

## ***JANUARY & FEBRUARY 2016 MAGAZINE***

Welcome to the January & February 2016 edition of our Magazine. This issue runs from 1st January to 29th February.

Reports include:

- Walking Group—January Walk
- New Year Lunch
- Monthly Meeting—February

Last update: 10th February 2016



Pictured above: Hall's Croft, Stratford.

Photo supplied by Geoff Bridgewater.



## Walking Group—Wednesday 13th January 2016

Eleven members met at the Gower Memorial on The Bancroft and walked around the edge of Stratford in a clockwise direction. We have done this walk several times with odd variations. For a winter walk when country paths and fields will be wet and muddy, this route is mostly on firm paths and the going is easy and there are many sights to look at as we go round.

Firstly, we walked over the Tramway Bridge and along the Tramway as far as the Dry Arch. From there we descended and made our way to the riv-

er by way of the lock. Proceeding downstream we arrived at the footbridge by Lucy's Mill and crossed the river again. We followed the footpath up to the Greenway car park from where we joined the path between the cemetery and the housing development by the racecourse. At the end of the path we turned right towards Evesham Road, crossing it to proceed towards Masons Road and The canal access at Timothy's Bridge. We returned to Stratford along the canal tow-path—away from traffic and quiet.





## New Year Lunch—Saturday 23rd January 2016. Le Bistrot Pierre.

After a few last minute cancellations for medical problems, seventy five U3A members sat down to an excellent lunch at Le Bistrot Pierre in Stratford-on-Avon to celebrate the New Year. After a brief introduction and welcome by our Chairman, Geoff Bridge-water, lunch was served—three courses followed by coffee or tea.

Following the main course, and whilst the hotel staff cleared the tables, our organiser, Athena, ran a general knowledge quiz. Answers were compiled on a per table basis. There were twenty questions; two tables managed 18 correct answers, one table managed 19

correct answers, and one table was completely correct—The Chairman's table. This was not due to insider knowledge as the chairman had little to do with the result—there were some very knowledgeable people on the table.

Dessert followed after the quiz and then coffee or tea. There was plenty of conversation and mingling of quests around the room and all left feeling, not only full, but uplifted from the social interaction.

Photographs were taken of each table and are presented following in no particular order.





















# February Monthly Meeting

## Thursday 4th February 2016

### Edward Elgar and his music

Jon Goldswain, a volunteer at the Elgar Museum near Worcester, took us through the life of Edward Elgar and his music, playing excerpts from his music at appropriate moments. Edward Elgar was born at Lower Broadheath near Worcester (his birthplace house is now the museum) in 1857. Jon took us through the significant events in his life including his marriage to Caroline Roberts at Brompton Oratory in London in 1889. His wife died in 1920 which was a sad loss for Elgar. He survived her and continued to compose and conduct until his death in 1935.

It is possible to purchase a set of 9 CDs containing all the electrical recordings that Elgar conducted of his own music from the museum. These include his most famous pieces

- The dream of Geron-tius, op 38
- Enigma Variations, op 36
- Land of Hope and Glory
- Pomp and Circumstance Marches 1–5, op 39

- And many others.

He started recording in 1914 and was active throughout the rest of his life, opening the EMI Abbey Road recording studios in 1931.

He was considered the greatest English composer since Henry Purcell and received many honours:

