



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

We are likely to be fewer at this month's meeting as over 30 of our members will be in Bournemouth, enjoying the trip organised by John and Lyn Pickering. I'm sure there will be a report in next month's Newsletter.

The date for the Birmingham history walk is Friday 9th November. Please let me know or sign up at the meeting if you would definitely like to go. We will meet at Moor Street Station at 10.30am and walk about 3.5 miles before lunch.

The programme for next year is in preparation, but if you can recommend any speakers, it would help Gill enormously. She does a fantastic job organising the meetings, but new ideas are always welcome.

Monthly Speakers September Meeting

Gill Stanley

John Butterworth was a journalist and spent much of his career editing local newspapers, mostly in the West Midlands. It had obviously been a pretty hectic but very rewarding job and his talk gave us an insight into its highs and lows.

October Meeting

Many of you will remember two talks by **Peter Preece** entitled **"Every Picture Tells a story"**. Many of his wonderful photographs were taken locally including kingfishers along the river Arrow. "Hide and Seek" is his new talk and it is sure to be a fascinating story accompanied by brilliant photographs.



THEATRE TRIPS

Saturday 1 December, Malvern Theatre
"The Habit of Art" by Alan Bennet

REMINDER: the Coach will leave the Greig Hall at 11.00 am.

The trip is fully booked but there will be a reserve list available at the meeting in case any drop out (**£27.00 (including coach & driver's tip)**).

Saturday 23 February 2019, Malvern Theatre
"The House on Cold Hill" by Peter James

Cost (including best stalls seats. coach & driver's tip): £32.00 each
the Coach will leave the Greig Hall at 11.00 am.

34 places booked so far, leaving 6 still free. Please sign the list if you would like to go.



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



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A new offering from Peter James, following his the successful "Not Dead Enough".
A spine-tingling modern day ghostly thriller in which *the Harcourt family quickly realise that they aren't the only residents at Cold Hill only days after moving into the remote & dilapidated Georgian mansion,*
Please sign the list at the September meeting if you are wish to go on the trip

INTEREST GROUP NEWS

Looking at Churches

For our 2018 finale we visited St Laurence's in Bidford on Avon, the 13th century Parish Church. Mr Chris Horn the church warden made us very welcome on a bright September morning and outlined the principal features of this fine, but much altered building. The Victorians, and before them, the Georgians, had stripped away almost all the earlier features of the church, leaving a large rather soul less edifice (although they may have rescued it from dereliction). We learned that a superb collection of seventeenth century silver donated by Lady Dudley, has to be kept in the bank, but otherwise the church is rather a disappointment. Large but empty. It has to be kept locked and therefore there was evidence of only three visitors in the last two years, and the dwindling congregation of only two dozen or so ageing folk now struggle to keep the church alive. They have however very shrewdly managed to off load responsibility for the upkeep of their very large churchyard ((closed to all burials now) onto the district council. Lunch was enjoyed at "The Bulls Head" to conclude our season

John Cooper



Garden Lovers



After a slight confusion with the parking meter at Warwick Racecourse we met with our guide at the Hillclose Reception. Our guide took us in and out of the 16 various victorian pleasure gardens. Most gardens had brick built summerhouses which have been carefully restored, and heritage vegetables and fruit trees (which have been labelled). Our excellent guide informed us of the history of the various families who had owned and used the gardens which are on a slope overlooking Warwick Racecourse. At other times of year there are over 100 varieties of snowdrops and C19 daffodils and the victorian style glasshouse has plants for sale. Volunteers help to care for the gardens and provide tea and cakes for visitors taking the tour.

Our last meeting for this year is on 11th October meeting at 2.30 pm at Hillers Garden Centre, Dunnington Heath Farm, B49 5PD.

Janet Allely

History

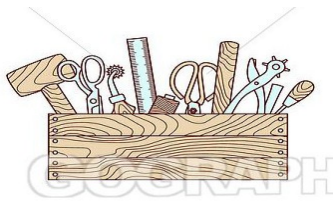
In September John Ruffell gave us a great presentation on the history of Galloway, incorporating much general history of Scotland. Galloway's Neolithic people built intricate tombs over 5000 years ago. In the first millennium BCE the Iron Age Celts arrived, fierce opponents of the Romans who never managed to settle here. The first king of a Scottish nation was Kenneth McAlpin, crowned on the famous Stone of Scone (*illustrated*) in 843. Later, John Balliol and his wife were local Galloway nobles who were buried in New Abbey Village. Their son John, a rival to Robert Bruce, was appointed King of Scotland by Edward I of England. John Balliol failed to pay due homage to Edward, so Edward invaded, seizing local Caelaverock Castle. James IV was the most popular king after Robert Bruce, but he was killed by the English at the battle of Flodden. However, his great grandson James VI also became King James I of England when Queen Elizabeth died in 1603. The two countries united in 1707.

