

THAMES VALLEY REGIONAL CONFERENCE 2008

Group 4: Inspiring Visits

Leader Gill Bellis (Thame & District)
Recorder Joan Boughton (Thame & District)

Our discussion was animated and wide ranging and covered the following topics.

How do we inspire members to come?

- a) Some U3A's have Travel Groups which will study the area they will next visit.
- b) Group Leaders can visit UK areas and seek out information and places of interest to suggest.
- c) English Heritage offer free entry to their properties for groups of U3A Members.
- d) We were advised to get in well with a local coach company who will 'fall over backwards' to help us as they want to fill their coaches. It was mentioned that Motts coaches have one coach with a lift for the disabled.

Small U3As can take a block booking on a local coach company outing.

Chiltern U3A Group Leaders like to organise their own trips and these must be co-ordinated with the General Programme by the Social Secretary to avoid Clashing!

Costs and Refunds

If a member has paid and then backs out/cancels and there is no reserve, then that member loses the money.

There was much discussion about the problems of travel insurance for older members or ones with medical conditions, but no solution was found.

One U3A takes a list of next-of-kin even on day trips.

Maidenhead subsidises day trips with the refund from Gift Aid and are now able to hire 75 seater coaches.

A list will be produced of successful day trips and 'holidays' abroad. This will be distributed to participating U3As.