



Wroxham and District
Membership Number: 962/940/13

Chairman: John Long, 01603 722254

Secretary and Membership Secretary: Sue Badger 01603 737572

NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2017

General meeting

A Turkish Delight

In 1993, 50-year-old Jenny Gibbs was, by her own account, limited by her lack of life-experience, with no aspiration and little expectation that life would play her an interesting hand. All that was to change when her friends booked her on a cruise – in Greece, she thought, surely in Greece – which involved Jenny having to face her fear of flying and aversion to water. It turned out to be a small Turkish boat, no larger than a wherry, cruising down the Aegean coast. Enconced in her cabin, tortoise-like, she endured the cruise for several days, until.... Epiphany! She inadvertently peeped out of the curtains, drank in the azure sky, the shimmering water and declared: “I shall live here!”



4 months later, Jenny returned to Turkey armed with her Turkish phrasebook, a loose plan of action and a newly discovered sense of excitement and derring-do. Aboard a Turkish dolmuş (“stuffed” bus), she encountered her first taste of culture-clash: gender segregation, (men at the back, women at the front), and her only eligible riding companion was a goat. The terminus was a small bay with a restaurant and a boarding house, and this was to become her home for the following year.

She found herself working at the restaurant, more by chance than by design, and over the next months, her conversion to ; Turkey, its food, customs and culture, was profound. In the spring of 1994, she was invited by the Head Chef, Mustapha, to visit his family for the ritual annual family celebration. They lived in a remote rural village, whose life-style had remained seemingly unchanged for decades. It proved to be the ultimate life-changer: Jenny and Mustapha were soon married, and took up residence in a farmhouse, which was in urgent need of restoration.

At the turn of the century, she and Mustapha visited Suffolk, and so began a life of transition: 6 months in Turkey and 6 months in Suffolk. When in England, they travel around giving talks similar to this one, and selling their silken scarves. Silk scarves? An amusing



anecdote: Jenny had been given a present by one of the villagers of 2000 ‘seeds’, wrapped in a handkerchief, and instructed to germinate them by the heat of her armpit. The ‘seeds’ were, in fact, silkworm eggs, and she was incubating them! They hatched, and thus she and Mustapha began their own silk manufacturing – a common cottage industry in rural Turkey.



Jenny gave her talk dressed in typical Turkish attire: loose dress, tartan apron, spangled headscarf and voluminous bloomers! A good design in hot countries, allowing the air to

circulate more freely around vital areas. She and Mustapha had a wide display of colourful scarves in elaborate designs, all reasonably priced. A most amusing presentation.

November’s speaker is Julia Stafford Allen, a representative of the National Gardens Scheme, basing her presentation on the gardens open for charity in Norfolk.

Committee Meeting on Tuesday 14th November at 2.30 pm in the Hub.

Our December General Meeting will be a Christmas party on Tuesday 12th December at 2.30 pm at The Hub, with quizzes, amusements and a special tea!

Activities

Classical Music – and a few other kinds thrown in – takes place at the home of Brian Keane, Prior Thatch, Beech Road, Wroxham, and all are welcome. Bring your favourite pieces along if you like, and Brian will fit them in. Fortnightly on **November 8th and 22nd 2.30 – 4.30 pm.** Brian, 01603 782774

French Conversation: Whatever your standard, you are welcome to come and chat in French over a drink at “Bouchon” (opposite Hoveton station) **every Thursday afternoon at 3 pm.** Jane Monks 01603 782496.

Bird Banter also takes place at Bouchon over a coffee on the first Friday of the month, namely **Friday 3rd November at 10.30 – 12.** Di is full of fascinating information about bird life. Di 01603 784214

Bird Watching outings have suffered recently from bad weather and ill health among enthusiasts. Mark in your diaries either **Friday 17th or Sat 18th November,** and Di will send a circular around nearer the time, hoping to pick better weather. Di 01603 784214

Play Reading meets on the first Tuesday of every month, therefore **on November 7th at 2.30 pm** in Bouchon. New members would be welcome. Jane, 01603 782496.

History Group meets on the last Thursday of the month, which will be **Thursday 30th November** at The Hub. Anne den Engelse would like to give up the leadership, so please consider if you could take it on. In the meantime contact Anne on 01603 782121 if you want further details.

Swimming enthusiasts can meet at The Victory pool in North Walsham on **1st, 15th and 29th November at 2.30 pm** when clear swimming is possible. Corrie Mould 01603 782755

Lunch Out: **Friday October 27th at 12.30 pm at “The Chequers” Hainford, 12.30 pm and also Friday 24th November at “The Bell”, Salhouse at 12.30 pm.** This pub has recently re-opened, and we had delicious food there when Richard and I dropped in. It is not far to go on a winter’s day, please let Corrie know by Wed 22nd if you wish to come. Corrie 01603 782755.

Evening Dining: Maggi Flatman writes: “Our next evening dining will take place on **Thursday 16th November at 6.30 pm.** This will be at **“The Fur and Feather” at Woodbastwick** - they have a new chef with 2 rosettes to his name! We have to pre-order,

and the menu will be circulated for those interested, so please let me know if you wish to come". Maggi 01603 783091

Photographic/Camera Club Mary Long writes: Our October meeting was well attended and was overseen by our U3A Chairman John Long. The quality of photographs was really good, particularly the Chimneys. Members had found some very interesting chimneys from around the Norwich area to photograph.

The group talked about future places to photograph and had some interesting ideas which will be worked into our programme. The session finished with a practical session using cut off plastic bottles and transparent plastic cups – some interesting results followed! My thanks to John for holding a very good afternoon which was enjoyed by all members.

Our next meeting will be on the third Friday as always, which is **November 17th at 2 pm at The Hub**. The subject for the month is Autumn Colours with Fungi and Cobwebs."

We wish Mary a speedy recovery from her leg wounds following a fall. Mary 01603 722254

Would group leaders please send their news by 20th November to Corrie Mould on 01603 82755 candrmould@gmail.com