

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**

The weather has finally decided to become wintry after a long hot summer and autumn. It doesn't encourage social activity, but our groups continue to thrive with a couple of extras starting up. I will remind members, however, that if you belong to a group which needs to hire a tutor, you must pay for every organised session **WHETHER YOU ATTEND OR NOT**. Most members are happy to pay this charge ahead of time, but I understand there have been a few instances recently where the Group Leader has had some problems collecting the money. We only charge enough to cover the costs, and any discrepancy has to come out of other people's subscriptions.

Speaking of subscriptions - as there will not be a January meeting in 2019, our Treasurer, Jan Carr, will be very happy to receive your annual subscription at the December meeting. This will be £15 for the coming year but will probably have to be increased in future because of rising costs.

Enough of gripes! I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a healthy New Year.

(Suggestion for a New Year's Resolution – share a car to U3A meetings.)

## Monthly Speakers

**Gill Stanley**

### November Meeting

At our November meeting we enjoyed a wonderful history lesson from Philip Bowen. He told us in great detail about the extensive connections between Midlands families and their homes in the plot to blow up the Houses of Parliament. It was a very educational experience.

### December Meeting

We look forward to renewing our acquaintance with Ray Sturdy as he tests our knowledge of singers, songs, films, film stars etc in his "See and Hear" Quiz. I am sure it will prove to be a very enjoyable afternoon although I don't expect to know many of the answers myself!



## THEATRE TRIPS (1)

**Saturday 23 February 2019, Malvern Theatre**  
**"The House on Cold Hill" by Peter James**  
**the Coach will leave the Greig Hall at 11.00 am.**

This trip is now fully booked, but still to be paid for, by about half of the bookings. **Please pay Jan Carr by cheque at the December meeting.** (£32/head) We need to bank these cheques in December in order to pay the Theatre on time. The booking list and reserve list will be available at the meeting.

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

Committee Members  
Web:

Richard Dean  
[www.alcesteru3a.btck.co.uk](http://www.alcesteru3a.btck.co.uk)

Lindsay Evans  
Annual Sub £15

Joe White  
Only members can join group

Ruth Dutton



## THEATRE TRIPS (2)

**Saturday 9 March 2019, Malvern Theatre**  
**Tom Stoppard's brilliant and hilarious comedy**

Unusually we have booked another show within a couple of weeks; the rationale behind this is the totally different type of Theatre experience, between a scary Peter James story and a

Tom Stoppard Comedy.

- ★ Stoppard has proved popular in the past so we hope that sufficient members will want to come.
- ★ **(Cheques at the meeting please & no later than 10<sup>th</sup> January. They will be cashed in January)**
- ★ There will be a booking list at the meeting on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> December,
- ★ Alternatively book by email to Joe white at [joe\\_patwhite@msn.com](mailto:joe_patwhite@msn.com)
- ★ This is likely to be our last show for some time.

*Bill Kenwright presents a brand new production of one of the most hilarious and brilliant plays by Tom Stoppard, Tony and Oscar award-winning writer of Arcadia, Travesties and Rosencrantz & Guildenstern Are Dead. Two famous but desperate playwrights are stuck on an Ocean liner headed for New York, feverishly trying to rehearse their latest show before reaching land, and opening night. But they are constantly distracted by their delicate composer's attempts to end it all, having overheard his lover confess her feelings to the leading man. Add an absurdly unorthodox waiter, a mistimed lifeboat drill and a vanishing glass of brandy and soon the sharp Atlantic winds turn to world-class gales of laughter as these colourful characters become tangled up in a typically Stoppardian string of absurd events.*

**£32 per person to include coach & driver's tip**

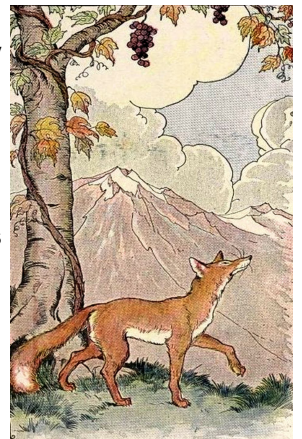
## INTEREST GROUP NEWS

### History

Last month Val Hamblin gave a very enlightening presentation on the origin of the many sayings and expressions we all use in our everyday language. We learnt, for example, why getting out of bed the wrong side was a problem, why we get saved by the bell, why we send people to Coventry (of all places), why the rich are known as upper crust and get born with silver spoons in their mouths, and many many more. A lot of these sayings originated in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, but many go back a lot further in time. Some, like sour grapes, come directly from Aesop's fables, and others, like having an Achilles heel, from Greek and Roman mythology. There are quite a few that have their origin in ships and sailing, and also in salt. The talk led to a lot of lively discussion.

**There will be no meeting of the History Group in December.**

### Gerry Barker



### Jazz & Big Band Appreciation

A good turnout and a brilliant 'Mystery', presentation by Laurence Thatcher based on his latest record purchases.

**Next meeting January 8<sup>th</sup>. 2019.**

**The group have decided to increase the number of meetings for next year to include February & April.**

### Tony Badham

### Rees Reading



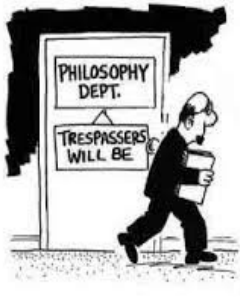
### Karyl Rees

Meera Syal pulls no punches in her book 'House of Hidden Mothers'. It is a story about a mixed-race couple, Shyama and Toby, who travel to India to find a surrogate mother to carry Toby's child. Shyama's Indian-born parents have their own problems in regaining their property from a niece and her family who have taken over their apartment. The book reveals complex

family relationships, a corrupt legal system, and the way in which women are treated in India, not only by their husbands but by men in general.

