

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

Notes from the Chair

John Pickering

2020 Subscriptions now overdue.

Please help our Treasurer to prepare the accounts for auditing! If you haven't yet paid your subscription for this year, please either see our Treasurer, Jan Carr, at the next meeting on 4th February, or send your cheque, together with your personal details, to her in the post asap.

National U3A Day -3rd June

Do you have any bright ideas?? We're looking for ideas on what we could do to raise awareness of U3A in Alcester on National U3A day. Please put on your thinking caps and contact me in the near future.

Please would you share your memories?

Our April meeting will be a light-hearted trip down "memory lane" where we'll be reminiscing about the theatre trips, outings and holidays that we've done in recent years. If you would be willing to take part by recounting your memories at the meeting or by supplying photographs and/or amusing accounts to me for me to present, please let me know. I will be putting the programme together shortly, so I'd really appreciate your input! (johnpickering@gmail.com)

And finally, a reminder: we're still looking for members to volunteer to be "befrienders" of new members at our monthly meetings. Please see any member of the committee.



Monthly Speakers January Meeting

Gill Stanley

The first meeting in the year is always quite hectic with everyone sorting out their new membership. It was therefore good to settle down and listen to some folk songs, ditties and tunes expertly played and sung by Alan Benjamin. Alan also has a seemingly endless collection of "naughty" jokes so we all had a good laugh.

February Meeting

We look forward to seeing Ray Sturdy again on February 4th when he will tell us about the Rise and Fall of Worcester's Whitley Court, a fascinating story of a wonderful building.

THURSFORD CHRISTMAS SPECTACULAR

IS ANYONE INTERESTED IN THE THURSFORD CHRISTMAS SPECTACULAR?

I have been approached by Harry Shaw Travel to run a trip to the above on Friday 20th November, which would include an overnight stay in the Holiday Inn, Norwich, where we stayed last year on the Norfolk Holiday. For those of you who have not heard of this, it's

billed as: "An extravaganza of non-stop singing, dancing, music, humour and variety. It's a fast-moving celebration of the festive season featuring an electric mix of both seasonal and year-round favourites. With a cast of 130 this is the biggest Christmas show of its kind in Europe!"

The cost would be around £190 for a minimum of 35 people. If you're interested, there will be an interest list at the meeting, or you can contact me direct.

John Pickering.

| | |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| Chairman | John Pickering |
| Vice Chairman | Lindsay Evans |
| Treasurer | Jan Carr |
| Secretary | Valerie Hamblin |
| Membership Secretary | Lyn Pickering |
| Programme Organiser | Gill Stanley |
| Minuting Secretary | Lyn Pickering |
| Archives | Jan Rowe |
| Groups Organiser | Bob Andrews |

Committee Members
Web:

Richard Dean
www.alcesteru3a.btck.co.uk

Karyl Rees
Annual Sub £15

Joe White

Ruth Dutton
Only members can join group



Summer Outing to Bristol

Saturday 18th July 2020

(Coach to Leave Greig Hall Alcester at 8.30am)

We should reach Bristol around 10.00 am. That weekend is the date for the **Bristol Harbour Festival**, and we will arrange for the coach to drop us off at the harbour, where we have a 90-minute boat trip booked for 4.30 pm. The boat will take us on a tour of the harbour, and serve us a Cream

tea which should satisfy the hunger pains until we get back to Alcester around about 8.00 pm.

We will have lots of time to enjoy Bristol, there is an open top bus stop, a water ferries stop and the SS Great Britain all close to the Harbour packet company, where we will be meeting up for the boat trip in the afternoon.

The cost which includes Coach, Boat trip, Cream Tea, and tips is £25 each for members.

A maximum of 5 Non-member partners may be included at a cost of £30 each

There is a limit of 46, so please book early if you want to come and let Jan Carr have your cheques, as soon as you can and definitely by our meeting on 7th April.

A booking sheet will be available at the February meeting or email Joe White at joe_patwhite@msn.com

A reserves List will be maintained as experience shows "things happen" & reserves are often successful.

CORRECTION TO INFORMATION ON THE 2020 PROGRAMME.

Please note that the telephone number for our Accessibility Officer, Ruth Dutton is incomplete member section of the Programme. If you need to get in touch with Ruth her telephone number Many apologies for this error.

IMPORTANT - PLEASE COLLECT YOUR MEMBERSHIP CARDS

If you have paid your 2020 subscription and haven't yet received your envelope containing your membership & I.C.E. cards and programme, please collect them from me at the meeting on 4th February. Thanks.

Lyn Pickering, Membership Secretary.



