



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'm pleased to report that those of us who holidayed in Norfolk are back safe and sound after a very enjoyable few days..... and I only have a few less hairs! We were so lucky that the sun shone on us every day, especially during our Broads paddle boat trip. Thanks to all of you who attended for always being punctual, good natured and friendly.

We now have two people who attended Fire Awareness training run by the Jubilee Centre Committee; these are Ruth Dutton and Karyl Rees. Thanks to both for attending.

I wonder how many of you have checked out our Alcester U3A website? Lindsay Evans does a great job in keeping this updated with forthcoming events and photographs of our various activities, so hope you will take a peak. Or if you don't have a computer, why not ask a relative or friend to show it to you?

Monthly Speakers September Meeting

Gill Stanley

Once again Peter and Margaret Preece had a wonderful collection of photographs to show us. It is fascinating to learn how they manage to be close enough to birds and animals to "catch the moment". A great deal of both skill and patience are required and we certainly appreciated the results.

October Meeting

At our next meeting we look forward to seeing John Berkley again. Previously he has told us about the history of aviation in Warwickshire but this time his talk is titled "From Pens to Particle Physics". We will learn about the history of Brandauer, one of the city's leading pen-makers. Still a family owned business which celebrated its 150th anniversary in 2012 its contribution to the Large Hadron Collider at CERN illustrates a continuity of skills in the city.



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



THE GIRL ON THE TRAIN Saturday 26th October, Malvern
CABARET Saturday 23rd November, Malvern

The travelling list for each show will be at the meeting. It may still be possible to purchase tickets or, alternatively, if you would just like an afternoon in Malvern you could join us for £7 each.

Advance Notice

TEN TIMES TABLE Saturday 29th February at Cheltenham

Details and booking lists for this Alan Ayckbourn comedy will be available at the October Meeting

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



Forthcoming events

"Cyber Safe" – an event on **Tuesday 22nd October 10.00 am. – 12.00 at Malt Mill Lane Community Centre**, run by Warwickshire County Council Cyber crime advisers. Full details of what is to be covered during this event will be available at the October meeting.

"Economics Study Morning" – **Monday 11th November 9.30 – 12.30 at Dormer Place, Leamington CV32 5AA**, run by Warwick District U3A, admission £3 (includes refreshments). Tickets available from Chris Forse, either by post or email (cjforse47@gmail.com) Full details will be available at the October meeting. John and Lyn Pickering have attended some of these sessions in the past and they have been very informative.

Calling All Wind Instrument Players

The U3A Droitwich Wind Instrument Playing Group, led by David Womham) invites members from surrounding U3A Groups to join them. All with a wind instrument who can play from simple music are welcome. For more details see

<http://u3asites.org.uk/droitwich/page/54717>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/152100418677077/>



See John Ruffell's
Excellent photos
attached

NORFOLK HOLIDAY

Kath Lloyd-Jones

Over 40 members were missing from the September meeting whilst enjoying 4 days in Norfolk. The trip got off to an excellent start with a visit to Bury St. Edmunds. After a break to explore the environs there was a guided tour of the cathedral when we learned a lot about its origins. Then on to the Holiday Inn Norwich North. Everyone was delighted with comfortable accommodation and, as the days went by, the delicious meals.

Day 2 started with a tour of Norwich, some free time to explore, followed by the highlight for many - a delightful cruise on the Broads by paddle boat accompanied by a trio of jazz musicians. A lazy cruise in the glorious sunshine, admiring the scenery and water birds.

Next day started with a fascinating visit to Langham Glass to watch glass making demonstrations. The only rain of the trip occurred here whilst we were safely indoors! A further amazing sight followed at the Thursford Collection where Santa and his elves were preparing for Christmas. The day was rounded off with a train journey from Sheringham to Holt on the North Norfolk Railway - a trip down memory lane for most of us.

On the last day, we broke our journey at Sandringham House where we had a delightful tour which included the Museum and Gardens, and learned a lot about the family life of the royal family.

A thoroughly enjoyable trip all round with exceedingly pleasant weather to top it off.

GROUP NEWS – GOOD NEWS

I may have been missing sometimes but I haven't been totally inactive – read on.
There will be name sheets for signing up to all these new groups at the meeting on Tuesday
or telephone me if you are not able to be there.

Bridge Group (Proposed)

We are trying once again to get a Bridge Group going. Some of you have already declared an interest and, indeed, Paul Brenda approached you all a couple of months ago. Lorraine and Ian Thompson have now very kindly offered a starters / beginners group with the lessons probably taking place at their own home in Arrow. Frequency and number of meetings will depend on the response but I'm sure you will agree that this is a great opportunity at least to get the wheels rolling.



