

September 2019

The next meeting will be on

TUESDAY 3RD SEPTEMBER

10.00 am at The Arena

Our Speaker will be

DAVID SKILLEN

With the story of

THE BENTLEY BOYS

Doors open at 9.40 am

***** IMPORTANT *****

Please note: All those attending the monthly meetings must sign in at either of the two desks at the entrance to the meeting hall of The Arena. This is necessary so that we know how many have attended and, even more important, **it is required to comply with fire regulations**. If you arrive early, before the signing-in sheet is available, please make sure you return to the desk later to sign in.

Groups Round Up

History 2

One of our members was returning from a visit to the East coast and stopped off in Alford, where he noticed a plaque recording that Thomas Paine, author of *The Rights of Man* and *The Age of Reason*, had been an excise officer at the Customs Office from 1764 to 1765. This stimulated research into this person who lived from 1737 to 1809.



Thomas Paine was an English-born American political activist, philosopher, political theorist, and revolutionary. He authored the two most influential pamphlets at the start of the American Revolution and inspired the patriots in 1776 to declare independence from Great Britain

Paine moved to Paris to become involved with the French Revolution, but the chaotic political climate turned against him, and he was arrested and jailed for crimes against the country

He was also an engineer, scientist and inventor. Thomas Paine designed the Sunderland Bridge over the Wear River at Wearmouth, England. It was patterned after the model he made for the River Bridge at Philadelphia in 1787. He was a capable inventor and invented, among other things, the smokeless candle.



This was an interesting insight into this Thetford born man who became involved in revolutions both in America and France.

We watched a video entitled *The Unheard Story of the Sistine Chapel*.

The Sistine Chapel is a large chapel in the Vatican City. It is renowned for its Renaissance art, especially the

ceiling painted by Michelangelo, from 1508 to 1512, which attracts more than 5 million visitors each year.

Michelangelo used bright colours, easily visible from the floor. On the lowest part of the ceiling he painted the ancestors of Christ. Above this he alternated male and female prophets, with Jonah over the altar. On the highest section, Michelangelo painted nine stories from the Book of Genesis. His figures showed the creation, Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden, and the Great Flood.

Michelangelo also painted his own portrait, on the flayed skin held by St Bartholomew.

The Pope had commissioned the work, but many Catholics felt that it was inappropriate for a place as sacred as the Pope's private chapel. They deemed the fresco outrageous, and more suitable for public baths or taverns than a chapel.

It was deemed disgraceful that in so sacred a place there should have been depicted all the nude figures, exposing themselves so shamefully. The disputed nudes were covered. The expression "fig leaf" remains to convey the covering up of an act or an object that is embarrassing or distasteful.

The video gave us the opportunity to closely view the paintings which must be difficult to do by eye from the floor of the chapel.

Our next video followed a Roman theme.

Rome was founded in 753BC by its first king, Romulus. It grew into a rich and powerful city during the next few hundred years.

By AD 117 the Roman Empire included the whole of Italy, all the lands around the Mediterranean and much of Europe, including England, Wales and parts of Scotland.

In order to control their large empire, the Romans developed important ideas about law and government. They developed the best army in the world at that time, and ruled by force. They had fine engineering, and built roads, cities, and outstanding buildings.

We discussed how the occupation of England by the Romans had changed our own country.

Groups Round Up continued

History 2 continued

We finished by seeing how pirates such as Bluebeard, Nurse, Florence Nightingale and other rebels and sometimes renegade designers have influenced the way that we have progressed.

Janet Joy

Garden Group July meeting

The Garden Group met at Glen and Geoff's garden in West Hallam for the annual potato competition weigh-in. This is always a very popular event and we had seventeen entries. The results from growing one seed potato in a pot ranged from four ounces to Barbara Green's amazing four and a half pounds. As you can see every pot is carefully scrutinised for every potato before being weighed. Thank you Colin!



The group enjoyed the delights of the garden with its many interesting plants and garden rooms. It is a lovely place to sit and enjoy a chat and of course tea and cake by the cooling fountain, on the patio or in a hidden corner.

