is a valuable source of income, so if you pay tax and have not let me know, please do so and I will send a form with your receipt. Donations are also welcome.

Hoping that you all have a good Christmas.

Best wishes,  
Poppy Fergusson  
Membership

## **PUBLICITY NOTES**

Hello there:

Your committee are finding it increasingly difficult to arrange appropriate courses at affordable prices.

We particularly struggle with suitable accommodation in the areas that we would like to run a course and many hours are spent searching for hotels. Sometimes accommodation can be found that is not near a station and that involves taxi fares. We do endeavour to keep costs as low as possible without compromising standards.

It is also difficult finding hotels with enough single rooms so another way of keeping costs lower is to share rooms.

Coach hire, entrance fees, tutor's fees, donations to voluntary speakers, etc., all have to be taken into account.

It would be useful to know if members are happy with the sort of courses we provide, if they have any suggestions about venues, subjects or any other matters. Each course is priced to try and cover costs, but we sometimes end up subsidising from funds. We would like to know how much you are prepared to spend on a 4-night course if it is a subject you really want to do.

This is YOUR organisation so if you have any thoughts on the above please let a member of the committee know.

We have been experiencing difficulties with getting out newsletters and pre-course information to members. It has been decided that in future all Newsletters will be sent on memory sticks, braille, large print, standard print and email. Please make sure that our Newsletter Editor Doreen Tyler is aware of your choice or if your situation has changed.

Most people now have the ability to play memory sticks but if not they can be read on a computer. They can also be inserted into a Concerto 2 radio available from British Wireless for the Blind, contact [www.blind.org.uk](http://www.blind.org.uk) or phone - 01622 754757. Also available through Calibre talking books are a range of players from £35. Contact Calibre at [www.calibre.org.uk](http://www.calibre.org.uk) or phone 01296 432339. You may also get information from your local talking newspaper.

Barbara Rickitt  
Publicity

## **A STUDENT VIEW OF THE DERBYSHIRE AND STAFFORDSHIRE MOORLANDS COURSE, AUGUST 2016 BY SANDRA WALSTER, STUDENT**

I was delighted to arrive at Derby University on Monday, 8 August for the start of the Derbyshire course on social history. Our rooms in the student accommodation were basic but with clever little bathrooms in a bubble in the corner. Six of us shared a kitchen where we puzzled over our 'breakfast boxes' - full of buns and pastries, apparently student food! The kitchen was great for drinking tea, chatting with old friends and making new ones.

We all got paired up with our guides and later our tutor, Danny Wells, gave the introductory talk. The evening meal was a lovely big plate of Korean food. It

was served on a paper plate with plastic knives and forks, which was a bit digitally challenging, but I don't think anyone starved!

The next day we set off by coach to Cromford to see Arkwright's Mill. This was a large site where I listened to a talking hologram of Richard Arkwright explain his factory system. He had the vision and drive to produce cheap cotton yarn as early as 1771 and really start the industrial revolution. The Arkwright site was too big to explore properly but we found a good lunch stop.

In the afternoon we went to Chatsworth and I was keen to visit the house although we did not have very long. My guide, Penny, was very good at sharing my interest and giving an enthusiastic description of the view outside. When I got inside it was pretty impressive and I also had an audio guide, which I could almost operate without Penny's help! It played a few bars of atmospheric music before a short piece about each huge room and there were buttons for deeper descriptions. We skipped all the detail and Penny found me suitable objects to touch. The Chatsworth room guides were very helpful and had just the right attitude. Well done, Chatsworth! I did not have time to see the gardens, which was a shame, but I did enjoy my visit.

Our evening talk was about Lord Curzon, Viceroy of India in the early Edwardian period. His family owned Kedleston Hall, which we were due to visit.

Next day we were onto the Derby museum and gallery. Like many other provincial museums, it was full of amazing treasures. Penny worked hard reading labels and describing the contents. They have a wonderful bronze-age log boat and served a good hot cup of tea.

In the afternoon we went to Kedleston Hall, which being Tory contrasted nicely with Whig Chatsworth. Maybe it is not surprising this Tory edifice has a Roman style hall with fluted alabaster columns, which are there to impress, but serve no architectural purpose!



*Aerial view of Kedleston Hall*

We also had time to walk in the grounds and I got a sense of the parkland, which is an important part of the setting. The evening talk was about the fascinating Joseph Paxton, head gardener at Chatsworth. The talk was entertaining and full of information about this likeable Victorian who should be better known.

On Thursday we had another full day, visiting churches. The first was 12th century St. Mary and St. Barlock, Norbury, in George Eliot country. It was full of damp and had effigies of the long dead. These were very accessible and lay stiffly resting their feet on funny little dogs.



