



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

We've recently had quite an influx of new members, so I would like to take this opportunity to say that you are all most welcome and that I hope you have found lots of interest within our Alcester U3A group. Don't forget to check out our many and varied interests groups in the Information folder available at the general meeting!

Talking of interest groups, you may remember that, when I took over as Chairman in April, I undertook to visit all of our interest groups so that I could speak knowledgeably about what goes on firstly to new members, but also when I attend meetings either with our friends in other Warwickshire U3As or at National Events. I'm pleased to report that I have now visited the majority of our groups and hope to have visited all of them by the end of the year (with the exception of Church Visits, which have now finished for the Winter months). The overall experience has been most enjoyable and informative, so thank you to those of you whom I've met on my "rounds" for making me so welcome.

Monthly Speakers October Meeting

Gill Stanley

We were pleased to welcome back John Berkley. On this occasion he was explaining to us the history of the pen trade in Birmingham. The Brandauer company was a leading pen maker and celebrated its 150th anniversary in 2012. Still a wholly family-owned business it more recently contributed to the Large Hadron Collider at CERN which was in eat contrast to to its Victorian products demonstrating a continuation of high level skills.

November Meeting

Over the years we have enjoyed contributions to our meeting from Richard Churchley. He is a well respected local historian as well as an accomplished musician. On this occasion we are to benefit from his historical knowledge. His topic is Needlemaking in Worcestershire and Warwickshire 1640 - 1940. Richard has an uncanny knack of unearthing little known interesting titbits of information and we look forward to hearing from him.



THEATRE VISITS

CABARET at Malvern Theatre on Saturday 23 November

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

The list will be at the meeting, & there are spaces on the coach. We have checked that the Theatre still has some tickets available for the performance (£50 each), so if anyone would like to come, then please see Joe white at the meeting on Tuesday 5 November.

Reminder!

Chairman	John Pickering		
Vice Chairman	Lindsay Evans		
Treasurer	Jan Carr		
Secretary	Valerie Hamblin		
Membership Secretary	TBC		
Programme Organiser	Gill Stanley		
Minuting Secretary	Lyn Pickering		
Archives	Jan Rowe		
Groups Organiser	Bob Andrews		
Committee Members	Richard Dean	Karyl Rees	Joe White
Web:	www.alcesteru3a.btck.co.uk	Annual Sub £15	Only members can join group
			Ruth Dutton



UPCOMING THEATRE TRIPS

Advance Notice

TEN TIMES TABLE Saturday 29th February at Cheltenham

It is billed as a classic "... and the table is set for one of comedy master Ayckbourn's most hilarious plays" which has been touring the country. We missed it at Malvern but have the chance to see it at Cheltenham and have reserved 40 best seats in the stalls.

We haven't been to Cheltenham for some time, so remember the coach leaves an hour earlier at 10.00 am and the Theatre performance starts at 2.00 pm, so there is some time for lunch and shopping in Cheltenham.

If you would like to go, please put your name on the list at the meeting and let Jan Carr have your cheque for £31.50 ASAP and no later than the meeting on 3 December. If you cannot come to the meeting, book by email to:

joe_patwhite@msn.com



Forthcoming events

"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.



Warwick University's Festival of Social Science:

Quote: "Taking place between **2-9 November 2019 in Coventry and Leamington Spa**. This series of free and interactive events showcases leading social science research happening at the University of Warwick. From health and well being, understanding time, challenging our justice system to DNA mapping and exploring the Coventry accent, we'll have something to interest you".

If anyone would like more details about this event, please contact John Pickering.

