



Monthly meetings are held at the Greig Hall, Gunnings Road, Alcester at 2.30 pm on the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the month



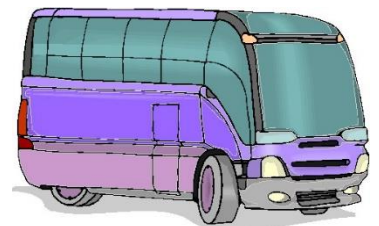
**Notes from the Chair**

**David West**

Brian Titterington who has served as a trustee on our committee for over 2 years as Groups Coordinator will shortly be moving out of the Area. I would like to thank Brian for his service and wish Brian and his wife all the best in their new lives. Ruth Dutton who has served as a trustee for nearly 6 years has resigned her position. I would like to thank Ruth for her service.

**2024 u3a holiday**

Just a reminder to those of you who will be joining us on the September holiday to South Wales that your final payment will need to reach Harry Shaw Travel by **29<sup>th</sup> July**. If you pay by cheque, please remember that it should be made out to "City Cruiser Holidays". – Please refer to your confirmation letter for full details. **John Pickering**



**NEW GROUP**



A new **ART GROUP** will be starting up in September 2024, meeting twice monthly on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Fridays from 10.00am – 12.30 pm  
The venue will be the small room at Our Ladies & St Joseph RC Church Hall, Priory Road, Alcester  
For further details please contact Kay Parish (01789 766162) and Kay will be setting up a table at the July monthly meeting for any enquiries.

**Programme for 2024**

2 July	Cat Weatherill	Meet Me in Machu Picchu
6 August	Patrick Hanglin	3 Years along the Zambezi
3 September	Karyl Rees	Me and Dylan Thomas
1 October	Chris Hanson	Fire Safety in the Home
5 November	Caroline Faulkner	Recycling in Warwickshire
3 December	Ian Boskett	The Great Train Robbery

Chairman	David West		
Vice-Chairman	vacancy		
Treasurer	Jean Morgan		
Assistant Treasurer	Linda Randall		
Secretary/Minutes Sec	Sue Robertson		
Membership Secretary	Lyn Pickering		
Groups Coordinator	Brian Titterington		
Programme Co-ordinator	Marilyn Brannon		
Accessibility Officer	Vacancy		
Archives	Jan Rowe (Coopted member)		
Committee Members	Val Hamblin	Karyl Rees	Karen Dowman
Newsletter Editor	Bronwen Bunting		
Web	<a href="http://u3asites.org.uk/alcester">http://u3asites.org.uk/alcester</a>	Annual Sub: £20.00	

## ALEX WATERS

Many of the long-term members of u3a will have fond memories of a past u3a chair, Alex Waters, who sadly passed away on 19 June. Alex had been in declining health with Parkinson's disease for the past few years but moved near Bristol 8 years ago to be next door to her daughter, Kathryn, with live-in care. Her family were grateful that she remained in good spirits until her quite sudden death at home. She will be coming back to Alcester to be interred with her husband at St Nicholas Church and Kathryn will provide details of a proposed memorial service at the church in due course. Alex always held Alcester very dear to her heart and continued to keep up with u3a activities through the monthly newsletter.

## LAWN BOWLS

The Lawn Bowls group re-started on Tuesday 25th June and continue every fortnight after that at Bidford Bowling Club. The cost is £2 plus 50p for refreshments. All are welcome even if you haven't bowled before. Equipment is provided you just need flat shoes with no heels. But no sandals. Please tell you friends bowling is fun!



## THEATRE TRIPS

Joe White ([joe\\_patwhite@msn.com](mailto:joe_patwhite@msn.com))

**SATUDAY 13 JULY 2024 "What the Butler Saw" at Malvern Theatre** £34 per ticket (Ref: T9)

The coach will leave the Greig Hall at 11.00 am (Careful where you park)

Additional tickets available for this performance with payment required no later than 2 July, either cash or bank transfer (Ref: XXXT9) meeting

**19 October 2024 "The History Boys" at Malvern Theatre** £44 per ticket (Ref: T10)

The 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary production of Alan Bennett's brilliant modern classic.

