



A reminder of some amazing summer days we've had this year, all taken by members of the Digital Photography Group

Beckett's Heath Farm



Worcester



Ombersley Church



Views of Ombersley

An introduction from your Vice-Chair

I was asked why I volunteered for this role as Vice -Chair of our u3a, which is a question with no direct answer but it did get me thinking why the u3a here in Droitwich is so important to nearly 500 members including myself? Retiring was seen as a time to kick back and do nothing, but we are of the generation that doing nothing is the fast route to so if being active mentally and physically keeps us thinking and acting young, learning and living well then these are worthwhile pursuit in themselves. Perhaps it is these values that made me put my name forward to become Vice-Chair and return something to these ideals.

It may be helpful if you know a little about me: I was born in Sutton Coldfield and have two sisters, I am married to Sara and we have three children between us. I moved to Droitwich in the mid 1980's as I was working in Worcester following five years in Kuwait. I am a Chartered Electrical Engineer by profession starting with Midlands Electricity Board in the late 1960's. Leaving MEB after 32 years I completed an IT Degree at Worcester University before going on to work for various contractors to the power industry, finishing my career as Covid struck with Morrison Utility Services heading up electrical operational safety for over 500 staff. It was 52 good years in an industry I loved.

Des Lawrence and I lead the genealogy group which meets each month at Droitwich Library, and I am a member of both the Maths, Science and Technology and the cycling for pleasure groups. Away from the u3a my passion is skiing and I like watching local cricket and a little rugby plus doing DIY though this is mostly for the kids these days!

Mike Bracey





Spotlight on the groups

A Pirates Trio from u3a Droitwich Instrument Group (DWIG) were in action at the Wye Float, Hereford on 13th August, playing water themed music and collecting for the Midlands Air Ambulance Charity. £37.72 raised.



David Wornham

Wind Instrument players who can read music are invited to join

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/152100418677077/>
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCzxByvWbtX_7A3Rb5tnkozQ

Maths, Science & Technology - Meetings are open to all Droitwich u3a members, held on the third Friday of most months at Rotary House, start 10.30. £2.50 to include refreshments.

16th September: Legacy Survey of Space & Time by Steve Barrett

21st October: A walk through computer programming & IT by Mike Bracy



Growers Group Diary - In March, at the beginning of the year, our meeting was held in the garden of one of our members, where we looked round his garden and discussed the monthly meetings ahead of us.

For April we enjoyed a lunch meeting at Rowberry's garden centre. This was followed by attending the Reg Moule's 2pm monthly talk on what we should be doing in the garden this month and coming home with lots of helpful information.

Our May meeting took place with a lunch at a pub in Feckenham followed by a visit to a Feckenham Bee Keeper. We viewed beehives at the bottom of his garden where he went on to show us how he extracts the honey and answered our many questions. It was a fascinating afternoon where we gained lots of bee knowledge during our time there.

In sunny June we met in a member's garden and marvelled at the many white lilies our host kept in pots.

The July meeting was a trip to National Trust Canons Ashby.

We had booked a group tour of the gardens by the Head Gardener and had time to look round the house and have lunch before we were due for our garden tour, which was most interesting. This year they were growing chickpeas for the first time.

By kind invitation August saw us visiting Falsom Pits Allotments in Droitwich. This was a fascinating afternoon talking to a very experienced vegetable grower. One of our members also has a part plot here where this year he has grown some amazing runner beans.

As so many of our members cannot make the September meeting we are giving this month a miss!

In October we shall be meeting in the garden of one of our members who has installed raised beds, so it will be of much interest for us to see how and what has been growing.

The November meeting will be a Christmas lunch and we are really hoping to be able to combine this with a talk/demo on fruit pruning.

There is no meeting in December or January.

We have 2 spaces free in the Growers Group and you are very welcome to join us. We meet on the third Thursday afternoon of the month from 2.15-4pm, although this year we shall not be having a meeting in September. Please contact via the u3a website.

Sheila Baskeyfield - Growers Group Leader

[Garden Visits Groups](#)

Photos from a visit to Kiftsgate near Chipping Campden





A glorious sunny visit to Wharf House at Tenbury Wells



Digital Photography Group



The artwork is painted on the wall at the entrance to Worcester Crowngate bus station. From there we walked to the Cornmarket where the picture of the small statue was taken. This is one of four small statues recently located in the Cornmarket and is of Charles II standing in front of buildings through which he escaped during the Battle of Worcester in September 1651. Moving on from the Cornmarket the other pictures are general views and buildings along Friar Street.

Report by Carole Smallwood on the Summer Events

Barn Dance 16th July



It was somewhat unfortunate that 6 members were taken ill with Covid and unable to attend the event and a 4 further people did not arrive on the night. However, the members that did attend had a whale of a time! Everyone was met at the door by Val Hawley, our Honorary President, with a welcome glass of Prosecco to get the evening off to a good start. I had never been to a Barn Dance before and so didn't know quite what to expect. The band, Herbal Remedy, was excellent, with an accordion player and guitarist and soon everyone was whirling around the floor under the instruction of the caller, getting steps wrong, correcting themselves and having another go. There were peals of laughter from people dancing and those watching were entertained both by the dancers and the music. Halfway through we all stopped for a well-earned break and a cold supper and after we had eaten and managed to get our breath back we all started off again. It was an evening of really good fun and everyone there said that they would be prepared to do it all over again – and that included the band!

