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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: Sarah Hughes, Debbie Littlejohn, Ian Sturman and Lesley Sturman.

Please look out for them in your Groups and Monthly Meetings and help them to quickly feel part of our organisation.

Dates for your diary

Coffee Morning Drop-Ins

Owing to unforeseen circumstances at The Kanko Coffee Lounge, February's coffee morning will not take place on the 2nd Monday, but on the 3rd Monday (17th February) instead, at the usual time. Looking forward to seeing you on the revised date.

Kanko Coffee Lounge, 41 Clifton Road, Rugby, CV21 3PY (corner of Bath Street)

Bill Hearn

Monthly Meetings

13th February 2025 2:00 pm–4:00 pm

Sue Drage - Recycling, not what you may think

13th March 2025 2:00 pm–4:00 pm

Jules O' Brian - Becoming a standup comedian at 50. Bonkers or brave?

10th April 2025 2:00 pm–4:00 pm

Roger Browne "Not father O' Malley", Roger's childhood in wartime and post war Salford

8th May 2025 2:00 pm–4:00 pm

Andrew Lound, Carpathia - "The midnight dash" The Titanic rescue.

12th June 2025 2:00 pm-4:00 pm

Barrow to Bagdad – Philip Caine. Philip's experiences during his working life.

Subscriptions

Many thanks to those who have already renewed their u3a membership. May I point out however that, as I write this, some 199 members are still listed as not having paid. I will be emailing out a second reminder individually to those who have not renewed. If you are not sure and want to check your payment, please email treasurer@u3arugby.org.uk

Payments can be made via online banking, sending the treasurer a cheque or by cash at the Monthly Meeting, where card payment can also be made.

Last Monthly Meeting

Aloud Out Jazz Band



Leamington based Jazz Band 'Aloud Out' had the January monthly meeting audience tapping its feet almost from the very first note played. This was a re-arranged performance - deferred from about this time last year when the engagement had to be cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances, but it was well worth the wait to hear these musicians play.

Usually performing as a sextet, but down to five members on the day due to illness, the band had put together a programme of Jazz Standards dating largely from the middle decades (forties, fifties, and sixties) of the twentieth century to illustrate a range of styles including Swing, Latin, Township, Funk, Modern and Contemporary Jazz.

Jazz is particularly amenable to improvisation and 'Aloud Out' pride themselves on playing their own arrangement of many of the numbers in the programme. Although they have played together for many years, the current band name was only finally adopted a couple of years ago after a number of iterations and changes in personnel. The line-up which is made of Sue Tucker and Mark Riley, both Tenor Sax, John Black (Electric Violin), Bob Wilkinson (Electric Guitar), John Pickering (Electric Bass) and Dennis Miller (Drums and percussion) play locally around Leamington, Rugby, Coventry, Warwick, and surrounding areas and are very much in demand.

How jazz musicians name their songs is one of life's abiding mysteries and it would be difficult to find any obvious meaning in the titles of any of the numbers that were played for us. References to people, places and events may have been there once but are so obscure that they have become lost in time. In fact, some of the greats, including Charlie Parker and Dizzy Gillespie had a fondness for tune names that made no sense at all, so what was important for us was not to worry about what any of it meant but to just sit back and enjoy the music. And enjoy it we did!

The concert kicked off with a resounding rendition of 'Cold Duck Time.' Dating back to 1969, this is a rock influenced jazz standard described as having a funky rock groove and cha-cha style. This was swiftly followed by a mood change to the up tempo 'Black Orpheus' (title taken from a film of the same name); a Latin jazz

Bossa Nova from the 1960s, essentially a fusion of samba and jazz. The third offering maintained the tempo with 'African Market Place' written by South African Abdulla Ibrahim.

'Have You Met Miss Jones' saw a change of mood to Swing, this being another jazz standard particularly suitable for jamming sessions, composed by Richard Rodgers in 1937 and written for musical comedy. 'Put It Where You Want It', made famous by the Crusaders in the 1960s, an example of 'acid jazz' that combines funk, soul, hip-hop, jazz and disco came next.

