

NEW FOREST AND BEYOND GROUP

The Following Activities are suggestions by our Leader Jo Barratt for 2018

Please contact Jo (josephinebarratt@hotmail.com) and let her know if you would be interested in going to any of them

Dorset County Museum - Dippy starts his tour of the UK at this Museum on 10 February, just in time for school half term. I propose we leave half term to the school children and visit the Museum on **Thursday 1 March**. The first Thursday afternoon in the month is our notional Group meeting day so I thought that might be the best time to go. It could be that we visit that Museum in the morning, have some lunch and take in another attraction such as the Keep Military Museum in the afternoon. There is also Maiden Castle near by, Hardy's Cottage (National Trust), and Poundbury which might be interesting to see if you have not already been there. Or you might feel one Museum is enough I think they say to allow about 2 hours per visit. Cost of entry for 60+ is £5.90.
I am open to suggestions here.

Blue Sapphire Gin Distillery - I bet you thought this was never going to happen!!!! Things might be a bit flat after Christmas so I was thinking we could plan this visit for **Thursday 1 February**, again our notional Group meeting day. Laverstoke Mill is near Whitchurch, a bit of a drive so we should definitely share cars. The Distillery is open from 1100 until 1600 in the winter so if we plan to get there about 1130 that will mean we are not driving home in the dark or in the rush hour. Whitchurch Silk Mill which is nearby is closed until August 2018 for refurbishment so that will have to be a separate outing at some time in the future.

Guided walk of Southampton Walls and Vaults - these guided walks are about 90 minutes duration and are not energetic walks! I think we might organise this for April, just after the Easter school holidays.

Longford Castle - I shall try again to get a booking for a tour here but you have to apply on 1 February and the tour slots for the year are very limited. So fingers crossed - a) that I remember to apply and b) that we are successful!!!!!!

Winchester Guided Tour - I think this would be good to do later in the year. The tours again are about 90 mins duration and are not strenuous. A great way to learn about the history of this City.

So how is this all sounding? Please let me have your comments and let me know which you would like to join me on.

I look forward to hearing from you all

Jo