

**SEPTEMBER**

Monthly meetings are held at

the Greig Hall, Alcester

at 2.30 pm on the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the month



**Notes from the Chair**

**David West**

We are looking for an examiner of our accounts for 2024. The person does not need to be or have been an accountant, however a basic knowledge of bookkeeping is preferable. This would only involve a commitment of one day a year in January/February. Could any interested members please contact Jean Morgan on 01527 404194. Contributions to the monthly newsletter are welcomed from members. These should only be about u3 members or activities and should be kept short to reduce the cost of printing.

**TONY ROBERTS**

It is with sadness that we have been asked to let you know that Tony Roberts passed away on 24<sup>th</sup> August. Tony was a very well-known figure in Alcester and an active member of Alcester u3a until his recent illness. He will be sadly missed from our community. Details of the funeral arrangements will be circulated once the arrangements have been made.

**DAY TRIP TO WESTON'S CIDER MILL & CITY OF HEREFORD**

Ian Gregory will be on hand at the September general meeting to take names & payments for this day trip, which goes on Thursday 24th October. Leaving from outside Greig Hall at 9.00 a.m. and returning around 6.30 p.m. This trip is very reasonably priced at £40.00 (which includes coach travel, a guided tour of Weston's Cider brewery, lunch and a scenic drive to Hereford). *Please book and pay by 3rd September*

**Payment methods:** Cash or cheque at meeting or by bank transfer (preferred): Account name: "The Alcester u3a" Sort Code: 08 92 99 Account No. 67268429 Ref: your membership no/OT.

If you're not going to the meeting contact Ian: *Tel. 07801 1521269 or email: [iangregory.alcester@gmail.com](mailto:iangregory.alcester@gmail.com)*

**NEW WEBSITE ADDRESS FOR ALCESTER U3A**

**Our website address is changing later this month.** This is because the Site Builder website tool we have been using (which was built and maintained by u3a volunteers at national level) will no longer be available after December. The alternative and better system which has been developed is u3a SiteWorks, which uses WordPress software. (WordPress has been used to design at least 40% of websites in the world.)

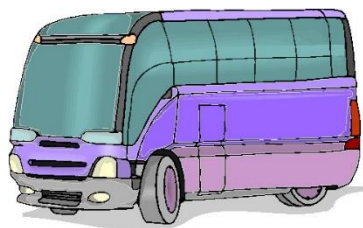
**From 25th September** our new website address will be <https://alcester.u3asite.uk> Anyone using the old address will automatically be redirected to the new one. The website will still contain all the information we had previously, e.g. interest groups, monthly meetings and events.

**Lindsay Evans, Web Manager**

Programme for 2024		
3 September	Karyl Rees	Me and Dylan Thomas
1 October	Chris Hanson	Fire Safety in the Home
5 November	Nick Martin WWT	10-year transformation of a garden to a wildlife haven
3 December	Richard Churchley	Christmas Songs Through the Ages

Chairman	David West	<a href="mailto:chair.u3aalcester@gmail.com">chair.u3aalcester@gmail.com</a>
Vice-Chairman	Vacancy	<a href="mailto:vicechair.u3aalcester@gmail.com">vicechair.u3aalcester@gmail.com</a>
Treasurer	Jean Morgan	<a href="mailto:treasurer.u3aalcester@gmail.com">treasurer.u3aalcester@gmail.com</a>
Assistant Treasurer	Linda Randell	
Secretary/Minutes Sec	Sue Robertson	
Membership Secretary	Lyn Pickering	<a href="mailto:membership.u3aalcester@gmail.com">membership.u3aalcester@gmail.com</a>
Groups Coordinator	Vacancy	
Speaker Team Co-ordinator	Linda Randell	
Committee Members	Val Hamblin	Karyl Rees
Newsletter	Bronwen Bunting	Karen Dowman
Web: Manager - Lindsay Evans	<a href="http://u3asites.org.uk/alcester">http://u3asites.org.uk/alcester</a>	Only members can join groups
	Annual Sub: £20.00	

## HOLIDAY TO CARDIFF & SOUTH WALES



With only just over a week to go before we depart for the above holiday, this is a reminder that the coach departs **EARLIER THAN ORIGINALLY ADVERTISED**: from Redditch at 8.15 a.m. and from Alcester at 9.00 a.m. (Please be at the pick-up point 15 mins before departure.) *If you're a National Trust member, please don't forget to bring your Membership Card* to expedite entry into Tradegar House!

Look forward to seeing you all! [John Pickering](#)

## NEW GERMAN CONVERSATION GROUP FOR AUTUMN

Starting this autumn, Graham Stout, assisted by his wife Shirley, is planning to offer a new German conversation group. This will be a relaxed group for people who already speak some German to come along and practise with like-minded people, running on similar lines to the existing French, Spanish and Italian groups. The day and time are yet to be confirmed and will depend on the availability of those interested in joining, but it will be on a monthly basis.



