**CALARA NEWSLETTER APRIL 2025**

**After the AGM we will be entertained by Singer and Saxophonist Michael Lock.**

**MEMBERSHIP Chris Coleman**

Please complete your membership renewal form as clearly as possible especially your email address if you have one and your Next of Kin. This should be someone other than your partner, because if you both go on an outing we need to have an alternative person to contact. Chris Coleman 01622 744041.

**ART & CRAFT- Chris Coleman**

We meet in the small hall every Friday afternoon except the 1st Friday in the month which is the main meeting day. We would be pleased to see you and any friend you want to bring along. We are here from 2.00pm to 4.00pm. We have a tea break about 3.00pm so why not come along and see what we do

**SHORT MAT BOWLS- Chris Frost- Tuesday afternoons.**

The bowls group meet on Tuesday afternoons between 2.45pm-5.00pm. Chris Frost 01622 745908

**MONDAY MOVERS- Barbara Lowe Monday mornings.**

There are two sessions in the small hall at 10.00am and 11.00am. Barbara Lowe 01622 296863.

**WHIST-Gwen Hawkes- Wednesday afternoons.**

We meet in the Committee room on Wednesday afternoons 1.00pm-3.30pm. The cost is £3.50 which includes refreshments, raffle and whist prizes. New members always welcome.

Gwen Hawkes 01622 746847.

**CRIBBAGE- Gwen Hawkes- Monday afternoons.**

We meet in the Committee room on Monday afternoons, except Bank Holidays 2.00pm-4.00pm. The cost is £2.00 refreshments included. New members always welcome. Gwen Hawkes 01622 746847.

**SOLITAIRE- Sheila Rosier.**

We are a small friendly group for full members on their own. We meet on 2nd Tuesday of the month for a chat and a cup of tea and to arrange trips out. If you are interested in joining us please contact me in the first instance.

Just a reminder, payment for our visit to Maidstone Museum for the Stores Tour is to be paid to me at our next meeting 8th April or before. We will need to be at the museum in Faith Street at 10.00am. The tour is booked for 10.45. Sheila Rosier 01622 746459.

**HOLIDAYS- Cliff Burke.**

With regard to our holiday to Holme Lacy on 14th July, the final balance due is £485pp. I would like to collect this at our May meeting on Friday 2nd May by cheque or cash (I am sorry at the moment we do not have another payment means set up) We have one double room still available, open to members or friends of members. This should be a good holiday and I hope you are looking forward to it as much as we are. Cliff Burke 07931 691934.

**OUTINGS- Carole Burke.**

**Painshill Gardens Cobham** **17th April. 2025** There are still spaces available. We have 37 members signed up but need more to break even, So regretfully I will need an extra £3 per person. The final total will now be £45.50. Those who have paid in full just need to pay a further £3. The balance of £25.50 will need to be paid today. Please would you also advise me of your pick up point.

**London River trip 22nd May from Westminster to Greenwich.** There will be free time in Greenwich in the afternoon. The cost is expected to be £38 with £10 deposit due today. There are just 6 spaces left.

**Buckingham Palace 11th September 2025.** This will include the Kings Gallery, Royal Mews and State Rooms. There are 50 members interested so please pay your deposit of £30 per person ASAP to secure your place. The full cost will be between £58-£62 per person.

**Overnight to Thursford Spectacular 13th November 2025.** The approximate cost is £245 which includes coach, show bed and breakfast and evening meal a deposit of £68 is required. There is just one double/twin room available. We have been allocated 40 spaces at the show but possibly could get more. Cheques payable to **CALARA** please. Carole Burke 07736 104764.

**Kent Active Retirement Association (KentARA)**

We are affiliated to KentARA which is the umbrella organisation for all 80+ Kent clubs. The organisation is divided into areas and we are in Area 4 along with BarmARA (Barming), HeadARA (Headcorn), LenARA (Lenham), BeARA (Bearsted) MaidARA (Maidstone) and SemARA (SE Maidstone). We meet with the KentARA area representative quarterly to discuss developments, exchange ideas generally and talk about our activities, holidays and days out. Some of the clubs are much smaller than ours and would have difficulty filling a coach, so there may be spare places available on trips which will be offered to us. The latest opportunity is from MaidARA who have organised a 4 night break to Bournemouth from 22nd September, staying at a 4 star hotel on a DB&B basis. The cost is £430 pp and if anyone would like to find out more please see Chris Baker in the break or call on 01622 746323. There could also be theatre tickets available from other clubs later in the year.

**LUNCHES- Val Allen & Val Cole.**

We are the 2 Vals and this will be our first lunch. We have arranged to go to the old favourite The Walnut Tree East Farleigh on Thursday April 24th at 12 noon for a 12.30pm sit down. If you would like to join us please see us in the small hall during tea break with your choice of menu. The 2 Vals 07749 869387.

**KITCHEN- Sheila Rosier**

We need volunteers to help with the washing up at the main meetings. If you can help with this please put your name on the rota which is on Calara's notice board. Thank you Sheila.

**Platinum Wedding Anniversary**

We send our congratulations to Jim and Brenda Collins who will be celebrating their 70th Wedding Anniversary this month. Brenda is also celebrating her 90th Birthday too. Our best wishes to you both.

**NEXT MONTHS MEETING- Friday 2nd May.**

The speaker next month is Melody Foreman talking about 'The Battlefield on the Big screen' She tells of the fascinating stories of British and American Hollywood Actors who fought in World War II and she gives an amazing insight into their individual stories.