



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**



It seems like no time since we celebrated Alcester U3A's 21<sup>st</sup> anniversary, but already we are arranging to celebrate our 25<sup>th</sup>. At our September meeting we will have Richard Churchley to entertain us, and following the success of our recent new members' and group leaders' meeting, we will be serving scones, jam and cream with the usual tea / coffee. There will, of course, be a gluten-free option.

There were over 20 members at the tea in June and it was an opportunity to meet people in a smaller, more sociable environment. People were also able to talk about our smaller interest groups. We are always looking for opportunities to expand these, so any ideas are always welcome.

Our theatre visits have proved so popular that the October has only a few spaces, and November is fully booked. If you have put your name down for either of these, please ensure you pay Jan by the August meeting.

### Monthly Speakers

**Gill Stanley**

#### July Meeting

Anne Rolfe needed to visit her daughter in New Zealand but her husband couldn't fly and they couldn't afford P&O so they went there and back on cargo ships. The journey there took six weeks and she gave us a very interesting description of their life on board and their exploration of Tahiti and Future. It was definitely not an undertaking for the faint hearted.

#### August Meeting

The Waterloo Schools Charity Trust was founded by Dr Laurie Read, a former headteacher of a school in Sierra Leone. Originally this was in response to the devastation caused by the civil war and he worked tirelessly to raise funds to repair buildings and provide books.

Sierra Leone was the worst affected country by Ebola outbreak. The schools supported by the Trust closed for the summer holidays in July 2014 but couldn't open again until 2016 because of Ebola. Many families were affected and are still struggling and the Trust continues to help the pupils and teachers who have been through this terrible experience.

We welcome Margaret Mandrell to our meeting. She will update on the present situation.



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 Ruth Dutton, David Ralph, Judith Wharrad, Joe White  
Web: [www.alcesteru3a.btck.co.uk](http://www.alcesteru3a.btck.co.uk) Annual Sub £15 Only members can join groups



## Theatre Visits

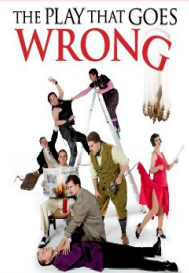
**21<sup>st</sup> October 2017:** **"The Real Thing"** by Tom Stoppard, starring Laurence Fox at Malvern. We have just 3 seats left. Tickets are £26 each to include coach and tip. The coach will leave the Greig Hall at 11.00 am. Book by email to Joe White, on [joe\\_patwhite@msn.com](mailto:joe_patwhite@msn.com), (nb joe\_pat) or at the very latest at the 1st August meeting. Pay by cheque to Jan Carr no later than 1st August.

The Booking list & a Reserve List will be available at the meeting.



**11<sup>th</sup> November 2017:** **"How the Other Half Loves"** by Alan Ayckbourn, at Cheltenham.

All tickets have been taken; the booking list and a reserve list will be available at the meeting. Tickets are £30 each; please pay Jan Carr by 1<sup>st</sup> August. Please remember that the coach departure time for Cheltenham trips is **10.00 am**.



**20<sup>th</sup> January 2018:** **"The Play that Goes Wrong"** at Cheltenham.

All 40 seats have been taken; Tickets to include coach will be £29.50 each

Payment, by cheque to Jan Carr please, when you can, and no later than 3<sup>rd</sup> October.

The Booked list and a Reserve list will be available at the meeting

## Interest Group News

### Church Visits



Our visit this month was to St. John the Baptist, Aston Cantlow, a fine fifteenth century church. We were fortunate to have a detailed introductory talk from John Martin, a former church warden. Some of our number bravely climbed into the belfry to see one of the oldest working clocks in the country, and glimpse a bell dated 1410, five years before Agincourt! Mr. Martin gave us chapter and verse on the infamous case of the glebe liability of recent history, which fortunately resulted in the church being restored to its considerable former glory. Lunch was good value in the nearby "King's Head"

John Cooper

### Garden Lovers



A welcome revival of this group enjoyed its first visit in **July** to Janet Allely's beautiful, spacious garden in Kings Coughton. Roses were smelt, fruit was admired, tea was drunk and ideas discussed. Various plant exchanges were arranged for later in the year when taking cuttings and dividing would be more successful. We all felt that we would never complain that our own lawns were too big and took too long to mow after seeing Janet's!! Judith, the leader of this group, was able to come and really enjoyed meeting everyone again. **Thank you Janet for being willing to host garden lovers in July.**

The **August** visit will be hosted by Prim Finnemore at Walcote Farm, Walcote B49 6LY. It will be in the morning from 10.00-12.00 am on Thursday 10 August **NB the different time**) The farm is in the centre of Walcote and parking is at the house

Judith Wharrad



### Music Appreciation



John Bingham's programme was an eclectic mix of music from Mozart to Gilbert & Sullivan. In the first half we heard the Quartet from Verdi's "Rigoletto", Chopin's nocturne from "Les Sylphides" and Schubert's popular "Trout Quintet". After our tea break we were entertained by Wagner, Gounod, Tchaikovsky and Mozart, also, from "The Mikado" we heard "The Flowers that Bloom in the Spring", then Eartha Kitt's lovely rendition of "Just an Old Fashioned Girl" and finally, to send us on our way after a most enjoyable afternoon, the rousing "Liberty Bell March" by Sousa. On 30 August I will be presenting the programme, newcomers are always welcome, we meet at 2 pm at Malt Mill lane Community Centre.