Just 9 places left. Please book as soon as you can and pay no later than 5<sup>th</sup> August

**SATUDAY 23 NOVEMBER 2024 "Birdsong" at Malvern Theatre** £40 per ticket (Ref: T11)

Sebastian Faulk's epic story of love and loss returns to the stage (Age 14 plus)

Over half the places have been booked already. Please book as soon as you can and pay no later than 5<sup>th</sup> August

There will be lists at the July meeting for all of the shows or email me if you cannot be there

Reserves are welcome and often end up with tickets, add your name to the list if you wish.

Payment by Bank Transfer to:- "The Alcester u3a"; Sort Code: 08-92-99, Account No: 67268429)

Quoting your membership number and the appropriate reference (Ref: XXX T10 or XXX T11)

Alternatively, payment by cheque or in cash can be made to the Treasurer

## INTEREST GROUP NEWS

### Garden Lovers

Our June visit was to the Japanese garden of members Roger and Jacqui Harris and in spite of road closures and unfriendly weather 15 members in timed visits enjoyed learning about the history of the garden and the Japanese Garden Society's work in looking after old established gardens. Our thanks to Roger for doing three talks out in the cold. Our next visit on 11th July is to the garden of Rob and Diane Cole, 11 Priors Crescent, Salford Priors, Evesham, WR11 8AN and they will do the visit and cup of tea in return for a £5 donation to Brain Tumour Research. I have suggested arriving at 2.30 pm.

Janet Allely



## CHURCH VISITS

Chris Baker

Sixteen Church Visit members set out on a hot day in June to the cool, reflective atmosphere of **Holy Ascension in Mappleborough and the Church of the Nativity in Studley**. Mappleborough, commissioned and financed by a wealthy local Baronet, was opened in 1888 in memory of his wife. Almost entirely unchanged in nearly 140 years, it remains a superb example of a rural Victorian church. Outside, in the carefully maintained churchyard, is a Crown of Thorns sculpture complete with a living Middle Eastern thorn bush with impressively vicious thorns. The Church of the Nativity in Studley is a complete contrast: believed to have Saxon origins, it contains structures and fabric from Norman, 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th, 17th and 19th century periods. It even has a 21st century servery and porch! The church is set in a strangely detached location away from Studley - the village is believed to have probably moved west to its present location after being decimated by plague. Artifacts in the church include a 13th century paschal lamb carving found in a local farm (and now set in the chancel arch) and a coffin lid carved in c.1300 from the grave of a Prior of Studley. Having been greeted with tea and coffee at Mappleborough (thank you!) we concluded the morning with a welcome lunch at the Throckmorton Arms.

## Jazz & Big Band Sound

Bob Applegarth

John Riddell's recital, "Is It Jazz" included a wide range of music all with a jazz influence. We heard numbers from Evelyn Glennie, Dave Brubeck, the Pasadena Roof Orchestra and Django Rheinart among others. Much appreciated by a good turn out of members. **Our next meeting in July will be entertained by John Cooper. His subject remains a surprise! All are welcome at our usual meeting place, Malt Mill Lane at 2.00pm on Wednesday July 10th.**

## Musicians Group (\*\* Now The Elastic Band \*\*)

John Pickering

Following a poll of the group members, it was decided that the name "The Musicians Group, sounded too formal, so it is now called "**The Elastic Band**" – because we stretch to include all musical instrument players of any ability and now singers too! We feel that the new name also reflects the fun element of our group! **Our next meeting is 10<sup>th</sup> July at the Catholic Church Hall (10.00 a.m.) and new members are welcome to join in!**

## Music Appreciation

Jan Rowe

The June Meeting was planned and given by Jane Lytton, the first she has done for this group. It was entitled "**Voice**" and we had all sorts of voices: Choirs, Soloists, with many composers and types. such as Andrew Lloyd Webber, Elton John, Brahms, Mozart, Faure and Vangelis to mention only a few of those presented. It was much enjoyed by the group members and we look forward to another programme by Jane in due course. **The next meeting will be on Wednesday 31st July when John Ruffell will present a Visual Venice Concert from the Venice Opera House**, by projection from a DVD. We have already had the promise of two new U3A Member's to see this and welcome other U3A Members to join us.

