

Welcome everyone to the first Call Newsletter – Spring 2020



My name is Kate Hart and I have the pleasure of being the Editor of the CALL newsletter. I am the Chairman of the group in St Ives. My contact details are at the end of this Newsletter and I would really like you all to use this Newsletter to tell everyone in the CALL group what you have been doing since we became independent of the WEA. As you will see this is the Spring Newsletter and we have all completed our first independent course and could have started our second course if you are running them.

Vera is so pleased that everyone is so enthusiastic since the change. All groups say that their numbers are growing and that there is a real buzz within the groups. The general opinion is that the funding change, in a way, forced the decision for groups to become independent and the general opinion is **‘why didnt we do it sooner!’**

As you will see this is the Spring edition of the newsletter. As we have all just finished our first course and have all breathed a huge sigh of relief. I have received three Newsletters so far which are included in this newsletter, but I would really appreciate it if branches could send me their branch newsletters so that other branches can see how everyone has been getting on.

This newsletter does not have a lot of information at the moment, but it would be good if we could all see how other branches are getting on.

Also, if you have had a really interesting course please let me know as that other branches would, I am sure be interested.

I hear that the branch in Ely have a really interesting course about Japan and the tutor received a round of applause at the end of each session. Along those lines could you please let me know what courses you have booked so that I can include this information so that other branches could then contact those tutors whose courses they are interested in.

The CALL website

There is a lot of information on the CALL website where you can enter information about your branches upcoming courses, and this will enable potential students to contact you about courses they are interested in.

You can also find information about Tutors with their contact details so you can contact them if you are interested in any of their courses.

The web address is : www.call-ed.org.uk and I would really encourage you to go in and have a rummage about.

Now for branch news.

For those branches who sent in a newsletter, thank you. I am sure that all the other branches would love to hear what every one is doing course wise and their thoughts about the enormous changes that have happened so I would encourage you to send your newsletter to me so that I can publish it in the news newsletter. If you do send newsletters in could I please ask that you send is as a Word document, thank you. That' s enough of me. Now for the Newsletters.

HEMALL Newsletter - Hemingford Grey

This is the first newsletter as part of our new group, Hemingford Adult Lifelong Learning, and we are very pleased to report that we have got away to an encouraging start.

We have had two courses running this term. On Monday afternoons Ian Chambers has fascinated with the story of the early European settlers in America and leading up to the causes of the Revolution.

On Wednesday mornings Ges Hartley challenged us to think about what we consider to be beautiful, which produced some lively discussions.

After Christmas we have two more courses which we hope will appeal to present and future members.

Monday afternoons, commencing January 13th, 2.00 -3.30pm with coffee/tea available from 1.45pm.

“From Sleeping Giant to Superpower “with Mike Muncaster

After the end of the American Civil War and the period of reconstruction the United States began to realise the enormous industrial potential which could transform the country

into a dominant world power. We will trace the history of America's emergence as a superpower in the second half of the Twentieth Century

Wednesday mornings commenting January 15th, 10-11.30am with coffee/tea available from 9.45am.

“Famous Russian Women”

With Marina Burrell

Many remarkable women made a considerable contribution to Russian history and culture. An empress, a diplomat, a hussar, a poet, a ballet dancer, a spy and a pilot - they all had extraordinary lives and played their part in historical and political contexts.

Both tutors are well known to us and we know we are in for a real treat.

If you would like to join either course, it would be a great help if you could contact either myself or Sarah

I am pleased to tell you that we already have 3 out of 4 of our tutors booked for 2020-2021!

