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Monthly meetings are held at 2.30 pm on the first Tuesday of the month at The Jubilee Centre, Conway Fields, St Faith's Road, Alcester



## Notes from the Chair

Karyl Rees



**A happy and healthy New Year to you all.**

Now is the time to renew your membership. We have kept the subscription at the same level for a number of years and will continue to do so as long as we can. I know what a difference U3A can make to our lives with a range of groups for learning and socialising.

As usual, you will receive a membership card which you can use to attend meetings of other U3A's. However, we have decided to do away with the card programme this year. Instead, we will send out a paper copy of the programme in March.

There are often changes in Committee positions at this time, and groups information is constantly changing, so the card copy is soon out of date. Bronwen does so well in making these changes known in the Newsletter that we thought this was the way forward to stay up to date.

Next month you will receive notice of the AGM and Committee Nomination forms.

**Reminder** - If you are a group leader, you will have received a note from Bob to send in a report for the year 2017. Please do so this month so that he has time to sort and edit them for the AGM.

## Monthly Speakers

Gill Stanley

### December Meeting

We were pleased to welcome John Berkeley to our meeting. He is very knowledgeable and enthusiastic about anything to do with aviation and he spent the afternoon telling us about the history of aviation in Warwickshire in the period preceding the Second World War. It was quite astonishing how important Warwickshire was in the development of early aeroplanes and, as a result providing a number of simple landing fields which had significance after the outbreak of war. Quite a few early planes were constructed in the county and many of them actually flew successfully! It was a very interesting talk.



### January Meeting

In a change to the published programme we look forward to hearing from one of our own members. We are very grateful to Laurence Thatcher who will be telling us about what has been learnt from excavations in the area about Roman Alcester. This area has a very important place history and we are very lucky to have a local expert to explain it's significance.

Chairman	Karyl Rees
Vice Chairman	John Pickering
Treasurer	Jan Carr
Secretary	Valerie Hamblin
Membership Secretary	Bridget Beech
Programme Organiser	Gill Stanley
Minuting Secretary	Lyn Pickering
Archives	Jan Rowe
Groups Organiser	Bob Andrews
Committee Members	Ruth Dutton,

Web:

[www.alcesteru3a.btck.co.uk](http://www.alcesteru3a.btck.co.uk) Annual Sub £15

Only members can join groups

Please  
Note

## MESSAGE FROM YOUR TREASURER

£ £ £ £ £

The 2018 subscription renewal form is included with this letter. Subs remain at £15 per member and are due on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2018. Please make payment to Jan Carr as soon as possible.

HAPPY★NEW★YEAR

HAPPY★NEW★YEAR

## THEATRE GROUP PROGRAMME

### 20th January 2018 :- “The Play that Goes Wrong” at Cheltenham

All 40 seats have been taken; Tickets to include coach will be £29.50 each. There have been a number of cancellations for a variety of reasons & almost everyone on the reserve list has either withdrawn or got a ticket. So we have exactly 40 names scheduled to go, with just 3 reserves. The booked and Reserve lists will be available at the meeting & there is still a chance that anyone putting their name down at this late stage could get a ticket.

**NB: coach departure time from the Greig Hall for Cheltenham is 10.00 am**

### Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2018:- “Birdsong” at Cheltenham



40 seats have been reserved; Tickets including coach will be £30.00. Presented by Birdsong Productions in association with Original Theatre Company

Marking the 100th anniversary of the end of the First World War, *Birdsong* is the hit, critically acclaimed stage show based on the world famous novel by Sebastian Faulks. In pre-war France a young Englishman, Stephen Wraysford, embarks on a passionate and dangerous affair with the beautiful Isabelle Azaire that turns their world upside down. As the war breaks out over the idyll of his former life, Stephen must lead his men through the carnage of the Battle of the Somme and through the sprawling tunnels that lie deep underground. Faced with the unprecedented horror of the war Stephen clings to the memory of Isabelle as his world explodes around him.

A mesmerising story of love and courage. Set both before and during the Great War.

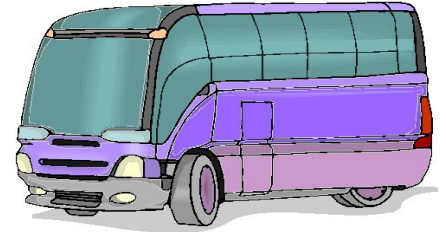
The Booked & Reserve lists will be available at the meeting. If you have booked, please ensure Jan Carr has your cheque on 2 January. We still have 11 seats unsold, but have to return them to the Theatre if they are not taken by 11 January.

