

MARCH 2020 NEWS

Monthly Meetings in St Peter's Church Wellesbourne CV35 9LS, 2pm for 2.30pm

March 10th - The Life and Times of Wallis Simpson – Roy Smart

Roy Smart was a Naval Officer, Fleet Air Arm Pilot and air director of many great national memorial events including the televised D Day, VJ Day commemorations attended by the Queen and fifty heads of state, together with flying displays and aviation parents.

Wallis Simpson died a lonely and sad life, said to have been kept a virtual prisoner by her obsessive lawyer Maitre Blum. On the eve of triumph, his plans are upended by but what was Wallis really like? Reviled for her part in the abdication of former King Edward VIII, who became the Duke of Windsor and Wallis Simpsons husband in 1937.

April 14th– The Lunar Society – Jack Wilson

The Lunar Society of Birmingham was a dinner club and informal learned society of prominent figures in the Midlands Enlightenment, including industrialists, natural philosophers and intellectuals, who met regularly between 1765 and 1813 at Soho House in Birmingham. The members included Joseph Priestley, Erasmus Darwin, Josiah Wedgwood, James Watt and William Withering. The group are remembered as Fathers of the Industrial Revolution.

Wellesbourne Community Cinema The film at 4.30 on **Monday 23rd March** at the Church Centre is **The Current War**. Admission £4 includes a mug of free tea or coffee from 4pm. Three brilliant visionaries set off in a charged battle for the future in this epic story of the cutthroat competition that literally lit up the modern world. Benedict Cumberbatch is Thomas Edison, the celebrity inventor on the verge of bringing electricity to Manhattan with his radical new DC technology. charismatic businessman George Westinghouse, who believes he and his partner, the upstart genius Nikolai Tesla, have a superior idea for how to rapidly electrify America: with AC current. As Edison and Westinghouse grapple for who will power the nation, they spark one of the first and greatest corporate feuds in American history, establishing for future Titans of Industry the need to break all the rules.

- William Howard 01789 508831 william.howard@dunelm.org.uk



Chairman: Peter Finkel 01789 842637 peterptrfinkl@aol.com

Membership Secretary: Wendy Ironmonger
01789 293377 marendy4@gmail.com

Groups Coordinator: Alison Edwards
01295 688247 alison.mallalieu@btinternet.com

Newsletter Editor: Peter Davies
01789 841755 dvu3anews@gmail.com

Copy for next month to Peter by the 15th please

Web: www.denevalleyu3a.btck.co.uk

Facebook: www.facebook.com/denevalleyu3a

Registered Charity Number 1183747

U3A National Office move

After a variety of problems at their former London office, the National U3A office address is for the time being: Third Age Trust, 52 Gant Street, London SE1 1RB. It's in Southwark, not far from Borough Underground Station on the Northern Line. But after a few months they hope to move into a more permanent office location.

Our Groups

Art Appreciation

A Trip to Garden of Heroes and Villains
in the Heart of England Forest, Dorsington
on Wednesday 22nd July
OPEN TO EVERYONE

The Art Appreciation group are planning a trip to Dorsington Gardens' display of marvellous sculptures, but because we want to go mid-week when they are not usually open, we need 30 people for them to open. It is a charity and run in the main by volunteers.

Cost: £28 per person which includes:-

- Access to the Garden with a map showing the positions of all the different statues
- Hot drinks on arrival and a brief introduction talk on the Heart of England Forest
- Sandwich and cake buffet lunch with hot drinks for all to help themselves to, served in the courtyard.
- Back and 4th Mini coach.

This is a wonderful display with over 100 statues, mostly of famous people like film stars, the Beatles, politicians, musicians and then also fictional characters such as Alice and the White Rabbit and the Owl and the Pussy Cat.

Meet at Wellesbourne Village Hall at 10.15 to pick up the Back&4th buses, Lunch will be from 12.30 - 1.30, Leaving Dorsington at 3pm, and we should be back in the village at 3-30 - 3.45



We need to confirm numbers and have payment by the June meeting, so DON'T DELAY !!

