

2022  
10th anniversary



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*The cool beauty of Spring  
in Oakley Wood!*

*A warm welcome to the following new members:*

Elizabeth Neville, Iain Neville, Jean Gammon,  
Michael Gammon, Carol Probyn, Elaine Paybarah,  
Tina Watkins, Janet Smith



*Dear Members,*

As I write what I confidently expect to be my last message in the newsletter you will, no doubt, be relieved to read that I am not going to exhort members to come forward for the committee as seems so often to have been the case recently. Actually, I am feeling quite 'demob' happy at the moment and looking forward to passing on the Chairmanship to someone new.

The last three years have turned out to be completely different to what I was expecting. I was rather hoping for a quiet life after GDPR and the like, how wrong I was! Within months news was spreading of this new virus which was not good news for anyone catching it especially those of us enjoying our golden years. Then came lockdown followed by lockdown followed by yet another and other restrictions all of which made social contact between members very difficult. A great effort was made by many group leaders to keep their groups running and for this we must all be very grateful as it enabled groups to keep meeting, kept members in contact and made getting back to 'normal' much easier. We all faced a steep learning curve in mastering logging on to Zoom and mastering the 'mute' button not to mention 'Speaker' and 'Gallery' view, but much as we may have disliked using it, it allowed us to keep meeting face-to-face virtually if not in person. It kept us in contact, so important during those months of isolation.

As you can imagine, I have a number of members to thank for all they have done and, in most cases, continue to do for our u3a. Firstly, I would like to thank all members who have served on the committee during my time as Chair; without you the job would have been much more difficult if not impossible. Secondly, I would like to thank group leaders for all they do in keeping our u3a vibrant and dynamic. Thirdly, I would like to thank all volunteers from Liz and Malcolm who keep our website and Facebook page up to date, to Dot for producing the newsletter every couple of months, to Clare, Justine and Dinah for the welcome cup of tea at the monthly meeting, to the 'Meeters and Greeters' who demonstrate that we really are a friendly u3a with their welcome to members and visitors at the monthly meeting and the fire marshalls who would keep us safe should that eventuality ever arise. To any volunteers I have not mentioned, my apologies but 'thank you'. We really are an organisation run for and by the members.

Thank you to all members who have renewed their membership for the coming year and a gentle reminder, if it has slipped your mind and you still wish to do so, the Membership Secretary is waiting to process your form.

This is going to be a very busy year with our 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration Barn Dance on Saturday July 16<sup>th</sup> from 7pm at Hampton Lovett Parish Rooms to include a light supper. This is for members and their partners. I know that none of us are as young as we used to be and not up to doing every dance but it should be a fun evening. Tickets on sale at the next two monthly meetings.

Then, on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> July from 2pm at the Community Hall, Heritage Way we are holding an Open Afternoon with some different things to tempt you while others will be more familiar. This is open to members regardless of whether they can persuade a friend to come along. We are hoping this will help with recruitment as we inevitably lose a certain percentage of members each year for one reason or another. Among the new activities will be Samba Drumming – you only need to be able to count, Willow Weaving under expert guidance, Jewellery Making – what lady can resist wearing something unique, Geocaching – all you need is a smart phone; this has been specially produced for our 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, Cake Making Competition – three categories – sponge, fruit and biscuits, Town trails – easy, hard and photographic, plus displays by groups and of course the chance to try the winning cakes with a cup of tea.

Then, of course, what would the u3a year be without a Strawberry Tea to be held on Monday, 15<sup>th</sup> August at the Methodist Church Hall. There will be a quiz for those who wish to participate but most importantly the chance to socialise with members.

Planning is already under way for a Christmas Lunch at the Pear Tree Inn on Monday, 12<sup>th</sup> December so yet another date for the diary.

