**ADD-VENTURE IN LEARNING NEWSLETTER - MAY 2025**

Welcome to Add-venture in Learning newsletter for May 2025. It has been some time since the last newsletter I am afraid, and we have some changes to report.

First of all, we have lost another member. Some members may remember Bob Netherway who was a member from the early days of Add-venture but has not attended a study break for some time. His sister reported that Bob died earlier this year.

It was hoped to organise two study breaks during the year, Hereford in the summer and Great Yarmouth in the autumn. Hereford had to be cancelled due to lack of transport to get from one venue to another and Great Yarmouth has been postponed until April next year but there will be more information on that break in due course.

However, a visit to **Nottingham** is planned for Monday 15th September to Friday 19th September 2025, organised by Eleri Lewis and Hilary Unwin.

Nottingham has more than a thousand years of history and was founded by Snot a Saxon Lord who sailed in from the River Trent. It has more history than we can cover in four days but with some very good evening speakers and great daytime visits Nottingham will offer us much. We will visit the awarding-winning National Justice Museum and the caves which Nottingham is riddled with, and which were so important in the city’s past. We will also visit Green’s Windmill and Science Centre and, hopefully, the National Ice Centre with its Panthers Ice Hockey team. We will also learn about some of Nottingham’s industries - Players cigarettes, Raleigh bicycles, Boots the Chemist and, of course, the lace industry. We will also certainly hear about Robin Hood.

We will use public transport, so do bring your bus pass if you have one. We may have to pay a £4 day ticket for any tram journey we make. There will be some walking with moderate inclines and a few steps which will be taken at an easy pace. Wheelchairs can be accommodated most of the time but not to some venues.

We will be staying at the first class 4 Star Mercure Nottingham Sherwood Hotel which offers an ideal location, good comfortable facilities including free daily use of their swimming pool, Jacuzzi, sauna and steam room. There will be time available in the late afternoon each day to enjoy these facilities and there is also an area for walks nearby. There is free parking at the hotel. A two-course evening meal is included.

COST:

VI single ensuite room: £580.

VI shared ensuite room: £410.

Guide single ensuite room: £490.

Guide shared ensuite room: £320.

The shared price is only available if there is someone to share with you.

To book a place a £50 non-refundable deposit is required **and a swift response would be appreciated** to help the organisers confirm places. Full payment is due by Monday, 28th July 2025. -- Booking information is later in this newsletter

**A Report from Judy Manning on the Music Study-break in Poole –**

**March 2025.**

On Monday March 24th, 25 of us gathered at the Greenhouse Christian retreat centre, Poole. We were greeted with hot drinks and homemade shortbread. This set the tone for the rest of the week. The Greenhouse is an old and comfortable house and the staff and volunteers were warm and welcoming. The food was great - three meals a day with coffee and tea breaks and homemade cake.

We were there to study music written for, or inspired by Shakespeare’s plays. Our tutor was Ian Lowes. He guided us through incidental music, film music, ballet music, opera, symphonic music and some songs from plays. Ian told us about the composers and how the music came to be written, and pointed out significant parts of the pieces to listen for. This greatly enhanced my enjoyment and understanding of the music, especially Verdi’s Othello.

We started with a session on Monday evening, and then had morning and afternoon sessions each day except for Tuesday, when we had the afternoon off. Many of us took the opportunity to walk down to the beach. On Tuesday evening we gathered after dinner, and several members brought music CD’s or poems along. This was very enjoyable. On Wednesday evening we all went to the Lighthouse theatre in Bournemouth to hear a concert of folk lore and fairy tales, played by the Bournemouth symphony orchestra. The pieces were mostly by Ukrainian and Russian composers. On the final evening, we had a music quiz based on what we had been studying.

This was an excellent break. The music sessions were very Informative, and there was still time to relax with good company in pleasant surroundings.

And from **Rosemary Thomas**…..

Hi everybody - I'm Rosemary Thomas and I've just returned from your latest study break which included talks by Ian on music and Shakespeare. I was my university friend Anne's aide, and the group was about 25.

The accommodation we had was in a delightful Christian Guest House near Poole with a lovely garden and, (for the summer) a swimming pool. The bedrooms were very comfortable, mostly ensuite and I was next to Anne which was helpful. There was a small chapel where we had our talks and listened to the music. The food was excellent and coped with all diets.

Tuesday afternoon was free and most of us found our way to the sea down one of the 'Chines', only found in Dorset.

Wednesday evening we were bused to Poole, to the Lighthouse Centre and enjoyed a concert by the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra. The conductor was Ukrainian as was the lady soloist who played the Piano Accordion. We heard that the concert was recorded to the Houses of Parliament!

The days went too quickly. I hear you have another event planned for the autumn, probably very different so keep your eye on the newsletter because the places get taken very quickly. “Thank you to Barbara” for organizing this one.

**To book on any of our Study Breaks** please phone or text Isobell Phillips on 07731 867931 or email phillipsisobell@yahoo.ie.

Cheques should be made payable to Add-venture in Learning and sent to Isobell Phillips at

2 Holly Drive

Pen-y-ffordd

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OR by BACS to Lloyds Bank sort code 30-00-01 account number 02904643 with a reference stating name and reason for payment. *Please let Isobell know if you are paying by BACS.*

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