

Peterborough Group Newsletter

August 2017 Issue

Picture plus Treasure Hunt **Wednesday 16th August**



We invite you to join us for our walking treasure hunt, around Woodnewton.

We will be starting from the White Swan, PE8 5EB between 6.30pm to 7pm and answering the clues should take about an hour. We return to the White Swan for the finish where light refreshments will be available for you to enjoy whilst the organisers are marking your answers sheets.

**** ****

Crowland Abbey Tour

Wednesday 30th August



Last year our treasure hunt passed Crowland Abbey. This year we invite you to join us for a guided tour of the abbey, see inserted picture. See page 2 for some advanced information on this building

The guided tour will cost £4 per person and will start at 7pm sharp.

Crowland Abbey



We meet at 7pm. on 30th August at Crowland Abbey for a guided tour and to learn more about the building which has an interesting and chequered history going back to when the fens were marshy areas extending from Peterborough right to the Northsea.

Crowland would appear to have been almost an island on the edge of the fens in the 8th century when followers of Saint Guthlac started a settlement. Originally a Benedictine Monastery, built in the early 9th, the Abbey had been built and rebuilt several times either because of siege or fire by the 12th. century, it was, at one time, a very large building comprised of 9 bays.

In 1539 the monastery was dissolved and damaged and in 1643 suffered even more damage when it was captured by the Parliamentarians. During the 1700's part of the roof fell in and the South wall had to be demolished and, at this time, the North Aisle was refurbished and remains in use today as the Parish Church.

A skull, claimed to be that of Abbot Theodore, who was killed at the Altar by Vikings was held in a cabinet until it was stolen in 1982. It was returned anonymously in 1999.

The Church claims to be the first in England to have a tuned peal of bells and the 90feet long bell ropes are thought to be the longest in the country.

We look forward to learning more about the fascinating history of this building.

**** ** ** ** ****

Boundless National Quiz

Monday 25th September



Join us for this year's National Quiz. Pit your wits against your fellow group members as well as the rest of the Boundless by CSMA membership.

The Quiz will be held at the Fenland Suite of the Dragonfly Hotel, Ferry Meadows, Peterborough, PE3 6GA, starting at 7.30pm. Please arrive by 7.15pm. The quiz comprises teams of up to 4 members, 1 of which must be a Boundless by CSMA member.

"Life on the Lincolnshire Salt Marshes by June Barton

Wednesday 20th September

Join us in the Fenland Suite of the Dragonfly Hotel, Peterborough at 7.30pm for a talk from June Barton.

June is a fourth generation of "salt marsh people", and has spent most of her life, from a very early age, on or near the Marshes.

There is probably no better person to relate some of the secrets of Kirton's Marsh and we have been promised a humorous evening.

Note!! You now have to register your car with reception when you park at the Dragonfly Hotel or risk a fine!

**** ** ** ** ****

Science, Seaweed and the Southern Ocean

Visions of The Antarctic

Wednesday 18th October



Ever wondered why Antarctica is where it is or what our scientists do down there? What is it like, to live on a working research ship for weeks on end? From fossils to flotsam, sediments to sea spiders this talk will explore some of the varied research carried out in Antarctica and the surrounding seas. There will also be some examples of Antarctic life, past and present, for you to handle.

This year, our all-day trip on Wednesday 14th June was to two collections in different villages buried deep in the Suffolk countryside.



Local Group Members who enjoyed our visit to Cotton

Our first took us to Cotton to view the Museum of Mechanical Musical Instruments, an extensive array of all types of mechanical music makers.

We were given a guided tour of the collection, starting with the simple music boxes (where the tune is built into the mechanism) through more complex mechanisms where the tunes could be changed. The “software” took several forms, including cardboard sheets strung together and steel discs for the Polyphon machines. There are also a few mechanical attachments which allowed a domestic piano to be played completely autonomously.

We then moved to the main hall, which houses barrel organs (complete with monkeys) and about 15 different fairground and dance hall organs. These were set up in halls and other venues to play the popular tunes of the period. The tunes were created on paper cards which were fed through the players automatically. These cards can still be created so they can play music from any period right up to today.

The grand showpiece of the collection however is their Cinema organ, and we had a live recital from their (human) resident organist, who rose from the pit playing the “Mighty Wurlitzer”, or Hope Jones Unit Orchestra for those who know about these things!

With the dying notes of the organ still ringing in our ears we headed to the Trowel and Hammer for lunch, where they coped with our party of 20 or so quite happily.



