



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

John Pickering

Well, what a change – Easter Bank Holiday with beautiful weather! I do hope you all had chance to get out and enjoy it, even if only in your gardens!

I have lots to tell you about this month, so here goes:

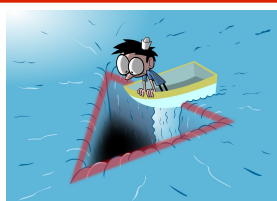
Sign in sheet: To speed up your entry into the room at the start of the meeting there are TWO sign-in sheets, so please use either one.

National U3A website: Have you taken a look at the National Website (www.u3a.org.uk)? You'll be astounded at the amount of information available. On this site, you can also subscribe to a free National Online Newsletter, sent to you each month, which always contains interesting articles about activities in the rest of the country.

IMPORTANT - In Case of Emergency (I.C.E.) information: After hearing about a member in another U3A Group being taken ill at a meeting and no-one knowing who to contact, the Committee has decided that we need to ensure we have this vital information. Therefore, please would you all:

- ✓ Write on the back of your membership card the contact details of a relative/friend to contact in case of emergency and please ensure that you *carry your card* when attending any U3A event/meeting.
- ✓ Give your I.C.E. information to the leader(s) of any Interest Group(s) you attend.

AND FINALLY, SOME REALLY GOOD NEWS!!..... *Karyl Rees has negotiated on our behalf with the new Jubilee Centre Management Committee and we will now have the chairs put out at the beginning of the meeting! However, we still need to clear them away at the end, so I would appreciate your support in continuing to stack your chairs, if you are able, (5 per pile) before you leave. At this point, it would be very remiss of me not to thank everyone who has arrived early to put out chairs for the last few meetings and to thank you all for your co-operation in clearing them away at the end of the meeting.*



Monthly Speakers

Gill Stanley

April Meeting

Chris Forse was our speaker with his topic nearer to home than his previous subjects of America and China. On this occasion he discussed with us the implications of climate change, tourism, agriculture etc on the beautiful area of the lake district. As always his talk was accompanied by some fantastic photographs and music.

May Meeting

We are looking forward to seeing **Captain William Wells** again. This time we are expecting that he is going to unravel some of the myths and legends linked to the Bermuda Triangle. I am sure we will be suitably enlightened!

ANNUAL SPRING LUNCH, Thursday 23 May 2019 at Kings Court Hotel, Kings Coughton LAST CHANCE TO BOOK

If you haven't booked your seat for the Spring Lunch, please hand me the whole of your form with your choice of menu ticked, plus your payment at the 7th May meeting, or post it to me by that date. We look forward to seeing as many of our old friends as possible and of making the acquaintance of new members, all of whom will be made most welcome.

Lyn Pickering



New Members/Group Leaders tea

John Pickering, Chairman

By now, all members who have joined us in the last few months and all Group Leaders should have received an invitation to tea at Jubilee Court on 20th June. If you haven't received your invitation, please contact me. (RSVP required by 1st June please.)

Chairman	John Pickering
Vice Chairman	Lindsay Evans
Treasurer	Jan Carr
Secretary	Valerie Hamblin
Membership Secretary	John Ruffell
Programme Organiser	Gill Stanley
Minuting Secretary	Lyn Pickering
Archives	Jan Rowe
Groups Organiser	Bob Andrews
Committee Members	Richard Dean
Web:	www.alcesteru3a.btck.co.uk
	Joe White
	Ruth Dutton
	Annual Sub £15
	Only members can join group

SUNDAY BRUNCH

Sunday Brunch Group

Patricia Wyspianska

Sunday Brunch this month will be from around 10.30am on **Sunday 12th May at The Potting Shed in Studley Garden Store**. In Mappleborough Green turn right at the roundabout towards Henley, and the entrance is on the left. Sign up at the Tuesday 7th meeting or contact Patricia on 01789 763597



Summer Outing to Llangollen

Saturday 13th July 2019

(Coach to Leave Greig Hall Alcester at 8.00am)

The lure of Llangollen plus a Canal Boat trip across the UNESCO World Heritage Pontcysyllte Aqueduct and a Welsh cream tea, has proved very popular and the trip is now fully booked with around 10 reserves.