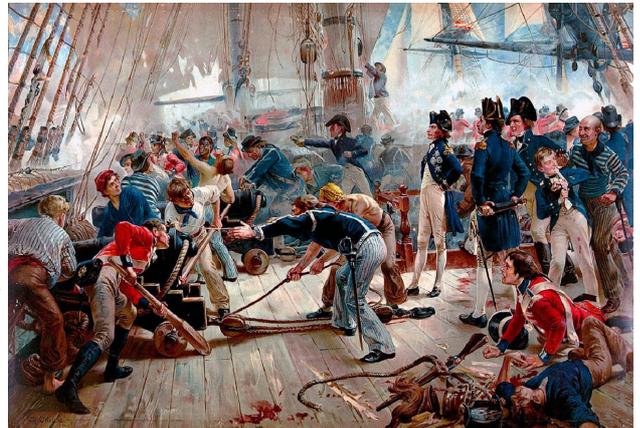
INTEREST GROUP NEWS

History

October's talk was, appropriately, about the Battle of Trafalgar which took place in October 1805. John Cooper delivered the talk with humour and detail. He set the battle within the context of almost continuous British/French hostility and showed both the innovative planning of Nelson and the suffering of the ordinary sailor. He told us that Napoleon kept a bust of Nelson, whom he admired. John also, controversially, hazarded the opinion that Nelson, going increasingly blind, had a death wish. As usual, the talk was followed by questions from the audience and some discussion of the physical attractions (or not) of Lady Hamilton.

Our November talk, "The Nine Lives of Queen Victoria", will be given by Paul Brenda and will tell the story of the several attempts to kill the Queen.

Paul Brenda



Jazz & Big Band Appreciation



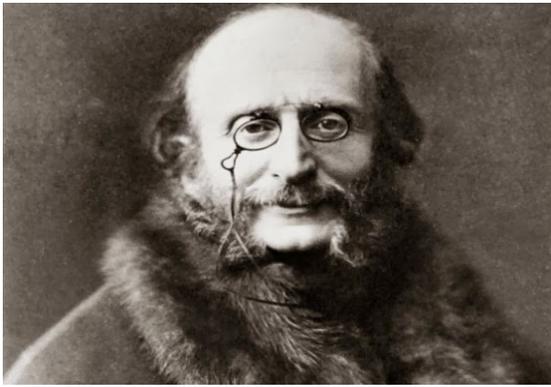
Tony Badham

Our October session was well attended and due to a change of program I presented a very mixed selection of music and John Cooper's presentation has moved to Jan.2020 to start the New Year!

Our schedule for 2020 has now been booked as 10 sessions, which will each be on the second Wednesday of each month EXCEPT for August & September!

We have reduced the annual fee to £5 to cover room hire etc. and will still offer one free 'taster' session to prospective members. Casual attendees will be charged only £1 per session.

Next session (our last this year) will be on November 13th. at which members are invited to offer two of their own choices for the entertainment of the Group!



Music Appreciation

Jan Rowe

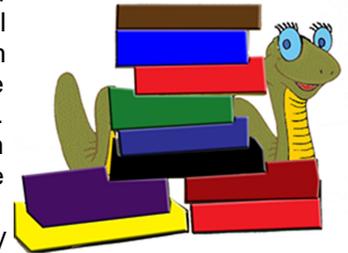
John Ruffell's delightful foray into the musical world of Jacques Offenbach was his theme for the October meeting, Offenbach was a cellist but was mainly known for his 98 operettas. We heard highlights from "Orpheus in the Underworld" including "King of the Boeotians" & the "Minuet & Gallop", also in the programme other pieces were from "La Belle Helene", "La Vie Parisienne" which had Gilbert & Sullivan overtones, & the ballet "Papillon". Most of his work was humorous but before he died he wanted to write a serious opera & started writing "The Tales of Hoffman" from which we heard Jodie Devos's beautiful rendition of the Doll's Song. **David Ralph will present the next programme on 27th November.**

Reading Group 2

What is the difference between friendship and love? This is the conundrum presented to the reader in 'The Gustav Sonata' by Rose Tremain. Gustav, starved of maternal affection, finds relationships difficult but a lifelong friendship begun in childhood with Anton sustains him, although Anton is selfish and gives little in return. He fails to realise the extent to which his and Gustav's lives are linked until it is almost too late. A group of four (our usual number reduced by holidays) met at Malt Mill Lane, and with a fifty fifty split a lively discussion ensued. Diverse opinions were expressed but by the end of the meeting, in deference to good relations, we agreed to differ!