After lunch, it was across the A140 to Wetheringsett for the second part of the visit, to the Museum of the Mid Suffolk Light railway. The “Middy” as it is known came late to the railway scene, and was an attempt to link up the centre of Suffolk from the main London/Norwich line at Haughley right to the coast at Southwold. It was a “light” railway as it was built on the



cheap using tramway technology and was limited to 20 MPH; the aim was to carry goods through the countryside although there were also passenger vehicles as well. The aim was “Coal In, Corn Out” but a wide range of agricultural goods were also carried. Unfortunately, the First world war led

to the development of reliable road vehicles such as buses and trucks, and improvements to the local road network meant the railway was never able to compete, and closed in the 1950's.

However, the Museum does have some track, some loco's and rolling stock, and runs steam trains on 30 days a year, the maximum they are allowed! They have also had a slot on the Michael Portillo programme “Great British Railway Journeys”.

**** ** ** ** ** ** ** ** ** ** ** ** ** ** ****

Visit to Stoke Bruerne Canal Or “Brenda’s Food Trail” Saturday 8th July



After an early start on a cloudy Saturday in July and after an un-eventful journey, I arrived by the Grand Union Canal at a sunny Stoke Bruerne.

Fellow members of the Boundless by CSMA Peterborough Group arrived in the following hour. Having marked off their attendance the first order of the day was a cup of coffee in the museum tea room, closely followed by a bacon buttie. The tea room offers a good view of the constant traffic on the canal with boats queuing to use the locks. One noticeable boat was



crewed by Captain Jack Sparrow, a banana, a dartboard, and lady with a snake scarf.

Leaving the tearoom, we made the short walk to the boat trip pickup point, but as the next boat was full continued along the footpath to view the traders' boats moored there. The boats offered a variety of items from ice-cream to coffee, assorted plants and decorative handmade ornaments. They certainly brought some colour to the canal bank.



Returning to the boarding point we were in plenty of time for the next boat. The canal is quite wide, but it was a squeeze to pass the refuelling boat, moored against one of the trader's boat. The short trip allowed us to view the wild life close up and we ventured just inside the Blisworth Tunnel.



When the boat's lights went out we were in total darkness except for the glow from a little doll carried by one of the smaller passengers. We reversed out of the tunnel, performed a nautical 3-point turn and returned to our starting point with a history lesson on the tunnel.



It was now time for lunch, there are plenty of eating opportunities, close at hand, we opted to cross the canal for bangers and mash in the pub opposite. After lunch, a trip around the museum showed how hard life was, constructing or working on the canal boats. There was also a model of Foxton Locks, which we visited in 2015. There was then just time to enjoy a cream tea before returning home.

Many thanks to Tony and Maureen for organising this interesting visit.

**** ** ** ** ****

Peterborough Vintage and Classic Car Show

Sat/Sun 2/3rd September



As an addition to this year's events calendar and at short notice, the Peterborough group have arranged a stand at the Peterborough Car Show held on the embankment. Why not come along

and see what we and the show has to offer. If the weathers fine why not bring a picnic to eat by the river.

boundless

BY
CSMA

Peterborough Group Communications

For up to date information on forth coming Peterborough Group events
see one of the following:-

The latest edition of your newsletter.

Notes @ boundless.co.uk/peterborough

email peterboroughgroup@boundlesscommunity.co.uk

Call Secretary Bob Thomas on 01394 285206

Write to: 1, St Mary's Close, Trimley St Mary, Felixstowe, IP11 0TY

<http://www.facebook.com/groups/EastAngliaGroups/>

Please send change of address details to Bob Thomas



If you already have a Facebook account then log in, otherwise you will need to register. Then request to be a friend and wait for the confirmation (should be done the same day).

<http://www.facebook.com/groups/EastAngliaGroups/>

Please send articles for inclusion in the next edition to Bob Thomas by

Monday 21st August 2017.

Please Note!! You now have to register your car with reception when you park at the Dragonfly Hotel or risk a fine!

boundless

BY CSMA

**Fenland Suite
The Dragonfly Hotel**

**7.30pm start
Monday 25th
September**



Are you our National Champion?

Join us to test your knowledge against 100's of members and their guests across the country in the

boundless

BY CSMA

National Quiz

Monday 25th September 7.30pm

Fenland Suite, The Dragonfly Hotel, Thorpe Meadows, Peterborough, PE3 6GA
Contact Bob Thomas on 01394 285206 for enquiries or to register your interest