Health warning!

A week after this event I had a small heart attack which has resulted in my being in hospital since then, first in Derby Royal and now in Nottingham City awaiting a bypass op. Looking back I ignored symptoms that should have made me make that doctor's appointment. So my advice is make the doctor's appointment you keep putting off, just to get checked out.

Anne Wood 16/08/19

History 1 July Meeting

Our July meeting was an outside visit to Pickford's House in Derby. Built by Joseph Pickford as a Georgian family home, it also doubled as an entertaining house to impress prospective clients for his Architectural business. The group was conducted around by a very enthusiastic guide. Following this visit in the morning, the group intended to visit the Derby Museum. However due to the foul weather the Museum lost out to the pub!

Mike Stone

August Meeting

In August we had a visit from speaker Keith Oseman, who talked about the role of Ilkeston solicitor, Paul Robinson, and especially his wife, Hope, after the capture of a large number of British and Empire soldiers in the fall of Singapore in World War 2. Paul was a major in the Fifth Sherwood Foresters and was captured with the others, soon after arriving in the colony. Almost nothing was heard of them for up to three years.

Hope took it upon herself, when word of atrocities came out, to talk to two returned soldiers and she wrote about them. This started an avalanche of mail to her from all parts of the country. Her information gave comfort to many. This was an excellent presentation and will feature later in the year at Erewash Museum.

Colin Lee

Dining Out

Our August outing was to The Rose and Crown at Morley for an excellent meal. We were a smaller group than we usually are, due to holidays and grandparent duties. However this did not deter from our enjoyment, as we were able to have a good old chinwag with everyone.



Roger Bradley

Groups Round Up continued

Rambling

Our August walk was led by Carol and Denise. This was their first venture as walk leaders and they led us ably on their route around the Belper countryside on a lovely sunny day. We started from Makeney, passing through Milford on our way to Belper. There we paused in the Memorial Garden to view the sculptures installed for the end of WW1 commemoration last year, as well as the beautiful flowerbeds.



One of the locals kindly took our photograph so for once I'm included. Can you spot me?



We continued through the town and over the river by the River Gardens. Leaving behind the iconic East Mill we returned to the country paths and eventually took the route beside the river back into Milford. We concluded our walk at the Hollybush Inn at Makeney for our customary post-walk refreshments and a good natter. Thankfully a table had been reserved for us in the conservatory, where we only had to share our drinks and butties with one wasp.

We walk on the third Wednesday of each month and our walks are usually about 5.5–6.5 miles in duration over varying terrain and often including several stiles on the way. If you would like further information please contact me via the website or at the monthly open meetings, where I am usually serving the tea.

Dennis Henshaw

What's happening in September?

Autumn Footprints

Amber Valley and Erewash

Walking Festival

14th—29th September

A choice of 42 free guided walks and informative talks with something for all abilities

The walks are graded from *Easy Access*, suitable for wheelchair users and push-chairs, to *Strenuous* for experienced country walkers of above average fitness

Booking is recommended for all walks and essential for some.

To book Tel: Shipley Country park on:
01629 533991

For information on all the walks visit
www.autumnfootprints.co.uk

What's happening in September?

Derby Festé

**Friday 27th September and
Saturday 28th September**

A two-day festival which features performers from across Europe in a celebration of street entertainment including dance, contemporary circus, music and comedy

Street Performers will entertain free of charge in the Market Place, the Cathedral Quarter, St Peters Quarter, The Spot and Intu Derby

A ticketed performance of *Malaya* by Close-Act Theatre will take place at the Bass Recreation Ground at 8.00 pm

The Catalan circus company, Los Galindos, will perform *UduL* on Cathedral Green. 90 tickets available for each of four one-hour shows, afternoon and early evening.

For information about all the performances at Derby Festé visit
www.derbyfeste.com

To book tickets Tel: 01332 370911 or online at
www.deda.uk.com

Derby Festé is produced and presented by Déda, Derby LIVE, QUAD and Derby Theatre in association with the Without Walls Touring Network Partnership