**Next meeting: Wain Close**

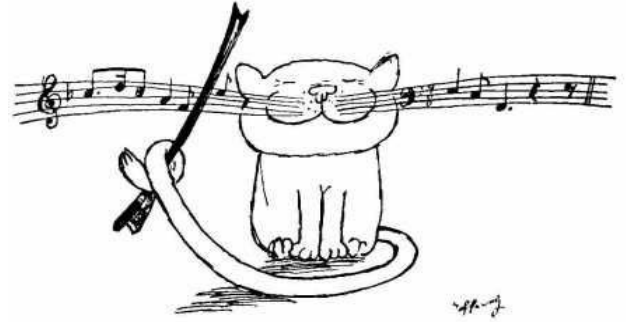




## Philosophy

There will not be a meeting in December, owing to the proximity of Christmas.

Peter Tugwell



## Music Appreciation

Jan Rowe

David Ralph's enjoyable programme took the form of a musical quiz on film music which created many discussions.

The tracks included "Tara's Theme" from "Gone With the Wind", "Cavatina" from "The Deer Hunter", "Hedwig's Theme" from "Harry Potter & The Philosopher's Stone", John William's "New Hope" from "Star Wars", "The Return of the Ring" from Tolkien's "The Lord of the Rings" and the finale was "Colonel Bogey's March" from "The Bridge on the River Kwai", we also heard pieces from Mozart, Wagner and Rossini and the winner was Tony Ingram who certainly knows his film music.

There is no meeting in December, our next meeting is January 30th when Tony Ingram presents his programme.

## Poetry Too

Bob Andrews



A good turn out for what was sadly, our last meeting at Pam Norman's home. Our subject was 'Adventure' which, given the journey we have enjoyed at Pam's home over these last few years, was perhaps an apt title for the occasion.

In fact the paucity of suitable poems was a bit of a shock to most of us. Poets seem to be a maudlin lot when the sum of their output is combed with the research required for our little efforts. So there were no surprises in the choice of Robert Frost and his divided ways nor 'HighFlight' as penned by the tragic John Gillespie Magee. The Owl and the Pussy Cat coupled with Winking, Blinking and Nod were reminders of childhood, and were a a curtain rouser for the 'Cremation of Sam McGee'.

We climbed 'The summit of Skiddaw' and sniffed 'Tangerines' given by Hugo Williams. Other gems were found in Hillaire Belloc's 'Tarantella' and 'An Adventure of Our Lives' by Roseanne Shawiak - a poet new to most of us. Herbert Asquith reminded us of the brio of the early confidence in the 1st World War with 'The Volunteer' - echoes of Agincourt and so on.

Appropriately we had undertaken 'The Journey of the Magi' to keep us focussed at this time of year.

We all signed a thank you card for Pam and presented her with lovely array of flowers to finish up the afternoon and hopefully to brighten her

up after so much kindness freely given..

Our next meeting will be at 2.00pm on Friday 25th January 2019 at the Malt Mill Community Centre when the subject will be 'The Sea'.

A happy Christmas and a healthy New Year to you all.

## Pub Ambles

Linda Bradley & Bronwen Bunting



A good turnout of 14 Amblers set off from The Shakespeare Inn for a walk around the pretty villages of Welford and Weston on Avon. The walk provided a pleasant mix of picturesque black and white cottages, the River Avon, churches and the tallest maypole in England which the village children still dance around in July each year.

Welford Church was unfortunately locked so we were unable to look round the inside but The Shakespear provided a good lunch, even if the service was not exactly the quickest!

The last Pub Amble for 2018 will be on Friday 14 December

## Stroll around historic places in Birmingham

Many of the Pub Amblers opted to go on this interesting walk, organised by John Pickering and led by Dr Michael Jay, on 9 November, so the usual amble was cancelled on this date. Starting from Moor Street Station, the walk of about 3.5 miles looked at the history of the Digbeth area of Birmingham, how it developed and the future of the area which is undergoing impressive renovation. Breaks from the biting cold wind were taken in a canalside bistro for coffee and the Woodman Pub for lunch (infamous for being the drinking haunt of Peter Sutcliffe!)

*Picture shows the little known River Rea which passes through Birmingham and on which the city was founded by the Beorma tribe in the 7<sup>th</sup> Century.*



## 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 <sup>th</sup> Tuesday	11.00 am	Various Recommencing May 2017	John Cooper
Computer	Free email Computer Newsletter (Circulation 40 members)			John Ruffell
Crafts	1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Wednesday September to March	10.00 am	Alcester Methodist Ch. Hall	Linda Bradley
French	3 <sup>rd</sup> 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 <sup>rd</sup> Wednesday	10.15 am	The Library, Oversley House	Gerry Barker
Jazz & Big Band Appreciation	2 <sup>nd</sup> 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 <sup>rd</sup> 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 <sup>nd</sup> Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> Tuesday	10.30 am 10.30 am	Various Various	Linda Bradley Bronwen Bunting
Pub Walks	3 <sup>rd</sup> Friday	10.00 am	Various	Trevor Wraight
Rees Reading	2 <sup>nd</sup> Monday	10.15 am	Various	Karyl Rees (GROUP FULL)
Science	1 <sup>st</sup> 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)