

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**

Summer appears to have arrived at last, so I hope you've all had chance to put away those umbrellas and get out and about! There are just a couple of articles from me this month:

### New Members & Group Leaders Tea

This informal meeting took place on 20<sup>th</sup> July at Jubilee Court and the Committee were delighted to welcome 17 of our new members and 15 Group Leaders! The aim of the event is to welcome new members and give them some insight into U3A, which includes finding out about interest groups from the volunteers who run them. In addition, it affords the Committee with the opportunity to thank the Group Leaders for all their efforts. I think it safe to say that, judging by the "buzz" in the room and the interest generated for some of the groups, a good time was had by all ..... and the cakes were delicious!!

### Llangollen Outing

I hope those of you who have booked on the summer outing to Llangollen on Saturday 13 July are looking forward to the trip as much as I am. (Am I being greedy to hope that the weather is as kind to us this year as it was last?)

*Don't forget that the coach leaves the Greig Hall, Alcester at 8.00 am!*

### Our Committee

I know I mentioned our Committee in my piece about Volunteers Week in last month's newsletter and this led me to wonder whether their work is known by our membership. Briefly: all Committee Members are also Trustees and we meet monthly to discuss and make decisions about the running of Alcester U3A. In addition to this, some of the Committee members with specific roles spend many hours dealing with accounts, keeping records, organising theatre, day trips, holidays and other events, co-ordinating groups, arranging speakers, keeping our website up-to-date and dealing with the inevitable paperwork. If there's anything you would like to bring to the attention of the

Committee, please contact me. This will be discussed at the next committee meeting and we will keep you informed of the outcome, all of which can be read in the minutes.

## Monthly Speakers

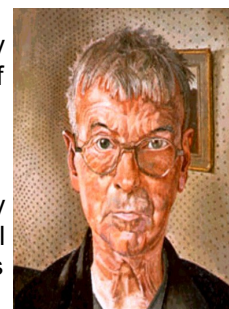
### June Meeting

Andrew Lound was our speaker and his topic was the "Liner of the Skies". In his usual way Andrew used photos, music and occasional theatrical interventions to explain the history of the development of airships and their eventual demise.

### July Meeting

Paul Hirons studied Art History and he is going to talk to us about Stanley Spencer. Stanley Spencer was, arguably, the greatest figure painter of the 20th century. In his talk Paul celebrates Spencer's life and achievements by focusing on a selection of his most famous figure paintings.

**Gill Stanley**



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	Karyl Rees	Joe White
Web:	<a href="http://www.alcesteru3a.btck.co.uk">www.alcesteru3a.btck.co.uk</a>	Annual Sub £15	Only members can join group
			Ruth Dutton

## Alex Waters

Many of you will remember Alex, a long-standing life member of U3A and a well known cheery figure in Alcester before deteriorating ill health prompted a move to Somerset to be near her daughter.

I send Alex a copy of the newsletter each month and was delighted to receive a letter from her this month, especially knowing how difficult the physical act of writing has become. She misses all the good friends she made at U3A and passes on her good wishes to everyone.

*Bronwen Bunting*

best  
wishes

## Summer Outing to Llangollen

final reminder

**Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> July 2019**  
**(Coach to Leave Greig Hall Alcester at 8.00am)**

If anyone going on the trip has any queries  
please email Joe White at [joe\\_patwhite@msn.com](mailto:joe_patwhite@msn.com)



## UPCOMING THEATRE TRIPS TO MALVERN Update

\* Tickets are still available for **The girl on the Train** and **Cabaret** \*

The list is closed for **Educating Rita** but there is space on the coach (£7 per head) for any members fancying a summer afternoon in Malvern. Anyone interested should contact Joe White. *It may be possible to obtain late tickets for Educating Rita but not necessarily with adjacent seats.*

The booking lists will be at the meeting on Tuesday.

