

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



This month we are celebrating 25 years of Alcester U3A. When I joined, meeting space (Malt Mill) was limited and I was put on a membership waiting list. After the floods in 2007, the meeting room was closed for repairs and refurbishment so the group moved to the Greig Hall and more members were able to join. When the Hall closed, we met at the Members' Club, which was not really satisfactory. Fortunately, the Jubilee Centre was opened in 2012, so here we are.



Congratulations to member Christine Scott who recently completed a tandem parachute jump, encouraged by one of our recent speakers. Christine raised over £1000 for the British Legion poppy appeal.

Monthly Speakers

Gill Stanley

August Meeting

Margaret Mandrell gave us a very interesting talk about the work of the Waterloo Schools Charity in Sierra Leone. She is involved in helping to raise money to support the pupils in the schools in an area near to the capital Freetown and recently spent time in the area. Her account of the positive attitude of the pupils, supported by her photographs was inspirational.

The pictures in the press recently showing the dreadful mudslides in the country were very worrying. Apparently the Waterloo Schools are situated a few miles outside Freetown and .thankfully were not affect

September Meeting

We shall be celebrating the 25th anniversary of Alcester U3A with a tea party with a special cake, scones, jam and cream and music. We look forward to seeing you all.



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,



MESSAGE FROM THE NEWSLETTER EDITOR

As I will be on holiday in September, returning on 3 October (the day of the U3A meeting) the October Newsletter will be slightly late, but emailed out as soon after the meeting as I can get it completed. Apologies to those without email who collect the hard copy at the meetings, but I will make sure copies are available at the November meeting.

Theatre Visits

It is great to see so many members booking to come on the Theatre Trips, and we hope to continue to find plays and shows that appeal.

We have three fully booked trips arranged which will take us through to January next year, and towards the end of this year will start to look out for interesting shows to consider for next spring.

In the meantime we will display the list of who has booked/paid for the trips at the meetings, and ask if you can pay early whenever possible. Having just booked several shows at the same time, we have had a considerable workload, and possibly made it confusing for you. Our life would be much easier if you let Jan Carr, our treasurer, have a cheque as soon as possible after you book, and preferably well before the deadline. Cheques will not be cashed until after the deadline date, but will normally be cashed immediately after that date to enable us to have the funds to pay the Theatre.



Looking forward to Malvern in October, and then plays at Cheltenham in November and January

Interest Group News

Church Visits

John Cooper



Our August visit was to St. Peter's Wellesbourne and after a slight delay in gaining entry we were given an introductory talk, outlining the history of the church, originally 12th. C. but largely re-built in the 19th century. Fortunately the magnificent chancel arch was retained, albeit turned through 90°.

A superb 15th century memorial brass to Sir Thomas Lestraunge (1426) beneath the carpet in the chancel was revealed by our guide, Michael, who spoke eloquently about the church, greatly enhancing our visit.

Incidentally, the local U3A make good use of the church for their meetings. Lunch was enjoyed next door at "The King's Head". Our September meeting will be at Elmley Castle on the 26th and we would welcome support from as many of you as possible for the last outing of the 2017 season (details in my September news E-mail)



Garden Lovers

Judith Wharrad



On 10th August the garden lovers group enjoyed a visit to the garden of Prim and John Finnemore at Walcote. The old stone walls of the property and beautifully mown lawns made a perfect background to the flowers, shrubs and climbers, including roses, clematis and hydrangea. A kitchen garden was very productive with ingenious methods for thwarting the carrot fly and caterpillar. The sunken stone garden in the front lawn is being renovated and it was explained to us that the road originally passed to the left of the house and there would have been other buildings there. We were lucky with the weather and we were able to have coffee and home-made sponge cake out in the garden.

Sue Blackburn has kindly agreed to host the **next garden visit on 14th October at 2.30 pm** at 10 Tibbetts Close, Alcester.

History

Gerry Barker

Last month we showed a film about the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World. The oldest of these was the Great Pyramid of Giza, built about 4500 years ago, and still surviving to this day. It remained the tallest man-made structure in the world for 3,800 years. All the other six have long since disappeared, but all seven were very large structures representing incredible feats of engineering and building. The most practical of them was the youngest, the Pharos (lighthouse) at Alexandria, built in the 3rd century BC. It survived until destroyed by earthquakes in the 14th century AD.



In **September our topic is the Treaty Versailles**, and the consequences of it,

Music Appreciation

Jan Rowe



The programme for August started with Chopin's Polonaise No. 6, then we heard, Carl Orff's 3rd movement from "Carmina Burana", Bach's "Prelude & Fugue" X1V played on the harpsichord, Nigel Kennedy playing "The Unknown Soldier", "Celeste Aida" from Verdi's opera "Aida" and Litolff's well known piano piece "Concerto Symphonique No.4" beautifully played by Peter Donahoe. After our tea break we enjoyed "Take Five" by Dave Brubeck and finally "Captain Noah & His Floating Zoo" sung by the delightful King's Singers.

Christine Rumsey will present her choices next time on 27th September.

Philosophy

Adrian Madge

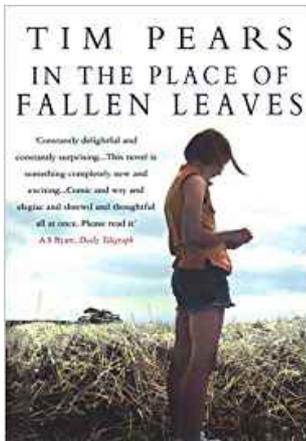


We were again a bit short on numbers at our August meeting in spite of welcoming one new member and having had some recent inquiries for membership. Location and parking perhaps present some difficulties?

Nevertheless 'Freedom and Choice' raised a lot of interest and thought, scattered as usual with much irrelevance. 'Do we have complete control over our lives?' seemed to meet with a positive response. 'Freedom of will', however, being a different kettle of fish, was perhaps somewhat deeper into metaphysics for some of us and any mention of Determinism given short

shift

For our meeting on 19 September, we are to have **a little experiment and have no fixed subject**, but each invited to bring along any Moral or Ethical Conundrum that bothers them with all the 'progress' in various disciplines of scientific exploration in this rapidly changing 21st century.



Rees Reading

Karyl Rees

'In the Place of Fallen Leaves' by Tim Pears had a mixed reception. We found it rather confusing. It was supposedly set in small Devonshire village during the long hot summer of 1984, but seemed to us, from the actions and characters more like the 1950's. The main character was an 11 year old girl, Alison, whose summer holiday is extended because of the strikes at that time. It is a series of vignettes about her family, including her father, suffering early dementia, her older brothers (two totally opposite characters), the Rector and reminiscences of her grandparents.

Next meeting at Fenwick Close.

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	Usually 3 rd Wednesday	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 (See Page 2)	Judith Wharrad
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	10.30 am	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
Science	1 st Wednesday	2.00 pm	1 Henley Street	Bill Bayley
Theatre Visits	As Notified			Joe White
Vocabulary Games	2 nd Tuesday	10.00 am	Oversley House	Michael Joyce
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