

OCTOBER-DECEMBER 2015 MAGAZINE

Welcome to the October to December 2015 edition of our Magazine. This issue runs from 1st October to 31st December.

Reports include:

- Walking Group—October walk
- Games Group
- Art Appreciation—October visit to Twigworth
- Garden Appreciation Group—October visit to Upton House.
- Skittles Evening
- Garden Appreciation Group - Visit to Butterfly Farm

- Science, Nature & All Things Technical Group—Christmas Quiz and Social.
- Choir Concert—December Concert
- Walking Group December Walk

Last update: 30th December 2015



Pictured above is the River Avon looking towards the bridges from the Theatre Walk

Walking Group—14th October 2015

We met at Snowhill public car park for our October walk, led by Elaine and Malcolm. We walked through the pretty Cotswold village of Snowhill and out into the country. Part of the route was along the Cotswold Way and the views from some of the tops of the hills were spectacular. The walk was about 5 miles on a roughly circular route ending back in Snowhill at the car park.

The photographs give an indication of the enjoyment we had from the walk.

A visit to Snowhill Manor, a National Trust property, is very interesting and they have a very good café for snacks and lunches.

Thanks to Pam Collins for the photographs and to Elaine Lilly for helping me write the report as I was not able to participate.





Snowhill Village



Some of the spectacular views to be seen.

The weather was very kind to us with bright sunshine for most of the morning although there was some haze or mist in the distance.



Games Group

The Games Group are now settled in their new home in the Welcome Area of the Methodist Church Hall. We meet every first and third Monday in each month from 2.00pm to 4.00pm.

Several games are played depending on members'

preferences. Dominoes and cards are popular and there is often a Scrabble game being played.

Why not pop along and check us out. We are a friendly bunch and refreshments are served at half time.



Art Appreciation Group—Visit to Twigworth in October

In October we went to 'Nature in Art' at Twigworth. We saw three special exhibitions: the 2015 British Wildlife Photography Awards, the work of British Origami Society, and textile art of the Cotswold Branch of the Embroiderers' Guild. All of these used

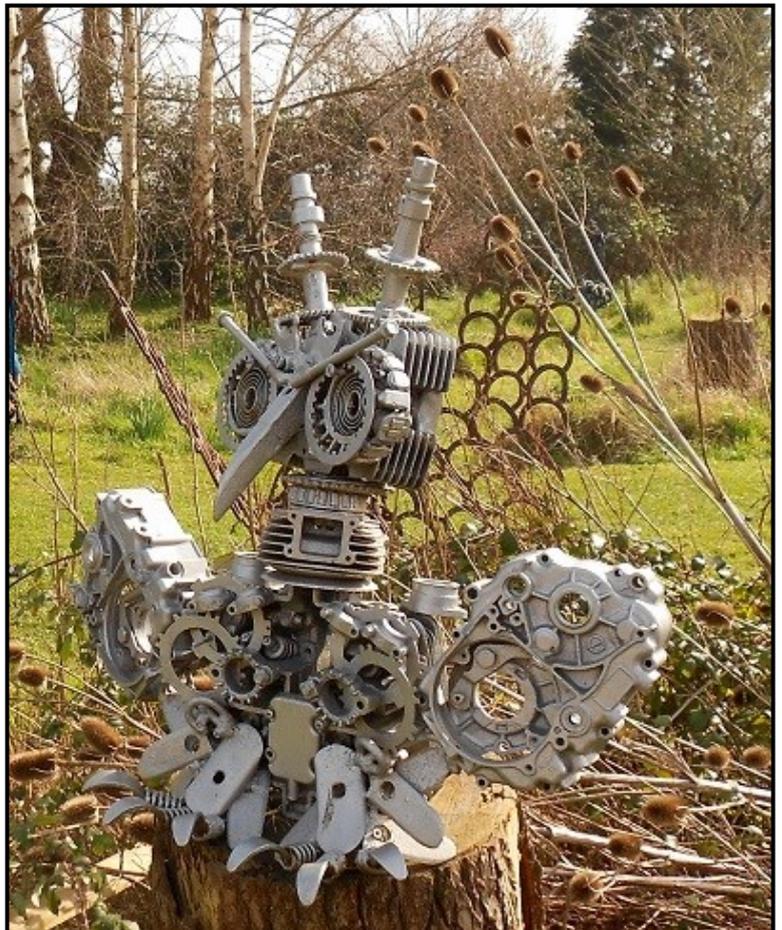
very different skills in many wonderful ways. A browse around the gallery's permanent indoor and outdoor collections, which are always worth a visit in their own right, completed a most enjoyable day.