<b>EDUCATING RITA</b>	<b>Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> August</b>	Ticket Price <b>£31</b> each	<b>Payment by 4 June</b>
<b>THE GIRL ON THE TRAIN</b>	<b>Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> October,</b>	Ticket Price <b>£30</b> each	<b>Payment by 2 July</b>
<b>CABARET</b>	<b>Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> November</b>	Ticket Price <b>£50</b> each	<b>Payment by 6 Aug</b>

## Climate Change Ideas Café

This event on 26<sup>th</sup> June was organised by Kenilworth U3A in conjunction with the University of Warwick, and any members of U3A belonging to the Coventry & Warwick Network were invited. The speakers were:

**Alastair Smith (Senor Teaching Fellow, Global Sustainable Development)** - Alastair is a highly interdisciplinary academic, now specialising in university education for global Sustainable Development

**Rosemary Collier (Professor, Warwick Crop Centre)** - Rosemary trained as an entomologist and has worked on the pest insects of horticultural crops for many years. She is particularly interested in using science to address problems in the horticultural industry.

**David Mond (Professor, Mathematics Institute)** – David's research interests include Singularity Theory and Algebraic Geometry and he teaches on a cross-disciplinary module exploring the scientific, philosophical, social, economic, political and technological challenges of climate change from a range of different perspectives.

**Amy Newman (PhD Student, School of Life Sciences)** – Amy is investigating the presence and influence of circadian rhythms on plant-microbe interactions in the soil.

The format of an ideas café is centred around discussion, so we heard a short introductory talk from each speaker, who then came in turn to join us on our tables for an in depth discussion around their issue. We were given the chance to speak to every speaker over the course of the event and ask questions on their areas of research, so many lively discussions took place!

These events are open to all our members, so we hope to be joined by other members of Alcester U3A in the future – an ideal chance to get those "little grey cells" working overtime!

*John and Lyn Pickering.*

## INTEREST GROUP NEWS

### Church Visits



#### John Cooper

After a monsoon start we visited Welford on Avon to see the Church of St Peter. This is fine early twelfth century building, which replaced an earlier Saxon church of which only the font survives. The typical Norman pillars of the nave are in good condition, and the Victorian stained glass windows add to the attraction of this very well maintained parish church. Lunch was enjoyed at the nearby Bell Inn.

## Jazz & Big Band Appreciation

Next session will be Wednesday July 10<sup>th</sup> with a presentation by Tony Badham!

Tony Badham



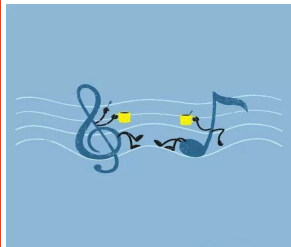
## French

Brian Titterington

The French Group meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month at 2.30 pm in the Library at Oversley House.

We normally begin by talking about what we have done since our last meeting and then move on to a language activity or topic useful for travelling in France. Recently we have covered such topics as arranging hotel accommodation; ordering meals in a restaurant; numbers, dates & times; directions, and shopping.

The meetings provide an ideal opportunity to practice the French you already have and to increase your confidence in using it.



## Music Appreciation

Jan Rowe

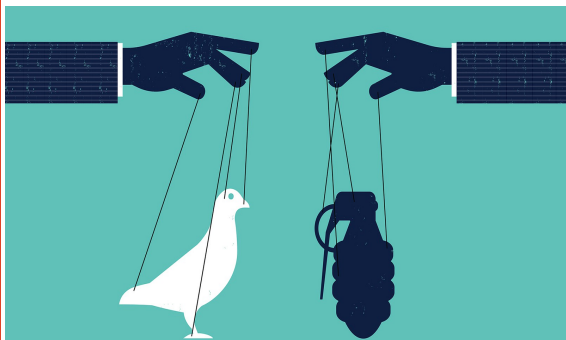
The music for the June meeting was a pleasing and eclectic mixture with everyone bringing a track to share, there were pieces by Schumann, Bach, Rachmaninov, Wagner, Gilbert & Sullivan, we also heard Bryn Terfel and Kathleen Ferrier. Next month on 31st July John Ruffell is showing an onscreen, open air concert by the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra, conducted by Mariss Jansons, performing Dances & Rhapsodies including a piece by piano soloist Mikhail Rudy, **All are welcome at 2pm in the Malt Mill Lane Community Centre,**

