

# NEWSLETTER



## Picnic in the Park

Two weeks prior to the 21<sup>st</sup> July, BBC Weather was forecasting a dry day with a small chance of precipitation. Armed with this information it was decided that there was an opportunity to quickly arrange an “outdoor gathering” of interested members to meet up in both a dry and safe outdoor space!?

Weather being what it is i.e. unpredictable – the 21<sup>st</sup> of July not only proved to be dry but HOT. Temperatures in Cardiff were peaking at 30 degrees for the preceding days’

However, not to be dissuaded (and there being limited opportunity looking at the Chairman’s diary to seek an alternative date) the event, as publicised, took place.

The venue was Heath Park, adjacent to the Model Railway Car Park, time 12:30, bring a picnic, appropriate seating, sun tan lotion, hats and umbrellas – purely as an additional sun shielding mechanism was the advice for the day.

A large tree offering plenty of shade was chosen offering sufficient much needed shade to the 15 members that assembled, in fact it was the most “comfortable” couple of hours experienced for several days!!

An opportunity to catch up on what we had been doing since March 2020 and also thoughts on re-opening of branch meetings and future events.

A proposed start date of meetings is still scheduled for Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> September\*.

When I receive confirmation that the hall is available for hire, I will communicate with you using the usual methods.

Continuation of the cancelled events 2020 programme will start from September, providing sufficient interest is made from the membership.

For dates and prices see pages 2-3.



\* See page 4



# Forthcoming Events

## Hampton Court Castle

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> September. £25

Set in the beautiful Herefordshire countryside, Hampton Court Castle has been through many changes over the centuries. The Chapel dates back to 1427, making the building almost 100 years older than Hampton Court Palace in Surrey.

Hampton Court has a 12-acre garden which is open to the public throughout the summer months. The gardens are a particular feature, and include an organically managed kitchen garden, as well as a maze, a secret tunnel, Dutch garden, island pavilions and a 150-year-old wisteria arch.



The Castle is open to the public for guided tours from Spring to Autumn. The house (empty) and grounds featured extensively in the first season of the 1970s BBC television series *Survivors*, filmed in spring and summer of 1975.



## Batsford Arboretum

Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> October. £20

The Visitor Centre at Batsford is specially designed to be accessible to everyone. Inside you'll find the Arboretum entrance, Garden and Gift Shops and Garden Terrace Café all on one level as well as disabled toilets. The only part of Batsford you have to pre-book and pay to go into is the Arboretum.

The main Terrace cafe is open daily from 9.30am-4.30pm (last orders 4pm). Outdoor cafe 10am-

4pm. Enjoy a range of hot lunches from 12-2pm, as well as paninis, soup and snacks throughout the day. Our outdoor coffee hut is also open for takeaway hot & cold snacks and drinks, daily from 10am-4pm.

The Plant Sales area is accessible via a series of gently sloping paths specifically designed to comply with disabled access regulations.

The Arboretum is situated on a hillside and may prove a challenge to less mobile visitors. About 25% of the Arboretum is accessible by manual wheelchairs (available to hire - please call us on 01386 701441 to book). Wheelchair users are not charged an entrance fee for the Arboretum.

### Tramper mobility scooters

Visitors can hire one of our Trampers for a single two-hour slot only at 10.00am, 12.00pm or 2.00pm from Monday-Friday. Training given if required.





# Birmingham Frankfurt Christmas Market

Friday 26<sup>th</sup> November. £20

During Advent in Germany, the Traditional Christmas Market is where people meet over a cup of Glühwein to chat, sample the many different Christmas goodies, and enjoy the festive atmosphere and romance of winter. The Glühwein and refreshment stalls are the heart of the Market, and are as important as the traditional crafts stalls. Nowadays, the Christmas Markets are a colourful and lively mix of crafts, foods, drink and other seasonal attractions.



### Traditional Christmas Stollen

Stollen is a Germany's most traditional Christmas cake which dates back to the Middle Ages. The cake's distinctive shape, originates from "the Infant Jesus wrapped in swaddling clothes", who was venerated in Mediaeval Christianity.

### The Glühwein Stall

The Glühwein stall is very traditional at German Christmas markets.

Glühwein is prepared from red wine and various spices and sugar, heated gently, then cloves and cinnamon are added to give its distinctive flavour. The secret lies in the recipe and especially the proportions of the ingredients.



## Christmas Lunch, Marriott Hotel

?? December 2021\*\*



Our Traditional Christmas Lunch where we can catch up with those fellow members we may not have seen for a while.



\*\*Awaiting confirmation of dates and price from general manager. Details, when available, will be sent to all members.



