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## **August 2017**

### **Holiday in Greenwich in 2018**

There will be a four night break on 18th May 2018 to Maritime Greenwich on a Bed and Breakfast basis. There is a variety of restaurants and eateries in close proximity to the hotel for other meals.

A full itinerary includes a City cruise on the Thames, a visit to the Cutty Sark, a local guide will give us a walking tour of Greenwich ending at the National Maritime Museum then some free time to explore at leisure. [See web site](#) for full details.

Booking for this holiday is on 22nd September 2017, between 9.00-11.30 in the Marriot room, Sandbach Library.

### **Social Events**

Tickets are still available for the following events:

- Chatsworth Country Fair on Fri 1st Sept Ticket price £30
- Sunset Boulevard on Wed 1st Nov Ticket price £34
- Miss Saigon at the Palace Theatre Manchester on Thursday matinee 12th April 2018 Price £50
- Worcester Christmas Fayre Friday 1st Dec @ £12.50 per ticket

NB There are still some refunds to be collected from the cancelled Funny Girl trip

Call Alice on 765856 for information or call at the U3A desk in Sandbach library on the 2<sup>nd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of every month from 9.30 - 11.30 am to buy a ticket.

### **Group Sign-up Day 30 Aug 2017**

Members who have not already committed to a group in the 2017 – 2018 year can sign up for one or more groups on 30 August. To minimise congestion, it will be helpful if existing members pay their renewal fee beforehand. The U3A desk in Sandbach library opens on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month from 9.30 - 11.30 am or you can drop your renewal letter with a cheque and S.A.E in the U3A box in Sandbach library. The main purpose of this event is to allow members to find out about and join groups. New members will be able to join Sandbach U3A and

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#### **To contact Sandbach U3A**

Phone: 0844 58 60670 (Calls cost 5p/min. Leave a short message and we will ring you back)

Email: [SandbachU3A@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:SandbachU3A@hotmail.co.uk)

Newsletter items should be sent to [newsfeed@sandbachu3a.org.uk](mailto:newsfeed@sandbachu3a.org.uk) or by text message to 07929 599026 by the end of the third week of each month.

existing members will be able to renew their annual membership, although it would be helpful if members renew beforehand.

Please be aware that the car park at the Wesley Centre is very small. Anyone driving to the event should use the car parks in Chapel Street, Westfields or at Waitrose.

## **AGM and List of Groups for the Year 2017 - 2018**

We habitually send a mailshot in August to each member household with information about the AGM. We have taken the opportunity to include a printed sheet listing all the groups that are planned. This year the AGM will be combined with the members' meeting on 6 November and, as a result, the mailshot will go out in October. Since that will be too late to usefully issue the list of groups to members, a paper list of the groups will not be included.

However, all is not lost. As soon as the list of groups has been compiled it will be loaded to the Sandbach U3A website and a copy will be posted on the Sandbach U3A noticeboard in Sandbach library. A copy will also be available at the U3A desk in Sandbach library on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month from 9.30 - 11.30 am. You may also obtain a copy of the list from the Group Sign-up Day, where leaders will be available to answer questions.

## **Cruise the Manchester Ship Canal**

Two coaches took our party to Salford Quays where our cruise ship was waiting for us. As we left the Media City buildings behind us, we entered the first of the five locks we negotiated to drop 60 feet to the level of Liverpool. After the lock the canal scenery changed from new buildings and decaying dockside to a rural waterway lined by trees. The canal is a superb environment for birds and one of the birders on board counted 39 species. Herons are especially numerous but kingfishers flashed in front of the ship three times.

The canal incorporated any streams and rivers that were in its way and the Mersey actually comes in for a while before leaving on the other side. However it is not just a drainage ditch; big ships do still use the canal and more developments are planned to move containerised goods. An onboard guide gives information about the canal's history and points out items of interest the ship passes. From her I learned that the medical officer for the canal construction project was Dr Robert Jones. Those of you who have had a new hip or knee in Oswestry hospital will recognise that the hospital there was named after him.

Anyone who intends to take the cruise should take warm clothing; the day was hot and sunny but, as the ship moved along, the temperature dropped and you need a warm top out on deck especially in the Mersey estuary.

One of the sights the guide pointed out was the new bridge being built between Runcorn and Widnes and we had a splendid view of it as the coach driver became a victim of the confusing new roads built in Runcorn to approach it. In spite of the U-turns in Runcorn, it was another super trip from Alice. Sadly the pictures below show none of the birds we saw except the Liver Bird.



Kevin Dean