Jenny Shorrocks 01789 470060
Twojaysxj6@aol.com

Books on Monday

Books on Monday reviewed Dangerous Crossing by Rachel Rhys. The book was based on Rachel's mother's friend's memoirs of her journey to Australia and evoked the era of the £10 voyages to resettle in Australia during the 1930s and 40s. The story begins in 1939 and captures the spirit of the last days of peace before the outbreak of WWII. Many of the passengers are suffocated or repressed by the narrow class they feel obliged to stay within or they are running away from something. There is an impending sense of doom.....

Our next book will be Horse Whisperer by Nicholas Evans.

Penny Holbrook 01789 470697
penny9@btinternet.com
Theresa Finkel 01789 842637
theresafinkel@gmail.com

Computing Plus

Our next meeting will be Keyboard shortcuts and other items led by Jim on Tuesday 17th March.

- Michael Dane 01789 470491
landm.dane@btinternet.com

Flower Arranging

Last month I mentioned that WAFA (The World Association of Flower Artists) is holding the 13th



World Flower Show in Jaipur, India from 24th February to 1st March. This year the tri-annual event is called 'Grand Floral Affair'. No one in our flower arranging group could go to Jaipur but on a cold and windy

February day India came to Wellesbourne as we created Indian inspired designs. St. Peters Church room was colourful with an array of bright

flowers; even a eye catching elephant was spotted. Several designs were based on Rangoli patterns. These are patterns created on the floor using materials such as coloured rice, sand or dry flour and flower petals for Hindu festivals and the designs are passed down in families.



Floral foam, which first emerged on the market in the 1950's is causing a huge debate amongst flower arrangers and florists at present. Some people may know the foam as the popular make, Oasis. However, Oasis is not the only firm to be making floral foam. An increasing awareness of the accumulation of plastics in our environment, especially in the oceans, and even in our human food chain, has motivated producers to seek acceptable alternatives.



An original block, depending on conditions, is estimated to take more than a hundred years to fully biodegrade.

The Oasis "Bio" foam, which is brown in colour rather than the original green, was launched in 2018. Apparently, it takes 567 days to completely biodegrade. However, Oasis are currently

working on producing a foam product which will biodegrade within a year. The "Bio" foam is almost three times more expensive than the original and trials have shown it takes up less water. It is most useful for professionals for if a stem is inserted and then needs re-positioning the foam crumbles and needs completely replacing, so far from ideal.

From 2021 the Royal Horticultural Society are banning the use of floral foam at all their shows. The National



Association of Flower Arranging Societies (NAFAS) at present encourage their demonstrators to create at least one design without foam.

With all this publicity and to do our bit to save the planet, next month we are making a structure that will support flowers in a shallow bowl without foam. We will be able to reuse this structure many times.

- Jenny Down 01789 841567
jm.down@btinternet.com

History – Family:

13th March: The Bristol Slave Trade – led by Jenny

- Michael Dane 01789 470491
famhist.dane@gmail.com

History – Local

Tony Whiteley will be speaking on the Battle of Edgehill and its aftermath. It affected Wellesbourne as the Kings Head was used as a hospital after the battle. An unusually cold night after the battle meant that more wounded survived than usual, at a time when the main risk for soldiers was wounds that get infected.

- David C Ball 01789 840983
davidcball@live.co.uk

Luncheon Club

We had a good turnout for our February lunch meeting at The Maltings in Myton despite the weather, and enjoyed a good and varied menu. Then for our next outing we are travelling west to The Bell in Welford on Avon, one of the longest established pubs in the area and an old favourite.

The Bell Binton Road, Welford on Avon CV37 8EB
Thursday 12 March at 12.45

- Ann Eccles 01789 841597
ann.eccles@tiscali.co.uk
- Jill Haran 01789 841702
jill.haran@googlemail.com

Music Appreciation

Peter Davies welcomed us to his home for our January Musical Session and although we lacked a little in numbers we enjoyed an interesting programme, always leading to sociable discussion, with coffee and biscuits generously provided. We listened to:

Saint-Saëns – Organ Symphony: 1st Movement

Debussy – Nocturnes: Sirènes

Elgar – Sonatina; Enigma variations (the original version played on his own piano) and 1st Symphony: 1st Movement

Czerny – Piano Pieces: Andante, Allegro; Romance; Capriccio.

