* THE CURTIUS SALON - Fridays at 11.00am *

6 Oct: Mike Kelley: 'The Yemen'

13 Oct: Bob Massey: 'Fascinating Felines'

20 Oct: Tony Waltham: 'Slowly Down the Mekong'

27 Oct: Dr Stephen Walker: 'Spinning Yarns'

3rd Nov: John Whitfield: The Mitford Family

* MUSIC EVENTS with ROBERT *

Thursday 26 October, 10.30am: 'Turandot' by Puccini

* MONDAY FILMS - at 1.30pm *

2 Oct: 'Romeo & Juliet' with Leonardo di Caprio & Claire Danes

9 Oct: 'The Englishman' with Hugh Grant, Tara Fitzgerald

16 Oct: 'Robin Hood - Prince of Thieves' with Kevin Costner

23 Oct: 'Stan and Ollie' with Steve Coogan and John C Reilly

30 Oct: 'Curious Case of Benjamin Button' with Brad Pitt, Cate Blanchett

60+ Keep Fit: Audrey Malik, Mon: 10.30 to 11.30am + Seated Exercise Class 11.45 to 12.30pm

Elders' Forum DANCE - Fridays at 1.30pm
TABLE TENNIS - Fridays: 1.30 to 3.00pm
SHORT MAT BOWLS - Thursdays at 1.30pm

GAMES AFTERNOON: Tuesdays at 1.30pm

KNIT & NATTER: Wednesdays at 1.30pm (fortnightly)

GARDENING CLUB: Please see Noticeboard for details



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Your NOTTINGHAM MECHANICS



Newsletter

No 74 October 2023

What's on? What's happened? What's YOUR view?

A Good Day Out in Cromer by Dennis Apple

We boarded the coach to Cromer on a warm August morning. The driver gave the usual safety talk and Robert reminded people who had not been paying attention that they should only smash the coach windows in the event of an emergency. Soon we were travelling under wide blue skies through the Lincolnshire countryside with its newly harvested cornfields.

We expected to take a comfort stop at one of the many cafes designated for coach parties, but fate took a hand when, due to an accident, we needed to change our route. But, resourceful as ever, Robert



discovered a small stopping place that would serve our needs. We did not mind that it was inside a supermarket, but became anxious that it contained only a single toilet. However, in true Mechanics style we formed an orderly queue and resisted the urge to batter the door to make the occupant hurry up. Afterwards, Robert met us back at the coach, checking that nobody was left behind desperately trying to unlock the toilet door.

As the sun continued to shine we arrived in Cromer and after instructions from Robert to arrive back on time we walked down the steep slope from the coach park towards town with its landmark church and noted pier. After crossing the permanent traffic jam weaving through the town centre, we made our way along roads lined with gift shops, cafés and ice-cream parlours where we felt conspicuous mingling with crowds wearing thin T-shirts, sun hats and shorts..

Later, we found ourselves at the old town hall now converted into an Antiques Centre. When Viv told the owner that she collects small ducks, he disappeared, soon returning with three of them. "No charge to you", he said as he gave them to her. "Great place Cromer!", thought Viv as we crossed the road to another antiques shop. Inside she found a beautiful duck for sale which she couldn't resist buying. Walking down zig-zag paths from the cliff tops we arrived at the sandy beach with its gentle waves to see childen building sandcastles. Seriously in need of refreshment, we soon found a restaurant high above the beach, where a lift took us up to the top floor with views of the sea. On our return to the coach, Robert counted us aboard to make sure no one had been left behind, and on the drive home a blazing sunset completed the day. We had been well looked after by Robert who, together with our excellent driver, made the Cromer visit a happy occasion despite the number of hold-ups we encountered on the long journey.

Dennis Apple

GROUP MEETINGS (please check with group Contacts)

Friends of Nottingham Museums: Janet Lievesley: 0115 9221734 Tues 17 Oct: Bob Massey, 'Pints and Pubs' - a History

Nottm Writers' Club: All welcome! Contact Carol: 0115 9817661 October meeting on Fri 27nd October

Dickens Fellowship, Contact: Kathy Powis: 0115 9845375 Next meetings: October 5th and 19th, at 2.00pm

Nottm Shakespeare Society: Sandra Appleton: 0115 9256551 10 Oct, 7pm: President's Talk: Shakespeare &the Cost of Living Crisis 24 Oct, 10.30am: Reading: The Merchant of Venice

Nottingham Probus Club, Robin West: 0115 9164774. 18 Oct: Kathy Powis, 'The Mary Rose'

The STITCH CLUB meets fortnightly on Mondays, 1.30pm October meetings: 2nd, 16th & 30th. Jenny Parker, 0115 9206423 Oddfellows Friendship Group: Games, Speakers, Dominoes etc. Meeting: xxOct: Karen Pye-Smith 07921821866 www.oddfellows.co.uk

Nottm Branch, The National Trust: Irene Milburn 0115 9812267 Next meetings on: 4th and 18th October

National Federation of Occupational Pensioners (NFOP) October meetings: 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th. Phil Wilson - 0115 8752346

Gardening Club: for information, please see the Noticeboard

Chris Alton would be happy to do sewing alterations for members, in aid of The Mechanics. Please ask Chris next time you see her. Thank you!

PS - Have you ever thought of leaving a legacy to The Mechanics in your will? This gesture would be much appreciated and would help secure our future in an uncertain world. Further details from Adam, on 0115 9417353. Thank you!!

Council Matters - A Visit to Ipswich Institute

For some time the Council of Management and Adam have been thinking about the long-term survival of Nottingham Mechanics Institute (NMI). At its most recent meeting in September much of the agenda was devoted to the Manager's report of a fact-finding visit to Ipswich Institute, formerly Ipswich Mechanics Institute (founded 1824) by four Nottingham staff and Council members.



Ipswich Institute looked at its future and the changes it needed to make a few years ago. It now offers a lending library, an "extensive programme of leisure learning courses, talks and trips." It has two cafes, employs 6 full-time and 4 part-time staff and opens Monday to Saturday from 9am to 4pm. New members are charged £70 (individual) or £114.00 (household) annually.

Before Covid (2020) Ipswich Institute had a membership of 200. Today it stands at over 2000. This has happened because only those with membership can attend day-time courses. They offer a variety of these including art and art history, languages, fitness, yoga, chess and bridge, literature, history and film. Costs range from £40 to £79 for a 10 or 12 week course. Day Talks (similar to Curtius) are held once or twice monthly and entry is £6.

The four who travelled to Ipswich enjoyed an informative visit with lunch in the cafe at £10 per head. They found a lot to encourage them there and, perhaps, a way forward. Nothing is going to change overnight at NMI but Council members now have plenty of fresh ideas to develop plans which will secure our future in Nottingham.

Kathie Price