

2022  
10th anniversary



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**AGM UPDATE**

*Dear Members,*

The AGM was held on 20<sup>th</sup> June. Many thanks to all who attended which ensured we were quorate and could therefore go ahead with the meeting and not have to postpone it to a later date.

One of the problems we faced was what was going to happen as Gay stood down after her 3 years in the role of Chair. There was no Vice-Chair to step up into the role of Chair, nor did we have any nominations prior to the meeting for either of these two officer roles. This left us in a very difficult position as to how we were going to be able to continue as a **u3a**. However, after some discussion and some time to consider, I am pleased to be able to report that Sue Cook offered to stand as Chair for one year and Mike Bracey offered to be Vice-chair, with a view to taking on the role of Chair next year. So many, many thanks to Sue and Mike for saving the day and I'm sure we shall all look forward to your new leadership and will want to support you in your endeavours.

But let us also thank Gay for the wonderful work she has done through these last two very difficult years. She has kept the u3a going throughout all the lock downs with zoom meetings and recordings of interesting talks and events and has encouraged groups to keep going in some constructive way. It must have been an exhausting time for her spending many hours finding things for us to do. She can now take a well-earned rest. Although knowing Gay that probably won't be on the cards.

Our thanks also go to the outgoing Committee for all their work and to those who have volunteered to serve for this coming year: Paul Lynskey, Les Hazlewood, Gill Ansfield, Pam Douglas, Gay Enoch, Pam Gosling and Carole Smallwood.

So with the AGM successfully concluded, we can now look forward to our Tenth Anniversary Celebrations in a few weeks' time, and perhaps to celebrating another 10 years ahead.

*Val Hawley  
Hon. President*



A message from the incoming Chairperson of Droitwich Spa & District u3a:

Those of you who attended the AGM in June will at least know my face. Others will know me a little better.

I have lived in Droitwich for almost 6 years having moved from Buckinghamshire from a two up two down 1890 wood worker's cottage in High Wycombe, to a 1970s build. It took a while to settle in. The bungalow needed total renovation! I joined a local WI group and shortly after that I joined the Petanque Group. At the time we were playing at Crowle. I began to meet people and get acquainted with my new home.

Everything stopped for about 2 years while family illness charted its course, and just when I was ready to restart, Lockdown began! A very difficult time in so many different ways for many people. I isolated for almost 18 months. It was quite difficult taking that step outside the property boundaries. After several months I've cracked it!

I have worked in Local Government, Central Government, Restorative Justice and in a team at a Sure Start Project. In 2003 I went to China as a teacher of English as a Foreign Language. An extraordinary experience and a fascinating country. I did the usual PTA duties and was Ranger Adviser for Bucks Guiding for several years. I also ran a successful Ranger Guide Unit. In between all that I started an Open University Degree course. It took 13 years to complete but I made it in the end in 2018.

I retired in 2010 when the Government indicated my pension would not increase no matter how much longer I worked! Time to hand over. I have never looked back. I read avidly. I love all kinds of music but traditional jazz and blues are my particular favourites. I enjoy gardening but am getting a tad slower at the weeding these days. I love to travel and to that end am away for 6 weeks in the summer trundling round France. In lockdown I started painting which I really enjoy but never show anyone.

I am looking forward to the challenge of Chairperson, ably assisted by my Vice Chairman, Business Secretary and the extended committee. We will go forward as a team and see where we can take Droitwich u3a next.

I cannot attend the Barn Dance unfortunately, but I will be at the Open Day event on 18<sup>th</sup> July. I hope to meet many of you there. Don't forget to enter the cake making competition.

Go well and safely.

*Sue Cook – Chair*



Dear Members

I would like to thank Sue Cook for stepping forward and taking on the Chairmanship of Droitwich Spa u3a for the next year. At the AGM I was very worried that no one would volunteer. I wish her the very best and also to Mike Bracey for taking the post of Vice Chairman; it is so important to have any future Chairman in place to be part of the discussions about the future direction of the u3a. I think we have an excellent cohort of Officers in place for the coming year; it bodes well.

My time as your Chair was certainly not at all what I planned or indeed what I was expecting but we have come through the last three years in much better shape than many other u3as and for this I have you to thank for keeping faith with us. Thank you for your patience and support.

Finally I would like to say it was an honour and pleasure to serve as your Chair for three years.

*Gay*

*A warm welcome to the following new members:*

Kathleen Mattson  
Debbie Spooner  
Shirley Cadman



**NB** an apology from me, as in May's newsletter, I mistakenly included photos from the Garden Visits group with ones taken by members of the Digital Photography Group. *Editor*

***Garden Visits: Conderton Manor, Conderton, Nr Tewkesbury.*** This is a garden which is developing as a small arboretum under the care of its owner and GGLT (Glos Gardens & Landscape Trust) member Jane Carr. Extending over 7 acres, the garden and orchard comprise of many unusual trees and are a particular joy in autumn. *Derek Oakley*



### ***Digital Photography Group***

On the next page are pictures from a recent visit to Ledbury by members of the group to see its famous market hall and to visit the church of St. Michael and All Angels. A discoloured painting of the last supper had hung in the church for more than a hundred years. The painting was recently cleaned and restored which revealed the possible signature of Titian, a 16th century Venetian artist.