*Jess the Guide Dog and two seraphims at St. Giles, Cheadle, a Gothic Revival gem which was designed by Pugin*

Then we were on to Cheadle where we stopped at St. Giles, Pugin's very fancy Catholic church. Danny gave us a lot of background about the Gothic revival.

Lunch was very welcome and efficiently served at a country pub in Mappleton. Our final stop was at St. Oswald's, Ashbourne. Danny knew the area very well and could give us a great deal of background without apparent effort. In the corner of the 13th century church were more alabaster tombs but one was remarkable. It was of Penelope Brooks Boothby, who died aged 6 in 1791. She had been the model for a painting by Sir Joshua Reynolds. The tomb sculptor showed her lying in a completely natural position in her nightdress. It was very accessible and it was easy to see how this looked forward to the Arts and Crafts movement.





*A carving from Pugin's Catholic Church in Cheadle – A group of men in rapt contemplation or perhaps it's boredom*

On Friday morning the talk was on Thomas Cook and tourism. As usual Danny combined lots of information with humour.

The course was incredibly busy and packed with interest so I went home with a much greater understanding of a small corner of England and I really will find out more about Joseph Paxton! Finally I must give a big thanks to my guide, Penny.

Sandra Walster

**REPORT ON DERBYSHIRE DALES AND STAFFORDSHIRE  
MOORLANDS AUGUST 8TH - 12TH 2016  
BY SHARON CLARK, GUIDE**



*Students and guides at Arkwright's Mill in Derbyshire*

This was to be my first tour as a guide and I definitely viewed it as an 'adventure', arriving on the Monday afternoon, full of anticipation. I had worked with visually impaired primary-aged pupils for many years but the opportunity to partner an adult with a visual impairment on a four-day trip was an exciting one! I was soon in contact with Doreen, my 'student', and it turned out to be a great pairing which for me, certainly, was the highlight of the week.

Accommodation was on the Derby University campus and room allocation something of a lottery. Some rooms faced outwards onto a busy road whilst those facing inwards looked over a large landscaped parking area.

After a sleepless night I managed to swap from a noisy room to a tranquil one overlooking a large rowan tree full of red berries. Bliss!

The catering was also a rather mixed experience. Whilst some enjoyed the meals, despite rather strange combinations of dishes, others were less enthusiastic. Conference pears were on offer at every meal and by the time Friday arrived we all agreed we'd seen enough to last for a considerable time.

We were blessed with good weather, the first two days, especially, were warm and sunny and we were able to sit outside and enjoy cups of tea. Our visits ranged from trips to Kedleston Hall, Arkwright's Mill at Cromford and Derby Art Gallery and Museum. We also visited Derby Cathedral, Pugin's 'gem' - St Giles' in Cheadle and a number of other fine churches. Unfortunately, due to traffic works and unanticipated delays, our scheduled visit to Chatsworth was rather brief although some of us did get the opportunity to visit the 'estate' village of Edensor. A planned visit to Ilam was dropped altogether. Danny Wells was our tutor for the tour and accompanied us throughout the four days introducing venues briefly and also giving three lengthier talks on notable figures of the area. I enjoyed his talks enormously - full of information and delivered very smoothly and with plenty of humour.

Sharon Clark

## **REPORT ON J. B. PRIESTLEY COURSE IN SCARBOROUGH BY BARBARA RICKITT, GUIDE**

What an interesting way to spend the first few days in November as winter settled in. We stayed at the Grand Hotel in Scarborough. The hotel was comfortable, if a little tired, and food plentiful. The wide staircase leading to two balconies was amazing and I could just imagine the Victorian elite ladies sweeping down it to the ballroom. The dining room was long with curved windows so breakfast was taken with the sun shining in and a splendid view of the bay.

Our study subject was the author and playwright J. B. Priestley. Not someone I imagined to be that interesting but I was proved wrong as various members of the J. B. Priestley society indulged us in his life and works.



We began with Michael Nelson giving us some background on Priestley. He was born in Bradford in 1894 and died in 1984. He served for 4½ years on the front in World War I. He married Patricia, the girl next door, and they had two daughters. Patricia died in 1925 the same year as his father. He then married Jane and later a third wife.

Priestley had a love affair with the Yorkshire Dales which began when his father introduced him to walking there as a child. This was evident in his writing of the book "The Other Place" when he described the village of Hubberholme "a pub, a church and a bridge - a place outside time". Throughout the course we were regaled with short thought provoking readings from his book 'Delight'.