Jan Rowe



## Pub Ambles

Jane Sergeant



The Ambling Group met in The Huff Cap Pub car park, to set off for our July walk round Great Alne. The weather was uncertain but it turned out to be very pleasant. We started off by the fallen tree and tried to work out how old it was. We walked through fields of rape and barley which were ready for harvesting. There was a discussion about weed control and spraying, and some expert advice was contributed by Janet and her sister who both have farming backgrounds. We climbed up a few slopes with very good views at the top, use was made of some very well constructed steps made by the Coventry Ramblers. We also passed the farm where our farming friends had spent their childhood. Linda pointed out the site of an old quarry which had

provided stone for the local churches. We ended our walk by going into Great Alne Church which was beautifully decorated for a coming wedding. The meal at the pub was enjoyed by all. *No meeting in August.*

## Pub Walks

Trevor Wraight

Willersey, Saintbury, Weston Subedge, three very different villages along the northern Cotswold escarpment. Three churches again all very different. Sadly, the prettiest of the three at Saintbury, with its magnificent spire and outstanding view, is on the redundant churches list. Ideal for a midsummer walk, there is almost always a breeze over the ridge and furrow sheep pasture, rising up the slopes from the Vale. The names are interesting. Willersey from Old English Wilhere's Island indicating that the surrounding land was pretty wet. Western Subedge, the western enclosure below the edge or escarpment. Saintbury, Saewine's fortification, presumably referring to the hill fort above the church. An indication that these settlements probably date back before the Saxon and Roman periods into the Iron Age. The New Inn at Willersey provided lunch and parking to its usual excellent standard.



## Jazz & Big Band Appreciation

John Watts



At our July meeting Bob Andrews announced that, John Watts, wished to stand down as leader following a period of indifferent health. John started the group with a handful of enthusiasts in February 2014 & has seen it maintain steady growth in membership. John wished to thank members for their support, and said he felt that the group would maintain its success. He hoped to attend meetings before long. Tony Badham volunteered to become the Leader and his offer was readily accepted! Tony has had wide experience within the U3A Jazz scene, having been leader of a Stratford group for several years. Members had brought along some of their favourite recordings, and a wide selection was enjoyed by all.

*Our next meeting will be on 13 September presented by Tony Badham*

## Philosophy

Adrian Madge

Our July meeting was hard hit by alternative responsibilities, but nevertheless we few pressed on regardless, and enjoyed a cosy and wide ranging discussion. Nominally our subject was the function and management of Prison, but with a heavy majority of school teachers we were soon off target and deep into the troubles and problems of Education in general. This displayed concern for the blundering of Politicians eager to devise solutions without any knowledge or understanding of the problems they sought to solve: not indeed confined to education. Perhaps an afternoon of more anecdote than deep philosophy but none the less enjoyable and certainly informative.

Without the opportunity for a consensus, for the subject on 15 August we decided to commit our absentees to 'Freedom and Choice in the 21st century'



## Theatre Visits

Colin Taylor



In our usual style, we boarded the coach and made the journey to Malvern. After all going our own way, eating, drinking, shopping or whatever, we met up again in the foyer and moved in to take our places. As ever, we had excellent seats, close to the front. "Our Man in Havana" conjures up MI6 in all its glory, in fact a vacuum cleaner salesman is recruited by the spymaster. The new boy then learning very quickly about inventing contacts and sending to London false spy pictures, all based on the products he sold. 'Our man' played himself throughout, but the other three actors had a multiplicity of parts including being on stage narrators.

Whenever the lighting was dimmed, they were also stage hands, continually re-arranging the set from one location to another, usually by moving the odd item, adding a telephone or kettle, even a vacuum cleaner. The changing of the scenes was achieved, seemingly, without a mistake. The whole production went along at a cracking pace, eventually with everyone living happily ever after, or so it seemed... Bring on the next visit....



## Vocabulary Games

**Michael Joyce**

The subject for our meeting on 11 July was MEMORY – we discussed in detail what is it? How does it work? What is the process by which memories are stored and then retrieved? Why do we have very much more “long term” memory than “short term”?

Can memory be improved? Most medical sources said “YES” and in much the same way as with our physical health, with a healthy diet and regular exercise.

We each answered the question, if you could only keep **one** memory, what would it be and why?

**We will not be meeting in AUGUST –  
next meeting: Tuesday 12 September.**

## Rees Reading

We all enjoyed Arnold Bennett's 'The Card'. Set in the Potteries - his 'five towns' - in the early 1900's, it tells the story of the rise of Edward Henry (Denry) Machin from a humble clerk to a prosperous councillor. He does this by seeing opportunities where others don't, or even making the opportunities himself. He is quite the entrepreneur but liked by all, hence his nickname of a 'card' - a 'character'.

**Next meeting at Broad Cedars.**

## Karyl Rees



# 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	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	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	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	Oversley House	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