'Misty' a jazz ballad written by Errol Garner in 1954 slowed the tempo right down and is a standard popular both in and outside the jazz world. Quickly changing tempo again gave us 'Well You Needn't' -penned by the legendary, and some say flawed genius, Thelonious Monk in 1944 and first recorded in 1947. It is considered to be mainstream jazz, hard bop, progressive big band, and progressive jazz. Contrary to many of the pieces played, the origin of the title is known. Monk offered to write a song for a friend and the friend's response was 'well you needn't.'

The programme concluded with two numbers; 'Fungii Mama' a jazz calypso composed in 1964 by trumpet player Blue Mitchell and characterised by its catchy melody, ensemble, percussion, and drive and then 'Watermelon Man' a 16-bar blues composed by Herbie Hancock in 1962 which incorporates multiple styles including hard bop, soul jazz, be -bop, R&B and Gospel. It has been covered by over 200 artists. For an encore we were treated to 'Mandela' again by Abdullah Ibrahim.

As the above aptly demonstrates it is not possible to do justice to the description of a musical event with mere words which simply cannot convey the energy and enthusiasm of a group of musicians of a certain age doing something they obviously love, for the love of it; infectious and in some small way life affirming. At the beginning the audience was invited to dance in the aisles to the music, but of course, nobody did.

Brian Radesk

Polite Reminder

A few members have complained recently that their enjoyment of the monthly meetings has been spoiled by those around them holding conversations that can be heard above the speaker – so please show consideration to your neighbours and the speaker by avoiding any unnecessary chatter during the presentations and catch up with the gossip over a coffee afterwards!

Group News

Carry on Cruising Group

The topic for our next meeting is part of our Travellers Tales series and is entitled "Impressions of India" given by Marie and David Daniel.

Members of the group and any guests are welcome at the meeting held at the United Reform Church, Hillmorton Road at 2.00 on Friday 7th February. Tea and coffee are provided, and we ask for a £2.00 donation to cover room costs.

Dawn Fassam

Internet security

At the moment, internet scams and hacking are an endemic problem. None of us are immune from this. One recent incident has caused us to send out an email alert to u3 members.

There's lots of advice out there on how to be safe, and simple measures can go a long way to protecting you:

Firstly - be very suspicious of any email which seems to come from a "friend" and invites you to reply in a way which doesn't sound right - for example "hi - are you there?". Don't reply directly.

Be VERY suspicious of any email which asks you to buy something on the friend's behalf or asks for your bank details; it's highly likely your "friend" is not who you think they are!!!

Change your passwords regularly and perhaps have different passwords for different things - You might for example have a "not too worried if this gets hacked" set of accounts with one password and a few "I must keep this account secure" accounts with different and more secure passwords.

Secure passwords need to have a mix of characters, numbers and symbols and be not something which is easily guessed. Computer security operators still find users with really easy to guess passwords - the favourite hackable password used to be "password" but also the user's name, address, and of course a password you used on another account which itself got hacked.

Computer hacking still relies on the techniques used by the codebreakers at Bletchley Park during WW2. They captured/stole codebooks via piratical actions on the high seas and also worked it out by guessing what part of the message was (because it never changed - radio operators not following instructions - for example "Heil Hitler!"). How different is that to someone stealing your mobile or bank card or guessing your password?

Those odd emails I mentioned at the start are even referred to as "Trojan Horse" hacks - no doubt you will know the famous story of the ancient Greeks leaving a wooden horse outside the gates of the city of Troy. The Trojans were tricked to wheel it in to celebrate, not knowing that a Greek saboteur was hidden inside, ready to open the gates from the inside later that night.

There's lots of technology on the internet to protect people from harm, but it's often the simple human things that can break the system!

Best wishes and keep safe!

Dave Daniel