



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 good turnout again for our AGM, following which we filled the three gaps in the Committee. Lindsay Evans and Richard Dean are fairly new members so it's good to have different points of view. Following the Committee meeting to elect officers, John Ruffell volunteered to take over the role of Membership Secretary, which he had done previously. We will be happy to co-opt him to fill this role. A full list of Committee members is at the end of the Newsletter. Of course, I missed out mentioning someone whose help is invaluable at our monthly meetings – Colin Taylor who sets up and manages the PA system in the hall. Thanks Colin.

Last month John Pickering and I attended an Extraordinary General Meeting of the National U3A in Birmingham. One reason for this meeting was to revise the object clause of the organisation to “**the advancement of education and, in particular, the education of older people and those who are retired from full time work, by all means including associated activities conducive to learning and personal development**” On your behalf I voted for this revision and other revisions to bring the Articles of Association into line with changes in the Companies Act, the Charities Act and the Charity Commission's 'model' Articles 2014. We will need to adjust the wording of our own Constitution at the next AGM.

Monthly Speakers

Gill Stanley

April Meeting

Our speaker this month is Ellie Targett and her talk is entitled “Another Man's Shoes”. Ellie was born and brought up in Norway and where her father was a Professor of Marine Biology. At the outbreak of the 2nd world war he became a member of the Norwegian resistance. In 1944 he was arrested photographing German military installations but after a time he managed to escape 300 miles over the mountains to Sweden. 60 years later Ellie and her sister set out on foot to retrace their father's flight from Nazi occupied Norway. “Another Man's Shoes” is his story.



VISIT TO MALVERN THEATRE ON SATURDAY 14th APRIL “A Streetcar Named Desire”

Tennessee Williams timeless masterpiece, a fiery portrait of what it means to be an outsider in a society where we are all desperate to belong.

There is just ONE seat still available at £25.00

If you would like it, please book & pay by cheque to Jan Carr on 3 April. (NB: the Theatre has inserted an age recommendation of 14+). Some space are left on the coach & if members wish, they could come to Malvern for the afternoon without going to the theatre.

The coach leaves **The Greig Hall, Alcester, at 11.00 am and arrives back around 6.00 pm.**

The charge for this would be £8/person. Please book and pay by 3 April if you wish to come on the coach (See Joe White or Jan Carr)

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

Annual Sub £15

Only members can join groups



FORTHCOMING THEATRE VISITS

Saturday 21 July at Cheltenham Theatre

“Sherlock Holmes and the Final Curtain”

A new play starring Robert Powell and Liza Goddard
described as “Chilling, Gripping & filled with unforeseen twists & revelations”

We still have 14 seats available.

Tickets cost, **£38** including coach & driver's tip.

The booking list will be available at the meeting on 3 April. The coach will leave the Greig Hall at 10.00 am
Payment required by the 3rd April. We are limited to 40 seats & must confirm the booking before the end of April

GROUP HOLIDAY UPDATE

I am delighted to say that I have had an excellent response to the proposed 4 day holiday in Bournemouth and Hampshire and we only have **4 rooms** left, so if you would like to find out more about this excellent value holiday, please contact me as soon as possible.



For those of you who have reserved rooms, please complete the booking form and bring it to the next meeting, together with your deposit (£45 per room) and insurance (£20 if you wish to take this up) to the next meeting, or send it to me by post.

Contact John Pickering by either telephone (01527 453628) or email (johnpickering@gmail.com)

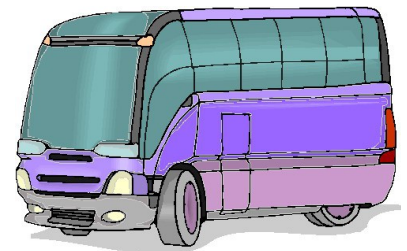
Monmouth, the Forest of Dean and the Wye Valley

COACH TRIP

Saturday 30 June 2018

The list of those who have booked & the reserves will be at the meeting. Please make cheque payments (Alcester U3A) to Jan Carr on 3 April