Our next meeting will be hosted by William and Margaret at **10am on Thursday 26th March**, when they will welcome us to 21 Daniell Road, Wellesbourne CV35 9UD.

- Scott Read, 01789 842264
William Howard, 01789 508831
William.Howard@dunelm.org.uk

Quiz Group

We meet on the first Thursday of every month in the church rooms at 2pm. Quizmasters are volunteer members of the group each month. We usually have 16 to 20 participants who we split

into teams of four. We also have tea and biscuits at half time.

We are not serious, just enjoy a quiz and a chat.

If interested email Sylviablundall@live.co.uk
- 01789 840463

Rock and Roll and 60s and 70s Music

Our next meeting is at 2.30pm on Monday, **9th March**. Pam and Grev Hudson will be presenting the programme. Our venue as usual will be the YHA at Alveston.

Our group is now well established and we welcome new members to enjoy “our” pop music.

If you would like to come we will be very glad to welcome you.

-Tony Whiteley, 01789 471036
tonywhiteley@outlook.com

Trains Planes & Automobiles

For the start of the New Year we decided not to venture out to a Museum or Factory, but just went to the church rooms in Wellesbourne, which was much warmer. We had an extremely interesting talk by Mike Pollitt on the history of the Vulcan bomber. Mike had served in the RAF and was a captain on the Vulcan fleet. He had actually flown the Vulcan now based at the airfield in his RAF career, and he is also Chairman

of the Vulcan Preservation Society.

The need for the fast high flying jet bombers came after



World War 2 when the ‘Iron Curtain’ came down and the Cold War era began. The aircraft that had



flown during the war were no longer suitable so a new type of plane was required. In 1947 the MOD issued a tender for an aircraft that could carry 10,000lbs of bombs at a speed of 580mph with a range of 1700 miles. Avro Vickers who had produced the Lancaster bomber during the war came up with a very radical design. It was basically a flying wing, with cockpit at the front. Mike was able to show us the initial drawings that were produced for the aircraft. Avro won the tender and set about building the aeroplane. But as nothing like this had flown before half scale versions were produced to prove that it could fly and also test the flying characteristics of such a design. The first Vulcan prototype flew in 1953.

Interestingly by today's standards the test pilot who flew it did so dressed in his normal



pinstriped suit! The Vulcan entered service in 1956 and served until 1984. Initially it flew at 60,000 feet, but after the Russians shot down a U2 spy plane 1960, it was decided that they

would now fly at 50 feet! So they were all repainted into the colour scheme you see today. We were shown a photograph of a Vulcan flying at this height over the ground and as seen from above, it was very difficult to make it out. The overall performance was far better than the initial specification required: it could fly at 640mph with a range of 2,600 miles and carry 20,000lbs of bombs. The power for this capability came from 4 Rolls Royce Olympus engines, each producing 54,000HP. Mike was also able to tell us some interesting and humorous stories of his time while flying in the RAF.

The Vulcan on the airfield will be doing its first taxing runs for four years on Sunday 21st June (Father's Day)

- Peter Finkel 01789 842637
peterptrfnkl@aol.com

Walking

On Wednesday **18th March** Valerie Edwards is leading a circular walk from at Hatton World via Grove Park. We meet at Wellesbourne Village Hall car park at 9.30am to share lifts to the start of the walk at 10 o'clock at Hatton World car park. Hopefully by then the ground will be dry!

Join us on 18th March.

