



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



Thank you, Gill & Lynn, for organising the lunch for almost 40 members at the Kings Court Hotel a couple of weeks ago. For some it was the first time they had been to the Kings Court & they commented on the quality of the food and the service.



There is more for our new members & Group Leaders to look forward to at the end of June. Those who joined between June 2016 & the end of May 2017 should have received an invitation to tea at Jubilee Court meeting room (part of the Jubilee Court sheltered housing complex between Lea Close & St Faith's Road, and not where our meetings take place). If you need directions, please ask. If you haven't yet let me know whether you are coming, please do so by 23<sup>rd</sup> June.

The Third Age Trust has recently produced a report on its future structure, affecting U3A's across the country. It seems there is very little which might need changing, and full details can be found in the June edition of Third Age Matters. The Report will also be discussed at the August AGM in Nottingham.

## Monthly Speakers

Gill Stanley

### May Meeting

Our speaker in May was Captain William Wells. We learnt a great deal about London's history in relation to its position on the banks of the River Thames. As always his talk was well presented and illustrated and we had a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon.

### June Meeting

In June we will welcome Mike Milburn to our meeting. Mike moved to Stratford in 2007 having spent the previous 28 years in the RAF, retiring in the senior rank of Group Captain. In 1979 he left a teaching job to become a Parachute Jumping Instructor. In due course he became Team Leader of the RAF Falcons Free Fall Parachute Display Team and spent 3 years travelling the world on the display circuit. He then specialised in high altitude military free fall and all that entailed. We look forward to hearing more about his work with specific Army, Royal Marine and Air Force units,



## THE TASTE OF IRELAND

Evesham U3A are organising a trip to Ireland, departing Monday 25 September 2017, to the 4\* Bloomfield House Hotel, Mullingar for 5 days, 4 nights dinner bed & breakfast, visiting the Irish National Stud, Galway, Bray and Dublin at a cost of £305 per person (£32 extra for singles).

Any interested parties should contact Jean Griffin (Outings Organiser)  
01789 750772 / 07970 804598

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  
Web:

Ruth Dutton,  
[www.alcesteru3a.btck.co.uk](http://www.alcesteru3a.btck.co.uk)

David Ralph,  
Annual Sub £15

Judith Wharrad, Joe White  
Only members can join groups



## Theatre Visits

A reminder that the trip to Malvern Theatre to see "Our Man in Havana" will take place on Saturday 15 July, with the coach leaving from the Greig Hall, Alcester, at 11.00 am. A list of those who have signed up and paid will be available to check at the June meeting.

## Interest Group News

### Beginners Family History

Linda Cooper

Our next meeting is June 19th from 13.30 at 37 Station Road.

All new beginners welcome and all regulars.



### Church Visits

John Cooper



Our season began with a visit to St. Mary and All Saints church in Haselor, a church within the Alcester Minster. We were fortunate in having the company of the church warden ( one of our members ) and also an extremely knowledgeable guide: John Finnemore, who provided us with not only photos and facts about the church but also a wealth of information about fascinating incumbents including Cornelius Griffin , a notorious prelate of dubious morals who at one time lived in the church and slept in his own coffin, purchased 15 years before his demise!

### History

Gerry Barker



In May we had an excellent presentation by Margaret Tool, a guest speaker from Redditch U3A. The subject was the life of Britons under the Roman occupation. When the Romans under Claudius arrived in 43 AD, there was fierce opposition from the British Celtic tribes, but in due course they came to quite envy the Roman lifestyle, particularly their houses and domestic life. Many did very well for themselves as part of the Roman administration, the more successful ones living in villas like their masters. We were shown excellent pictures from the Butser Ancient Farm in Hampshire, where there are reconstructed Celtic round houses, a Roman villa, and other buildings of the period. Also shots of Caerwent in South Wales, a town built by the Romans as the centre for one of the defeated Celtic tribes.

***Our next history group event is a trip to the Roman Villa at Chedworth in the Cotswolds (National Trust). This is on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> June, when we will have a conducted tour of the site. If anyone outside the History Group fancies joining us, they would be very welcome – please phone me on 01789 267216. There is space available in cars, but leaving Alcester well before 10.00.***