Annual Spring Lunch

Don't miss our very enjoyable Annual Spring Lunch, which will be held on **21st May 2020** at the **Kings Court Hotel**. Further details to follow.

MESSAGE FROM THE TREASURER

A huge thank you to all Members who have renewed their membership, and welcome to all new Members. Please remember that if you haven't paid your subs by the March meeting, you will be deemed to be cancelling your Membership. Please, also remember that to be a member of any Group, you must be a paid up member.

Treasurer's
CORNER



THEATRE TRIPS REMINDER

TEN TIMES TABLE

Saturday 29th February at Cheltenham

The coach will leave from the Greig Hall at 10.00 am prompt

final reminder

INTEREST GROUP NEWS



Family History

We meet again on Monday afternoon 10th February, from 14.00 chez moi.

We talked about "buying certificates" now increased to £11.00 (£7.00 for pdf copies) and their usefulness, Using freebmd however for basic information without cost got a good mention !!

For the March meeting the subject will be "wills and their usefulness",

Linda Cooper

Jazz & Big Band Appreciation

This months presentation was by John Cooper and was centred around the way different artists and arrangers treat the same song/piece! This proved very entertaining, particularly because John challenged the group to identify both artist and song without any label info.! Turnout was a bit lower than usual, but probably due to Christmas/New Year recovery!! **Next session Feb.12th.2020. with me presenting.**

Tony Badham





History

Paul Brenda

The History Group began the year with a guest speaker. Tessa Smallbone, a Holocaust Ambassador, told us of the Nazi attempt to exterminate the Jews and others during World War Two and reminded us that similar killings have taken place since. She took us on a photo-tour which revealed her own emotions when she visited the Auschwitz camps. She concluded by highlighting the methods used to isolate a minority before demonising and then persecuting its members: a process still sadly in evidence today. We then heard of a local resident who was rescued from the Nazis on the last of the Kinder-transport. To discover how it all began -

come to our February meeting where John Puzey will tell us about the Wannsee Conference.

Music Lovers

Jan Rowe

Tony Ingram's theme for his presentation was 'American Composers', his first pieces were Aaron Copland's well known "Fanfare for the Common Man" then his "Clarinet Concerto" this was followed by a selection from "West Side story" by Leonard Bernstein. Next was a jazz piece by Miles Davies entitled "Blue in Green" and Paul Simon singing "Graceland". Charles Ives' "Central Park in the Dark" was an atmospheric composition with layers of orchestral textures and John Adam's "The Chairman's Dances" certainly extended our musical knowledge too, the finale was Jessye Norman singing one of Richard Strauss's "Four Last Songs".

Our next meeting on 26th February will be preceded by our annual lunch at "The Bear Hotel, the presenter will be Lin Randall.



Philosophy

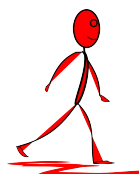
Peter Tugwell

The question for January 's meeting was 'How should a liberal representative democracy deal with the rights of minorities?'. We took the explicit and implicit assumptions in the question as 'given' and went straight to looking at the sorts of minorities that might have rights issues, and the vocabulary needed to examine these topical areas in political philosophy. 'citizenship-as-rights', identity politics', 'cultural pluralism', 'politics of Redistribution', 'politics of Recognition' were just some of the terms we looked at, and as for minorities, we looked at ethnocultural groups, national minorities, groups based on gender, sexual orientation, disability and age. Liberalism seemed prepared to accommodate the individual and his/her claim to rights, but in the form of a 'liberal democracy' with the goal of 'nation-building' there was often a tension which left claims unresolved at the group level. Our discussion included two areas where such tension is evident – the core curriculum in schools (the right to education is not a right to a particular education) and language (where a particular language is not the language of the social and political institutions of the state). If the goal of the liberal democracy is a common national identity including the laudable aims of equal opportunity and unity, then that goal should be realisable without causing injustice to recognition- seeking minorities. **The topic for February's meeting is: 'Kantian Ethics', in the new format of a five-minute member presentation followed by general discussion.**

Strollers Group

Jane Sergeant

Yet again the weather prevented us from strolling round Alcester in January. We did meet and have drinks in Venue Express and decided to do this stroll in February. **We will meet on Monday 10th February at 1 30pm at Alcester Scout Hut,** hopefully the weather will be kind to us this time.



