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Newsletter

March/April 2022

Dear All,

I hope you are all keeping well. I’m just going to try to fill you in a little with what’s been happening over the past few weeks.

**March Meeting**

We had a tremendous attendance at this meeting, it was good to see our group really flourishing. As well as the usual chatting, coffee/tea drinking and biscuit eating, we were lucky enough to have a talk from Siobhan Goodwin who is the Community Engagement Manager for the Bishop’s Palace. She was able to tell us a little of the history of the Palace and the Cathedral and their role in the local community. The Palace, which has been home to the bishops of Bath and Wells for over 800 years, was built by Bishop Jocelyn on land given by King John in the 1200s. Bishop Beckington gave us clean drinking water sourced from the wells in the grounds of the Palace and it can still be seen trickling down both sides of the High Street. The moat was built during the mid-1300s as was Vicars Close, which is the oldest purely residential street with original buildings surviving intact in Europe.

The Palace Trust is a charity which now looks to how it can benefit the community and ensure the future of the Palace. They reach out to engage with visitors and schools. It is through this that we were able to secure the room in which we meet.

We’re looking forward to meeting with Siobhan again in July when we’ll be having an escorted ‘well-being’ walk around the Bishop’s Palace gardens. To this end we have been given some tickets for the grounds which we can use all year.

**April Meeting – Friday 8th April**

We’re looking forward to seeing you all back at the Bishop’s Palace for our next meeting on Friday, 8th April. It’s been good to see our numbers gradually increasing over the last few months and we’re always happy to welcome new members.

Unfortunately, the speaker for this month has not been able to attend so we’ll just have to spend more time talking, eating and drinking! It came too late to engage another speaker but, of course, if you have any hidden talents, interests, collections or hobbies that you’d like to talk to us about, that would be very welcome. The good news is that for the May meeting we are going to have a talk about fire safety in the home from the community fire service people. They will be telling us about ways of keeping ourselves safe from the dangers of accidental fires and will be happy to answer questions.

**March ‘Golf Club’ lunch**

Once again, we had a lovely lunch at the Wells Golf Club. Thanks again to Geoff for liaising with the chef at the club who produced some delicious steak, chips and peas. We’ll probably be having another meal there in late April, but I’ll let you know more about another time when I know more.

**Email address**

As you will probably have noticed this newsletter, and for that matter all future communications, has come from the new Heads Up Connect email address. It’s not that I minded using my own personal email address but as that’s in a different name to my married name it could get confusing and there was a danger that communications between members and myself could get lost in the mass of advertising and general junk that seems to find its way into my inbox.

If any of you have some thoughts on any speakers that you would like to see at our meetings do let us know and we’ll try to get in touch with them.

I’m really looking forward to seeing you all on Friday, 8th April at the Bishop’s Palace.

Best Wishes,

Jane King.