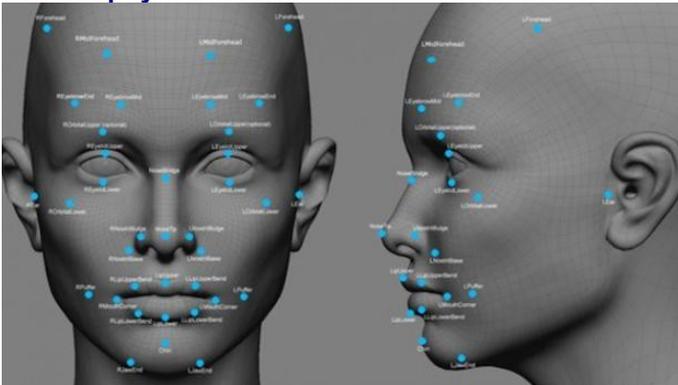
Our next book, 'In the Place of Fallen Leaves' by Peter Pears, sounds suitably autumnal and I look forward to reading it.

Ruth Dutton



Philosophy

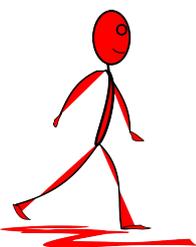
Peter Tugwell



The question for October 's meeting was: 'Is the use of facial recognition software in surveillance morally acceptable?'. If the 'price of liberty is eternal vigilance', and the fear is of a Big Brother state, then rejecting mass surveillance seems intuitively right, but ignores the comfort afforded by the presence of CCTV in places where people feel at risk. We discussed confidentiality and privacy, noting the wording of the Article 8 right of privacy. Given that practically everyone has a digital identity, knowledge of a person's whereabouts through the use of facial recognition software raises concerns about the use of that data, especially when linked to other digital information, stored, analysed and made available to

commercial and governmental entities. We agreed that there was a distinction between private places such as one's home where it was felt that privacy should be paramount and public places like a street, where in going about one's pursuits, it could be argued that privacy had been waived. The use of recognition software removed the anonymity enjoyed by being out and about, perhaps in a crowd. As the arguments against its use seem to centre on evidential matters (was it accurate, could it be tampered with) this question made for an interesting debate as we embraced the challenge of constructing a purely ethical paradigm.

The topic for November's meeting is: 'Was Bertrand Russell right when he said 'Science is what you know, philosophy is what you don't know'?



Strollers Group

Jane Sergeant

Margaret Hay was unable to lead last month's stroll in Studley because of the weather conditions. We will do this one again next year.

On Monday, 11th November we will meet at Alcester Scout Hut at 1 30pm. We will do the Oversley Green circular walk, keeping to roads and paths. It will take about 3/4 mile and end in a cafe for refreshments.

Pub Ambles

Bronwen Bunting

The first attempt at October's Pub Amble was thwarted by the rain, but this resulted in a good turn out for the second go when the weather was kinder. Courtesy of John Pickering's planning, we had another but different walk in the Arrow Valley and round the lake, mainly on paths with occasional forays through the woods, keeping fingers crossed that the tracks would not be too waterlogged. The walk started and ended at The Golden Goose where the generous carvery ensured that everyone would be going home for an afternoon snooze!



Pub Walks

Trevor Wraight



Buddy Holly's 'Slippin and a Slidin' was the tune of the day though the line 'I've been told baby you've grown old' was highly inappropriate as the rugged group of walkers, using their 4x4 turbo-charged boots to the maximum, splashed through 5.2 miles of mud and water with not a care in the world. West of Inkberrow the country is beautifully moulded into gently rolling hills and shallow valleys, the source of the Piddle Brook. We stopped to enjoy the delightful little church at Dormston with its timbered belfry and a history stretching back to the Saxons before rejoining Mr. Holly across the slippery fields. The Bulls Head was its usual welcoming self with good food and a welcome beer.