Report and photographs by Pam Collins





Various pieces around the grounds



Garden Appreciation Group—Visit to Upton House Gardens

Upton House & Gardens was the destination for our October outing. The gardens include terraced herbaceous borders, a rare bog garden on the site of medieval fish ponds, a rose garden, orchards, and a kitchen garden together with the National Collection of Asters.

We also spent a very interesting hour or so in the house - a 17th century mansion which was extended and remodelled in the 1920s for 2nd Viscount Bearsted as a country retreat and as a gallery for his art collection - regarded as one of the nations most important private collections of the 20th century. Upton House, we all agreed, is on our list for a return visit.

Report and photographs from Jayne Jones.





Skittles Evening - 30th October 2015

Twenty five members arrived at Welford Bowling Club for what has become an annual event—our Skittle Evening, organised by Coral and Brian Bradley. The venue was comfortable as usual and the supper was just as good as in previous years. We all had plenty to eat and a few took home a little extra for later.

We did not have a dedicated skittle putter-up as in previous years but several members seemed to

enjoy themselves putting up skittles and returning bowls down the inclined plane to the start.

The bowling was up to its usual level—some good scores and some scores that we rather forget. It is surprisingly easy to completely miss the skittles with one, two and even three bowls.

Everyone had a thoroughly good time and prizes were awarded to Di Hopkins, Stephen Hopkins and Coral Bradley.

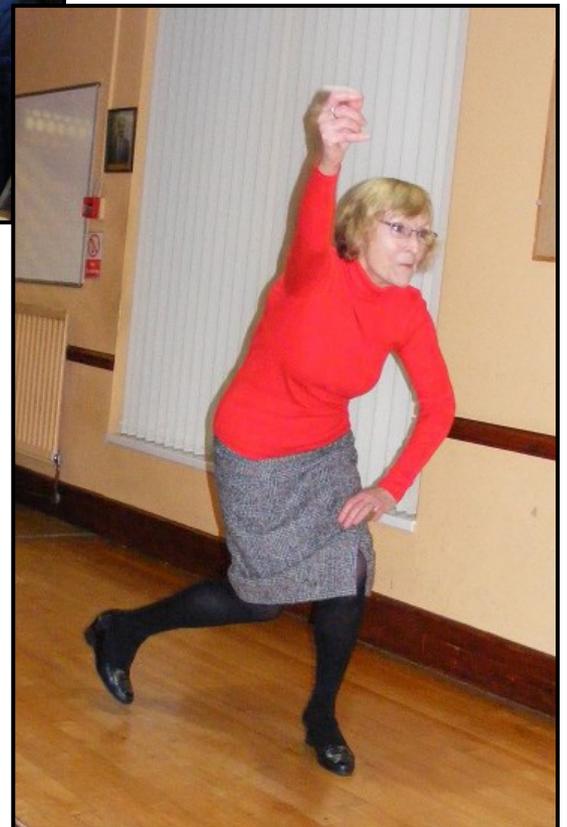


The skittles alley

"Faster than a speeding bullet!"

Editor's note—I took many photos on the night, particularly action shots but many of them were fuzzy as the camera was unable to freeze the action.

If anybody would like to volunteer to take photos for me I would be mightily obliged!





Another fantastic action shot



Two of the prize winners, Di and Coral

Walking Group—Wednesday 11th November 2015

The group had a lovely walk around Honington (near Shipston-on-Stour) last month in perfect walking weather and magical views. We observed 2 minutes silence at the top of Idlecote Hill as it was the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month.

We welcomed three new walkers to the group.

The walk in December will be from Wellesbourne near the Co-op store walking around through the Walton Estate. There may be mince pies but bring your own festive drink.

