



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

Phew!! I'm writing this while sitting between an open window and a fan. What we need in this weather is a hump to store water. I hope you are keeping well hydrated as we are being advised to do.

We now have an updated membership form based on a National model but adjusted to our own circumstances, thanks to Jan Carr, John Ruffell and Lyn Pickering. The form is available online or at a monthly meeting.

The National Conference, which any member can attend, is in Nottingham on 28th - 30th August. Don't forget we also have bursaries available for summer schools. Booking details for both are online at u3a.org.uk



Monthly Speakers

Gill Stanley

July Meeting

In July we were entertained by a Teller of Tales. Cat Wetherill goes all over the world telling stories and shed is brilliant. You could have heard a pin drop as we listened to her and lots of people took the opportunity to talk to her as we enjoyed a cup of tea.

July Meeting

At our next meeting we look forward to welcoming an old friend. Dr. Richard Churchley has entertained us on a number of occasions with his music but he is also a very well known local historian. He is going to tell us all about "Old Pubs and Lost Hostelryes - their history, strange names and stories."



THEATRE TRIPS

Saturday 1 December, Malvern Theatre

"The Habit of Art" by Alan Bennet



the Coach will leave the Greig Hall at 11.00 am. £27.00 (including coach & driver's tip)

"Deeply moving." The Guardian "Hilariously provocative." The Independent

The play was advertised at the July meeting & half the available places have been taken, so please book early and pay by cheque to Jan Carr, preferably by the next meeting on 7 August.

Saturday 23 February 2019, Malvern Theatre

"The House on Cold Hill" by Peter James

Cost (including coach & driver's tip): £32.00 each

A spine-tingling modern day ghostly thriller from the No. 1 best selling author.

Within days of moving into the huge dilapidated remote Georgian mansion, the Harcourt family quickly realise that they aren't the only residents at Cold Hill

Chairman	Karyl Rees
Vice Chairman	John Pickering
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

Lindsay Evans

Joe White

Ruth Dutton

Web:

www.alcesteru3a.btck.co.uk

Annual Sub £15

Only members can join group



BOURNEMOUTH HOLIDAY TRIP

John Pickering

Can you believe that this holiday is now only just over 8 weeks away? It seems ages since we were first discussing whether the trip was viable!! Just a reminder to those of you who have booked on the Bournemouth Holiday, that you must make the final payment by 3rd September. Your remittance must go to Harry Shaw Group Travel (Mill House, Mill Lane, Coventry CV3 2DU) and you can pay by debit/credit card (by phone if you wish 02476 608443) or by cheque, which should be made payable to "Harry Shaw Group Travel". **Please do not send your remittance to me!**

Unfortunately, I won't be at the August or September meetings, so if you have any queries, please email or phone me. Hope you're looking forward to the trip as much as I am!!



MONMOUTH TRIP

30 June 2018

On a very hot sunny day 46 of us set out on a coach trip to the Wye Valley & Monmouth. A picturesque drive via Malvern to our coffee stop, "Labels" near Ross-on-Wye, a huge shopping outlet.

On to Monmouth for 2 ¼ hours free time with plenty to see – The Monnow Bridge (the last fortified bridge in Britain), the Castle and Great Castle House, The Shire Hall, St. Mary's Parish Church or The Nelson Museum as well as browsing round the many interesting shops and taking refreshments in one of the shady courtyards off the main street. Linda and I chose a newly opened French Restaurant called "the eleve" for a light

snack. We set off for the final part of our trip via Tintern Abbey to Symonds Yat for our interesting & informative boat trip and cream tea. The tea was perfect except that we had to pour the melted butter on our scones! The very enjoyable day was extremely well organised by Joe White and John, our excellent coach driver. It was very hot and sunny but this added to the holiday atmosphere of the day. A day to remember for all the right reasons.

INTEREST GROUP NEWS

Looking at Churches

John Cooper

Continuing our theme of not travelling too far in the heatwave (?remember that ?!!) we visited the small church of St. Andrew, Shottery, a daughter offshoot of Holy Trinity, Stratford, which only became a parish church in 1975. We were given a comprehensive talk and tour of the church by Carol Taylor who intimated that she had been a member of the congregation since before she was born. From a modest foundation as a chapel in 1871 the church has flourished ever since and was even extended to almost double in size in 2005, a rare development in C of E history. After our tour we made our way on foot via a delightfully scenic route past Anne Hathaway's cottage to The Bell Inn where we ate lunch in glorious sunshine, a memory to savour.



