

HISTORY

Happy Easter. It's early this year isn't it?

The final village project that the History Group has taken part in can now be read online as a link on the History Group webpage. Thanks to you all.

April 5th: "A Pinch of Salt" is about this everyday but essential commodity.

May 3rd: Vernacular Architecture takes a look at regional differences in buildings across Britain.

Don't forget April 16th's outing to Coventry Transport Museum. There are now 2 seats left if you are interested, so please contact me or Tim Young.

Niddy Walpole

MEMBERS ON THEIR OWN

Our next MOTO event is a visit to Chippenham Park gardens on Friday, 22nd March (admission £7.00). I aim to be there at 12.00 and hope to have lunch before going round the gardens.

Let's hope it won't be as wet as our visit to Anglesey Abbey last month!

Rosemary Foreman

WINGS, WHEELS & WATER

Remember that we meet on the second Monday each month.

8 April: led by David Soanes, this will be a group session in which we each extol the virtues of our favourite bridge!

15 May: Tim Young reveals some of the engineering blunders and political interference behind the planes that never flew.

There are still 2 spare seats on our trip to Coventry Motor Museum on 16 April. Contact Tim Young or Niddy Walpole if you are interested.

David Soanes, Tim Young



From the Chair

Dear Members

It is great to see that this miserable wet weather hasn't deterred many of you from attending meetings and I hope by the time you read this we will be enjoying some welcome spring sunshine.

I realise that July and our AGM seems a long way off, but could I ask that even if you haven't been a member for very long, you give some thought to putting your name forward to serve on the committee, without which your U3A would be unable to operate. To encourage new ideas as well as maintain continuity the ideal situation is to have at least two new candidates each year.

Committee members are elected on an annual basis and allowed to serve a maximum of three consecutive terms in one role, except for the Treasurer who can serve for six years. After next year several of the current committee members will have completed their maximum number of terms. Without new committee members coming forward now it could mean that at the AGM in 2025, only three of the current committee would be eligible for re-election (if they wish!). Our constitution says we must have at least five committee members, so you will see we need your help to keep your U3A viable. We would be glad to have a chat at any time if you would like to know more - please contact any committee member.

On a less serious note, I'm pleased to say that the trip to Cromer in July is proving very popular, so if you haven't sent in your booking form and deposit yet I urge you do this soon as there are only a few places left.

Kath Gifkins

BRIDGE GROUP

We've had a smooth first couple of months this year. We're settled now into the front bar of the ERC which is much brighter and has a nicer ambiance. We peaked at twelve, three tables, one week but we normally have 8-12 players so there is often a bit of swapping involved. Whilst we continue to play on the afternoons of the first and third Mondays each month, there's a hiccup coming with bank holiday Mondays in April and May. So for these months only, we will play on the first Wednesday afternoon instead, i.e. Wednesday 3rd April and Wednesday 8th May.

Otherwise, we meet from 2 to 4:30 at the Exning Road Club on the first Monday and the third Monday each month: our next meetings will be 18th March, 3rd April (Wed instead of Mon), 15th April, 8th May, 20th May.

We aim for friendly 'social' bridge rather than competitive bridge and welcome newcomers including beginners. For those interested in improving their bridge, I send out occasional emails with hints on play and bidding based on links to useful websites. I'm also experimenting with having a little computer-based tuition before or during the play. We pay £1.50 for each session though newcomers get a free 'taster' session! There is tea and coffee and often biscuits. Parking is free and nearby.

For information, please contact Andy Webb on 01638 602596 or andrew.webb33@outlook.com

Andrew Webb

GARDENING

In **April** we welcome back Andrew Sankey whose talk will be about the first director of Kew, William Hooker.

In **May** we will be holding a spring plant sale, so please bring along some spare cuttings, seedlings or plants to sell and buy. The proceeds from sales and raffle tickets all go towards paying for speakers.