**Before any of these things happen we have our Annual General Meeting on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> June at the Norbury Theatre, papers will be landing in your inboxes or doorsteps before too long. This is a plea for members to attend so that we reach a quorum and can actually hold the AGM which will be followed by a talk by David Wornham, a member, on the Canal and River Trust, an organisation for which I know he volunteers.**

Thank you for putting your trust in me to keep your u3a in good heart through the past three years. It has been a pleasure to be of service and I look forward to doing my 'bit' to help the organisation thrive for many years to come.

Should you wish to contact me I am available through our website:

<https://u3asites.org.uk/droitwich/contact> or by phone on 01905 778743

*Gay Enoch - Chair*

<b><u>Reminder of the Timetable for</u></b>
<b><u>10<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting 2022</u></b>
<b>Monday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2022</b> - Committee Nominations should be returned to Janis Stark, Business Secretary, (35 days prior to AGM)
<b>Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2022</b> – Circulation of AGM papers, (+28 days prior to AGM)
<b>Monday 20<sup>th</sup> June 2022</b> – AGM
<i>at The Norbury Theatre, 2.15 for 2.30pm start</i>

### *Not Receiving emails from Droitwich u3a?*

Please check your 'Spam' or 'Junk' folder for emails from us. Should you find any they should be marked as 'Not Spam' so that they will then appear in your inbox in future. This is important as an email was sent out on Monday, 25<sup>th</sup> April 2022 with Nominations Forms for the election of committee members to be held at the Annual General Meeting on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> June 2022 at The Norbury Theatre at 2.15pm, and the completed forms need to be returned to our Business Secretary, Janis Stark (address on the form), by Monday 16<sup>th</sup> May.

Posts that need to be filled are Chair, Vice Chair (2 possible positions), Business Secretary, Treasurer and up to 9 ordinary committee members, this being dependent on how many members stand for the position of Vice Chair.

The more committee members the less onerous is the task for any one member. Please remember that the u3a is an organisation that is run by the members for the members and as such we should all seek to 'do our bit' in whatever way possible be it through being on the committee, running a group, mentoring new members, volunteering at the monthly meeting by meeting and greeting members and visitors, being a fire marshal at the meeting or providing us with the very welcome refreshments at the close of the talk. 'Thank you' to all members who already do this in whatever capacity.

### *Renewal of membership.*

Thank you to all members who have renewed their subscriptions already. A gentle reminder to those who haven't yet done so that their membership will lapse if the renewal form and subscription have not been received by the end of May.

Lost the form? A new form can be printed from our website under 'Join Here' and contains full details of the fee and where to return the completed form.

*Spotlight on the groups*

- *U3a Cookalong*

“Hello everyone, I’m Sue Cook and I have lived in Droitwich for about 6 years. I started my working life in the mists of time at a local coffee bar and moved on into restaurant management. My life went in many directions after that but I returned to catering with my own business in 1995. Providing sandwiches from the shop as well as business lunches, buffets and private dinners and events. I still enjoy cooking but cooking for one is not the same as cooking for many.

I tried a while back to start a cooking group for u3a but it didn’t work out. I had been running one for my local WI for a couple of years and thought it might be something that was transferrable. Through Lockdown we did our sessions online which were challenging but fun and usually punctuated by lots of laughter. I recently decided that as the WI has moved on since lockdown, and the cooking group is in abeyance, I would hunt around for interesting recipes and provide one recipe a month for our Newsletter. The idea has been well received so I thought it might be an idea for the u3a newsletter.

This is the first recipe offering. It would be grand to hear from anyone who tries the recipe along with a picture and comments. It would also be really good to hear what recipes members may like me to look out for or provide their own. If it goes well, we could put together our own cookbook. However, one step at a time! In view of the current situation in Ukraine and reflecting on their plight, I have found a recipe for West Ukrainian Cheesecake (SYRNYK). Ukrainians love to cook so it somehow seemed appropriate to try cooking what they are prevented from doing. Do give it a try and let everyone know how you get on.”

### Recipe for May

#### SYRNYK

- 12oz Quark
- 2 eggs
- 2oz butter(scant)
- ½ cup caster sugar
- 2tblsp semolina flour
- Juice of half a lemon
- ½ tsp vanilla extract to mix.