(**£23 for members; £28 for non-members**)



INTEREST GROUP NEWS



History

Our talk last month was “2000 years of Northamptonshire Iron (from the Romans to the Indians”. The use of Northamptonshire iron ore to produce goods such as tools & weapons started about 1000 BC. The Romans, after AD 43, continued manufacture using charcoal from Rockingham Forest as fuel for their furnaces. The Anglo-Saxons & Vikings carried on the process, but the arrival of the railways from 1845 started exploration in a big way for more ore to supply the blast furnaces of the industrial revolution. In the 20th century, Northamptonshire was the major supplier of iron ore & pig iron to British industry: eg in 1957, 5 million tons of ore were shipped to blast furnaces. However with the importation of richer grade ore from Sweden, Brazil and Australia, the writing was on the wall and the Corby blast furnaces closed in 1980 announcing the end of iron production in the county and the country.

John Douglas

Jazz and Big Band Appreciation



This months presentation was compiled & presented by John Cooper, based on his extensive collection of 78's and 10"LP's going way back to the 20's and on to the 40's & 50's. Every body enjoyed the selection and the repartee which went with it!

Tony Badham

Music Appreciation

John Ruffell's programme entitled “Some Personal Memories” included recordings from the 1920's to the 1970's. The earliest was from 1927 -Mendelssohn's “Oh for the Wings of a Dove” sung by Ernest Lough and the latest, recorded in 1976, was John Ogdon playing Tchaikovsky's Piano Concerto No. 1. Old recordings included tenor Gigli, pianist Dame Myra Hess, soprano Joan Hammond, Peter Dawson singing “The Floral Dance” and many more. Finally there was J S Strauss's rousing Radetzky March”. It was a programme of truly beautiful nostalgia. I shall be presenting my choices at the **next meeting on 25 April.**

Jan Rowe



Philosophy

For March we had "Truth" as our subject which provided plenty of discussion. What is Truth and how do we know when we have found it.

No Dictionary is of help and merely offers a long list of Synonyms but no definition. We are more at ease with it in its adjectival form but can still be unsure of its presence and only in relatively recent times of Science and mathematics are we able to prove its presence in their particular spheres. Still in the written and spoken word are we left with "time" to confirm or refute its presence. So we had a good session with plenty of thought.

So much so that we agreed to a suggestion that we should follow up with its running mate "Belief" next month.

So if our interest in Truth was equestrian we are at least going in the right order and expect a Cartload of discussion. on **April 17th**

Adrian Madge

TRUTH

Poetry Too



A good turnout for our latest challenge – 'Wild Flowers'. Quite a mixture of what occupies our vision and our minds when confronted with nature's subtle assault. Would you believe 'Rose Bud Willow Herb', 'Old Man's Beard' or even 'Noddle Violet' can all be found in poetry - though they may be easily overlooked in the flood of words in which they can be hidden. Shakespeare, A E Houseman, Robert Frost are as expected, well represented; Wordsworth wrote about the daisy and celandine with as much pleasure as he found in daffodils whilst Henry Williamson was keen that we not forget 'Forget Me Nots'. Vita Sackville West's muse on 'Columbine' was a tour

round the richest garden in imagination.

Surprisingly perhaps were the times in which the war poets used the heartfelt imagery of wild or random evocations of plants and flowers – 'In Flanders Fields' being just one poem that draws inspiration from a simple crossing of poppies with death. Siegfried Sassoon, Ivor Gurney and Edward Thomas strayed away from the battle fields to bring us gems like 'Adlestrop'. More recent relief came from Roger McGough – grass being his personal bete noir.

America brought reflection through Nicholas Vachel Lindsay with his heartfelt loss of the prairie given over to the railroads, the slaughter of buffaloes and the growing of wheat – which wiped out the ancient people who called it home. Most disturbing of all was a recent poem by Sharon Esther Lampert entitled simply 'There is no Flower in Darfur' - genocide in Sudan being her edgy platform.