Any queries, please email Joe White at

joe_patwhite@msn.com

Reminder!



UPCOMING THEATRE TRIPS TO MALVERN

There are still some places available for the 3 trips to Malvern Theatre over the rest of 2019. The booking slips and reserve lists will be available at the meeting on Tuesday.

Please let Jan Carr have your cheques as soon as you can

NB the latest payment date for Educating Rita is 6 June

EDUCATING RITA

Saturday 10th August

Ticket Price **£31** each (10 seats left)

THE GIRL ON THE TRAIN

Saturday 26th October,

Ticket Price **£30** each (11 seats left)

CABARET

Saturday 23rd November

Ticket Price **£50** each (16 seats left)

INTEREST GROUP NEWS



Jazz & Big Band Appreciation

Tony Badham

We had a really good turnout for our session on 10th April (15 including another new member and without two of our regulars!) Presentation was by Brian King and called 'Women Immortalized in Jazz' which proved interesting, musically entertaining & a good laugh!

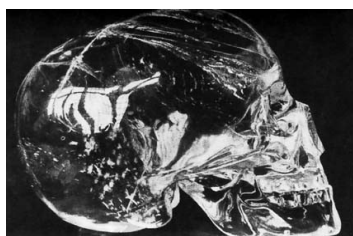
At our next meeting on May 8th, members are invited to bring a couple of their favourite CD's and we will make up the 'play list' as we go along! Our offer of a free session for 'first timers' is still on, so new members are very welcome !!

Music Appreciation

Jan Rowe

The theme for Pam Gough's lovely programme was "Classic Rhapsodies" & her interesting theme included Liszt's "Hungarian Rhapsody", Chabrier's "Espana Rhapsody", the lively "Romanian Rhapsody" by Enescu, Vaughan Williams' beautiful "Norfolk Rhapsody" & George Gershwin's "Rhapsody in Blue". Other pieces were by Rachmaninov, Brahms & Hugo Alfven.

Christine Rumsey will be our presenter at the next meeting on May 29th.



History

Paul Brenda

David Woodrow took us on a fascinating journey from rural North Wales to East Africa and on to South America. It was in East Africa that he almost met the subject of his talk, Frederick Mitchell-Hodges, possibly the inspiration for "Indiana Jones". Mitchell-Hodges was an explorer, adventurer, treasure hunter and archaeologist who led a seemingly charmed life, most famously claiming to have discovered a Mayan crystal skull ... the Skull of Doom. We were fortunate to hear some of David's own experiences in East Africa which threw some light on a rarely discussed area of

History. **John Douglas will give next month's talk on "William Morris, Lord Nuffield",**

Poetry Too

Bob Andrews

We found a variety of "epics"... including The song of Hiawatha by Longfellow, The Highway Man by Alfred Noyce, Love Poems by Edward Campion, Bruce and the Spider by Eliza Cooke, The London underground Bombardment by Greta Briggs, In memory of Sigmund Freud in 1939 by Auden, Burial of the Dead from the Wasteland by T.S. Eliot, The Pied Piper of Hamelin by Robert Browning, Jim by Hilare Belloc, Troy by Robert Fowler. **We next meet on May 31st when the topic is Spring !!**

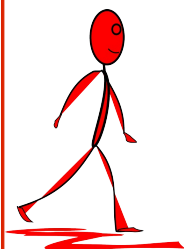
By the general process of epic poetry, I mean the way this form of art has constantly responded to the profound needs of the society in which it was made.