#### **Method;**

Preheat oven to 375F/190C. Melt butter – microwave or in a pan. Grease loaf tin with some of the melted butter and then dust tin with semolina flour.

Separate eggs. Put whites in a mixing bowl and set aside. Hand mix half sugar and egg yolks in separate bowl. Beat egg whites until doubled in size, then gradually add remaining sugar and beat until foam is thick and stable.

Continue beating egg whites and gently add the quark until mix is homogeneous, add sugar and egg yolk mix, then add melted butter. Mix well, add lemon juice, and vanilla flavour. Add the semolina flour to the mixture using a slicing motion with side of a knife. Mix in thoroughly.

Turn batter into baking tin, smooth the top and bake in the oven for 10 minutes. Turn oven down to 350F/180C and cook for a further 30/35 minutes. Turn off oven- DO NOT OPEN THE DOOR - leave oven to cool to room temperature. Remove cake from tin, refrigerate overnight, serve with coffee for breakfast or dessert.

- *Local History Group* - Below Stairs at 'The Hive'

On 11<sup>th</sup> March fourteen from the Local History Group were given a tour of the Worcestershire Archives to discover something of what is stored there. The first port of call was to enter one of the six strong rooms sealed in concrete and buried below ground, but above the 2007 flood line. An Argonite fire system protects the treasures stored on 12 miles of shelving and artefacts and documents continue to be offered to the archivist service for posterity. One of the oldest documents we were shown was a charter issued by King Steven in 1140. In addition, we were able to look closely at a beautifully illuminated charter for the Worcester Clothiers from the time of Henry V111, a book of maps commissioned by Bowater Vernon, of Hanbury Hall and the marriage bond for William Shakespeare and Ann Hathaway.

From the strong room we were taken along the long underground corridors, past rooms where documents are digitised to enable those carrying out research to gain online access. Our guide took us to a large room where the work of the conservator takes place. Here we learnt how flimsy, torn, and crumbling papers, such as probate documents or wills, can be restored and protected for posterity. We were shown examples of recently conserved documents and learnt about the various preservation techniques used.

Our final stop was to pay a visit to the Archaeology section where 80,000 items are stored in boxes and chests. Within the collection there are 26,000 pieces of Roman pottery found in various locations across Worcestershire. We were told that while a proportion of our Council Tax supports the department funding for digs instigated by developers are paid for by them. We were given an insight into the complex cataloguing system used to ensure important items are not lost and this certainly helped us understand why the service requires a huge administration team and a band of volunteers.

By Susan Helps

Liz Howard, who has been joint leader of the Local History Group for the past nine years has taken the decision to step down to concentrate more on family time. A very big 'thank you' Liz for all your sterling work and skill in organising events/speakers etc over the years.



- *Croquet Group.*

Unfortunately, we have lost our venue at The Bowling Green Inn, Stoke Prior.

For the last two years during the Covid pandemic the landlord, Paul Thompson, has had plastic tables and chairs set-out on the bowling green (our almost perfect Croquet Lawn) so that it can be used as an outside seating area for customers. I had hoped that with things starting to return to something near normal that they might allow the bowling green to return to its previous use. However, earlier this month I met with Paul and he informed me that the current arrangement has proved to be so popular that he is going to continue to use the area for outside seating.

I have one other possible venue in mind (more details about this on another occasion), but I'm not very hopeful, as I tried and failed to get access to this venue three years ago when the group was starting-up. The only other possibility is that we can find a U3A member with a largish, reasonably flat garden lawn who would like to join the group and learn to play Croquet. We already have mallets, two sets of "competition standard" balls, a set of hoops, a finishing post, etc, and where the hoops and finishing post are designed to create only a small, nail-sized hole in the lawn.

If you are interested in joining the group, and/or (even better) are able to offer a lawn to play on, please contact the group leader on 01905 796201

Les Hazlewood

- *Bridge Beginners Group*

We are now taking names for the next occurrence of this group which will operate as a course running from October 2022 to March 2023, with the 2-hour meetings being held weekly on a day to be agreed between the members. The course is suitable for members who are complete novices to the game of Bridge or who may have played some time ago and forgotten most of what they once knew.

