

From: Katherine Ardizzone <k.ardiz@iinet.net.au>

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Did you miss me while I was away riding elephants and walking with lions in Zud Afrrica? Oh, you didn't even notice that I was gone? Hmmph!

Anyway, I am sure you have all settled back into your classes and for those who are tutoring some new courses - Welcome.

Last term we missed out on our Speakers Unlimited series but I have rectified that for this 4th term and so we will hear two excellent talks.

1. World War 11 was a catastrophe waiting to happen the minute the last signature was added to The Treaty of Versailles in 1919. Elton Brown will discuss the decisions made in that document which 20 years later brought the world to the brink of the abyss.

2. Many of us decide to downsize when our family has left home. One option is a Retirement Village. But will we like it? What will it cost? Can we leave if it is not for us? All these questions and more will be answered at a forthcoming talk on Thursday 17th November. Mark your calendar.

And now a little plea. Do you have any fairy lights which we can borrow for the glittering Tutors' Dinner in November. This is the night of nights when tutors are wined and dined - softening them up so they sign on for next year's courses. If you do have some fairy lights could you please advise the Reception Desk person when next you come in or alternatively ring the Centre on 9293 2977.

First it was Bling Friday when you all (or at least Bridget) came dressed in your 'jules'. Then it was Rhyming Couplets Day when you all (or at least quite a lot of you) presented your little bit of poetry which was so good that we published it. Make sure you get your copy.

And now the third task is Greeting a Stranger. The idea is that you introduce yourselves to another member at the Centre who you might have seen but have never met and ask them four questions. (Warning Do not try this after dark on a lonely road).

Let me give you an example of a conversation overheard between Elizabeth and Bridget.

Elizabeth: What is your name?
Bridget: I am Bridget.
Elizabeth: What do you do?
Bridget: I am a fighter pilot.
Elizabeth: Are you taking a course at the Centre?
Bridget: Yes, I am.
Elizabeth: What course is that?
Bridget: Learning to Fly.

The most inventive Q&As might or might not win a prize and might or might not be published. That is not my department.

FREE, FREE, FREE Are you a spinner of yarns of the woollen sort rather than the tall tales type? Then enquire at the Reception Desk about our spinning wheels which we are giving away to good homes.

Enough to be going on with, I would have thought.

Katherine