(Lascelles Abercrombie)

Philosophy

Peter Tugwell

The topic of our April meeting has been described as a religion, a way of life, a way of governing, and a philosophy; it was in this last category that we considered the Eastern school of thought called 'Confucianism', named after the 6th Century BC Chinese philosopher K'ung Fu-tzū whose Latinised name is Confucius (551 -479 BC), a teacher and sometime government official, a contemporary of the Greek philosopher Pythagoras and Gautama Buddha (c 563 - 480BC) the founder of another Eastern philosophy. By tradition Confucius is regarded as a teacher of traditional values, respect for elders and authority. We identified several of his later followers, the most notable of whom, Mencius (4th Century BC) was held by Han Yü (768 – 824 AD) to be the true disseminator of Confucius's teachings, but it was not until Chu Hsi (1130 – 1200 AD) that were these collected (by him) into what is known as the Lun Yü - the Analects, one of 'the Four Books'. But Buddhism was the dominant system for about 800 years from its introduction to the Han Empire to its repression by the Emperor Wuzong in 845 AD and we speculated how this affected Confucianism, noting the latter's revival in the form of Neo-Confucianism in the 9th and 11 Centuries AD. Confucianism consists of a system of ethics, rituals and a metaphysics. That of course is an oversimplification of the philosophies propounded by the differing schools within Confucianism and developed over time, but we felt it represented a fair summary – and somewhere to start. Its ethics is centred on a variation of Aristotle's 'Golden Rule', but expressed in a negative – do not do anything to anyone that you would not want done to you – with an emphasis on living a virtuous life, cultivating personal development in a social and political harmony, and educating by good example, with punishment being only of a secondary consideration. Linked in with this is the importance of ritual, involving knowing one's position, respecting elders (and ancestors) and those in authority. Its metaphysics, no longer having the concept of the mandate of heaven by which rulers claimed their right to rule, continued to posit a transcendental heaven with an incorporeal existence which at the same time endows humans with virtuous behaviour and yet relies on them to act in accordance with heaven's will, with different schools taking differing views on whether a person is born incipiently virtuous but susceptible to errant influences, or whether being virtuous is (merely) a case of appropriate behaviour – rather like our 'nurture or nature' concept. Lastly, we noted the comparatively recent birth in the early 20th Century of the 'NewConfucianism', a form influenced by Western rationalism and humanism. **May's topic is: 'How does Buddhism relate to Western Philosophy?'**



Strollers Group

Jane Sergeant

The second Monday in April was not suitable weather wise, so we decided to stroll on the third Monday. The sun shone as we walked down the roads to the River Alne. It was pleasant on the path by the river, seeing blackthorn blossom and the greenery coming through, and admiring the view that the bungalows in St. Mary's Road have.

We came back via Alcester Academy and had a welcome drink at Oversley House, where Julie one of our members was waiting for us. Many thanks to Beryl for leading us on this stroll.

Pub Ambles

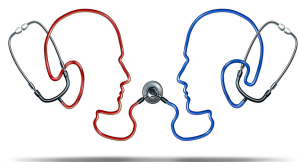
Linda Bradley

The first hurdle to manoeuvre round on the April amble was the 4 way traffic lights around the road junction at our meeting place, the Neville Arms. Once all assembled (18 on Friday and 12 on Tuesday) set off to wander along some of the Monarch's Way through the fields and back lanes of Cookhill before descending to the valley turning at the deceased Chicken Meadow Barn. Our one "steep hill" to climb loomed in the distance but it was the stiles at the top that caused the most trouble for both groups. A good meal was had at the end of a lovely walk with beautiful views, pity about the stiles.



Science

Bill Bayley



This month we looked at 'Recent Medical Advances' There are a lot of them, ranging from printing 3D ears to new classes of antibiotics, There is a huge amount of new work being done in medical matters, but we realised that not all of it will appear in our hospitals' at least not soon.