Garden Lovers

Janet Allely

Behind a cottage at the top of Crumpfields Lane Webheath great imagination has been used to create a garden with wonderful views over the Vale of Evesham towards Winchcombe. A steep slope has been formed into a series of rooms with viewpoints in various places. You can sit with Alice in Wonderland in a green secret garden or by the red sandstone cave with pool.. The old bomb shelter for local houses has become another viewpoint, with living walls created from tall boxed and netted compost. A wild flower meadow leads you back up to another pool area and two horses created from teak roots in another lawn. Roses surrounded us as we relaxed with tea and cake under the gazebo.

Our next meeting is on 9th August to The Mill Garden, Mill Street, Warwick.



I Jazz & Big Band Appreciation

Tony Badham

Good turnout considering the weather & the lure of Wimbledon!

Last minute change in program from John Cooper's selection now postponed to September, to one by Tony Badham which covered early New Orleans, through Blues, Boogie & Be Bop!

Rees Reading

Karyl Rees

This month was an 'own choice' session where we talked about books we had read during the month. It is also a chance for members to bring along books to pass on, to swap or to lend.

Next month's meeting is in Henley Street.



Spanish

The group will restart at Jubilee Court on 11 September followed by 2 October and then every 2 weeks until 11 December. Contact John Douglas if you are interested in joining

John Douglas



History



Last month our subject was Captain Cook. The son of a very poor agricultural labourer in Yorkshire, with no connection to the sea or navy, he managed to work his way through the merchant navy and Royal Navy to become the best known British sea captain of the 18th century, famous for three great voyages of discovery. The first included landing in previously unexplored Eastern Australia & charting 2000 miles of its coastline. The second voyage was searching for the "great southern continent", but bitter cold & freezing fog prevented him reaching the Antarctic mainland. However, examination of his logs today reveals he came very close without realising it. His third voyage was looking for the fabled "North-west Passage" between Siberia & Alaska, during which he discovered Hawaii & charted the west coasts of Canada & Alaska for the first time. He is remembered for his incredible navigation & mapmaking skills, & his enlightened treatment of his crew. **Our subject next month is the W W II story of the German super battleship "Graf Spee".**

Gerry Barker

Music Appreciation

Jan Rowe

John Ruffell's presentation was a superb on screen open air concert by the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra which was a real joy, we heard well known pieces by Wagner, Glinka, Paganini, Bizet & Dvorak. The highlight was a breathtaking performance of Tchaikovsky's Piano Concerto No.1 performed by Daniel Barenboim. Concert violinist Vadim Repin also performed, but with a beautiful touch of humour in his Paganini piece. The finale was Bizet's "Farandole" from "L'Arlésienne". **For our next meeting 29th August we are all bringing our own favourite C.D. tracks to play,** new members are always very welcome.



Philosophy

Adrian Madge



'what should we teach our children' Following on from last month's look at the Enlightenment and whether we needed another one, this question caused us first to locate the debate in a recognised area of philosophy, second to examine the justification for teaching and then, assuming there was one, what and how to teach. And like many things when examined from a philosophical perspective, these areas merged and de-merged with a cavalier disregard for the pigeon-holes with their names on.

The location of the debate was perhaps the easiest to resolve: the philosophy of education. That gave a clue as to how education should be treated, and it was quickly realised that this was best discussed as an 'applied' philosophy rather than a 'theoretical' one - its aims, methodologies and its significance to our Western liberal representative democracy. Underlying these (but bubbling to the surface) was an appreciation of the ethical issues arising at every turn.

That ethical dimension was examined in 'justification for teaching'. We looked at the 'deschooling' theory of Ivan Illich with its challenges to education being premised on our present society and institutions and to conventional subjects and teaching methods (which in part gave rise to the 'home schooling' idea). That led to discussion on the purpose of education – should it be education for work, activity, citizenship, and was there a case for education to impart knowledge for its own intrinsic merit.

The 'how to teach' took us back initially to Illich and 'home-schooling' and the 'peer to peer' idea of the pursuit of ideas generated thereby, then to the Nuffield System (1943), and the present (since 1988) National Curriculum, when control of education in state schools passed from the teaching profession to government, becoming 'political'.