Do wear stout waterproof shoes or boots suitable for winter weather.

We have a walk most months in the year, varying the routes and distances to make the most of the weather during the year. Usually the walk is aimed at about 5 miles with a time of 2–3 hours. We meet at 10.00am. If you do not have transport we can usually make arrangements within the group.

More walkers from the local U3As are always welcome.



Garden Appreciation Group—Visit to Butterfly Farm

Our November outing was a trip to the Butterfly farm in Stratford as a group of us were keen to find out more about the butterflies & insects that inhabit our gardens. Butterflies & moths have been recognised by the government as indicators of biodiversity. Their fragility makes them quick to react to change so their struggle to survive is a serious warning to our environment. We learned that they have been around for at least 50 million years. Areas that are rich in butterflies are rich in other invertebrates and, together, they provide a wide range of environmental benefits including pollination of plants. So, as gardeners, we learnt that it is more important than ever to attract butterflies to our gardens. Holly, ivy, thistles, garlic mustard, annual meadow grass & cabbages are all magnets to butterflies. Even the smallest window box will give the species a boost! We rounded off the trip with lunch in The Bear!

Report and Photograph from Jayne Jones



Science, Nature & All Things Technical Group

Christmas Quiz and Social

Friday December 11th

We held our annual SNATTs Christmas Social in the New Room again and 34 members had a jolly festive time with lots of laughs. The 'bring and share' afternoon tea was a fantastic spread with a huge choice of delicious 'goodies', organised by Heather. Home made cakes, various sandwiches, stuffed tomatoes, cheese, pineapple and celery, pizzas, sausage rolls, mini pork pies and quiches, stollen cake, various tarts, the list goes on! Many thanks to everyone for their lovely contributions.

This year Chris and Bob devised a Quirky Quiz where teams of four competed for a 'valuable' prize of a tin of Quality Street (wow, I hear you say). Such questions as 'name the fourth planet

from the Sun' (Mars) and 'what are Santa's and human beards made from' (keratin) were just two of the thirty intriguing questions asked. There was a lot of head scratching and laughing during the quiz. Nobody knew Santa's official postcode at the North Pole—HOH OHO!

Many thanks to Chris and Bob for their much appreciated efforts. The afternoon was a great success in the run-up to Christmas.

Below are pictures of Bob and Chris Heaps, Quiz-masters, and a general view of the room showing the members enjoying themselves.

Photographs from Geoff Bridgewater





Choir December Concert—Friday 18th December

We had our main concert in the Methodist Hall on December 18th. Stewart, our multi talented Musical Director, had planned a super programme of Carols from around the world and from different centuries, and running to 22 pieces.

There were several readings from Bob, Sheila, Mary and Margaret. John and Elaine sang embellishments above the choir in 'Behold That Star'.

The choir sang 'Away in A Manger' to a Gospel arrangement rather than the usual setting. Cyril led an Hawaiian Christmas—'Numbah One Day of Christmas' with appropriate pictures held up for each day. The choir sang 'Gaudete' in Latin and

also 'Feliz Natividad' in Spanish. 'I Wish it Could be Christmas Everyday' was sung with gusto and during the musical interlude there was much party noise (as if a party was in progress) from choir members. The audience waved paper chains that they had made before and during the concert from materials distributed around the hall before the start.

Many thanks to everyone who made this concert so successful, especially to Stewart who inspires us and gives us so much pleasure.

Photographs from Greg Orme.





Walking Group—Wednesday 9th December 2015

We had a very pleasant walk in December along a route that we have been several times, particularly for the December meeting. We met in Loxley Close, Wellesbourne, where there is plenty of space to park cars. From there we walked towards Walton Hall along roadside paths. The footpath goes through the grounds of Walton Hall. We stopped for a break about halfway. Fred had made some mince pies which we were all grateful for. Most of us had brought a drink. We

also had time for a group photograph. The weather was glorious, being mostly sunny.

We returned to the cars via Wellesbourne village centre, having thoroughly enjoyed the 5 mile walk.

Thanks Val and Fred for organising and providing the photograph.

