

## ***July to September 2018 Magazine***

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

June and July were very dry, hot and often sunny months. July and August are often quiet months for U3A activities and there have been fewer reports and photographs.

### **Reports include:**

- ♦ SNATTs meeting—Friday 13th July
- ♦ Walking Group—Wednesday 8th August 2018

- Skittles Evening—24th August 2018
- Walking Group—12th September 2018
- SNATTs meeting about our world—14th September 2018.
- History—10th September
- Family History—25th September

Last update: 28<sup>th</sup> September 2018



River Avon holiday traffic on ferry and passenger boat —June 2018

## Heart of England U3A Science, Nature and All Things Technical Group Visit to the Mechanical Music Museum, Northleach, Gloucestershire Friday 13th July 2018

This month we made a trip to the Mechanical Music Museum at Northleach. We met up for tea/coffee and delicious cakes in their café and then enjoyed an extended guided tour of the exhibits. Our guide was very knowledgeable and entertaining and we all had a very enjoyable and informative experience.

Later, some of the group continued on to the Northleach Prison, which was about 440 yds away, for lunch at their café, while others stayed at the MMM.

The museum contains a magnificent display of mechanical music pieces, all in superb

condition. The museum display is backed up by a workshop facility of unparalleled capability who keep all pieces working and in very good condition. The workshop is also open to repair or restore mechanical music pieces belonging to members of the public.





**Heart of England U3A**  
**Science, Nature and All Things Technical Group**  
**Visit to the Mechanical Music Museum, Northleach, Gloucestershire**  
**Friday 13th July 2018 (continued)**





**Heart of England U3A**  
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**Friday 13th July 2018 (continued)**





## Walking Group—Wednesday 8th August 2018

Eleven members gathered at Packwood House National Trust property car park for this 5 mile walk. We walked along two canals and across the Packwood House estate in a roughly circular walk. It was dry and did get quite warm towards the end of the walk.

However, those of us who wanted to could find sustenance, both solid and liquid, in the

Packwood House restaurant. It is fairly new, the whole building having been built in the car park during the last 5 years or so. Food and surroundings are excellent.

We do need someone to lead the next walk so please think of a possible route (Valerie and Fred will probably be able to help with the choice) and volunteer.





## Skittles Evening—Friday 24th August 2019

### Welford Bowling Club

There will be a report shortly. I include a few photos that were supplied to me but I have still to get a report to print. (editor)





## Walking Group—Wednesday 12th September 2018

Five members gathered at Clifford Chambers for this 5 mile walk. The weather was mostly dry and not as hot as a month ago.

We should all increase our activity rate as it has been widely reported lately that exercise improves our health and increases our wellbeing. So, come along and meet us

for the next walk in October. We rarely do more than 5 miles and we have a snack break halfway round. We are a friendly bunch and talk to each other as we walk.

Contact Valerie or Fred Redfern for more information



*The group sitting on a bench outside Preston-on-Stour Church*



## Science, Nature and All Things Technical Group

### Friday 14th September 2018

### Snapshot of Our World - Geoff Bridgewater

Geoff gave us an illustrated talk about our world as we see it with some numbers and statistics, but with some humour and though provoking ideas.

The Earth is in a fortunate position in the Solar System, where it can get a good degree of heat, but the atmosphere and magnetic field shield us from much of the life destroying radiation from the Sun. Tem-

peratures around the globe are ideal for life and there is plenty of water. How fortunate we are. However, we will have to control population growth soon or we will run out of food and water as the population is growing at an alarming rate—all predicted over a 100 years ago.

Thanks Geoff for a very entertaining talk about something that matters to us all.





## Annual Report—History Group

Since the last AGM the group has met monthly (except August) and enjoyed varied talks on history related subjects viz;

Antiquities of Syria;

The Lunar Society;

History of Wellesbourne;

Stratford - the first 150 years;

The Brontes;

Winston, Churchill & Me;

Bletchley Park;

Tudor & Stuart wills;

plus two DVD documentaries on Bletchley Park following Betty Webb's talk to us in May.

We average over 20 members at meetings held on the second Monday afternoon of the month.

(Report sent by David from his holiday in Sussex at a family celebration.)

David Dumper



## Annual Report—Family History Group

### Illustrated talk about a Victorian Family by Edwin Lilly

During the last 12 months or so we have had monthly meetings except for December, July and August. We started with about 12 members attending but that has steadily fallen to around 5 or 6. More would be welcome.