Names are now being taken for two outings, the first to **Porters Lodge Garden, Cavenham, on Wednesday June 19th. Entry plus tea and cake £10.** We will be taking a coach to **Kelmarsh Hall and Gardens on August 21st, the cost for this is £30.**

All members are welcome to join us for either of these visits. Please contact us for further details

Kath Gifkins & Rosemary Foreman

INFORMAL HELP WITH TABLET COMPUTERS

This isn't a formal U3A group but I offer assistance to those who find some aspects of tablets a bit confusing. It's primarily intended to help beginners over any initial trepidation with technology but we've tackled a variety of little issues that always seem to crop up with any computer. For the last five months we've had meetings for about an hour at the Waitrose Café where 3-5 people discuss things together. It's more like a workshop than tuition. I don't claim to know everything by any means and sometimes others in the small group can help more than I can. There's no charge though it seems fair to Waitrose to buy something! I'm always happy to answer phone or email queries and have also carried out a few one-on-one sessions at people's homes. I've been announcing the meetings by email and the next meeting might be about 20th March if there is enough interest. If you think this sort of thing might help you, please contact Andy Webb on 01638 602596 or andrew.webb33@outlook.com

Andrew Webb

WALKING GROUP

The walk on 3rd April will be in the Cheveley/Ashley area, leaving the Recreation Ground, Cheveley High Street, at 10.30 am. Lunch afterwards at the New Wellington.

Rosemary Foreman



MUSIC APPRECIATION

April 19th, Mike's programme – "The Sea, Kismet, Pearls and a load more 'B's". Another varied selection of works by classical music composers whose name starts with a B.....

May 17th, Judy's programme – "Gilbert and Sullivan". Excerpts from their popular comic operas.

Co-ordinator Richard Unwin: email - richard@unwin10.plus.com

Richard Unwin

APRIL 2024

GROUP MEETINGS

DAY/DATE	TIME	GROUP	VENUE
Monday 1	14:30	Camera Group	No Meeting
Tuesday 2	14:30	Art Appreciation	Exning Road Club
Wednesday 3	10:30	Walking Group	See Website
	14:00	Bridge	Exning Road Club
	14:30	Antiques	Tesco Community Room
Friday 5	14:30	History	Exning Road Club
Monday 8	10:30	Wings Wheels Water	Exning Road Club
	14:30	Scrabble	Tesco Community Room
Tuesday 9	10:30	Model Making, Craft	Tesco Community Room
	11:15	Coffee & Cook Off	Tesco Community Room
	14:30	Discussion	The Racing Centre
Wednesday 10	11:00	Brunch Meeting	The Stable Cafe
Thursday 11	10:30	Carpet Bowls	Exning Road Club
Monday 15	10:00	Executive Committee	-
	14:00	Bridge	Exning Road Club
Tuesday 16	14:00	Creative Writing	Tesco Community Room
Wednesday 17	14:30	Garden Group	Exning Road Club
Friday 19	14:30	Music Appreciation	The Racing Centre
Tuesday 23	14:00	Rummikub	Tesco Community Room
Thursday 25	10:30	Carpet Bowls	Exning Road Club
Friday 26	14:30	Realm of Books	The Racing Centre
Monday 29	14:30	Speaker Meeting	Exning Road Club
-	Note: MOTO Group - see Website		

MAY 2024

GROUP MEETINGS

DAY/DATE	TIME	GROUP	VENUE
Wednesday 1	10:30	Walking Group	See Website
	14:30	Antiques	Tesco Community Room
Friday 3	14:30	History	Exning Road Club
Monday 6	14:00	Bridge	No Meeting
	14:30	Camera Group	No Meeting
Tuesday 7	14:30	Art Appreciation	Visit—see website
Wednesday 8	11:00	Brunch Meeting	The Stable Cafe
	14:00	Bridge	Exning Road Club
Thursday 9	10:30	Carpet Bowls	Exning Road Club
Monday 13	10:30	Wings Wheels Water	Exning Road Club
	14:30	Scrabble	Tesco Community Room
Tuesday 14	10:30	Model Making	Tesco Community Room
	11:15	Coffee & Cook Off	Tesco Community Room
	14:30	Discussion	The Racing Centre
Wednesday 15	14:30	Garden Group	Exning Road Club
Friday 17	14:30	Music Appreciation	The Racing Centre
Monday 20	10:00	Executive Committee	-
	14:00	Bridge	Exning Road Club
	14:30	Speaker Meeting	Exning Road Club
Tuesday 21	14:00	Creative Writing	Tesco Community Room
Thursday 23	10:30	Carpet Bowls	Exning Road Club
Friday 24	14:30	Realm of Books	The Racing Centre
Tuesday 28	14:00	Rummikub	Tesco Community Room
-	Note: MOTO Group - see Website		