Next month we will be discussing "Atmospheric Pollution"

Reading Group 2

Linda Jennings

The newly-formed Reading Group 2 met for the first time of Tuesday 9 April. The 6 members of the group had read "The Dry", a novel by Jane Harper. The plot followed a police investigation into a brutal group of family murders in a small, drought-ridden Australian town - a real page-turner of a book. It was enjoyed and discussed by all, and some members were keen to read more by this author. **The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, 14th May, at 10.30, to discuss the current book – Vinegar Girl, by Anne Tyler.** Any other U3A members wishing to join the group would be welcomed, and should ring Linda Jennings, on 01789764164.





Garden Lovers

Janet Alleley

Our first visit this season, with a slightly larger group, was to Elm Close, Welford on Avon. A garden absolutely packed with plants. With a very informative host we toured through Daphnes, Peonies, Erythroniums, Magnolias and so many more plants for later flowering such as clematis and roses. Very impressed by a crinkle crinkle wall and after purchasing some plants, we enjoyed tea and a variety of cakes in the sunshine.

Our next visit is on 9th May to Admington Hall, Admington, Warks. CV36 4JN at 2.30 pm. This a little further on from Welford on Avon if you go via Long Marston. Garden Lovers who wish to come please contact me

as we need to give numbers. Email: janetmallely@yahoo.com Mobile: 07749801200

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 01789 766383 lecooper46@gmail.com
Church Visits	4 th Tuesday	11.00 am	Various Recommencing May 2017	John Cooper 01789 762404 zannycoop@gmail.com
Computer	Free email Computer Newsletter (Circulation 40 members)			John Ruffell 01789 764788 williamruffell@btinternet.com
Crafts	1 st & 3 rd Wednesday September to March	10.00 am	Alcester Methodist Ch. Hall	Linda Bradley 01789 488568
French	3 rd Tuesday	2.30 pm	The Library, Oversley House	Brian Titterington 01789 763858
Garden Lovers	2nd Thursday April – October To be confirmed	2.30 pm	Various	Janet Alleley 07749 801200 janetmallely@yahoo.com Kath Lloyd-ajones 01789 766310 kathlj.69@gmail.com
History	3 rd Thursday	10.15 am	Jubilee Court Community Room	Paul Brenda 01789 765077 sallebrenda@hotmail.com
Jazz & Big Band Appreciation	2 nd Wednesday bi-monthly	2.00 pm	Malt Mill Community Centre	Tony Badham 01789 772520 t.v.badham@talk21.com
Keep Fit	Every Wednesday	11.45 am	Alcester Baptist Church Hall	Norma Haigh 01789 400288
Music Appreciation	Last Wednesday	2.00 pm	Malt Mill Community Centre	Jan Rowe 01789 400051
Outings	As Advised		Various	Joe White 01789 763943 joe_patwhite@msn.com
Philosophy	3 rd Tuesday	2.00 pm	Malt Mill Community Centre	Peter Tugwell 07718 282710 peter.tugwell@btinternet.com
Poetry too	Last Friday	2.00 pm	Malt Mill Community Centre	Bob Andrews 01789 763202
Pub Ambles	2 nd Friday 3 rd Tuesday	10.30 am 10.30 am	Various Various	Linda Bradley 01789 488568 Bronwen Bunting 07900 303134
Pub Walks	3 rd Friday	10.00 am	Various	Trevor Wraight 01789 763279
Rees Reading	2 nd Monday	10.15 am	Various	Karyl Rees (GROUP FULL)
Reading 2	2 nd Tuesday		Various	Linda Jennings 01789 764164
Science	1 st Wednesday	2.00 pm	1 Henley Street	Bill Bayley 01789 762841
Spanish	2 nd & 4 th Tuesday of the month	10 am	Jubilee Court Community Room	John Douglas 01789 750704
Strolling Group				Jane Sergeant 01789 763027
Theatre Visits	As Notified			Joe White 01789 763943 joe_patwhite@msn.com
Yoga on Monday	Every Monday 2 groups	10.30 am 12 noon	Alcester Methodist Ch. Hall	Karyl Rees (GROUP FULL)