

Honorary President - Mr. Ken Smith

Today's Speaker

Peter Barratt Presented: - My Suffragette Grandmother

Peter, the great-grandson of a suffragette Alice Hawkins told us the story of his relative's "inspirational" life. Alice Hawkins was originally a machinist at a boot maker in Leicester who fervently campaigned for equal pay before getting involved with the suffragette movement in the early 1900s. Although imprisoned several times she continued to fight on until her death in 1946.

Peter says: "Her life was fascinating, she wasn't your typical suffragette, she was a poor working-class socialist who joined the movement in her mid-40s".

(A great family story that everyone I spoke to, thoroughly enjoyed. Terry)

Speaker for May

Roy Smart presents 'The Last Naval Hero, David Earl Beatty'

Roy Smart makes a welcome return, this time to present a rip-roaring talk about "The Last Naval Hero", David, Earl Beatty, hero of WWI and the darling of the nation. Blessed with the Nelson touch, this matinee idol had a darker side to his character and was something of a bounder. We'll hear about Beatty's astonishing climb to fame and fortune and his involvement in the Battle of Jutland leading to the death of over 3,000 British sailors but the surrender of the German fleet. He became immensely rich and had a Downton Abbey life style with his hedonistic, American, socialite wife, Ethel, Countess Beatty, which was marred by marital strife and scandal.

Come along to the BBC on Thursday 16th May at 0950 to hear more about this extraordinary man.

Membership

92 members and guests enjoyed today's speaker meeting. Thank you to everyone for coming along to what was a most interesting 'family history' talk.

** WEBMASTER – OPPORTUNITY **

..... IMPORTANT PLEASE READ THIS

Are you interested in all things to do with laptops and Websites? If you are we have a brilliant opportunity for someone like you to help us develop and maintain a new Brackley u3a Website. Our current site, 'SITE BUILDER' is being phased out this year and will be replaced by a newer, easier system, 'SITE WORKS'. The old/new sites have been developed nationally by u3a members and basically the vast majority of u3a clubs use the same system. The website looks exactly the same for each club with the same graphics and headings, it's the contents that individual clubs have to 'fill in'. This is where the Brackley Webmaster takes over, you'll need to make the site 'user friendly' so that each and every member can navigate it with ease. The site will simply require updating as and when necessary, with details such as who/what/where/when just take a look at our current site and you'll see what I mean.

You won't be expected to jump straight into the role as our current Webmaster, the very able Mike Kirkham, will happily guide you through the start-up and offer any ongoing support you might require.

Mike has been our extremely capable Webmaster for around 5-6 years now but feels that with the replacement 'SITE WORKS' coming onboard, the time is now right for a new Webmaster to take the helm.

We'll be sad to see Mike go and a say a HUGE 'thank you' for the help and support he has given to Brackley u3a over the years.

Interested? Please contact me, Terry, avrilandterryp@btinternet.com

DON'T DELAY - DO IT TODAY!

Pétanque Group

Weather permitting, we'll hopefully start the new season on Thursday 25th of April. We meet up at 0945 at the 'Westbury International Pétanque Arena'. Or, to be more precise ---- the car park alongside Westbury village hall ----! Every 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month. No experience needed!

Book Club 2

This new group had its first meeting on Wednesday 27th March to review 'The Penguin Lessons', written by Tom Michell.

'Good Reads' rated this at an overall 4.12 out of 5.

This is a delightful account about a young man and Juan Salvador, the penguin that he rescued who came to live with him for a time. Tom Michell, a young Englishman, teaching at a boarding school in Argentina in the 1970s, was enjoying the summer break in Paraguay when he came across the devastating site of hundreds of Magellan penguins covered in black, tarry oil, dead on the beach. When he spotted a solitary penguin alive, he didn't hesitate to pick it up and take it back to his holiday apartment where he tried to remove the oil. What follows is the story of how he came to smuggle it back to Argentina and into the school, where it quickly became well loved by the staff and the boys and an important member of the school.

The majority of our group thoroughly enjoyed reading this adventure.

This new group is beginning to attract more members. From 2.00-3.30 p.m. on the 4th Wednesday of the month. Convenor Roz Fowler, e-mail roz.fowler@hotmail.com.

* If you'd like to join you should contact Roz **NOW** to show your interest. *

National Trust Group

The first meeting for 2024 takes us to Chastleton House on the 10th May. Andy Goodchild is our convenor and is looking to book some interesting venues for us to enjoy. See our website for more details.

Travel Group

For further information on forthcoming events, you'll need to join the group. Please contact Gill or Ian at travelgroup.brackleyu3a@gmail.com

The group had it's first 'away day' on Tuesday 16th April, visiting Chepstow, Ross on Wye and the surrounding areas. Over 40 members enjoyed some great views and were blessed with good weather: unlike the rest of us in Brackley where it absolutely bucketed down with rain and huge hailstones!



The Craft Group



The group had another busy session this month making some very decorative small 'trinket' boxes. They looked really good, with so many different designs and colours.

(In fact, they looked so good I'm ordering 1,000 to sell at a Christmas market! - --- I'm informed it might take a few weeks/months/years to complete though!!)

The Craft Room is at the BBC on the 2nd Monday of every month (Brackley Baptist Church Waynflete Close, Brackley NN13 6AE) Start time 1.30

Never been before? Don't worry, just turn up and you'll find a warm welcome from the group organiser Norma Lees.

Or, you can contact her beforehand on lees.martin26@yahoo.com

Walking Group



A delightful walk in and around Westbury in April. Notice the leaves beginning to show on the trees, the grasses getting longer and greener - a new season begins, colours emerge, (although apart from Peggy, everyone's hair is turning just a little greyer! I think I need a tint myself, pink?)

Time for a 'Chuckle'

An Italian businessman goes to India for a business trip. He hates Indian food, so he asked the concierge in his hotel, "Is there any restaurant where I can find Italian food here?" The concierge says, "You are lucky sir, a new pizza restaurant just opened and they deliver."

The businessman asks for the restaurant's number, goes back to his room, and orders the pizza.

30 minutes later, the delivery person shows up with the pizza. He takes the pizza and eats it.

Suddenly he's sneezing uncontrollably and shouting to the delivery guy, "What did you put on this pizza?!"

The delivery man bows deeply and says, "We put exactly what you ordered on the phone, sir.

It's pepper only.

Oh, come on, I know you laughed!!

You want a quiz?

What is the largest desert in the world?

What is the largest Spanish-speaking city in the world?

What is a human's largest organ?

Bambi's best friend is named what?

In an alphabetical list of US states, which comes last?

Bump, set, and spike are terms from which sport?

What is the most common way to write the number 4 in Roman numerals?

What company was originally called "Cadabra"?

What is the most common surname in the United States?

What country has the highest life expectancy?

In what country would you find Mount Kilimanjaro?

What is a group of pandas known as?

**If you can answer honestly (no looking up now, I'm watching!) send me your answers
avrilandterryp@btinternet.com Results next month!**

All for now - Terry Pigott - Chairman.

A note from the Editor/Chairman: This newsletter is published on behalf of Brackley and District U3A. Any opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the committee or group leaders of Brackley and District U3A, or of the U3A Trust.

PS Thought for the day.

Here's all you have to know about men and women:

Women are crazy, men are stupid.

And the main reason women are crazy is that men are stupid.

(Avril told me to put this in.....)

