

APRIL TO JUNE 2018 MAGAZINE

Welcome to the April, May, June 2018 edition of our Magazine. This issue runs from 1st April to 30th June and is an archive of some of our activities.

March and April were wet months and there was snow during March. Some meetings were cancelled and so the Magazine is short of a few reports.

Reports include:

- ♦ April Monthly meeting
- ♦ SNATTs meeting—Friday 13th April
- ♦ Computer Group
- ♦ Reading Groups
- ♦ Choir Concert
- ♦ June Main Meeting
- ♦ June Walking Group

Last update: 4th July 2018



Rowing Club and new wheel behind—Mid April 2018

Heart of England U3A Monthly Meeting

Thursday 5th April 2018

Stratford-upon-Avon Methodist Church Hall

"A very brief history of Forestry and why it is important."

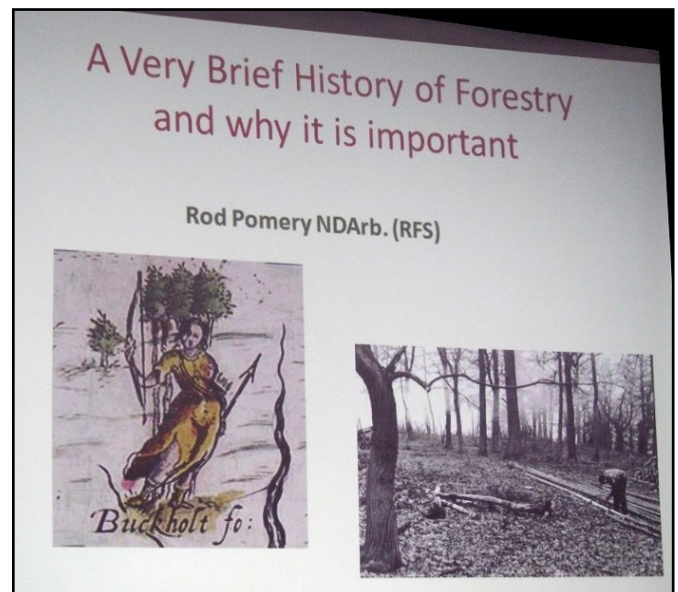
By Rod Pomery

Our speaker, Rod Pomery describes himself as the last forester that worked for The National Trust. Since he left the NT have employed people with a wider remit and called them Rangers. There is a world of difference between Rangers and Foresters, apparently.

Forestry is the science and craft of looking after and managing areas of the countryside that have been designated as forest. The New Forest in Dorset and Hampshire was designated as such by King William 1st shortly after he came to power in the 11th century. The last forest designated was the National Forest. A Forest is not necessarily a complete coverage by trees; there can be significant areas of open land and agricultural land within a forest area. There are strict laws within a forest that ensure their continued well being and management.

Since World War 1 HM Government has given instructions for large areas to be planted up with pine and spruce plantations to make good the loss of wood stocks during WW1 and this has had a considerable effect on the land. In more recent years the emphasis has changed to plant more natural species and mixtures. Beavers have been re-introduced as have wild boar. Both have an improving influence on our woodland. There

are too many deer and steps are in hand to address that problem. During the 18th and 19th centuries many more sheep were grazed, particularly in Scotland. There is pressure to reduce the number of sheep and increase the numbers of native cattle, such as long horn Highland breeds. The



cattle have a good effect on the landscape, grazing on gorse during the winter. Pigs and wild boar help to keep the ferns and bracken under control.

Science, Nature and All Things Technical Group

An illustrated talk given by Ian Roberts and entitled **"Lighting or Blowing Us Up?"**

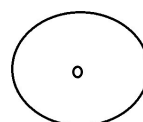
Ian Roberts gave us a wry and amusing look at the universe as we know it and especially energy, where it comes from, how we get it and how we use it. Also he was looking at the question of what is our ultimate future. Is the world or universe going to blow up in our face? Or will it all finish on a whimper? Why should we care as we will probably finish long before the world, unless somebody presses the wrong button!

The ability to generate, measure and control energy, particularly electricity, has provided us with a very comfortable world that would have been unimaginable 200 years ago. From a dark world, lit only by candles or flickering oil lamps, we now can have bright light at the flick of a switch and the communication revolution has been incredible. Even 50 years ago we could not have predicted so much.

Other things have not happened as we imagined. We were promised unlimited electricity generated by fusion nuclear reactors. There is still no sign of a controllable fusion reactor, and we almost stopped generation of electricity by fission nuclear reactors a few years ago. The reactors built in the 1950s and 1960s were all nearing the end of their useful life and were being decommissioned.



Or



Computer Group Meeting—9th May 2018

The Computer Group met as usual in the Holy Trinity Parish Centre Main Hall. The subjects being examined included photographs and what to do with them. Tidying up entries and re-arranging folders occupied at least one member.

Both Microsoft based PCs and Apple based laptops and iPads were in evidence. All members came away feeling they had learned something from the meeting, as did the tutor members.



We have still to get on to serious editing of photographs, but there are several more meetings left in the programme.

