

DROITWICH SPA & DISTRICT
NEWSLETTER

March
2023
Issue 37

*Little
Symbols of
Spring
approaching*



A very warm welcome to the following new members

Judy Kirk	Alan Woolhead	Peter Bartle
Vida Davies	Christina Lindegaard	Elizabeth Bartle
Anne Edgley	Lynda Read	
Keith Edgley	Jane Keel	
Dee Hulme	Marilyn Leach	
Anita Slade	Steve Harris	

Message from the Vice Chair

Moving Forward

There is no item for the newsletter from Sue Cook this month as she has recently had a hip replacement and I am sure we wish her well with her recovery.

Publicity Photograph Project

Can I thank all those members who have contributed to this project by allowing their pictures to be included. We have captured many great moments and perhaps we can share these in an exhibition soon. It has been my great pleasure to visit several groups over the past few weeks as part of the publicity photograph project. I have seen first-hand the great work our Group Leaders are doing and the enthusiasm of our members. I thank you all. I would also like to thank the Digital Photographic Group for the work they have put into this project and in particular Alan Meyrick. First draft of the new publicity material has been prepared and there will be more on this in coming newsletters.



While it has only been possible to visit a few groups to date it is my intention over the forthcoming months to visit many more and I look forward to meeting all our leaders at the Group Leaders Evening at the end of March to discuss this.

No Committee – No Droitwich Spa and District u3a!

Talking to members and explaining the challenges as a committee we have in keeping our u3a going has highlighted many misconceptions of what is involved in being a committee member. There is a line of thought that you must attend long, meaningless meetings and dedicate many hours a week to the position, this is far from the truth.

We currently run nine monthly meetings per year and these meetings last no more than an hour and a half. In addition to this, depending on your contribution, there may be a couple of additional hours a month or put it another way less than an hour a week! Two other points in my discussions were raised and these were what skills do I need and will training and support be given? Regarding the latter two, yes training and support from existing committee members will be given and as for skills, we do not reach our age without picking up all the life skills necessary for being a member of our u3a committee. You should be able to answer emails, but I see no sign that this is a problem as it is the way we communicate with you now. I will be very pleased to talk to any member who is prepared to give our u3a a few hours of their time so we can continue to develop. Please contact me via the Droitwich u3a website.

Let me again thank all those I have met and have contributed to the discussion on the future of our u3a.

Mike Bracey

Membership Fees for 2023/24

The committee has recently discussed membership renewal fees, and it was decided to set the membership fees as follows:

- Full membership fee of £10 for the year from 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024
- Reduced membership fee of £8 for the period from 1 October 2023 to 31 March 2024
- Reduced membership fee of £6 for the period from 1 January 2024 to 31 March 2024

In addition, a year's subscription to the Third Age Matters magazine will be £3, and is only available to members who renew or join in April 2023

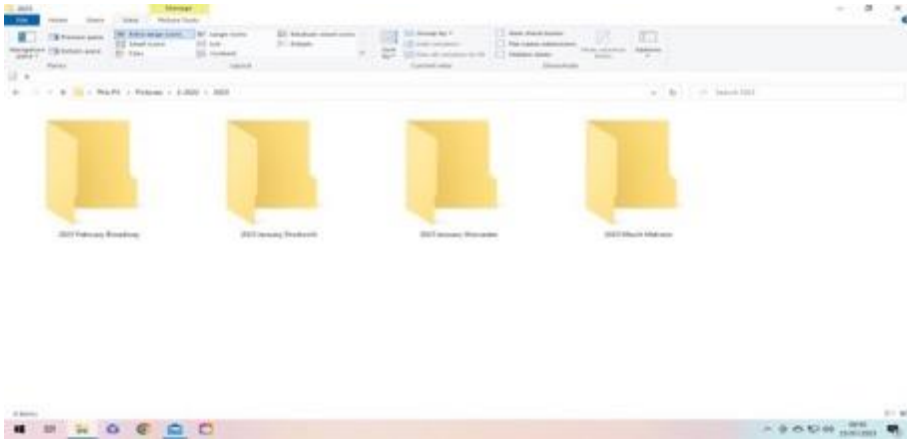
Please note that we have fixed membership costs which need to be covered. These are £4 per member per year as our subscription to the national u3a body, the Third Age Trust, and £1 per member per year for our use of the Beacon management information system.