*Derek Oakley*

***New members to the group are welcome.***





Photos taken on a visit to Riverside Gardens  
at Wychbold



### *Petanque – The Hawley Cup*

This competition was first played in 2019, but due to covid restrictions it hasn't been possible to hold the event for the past two years. Fortunately, we could go ahead this year, and on a perfect June summer's evening, 12 good sports (6 teams of 2), representing the three petanque groups, played for The Hawley Cup once again at Gaudet Luce.

A supportive group of spectators arrived to clap and cheer on the players who all played with sportsmanship and skill. The final was a clear win for Alan Baker and Yiannis Callas who play in the Friday afternoon group. Congratulations to both of you!

The evening was rounded off by the presentation of the cup, by Val Hawley, our Honorary President.



*By Janis Stark*

The winning score



### *Droitwich Spa u3a Wind Instrument Group*

From 1st August, DWIG will meet on the 1st and 3rd Monday afternoons in each calendar month, with the exception of the 3rd in December, from 3pm to 5pm in the new Crowle Parish Hall (the one on the left) at: Church Road, Crowle, Worcestershire, WR7 4AX.

what3words /// The simplest way to talk about location  
Crowle Parish Hall | Worcester & Droitwich Hall Hire  
About us | Crowle Parish Hall

**Wind Instrument players who can read music are invited to join**

For further details, without obligation, please contact:

David Wornham  
Tel. 01905 775840  
[flexicase@gmail.com](mailto:flexicase@gmail.com)

*U3a Cookalong by Sue Cook*



**Recipe for July - Salmon, strawberry and fennel salad.** SERVES 4

**Ingredients:**

200g packet smoked salmon torn in strips  
1 fennel bulb halved and sliced in fine strips  
50g bag rocket  
200g ripe strawberries, hulled and halved

**DRESSING:**

4tblsp olive oil  
2tblsp white wine vinegar  
2tsp wholegrain mustard  
1 tsp runny honey  
crusty brown rolls

Whisk together all dressing ingredients, season and set aside. Put smoked salmon, fennel, rocket and strawberries in a separate bowl. Drizzle dressing over the salad. Gently toss until all ingredients glisten. Finish with some black pepper. Serve with brown rolls.

Can also be served with poached salmon or trout and new potatoes.

CALORIES 198 per serving. LOW FAT

**Gin mojito**

6 mint leaves, plus additional for garnish  
1 ounce\* lime juice  
1 ounce [sugar](#) syrup  
2 ounces gin  
2 to 4 ounces [soda water](#)  
Ice, for serving (try [clear ice!](#))

In a cocktail shaker muddle the mint leaves. Add the lime juice, syrup, and gin and fill the cocktail shaker with ice. Shake until cold. Place ice into a glass, and strain in the drink. Top off the glass with [soda water](#). Garnish with additional mint leaves and lime wedges.





*Spa Walkers, Droitwich Health Walks Group, organised a celebration walk for the Platinum Jubilee on Thursday 2nd June 2022.*



Walkers from Spa Walkers, Droitwich 50+ walking group, Droitwich u3a walking group & members of the general public walked the eight mile 'Droitwich Spa Diamond Jubilee Walk'. This walk was first done for The Diamond Jubilee in 2012. We had 100 walkers then and in 2022 we matched that figure.

We were blessed with beautiful weather....'a brochure day'. We walked clockwise from Droitwich Leisure Centre, which provided us with free car parking, went on through Vines Park, then paused at Gateway Carpark for a short break. Onto The Eagle & Sun and along the Birmingham Worcester canal to Hadzor which was gearing up for a community celebration later in the day. Then we were welcomed into Gaudet Luce Golf Club where people were able to grab a refreshing drink or an ice cream. We had a picnic lunch in Yew Tree Hill Village. Although there has been a massive amount of development since we did the walk ten years ago the area is still blessed with some green open spaces. Some of you will remember that there was a campaign called SOGOS "save our green open spaces". Well we found one to picnic in. Then it was down to the footpaths through Pulley Woods & Copcut Woods where there was welcome dappled shade to meander through. We were able to cross the A38 at the wonderful new pedestrian crossing and then along Copcut Lane to St Michaels Church Salwarpe which was also gearing up for a community celebration in the afternoon. Finally, back along the Barge Canal to the Leisure Centre.

We are so lucky in Droitwich to have 4 miles of canal towpaths, Community Woods, Public rights of way and fairly quiet lanes surrounding our beautiful town. Of course not everyone walked the whole eight miles but being circular there are several spokes which enabled people to walk the distance that suited them best.

Thanks to everyone who came and made it a memorable day out to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee. **By Jan Skan**







**Calendar dates**

Monthly meetings held at The Norbury Theatre 2.30pm -3.30

No meeting in August - this will instead be the Strawberry Tea on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> at the Methodist church hall Worcester Road, 2-4pm, £2.50

Monday 15<sup>th</sup> September - a talk by Andy Griffee, local canal & river crime writer



**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**



Thank you for reading this edition of the newsletter. In particular, thank you to the people who contributed such interesting articles/groups news; the lovely photos submitted by the Digital Photography and Garden Visits groups are amazing.

Secondly, I'm sure we would all like to offer our congratulations and support to Sue Cook for stepping in at 'the eleventh hour' to take on the role of Chair for the next 12 months, also to Mike Bracey for volunteering to be Vice Chair.

The next newsletter will be published in September so please submit any articles/photos via the website by **Monday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2022** *Editor*

And finally.....I think this owl may be checking his twitter account!

Snapped at a recent falconry experience.