The photographs show student members and tutor members working with their computers. We try to cover Microsoft Windows laptops, Apple laptops and tablets.



Reading Groups

There are three reading groups in Heart of England U3A. They meet nominally once a month on a Monday, a Wednesday and a Friday.

They utilise lists of possible books issued by the library service, or choose a book that a group member might suggest. After the books are read, the members congregate and discuss the books, the authors, and anything else they feel like.

The photograph below shows the Monday Reading Group at one of their meetings in pleasant surroundings. The meeting time, day and place may vary between groups and months, depending on members' social diaries, weather and

meeting facilities available. So check out your groups. You may find one that you will find congenial.

Photograph by Sylvia Crooks



Digital Photography Group

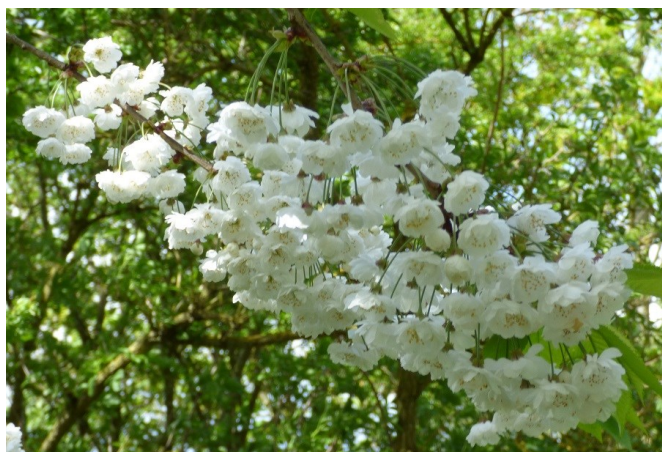
This group has been running for over twelve months under the supervision and encouragement of Geoff Bridgewater. We have met in various members' homes and now meet for coffee and biscuits in The Town House on Church Street.

We normally meet every other month and during the intervening time we go out and photograph to a subject set at the previous meeting. At the next meeting we bring our selected photographs on as USB memory stick and all view each others' efforts.

At our meeting in May we looked at photographs taken under the subject "Spring". We had experienced a difficult springtime, with cold and snowy weather making a lot of the blossom and flowers late. Also the weather was a little discouraging and so we did not go out as much as we might.

We intend to put on a slide show at the AGM next October, so members will have to select a few photographs that they have taken during the last 12 months and submit them to Geoff for inclusion in the slide show. Please let him have them by the meeting in August.

Below are a few Spring photographs:



Choir Concert—Friday 18th May 2018

At Stratford-upon-Avon Methodist Church Centre

On a warm, often sunny, day we all congregated in the main hall at the Methodist Church Centre to listen to the U3A Choir Summer Concert. They and their Musical Director, Stewart Wallace, had worked hard to put together and practise an attractive programme of popular songs. We were not disappointed. The choice of songs was excellent, most were well known to the audience.

Dorothy welcomed everyone and introduced the choir and Musical Director Stewart Wallace.



Stewart introduced each piece as he went along and gave excellent explanations and descriptions of them and their creators. It was all sing together to enjoy the moment on such a beautiful day.

The songs were pretty well all from the 1960s and 1970s and had been written by very well known personalities, such as Richard Carpenter, Burt Bacharach, Joe Reposo. Stars such as Mary Hopkin, The Carpenters, ABBA, The Mon-



keys had had hits with them.

Margaret Dews wrote a poem on the theme of a Choir for Me and gave an excellent recital.



Choir Concert—Friday 18th May 2018

At Stratford-upon-Avon Methodist Church Centre

(Continued)

Bob Heap performed the only solo song on the programme but encouraged the audience to join in with his song.

The afternoon was completed with light refreshments and a reminder that the whole thing could be experienced again a Briarcroft during the following week, giving a chance for those who could not get to the concert a chance to see it later.

Thanks to the choir and to Stewart for putting on such an excellent performance.



June Main Meeting—Thursday 7th June 2018

Talk by Susan Pope of 'A Merrie Noyse'

Medieval and Renaissance Music, illustrated and with music

Susan Pope gave a very interesting and entertaining talk about medieval and renaissance music and musical instruments with music played by her on authentic medieval and renaissance instruments. There were also some illustrations and accounts taken from contemporary books.

Pictured above is Susan Pope playing an early type of bagpipe.



Pictured above is Susan Pope playing a Shawn, an early woodwind instrument.

It was a very interesting talk and we owe thanks to Susan for her knowledge and musical ability.

Walking Group—Wednesday 13th June 2018

The group met on a free carpark in the centre of Bidford-on-Avon for a shorter than normal walk of $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles around the area. The weather was fair with dry underfoot as we had not had rain for about a fortnight. Eleven members answered the call and came for a walk.

From the free carpark the party walked across the river bridge and then turned

right to walk downstream along the 'Big Meadow'. They stopped at the lock downstream of Bidford and paused there to grab a cup of tea or coffee, whatever members had brought. They walked back to Bidford by way of Marcroft. They saw plenty of birds but nothing of note.

The photograph below was taken on the day.



Walking Group Photograph taken en route