

Latin for Absolute Beginners

Joe McDonald and Jeff Wise will be offering a Latin course to U3A members in September. It will be for complete beginners and people who did Latin so far back in the last millennium that they have forgotten everything. It will not be for those who already know a lot of the language. That might be a future venture.

It will take place every fortnight on the first and third Monday of the month from 10am to 12 noon in the annex of Haslemere Hall. The first session will be on 20 September. The course will initially last for a year with the possibility of an extension into a second year. There will be no exam, but there may be a little homework between sessions. Members will have to commit themselves to attending almost every session, because what you will learn in one session will follow on from what you have learnt in the previous one. It won't be a course where members will be able to drop in and out between holidays, golf, coffee mornings and babysitting.

The aim of the course will be to have a lot of fun in a relaxed environment whilst learning this wonderful language and culture which have had such a huge influence on English and many other European languages and cultures. Members will be able to explore their own interests, such as gardening terms, tombstone inscriptions, the meaning of terms in common use, such as eg, ie, etc, ibid, passim, and the meanings of those annoying quotations with which snooty writers introduce every chapter of their books in the belief that everyone knows their meanings.

Members will need to buy one textbook from the Haslemere Bookshop costing £12.99, but you will be advised about that when you enrol. Apart from the usual membership cost of 50p per session, there will be no other costs unless we all decide to go off to Rome to practise our skills.

Enrolment: in order to enrol, you will need to come to the Enrolment Day at Haslemere Hall on Monday pm 6 September. Enrolment begins at 1.30. A maximum of 25 places will be available and these will go to the first 25 people who ask to join. Those who are unable to get to that enrolment session may apply in advance as specified elsewhere in this notice, provided they are already members of the Haslemere U3A.

Joe McDonald

Jeff Wise

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