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Charity Number 1094479

'Sharing Knowledge to Learn from Each Other'

New Members

We would like to welcome the following new members: Carol Bradshaw, Nigel Bradshaw, Karen Bromage and Angela Cave. Please look out for them in your Groups and Monthly Meetings and help them to quickly feel part of our organisation.

Sad News

We are sorry to report the death of one of our members, Pam Southwells, who passed away recently. She was a member of the Bake and Share Group and we offer our condolences.

Dates for your diary

Coffee Morning Drop-Ins – Change of Venue

Please note that from Monday 12th August, our monthly coffee morning drop-ins will take place at the **Kanko Coffee Lounge**, 41 Clifton Road, Rugby, CV21 3PY (corner of Bath Street and opposite the Lawrence Sheriff school).

This is a much larger venue than before, with very comfortable seating. It has been highly recommended by a number of u3a members. Parking is restricted in the nearby streets, though, and Age UK car parks are not available to the public, so Railway Terrace may be your best option. But there are one or two parking spaces to be found in front of and behind the shops, and there are plenty of bus stops in the area.

Please remember that **all members of the u3a are welcome**. No need to book – just turn up any time from 10.30 (or even 10 o'clock, if that's when your bus gets in). We look forward to seeing you.

Imelda Purdy

Monthly Meetings

August 8th Andrew Lound - Shackleton

Through Endurance we conquer. An unsuccessful attempt to reach the South Pole.

September 12th

Kate Mawer, "Uncovering the history of a Northamptonshire Farmhouse"

October 10th

We are pleased to announce that the Mayor of Rugby, Simon Ward, will be attending our October meeting. The entertainment will be, OPERA EMPORIO. Led by Richard Lloyd Owen. Classical trained singers from Sutton Coalfield will perform songs from the musicals and light popular opera.

The cost for Rugby u3a members is the usual £2.00. Please feel free to bring along guests who will be charged £5.00. Payment will be taken at the door starting at the August meeting.



Due to restrictions on numbers and fire regulations, and so we can cater for the refreshments, we would appreciate prior booking of places. This can be on the website or on email. On the u3a website you can book by visiting the monthly meeting page and following the link to the October meeting.

Frances Marchant: francesamarchant@gmail.com

Summary of July AGM

It was wonderful to see so many of our members attending the AGM on Thursday 11th July and I wanted to take this opportunity to thank all of those who contributed to the event. Behind the scenes volunteers were setting up chairs, tables, and technology, meeting and greeting attendees and preparing and serving the post meeting refreshments.

We have two new committee members Beverley Thomas and Kevin Spires and marked the resignation of John Miles and Brian Radesk.

We had no nominations for the position of secretary at the meeting and this gives cause for concern. The role of secretary is one of the three key roles for which we must submit details to the Third Age Trust (TAT) and one of the three pivotal roles which must be filled to make our organisation viable.

We urgently need to find someone willing to undertake this role. Brian has indicated that he will offer as much support as required to ensure a smooth transition.

David Daniel our treasurer has served on the committee for a number of years and is looking to step down as treasurer at the next AGM, so we are keen to undertake succession planning to fill his role then. This is another of the three key roles.

I highlight this now as, if we cannot fill these two roles going forward, we will be unable to function as a branch of u3a.

We are growing our numbers and have many active groups; it would be unthinkable to have to close.

Please consider if you can step forward into one of the roles, feel free to contact any committee member if you need more information.

Dawn Fassam Rugby u3a Chair

Group News

Book Ends Reading Group

Last month our Group read Matt Cain's book 'The Secret Life of Albert Entwistle' Albert Entwistle was a postman. It was one of the few things everyone knew about him. And it was one of the few things he was comfortable with people knowing.

64-year-old Albert Entwistle has been a postie in a quiet town in Northern England for all his life, living alone since the death of his mam 18 years ago. He keeps himself to himself. He always has. But he's just learned he'll be forced to retire at his next birthday. With no friends and nothing to look forward to, the lonely future he faces terrifies him. He realises it's finally time to be honest about who he is. He must learn to ask for what he wants. And he must find the courage to look for the man that, many years ago, he lost - but has never forgotten . . .