Pub Ambles

Bronwen Bunting

Taking account of the rain that had fallen, the Amblers took the "safe" option along surfaced paths, taking in the Tramway, the River Avon, central Stratford and the canal before finishing at The Old Tramway for lunch. Not recommended for a positive culinary experience, the 2nd group benefited from the experience of the 1st group in what to order. However, the meals served up to the first group were more than compensated for by the hilarity they caused, not least the "stickleback" & chips and "find the chicken & mushroom in the" pie. The 2nd group enjoyed a stop-off at the Guild Chapel with the added bonus of a student playing the organ.



Pub Walks

Trevor Wraight

The Walkers also took the safe option, starting from Alcester and enjoying a circular walk through Oversley, Wixford, and Exhall before a good lunch back at The Bear.



Reading Group 2

Ruth Dutton

Book group 2 read 'The Taxidermist's Daughter' by Kate Mosse. a Gothic tale which doesn't quite work. This book received a very mixed reaction from the group; enjoyed by some, disliked by others &, in a couple of cases, was unfinished. The number of characters, their relationships with each other & frequent scene changes interfere with the flow of story. Connie Gifford, who is, I suppose, a main character, has a very convenient loss of memory caused by a blow to the head in a childhood accident. The point of the story is gradually revealed through events which trigger the gradual return of her childhood memory. It just seems a rather clunking way to proceed with the plot. Some of us found the graphic descriptions of taxidermy rather disturbing. I (and others) revealed an intense dislike of stuffed birds, animals etc which wasn't helped much by the discovery of three very dead miscreants likewise 'preserved' at the end of the book! I make no apology for this spoiler! Ruth Dutton - still standing in for Linda Jennings, soon to be freed from 'koala watch' in order to visit Tasmania, before flying on to New Zealand!

Science**Gill Stanley**

We didn't meet in January so we are looking forward to seeing everyone on Wednesday, February 5th. **The topic we have been researching asks whether there is a scientific basis for our legends and old wives' tales.**

Poetry Too met in January and the report will follow in the next Newsletter. **The topic for the February meeting will be Truth and Lies.**

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 th Tuesday | 11.00 am | Various | John Cooper |
| Computer | Free email Computer Newsletter (Circulation 40 members) | | | John Ruffell |
| Crafts | 1 st & 3 rd Wednesday September to March | 10.00 am | Alcester Methodist Ch. Hall | Linda Bradley |
| French | 3 rd Tuesday | 2.30 pm | The Library, Oversley House | Brian Titterton |
| Garden Lovers | 2nd Thursday April – October To be confirmed | 2.30 pm | Various | Janet Alleley Kath Lloyd-ajones |
| History | 3 rd Thursday | 10.15 am | Jubilee Ct Community Room | Paul Brenda |
| Jazz & Big Band Appreciation | 2 nd Wednesday except August & September | 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 rd Tuesday | 2.00 pm | Malt Mill Community Centre | Peter Tugwell |
| Poetry too | Last Friday | 2.00 pm | Malt Mill Community Centre | Bob Andrews |
| Pub Ambles | 2 nd Friday 3 rd Tuesday | 10.30 am 10.30 am | Various Various | Linda Bradley |
| Pub Walks | 3 rd Friday | 10.00 am | Various | Trevor Wraight |
| Rees Reading | 2 nd Monday | 10.15 am | Various | Karyl Rees (GROUP FULL) |
| Reading 2 | 2 nd Tuesday | | Various | Linda Jennings |
| Science | 1 st Wednesday | 2.00 pm | Alcester Methodist Ch. Hall | Gill Stanley |
| Spanish | 2 nd & 4 th Tuesday | 10 am | Jubilee Ct Community Room | John Douglas |
| Strolling Group | | | | Jane Sergeant |
| Theatre Visits | As Notified | | | Joe White |
| Yoga on Monday | Every Monday 2 groups | 10.15 am 11.45 am | Alcester Methodist Ch. Hall | Karyl Rees (GROUP FULL) |
| Bridge | To be confirmed | TBC | The Old Dairy, 3 Arrow Grange, Alcester B49 5PJ | Ian & Lorraine Thompson 01789 762447 lrthompson144@hotmail.com |
| Mah Jong | 4 th Thursday | 2.00 pm | Malt Mill Community Centre | Richard Dean 07496 239318 rbmdean@sky.com |
| Chess | 1 st Monday | 2.00 pm | 1105 Evesham Road Astwood Bank B96 6EB | Colin & Sandra Taylor 01527 892852 colintaylor11@btinternet.com |
| PROPOSED NEW GROUP | | | | |
| Bridge | To be confirmed | TBC | The Old Dairy, 3 Arrow Grange, Alcester B49 5PJ | Ian & Lorraine Thompson 01789 762447 lrthompson144@hotmail.com |