A wide ranging and stimulating session.

We meet again on Friday 27th April when the subject is 'Green'

Bob Andrews



Pub Ambles:

Linda Bradley

In view of the muddy March conditions the group met at St Nicholas Church, Alcester and enjoyed a 4 mile walk via Primrose Hill and round the gravel paths of Oversley Wood, ending up back in Alcester for lunch at The Turk's Head

Pub Walks

Trevor Wraight

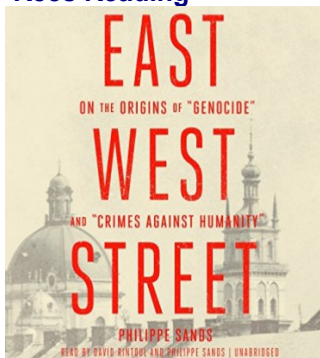
The snow thawed, the sun came out, spring was in the air. Cheltenham Gold Cup Day and the going was soft (liquid in places). A good pace along tracks to Binton, a couple of stiles and a muddy field gave panoramic views across the Avon Valley. Our keenness helped us avoid the over enthusiastic coffee morning seller at Temple Grafton as we climbed the hill to join and follow the Ridgeway to the ancient Moot Point of the Barlich Way Hundred. A

liquid path through woodland led us to a lively group of charming, yearling horses. Hard tracks bought us back, pausing to enjoy the dwarf goats, to the Stag, a much-needed beer and an excellent meal.



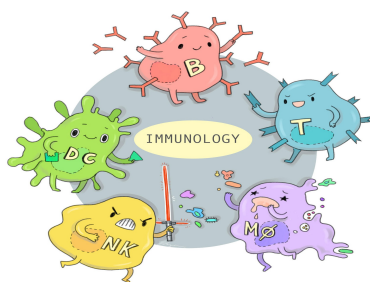
Rees Reading

Karyl Rees



'East West Street' by Philippe Sands was not an easy read. The print was small, the ideas complex and the subject matter difficult. Starting from a photograph found in his Jewish grandfather's collection, Sands traced the history of his family back to WW1 in a village in Poland, and connected it with two other families, descendants of which were involved in the Nuremberg Trials as legal advisers. Over a few years, that part of the country had undergone rule by Austro-Hungary, Russia, Germany, and Russia again before becoming part of an independent Poland. Sands also goes into the career of Hans Frank, ruler of this area when, during WW2 it was known as the General Government for the Polish Territories and used to 'contain' Jews. It was home to several elimination camps. As can be imagined, the book led to a very interesting discussion.

Next meeting - Stratford Road



Science

Bill Bayley

This month we discussed The Human Immune System. None of us had anticipated how hard this would be, but we struggled through it as best we could, with B cells, T cells, antigens, inflammation. innate and adaptive systems and a whole lot more. We were a little wiser at the end, though. We hope our next topic will,prove a little easier!
It is Sound and hearing.

Garden Lovers

Janet Allely

The first visit of the year to Spetchley Gardens will be on Thursday 12 April . The new organisers of the group hope to arrange a variety of visits to garden centres, commercial gardens, members gardens and perhaps open NGS gardens.



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 Recommencing May 2017	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	Pat White
Garden Lovers	2nd Thursday April – October	2.30 pm	Various	Janet Allely
History	3 rd Wednesday	10.15 am	The Library, Oversley House	Gerry Barker
Jazz & Big Band Appreciation	2 nd 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 rd 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 nd Friday 3 rd Tuesday	10.30 am 10.30 am	Various Various	Linda Bradley Bronwen Bunting
Pub Walks	3 rd Friday	10.00 am	Various	Trevor Wraight
Rees Reading	2 nd Monday	10.15 am	Various	Karyl Rees
Science	1 st Wednesday	2.00 pm	1 Henley Street	Bill Bayley
Spanish	16 January 2018 & fortnightly thereafter	10.00 am	Jubilee Court Community Room	John Douglas
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