Garden Lovers

Janet Allely

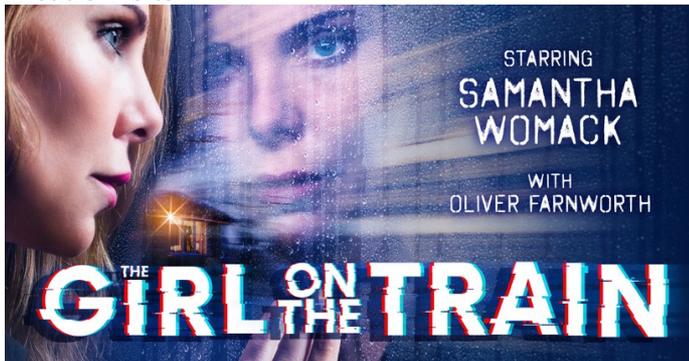
A good number of Garden Lovers met at the plant centre of Pershore College, which is now merged with the wholesale department, and were taken on an informative tour of the various greenhouses and plants. We learnt that bottom heat is best for propagation of plants and a 'hair cut' makes for a bushier plant. We saw the old and new automated greenhouses and watched automatic misting. After looking at the plants we were given a welcome hot drink and the chance to buy plants at a good price by the same young man who had taken us on the tour.



This is the last Garden Lovers meeting for 2019 and we look forward to meeting again next April

Theatre Visits

Pat Frankland



Rachel longed for a different life. Her only escape was watching the perfect couple through the speeding train window every day. But it was not so perfect. Suddenly, the woman she had been watching disappeared. Rachel found herself involved in a thrilling mystery of murder and foul play. Such a superb play, it was full of intrigue until the very end. Rachel was brilliantly played by Samantha Womack. Great cast, twists and turns, wonderful acting, exciting to the end, everybody loved it

And how did they get that speeding train on stage????

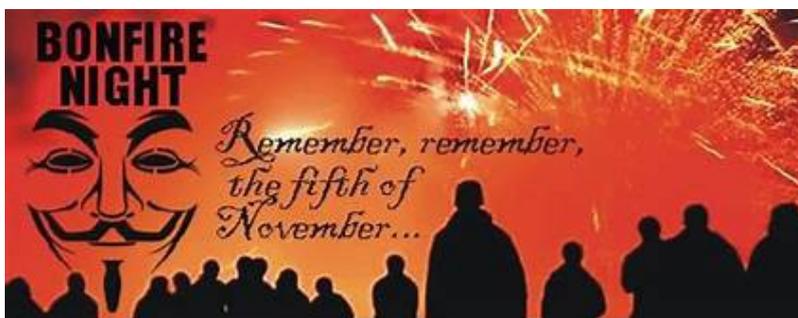
Mah Jong

Richard Dean

The new Mah Jong group got off to a successful start with 8 members spending an enjoyable afternoon either trying to recall the rules of this intriguing game from playing in the distant past or starting as complete beginners. There is plenty of room for more players so do come along to the Malt Mill Lane Community Centre at 2.00 pm on the 4th Thursday of the month at 2.00 pm if you would like to join in. All are welcome, whether experienced players or beginners who would like to learn.



An Eventful November



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 except August & September	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	Alcester Methodist Ch. Hall	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)
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 rbmdean@sky.com
Chess	1 st Monday	2.00 pm	1105 Evesham Road Astwood Bank B96 6EB	Colin & Sandra Taylor 01527 892852 colintaylor11@btinternet.com
PROPOSED NEW GROUP				
Bridge	To be confirmed	TBC	The Old Dairy, 3 Arrow Grange, Alcester B49 5PJ	Ian & Lorraine Thompson 01789 762447 lrthompson144@hotmail.com