

SHARE YOUR CLUB OR SOCIETY NEWS WITH US!

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Royston and the surrounding villages are a hive of activity, with a wealth of clubs and societies, covering a wide range of interests - from arts to sports, adventure to support.

Since 2005, The Listing has been proud to support so many clubs and societies, and we maintain and publish a comprehensive list of them all on our website: www.bit.ly/ClubsDirectory

WI AM

In 2020 our nominated charity was Stand-by-me, a children's bereavement support service for N Herts and Stevenage. In January we were finally able to welcome Sandra Blacker and Karen Standon. We heard how the service was started after listening to what the children felt they needed most at this sad and difficult time. The service relies on donations and grants from organisations such as the National Lottery Fund, Children In Need and the Letchworth Garden City Heritage Foundation. The trained and experienced volunteers work with small groups of children during a six-week programme. They also work with schools and families when they are supporting bereaved children. Our president presented Sandra and Karen with a cheque for £570. **If you would like more information about us, please contact Pat Morrill on 01763 661627**

WI PM



Our friendly group meets on the second Thursday in the month in Heritage Hall next to the Picture Palace. We warmly welcome visitors to join us and if you would like to meet other women in your local community WI is a very good place to start. We come from a wide variety of backgrounds, have varied interests and offer a range of activities. Come and join us at our next meeting on 10th February. Doors open 1.45pm.

For more details please contact Jean, 01763 245958

ROYSTON PASQUE FLOWERS WI

For our December meeting we had an excellent demonstration of Christmas floral table decorations with one of our members, Joan Germany. She showed us how we could use minimal fresh greenery and how to attach candles, Christmas decorations and artificial flowers to make amazing arrangements. She made three floral decorations which she gave to the raffle as prizes.

In January, we enjoyed a quiz prepared by our President which included general knowledge questions, recognising famous faces, a round on famous men called Nicholas and a Dingbats round. We had a lot of fun even if we didn't score many points!

We are always pleased to welcome new members and visitors to our meetings on the first Monday of the month at the Coombes Community Centre, Burns Road from 10am – 12pm. Contact our President Joyce Goodall for further details on 07748 598 325

U3A MELBOURN

Melbourn & District u3a gives you opportunities to develop your interests, make new friends and have fun. Demand for our u3a activities is as high as ever, with people looking for new ways to keep connected with each other and maintain their cultural, educational and social activities.

Find out what's available in our u3a including access to interest groups, sports, leisure and social activities. You will also have access to national and local magazines and websites. Short walks (about 3 miles) are now meeting on the second Monday of the month and Long walks (about 5 miles) are meeting on the last Thursday of the month. They usually finish at a Pub or Cafe for a meal or drink. How about joining us? Walk off those winter blues!

Indoor meetings are subject to Covid rules and some are now taking place in conjunction with Zoom to enable more members to attend.

For more information, visit www.melbu3a.org or email: secretary@melbu3a.org Tel: 01223 871480

ROYSTON & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

The History Society held our January meeting on Thursday 6th entitled From a Church to a House, by Mandy House.

Mandy told us how she and her partner turned a Church, in a bad state of repair and deemed to be unsafe, into a very stylish home. They hunted long and hard to find the project they were looking for, but then they came across St. Bartholomew's, listed on a website detailing redundant churches, as a ruined church in Buntingford. They had to liaise with English Heritage, as well as the diocese, but finally their bid was accepted and work began. It was a further ten years of hard work before their dream was finally realised. **Our next meeting will be on February 3rd at 8pm in the Town Hall, when Terry Holloway will tell us about "the Wright Brothers onwards."** Visitors welcome.

PRESERVING HISTORY AT GREAT CHISHILL

The church bells at St Swithun's Church in Great Chishill have been ringing out for over 400 years.

Some of the bells date back to 1686, and the oak frame is even older. In order to preserve this ancient frame, it needs to be strengthened, and the bells need totally refurbishing and retuning.

A new bell has been donated, so that there will now be six bells, and all this will greatly enhance the ringing and listening experience.

The project will cost about £115,000, much of the money has been raised locally, and together with successful grant applications we just need another £30,000

Work has just started, and is expected to take around 4 months, so that we should be able to ring the six bells in time for the Queen's Jubilee in June.

For further information on ways to help, or if you are interested in learning about bellringing, please visit www.Greatchishill.org