## History

Paul Brenda

Our June talk was given by Paul Brenda who introduced several alternative versions of events in the First World War. We heard about the ingratitude of Gavrilo Princip who, freed from serfdom and given a university education by the Austrians, killed the heir to the Austrian throne and started the World War. We also heard of the ordinariness of the 1914 Christmas Truce, cisterns (the original name for tanks), soldiers laid low by unmentionable diseases and of British soldiers who went into battle wearing ladies' underwear.

**In July David Woodrow will talk about Coughton Court and the Throckmortons.**



## Philosophy

Peter Tugwell

The question for June's meeting was: **'Is there such a thing as a Just War?'** The question is interesting in itself, because while it highlights the many ethical issues surrounding warfare, and this steered our discussion in a way which engaged with the classical requirements of just cause, just conduct and a just peace, it also can be phrased with an emphasis on 'justification'. The involvement of justification raises the questions of what 'justification' could be, and for whom, and how it would work. Justification in the terms of being legal by the law of the aggressor would not make it a 'just war', yet an illegal war would certainly raise serious challenges to it being a

just war. The question of retaliation, as self-defence, led us to look at whether proportionality could be a factor in justifying war, and as to what actions 'self-defence' could justify, such as attacks on the victim's territory, its citizens or economic or other interests – and the position of pre-emptive action. We looked at conflicts old and recent, and noted the way in which the emphasis changed from the obtaining of external sanction from the Church or other religious leaders to obtaining authority from the United Nations Security Council, and the difficulties in securing a Resolution. Our discussion then took in other types of conflict – civil war, revolution, insurrection, secession, and a 'police action', and at what stage, if at all, an occupying force achieved that sort of legitimacy that would render armed resistance or insurrection illegal. The way in which a war was waged also caused concern - would breaching proportionality, targeting civilians, committing crimes against humanity, genocide, disregarding the Geneva Conventions render an otherwise 'just war' unjust, or remove any justification? Next there is the object of the war: should it be to secure peace, punish the transgressor, recover territory or other possessions; when should it end, with defeat or unconditional surrender. Then there is the question of which ethical principles should govern claims for compensation and reparations, given the likely impoverished economy of the defeated state. Later in our discussions we looked at the views of St. Augustine of Hippo and St. Thomas Aquinas in their early and medieval writings on the 'Just War' in the Latin terms of *jus ad bellum*, *jus in bello* and *jus post bellum*. Those philosophers led us back to a more reflective consideration of what might make a just war 'just', and while some later philosophers asserted the ennobling effect of war and the acquisition and manifestation of power (views with which we disagreed), we ended with the sombre *cui bono* – who benefits?

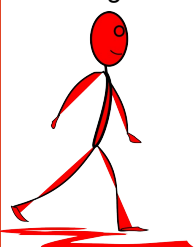
The topic for July's meeting: "what part does memory play in making a person what he is?"

## Strollers Group

Jane Sergeant

Our stroll in Studley in June was cancelled due to adverse weather.

**Margaret Hall will now lead this stroll on Monday 8 July, meeting at Studley Parish Church at 1.30 pm.**





### Pub Ambles

Despite sending an email stating that I would lead the walk whatever the weather, I seriously thought of abandoning it when I saw the rain on the Friday morning. However, five of us strode out through long wet grass and numerous puddles to complete the walk across Yarningale Common and around the lanes of Claverdon. The weather cheered up and it turned into an enjoyable amble.

Thirteen people did the repeat walk on the following Tuesday. The sun came out and it was nowhere near as wet underfoot as on Friday. The countryside and scenery was varied, and everyone enjoyed their pub lunch at the Crown.



