

# Newark Group..... for the men of the parish.

*"The aim of the Newark Group is to promote fellowship among all the men of the parish."*

Our programme of dinners with guest speakers and other events for 2018-19 is shown below. Unless otherwise stated we meet in the Good Shepherd Hall at the Church of the Good Shepherd at 7.30 for 8pm. (Scroll down to read something of the background and aims of the Newark Group.)

Please note that the programme below differs from the printed programme card in that the subjects and speakers for the February and April dinners have been swapped.

## Thursday 18 October INTRODUCTION TO ENGLISH FREEMASONRY

Dinner with guest speaker - Mike Kearsley

Freemasonry, yet another British creation, is over three hundred years old with members throughout the world in hundreds of Grand Lodges. Its influence has been enormous. Mike Kearsley will seek to provide a fuller picture of the Order by covering the history, development, principles and procedures of the Grand Lodge of England, from its creation in London in 1717 to the present day.

*Committee Contact: Tony Williams agw25@btinternet.com*

## Thursday 15 November THE CLINK CHARITY

Dinner with guest speaker - Vic Laws MBE

Our speaker will be talking about an organisation called "The Clink Charity" which runs restaurants for the rehabilitation of prisoners. Over 800 prisoners have graduated from The Clink training projects and now train up to 160 prisoners each day! In 2015 they trained just 188 of which 61 were released into employment. The rest continued their training.

*Committee Contact: Cliff Butler cliff@kestrelcreative.co.uk*

## Thursday 20 December CAROL SINGING

As Christmas approaches, members of the Group take to the streets of Pyrford to spread yuletide spirit through the medium of song. This is a popular event, open to everyone, so bring family and friends to join the happy throng and lend your voices to a selection of favourite carols. We'll be collecting donations for the Woking Hospice as we go. We meet at Pyrford Social Club at 7pm and return at about 9 pm.

*Committee Contact: Peter Austin peterjastin53@gmail.com*

## Thursday 24 January WOKING STREET ANGELS

Dinner with guest speaker - Laura Croker

Woking Street Angels, all trained volunteers, have for the past seven years, walked the streets of Woking town centre every Friday and Saturday night, whatever the weather, from 10 pm till 4 am, helping night-time visitors who may be in distress as a result of various issues. Street Angels help people, by listening, simple acts of generosity, caring, offering practical help or by referring them to other agencies that can help them.

*Committee Contact: Eldon Sandys eldon@phd-research.co.uk*

## **Thursday 21 February THE HISTORY OF THE MAGISTRACY**

Dinner with guest speaker - Owen Durrett

Owen Durrett is a Magistrate with many years behind him presiding in our Magistrate Courts. He will speak about the history of the 650 year old magistracy and its current organisation and work. For example: • Did you know that all criminal cases start in the Magistrates Court, which deals with 95% of them, leaving only 5% to go on to Crown Court? • Or that 52% of all magistrates are women? A fascinating insight into our legal system.

*Committee Contact: Richard Whitehill rwhiteh136@ntlworld.com*

## **Saturday 23 March PARISH QUIZ NIGHT**

This popular event - open to all - returns for another year. Form teams of eight to exercise the grey matter on a wide range of subjects and enjoy a two course dinner to sustain your efforts.

*Committee Contact: Peter Ankers pandgankers@gmail.com*

## **Thursday 25 April AVIAN FLU - THE ROLE OF APHA NEW HAW**

Dinner with guest speaker - Professor Ian Brown Head of Virology at APHA

The work conducted by the Animal and Plant Health Agency, based in New Haw, is not publicly known, indeed much of it is highly sensitive information. Prof Ian Brown will provide some unique insights into the work of the agency. As a highly important part of the agency's work, Ian will talk about bird flu, explaining all we need to know as well as asking the rhetoric question "should the public be worried about bird flu?"

*Committee Contact: Vincent Withers vincentwithers-gmsl@ntlworld.com*

## **Thursday 16 May THE RE-ENGINEERING OF BROOKLANDS - A 15-YEAR ODYSSEY**

Dinner with guest speaker - Alan Winn, retired Director & CEO

In 2003, Brooklands Museum was still recovering from a disastrous flood and in a precarious financial situation. Hear how a series of dramatic developments and investments, ranging from Concorde to the Brooklands Aircraft Factory, has transformed it into the vibrant, award-winning, financially-viable museum and tourist attraction it is today.

*Committee Contact: John Parker john.parker@care4free.net*

## **Thursday 20 June GOLF AT WEST BYFLEET GOLF CLUB**

For the Golfers among the group, this is another chance to lift the coveted Newark Group Trophy. An 18-hole Stableford competition will be held at West Byfleet Golf Club and will be followed by dinner, to which non-golfers are welcome, in the Club restaurant.

*Committee Contact: Peter Austin peterjastin53@gmail.com*

## **BACKGROUND TO THE NEWARK GROUP:**

It was recognised that in a 'dormitory town' environment such as ours there was perhaps little opportunity for men to feel part of our community. Sometimes it's possible to live in an area and yet not feel one really belongs. The idea behind the Newark Group was to provide a forum - a dinner with speaker, a social event, an 'awayday' - in which the men of the parish, not just those who come regularly to church, could get to know each other and feel part of something.

From modest beginnings Newark Group events now regularly attract 70 or more men to our meetings in the Good Shepherd Hall at the Church of the Good Shepherd.

**Why 'The Newark Group'?** We take our name from Newark Priory. Although technically just outside the parish, Newark Priory was at least a place exclusively for men, and overlooked by one of our churches, so it seemed appropriate

Over the years we have had many excellent speakers from the world of sport, business, politics, medicine, the arts, media and the armed forces. We have visited the Houses of Parliament, organised trips to the BBC, the London Eye and McLaren Racing. We've played golf, skittles and darts and visited a brewery. Thanks to the Newark Group friendships have been formed and relationships strengthened. Or if you prefer, a lot of good blokes have got to know each other.

We try to look beyond our own 'men only' activities. You may have heard us - and several ladies - carol singing round the village on behalf of charity. Our Parish Quiz Night is open to all.