



Riverside Journal - September 2011

STOP PRESS: Responding to numerous requests, The **Riverside Revealed** event at Wellington College has now been opened to a limited number of day delegates, for the convenience of those who for whatever reason are unable to attend for the whole duration. The rates are:-

Wednesday 26th October: £20. This includes coffee/tea on arrival, all talks in the afternoon, introduction to and tour of the exhibition, two-course dinner and attendance at the Riverside Soiree in the evening.

Thursday, 27th October: £40 This includes choice of morning activities (with coffee mid-morning for those on site), two-course lunch, talks in the afternoon, tea/coffee, two-course dinner and participation in the Riverside quiz.

Friday, 28th October: £20 This includes morning talks, group photo, mid-morning refreshment break and two-course lunch.

Please note that these days **MUST** be booked and paid for in advance. Wellington will not admit anyone "on the day". We are sorry that, for administrative reasons, we cannot accept any variations on the above prices – e.g. there is no reduction if you cannot stay for dinner etc. Please register by **10th October** at the latest. Cheques should be made payable to "U3A TVN" and sent to Agnes Budagowska, 3 Draycott Close, Park North, Swindon, SN3 2RN together with your name, address or email, telephone number, U3A branch and the day you wish to attend. Queries: agnes-bud@supanet.com or 01793 615501

Make the most of the forecast for an Indian Summer this week and secure one of the last few places at **A Wildlife Activities Day** which is being organised by Wokingham U3A on Saturday, 1st October at 10am at Dinton Pastures Multi-Activity Centre, between Reading and Wokingham. There will be two illustrated talks in the morning, from local experts, on bird recognition and on insect-life. These will be followed in the afternoon by Guided Walks using the bird hides on site, and gathering insects. The cost is £5 per member, including coffee on arrival, talks and guided walks. Bring your own picnic lunch.

Enquiries and bookings: Patsy Thornton, 01344 774812 patsy@thorntac.co.uk

The Thames Barrier – An Illustrated Talk Organised by Wokingham U3A on Tuesday, 22nd November at 2.00 p.m. at St. Paul's Parish Rooms, Reading Road (A329) Wokingham, RG41 1EH This is ½ mile north-west of the town centre and there is free parking on site – including two disabled spaces.

Douglas Irvine B.Sc., C.Eng., F.I.C.E. is uniquely qualified to talk about the Thames Barrier being a Chartered civil engineer and Fellow of the Institution of Civil Engineers. He has worked for both consulting engineers and contractors on a wide range of projects. The contractors included Tarmac Construction Ltd., which was one of the three partners forming the



consortium that built the Thames Barrier. He was Technical Services Manager for TCL and had a particular interest in the temporary works designed by the consortium and the ground conditions encountered during construction. He has been the author of a number of technical papers including the construction of the shiplift at Rosyth dockyard, and a section for the Civil Engineer's Reference Book. Photo: Len Smith

Historically, London has been a major seaport and records show that it has been flooded by the sea on several occasions. Following the disastrous flooding caused by a surge tide in 1953, works were

constructed to protect London in the future. The main features of the works were a movable barrier across the Thames at Woolwich Reach, together with bank raising and other works downstream. The cost is £2.50 per person, which includes a cream tea.

Any questions or requests for further details should be addressed to the Chairman of the meeting, Les Roland ldroland@gmail.com 0118 978 0092 (N.B. not bookings)

Booking and payment. Please book as soon as possible and send your cheque for £2.50 made payable to **U3A Thames Valley Network** to: Mrs. P. A. Thornton, 6 Highway, Crowthorne, Berkshire, RG45 6HE (queries: patsy@thorntac.co.uk) Please give your name and your U3A plus a telephone number and email address. *If you require acknowledgement and do not have email, please enclose an s.a.e.*

The Big Walking Day in Abingdon on Wednesday, 21st September was a great success thanks to the hard work and excellent organisation of Anne Gould and her team of helpers from Abingdon U3A. Ian Clarkson led a group of happy long walkers from



Anne Gould

Dorchester to Abingdon to complete the last part of the project to walk the whole Thames Path from source to Windsor. Well done to everyone who took part in these walks. A short circular walk around the Abbey Millstream, Abingdon Lock and Swift Ditch, which had one of the earliest locks on the Thames, was also undertaken in the morning by another group enjoying the good weather before everyone met at the Crown and

Thistle for lunch.



Members on the Circular Walk

Anne then led a fascinating tour of the Abbey buildings, the Guildhall and the churches of St Nicholas and St Helen's, as well as the Alms Houses. It was all so interesting she had great trouble moving us



Gathering in front of Abingdon's unique chimney

all on and most people decided they would certainly return another day as there was so much of interest to see and study in detail. Thank you Anne for sharing your obvious love of England's oldest permanently inhabited settlement.

Photos: Patsy Thornton, Mary Langham & Susie Berry



The interior of St Helen's Church

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| | Patsy Thornton (Wokingham) | patsy@thorntac.co.uk | 01344 774812 |
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www.u3atvnetwork.org.uk

Please pass this Journal on to other U3A members who may be interested. Remember, not everyone has email. Thank you.