It is likely to be the last trip before the summer, so please book & pay at the January meeting or email Joe White on [joe\\_patwhite@msn.com](mailto:joe_patwhite@msn.com)

Happy New Year Happy New Year

## Monmouth, the Forest of Dean and the Wye Valley

2018 coach trip – Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> June



All day trip including afternoon Boat Trip from Symonds Yat with a Cream Tea

**Cost £23 each (Non Members £28) Numbers Limited to 48 maximum**

39 Members who have already indicated an interest will have priority if they now proceed to book. **Cheque Payment to Jan Carr please by 3<sup>rd</sup> April**

Booking List will be at the January Meeting  
Sign up if you wish to go - the previous list was for interest only

## INTEREST GROUP NEWS

News is somewhat thin this month as most groups took a break in December

Philosophy

Adrian Madge



The group was due to meet on 19 December to discuss "Stoicism" but report not received yet – watch this space

Pub Ambles:

Linda Bradley

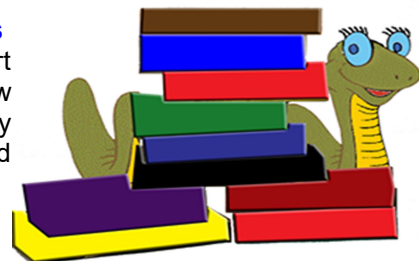


Snow and treacherous conditions underfoot caused the amble to be cancelled this month, so it was decided to meet at the Golden Goose for the meal only. Fourteen members of our intrepid group braved the weather and we had a delicious carvery and a good old fashioned "chin wag". A most enjoyable social event at the start of the Christmas season!

## Rees Reading

'We were disappointed with 'A Curious Career' by Lynn Barber. It was a short memoir by this well-known interviewer and journalist. While the interview transcripts were entertaining and the book well-written, she constantly referred back to a previous book, later made into a film, which none of us had read.

Karyl Rees



Next meeting will be 8th January in Henley Street.

## Alcester U3A Interest Groups

Group Coordinator: Bob Andrews

If you would like to join a group, please contact the group organiser

Group	Meeting	Time	Venue	Organiser
Beginners Family History	Various Monday	2.00 pm	37 Station Road Alcester	Linda Cooper
Church Visits	4 <sup>th</sup> Tuesday	11.00 am	Various Recommencing May 2017	John Cooper
Computer	Free email Computer Newsletter (Circulation 40 members)			John Ruffell
Crafts	Usually 3 <sup>rd</sup> Wednesday	10.00 am	Alcester Methodist Ch. Hall	Linda Bradley
French	3 <sup>rd</sup> Tuesday	2.30 pm	The Library, Oversley House	Pat White
Garden Lovers	2 <sup>nd</sup> Thursday April – October	2.30 pm	Various (See Page 2)	Judith Wharrad
History	3 <sup>rd</sup> Wednesday	10.15 am	The Library, Oversley House	Gerry Barker
Jazz & Big Band Appreciation	2 <sup>nd</sup> Wednesday bi-monthly	2.00 pm	Malt Mill Community Centre	Tony Badham
Keep Fit	Every Wednesday	11.45 am	Alcester Baptist Church Hall	Norma Haigh
Music Appreciation	Last Wednesday	2.00 pm	Malt Mill Community Centre	Jan Rowe
Outings	As Advised		Various	Joe White
Philosophy	3 <sup>rd</sup> Tuesday	2.00 pm	Malt Mill Community Centre	Adrian Madge
Poetry too	Last Friday	2.00 pm	Broad Cedar, Tibbets Close	Bob Andrews
Pub Ambles	2 <sup>nd</sup> Friday	10.30 am	Various	Linda Bradley
Pub Walks	3 <sup>rd</sup> Friday	10.00 am	Various	Trevor Wraight
Rees Reading	2 <sup>nd</sup> Monday	10.15 am	Various	Karyl Rees
Science	1 <sup>st</sup> Wednesday	2.00 pm	1 Henley Street	Bill Bayley
Theatre Visits	As Notified			Joe White
Yoga on Monday	Every Monday	10.30 am	Alcester Methodist Ch. Hall	Karyl Rees
Midday Yoga	Every Monday	12 – 1.00	Alcester Methodist Ch. Hall	Karyl Rees



**ALCESTER UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE**

26 Oversley House, Kinwarton Rd, ALCESTER, Warks. B49 6PX Tel: 01789 400642

1<sup>st</sup> January, 2018

Dear Member

**2018 SUBSCRIPTION RENEWAL**

You are invited to renew your Annual Subscription to Alcester U3A for the year 2018. The subscription remains at £15 per member, and is due on 1<sup>st</sup> January, 2018. Any cheques forwarded before that date, will not be banked until after 1<sup>st</sup> January, 2018.

***If, for any reason, you do not wish to renew your Membership, it would be most helpful if you could let me know, as soon as possible. Many thanks.***

To aid administration, please will you let me know if you have any changes to your address, phone number or e mail address. ***Please complete the Groups section on the tear off slip. This is most important for Insurance purposes.***

If, for any reason you are unable to print out the tear off slip, please write the **FULL** details on a sheet of paper, and forward it with your cheque. Thank you.

If your Subscription has not been received by the March 2018 General Meeting Day, you will be deemed to have resigned Membership.

Please **DO IT NOW**, to aid the administration of the Society.

Yours sincerely

Jan Carr

Treasurer Alcester U3A

Please complete this tear off slip and return it to me, at the above address, as soon as possible, or hand it to me, or the Membership Secretary, at the next Monthly Meeting. Many thanks.

**NAME (s)** .....

I / We enclose our cheque(s) for Renewal of Alcester U3A Subscription(s) £ .....

**ANY CHANGES** – Personal.....

**GROUPS ATTENDED** .....

**ALCESTER U3A IS REGISTERED FOR THE GIFT AID SCHEME.** If you are a UK tax payer, and eligible to take part in this scheme, please complete the attached form, as per the request in the Newsletter. If you need to know more about this, please ask me.