Tony and Jenny Reavill, themselves thespians, joined with Michael to read amusing extracts from "They Came to a City" written in 1943 and described as an ideal city for a future Britain. Having myself read the book "English Journey" written in 1933, I was particularly interested in the presentation by Rod and Janice Slater. Priestley made his journey by car and public transport at the age of 38 and it describes life as he saw it at the time. Rod copied this journey over 3 years by bicycle when he was in his late 70's. Some of the other books highlighted with readings from the group were "The Good Companions" and "The Linden Tree".

Our final session was looking at Priestley's writings with musical connections as in "Angel Pavement" and "Particular Pleasures".

Before becoming recognised as a successful writer, Priestley was employed to write articles for the "Yorkshire Post". He made his first BBC reading on the day World War II broke out. Favourite plays, which are still performed today, are "When We were Married" and "The Inspector Calls".

We had a visit from Alison Cullingford the curator of the Priestley Archive held at Bradford University. She brought along some of his possessions, which included a collection of his pipes.



*The Stephen Joseph Theatre lit up for an evening performance*

One morning we walked to the Stephen Joseph Theatre for a guided backstage tour. Our enthusiastic guide, Paul, told us about its history. Formerly an Odeon Cinema in typical art deco style, the building became a theatre with

funding from various benefactors including the playwright Alan Ayckbourn, who lives in Scarborough. We were also privileged one evening to have a talk by Simon Murgatroyd, Ayckbourn's archivist.

On another evening we had an interesting talk by a member of the Scarborough Historical Society on the 'Bombardment of Scarborough' in 1914. This little known battle was when German ships shelled Scarborough causing much damage to buildings and some loss of life.

On our free afternoon most of us wrapped up warm and went for long walks along the splendid seafront and harbour and some people visited the shops for some retail therapy.



*Looking up at the ruins of Scarborough Castle from the road leading to the main gate*

Our final evening was spent visiting the theatre to see a Rudyard Kipling farce called "The Wish House" which everyone enjoyed.

Thanks for an excellent course researched and arranged by member Michael Hartley with domestic arrangements made by Isobell Phillips, Course Co-ordinator.

## **UPDATE ON FUTURE COURSES**

Before telling you about the courses being planned for 2017, let me remind you that all course participants need to be paid-up members of Add-Venture in Learning.

As for the courses themselves, students need to pay a non-returnable deposit of £50.00 to secure a place with full payment due five weeks before the course starts. Guide applicants will be notified at this time as to a place on the course, at which time their payment will be due.

Cheques for payment of course deposits and course fees should be sent to me at my address, which is at the end of this Newsletter. Alternatively, if you wish to pay into the bank directly, Add-Venture in Learning does have a Lloyds Bank Account. The sort code is 30-00-01 and the account number is 02904643.

**Please, when making a payment by telephone, leave an appropriate note on your transaction so that you can check whether payment has been made on your Bank Statement. Also, if you would let me know when you pay directly into the bank, this would be appreciated.**

**It is important to note that although Add-Venture in Learning holds Public Liability Insurance, this does not cover personal accident or injury. You are, therefore, advised to take out Holiday Insurance to cover any personal loss, accident or injury.**

**I would like to remind anyone who has a Concessionary Bus Pass (preferably covering a companion also) to please bring these on courses as this will cut down on costs both for you and your guide. Many thanks for your co-operation.**

**And now the information on Add-Venture's courses for 2017.**

**Course Title: The Making of the Isle of Wight  
Course date: 15 – 19 May 2017**

**Add-Venture in Learning is running another in Karen Colebourn's series "Discovering Britain's Most Distinctive Places", this time covering the Isle of Wight. The course will explore the ever-changing coast, including the marvellous maritime limestone pavement at Bembridge Ledges. We will search another shore for dinosaur fossils, visit bird-filled natural estuaries, walk through ancient woods thick with the scent of bluebells and wild grasslands which support almost as many bronze-age treasures as they do butterflies and orchids. We intend also to visit the historic Carisbrooke Castle and some of the seaside towns favoured by Victoria and Albert.**

**The course will require participants to walk up to half a mile, sometimes over uneven or rising ground. We will, of course, take time to savour the area and all VIPs will have a sighted guide.**

**Accommodation for this course will be in holiday chalets in single rooms with a shared bathroom. Price and further information will follow. Karen's courses are always popular so early booking is recommended.**

**Courses being planned for 2017 include a course on Shakespeare to be held in London between 14-18 August 2017 and a promising course based in Folkestone in Kent between 16-20 October 2017. A possible course in Chester is also being researched.**

**If you have any suggestions for future courses or even better would be willing to be involved in the planning and organisation of a course, please do get in touch with one of your Committee.**

**Isobell Phillips  
Course Coordinator**

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