

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

I see the Chairman's role as being an ambassador for our group, so when I took on that role earlier this year, I decided to visit every interest group so that I understand how each one works. So far, I have visited quite a few and have been very impressed with the dedication of the group leaders and all of you who attend. I've already learned so much and am thoroughly enjoying the diversity of the groups. If I haven't got to your group yet, please bear with me..... I hope to get around to every one by the end of the year! Finally, I'd like to say a big "Thank you" to those I've visited so far for making me feel so welcome.



As so many of you will be joining me on our trip to Norfolk, attendance at the next main meeting on 3rd September will be reduced, but we'll try to pause our enjoyment to think of you all! See you all at the October meeting.

Monthly Speakers August Meeting

Gill Stanley



We spent a lovely afternoon learning about different types of Japanese Garden and looking at pictures of beautiful examples both in Japan and nearer to home. The final selection of photographs were accompanied by magical music. Thank you Roger.

September Meeting

We are looking forward to welcoming back a very accomplished local wildlife photographer. Peter Preece has shown us many wonderful pictures of birds and other animals, many taken along the banks of the Arrow and other nearby rivers. The title of this talk is Hide and Seek.

THEATRE VISITS

The Girl on the Train at Malvern Theatre on Saturday 26 October

***** The coach will leave the Greig hall at 11.00 am *****



UPCOMING THEATRE TRIPS TO MALVERN



THE GIRL ON THE TRAIN Saturday 26th October,

CABARET Saturday 23rd November

The travelling list for each show will be at the meeting. We have now paid for both shows, but there are spaces left on the coach, and it may be possible if you want to make a late decision, to buy your tickets direct from the Theatre and to travel with us on the coach. Make sure you ask the Theatre for the Alcester U3A discount, mentioning Joe White's name, and then let Jan Carr have a cheque for £7 to cover the cost of the coach.

Alternatively, if you would just like an afternoon in Malvern you could join us for £7 each.

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
Web:

Richard Dean
www.alcesteru3a.btck.co.uk

Karyl Rees
Annual Sub £15

Joe White

Ruth Dutton
Only members can join group

Reminder!

British Science Festival

U3A members are invited to take part in the above above, most of which is being held at **Warwick University.**

The event runs from **10th – 13th September**, and workshops include:

- ◆ Are we alone in the Universe?
- ◆ Inclusive robotics
- ◆ Breast Cancer break-throughs
- ◆ Climate rebellion
- ◆ Women's science and feminism.

..... and much more!

For more details follow this link: www.britishsciencefestival.org/whats-on



INTEREST GROUP NEWS



Church Visits

For our penultimate outing of 2019 we visited the Church of St Nicholas at Loxley where we were welcomed by Peter, the very knowledgeable church warden. He gave our group a comprehensive tour of this small but interesting church whose Saxon origins are still extant with superb herring bone stonework, and a unique pulpit which can only be accessed via a stairway from the chancel. Other features include a moveable organ and a sundial thirty feet up on the church tower. Lunch was enjoyed at "The Bell" at Shottery as frustratingly "The Fox" in the village does not serve lunch on Tuesdays.

John Cooper

Spanish

After the 'vacaciones', **we start again on 24 September.** Every fortnight on Tuesday morning at Jubilee Court until the Christmas break. Do come and join us, no previous knowledge of the Spanish language is needed.

John Douglas



Music Appreciation

David Woodrow's programme started with a delightful choice of pieces from the Baroque period including work by George Frideric Handel & Johann Christian Bach, later we heard Pachelbel's "Canon" and a composition by Carl Orff who, apart from "Carmina Burana", was well known for his approach to teaching children about music using percussion instruments, the lively piece we heard included xylophones, castanets, drums, bongos, bells, maracas & tambourines. The finale was the beautiful, frantic, demonic, musical thunderbolt - "Night on Bald Mountain" also known as "Night on the Bare Mountain" by Modest Mussorgsky. Our next meeting is on 25th September when it is my turn to present the programme.

Jan Rowe

Theatre Visits

Willy Russell (spelling ?) could be said to be drawing upon his own experience in relating the highs and lows of the attempts by Rita to achieve some form of academic recognition. Rita (Jessica Johnson) is determined to overcome all the hurdles put up by her supervisor Frank (Stephen Tompkinson). The sticking door to his study, the casual dismissal of her first efforts, to be replaced by the academic rigour she must develop. As the drama unfolds, we see the progress of the optimistic Rita as opposed to the decline of Frank, whose professional and personal lives deteriorate as his alcohol consumption increases.

Chas Newby

STEPHEN TOMPKINSON JESSICA JOHNSON
**WILLY RUSSELL'S
EDUCATING RITA**



Impressive performances by both actors to occupy the stage for the whole play, justly deserving the enthusiastic response from the audience.

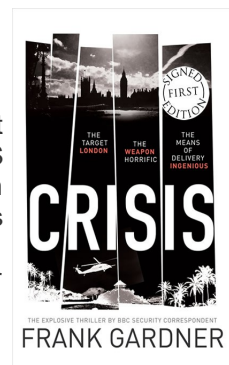
Thank you Joe for organising the visit to the Malvern theatre.

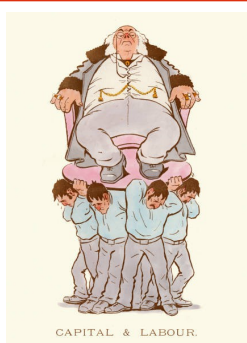
Reading Group 2

Reading Group 2 met to discuss their latest book - Crisis by Frank Gardner, the BBC journalist seriously injured by Al Qaida gunmen in Saudi Arabia. This fictional work features a SBS officer turned MI6 operative, enmeshed in dangerous activities involving ruthless Colombian drug cartels - strong stuff. Once again there were mixed reactions from members, which, as ever, led to lively discussion.