For more information, contact:

- Brenda Pengelly 01789 841439 /
 07747 622222 brendajp@btinternet.com
 - Valerie Edwards
Valerie-edwards@hotmail.co.uk

OUT & ABOUT with Carol and Chris

LONDON OUTING
THURSDAY 19TH MARCH

ITINERARY

Leave Wellesbourne Village Hall Transport for day provided by Harry Shaw	8am prompt (please be at departure point 15 minutes before hand)
Depending on traffic we hope to arrive as near as possible to the Royal Albert Hall (hopefully by door 8)	11am
Royal Albert Hall tour Commences at ;-	12 Noon prompt Tour commences from door 12
There is a café bar by door 12 where refreshments may be purchased before our tour	
Bathroom facilities available at meeting point door 12.	
Will confirm departure point on day	4pm prompt

ORGANISERS FOR THE DAY : _

Carol on 01789 841295 or 07467122383 carolturland@gmail.com

Chris 01789 840893 Or 0758 798985 mickandchris2ashtree@tiscali.co.uk

LET'S GO RACING TO CHELTENHAM
Thursday 16th April



Experience a day at the races with a Behind the Scene tour before Racing begins. The tour includes a history of the racecourse, the best areas to go to around the course and hints and tips to make the most of your day. Also a visit to some areas, e.g.:-The Parade Ring, Winners Enclosure and weighing room

Plan for the day:-

Leave Wellesbourne Village Hall	10.15am
Arrive Cheltenham Race Course. (You will have time to buy refreshments before our 45 minute tour begins.)	11.30am/ 11.45am
Tour Starts	12.30pm
Tour ends	1.15pm
First Race begins	2.05pm
Leave Cheltenham	4.30pm
Return to Wellesbourne (Approx.)	6pm.

COST FOR THE DAY: £28 (Includes entrance /tour/race card /coach/ driver's tip)

PAYMENT was DUE 11TH FEBRUARY

Interested please contact:

Carol on carolturland@gmail.com 01789 841295/ 07467 122383
or Chris on mickandchris2ashtre@tiscali.co.uk 01789 840893

WEDNESDAY 13TH MAY

GLOUCESTER

NAMES ARE BEING TAKEN FOR THE RESERVE LIST

We plan to leave Wellesbourne Village Hall at **9 am** and arrive at **Gloucester Cathedral** at approximately **10.30 am**



MORNING

We will spend approximately 2 hours at the Cathedral where we will have coffee and a guided tour.

The coach will collect us from the Cathedral at **12.30 pm** and take us to the **National Waterways Museum** where you will have time for lunch.



AFTERNOON

Meeting up at 2.15 pm for a 45 minute boat trip along the Gloucester Canal
There will be time to visit the National Waterways Museum

Board the coach at **4.30 pm** for our homeward journey. Arrive back in Wellesbourne at approximately **6 pm**, depending on traffic.

COST: £31.85 (includes guided tour and coffee at the cathedral; ticket for the boat trip and entrance to the Museum; coach and driver's tip)

If interested contact: Chris Black 01789 840893 or 07580 798985 mickandchris2ashtree@tiscali.co.uk

Carol Turland 01789 841295 or 07467 122383 carolturland@gmail.com

PAYMENT IS DUE 10TH MARCH

MONDAY JUNE 15TH

JOIN US FOR AN UNUSUAL OUTING TO BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

LEAVE WELLESBOURNE: - 9 am

Our first stop :- **HELLFIRE CAVES**

Rumour, mystery and wild allegations of drunkenness and debauchery surround the history of the 'Hell-Fire' caves - a labyrinth of caverns and tunnels, which runs a quarter of a mile into the hill at West Wycombe Estate. www.hellfirecaves.co.uk



After your visit to the caves there is an opportunity to purchase lunch and explore the village of West Wycombe once owned by the Dashwood family. It was an important coaching stop on the main road between London and Oxford. In 1929 the village was bought by the Royal Society of Arts as part of the Society's 'Campaign for the Preservation of Ancient Cottages'.

www.westwycombevillage.co.uk



We will board our coach for the short journey to West Wycombe Park and the 18th Century Italian villa home of the Dashwood family for over 300 years. We will have a guided tour of the eight rooms of the house which are open to the public

ARRIVE BACK AT WELLESBOURNE 6pm

Interested contact: Carol 01789 841295
carolturland@gmail.com.