Mah Jong



The first meeting will be at Malt Mill Lane at 2.00 pm on Thursday 24 October. Thanks to Richard Dean for getting this off the ground, please talk to him if you would like to join in.

Chess (Proposed)

Colin & Sandra Taylor are seeking to set up a group – for all abilities but with complete beginners included. The proposal is for meetings to be held at their home in Astwood Bank at 2.00 pm on the 1st Monday in each month although there are a few alternative days and times which may suit you better – just check. This is a splendid idea and the Group Leader is already waiting. Don't hesitate as this chance may not come again!



Art

I'm not sure where this came from, but it appears that there is some interest in getting a group going again.

INTEREST GROUP NEWS



Beginners Family History

Linda Cooper

Beginners Family History meetings are held at 2.00 pm on the second Monday of each month at the home of Linda Cooper.

Our October meeting is on 14th October when we will discuss "making good use of census returns".



Church Visits

John Cooper

For our final visit of 2019 we went to Tewkesbury Abbey (on a self guided basis as the season for their tours apparently ceases at August 31st). It is difficult to believe however that any guide could have made us any more impressed than we were by this magnificent Abbey Church. It has everything that the finest of our cathedrals have, plus a superb organ which was being played in rehearsal for a lunchtimes recital. The fabric of the building is in excellent condition which belies its seven hundred years age. By the end of our tour the rain had abated and lunch was enjoyed at "The Bell Hotel" opposite the Abbey. Both building are worthy of a further visit.

History

Paul Brenda



At our August meeting the group heard a fascinating and informative talk given by Val Hamblin on the Life and Times of Charles Dickens. We heard that his contemporaries found his name strange (dickens = devil) and that his early childhood was far from bleak and included time spent at a private school. Hard times came in his later childhood when he became the sole breadwinner in the Dickens' household. His expectations in life were improved when he learnt shorthand and became a law court and Parliamentary reporter. His later literary career brought success and security enabling him to donate to charity; such as securing the future of Great Ormond Street Hospital. It also enabled him to separate from his wife (and mother of his ten children) to live, at the age of 45,

with his 18 year old mistress ... spending much of their time between the two cities of London and Paris.

Our September talk was expertly delivered by Gerry Barker who took us through the inter-war years in Germany. Starting from the economic and social devastation after the First World War, he showed how Hitler and the Nazi party, step by step, acquired power leading, perhaps inevitably, to the Second World War. His theme was illuminated by the first hand accounts of English travellers in Germany in the 1930s.

Orbit have apologised for the error in room bookings which necessitated a difficult move to another venue. **We will be back at Jubilee Court in October to hear John Cooper talk about Trafalgar.**



Jazz & Big Band Appreciation

Tony Badham

September meeting went well, with a brilliant presentation by Maurice Thatcher which taxed everybody's brain with a 'sort of' quiz that caused plenty of laughs!

Next meeting is 9th. October . Presentation by John Cooper.

Poetry Too

Bob Andrews

Our Autumn term began with the subject of 'families'. And what a feast was put together by the members who turned out. It is beyond your correspondent's ability to do it justice but read on. It need hardly be said that the great weight of poems fell upon, motherhood, fatherhood, sibling relationships, grans and granddads and marriage. Seamus Heaney's 'Digging' set the show on the road; what a superb poet he was and his regard and love for his father got us going well. The contributors to this super meeting were as diverse as Shakespeare (seven ages of man) Pam Ayres and the will, Sylvia Plath (morning song), George Macbeth (the miner's lamp), D H Lawrence (the piano) Charles Causley (ballad of the breadman) Joanne Baillie (a mother to her waking infant) and of course Anon.

Philip Larkin, Christina Rossetti, John Dunne, Felix Dennis (yes), G K Chesterton, and at least another 10 authors added to a heady mix which led to an amazing discovery of knowledge and experience in our group. We finished a brilliant day with Kit Temple (for my niece) and a second poem by Pat Smith read from the heart by the poet's sister. Pat Smith is highly regarded by the group and if you would like to hear more of her please speak to Ruth Dutton.

The next meeting of Poetry Too will be on 25th October when the subject will be 'Foreign Lands'



Music Appreciation

Jan Rowe

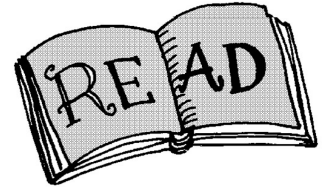
I chose mainly familiar pieces for my programme in September, we started with two sea related songs - "Where "Corals Lie" by Elgar & "Drakes Drum" by Villiers Stanford. There followed two polonaises one by Weinawski the other by Chopin, then there were pieces by Schubert, Tchaikovsky, Saint-Saens, Gilbert & Sullivan, Rossini & Steinberg. Finally classical guitarist John Williams accompanied Cleo Laine singing "If" & he also played "Romanza". **On October 30th John Ruffell will present his programme.**

Rees Reading

This month we discussed 'Midwinter Break' by Bernard MacLaverty. It was a study of a marriage which had started in Northern Ireland in the 1970's and lasted until the present day, but not without ups and downs. The midwinter holiday to Amsterdam could have led to a break of the marriage, as it shows up the strengths and weaknesses of the long relationship between alcoholic Gerry and his religious wife Stella.

