

NOVEMBER & DECEMBER 2016 MAGAZINE

Welcome to the November and December 2016 edition of our Magazine. This issue runs from 1st November to 31st December.

Last update: 5th January 2017

Reports include:

Discussion Group — 9th November

Garden Appreciation Group — August

Garden Appreciation Group - September

SNATTs Group Christmas Social and Quiz

Walking Group - December

Choir Concert - Friday 16th December

Digital Photography Group—December



Christmas Lights in Bridge Street

Pictured above is the Shakespeare Birthplace Lightshow December 2014

Discussion Group - Wednesday 9th November

Our November meeting was held, as usual, in The Windmill in Church Street. There was a good attendance and some lively discussion after we had eaten our lunch. Topics included a recent survey about organisation in the NHS, a High Court ruling on Brexit, Clinton and Trump in the US Presidential hustings, King Lear with Glenda Jackson in the title role.

There was some lively debate on these topics with most people having a say. I would be hard pressed to remember any conclusions but that may be due to my memory failing after such intense discussions.

Many thanks to Athena for organising the meetings and for presenting the discussion topics.



Garden Appreciation Society - August

August saw the group visiting Hill Close Gardens in Warwick - and what a lovely morning we had. A small group of us met at St Nicholas Park for coffee & a catch up in the glorious sunshine before making our way to the gardens. Hill Close Gardens "are the only surviving group of detached Victorian pleasure garden plots with public access in the UK". They were set up in 19th century to provide gardens for owners of town houses that did not have their own gardens. Many of them stayed in families for generations. Of the original 32 plots only 16 now remain thanks to the volunteers who realised that they were about to be bulldozed in the 1990s to make room for houses. English Heritage were persuaded to list the remains of 4 of the summer houses. Our group enjoyed pottering around, looking into the restored brick summer houses with their fireplaces & their displays of old gardening tools

& bric a brac from days gone by. Projects like this deserve all the help they can get, so if you have a spare hour or so a visit to the explore the gardens, buy produce & perhaps a few plants would help to keep the project alive. The Garden Appreciation Group thoroughly recommend a visit to this gem of a garden in the centre of Warwick. - Jayne Jones.



Garden Appreciation Group - September

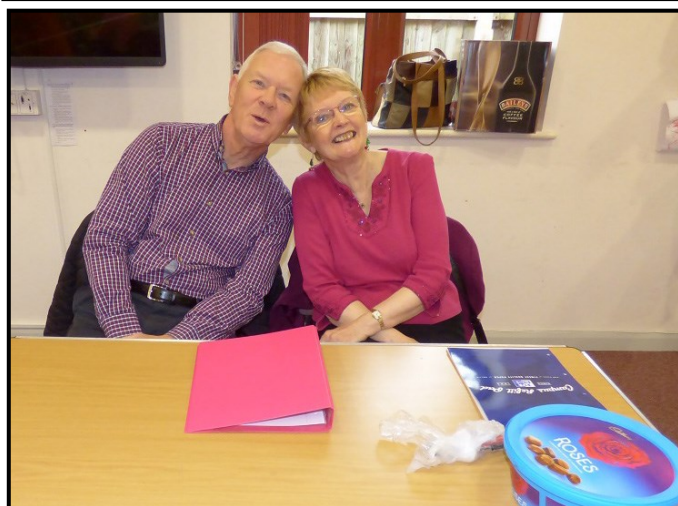
Anne Hathaway's Cottage was the destination for our September outing. Coffee & cakes at the lovely tearoom first - of course! We were blessed by warm & sunny weather. A tour of the house & a leisurely stroll around the woodland walk following the sculpture trail made for a relaxing morning. What lovely gardens to have on our doorstep! - Jayne Jones



Science, Nature and All Things Technical Group Friday 9th December 2016 Christmas Social and Quiz

There was a good attendance at our annual quiz and Christmas Social. The Quiz was organised and managed by Bob and Chris Heaps and the supply of food for the feast was controlled by Heather Bridgewater to ensure an adequate supply of the

essential party items. The prize for winning the quiz was a tin of chocolates that were then shared around the hall. Out of 25 points for the quiz questions the winning team got $17\frac{1}{2}$ points with their close runners up getting $16\frac{1}{2}$ points.



Quiz masters, Feast, 2 of the teams.

Science, Nature and All Things Technical Group



More of the teams.

Choir Concert - Friday 16th December 2016

Thank you to everyone who came to our concert. You were a super audience and we enjoyed entertaining you. Stewart is very inspirational and relaxed, we are so lucky to work with such a talented musician. We now have over seventy members, some who have never sung in a choir before and others who are very experienced singers. We have members from the four local U3As and we are now looking forward to our summer concert.

The programme included some well known seasonal songs and carols, some with specially adapted words. Stewart is a past master at adapting the music and choir member Magaret Dews has written some special words for some of the pieces. There were also some poems and readings and a few special costumes (choir member David Haggerty made some camel costumes for the Three Kings).



Above—choir performing one of the songs

Left - choir member Mary Taylor reading a poem.

Right—choir member Sheila Giles reading.



Choir Concert (continued)



Above— Ingrid Rooney



Below—Dorothy making an announcement.



Above—Robin, Cyril and Eddie as 3 Kings on their camels. Their star was carried by Pamela Sankey. (not in picture).

Below—Robin and John



Digital Photography Group—Monday 12th December

The group met at The Garrick for a drink and a briefing. Most were drinking tea or coffee, saving the “bracer” until later. Geoff showed some photographs that he had already taken of the Christmas lights during the previous week to indicate the sort of photographs that could be taken. After some advice on how to get the desired results all split into small groups of 2 or 3 and departed out into the streets.

It was still a bit early in the afternoon but we all put in some serious thought and attempted to take some useful photographs in the surrounding streets.

Bridge street was the best decorated of the streets, with Woods Street quite good and High Street and Sheep Street both quite good.

After an hour or so we all returned to the Garrick for a post session consideration of our efforts. We shall meet again in January to further assess our efforts.

The cover photograph was taken during this session; view point was outside Barclays Bank.



Wood Street



Henley Street

More pictures next time.



Silver deer head in shop window.



Walking Group—Wednesday 14th December 2016

There was a good turn out for the December walk and they were treated to excellent dry weather and hard walking surfaces. We started from Ilmington village Green (it is just passed the red Lion Inn Map 151/213435. It was a medium walk, slightly shorter than usual, but mainly on country lanes with some magnificent views.

ty shop and café and I thought it would be rather pleasant to have coffee and mince pie after the walk and support the facility.

I chose this walk as they have opened a communi- Article and Photograph by Valerie Redfern.



Group Photograph during the walk