Or Chris 01789 840893
mickandchris2ashtree@tiscali.co.uk



Cost: £24 Includes entrance/tours to caves and villa, morning refreshments coach and drivers tip (Non National Trust members will have to pay an additional £8 for West Wycombe Park)

PAYMENT IS DUE BY : 14th APRIL

**TUESDAY 7TH JULY
JODRELL BANK DISCOVERY CENTRE**

NAMES BEING TAKEN FOR THE RESERVE LIST



Visit the home of the famous Lovell Telescope and internationally significant astronomical heritage site and working science research facility.

Plan for the day

Leave Wellesbourne Village Hall	8.30am
Unfortunately due to lack of capacity and catering facilities at Jodrell Bank we are stopping for coffee /tea at the Three Grey Hounds Allostock	11am
Re-board our coach for the short journey to Jodrell Bank	11.30am
Jodrell Bank exhibition is self-guided	
As previously mentioned the café can only accommodate 50 people menu consists of :-sandwiches, baked potatoes and cake. There is an area outside and another undercover for eating your own food.	
Join the 40 minute Free Pathway Tour	2.30pm
Talk on the Jodrell Bank Space Race (lasts for 45 minutes)	3.15pm
Leave Jodrell Bank	4.30pm
Arrive back at Wellesbourne Village Hall depending on traffic	7.30pm

Cost: £28 (includes Entrance Fee/Talk/ morning refreshments/coach and drivers tip)

Interested contact: Carol 01789841295 carolturland@gmail.com or
Chris 01789840893 mickandchris2ashtree@tiscali.co.uk

PAYMENT IS DUE MAY 12TH

Another Outing, on July 22nd

The Art Appreciation Group have arranged an Outing to Dorsington Gardens in the Heart of England Forest and invite other U3A members and friends to join them. Meet at Wellesbourne Village Hall at 10.15 for the half hour journey, and back in the village at 3-30 - 3.45. Please see their article on page 2.

Would Group Leaders please check the C&T rota: there have been times when no one turned up to serve.

Reduced Mobility: Most public locations are accessible. If any venue is not, please contact the group leader.