Report by John Ruffell



## Singing for Pleasure

Chrissie Capstick

**There will be no meetings in July & August, as many people are either on holidays, or looking after family members during school holidays, and we will start again on 26th September.**

## Philosophy

Peter Tugwell

**For our June meeting each member chose an item from Philosophy Now** – something in that magazine that had caught his eye, which struck a chord, or something which seemed worth devoting some time to. This item could be the sole source of information and opinion, or on the other hand, it could lead to further research whether in the same issue or perhaps through the internet, some of us having discovered the usefulness of ChatGPT to suggest alternative approaches to a subject. It also provided a variety of topics in the session, some new, some old, some familiar, some adventurous. One topic gave us the opportunity to consider the reliability, credibility or soundness of the views expressed when the person expressing those views did not appear to embrace them in his ordinary life – the question posed was 'is your favourite philosopher a bigot?' Another raised the question of whether there can ever be a truly 'just war' - a particularly contemporary question given the many areas now involved in such conflicts. We were also introduced to the philosophy of Hannah Arendt, in the context of her positing a 'Human duty to think', a look at the true nature of anarchy, different to the popular picture of a bomb carrying activist, and the 'ultimate tranquilliser' including what sort of state such a tranquilliser would create. We liked this format and so **we will be having 'Members' Choices' at our meetings in July and August. Our next meeting is on 16 July.**

## Poetry Too

Ruth Dutton & Rosie Harvey

Our talented group provided us with some hilarious and inspirational poems on the theme of **Anticipation**. What to take on a holiday in Just In Case by Charlotte Mitchell, to planning A Dinner Party, and then, regretting on the day and taking the guests to the pub instead, by Pam Ayres of course, who always seems to communicate all our thoughts so well. The late arrival of the bee upsets balance in the natural world as described in Emily Dickinson's poem, Bee Where Are You ?

All stages of love and desire were explored in poems like Valentine by Wendy Cope, May Ball by Roger McGough and E E Cummings untitled poem was the crescendo!

Jonathon Swift wrote at the age of 32 in 1699, Resolutions When I Come To Be Old, twelve lines so true today, 'Not to tell the same story over and over again to the same people'. Wendy Cope brings a note of fun in My Funeral by listing all the things the mourners must not do at hers.

Our own local poet Betty Addison published her version of If, based on the same idea as Rudyard Kipling, except hers was about the making of a chef!

Finally Auden reminded us of the joy of receiving a letter which had travelled by train and been sorted in Night Mail. With nearly forty poems read, we can only share a few, but, if you are interested in knowing more please contact Ruth or Rosie. **Our next meeting is Friday July 26<sup>h</sup> and the theme is Relections on Youth.**



## Walking Groups

### Amblers Group

Such are the vagaries of the current weather that, having almost taken a decision to cancel due to the predicted near certainty of heavy rain throughout the walk, we had a beautiful morning for our amble over the border into Worcestershire and **around Upton Snodsbury**. Having successfully followed the directions for the first half of the amble, through farmland and across Bow Brook over Edward's Bridge (no one knew who Edward was, but his bridge saved some very wet feet by avoiding the ford) we then took a wrong turning but with the assistance of a helpful local dog walker we were re-routed back to our starting path along the Millenium Way – not quite what was planned but equally pleasant with the added bonus of taking us right into our car park without a final stretch along the busy A422 which was an unavoidable end to the proposed route. We went to The March Hare just a bit further down the road for a good lunch, arriving just in time to avoid the rain which, very considerably, stopped before we came back out. **The next amble will be on Friday 12 July.**

### Bronwen Bunting



### Friday Walkers

Jane and Chris Baker

In June, the Friday Walkers began their circular walk at the **Hatton Arms in Hatton near Warwick**. We crossed the Grand Union Canal and initially walked along footpaths and tracks through mainly arable farmland. Later we followed tree-lined lanes and more tracks before we reached Hatton Country World. The last part of the walk was along a stretch of canal towpath at the start of the famous flight of locks. It was a lovely day for a ramble, in perfect walking conditions. Afterwards several of us enjoyed a convivial lunch at the pub.

### Reading 2

Linda Jennings

At our June meeting, all members present reported enjoying the chosen book, which was **The Woodlanders by Thomas Hardy** - quite a departure from previous, more modern works. This book was published in 1887, and was the third of his 'Wessex' series of novels. It follows common Hardy themes: rustic, evocative setting, poorly chosen marriage partners, unrequited love, social class mobility and an unhappy, at best equivocal ending. As with most of his other works, opportunities for fulfilment and happiness are forsaken or delayed. It was reportedly Hardy's favourite novel and Reading Group 2 were quite taken by it too!

