



Wroxham and District
Membership Number: 962/940/13

Chairman: John Long, 01603 722254 Secretary: Jan Barrington 01603 712150

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Newsletter for JULY 2018

John Long opened the meeting at 2.30 welcoming everybody and introduced our speaker Pat Alker who was to speak to us about Ethiopia The Historic Route.

Ethiopia is a land locked country which used to be a part of Abyssynnia. Pat has set up Project Dukem which raises money for the education of HIV/Aids orphans in the area. The charity sends £5000 a year to fund the feeding of small children each school day of the year. When she visits she takes filled pencil cases for each of the children, whose family may have to choose between eating or buying a pencil. She also takes and distributes many more pens, pencil and soaps etc. They also run a safe place for sex workers and their babies, these girls are forced into this “work” with all the construction workers over there.

the Historic Route is in Northern Ethiopia and there has been tourism there since the sixteenth century. Axum contains a church built especially to house “The Ark of the Covenant” which not seen by anybody and is looked after by a priest who lives in the church and only comes out on his death, Saint George is not only the patron saint of England he is the patron saint of the Ethiopians as well.

Men and women worship in separate churches and in the male churches the men have to stand the whole time and use prayer sticks for support as their services can last from 5.30am until midday.

The peoples wealth is their livestock which they corale at night and let out on the pastures during the day watched over by the young boys who therefore got no education This is improving a little now slowly as they are sending half the boys to school in the morning and swapping over to send the other half in the afternoon, at least this way they all get some teaching. Farming is still done in the ways we were using in the Middle ages there is no mechanisation. Camels are bred and exported to the Yemen bringing in some much needed money.

All the money raised by Pat helps to feed the children until they leave school at 14 when many get jobs courtesy of the Chinese.

A very interesting talk. Thank you Pat



At our General meeting on Tuesday 17th July our speaker will be Mike Weatherstone, and his subject is "Defensive Driving".

Mike is an ex-police traffic officer and now a professional driver risk assessor and advanced driver trainer for employers to help with their Health & Safety requirements. He is also qualified in cognitive behavioural therapy and specialises in helping people with driving related phobias to resume driving. He is the author of "The Art of Defensive Driving" and other books. His talk will explain many interesting and simple tips and techniques to stay safe on our roads and avoid accidents.

John thanked Pat and announced the Garden Party to be held in Brian's garden on July 13th at 6:00pm (you should have all received the invitation by now, J)

He also had to sadly announce the cancellation of the visit to Kensington Palace due to lack of interest. Sorry about this as some of us were looking forward to it. After tea and reports from some groups the meeting closed at 4:00pm.

Activities

Photography: We had an amazing time at our May meeting looking for creepy crawlies around parts of Wroxham that were unknown to some of us. They were not in good supply although the birds seem to have found some. However, we have some really good photos from our gardens.



Our June meeting was held at the Happisburgh Lifeboat Station where Bob the mechanic gave us a brilliant talk and time to take some rather good photos.



We don't have a theme for the month of July, but our regular meeting will be held at the Broads Museum, Poor's Staithe, Stalham NR12 9DA at our usual time of **2 pm on Friday 20th July**. It will cost £5 and we can have tea and a nibble at the Cafe.

During August we are making plans for our Open Day in September where we hope to show some really good photos, and Jan Barrington has agreed to hold the meeting at her home. Please contact me if you wish to join us. Mary Long 01603 722254

French Conversation table: weekly on **Thursdays 15.00 to 16.30** at Bijou Wine Bar (opposite Wroxham Station). We have a regular core of about 6 with people dropping in and out. We are comfortable with those who come just mainly to listen while they gain confidence. We encourage everyone to prepare a few words on a subject of their own choosing. It might be a question of vocabulary, or you could bring a photo or an interesting object. If you give me your email address I can let you know of any changes and I occasionally forward a snippet I have found on line. If I can't be there the regulars meet anyway. I don't teach as such, but give advice, help with vocabulary and suggest on-line methods such as *Duolingo*

which is free to for those who want to improve their French. *Venez nous rejoindre, vous serez les bienvenue(s)*. Jane Monks 01603 782496

Classical Music At present 9 or 10 people meet fortnightly on Wednesday afternoon to listen to all kinds of recordings presented by Brian or sometimes by members. The July meetings will be **4th and 18th July at 2.30 pm** at Brian's home, Prior Thatch, Beech Road, Wroxham, and there is room for more people if you wish to come. Brian Keane 01603 782774

Bird Watching and Bird Banter: We have missed Di while she has been away for a few months, but no doubt she will send an email round when she gets back to let us know what her plans are for July. Bird Watching usually takes place the first Saturday of the month with an expedition somewhere and Bird Banter when we chat about the lives of birds aided by books and videos on the third Friday of the month at Bouchon 10.30 - 12.

Lunch Out: Ten of us had a glorious day on May 25th at the Garden Kitchen at Hoveton Hall, sitting out in the courtyard enjoying lunch and watching a blue tit darting in and out of a hole in the wall close by us. Afterwards five of us went into the gardens and woods which were ablaze with azaleas, rhododendrons. See attached photos.



The June visit has yet to take place at Vera's Cafe at Meale's Nursery on the Stalham Road near Wayford Bridge on Friday 29th June at 12.30 pm, where they do a very good lunch.

Our date in July is **Friday 27th at 12.30 pm** when we will re-visit the Brittonia Cafe on Mousehold, Norwich. Be sure Corrie knows you are coming so that she can book. 01603 782755 candrmould@gmail.com

Evening Dining: The outing in July will be to the Filby Bridge Restaurant on Thursday 19th July at 6.30 pm Please let Maggi Flatman know if you would like to come 01603 783091

Poetry/Play Reading: With the difficulty in getting enough copies of plays to read, the group is at present turning its attention to poetry. You are encouraged to bring a poem you would like to read aloud and share with the group. The Group meets regularly on the first Tuesday of the month, which in July will be Tuesday 3rd July at 2 pm, and the new venue is The Horse and Groom in Tunstead. Jane Monks 01603 782496 jane@youatt.co.uk

The above group has acquired a Norfolk Library card in the name of Wroxham U3A which is available for any group which wants to use it. Apply to Jane.

History Group: On May 31st our history group brought along items/mememos/interesting facts of personal and historic interest to share with the group. These ranged from family history records, loved objects, through drawings of Norwich from the 18th century, historic shields to stories of Offa and his Dyke! Our next meeting is on July 28th (typing on 19/6) when we will be enjoying a conducted tour of the Cathedral. new members always welcome.

Our July meeting will be an end of term celebration (!)with lunch at 12:00 midday, at the Brittons Arms, Elm Hill. This suitably historic building, English Heritage now puts the date as early as 1347, is one of the few remaining timber framed thatched buildings to survive in the city, and the only building to survive the great fire of 1507.

Brenda 01603 738788

Frances 01603 737110

Painting: Liz Smith is prepared to revive the painting group and help aspiring painters from September. Liz would like to know now how many people might be interested so that she can consider time and venue, so please let her know soon. Presumably any painting medium. Liz Smith 01692 670468