Joan Fowler

Ambling Group

The June amble was led by Bob and Linda Hall, they guided the group around a Crick based walk roughly three and a half miles long. There was a good turn out and the weather was dry and sunny for once. The walk started and ended at the Red Lion, Crick with lunch being taken afterwards. These are a couple of pics from the Tuesday amble, Jenny Sinfield led the same walk on the Thursday. The photo of myself and John Hill was taken at the top of Crack Hill by Bob Hall. This month the amble will be around Clifton led by Penny and Steve Woodford.



Keith Day

Antiques for Fun – Visit to RSC Stratford



I have been a member of this group since joining u3a and regularly managed to attend the trips which various of the members of the group take responsibility to organise.

On Thursday 25th July I joined the party leaving St Marks Church to visit Stratford and experience a backstage tour at the RSC. We were not able to take pictures inside but enjoyed the view of the river from the riverside café at the theatre, our tour tickets gave us 10% discount here and in the theatre shop.

The tour guides were enthusiastic and informative, we understand the one leading the presentation was hosting his first tour – this was hard to believe as he was so knowledgeable and confident.

The tour started in the body of the theatre, and we sat learning about the history of the building while the actors arrived to prepare, getting ready for the matinee performance. They needed privacy so after learning about lighting, scene shifting and how actors emerged from beneath the stage we moved to backstage areas.

We went into a control room with video links to stages including that of the outside stage. We learned how the lights and effects were managed, the system for actors preparing and entering the action and saw a video of how the stage manager controlled every step of the play.

Next stop – The Other Place, a much smaller theatre which I felt similar in style to The Globe in London. The stage was busy as crew were preparing for a production of *Pericles*.

Finally, a look at costumes and how they were made to look authentic while being practical to wear and change quickly and details of how the fake blood was made.

The final port of call before free time was the current interactive exhibition of – *The Play's the Thing* – which had costumes and elements for adults and children to explore.

Ann Bessey does a wonderful job coordinating this group and I am looking forward to future outings.

Dawn Fassam

Carry on Cruising

The venue for our next meeting on Friday August 2nd has moved to The United Reform Church. Hillmorton Road and starts at 2.00.

We have already had two meetings, the first sharing cruise experience and the second considering the best way to book a cruise and comparing the various cruise lines.

On Friday 2nd the topic for discussion is 'River Cruises' and members of the group will share their experiences.

Dawn Fassam

Report on the first u3a national festival in York 18th – 20th July

My wife, Beverley, and I attended the first ever U3A festival, the largest gathering of u3a members in the movement's 42-year history. The venue was the beautiful green campus of the University of York, a very good choice. There was accommodation available on campus as well as cafes and restaurants, and the historic city of York was a short bus ride away. Over 80 activities were available in the programme over the three days, ranging from talks and walks to sporting activities and music. One of the highlights for me was a re-enactment of Duke Box Jury (remember that?), which brought back lots of memories. Of the music performances the Barnsley Choir were outstanding, and the Stockport Brass Band were fun. We enjoyed having a go at pickleball and pétanque. The quiz team I joined came third in the quiz (I had to put that in for Val). We thoroughly enjoyed meeting u3a members from all over the country. The organisers should be congratulated as this was the first such event and everything ran smoothly. Hopefully, this will be an annual event and I can recommend it highly.



Ray Carson

Rugby Community Partnerships for Warwickshire County Council

The partnership publishes a monthly newsletter which may be of interest to some of our members. If you would like to take a look, please follow this link: <https://u3arugby.org.uk/wp/our-noticeboard/> You will also find a link to the page on our website.

Dave Daniel

Appeal for more copy

Now that the new email system and website are up and running, can we encourage all groups to consider whether there is something that they can share in our newsletter? Contributions should be sent to editor@u3arugby.org.uk by 24th of this month. If you can send your article in a Word document with any pictures attached as .jpg, that is the most helpful format. Thanks in advance!