GLEE – Godmanchester Newsletter Spring 2020

All Change

We've been hosting adult education classes in Godmanchester since starting in the vicarage in 1976. WEA provided the tutors, the insurance, the administration systems, the brand. We provided the venue and the volunteers. It worked well for four decades, but the SWIFT changes made by WEA were challenging and upset the routines we'd evolved. We felt undervalued and got disillusioned. When we learned last summer that there would be no further financial support for Cambridgeshire WEA, like all the other branches we had to decide what we wanted for the future. We decided to take the plunge and become independent. At first this was a daunting prospect, and we had concerns about how to get tutors, students and money. The committee chose a name, devised a constitution and opened a bank account. We used personal contacts (strictly in accordance with GDPR!) to let potential students know about our plans, and booked speakers for two launch events and a five week course in autumn 2019. Students paid in advance - at lower fees than the old WEA rates - and after paying our speakers, hire charges and public liability insurance, we had money in the bank. We've now booked tutors for the foreseeable future, and have a mailing list of supportive students. All of this is just background to the point of this piece. In the last days of WEA Godmanchester Branch, the officers and committee were disheartened and glum. But now that we can run independent courses, in a way that suits us and our students, we

have regained our enthusiasm and are re-energised. We are Godmanchester Learning (Educational Experiences) and we look forward to the future with GLEE!

CLASI

Continuing Education for Adults in St Ives

Like all the Cambridgeshire branches of the WEA all of us in St Ives were very concerned about the implications of the funding changes that were going to be introduced by the WEA, the primary ones were the cost of courses and how we find tutors. We had toyed with the idea of 'going it alone' a while ago but decided to stick with it.

The changes proposed and talking to other people including the Great Gransden Chairman and Vera [bless her] made all our members agree that going independent was the best thing we could do. It was the best decision we ever made.

In September Andrew Sankey returned and we all learnt about Art and Craft Gardens. I will never look at my garden in the same way again!

In January Ian Chambers, a tutor we hadn't had in St Ives before and we are in the middle of an incredibly interesting course 'Native American Indians' 'Very depressing in places to see how one group of people could treat another group but both thought provoking and very interesting. Highly recommended.

We are only running 2 courses now as the course after Easter often clashes with our members holidays.

Our next course starts in September and is being delivered by Mike Muncaster. It is his new course called 'Elizabethan ~England' and all the group are really looking forward to it. Dates are on the CALL website.

We have also booked courses up to 2022 and this information will be added to the website shortly.

BLG - Buckden Learning Group

The inaugural course run by the new Buckden Learning Group (BLG) got off to a positive start with 44 enrolments. Liz Carter provided a series of enlightening lectures on 'Victorian Crime & Punishment' that provoked stimulating discussions during the

refreshment breaks. The term concluded on 3rd December with a lunch. Subject to demand, the course will be followed up by a trip in the spring to Lincoln to visit the Victorian prison (now a tourist attraction).

Starting on January 14th, Marina Burrell will regale us with tales of ‘Famous Russian Women in World History & Culture’ . Various women (e.g. a princess, a diplomat, a ballerina, an opera singer and a terrorist) will be considered, with lives full of hardships and pleasures, excitement and bewildering twists. How were they affected by diverse historical and political contexts? Find out what was extraordinary about these women.

In April a Study Day will be run entitled ‘The Light Ages’ , telling the story of the transfer of scientific knowledge from ancient Greece to Medieval Europe via Islamic (Arabic) philosophers.

Having made a good start, the BLG Committee is now planning a range of courses from September 2020 onwards.

ALCONBURY STUDY GROUP - UPDATE DECEMBER 2019

Alconbury Study Group (ASG) was formed in September 2019 and has had an exhilarating and informative first term.

Our autumn programme consisted of 9 different talks covering: dips into history from the Iron Age onwards, a fascinating insight into work by the Plant Heritage Society and development of the Great Fen project and how to make a bronze bust, while the tales of open water swimming at the World Championships in Russia were positively chilling! We rounded the term off with some seasonal readings and a hilarious rendition of an alternative 12 Days of Christmas!

For spring 2020, we have arranged a 10-week course of study on **“900 years of British Agriculture” with Mike Muncaster**, which started on Tuesday 14 January 2020.

I would welcome any comments about this first CALL Newsletter and please remember to visit the CALL website to add information about your forthcoming courses, find out information about tutors and courses and general information.

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