

MAY & JUNE 2017 MAGAZINE

Welcome to the May and June 2017 edition of our Magazine. This issue runs from 1st May to 30th June.

Reports include:

- Walking Group—May
- Scrapbooking Group—May
- SNATTs Group visit to the BBC Studios.
- Garden Appreciation Group—May
- Garden Appreciation Group—June
- Walking Group—June
- Skittles Evening—30th June 2017

Last update: 1st July 2017



Canal scene, Stratford-upon-Avon, April 2017

Walking Group - Walk on Wednesday 10th May 2017 From Dovers Hill.

There was a good turnout of about 16 members for the May walk. Pat Cooper led the walk, which started from the National Trust car park on Dover's Hill.

There is room for more walkers if you want to come along. Please ring Valerie Redfern for more details. It is recommended that you wear good walking shoes or boots and bring a drink along with you.

It was a five mile walk with magical views. The weather was sunny with a light breeze.

A short break was taken about halfway for a drink and snack if brought along.

The photograph below shows the group in a woodland setting.



Scrapbooking Group—Tuesday 16th May 2017

We had an enjoyable meeting at the Methodist Church Centre in the Welcome Area. Some considerable work was done by the members on their scrapbooks. Several different styles of book are being worked on but they mostly involve photographs, either current families or past photographs being conserved and displayed for the family to appreciate.

We did miss the presence of Jayne Jones who has now moved back to Lyme Regis

from where she came a couple of years ago.

Thanks to Ruth for the refreshments and to Heather for organisation and keeping the group together.

There could be room for more participants should you wish to learn something of the creative possibilities of current scrapbook design. We usually meet on the third Tuesday of each month but do keep an eye on the Newsletter.



Two views of the group working

Science, Nature & All Things Technical Group

Visit to BBC Studios, The Mailbox, Birmingham.

Wednesday 24th May 2017

Twenty members of the Group set off from Stratford railway station by train to visit the BBC Studios at the Mailbox in Birmingham. It was a sunny and warm day and that continued all day. Athena had organised the details of the trip and issued the group railway tickets.

After an uneventful journey we alighted at Moor Street station and walked through the Selfridges shopping centre and then through another shopping centre to New Street railway station. It was a short walk from the station to the Mailbox building. We had plenty of time in hand before the scheduled tour of the studios so we split up into smaller groups for a look

around. After a cup of coffee and a look at the absurdly high prices in some of the stores in the Mailbox building we ventured further in as far as the back of the building, where we found the canal and a host of canal side bistros, cafés, restaurants and pubs. A walk around the area was enjoyed by some and a chance to choose a lunchtime venue, although most decided to lunch at Bar Estilo with Athena.

Meeting at the entrance to the BBC Studios at 1.00pm we were allowed in and the entry formalities completed. Our tour guides were Bobby and Sue who both gave an introductory talk, mercifully short. We then were taken into the



The group photographed outside the Selfridges Shopping Centre on the way to the Mailbox building.



Briefing from Sue in a production office.

Producer and presenter beyond.



BBC WM radio studios where we saw the three studios that they use with their associated production rooms.

After some explanation about procedures, people and how the programmes are created and produced we moved on to Radio Drama. The most famous drama produced by BBC West Midlands is the Archer series of everyday life in Ambridge. This series has been running continuously for 67 years; the people in the station are very proud of the programme.

We were able to create our own small piece of drama. A photograph of the drama being created is shown top right.

The next stop was the television studio. This has had a recent makeover and is used for the regional new and also many interviews and other short programmes about local issues. The local weather is also usually done in the same studio.

The famous red sofa is shown bottom right. A camera with auto-cue is shown centre right. The auto-cue can be either controlled by the presenter using foot pedals (mainly for short pieces) or by a person in the pro-



duction studio for longer pieces.

The next stop was a production studio for the television programmes.



There are several people in the production studio—producer, director, graphics person, auto-cue operator, sound recordist.

Finally, it was time to thank our guides and to take our leave. Just time for a group photograph or two.



Right, group by iconic blue police box.



Left, group with tour guides, Bobby & Sue.

Garden Appreciation Group—9th May 2017

Visit to Kenilworth Castle.

The Group visited Kenilworth Castle for their May meeting. I was unable to go, but Jan Davey has kindly sent me details of the interesting Tudor garden. There was a glorious perfume from some white peonies and the gardeners had thoughtfully planted up

pots of lily of the valley at shoulder level. These tiny flowers also produced a fabulous perfume.

Report from Suzy Genge.

No Photos unfortunately.

Garden Appreciation Group—13th June 2017

Visit to Kiftsgate Court Gardens.

The Group visited Kiftsgate Court Gardens, on the edge of the Cotswolds, for their June meeting. The group visited Kiftsgate gardens this month. There was only a small group this time, due to various reasons and

so we managed to do a quick tour of Hidcote as well. The flowers were gorgeous in both gardens and smelled delightful.

Report from Suzy Genge with photos from Sue Workman.



Walking Group—Wednesday 14th June 2017

The Walking Group met on Wednesday 14th June at the Peacock Inn in Oxhill. Circumstances forced a change of leader so Elspeth took over. Tony will now lead the September walk.

The walk was about 5 miles and through some very nice countryside at a time of year

when there was plenty of flowers in gardens and countryside.

There was a reasonable number of walkers to give everyone plenty of company to talk to along the way.

Thanks to Elspeth for leading the Group and to whoever provided the photographs.



The China Discussion Group—June 2017 Meeting

The group met on Tuesday 27th June for a meeting with a difference. We began by watching a video, "How to use chopsticks", followed by a practical session, each member being presented with a bowl of rice and a set of chopsticks. The outcome had mixed results. Remember - practice makes perfect.

We then attempted to play Mahjong. Most members had not played before so again the results were mixed despite the efforts of Norma and David.

Thanks to Norma for the photographs below.





Skittles Evening—Friday 30th June 2017

Brian and Coral Bradley organised a Skittles Evening as part of their Outings programme for the Heart of England U3A. The venue, as in previous years, was the excellent premises of the Welford Bowling Club. As previous events had taken place during the long winter evenings, this year was a delight to be able to arrive and depart during a long summer evening and a dry one at that.

We had a full house of about 30 members and 3 full rounds of skittles were played. Much amusement (and perhaps embarrassment) was had when nil points were scored—the balls were small enough to pass through the gaps in the

skittles pattern without knocking any down. We have probably all experienced that at one time or another.

The buffet was excellent with enough for seconds and "doggy bags" as well. All enjoyed the evening with the winners being Tony Hopkins and Linda Plowman with the highest scores for each gender. Sylvia Crookes, who has been among the winners on previous occasions, was embarrassed to be presented with the booby prize. A very good evening with thanks to the Welford Bowling Club, the catering team, and Brian and Coral for their excellent organisation.



Above is a view of the skittle alley.

Action picture on right.





More action shots from the evening.