If you're interested in joining or just want to find out more, there will be a sign-up sheet at the general meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> September or simply pop Graham an email: [shirlngrim@googlemail.com](mailto:shirlngrim@googlemail.com) Liebe Grüsse, Graham & Shirley Stout

## THEATRE TRIPS

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



The following shows have been booked and the lists will be at the September meeting. Reserves are welcome and often obtain a ticket when a member needs to cancel so add your name to the reserves if you would like to go.

**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.

**SATURDAY 23 NOVEMBER 2024 "Birdsong" at Malvern Theatre** £40 per ticket (Ref: T11)  
Sebastian Faulk' epic story of love and loss returns to the stage (Age 14 plus)

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

Janet Allely

Garden lovers met at my "work in progress" garden in Studley and although I had cleaned my garden chairs of cobwebs, as the weather was damp, we had to squash together in the kitchen for tea. I am away on the u3a holiday for our next meeting on 12th September and suggest that garden lovers might like to go to Hillers Garden Centre at Dunnington, near Alcester, B49 5PD. They have interesting gardens and a secret hide for watching wildlife as well as cafe for a cup of tea and plenty of parking. Members could meet up outside the cafe at 2.30 as usual to make their own arrangements for the afternoon.

### CHURCH VISITS

Chris Baker

The report for the August visit to St James, Weethley and St James, Harvington will appear in the September newsletter. **The group is taking a break in September with the next visit on 22 October.**

### CRAFTS

Lynda Lamb

**The Craft Group will resume on 18 September**, 10.00 am to 12 noon in the small room at the Catholic Church Hall. The project for the September class will be to create & make a small gift box of notelets for those occasions when you need a greetings card in a hurry! The cost of each session is £2 which includes tea or coffee and biscuits. If you are interested in joining the group, please contact Lynda Lamb (07737 365977 or [Lynda.k1953@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:Lynda.k1953@hotmail.co.uk))

## HISTORY GROUP

Lynda Matheson

In August Joan Ogg talked about **the effect of William's victory at the battle of Hastings** after which life became very different for everyone. Almost all the Saxon nobility lost their lands, if not their lives, Saxon priests were ousted in favour of Norman ones, women ceased to have any rights and became possessions of their husbands. Peasants lost their rights to use common land and woods and taxes rose. In the north it got even worse. A rebellion was put down with such ferocity that it was known as the Harrying of the North. Devastation and famine followed and some areas have never fully recovered. It is surprising that the group's discussion afterwards was so cheerful!

## JAZZ & BIG BAND SOUND

Bob Applegarth

A well-attended meeting was entertained to a selection of **recordings by female jazz artists**. Among those featured was Lil Hardin (later Lil Armstrong) a pianist who organised the groundbreaking Hot Five recordings by Louis Armstrong. We also heard music by trombonist and arranger Melba Liston and vibes player Margie Hyams. The selection was brought up to date with recordings by contemporary musicians, Emma Fisk (violin) and Karen Sharp (tenor sax). A Part Two recital is promised for the future for more ladies not featured so far. **Our next meeting is on Wednesday September 11th. Members are reminded to bring their own choice of records celebrating Summer.**

## THE ELASTIC BAND

John Pickering

Owing to holidays, the group are taking a break on 28 August & 11 September. **The next meeting will be on Wednesday 25 September** at the Catholic Church Hall. Please come along and join in, either as a musician or a singer! We will be commencing rehearsals in the Autumn for our performance to welcome members as they arrive at the December meeting!  
**(Contacts: John Pickering or Chris Capstick)**

## MUSIC APPRECIATION

Jan Rowe

On a lovely Summer's afternoon Pam Gough presented her programme of **'Holiday Memories'** which included Debussy's "La Mer", "Blue Danube Waltz" by Johann Strauss - but it's not blue! Mozart's "Horn Concerto", Bizet's "The Pearl Fishers", the "Adagio for Organ & Strings" by Albinoni, and "The Nutcracker Suite" by Tchaikovsky. **Our next meeting is on 25th September** at Malt Mill Lane Community Centre at 2pm when we'll hear Tony Ingram's selection of music.



## SINGING FOR PLEASURE

Chrissie Capstick

**There will be no meeting in 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

**Our August meeting was on 'members' choices' from *Philosophy Now* back issues.** Once again we were introduced to a number of different topics, some old, some new, showing the breadth of philosophy and the wide range of members' interests. So, we delved into the philosophy of Star Trek's Mr Spock, Thomas Aquinas's concept of 'Amity', a look at 'limits to justice' in relation to distributive justice as regards conservation, climate change and rights of non-human animals, and contemporary issues surrounding models of democracy. Stoicism, Kantian ethics, Rawlsian justice – yes, we had looked at these before, but the writers of the chosen articles brought fresh and novel insights to our discussions. Our next 'members' choices' is in October, and in November we will be looking at matters of philosophical interest in Tom Stoppard's play *the Hard Problem*. In the meantime **at our next meeting on 17 September we will be looking at a question on aesthetics in relation to imagination and the arts.**