We have explored many of the basic operations and interests of Family Historians including:

- Introduction to Family History
- Birth Marriage and Death Records and Indexes.
- Parish Records
- Censuses
- Emigration, Passenger Lists, etc
- Workhouses and the Poor
- Record Offices
- Wills and Probate

For the September 2018 meeting there was an illustrated talk about a Victorian family who were prepared to move away from an agricultural background in Sussex to an industrial and seafaring background in the northeast of England and then, later, to an urban background in London.

There was tragedy, more than one remarriage following bereavement in the story,

Opposite is a photograph of Frank Arthur Chase (oldest son of Frank Chase and the one who survived the shipwreck of 1878 when his three brothers and mother perished). He is pictured in about 1910 with two of his children, Edith and Frank)

and the ability to change occupations as requirements changed. There was also the answer to a family story given to the author during the later 20th century about an unknown relation in the 19th century. My second cousin, who is about 15 years older than me, told me the story in about 2006 and at that time I had no idea how I was to solve the mystery. The story went: "a relation was the sole survivor of a ship wreck. He had no idea of who, when, where, why".

The Victorian family starts with Charles and Sarah Chase who lived in the village of Birdham in Sussex. This was just south of Chichester and on the coast where there





## Annual Report—Family History Group (continued)

was an extensive inlet and where Birdham had a harbour which was well used for fishing and coastal and trans English Channel trade. Charles and Sarah were married in 1814 and had 9 children, 6 boys and 3 daughters (one of whom died before 12 months). In early documents Charles was described as an Agricultural Labourer and in later documents he is described as a Farmer. He seems to have worked hard and prospered. He and Sarah ensured their children received some education as they all seem to have been able to read, write and some could do arithmetic.

Two sons spring out as adventurous and they were prepared to travel to obtain interesting and well paid work. There were not so many jobs available in agriculture when they were growing up as farming modernised and shed labour.

John was born in 1832 and by 1856 he was living in South Shields, near Newcastle-upon-Tyne, where he married a local girl, Ann Scott. John was a sailor and was missing from home at the 3 censuses when he might have been recorded 1861, 1871, and 1881. He obtained his Mate's Certificate in 1860 and his Master's Certificate in 1871. I believe he died in 1885 in The Sudan, but I have no documentary proof or further detailed knowledge.

Frank, who was my ancestor, was born in 1843 and by 1861 he was living in Littlehampton and marrying Jane Ayling of Littlehampton. By 1868 they were living in Worthing where their first son was born,

my ancestor Frank Arthur. His father was working for a local railway as a platelayer (working on the track). Frank must have been in touch with his older brother John as he and his family had moved up to Sunderland by 1871 and he was working as a stoker in a steam ship. Within a couple of years he had improved his position by becoming a second or third Engineer.

On the 17th February 1878 everything changed. Jane and her four sons were travelling to London on a passenger steam ship, The C M Palmer. They were on their way to visit Jane's family in Littlehampton. The ship was struck by another steam ship, The Ludworth, in a fog bank off Harwich. The C M Palmer sank within an hour and 20 of the 60+ passengers perished in the cold waters of the North Sea. Frank Arthur was the only member of his family to survive the accident. I found a newspaper report in 2009 when I was at The National Archives at Kew. The British Library had just put online a pilot database containing a selection of newspapers and the their contents. On an impulse, I tapped into one of the TNA's computer terminals "Frank Chase" and was astonished to see a newspaper report from the Newcastle Courant newspaper about the accident. I was able find further information from that one revelation. I had suspected for some time that Frank's first wife Jane had died but could not find a death registration. Maybe her body was never found or identified, nor the children.

Frank, remarried in October, as was fairly common at that time. Children had to have a mother and he had very little family sup-



## Annual Report—Family History Group (continued)

port in Sunderland. He did change his job to a shore based job. He had several different jobs over the next few years and he and his new wife, Caroline, moved to live in London near her family. He died in London in 1898. Caroline remarried a few years later as she still had several dependant children. Frank's oldest son, Frank Arthur, continued to live in the northeast, having several different occupations. However, he must have kept in touch with his father and stepmother for he married a woman from Wednesbury, Staffordshire, in Holborn, London. They eventually settled in Wednesbury near her family, where they had several children, including my grandfather, William Chase.

There is room in the group for more members, so, if you are interested in researching your family, please come along to one of the meetings. They take place on the 4th Tuesday of the month at 2.00pm in the Lounge at the Methodist Church. Bring some basic information along (names, birth dates, marriage details, etc.) and we may be able to look up some information for you.