

FAMILY HISTORY GROUP

This month Jackie Allott shared details of the names her family, in the mid 19th century, chose for their children, all after celebrities of the day. Prince Albert, Garibaldi, Wellington, Nelson and Victoria, to name a few. Malcolm Bland introduced us to Campanology. From the early ringers, who thought of it as a sport that could get riotous, through to more recent times! www.bellboard.co.uk is a website worth investigating. Margaret Brenchley told us about "Life in the Hodder Valley during WW2" from local preparations for the war, the coming of rationing and Identity Cards, the work of the the farming community, Women's Land Army and later the Prisoners of War. Her recently published book, "Keep Smiling Through" costs £10. You can get it from Margaret 01729 840690 mabrenchley@btinternet.com



Eileen Bamford on mrsbamford@aol.com

GREAT LIVES In October we had a superbly presented powerpoint talk via Zoom by Bob Young on Ivan the Terrible, the self-proclaimed first Tsar of Russia. Bob traced his reign as a catalogue of mainly disastrous wars (leading to the burning of Moscow by the Tartars) and Ivan's increasing paranoia. Whether real or imaginary he saw plots everywhere and responded with increasing brutality, culminating in the 1570 Massacre of Novgorod in which approximately 60,000 men, women and children perished by his orders. Ivan had a total of 8 wives, even offering marriage to Elizabeth the first of England which she fortunately declined!!

Our next meeting (Wednesday 18th November 11.00am) will be via Zoom once more and will be hosted by John Parry (01729 823843 or jamatcv@gmail.com to register interest). Debi Burrige will introduce us to the life and work of Angelica Kauffman, acclaimed 18th Century Swiss portraitist.

John Jebson & John Parry

GEOLOGY - the journey of a lifetime!

For the last two sessions we have looked at the geological history of the British Isles. The earliest rocks in NW Scotland have been dated back to 2900 million years ago. But the story of how we came to be, can reasonably be traced back to about 650 MY when we were part of a continent of ancient crusts and were attached to the shore of West Africa at about 60°S. Since then, we broke away and have drifted north and collided with the Baltic and N American crusts causing enormous mountains the remains of which are in NW Scotland. Since then we have drifted north through desert conditions (Devon red sandstone), tropical seas (our limestones), through more desert, beneath subtropical seas (Cotswold limestone and Chiltern Chalk) till we were pushed from the south by Africa causing folding of the rocks in the south (Downs). Finally, since 2MY ago several ice ages have scoured the surface to produce the landscapes we know today. What a journey!

Keith Waterson keith@thewatersons.org

Thanks for the items for the newsletter. The deadline for the next edition, **150 words max**, is Mon 30 November, to newslettereditor@settledistrictu3a.org We may edit articles.

SUE'S PUZZLE PAGE

LAST MONTH'S QUIZ ANSWERS - SHOP AROUND

1. Footwear for a cat (5) Boots
2. Father neglect? Just the opposite! (10) Mothercare
3. Space traveller with a tail? (5) Comet
4. Tries to get favours with copper on this planet? (7, 2, 5) Currys PC World
5. Motor? Call the depot (8, 9) Carphone Warehouse

6. Pebbles in the stream (11) Waterstones
7. Hang around with a flower (8) Waitrose
8. High moral standards. Or scientific rules (10) Principles
9. Fail to hit target? Me? On the Long Mynde? (4, 9) Miss Selfridge
10. Something to look out for when getting off the train (3) Gap