## POETRY TOO

Ruth Dutton & Rosie Harvey

The group took a break in August. **Our next theme is Seasons which will be on Friday 27 September.**

## YOGA GROUP

Karyl Rees

The yoga group is now enjoying a summer break during August and will reconvene in September when there will be 2 groups, 10 – 11.00 am & 11.15am – 12.15 pm. There are still a few vacancies, so please contact the group leader if you are interested in joining a group





## PHOTOGRAPHY GROUP: Competition Results July 2024 Roger Harris

Being the peak of the holiday season there was a steady flow of daily photographs. We had images from the West (North and South), and closer to home as well. They included people and architecture, and plenty of botanical and wildlife content. A super collection of which the contributors should be proud. Until our monthly competitions are restored, I am required to select "the best" of the view photos. Not easy when the standard is so universally high. I was delighted by the sets from



Jane Bowen covering a country show in Devon which proved the photos are still there, even in the worst weather conditions. The stoical faces of the musicians in the chosen shot (1) says it all. Who could not enjoy the antics of the squirrels in Margaret Noyce's work. bad press, but these definitely had proving that food is often the key to Karyl Ree's multiple contributions from convey the history of that area. The Hall 3) is one of the magnificent



Grey squirrels generally have a charm. Well captured images getting close to such subjects (2). a trip to the North West certainly panorama of the splendid Speke buildings recorded.



## WALKING GROUPS

### AMBLERS GROUP

Staying close to home again this month, 9 amblers enjoyed a pleasant walk in lovely weather, starting from Alcester Town Car Park, along the Monarch Way taking a loop through Ragley Estate land, following the Spittle Brook and returning through Cold Comfort Wood before retracing out steps along the Monarch Way towards a very enjoyable lunch at The Turk's Head. As quite a few of the Amblers Group will be on the u3a holiday in Cardiff on the date of the September Amble, there will be no amble next month. Details of the amble on 11<sup>th</sup> October will be sent out in due course.

### Bronwen Bunting



### FRIDAY WALKERS

Our August Walk was chosen because it followed the leafy, shaded footpaths of the canals. We started at the Fleur de Lys in **Lowsonford**, a pub well known for its canal side location. We walked along the towpath of the Stratford Canal to Kingswood Junction where it connected with the Grand Union Canal. We spent a few minutes watching the activity in the canal basin before beginning our return along the Grand Union. We passed some interesting Lock Keepers cottages, an ancient timber framed house and a large new build house with its own narrow boat and mooring. The reflections of trees in the water were beautiful. However, progress was slowed by the profusion of ripe blackberries! Towards the end of the walk we did a short stretch of the Heart of England Way which was somewhat spoiled by the overwhelming noise of the M40. Otherwise it was a lovely 6 mile walk in pleasant weather. Ten of us enjoyed a sociable lunch in the pub famed for its pies. **We will not be leading a walk in September so we will next meet on Friday October 18th.**

### Jane and Chris Baker

### READING 2

This month's group reading book was **'Somebody I Used to Know'** written in 2018 by **Wendy Mitchell**, a woman who had been diagnosed with young-onset vascular dementia. At first, she was obviously depressed by her diagnosis, but then declared 'I am still the same person I had been the day before my diagnosis', and threw herself into academic and medical research, finding ways 'to outwit dementia', and raising money to fund that fight. In her last blog, before her death in February of this year, she wrote 'Yes, dementia is a bummer, but oh what a life I've had playing games with this adversary of mine, to try and stay one step ahead'. Wendy also campaigned for assisted dying laws, and followed this pathway in her own death. All members in our discussion group had some kind of personal knowledge of someone affected by this disease, and agreed that Wendy Mitchell's book encouraged much greater understanding and positive thinking about it.

### Linda Jennings



### SCRABBLE GROUP

Come and have fun and meet new friends at our Scrabble Group which takes place **first Friday each month from 2pm. Contact Group Leader, Linda Salsbury for location of where we meet 07872 625006 email: [lindasalsbury@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:lindasalsbury@hotmail.co.uk)**

### Linda Salsbury



**ALCESTER u3a INTEREST GROUPS: Contact Group Coordinator 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
Church Visits	4 <sup>th</sup> Tuesday as advised	11.00 am	Various	Chris Baker
Crafts	3 <sup>rd</sup> Wednesday Sept to March	10.00-12.30	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	Shirley Stout
Garden Lovers 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Thursday April – Oct	2.30 pm	Various	Janet Allely
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 Rosemary Harvey
Ambles	2 <sup>nd</sup> Friday	10.30 am	Various	Bronwen Bunting
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 2 groups	10-11.00 am 11.15-12.15	Catholic Church Meeting Room	Karyl Rees