Group	Group Leader	Meeting and comment	C&Tea
Art	Kate Parton 01789 841073	10am-12 2 nd & 4 th Mondays The Bennett Room	
Art Appreciation	Jackie Williams 01926 640286	4 th Wed various galleries, homes, etc.	
Baking with Interest	Theresa Finkel 01789 842637	2.30pm 4 th Thu (or as agreed); various venues	
Books on Monday	Penny Holbrook 01789 470697 Theresa Finkel 01789 842637	2.30pm 3 rd Mon in various houses	
Bread-making	Roger Goodman 01295 688199	1pm 3 rd Tue, Village Hall Wellesbourne	Oct'20
Bowls – Short Mat	Wendy Ironmonger 01789 293377	10am-12 every Wed	
Bridge Mon	Carol Turland 01789 841295	2 - 4pm every Mon	
Bridge Tue	Wendy Ironmonger 01789 293377	10am-12 every Tue	
Bridge Thu		3 - 5pm every Thu	
Bridge Fri		10am-12 every Fri	Jan'21
Bridge, Improvers		10am-12 every Mon, Church Hall Wellesbourne	Apr'21
Card Making	Linda Mitchell 07523 088522	2-4pm 2 nd Fri, 12 Oxford Way CV35 9LW (Dh)	Feb'21
Computing Plus	Michael Dane 01789 470491	10am 3 rd Tue upstairs Church Rooms	
England's Heritage Above/Below Ground	Trevor Shaw 01789 842673	No fixed day in the month: meetings in the Carr Room, visits elsewhere	Mar'21
Flower Arranging	Jenny Down 01789 841567	10am 2 nd Wed, Carr Room, St Peter's	
History 1	Gail Hayes 01789 842686	2pm 2 nd Wed, various locations	Mar'20
History 2		10am-12 2 nd Mon, 2 Huntington Ct Wellesb'ne	
History – Family	Michael Dane 01789 470491	2.30pm 2 nd Fri, Carr Room, Church Centre	Apr'20
History – Local	David C Ball 01789 840983	2.30pm 3 rd Fri, Carr Room, Church Centre	May'20
Kurling	Wendy Ironmonger 01789 293377	7-9pm 1 st Sat, Alveston Village Hall CV37 7QP	
Lang – French Conv.	Jim Brown 07802 411943	4-6pm 1 st &3 rd Tue members' homes	Oct'21
Lang – German Conv.	Margaret Howard 01789 508831	2.15/3.15pm 2 nd &4 th Fris, 21 Daniell Rd (recess)	Nov'20
Lang – Fur. Spanish	Steve Desborough 01926 640358	10.30 2 nd & 4 th Thus, 26 Combrook CV35 9HP	Jun'20
Line Dancing	Pam Adams 01789 290727	2.30 for 2.45pm various Weds Alveston V. Hall	
Luncheon Club	Ann Eccles 01789 841597 Jill Haran 01789 841702	12.45pm 2 nd Thu most months in selected hostleries around the county and beyond	Jul'20
Music Appreciation	Scott Read 01789 842264	10am - 12.15, 4 th Thu in members' homes	
Philosophy	Gordon Russell 01789 740866	10.30am 1 st Thu, in members' homes	Sep'20
Pilates 1	Ros Bott 01789 842440 Sue Moss 01789 842466	9.30-10.30am every Thu, St Peter's Church Rooms, Wellesbourne CV35 9LS	
Pilates 2	Lynn Hunter 01789 748286 Lynda Coleman 01789 740755	9.30-10.30am every Tue, Village Hall, School Rd, Wellesbourne CV35 9NH	
Pilates 3	Jean Roberts 01789 840729 Mary Lively 01789 841107	1.30-2.30pm Mons excl. Bank Holidays, Village Hall, School Rd, Wellesbourne CV35 9NH	Sep'21
Pilates 4	Tina Lamb 01789 842060 Gill Thomson 01789 840165	10.45-11.45am every Tue, Village Hall, School Rd Wellesbourne CV35 9NH	Dec'20
Play Reading	William Howard 01789 508831	2.30pm 2 nd Wed, in members' homes	Aug'21
Poetry Appreciation	Julie Macbeath 01789 842313	2pm 3 rd Thu at Julie's home	
Quizzing	Sylvia Blundall 01789 840463	2pm - 4pm 1 st Thu, Carr Room, Wellesbourne	May'21
Reading	Anne Prior 01789 842103	2pm 1 st Wed, 7 Wyvern Close, Wellesbourne	Jun'21
Recorder	Margaret Howard 01789 508831	4.30pm 2 nd & 4 th Wed, 21 Daniell Rd CV35 9UD	Jul'21
Rock & Roll and More	Tony Whiteley 01789 471036	2.30-4.30 pm 2 nd Mon, YHA Alveston CV37 7RG	
Science, Exploring	Christopher Lamb 01789 842060	10am 4 th Tue 8 Brookside Ave Wb'ne CV35 9RZ	
Scrabble	Pat Sweet 01789 840276	2-4pm 2 nd Thu, Pat's, 10 Redhill Close, CV35 9SP	Nov'21
Singles on Sat/Sun SOS	Wendy Ironmonger 01789 293377	12.30 2 nd Sun Charlecote Pheasant CV35 9EW; & 4 th Sat Hemmingford's Alveston CV37 7RG	
Swimming	Linda Dane 01789 470491	10am - 12 noon on Weds & Fris at Walton Hall	Aug'20
Table Tennis	Judy Badger 01295 688010	2-3.30 1 st & 3 rd Mons, Wellesb'ne Sports Centre	
Trains Planes & Autos	Peter Finkel 01789 842637	3 rd Thu: visits to manufacturers, museums etc	
Walking	Brenda Pengelly 01789 841439	9.30 3 rd Wed Wellesbourne VH for 10am start	Dec'21

Coffee etc. supplied by Penny Holbrook, 01789 470697, penny9@btinternet.com & served by Groups: ☞
The Group Activity Grid is at www.denevalleyu3a.btck.co.uk/OurStudyGroups#grid in table and diary formats.