

SPRING LITERATURE COURSE AND AGM

Date	Monday 27 th February to Friday 2 nd March 2012.	
Venue	North Stafford Hotel, Winton Square, Stoke-on-Trent. ST4 2AE Tel. 01782 744477	
Title	WHAT OF ENGLAND NOW?	
Tutor	Jackie Wilkin	
Fee	Student: £ 280	Guide: £120

Pre-Course Reading:

'Hard Times' by Charles Dickens

RNIB Talking Book No. 7140

Calibre Audio Library No. 7374

'Howard's End' by E.M. Forster

RNIB Talking Book No. 1493

Calibre Audio Library No.1005

Both books are available in Braille.

Selection of Poems – to be circulated in your preferred format.

Breakfast, morning coffee, lunch, afternoon tea and dinner will be included from Monday dinner through to Friday coffee.

Single and shared rooms available, all are en-suite. Guides usually share rooms but single occupancy rooms are limited and are now only available at £10.00 surcharge per night.

PROGRAMME**MONDAY 27th February**

Afternoon Arrive at hotel between 3 and 5pm.

Evening Tutor Introduction and 'Hard Times'.

TUESDAY 28th February

Morning Tutor Lecture.

Afternoon Depart by coach to Gladstone Pottery Museum - guided tour in groups & free time.

Evening Tutor Lecture.

WEDNESDAY 29th February

Morning Tutor Lecture (Poetry).

Afternoon Free time – There are two museums within walking distance of hotel.

Evening Tutor Lecture.

THURSDAY 1st March

Morning Tutor Lecture

Afternoon ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Evening Depart by coach for New Vic Theatre – 'Alfie'.
Audio-described production (see theatre blurb). We hope to arrange a touch-tour.

FRIDAY 2nd March

Morning Tutor Lecture followed by plenary session.

COURSE END

SYNOPSIS AND TUTOR INFORMATION

WHAT OF ENGLAND NOW?

In this course we will be exploring two classic novels. The first, *Hard Times* by Charles Dickens, will help us celebrate his bicentenary. Secondly, *Howard's End* by E.M. Forster, linked by the death of the feudal system. This will introduce the theme which E.M. Forster takes up in *Howard's End* of "Who will inherit England in the age of the motor car and suburban spread?" These two novels will be explored on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday.

On the Wednesday 'Poetry for Pleasure' will give us a change and perhaps introduce you to a poet you are less familiar with. Looking at how poetry works with John Betjeman, Philip Larkin, Carol Ann Duffy, U A Fanthorpe and Wendy Cope.

Tutor input = Guaranteed
Lively discussion encouraged

TUTOR DETAILS

Jackie Wilkin is an experienced and inclusive adult literature tutor. She is a retired university lecturer who now enjoys freelance lecturing for a number of ARCA colleges. She writes a regular book review page for the WI 'Life' magazine.

She is trying to become a playwright as well as being a passionate gardener and a frustrated golfer.

Note from your Chairman:

Jackie was recommended to me by Alston Hall – Lancashire's Adult Education Centre. Although I don't know Jackie personally, I have attended many courses at Alston and its standard is very high.

THE GLADSTONE POTTERY MUSEUM.

This is the only complete Victorian pottery from the days when coal fired ovens made the world's finest bone china. Explore the original cobbled yard and the huge bottle kilns in which the china was fired. This is still a working pottery and you will see a selection of wares being made in a variety of ways.

Gladstone will bring home to you the difficulties and hardship men, women and even children had to endure in order to bring fine china to those who could afford to buy it. An experience not to be missed. Incidentally, what is a "Saggar maker's bottom-knocker"? Find out at Gladstone.

'**ALFIE**' by Bill Naughton, New Vic Theatre.

Set in the 'Swinging Sixties', no one is embracing the spirit of free love more than Alfie Elkins. He's the working class 'Don Juan' of the East End. He is a man about town with the world at his feet and a new 'bird' every Saturday night.

But all good things must come to an end and when his 'no strings attached' life starts to come apart at the seams it's time for him to wonder 'What's it all about?'

Alfie was made famous by Michael Caine in one of the most iconic films of the 1960s.