### Pub Walks

No walk in June as Trevor enjoying a well-earned big birthday break. **Next Pub Walk on Friday 19 July from The King's Head, Aston Cantlow.**



**Trevor Wraith**

### Rees Reading



### Karyl Rees

This month's book was Nutsell by Ian McEwan. His books are never straightforward and this was no exception. Although most of us did not realise until the meeting, it was a modern day working of the Hamlet story - narrated by an 8 month foetus! He hears his mother Trudy (Gertrude) and uncle Claude (Claudius) planning the death of his father so they can inherit the family home. Not for those easily

shocked, but now that I have been made aware of the Hamlet link I shall probably read it again.

**Next meeting at Stratford Road.**

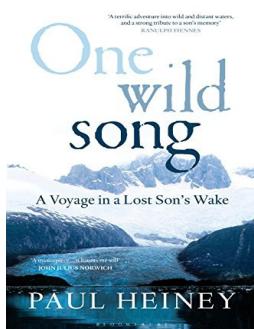
### Science

The Science group discussed "Working Animals" this month. We were all surprised how many there were, even after we had decided not to include animals that did what they did irrespective of human intervention, such as bees. Even rats have work to do, if they are Giant Pouched rats that detect landmines. One of us came up with 'snake massage'! **Next month will be "Moons of the Solar System"**

### Bill Bayley



### Reading Group 2



### Linda Jennings

The 'group read' this month was 'One Wild Song', written by journalist and broadcaster Paul Heiney. He wrote this account of his sailing from Falmouth to South America, around Cape Horn and back, travelling in the wake of his son, Nicholas, who had also made this journey. Nicholas had been a passionate sailor, but at the age of 23 had committed suicide, and Heiney hoped to come to terms with the great sadness of this through this venture. The words One Wild Song were taken from one of Nicholas' poems, and was the name of Paul Heiney's boat.

Group reaction to the book was varied, but all agreed there was a lot of technical sailing terminology for the inexperienced amongst us to cope with, and differing opinions about Heiney's account of his son's life and his own grief at his death. It did, however, encourage some members to do more research into Nicholas' poetry, and the overall reaction to the book was generally favourable.

### Garden Lovers

### Janet Allely

Alcester U3A Garden Lovers demonstrated their determination and resilience on a wet cold day to visit Campden House near Chipping Campden. After driving more than a mile along a secluded valley the Cotswold stone house appeared on the hillside. After parking we unfurled umbrellas and walked past the kitchen gardens, along a gravel path past the topiary lawn, round the woodland walk with views of Campden, back through the walled garden with herbaceous borders and walked through wild meadow on mown paths to the water gardens with stream and waterfall. Teas were served in the barn which were very welcome.

**Our next visit is on 11<sup>th</sup> July to Morton Hall at Holberrow Green.**

Garden Lovers who wish to come please contact me as we need to give numbers.

**Email: [janetmallely@yahoo.com](mailto: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
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	1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Wednesday September to March	10.00 am	Alcester Methodist Ch. Hall	Linda Bradley
French	3 <sup>rd</sup> Tuesday	2.30 pm	The Library, Oversley House	Brian Titterington
Garden Lovers	2nd Thursday April – October To be confirmed	2.30 pm	Various	Janet Alleley Kath Lloyd-ajones
History	3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursday	10.15 am	Jubilee Court Community Room	Paul Brenda
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	Peter Tugwell
Poetry too	Last Friday	2.00 pm	Malt Mill Community Centre	Bob Andrews
Pub Ambles	2 <sup>nd</sup> Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> Tuesday	10.30 am 10.30 am	Various 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 (GROUP FULL)
Reading 2	2 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesday		Various	Linda Jennings
Science	1 <sup>st</sup> Wednesday	2.00 pm	1 Henley Street	Bill Bayley
Spanish	2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month	10 am	Jubilee Court Community Room	John Douglas
Strolling Group				Jane Sergeant
Theatre Visits	As Notified			Joe White
Yoga on Monday	Every Monday 2 groups	10.30 am 12 noon	Alcester Methodist Ch. Hall	Karyl Rees (GROUP FULL)