Gerry Barker



John also included his trademark brilliant photos of historic New Abbey Corn Mill, Caelaverock Castle and Loch Doon, and beautiful shots of historic Galloway gardens.

Our next talk is on the history of maps.



Craft

We met in September to plan our terms projects with several new members. October 5th sees us swapping designs for cards using a cuttlebug machine etc. and on the 17th we will be using a decoupage technique to make new designs.

Linda Bradley

Jazz and Big Band Appreciation

Tony Badham

At our session on Wednesday the 12th. John Cooper took us through the growth of Jazz instrumentation, starting with basic African style drums & going through the emergence of reed instruments, valves, strings & electronics using notable examples of each. All of which were received with enthusiasm by the group!



Rees Reading

Karyl Rees

We all found this month's book - 'Arctic Summer' by Damon Galgut - very interesting. It is a fictionalised account of E.M. Forster's visits to India and Egypt, based on his own diaries and writings. The book takes its title from an unfinished Forster novel, written between the publication of 'Howard's End' and 'A Passage to India'. The Galgut book explores Forster's difficulties with long-term relationships, especially with his Indian friend Masood, and a bus conductor, Mohammed, in Alexandria. Though it was sometimes difficult to distinguish between the voices of Forster and Galgut, the book is a well-written story of a lonely, frustrated man.



Music Appreciation

Jan Rowe



Pam Gough brought us beautifully into Autumn with her lovely Autumn themed programme. The first piece was Vivaldi's "Autumn Concerto No. 3", then Alexander Glazunov's "The Seasons of Autumn Bacchanale", Brahms's Clarinet Quintet, Mendelssohn's "Songs without Words" & Tchaikovsky's "Children's Song, Autumn". After our tea break we heard "The Seasons Autumn Song" also by Tchaikovsky, Auguste Franck's "Symphony in D minor, the rousing overture from "Tannhauser" by Wagner & finally Cecile Louise Chaminade's "Automne".

On 31st October John Ruffell is presenting another on screen concert, with a Spanish flavour this time, by The Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra, everybody is welcome.

Philosophy

Adrian Madge

At the September meeting, the subject for discussion was: Can there be a good political system?

At the next meeting on 16 October, the subject will be "Nietzsche"



Pub Ambles

Linda Bradley & Bronwen Bunting



Both groups enjoyed a scenic circular walk from Ardens Grafton, taking in footpaths, quiet roads and a nature reserve. The continuing lovely summer weather enabled us all to negotiate the steep downhill path through the nature reserve without mishap, which may not have been the case had it been wet and muddy. A photo stop at the bottom of the hill provided entertainment for some very friendly sheep and the walk was rounded off by a pleasant lunch at the Golden Cross.



The next Pub Amble will be on Friday 12

October and Tuesday 16 October.

Pub Walks

Trevor Wraight

No Pub Walk in September

Trevor enjoying a well-earned holiday

!



HANG UP YOUR BOOTS
MIKEY GANNON

Poetry Too

Bob Andrews



Holidays and illnesses cut our numbers but the group responded with a decent meander exploring the subject 'Expectation'. The scene was set with the first reading; 'Just in Case' by Charlotte Mitchell, a demonstration of how to over pack when going away for a few days. Charlotte is very definitely not transgender!

Ithica by the great Greek pen smith Constantine Cavafy was followed by the St Crispian's day speech before the battle of Agincourt from Shakespeare's

Henry V. Stevie Smith and W H Auden maintained the grip on our imagination then Philip Larkin dragged us all down with his pessimistic view of the depths of emptiness of our modern ways.

A.A. Milne, W H Davies, John Betjemen (Myfanwy) and an anonymous (coz that's her choice) Derbyshire lady told us of The Pig and I. W B Yeats's Irish Airman foretold of his expectation of death then Thomas Hardy showed us his poetic genius.

W H Auden's plaintive request – Tell Me The Truth About Love – probably got its answer from James Fenton's poem 'In Paris with You' – a little naughty, somewhat knowing effort about what a couple can find out on a few days in that lovely city.

On October 26th we will see what we can do with 'Adventure'

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	Various Monday	2.00 pm	37 Station Road Alcester	Linda Cooper
Family History				
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)