Bridge is a "whist-like" card game for 4 players operating as two teams/pairs, who sit opposite each other. The game consists of two main parts. Firstly, the bidding - where players compete to decide on a contract where one pair aim to take a specified number of tricks, with a specified suit as trumps (or with no trumps). Secondly, the play - where the pair that won the contract then try to make at least the specified number of tricks.

Starting from the absolute basics the course will cover the main features of Acol (the most commonly used bidding system), and some techniques of card play. Familiarity with "whist-like" card games would be an advantage but is not essential.

For more information or to sign-up for the next course please contact the group leader on 01905 796201

Les Hazlewood

- *Digital Photography Group*

Members of the group recently visited the picturesque Worcestershire village of Elmley Castle. The 11th century church of St. Mary lies at the heart of it. Here are a few photos taken by members:

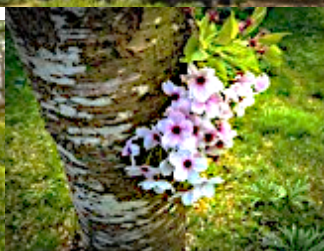
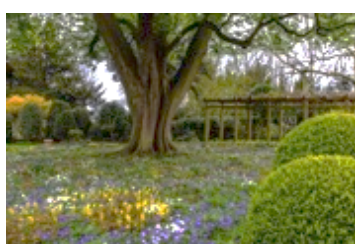


The church has two wonderful monuments in the transept; one to the Earl of Coventry



The village has a number of black & white cottages, some with thatched roofs.

At the centre of the village is the Queen Elizabeth inn, a 16<sup>th</sup>c combined pub



From a recent visit to Morton Hall

These are from a recent visit to Bewdley to practice black and white photography.



*New members are most welcome  
- Please contact Derek Oakley*

Thank you for reading this edition of the newsletter. In particular, thank you to those of you who contributed such interesting articles/groups news plus the superb photos submitted by the Digital Photography group. Hopefully some of us can take the opportunity to try out Sue Cook's recipe, sounds delicious! – hopefully recipes will be a regular newsletter feature. If any other members have a favourite recipe or maybe some gardening tips please send them in. Any book reviews would be welcome too.

This month marks 'No Mow Month' allowing insects etc a chance to carry out their valuable work in our gardens. So, if you do visit any gardens later this month you may notice that the grass could be taller than usual, particularly with the rain we're getting at the moment!!

**As we approach the AGM next month I'm sure we would all like to extend a huge thank you to Gay as outgoing Chair together with the committee for all their incredible hard work throughout what has proved to be a very challenging couple of years.**

The next newsletter will be published in July so please submit any articles/photos via the website by **Monday 4<sup>th</sup> 2022**. A reminder of calendar dates is on the next page

**Editor**





## Calendar dates

Monthly meetings held at The Norbury Theatre 2.30pm - 3.30

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> May - History of the Circus by Ned Williams

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> June - AGM followed by talk by David Wornham on The Canals & Rivers Trust

The next meeting will follow in September.



### Don't forget!

Saturday, 16<sup>th</sup> July 2022, 7.00 - 10.00pm - Barn Dance with a buffet supper.

Monday, 18<sup>th</sup> July 2022, 2.00 - 4.00pm -see info below

**Droitwich u3a  
Open Afternoon**  
Monday July 18th 2 - 4pm  
Community Hall, Heritage Way  
All welcome

Activities

Displays

Modern Languages

Willow Weaving

Petanque

Painting

Singing for Pleasure

Genealogy

Classical Music Appreciation

Card Games

Jewellery Making

Samba Drumming

Photography

Classic Poetry & Literature

Town Trails

Cake making Competition

Modern Board Games

Find out more about u3a  
<https://u3asites.org.uk/droitwich/>

**AND MORE.....**