The Group were pleased to welcome U3A Chair and Vice-chair John and Lindsay, In their current series of visits to the different U3A interest groups.

Linda Jennings





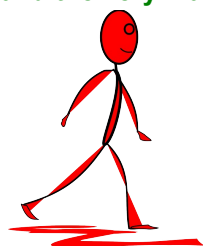
Philosophy

Peter Tugwell

The question for August 's meeting was 'Does Capitalism have a philosophical basis?'. We started by defining the main terms; the philosophy here is political philosophy, which can be summarised as 'how should a state govern?'. Capitalism was a bit more difficult. As one member put it, paraphrasing Churchill's comment on democracy 'Capitalism is the worst possible system apart from all the others'. Another member summed it up in one word: money'. The term came into popular usage through Marx's *Das Kapital*, his critique of the system of economics described by Adam Smith in *The Wealth of Nations*. 'Economy' comes from the Greek word for 'housekeeping', but in connection with the housekeeping of the nation, perhaps the better term is 'catallaxy' meaning the aspirations of individuals giving rise to the attributes of a market. Capitalism is said to be better at delivering the goods and services that people

want through the operation of a free market rather than where such delivery is in the control of the state. Adam Smith saw the beneficial self-interest of growers, suppliers and other producers as producing a surplus which could be sold to willing purchasers. But what is the philosophical basis of this system? We looked at libertarianism, which holds personal freedom above all other things, including the freedom to own property and to enter into contracts, with only minimalist intervention from the state where necessary to support those freedoms, and political liberalism (Rawls) where freedoms entail responsibility to provide for equality through distributive justice. We discussed the capitalism we experience today - one that owes much to our representative liberal democracy, in the form of 'welfare capitalism', where for example taxation effects distributive justice, and the freedom of businesses to merge for economic reasons is balanced by regulations designed to prevent monopolies. We looked at the charge of exploitation, a term that encompasses the dominant position of employers but also the marketing of unnecessary goods creating a demand to fuel the need of businesses to sell them. We discussed the presence of workers on boards of companies and trade union recognition as limits to power. Musing on a pendulum swinging between the far left and the far right, we concluded that the answer to our question, was yes, as to our version of capitalism, and it is the philosophy of the middle ground.

September's meeting tackles the question: 'Was Hannah Arendt right when she wrote "Where all are guilty, no one is; confessions of collective guilt are the best possible safeguard against the discovery of culprits, and the very magnitude of the crime the best excuse for doing nothing" '?



Strollers Group

Jane Sergeant

August's stroll round Abbey Fields was postponed, because the paths would have been too muddy, after the recent heavy rain. **The Stroll round Abbey Fields Alcester will now be on Monday, September 9th.** We will meet at the Scout Hut in Moorfield Road at 1 30pm. Suitable footwear and a stick would be advisable. I will be away with the U3A, on Tuesday 3 September, so I will not be at the meeting. Last month's information sheet has details of the stroll on it. I look forward to seeing anyone who is able to come.

Garden Lovers

Janet Allely

Our visit to Oak Tree House Marlbrook was very interesting after we all found parking on the old Birmingham Road. A cottage type of garden it had many secret paths and water features and many quiet places to sit and hide away. In the conservatory the owners displayed their art and we all enjoyed tea and great cakes.

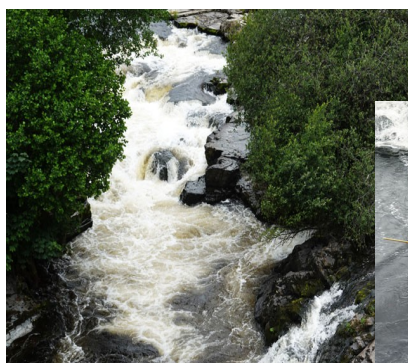
Our next visit is on 12th September at Whitelenge Gardens Hartlebury, DY10 4HD. Meeting at 2.30 pm. Anyone needing a lift please contact me.



Photographic Reminiscences of Alcester U3a Trip to Llangollen on 13 July 2019

by John Ruffell

The barge . . .



Falls at Llangollen



Action on the river



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Alcester U3A Interest Groups

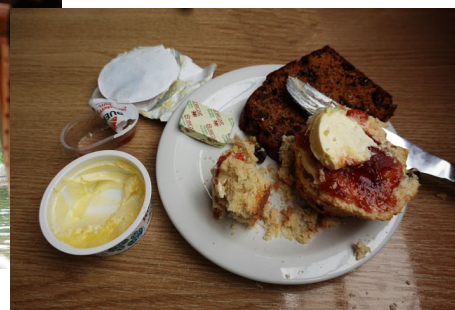
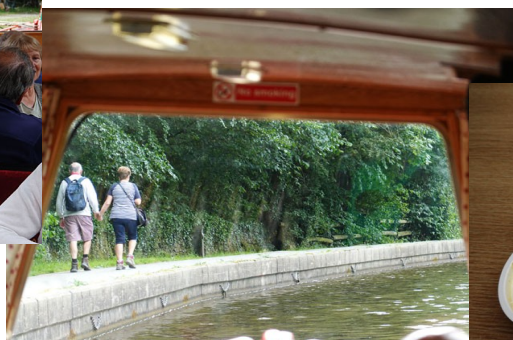
Group Coordinator: Bob Andrews

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	Brian Titterington
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 Court Community Room	Paul Brenda
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	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	1 Henley Street	Bill Bayley
Spanish	2 nd & 4 th 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)



..... the journey along the canal begins, through a scenic journey,



ending with the demolition of a cream tea