### Music Appreciation

Jan Rowe

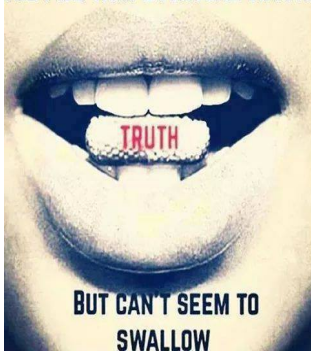
Our May programme was compiled by Pam Gough and contained a delightful pot-pourri of music including voices, instruments and orchestras. We heard Ray Still perform an oboe concerto by Bach, Juan Diego Florez, a tenor from Peru, singing "Una Furtive Lagrima" from Donizetti's "L'Elisir D'Amore" and violinist, Nicola Benedetti, playing Bizet's "Fantasia" from "Carmen". Other composers in the first half included Mozart, Puccini and Boccherini. After our tea break there was Schubert's beautiful incidental music for the play "Rosamunde, Fursten von Zypern" Rosamunde being the princess of Cyprus, then excerpts from the familiar "Water Music" by Handel. Pam's closing piece was "Adiemus" from "Songs of Sanctuary" by Karl Jenkins sung by the Alcester choir "Tarantara". For our June 28<sup>th</sup> meeting members will bring their own C.D's and share a favourite track.



## Philosophy

Adrian Madge

### THE PILL THAT EVERYONE WANTS



Our subject for May was 'Language and Truth' and by suspicious but pure chance had an unintended topicality to have fallen in the middle of a series of political campaigns ! However with their customary good manners, not a word of irony was heard from the group. We rather overlooked the philosophy of Language with its complicated verbosity and spent the afternoon chasing Truth as rather less exacting discipline, who proved a nimble fugitive and kept us well employed by dodging in corners of convention and binding us in brambles of belief so that after much challenge and defence we were finally left with a suspicion that in its pure state Truth was indefinable, and even in Science may escape into novelty. Our next meeting on June 20th we will blunder into another sea of topicality with a look at 'Democracy-fact or illusion?

## Jazz & Big Band Appreciation

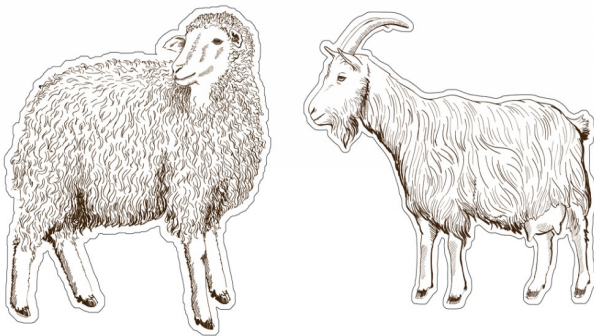
John Watts

At our meeting on 10 May, our member Geoff Hamilton gave his first presentation to the group and its content prompted some lively discussion. Geoff selected recordings from Buddy Bolden, Count Basie, and The Midland Youth Jazz Orchestra. He drew an interesting comparison between vocal recordings of "Old Man River", by Paul Robeson and Frank Sinatra. For traditionalists we had Louis Armstrong, Bix Beiderbecke, Humphrey and others. A well and varied programme that the fifteen members present thoroughly enjoyed.



## Rees Reading

Karyl Rees

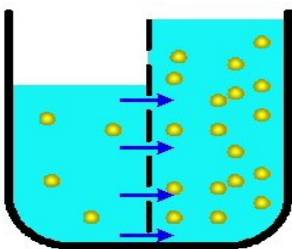


May's book was 'The Trouble with Goats and Sheep' by Joanna Cannon. Set in the hot summer of 1976, ten year old Grace and her friend Tilly examine the lives of the neighbours in The Close after the disappearance of Mrs Creasy. Everyone in The Close has confided in Mrs Creasy at some time or other, especially after the kidnapping of a baby several years previously and its aftermath. One neighbour is regarded as being different from the others, but it turns out that everyone has his/her secrets.

Next meeting - 2 Wain Close

## Science

Bill Bayley



This month we discussed 'Osmosis', and we had a demonstration using potatoes that Richard Dean kindly provided. We learned about plant cells, human digestion, purifying water, and generating electricity from Dead Sea water. Next month we will be discussing "False Science in Advertising"

## Osmosis

(Water moves by concentration gradient)

# Alcester U3A Interest Groups

Group Coordinator: Bob Andrews - ☎ 01789 763202 [bob.andrews679@gmail.com](mailto:bob.andrews679@gmail.com)

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	Usually 3 <sup>rd</sup> Wednesday	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	2.30 pm	Various (See Page 2)	Judith Wharrad
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	John Watts
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	10.30 am	Various	Linda Bradley
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
Science	1 <sup>st</sup> Wednesday	2.00 pm	1 Henley Street	Bill Bayley
Theatre Visits	As Notified			Joe White
Vocabulary Games	2 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesday	10.00 am	Jubilee Court	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