### Scrabble Group

Linda Salsbury

It's so good - they made a National Scrabble Day! Invented in the 1930s during the 'Great Depression' by an unemployed New York architect, Scrabble has been a staple in our homes for generations. Come and have fun and meet new friends at our Scrabble Group which takes place **first Friday each month from 2pm**. Meet like minded people who have a passion to multiply their brain cells; or just have a laugh and enjoy a game! Have fun meeting U3a friendly locals and share a conversation over a cuppa! **Contact Group Leader, Linda Salsbury for location of where we meet 07872 625006 email: [lindasalsbury@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:lindasalsbury@hotmail.co.uk)**



**ALCESTER u3a INTEREST GROUPS: Contact Group Coordinator, Brian Titterington, for further information**

Group	Meeting	Time	Venue	Organiser
Art	2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Friday Starting Sept 2024	10.00 am – 12.30 pm	Catholic Church Meeting Room	Kay Parish
Bowls	Fortnightly from 24 June	10.00 am	Bidford Bowls Club	David Sanders
Beginners Family History	2 <sup>nd</sup> Monday	2.00 pm	Contact group organiser for details	Linda Cooper
Beginners Bridge	Commencing November: 2 pm every Tuesday except the first.		Malt Mill Community Centre	Paul Brenda
Church Visits	4 <sup>th</sup> Tuesday as advised	11.00 am	Various	Chris Baker
Crafts	3 <sup>rd</sup> Wednesday Sept to March	10.30-12.00	Catholic Church Meeting Room	Lynda Lamb
Creative Writing	1 <sup>st</sup> Friday	10.30-11.30	Contact Group Leader for details	Pat Oliver
Cycling	Various dates and venues		Tracey Wyatt	
French	3 <sup>rd</sup> Tuesday	2.30 pm	Catholic Church Meeting Room	Brian Titterington
Garden Lovers 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Thursday April – Oct	2.30 pm	Various	Janet Allely j
History	3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursday	10.45 am	Catholic Church Meeting Room	Lynda Matheson
Italian Conversation	Fortnightly on Wednesday	2 – 4.00 pm	The Huff Cap, Great Alne	Chris Brain
Jazz & Big Band Appreciation	2 <sup>nd</sup> Wednesday	2.00 pm	Malt Mill Community Centre	Bob Applegarth
Mah Jong	4 <sup>th</sup> Thursday	2.00 pm	Various	Bronwen Bunting
Man Talk	3 <sup>rd</sup> Tuesday	2–4.00 pm	Huff Cap, Great Alne	Ian Gregory
Music Appreciation	Last Wednesday	2.00 pm	Malt Mill Community Centre	Jan Rowe
The Elastic Band	2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Wednesday	10.00 am	Catholic Church Meeting Room	John Pickering
Piano, Keyboard & Theory Tuition	1 <sup>st</sup> Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> Wednesday	10.00-4.00 pm	Confirm with group leader	Chris Capstick
National Trust Visits	3 <sup>rd</sup> Wednesday		Various	David/Linda Bradley
Philosophy	3 <sup>rd</sup> Tuesday	2.00 pm	Malt Mill Community Centre	Peter Tugwell
Photo Group	On-line Group		Roger Harris	
Poetry Too	Last Friday	2.00 pm	Catholic Church Meeting Room	Ruth Dutton
Ambles	2 <sup>nd</sup> Friday	10.30 am	Various	Linda Bradley
Walks	3 <sup>rd</sup> Friday	10.00 am	Various	Jane & Chris Baker
Reading 2	2 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesday	2.00 pm	Catholic Church Meeting Room	Linda Jennings
Rees Reading	2 <sup>nd</sup> Monday	10.30 am	Catholic Church Meeting Room	Karyl Rees
Scrabble	1 <sup>st</sup> Friday	2.00 pm	Contact group organiser for details	Linda Salsbury
Singing for Pleasure	Last Thursday	10.30-12 noon	Catholic Church Meeting Room	Chris Capstick
Spanish	2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Tuesday	10.00 am	Malt Mill Lane Community Centre	John Douglas
Theatre & Outings	As notified			Joe White
Yoga on Monday	Every Monday	10.30 am	Catholic Church Meeting Room	Karyl Rees