

Forthcoming Monthly Speaker Meetings

Monthly speaker meetings are held at 1:45pm in Burton Joyce and Bulcote Village Hall, Trent Lane, Burton Joyce, Nottingham NG14 5EY. They are followed by refreshments, tea/coffee and biscuits. It's an ideal opportunity to socialise, sign up for Groups and chat to friends. Members should arrive in good time as latecomers can make it difficult for others to hear the Announcements.

TUESDAY 9th JULY – DAVID SKILLEN - “BRITAIN’S BLOODIEST BATTLE” THE BATTLE OF TOWTON, 1461

Another excellent speaker, David is making his third visit to Burton Joyce. Ask people to name famous battles in Britain and you get Hastings, Bosworth and occasionally Waterloo! Yet few have heard of Towton, one of the most decisive battles of the Wars of the Roses and, possibly, the bloodiest battle on British soil.

On a bitterly cold day in March 1461 the Houses of York and Lancaster struggled for the Crown on a snow-covered plateau in Yorkshire. Here fought Kings, Dukes, Lords and ordinary men. And here they died. In this talk we will learn about the two kings who fought, walk the Bloody Meadow and cross the Bridge of Bodies and see how one Yorkist Lord had “a cunning plan”.



TUESDAY 13th AUGUST – ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING FOLLOWED BY A TALK BY NINA DAUBAN, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF NOTTINGHAM COMMUNITY FOUNDATION, WHOSE SUBJECT IS “WHAT YOU DIDN’T KNOW ABOUT CHARITIES”.

NCF was established in 1997 as Sherwood Coalfield Foundation and changed its name in 2001 to Nottinghamshire Community Foundation (NCF). It is a local registered charity set up to encourage philanthropy for the benefit of the people of Nottinghamshire. NCF acts as a ‘broker’ on a flexible low cost basis between people and organisations who care about their local community. NCF has distributed over £25m of grant funding to voluntary and community groups in Nottinghamshire since 2001 to over 3,500 community groups connecting people who care with causes that matter.

ELECTION

There's a very important election soon.

Our Annual General Meeting takes place on Tuesday August 9th. Committee members serve for a term of one year but may then be re-elected for up to three years in the same role, and for up to nine years in total. I'm concerned that several current committee members are approaching that nine-year limit, at which they will have to step down.

For Burton Joyce & District u3a, having a committee is essential. Without a committee, we cannot function, and without key roles like the Chairperson, Treasurer, and Secretary, we cannot legally exist. I know that many of us have experienced countless meetings throughout our careers—many of which were unproductive or frustrating—and might be hesitant to join another committee. However, our committee meetings are different; they are friendly, supportive, and focused on doing what's best for BJ&D u3a.

There is a humorous saying that a committee should consist of three people, two of whom are absent. And Sir Alec Issigonis (who designed the Mini and disliked teamwork) famously said that a camel is a horse designed by a committee. We don't believe we've designed a camel. We believe our organisation is a good one that benefits its members, and we want to see it continue to grow, to succeed, and to be enjoyed by all.

But we need more committee members to replace those who will have to leave their roles, individuals who are willing to give a little of their time to ensure BJ&D u3a continues to thrive. It's always easy to assume that "someone else" will step up, but what if everyone thought that?

Please consider joining our committee. You can observe a committee meeting without any obligation to get a sense of what it's like. We meet approximately every six weeks for a couple of hours to discuss ways to ensure BJ&D u3a runs smoothly and to explore how we can improve. We need active members like you. For more information or to discuss joining, please contact me on 07581 456253.



- Alan Comerie, Vice-Chair



David Falkner is very kindly willing to organise a trip to The Black Country Museum - <https://bclm.com/> - early in September, subject to there being sufficient interest to make it viable. Whilst all members will receive an email about the outing here's a little information about what you can expect. The museum is a recreation of the worlds first industrial landscape, situated on a 26-acre site of former industrial land. Over fifty authentic shops, houses and workshops that have been carefully reconstructed to preserve the character of a region whose manufacturers brought worldwide fame to Black Country towns. Meet and chat to the costumed shop keepers and pub landlords to experience the original sights, smells and sounds of the past.

The outing date is Wednesday the 4th September. Leaving by coach at 8:15 a.m. from Burton Joyce, to arrive at the Museum about 10:15 a.m. Lunch and refreshments can be purchased either at one of the two pubs, café, or the fish and chip shop, or of course you could take your own packed lunch, and the coach will leave the Dudley Museum site for the return journey at 4:00 p.m.

"THE MARY ROSE – ONE MOMENT IN TIME"

We had a very interesting talk by a patron for the Mary Rose Trust on Tuesday May 14th. She spoke about the life of the famous 16th Century Tudor warship, Henry VIII's flagship, from its construction in 1510, active service fighting the French, the sinking in 1545 and dramatic raising from the Solent in 1982, to its conservation and restoration in a new state-of-the-art museum surrounded by 19,000 artefacts in Portsmouth Historic Dockyard. In case you missed it, I have been told the talk is also being delivered at a meeting of the Southwell Archaeology Group on Thursday 19th September at 7.30 p.m. in Southwell library, King Street, Southwell, and to the Friends of Nottingham Museums on 17th December at 2 p.m. at the Nottingham Mechanics North Sherwood Street. The cost of the latter is £3 for visitors. I am not aware whether there is a charge at Southwell, so it may be as well to contact the Archaeology group beforehand.



"NEWSBITES"

The Nottinghamshire Network of U3As produces a bi-monthly publication, "Newsbites", covering what's happening around Nottinghamshire. Please click [HERE](#) to view the June edition.

NEWS FROM OUR GROUPS

bju3a.co.uk/groups

International Dining

David Falkner, Group Coordinator reports that, *"We had a great night at 'The Saracens Head' hotel last evening (26th May), firstly meeting with a drink in the sunny courtyard, then all enjoying a nicely presented meal, efficiently served by most polite waitresses, in a professional way. The staff were pleased to see us there, and nothing was too much trouble. We had a 'special' 2 or 3 course set menu, (£20-£25) or the A la Carte menu to choose from, all meals at reasonable prices. I think that we will certainly have a repeat booking there, going from members' comments. This restaurant feel quiet for a couple, but as a group we found the atmosphere to be engaging."*

To join the International Dining group, please contact David Falkner on 07860 502479.

Political History

Just a small number of members attended the Political History group meeting on Tuesday May 25th, enjoying the warm weather outdoors. The topic this month was comparing the Ramsay MacDonald Labour government of 1924 with Labour policies of 2024. Born in Lossiemouth in 1866, Ramsay MacDonald was elected an MP in 1906 and became the first ever Labour Prime Minister in January 1924, holding the top role as well as being Foreign Secretary.

To join the Political History group, please contact David Yates, on 07929 726583.



Wine Tasting

Twenty-eight wine-lovers enjoyed a sociable "bring-a-bottle" event on Wednesday 26th in the garden of one of our members. Chilli con carne was served along with a very hot (but thankfully optional) chilli sauce, rice and nachos, as well as tiramisu and trifle puddings.

Unfortunately the weather turned much cooler that evening and several people made trips home to collect sweaters, shawls, and throws, but it was a very enjoyable night nonetheless. This group meets on the 4th Thursday of the month. If you'd like to join us, please contact Alan Comerie on 07581 456253.