



Reminders

May 2020

Dear WARG Members.

This is a reminder about the summer visits and trips that we hope to be able to make.

If you wish to participate please send your applications to Maureen no later than May 25th for the visit to the college Treasury and the New Forest walk, and by June 26th for the Tour of the Religious Houses. If you send a cheque this will not be cashed until the event is confirmed and if it cannot take place cheques will be returned.

Announcement – The committee has decided that for the person who volunteers to write up a trip or visit for the newsletter a FREE place will be offered.

Also a reminder about the WARG Newsletter.

From the summer 2020 edition, the WARG Newsletter goes digital. However, you may still receive a hard copy if you would prefer. All you need to do is to email or write to the Editor at wargnews@gmail.com If you have already been in contact, by email, in person or by post, please be assured I have been registered and will continue to receive a hard copy. Additionally, your preference can always be changed by the same contact details.

Most importantly - Stay safe, stay happy and stay home



Creativity in Crisis – Another WARG lollipop

Leonardo Da Vinci.

Best known for the Mona Lisa, Leonardo was a polymath. In 1482, when he was about 30 years old, he moved to Milan. At that time the medieval city was crowded, a warren of buildings lacking sanitation. Not long after he had arrived, Milan experienced an outbreak of the bubonic plague which killed 50,000 people - more than a third of the population. It would appear that, like the current Coronavirus version, (Covid 19), bubonic plague originated in the East, possibly Mongolia, and was spread along the Silk Road. How it was spread is currently arguable. Whilst we have generally blamed the rats, they may not entirely be responsible for the transmission. It was fleas living on both animals and people, which were mainly culpable, together with droplet transmission. In short, the sneezing and spitting flea bitten merchants.



What Leonardo importantly realised was that the plague was spread by unsanitary conditions. He sketched his ideas for an ideal city in what is believed to have been the first of his notebooks, 'Paris Manuscript B' and 'The Codex Atlanticus', written between 1487 and 1490 His ideas were much along the same lines as modern

Town Planning, separating areas of

commerce from residential, which we call zoning. He also saw canals linking buildings underground for transporting goods – what a great idea to cut road traffic accidents and to facilitate social distancing. Solutions to cope with self-drive vehicles and drone deliveries?

Leonardo was envisaging a city that moved in different ways, an exemplar for the 21st century. Given the challenges of climate change, we, as did the inhabitants of the old cities, have to think of living differently and adapting for the future. Maybe the current situation has already put our feet on that road.

Sir Isaac Newton

Between the summer of 1665 and the spring of 1667, Isaac Newton made two long visits to Woolsthorpe Manor near Grantham, in order to escape the plague affecting Cambridge. The bubonic 'Great Plague' of 1665–6 was the worst outbreak in England since the black death of 1348. It was in 1655 that the villagers of Eyam, Derbyshire,

became famous for their heroic quarantine to halt the spread of the disease. Whilst at Woolsthorpe, Newton set his mind to work, and in another inspiring example of creativity in crisis, this gave him time and space to develop his theories on Calculus - a branch of mathematics which helps us understand changes between values that are related by a function, and is used in many different areas such as physics, astronomy, biology, engineering, economics, medicine and sociology; Optics - prisms splitting white light into rainbows; Laws of Motion – the foundation of mechanics, how objects move and how forces act upon them; and Gravity - Newton himself told the story of when he watched an apple fall from the tree outside his chamber window, he questioned why it falls straight to the ground. The apocryphal story is, of course, that the apple fell on Newton's head, but when this happened to me it produced no spark of inspiration, it just hurt - in spite of it falling from a 'Newton Wonder' apple tree.



Did you know that the Astronaut Major Tim Peake read 'Newton's Principia Naturalis' whilst in space on the ISS Principia space mission? He also read a bedtime story, from space, for CBBs. It was called 'Goodnight Spaceman' by Michelle Robinson and was inspired by Tim and his two sons. It tells the story of two little boys getting ready for bed. I think this is closer to my level than the Principia.

Hon. Colonel Tom Moore

When you have broken a hip and been treated for cancer leaving you needing a walking aid to get around, what is more creative than challenging yourself to walk to raise funds to support our health and care workers? Consequentially he also brought out the best in people all over the world. His plan was to walk 100 lengths of his 25



m. garden at 10 lengths a day to raise £1000. But '*Great Oaks from Little Acorns Grow*', at the time of writing this Lollipop, Colonel Tom has raised £1000 plus another £32 million and is walking on, as long as people keep giving. He has also launched a recording of 'You'll Never Walk Alone', together with Michael Ball and the NHS Voices of Care Choir. It is hoped that this will add to the amount raised. To honour his courage and achievement, his 100th length was marked

by a Guard of Honour from his old regiment. On April 30th, his 100th birthday, the RAF made a flypast of a Spitfire and Hurricane, and he received 140,000 birthday cards. His response was *"I never in my wildest dreams imagined I would be releasing a single with Michael Ball, but I also never thought it possible for me to walk in the garden and raise millions. So why not sing, spread some cheer and again - raise money for our national heroes. NHS this one is for you."* This is history in the making and long may he prosper.

And Finally – on a lighter note

Banksy

I guess we must all have heard of Banksy. Deprived of the usual canvas of walls on which he paints his amazing compositions, he has released pictures of his latest work. This is his bathroom and I can understand why he says his wife hates him working at home, although this will have added millions to the value of their house. Thank you for cheering us up Banksy, but don't put all of the blame on the rats, where are the fleas?



If, like me, you have ever wondered where all of the loo rolls go in times of crisis, wonder no more, it is clearly down the rat hole in the skirting board.

And Banksy can come and paint on my house walls any time he likes.

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