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Charity Number 1094479

'Sharing Knowledge to Learn from Each Other'

Dates for your diary

Coffee Morning Drop-Ins

Monday 14th April at the Kanko Coffee Lounge, 41 Clifton Road, Rugby, CV21 3PY (corner of Bath Street)

Monthly Meetings

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 Baghdad – Philip Caine. Philip's experiences during his working life.

2025 AGM

In the next issues of RUN we will be providing details relating to the 2025 AGM, the dates, the format, and the election process.

During the current year we welcomed new members to our committee who have quickly become active participants in the team.

We have, however, been operating without anyone holding the key position of secretary and there are current committee members who will stand down at the next AGM.

The committee meets for 2 hours once a month to discuss key issues and formulate future plans. In the interim the various committee members pursue the requirements of their individual roles, with the support of others in the team as required.

We need to recruit new members to the committee to sustain the society and I appeal to you to consider whether you could set aside a little time and bring your skills into the mix. Please consider what you can do to support the background operation of the society.

If you would like further details or information, please contact myself or any other committee members.

Dawn Fassam - Chair

Last Monthly Meeting



More at home working the pub and club comedy circuit, appearing in a church before a group of (very) sober third agers could have been quite a challenge for stand-up comedian Jules O'Brian as well as for the audience! Indeed, at the outset she mused on the possibility of either being struck by lightning or by the crucifix suspended over her head should any of her material cause offence. In the event neither she nor us should have been worried and no lines were crossed.

Her performance took us on a gentle meander through the circumstances and motivation that have resulted in her becoming a successful comedian. Illustrated with humorous anecdotes and some willing audience participation the hour-long talk passed very quickly.

Jules's stand-up career began when she enrolled on a comedy course – mainly out of curiosity but also to discover whether she had the talent and appetite for the lifestyle that would result. By the end of it however, which included participating in the charity event finale before family and friends, she was hooked and has not looked back. Engagements now take her all over the country on at least two nights every week and occasionally more, and appearances at prestigious events have taken in the Edinburgh Festival. The styles of comedy she illustrated in her talk were 'situation' and 'misdirection' but as she explained, it was necessary to be flexible depending upon the audience and the occasion.

Getting a break into comedy is not particularly easy especially if you are a woman. Even today, well into the twenty-first century, Jules explained that this prejudice still exists often epitomised by the 'folded are' syndrome, namely audiences effectively challenging you to make them laugh, but of course all the more rewarding when you manage it.

The start of Jules's (actually Julia, but long since abbreviated) comedy career came relatively late in life, in her late forties, after sixteen years teaching English in a high school, and by then divorced and the mother of three children. Now fifty-three, her family having left home and well established on the comedy circuit herself, any lingering doubts that the whole thing might be the result of a mid-life crisis, have long been dispelled.

The most successful comics can occasionally 'die' on stage and Jules is no exception, but as she explained, the experience of teaching a class of truculent teenagers prepares you for anything a hostile or unresponsive audience can throw at you – so the sixteen years spent in the classroom were not wasted!

Seemingly without effort, Jules succeeded in engaging and connecting with her audience, a very definite skill. Responses to the audience participation elements were enthusiastic. To illustrate that comedy is very much a personal thing she asked us to shout out our favourite comedians and the answers ranged across the whole spectrum from Jim Davidson (but thankfully not Bernard Manning) to Barry Cryer. To show that it is not always easy to remember and tell a joke, she recited a silly one that we each then had to repeat to our neighbour. Finally, she asked the ladies present who would be prepared to expose a certain (named) part of their anatomy for £1000. A number of hands went up and a surprising number remained up as the price dropped. We never found out who would have done it for the lowest sum or for that matter what the point of the question was except that it made us laugh which was justification in itself and a nice way to end an enjoyable afternoon.

Brian Radesk

Group News

Ru3aNewsletter and Antiques for Fun

In the last issue of RUN I appealed to former members of this currently suspended group to confirm their interest in the group continuing.

To date we have only had formal responses from three members who would support continuation. I have attended other group activities within the last month and people who asked about Antiques for Fun but had not noticed the piece.

In addition to information about new members, key dates for monthly meetings and a synopsis of their content. We also include information about groups and activities so that we can keep the membership informed.

We need more contributions from groups leaders and feedback from our members – your ideas and suggestions as to what you would like to see included would be invaluable.

I URGE YOU TO DOWNLOAD THE DOCUMENT USING THE LINK AND HAVE A GOOD READ

Dawn Fassam - Chair

Getaway Group Trip to Birmingham

Our group or rather 14 of us took a trip to Birmingham art gallery and museum on 27th March. The weather was lovely, so we were able to take some photos of sights in Birmingham.

The art gallery, newly refurbished, is very much focused on local talent and the influence of the city on artists. An exhibition was held of Rembrandts etchings as well as Wildlife Photographer of the year.

But one thing was missing -the world-famous collection of Pre-Raphaelite paintings. They were on loan!

We did get a bit of a Pre-Raphaelite fix when we visited the cathedral and saw the magnificent windows of Edward Burne Jones.



Knitting, Crochet and Embroidery



Knitted jacket by Fran Marchant