'What to teach' would at first sight require the compilation of a list of the usual subjects and then to examine each in turn as to its merits (or otherwise), and then perhaps add others. But each could be said to be justified on its own contribution to knowledge and its own tests for 'truth'. It is difficult to separate any particular subject from a purpose the motivation for which raises ethical considerations, not the 'least' being the views of its advocate – where the 'most' would be the views of society. [Mathematics might be an exception, although there would be some who would disagree.] Take history: immediately questions arise as to its relevance, whose version, and so on - but it is unfair to pick on one subject, especially as there are aspects of 'learned lessons' and a common history being part of our national make – up.

Second-sight and reflection, led us to the teaching of values, which took us back into the maze where "whose values" and "which Values" confronted us at each turn. If values are philosophically reducible, then "All you need is Love" (credited to Lennon-McCartney) but can this be taught and isn't it a bit too 1960s? Perhaps the shrugging off by the Enlightenment of religion was a bit too far.

Next month's topic : 'Schopenhauer: what do we understand about his philosophy?'

Pub Ambles



Linda Bradley & Bronwen Bunting

We have never cancelled because of heat before but 28 degrees forecast for Friday was going to be too hot. Luckily we now do two ambles in the month so the Tuesday amble could go ahead as only 21 degrees was forecast. Feckenham was the target. Travelling up Burial Lane (track) to the now dilapidated mid 19 century Chapel in Cruise Hill sparked off a lot of thought about past generations carrying their loved ones down this 1 ¾ mile track for burial in Feckenham's graveyard. Or was this track name linked to the black death?

We wandered in Ham Green then gradually downhill through open farmland to Swans Brook which we followed back to Feckenham's welcoming Rose and Crown for a meal. A lovely

walk, views, food, company & not too hot.

There will be no Pub Amble in August.

Pub Walks

A glorious French summer, the sun sizzling the grass but on the heights of Cleeve Common, a refreshing breeze made it exceedingly pleasant. One of those unusual walks where the start and the finish are both downhill. Despite this the total height gained was over 700 feet and the calorie loss substantial. The air was clear and we lingered over the views across Gloucestershire into Wales and Shropshire. There were friendly interchanges with the golfers and history was present in the old sheep wash, the Iron Age settlement and the Roman circles. It was a warm and weary group that descended to the golf clubhouse for a basic but welcome meal and a refreshing pint of Bob.

Trevor Wraight



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Science



Bill Bayley

This month we discussed Food Preservation. One of our members even brought some preserved food in the form of pickled onions, cheese and olives, which were thoroughly tested and found excellent. There are a lot of ways of treating food, some ancient like drying and salting, some modern, like irradiation, biopreservatives and pulsed electric fields. In some cases details were scarce, for commercial reasons of secrecy.

There will be no Science Group meeting in August. The next one will be on the 1st Wednesday in September and we will be discussing Mathematics in Nature.

Theatre Visits

Could this be the final curtain for the world's greatest detective? The theatre group were about to find out when they went to Cheltenham to see Simon Reade's play "Sherlock Holmes : The Final Curtain".

Holmes now in his 70's, played by Robert Powell, is rheumatically, reclusive and paranoid . He fears he is an easy target for his enemies believing that his arch nemesis, Moriarty, did not die at the Reichenbach Falls. He is tracked down by Mary Watson (Lisa Goddard) who has seen an apparition of her long dead son at 221B Baker Street where she and her estranged husband, Dr Watson, reside. Holmes is determined to solve the mystery and confront his own demons as well as coming to grips with the new technology of the early 1920's.

After an over wordy and slow first half, the second act produces some unforeseen twists and revelations. The plot is helped by clever scenery changes where the curtain sweeps across the stage to reveal the set. There are a few odd moments and none more so than the final curtain itself when the cast seems to swell to a surprising number as the actors playing a waxwork dummy and a dead body also take their bows. There were mixed views when I asked my fellow playgoers for their comments. Aficionados of Holmes might be tempted to say it was elementary.

Jackie Adams



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 To be confirmed	2.30 pm	Various	Janet Alleley Kath Lloyd-ajones
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 (GROUP FULL)
Science	1 st Wednesday	2.00 pm	1 Henley Street	Bill Bayley
Spanish	16 January 2018 & fortnightly thereafter	10 am	Jubilee Court Community Room	John Douglas
Theatre Visits	As Notified			Joe White
Yoga on Monday	Every Monday 2 groups	10.30 am 12.00	Alcester Methodist Ch. Hall	Karyl Rees (GROUP FULL)