



MAKING THE MOST OF THE AUTUMN

www.basingstokeu3a.org

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Groups now meeting in person



Our Walkers enjoyed beautiful countryside on their walk from Ecchinswell. Our Walks with camera group enjoyed taking photographs near Silchester. Our Excursions group have been on holiday to Croatia and Whitby and been to see the ballet at the Royal Albert Hall. We have restarted face-to-face Monthly Meetings, with a very entertaining and informative talk from "Winston Churchill!"

Our singers are in full voice; creative members are enjoying painting, sewing, flower arranging, etc. Members are coming together to play Bridge, Scrabble, Rummikub etc. Study groups are learning languages, philosophy, science and literature.

Playing Skittles

A new skittles group is about to start on 29th November.

We are looking to start new groups

We are looking for experienced musicians (on lead/ rhythm electric guitar, keyboard or drums) and singers to get together to make some good quality 60s/70s music.

We're also looking for people, who would like to learn:

- to take better photographs and videos on a Smartphone
- how to construct their own website
- what Facebook has to offer.

If you are interested in any of the above, we would love to hear from you.

There's plenty to choose from and trips and holidays are being planned as well.

Don't forget that for just one annual membership fee, currently £40, you can join as many groups as you can fit into your week!

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PROBUS CIVIC AND SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

Remembrance Sunday saw Probus Club of Basingstoke's President, David Wickens, parade with others to and from the War Memorial where he laid a poppy wreath on behalf of members. "Not surprisingly, with RAF Odiham close by, we have several members who are Royal Air Force retired career personnel. Currently we have a Wing Commander, two Squadron Leaders and a Flight Sergeant and in past years two Group Captains."

Later in November a group of eighteen consisting of members and guests, visited the Brooklands Transport Museum which can be seen regularly late at night on the Yesterday television channel.

This proved to be a visit thoroughly enjoyed, even by the ladies, where many recollections were shared about cars owned by families over the years. And having a Concorde on site brought fond memories from two members who had personal experience of being a passenger in this iconic aeroplane flying across the Atlantic.

December will see the Christmas lunch, again for members, spouses and families taking place at the Test Valley Golf club. Missing last year due to Covid restrictions, the decision was made to change from evening to lunchtime, but this should be no detriment to festivities including music and entertainment.

The New Year will see further trips to places of interest as well as the monthly lunch meetings with guest speakers and social pub lunches which include wives and partners.

The Probus Club of Basingstoke, which has been in continuous existence for over forty years is open to retired men who have had at least some supervisory or management experience during their working lives. It is a welcoming, social, club where members enjoy pleasant exchange of views and share experiences while enjoying social occasions together.

www.probusbasingstoke.club

BASINGSTOKE CIVIL SERVICE RETIREMENT FELLOWSHIP

There were 58 members at the meeting held on 3rd November who, after the usual tea, coffee and biscuits, were welcomed by the Chairman, David Cowling. The Secretary, Tony Brazier, then gave details of the trip on Thursday 18th November to Haskins Garden Centre for Christmas shopping and then the Christmas lunch at BCOT on Thursday 9th December. He also went on to outline some of the outings planned for next year which included a guided tour of Dorney Court, a day at the races, Hatfield House, Hever Castle and a Thames cruise.

The group's full programme of speakers and trips for next year can be obtained by contacting the secretary at csrfbasingstoke@gmail.com.

The speaker this month was Bridget Britten from the Royal National Lifeboat Institution who, with the aid of slides, videos and some amusing anecdotes, gave a history of the organisation from its inception in 1824. There had been some sort of lifeboat services in a few locations since the late 18th century but once the RNLI was formed coverage improved. In 1854 lifebelts were introduced; 1884 saw the distinctive flag designed; 1890 saw the first steam powered lifeboat and in 1905 the first motor powered one went into



service. Service throughout the two world wars and the regular introduction of the most up-to-date boats and equipment along with the introduction of river and beach patrols has all meant over 100,000 lives being saved during the last nearly 200 years. In 1891 the RNLI was the first charity to have a public collection and as a voluntary organisation has to continually actively fundraise so to help Bridget brought a selection of items for sale.

The next meeting is on 1st December when we are having a "Story Tale Christmas" from Fiona Birchall along with a Christmas buffet. The first meeting of 2022 will be on 5th January when Barbara Cummins will be telling us about her "Cycling in Different Counties".

The group meets on the first Wednesday of each month at Brookvale Village Hall from 10am to 12 noon and all retired Civil Servants, their relatives and friends are welcome.

David Cowling