Strawberry Tea 15th August

With so many members offering to help set up the room, the preparation for this event was done in double-quick time. We had more members attend than we have ever had for this event and everyone enjoyed the strawberries, scones and the cakes which members had kindly donated. An excellent quiz had been devised by Pam Douglas and Gay Enoch and members tested their wits and memories whilst enjoying the lovely goodies on offer and I have received several e-mails from members saying how much they enjoyed the afternoon. Many thanks to everyone who volunteered to make the event such a success.



Gay receiving a token of appreciation for her commitment as previous Chair

“Thank you to all those kind members who contributed towards the Webb’s voucher as a token of appreciation for my efforts as Chair over the last three years. It was most unexpected and a very pleasant surprise. It has been my pleasure to work with all members who have served with me during the years I have been on the committee. My pleasure is in anticipating what to get. Having spent my free time starting to reorganise my garden I know there is little space for yet more plants and my back tells me it is time I did things more long distance so perhaps a labour saving tool of some description is in order. I shall spend a happy time deciding. Thank you so much one and all.”

Groups: I have taken over the role as existing groups’ co-ordinator and would very much like to visit all groups, a job that I began when I first became Chair and would like to complete. Mike Bracey, our new Vice Chair, has said that he would like to accompany me on these visits where possible. This is merely for us to get to know members and for me to understand how the groups are run so that I am better able to advise others on the options available should advice be requested. I hasten to add there is no right way to do this; groups are run to suit the group leader and the members, not to some prescription from on high.

Cont.....

Please could all group leaders check their website pages to ensure that information concerning their group is current, especially with regard to days, time of meetings and place. This is easily put right by emailing the website administrators with the correct information should it be required.

I am always available should either group leaders or members wish to consult me through the website.

Gay Enoch



U3a Cookalong by Sue Cook

CHUNKY CORN CHOWDER

100g unsmoked bacon, cut in small pieces
1 medium onion finely chopped
2 celery stalks finely chopped
1 garlic clove crushed
2tsp chopped thyme leaves
450g corn kernels (5 cobs)
2 large potatoes, cut in 1cm cubes
1 bay leaf
1/2pt chicken stock
1/4pt milk
3tblsp single cream
Pinch cayenne
Chopped chives to serve
Fry bacon until it is crisp. Remove, drain and set aside.



Add onion, celery, garlic, thyme, salt and pepper to the bacon fat and cook until the onion is translucent. Add corn, potatoes, bay leaf and stock. Bring soup to the boil on high heat, then simmer for about 20 minutes until potatoes are tender. Discard the bay leaf, add the milk and cream and heat through.

Spoon a third of the soup into a blender and blitz until smooth then return it to the pot. Season with the cayenne. Ladle into bowls and scatter the top with crispy bacon and chopped chives.

Can be eaten alone or with warm bread rolls.
Calories per serving 288. Good source of Vitamin C

AUTUMN BROWN BETTY

Ingredients:

- 115g white bread for breadcrumbs
- 175g unsalted butter
- 6 apples, peeled, cored and thickly sliced
- 30ml (2tbsp) fresh lemon juice
- 75g (3oz) light brown sugar
- 1tsp ground cinnamon
- 1tsp ground nutmeg
- extra thick double cream, to serve



Method

1. Preheat the oven to Gas Mark 6, 200°C, fan 180°C.
2. Spread the breadcrumbs onto a large shallow baking tray and toast for 5-6 minutes or until golden. Tip into a bowl, add the melted butter and stir well to coat.
3. In a separate bowl, mix the apple slices with the lemon juice, sugar, cinnamon and nutmeg and half the toasted breadcrumbs. Tip into a well-buttered 1 litre ovenproof dish and then scatter with the rest of the toasted breadcrumbs.
4. Grate over a little more nutmeg, cover tightly with foil and bake for 35-40 minutes or until the apple is tender.
5. Remove the foil and bake for another 15 minutes or until the breadcrumbs are golden and crisp. Serve hot with thick cream.

It has been quite an eventful summer apart from some very hot weather! The Commonwealth Games gave those of us interested in sport something amazing to focus on. I went twice to watch the athletics at Alexander Stadium and was enthralled by the whole experience.

Unfortunately the heatwave came just at the wrong time for the Open Afternoon; hopefully that shouldn't be the case in October! Thank you to Carole for her report on the Barn Dance and the Strawberry Tea – both sound well received and enjoyable. Congratulations to everyone who was involved with the organising of both events.

Thank you to Sue Cook for two more recipes which would definitely be worth trying.

*Some of the groups have had a summer break and hopefully once up and running again this month there will be some updates to report in the newsletter. The next edition will be published in November although it will be a little later in the month as I shall be away. Please submit any articles/photos via the website by **Monday 14th November.***

Editor

Calendar dates

Monthly meetings held at The Norbury Theatre 2.30pm -3.30

Monday 19th September - a talk by Andy Griffee: local canal & river crime writer

Monday 17th October - Andrew Pedrick: Autumn Gardening

Monday 21st November - Alison Wakeman: Confessions of a Swarm Collector

**Monday 3rd October - rearranged Open Afternoon
at the Community Hall, Heritage Way, 2pm**