Next meeting will be at Henley Street.

Karyl Rees



Peter Tugwell

Philosophy

September 's meeting considered this 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'? A long quotation, but a thought provoking one, inviting both assent and dissent, and as usual, we looked at both sides, and a few more besides. And because confessions sometimes involve apologies, albeit 'hollow' ones, we found this a topical and fruitful debate. Arendt highlights the meaningless nature of such confessions both for the maker and the victim, so we wondered what might be the point of them, whether it represents the start or end of a 'truth and reconciliation' exercise, or whether like

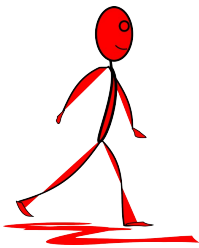
a hollow apology it is merely a cynical public relations exercise. We looked at cultural relativism – what might seem wrong to us, might have been morally acceptable to our forefathers. Similarly, what to us might be morally acceptable, might appear misconceived to our grandchildren, inviting a discussion on 'intergenerational ethics'. We looked at continued claims concerning historical slavery and colonial expropriation and fears that confessions or apologies might be a prelude to calls for reparations. More on ethics, again 'applied', rather than 'theoretical', next month. **The topic for October's meeting: 'Is the use of facial recognition software in surveillance morally acceptable?'**



Strollers Group

The second Monday in September was not suitable for our long awaited stroll around the Abbey Fields in Alcester, but we managed to do it on Monday 16th. Three of us had a pleasant time strolling towards the pond at Ragley Mill, then through the Nature Reserve, stopping at my house for tea and biscuits. We went back by the river and the Jubilee Hall.

The next stroll will be on Monday 14 October, led by Margaret Hay, and will be in Studley. It will be about a mile on paths through meadows, and parking is behind Studley Parish Church where the stroll begins. Afterwards the plan is to drive up to Studley Castle for refreshment where they only accept cards not cash for payment. Margaret's tel.no. is 01527854343.



Jane Sergeant

Pub Ambles

A historical amble in Redditch

Fourteen amblers got together on this lovely sunny morning at Arrow Valley Park in Redditch and walked through the Millennium Wood, across the wild flower meadow (regrettably without flowers at this time of the year) to join the "Millers trail" to Forge Mill Needle Museum and Bordesley Abbey. Everyone enjoyed this amble as the scenery is so varied and there are many points en route of historical evidence of the needle and paper making industries of the past. Not forgetting the Abbey ruins and Needle Mill museum, with its working water wheel. Just to disprove that Redditch is made up of ring roads and traffic roundabouts, it's a delight to see areas with little evidence of urbanisation.

Lyn Pickering



Pub Walks

Having been thwarted by the weather last month, there was a good turn for a 2nd attempt at a circular walk from Aston Cantlow through the hamlet of Newnham. A very enjoyable walk of just over 5 miles, finishing with lunch at The King's Head and this time the weather was on the side of the walkers.

Trevor Wraight



Garden Lovers

With fine weather we travelled to Whitlunge Gardens near Hartlebury. These gardens are spread over a large area with interesting design features including brick built and log built moon gates, gazebo made from living Hornbeam and bat cave. Water features with waterfalls and rills led into fairy grottoes and a turf labyrinth, stone labyrinth and spiral tor, which one garden lover nearly completed. Further investigation led into wild flower meadow before returning for a large slice of cake and tea.

Our next meeting is on 10th October meeting at 2.30 pm at the Plant Centre, Pershore College WR10 3JP

Janet Allely



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	Gill Stanley
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)

PROPOSED NEW GROUPS

Bridge	To be confirmed	TBC	The Old Dairy, 3 Arrow Grange, Alcester B49 5PJ	Ian & Lorraine Thompson 01789 762447 lrthompson144@hotmail.com
Mah Jong	4 th Thursday	2.00 pm	Malt Mill Community Centre	Richard Dean 07496 239318 rbdmdean@sky.com
Chess	1 st Monday	2.00 pm	1105 Evesham Road Astwood Bank B96 6EB	Colin & Sandra Taylor 01527 892852 colintaylor11@btinternet.com
Art	To Be Confirmed	TBC	TBC	TBC