Membership Renewal Process

Individual Membership Renewal Forms (already pre-populated with your existing contact details) will be distributed to you from 1 April 2023 onwards. If you have changed your postal address and not yet informed the Membership Secretary, please do so before the end of March, as otherwise the form will go to your old address.

Please write any corrections to your contact details on the Membership Renewal Form, and return the Form to the Membership Secretary at the address printed on the Form. Membership fees may be paid by bank transfer or cheque - full details of how payments can be made will be printed on the Form.

Confirmation of your membership renewal with a Membership Card for 2023/24 and a Members Leaflet will be returned to you following 1 April 2023.



At the end of the year create the folder for 2024 and continue the catalogue. Photos from whatever software you are using can be exported to the appropriate folder.

The session ended with a demonstration by Peter on photographing oil on water.



On 24th January the group held the second of its sessions at Droitwich Library. During this session Ted gave a presentation to demonstrate the process of producing Monochrome (black & white) and Sepia photos.

There are basically two ways that this can be done. The first is by setting the digital camera to Monochrome and the second is by taking the picture in colour then converting to Monochrome using a software package on the computer.

If you don't have the computer software then the option of setting the camera is for you.



While the setup for different cameras and different camera makers may vary the illustrations used here are for the Nikon D5100 camera and were arrived at from the menu/Shooting menu/Set Picture control.

The picture to the left shows the camera set for Monochrome (Black & White)



This picture shows the camera set for Sepia

On the first picture above at Filter effects are the range of filters yellow, orange, red & green which are the equivalents to the screw on filters used on the lens of old black and white film cameras.

If you take the picture by setting the camera however you have only one picture but if you take in colour and convert on the computer you have both pictures.



The picture below shows a section of the window of Adobe Lightroom Classic used by Ted to demonstrate conversion from colour to Black & White
From the same window Sepia can be obtained using split toning.



Monochrome and Sepia can also be obtained using Photoshop as below. Clicking the tint box gets Sepia.

This article has been produced using Adobe software but other software packages are available such as Capture One and Affinity. There is also the option to download free packages such as Photopad.

Following the presentation by Ted Alan gave a short presentation on Street Photography illustrated in monochrome.

"Cooling Off" - it is important to capture the moment



'Its behind you" - when another photographer cannot see what is there / or photo bombed by someone who has some other image in their viewer!

Little Amal - when the crowd prevents you from taking a photo, take the opportunity to snap another's image on their mobile phone



More from the Digital Photography Group.....

At the foot of the Malvern Hills and to the east of Hereford is the market town of Ledbury. Oozing culture, famous for its landmark black and white buildings and streets, and brimming with creativity, Ledbury's stamp of individuality has made it a destination that keeps on giving.

Tuesdays and Saturdays sees its weekly markets in the stunning Grade 1 listed Market House, located in the centre of town. The key to discovering Ledbury is to explore its myriad of mews and side streets, literally every few yards along the long High Street and the Homend. Crammed with intriguing independent shops, eateries and galleries, often family run and sometimes owned by those who visited, fell in love with the enchanting town and never left.



The trip to Ledbury also included the theme of street photography which included the following local characters...



To join us contact Alan Meyrick at alanmeyrick@btinternet.com

New Groups looking for members

Elizabeth Bartle has offered to start a **Garden Lovers Group** as a second garden visiting group . The original Garden Visits Group will continue to run for those members who have attended regularly in the past and for the present is closed to new members. This new group therefore offers an exciting opportunity to interested members to experience and dream of ideas they would like to incorporate into their own gardens as well as enjoy a pleasant morning in the company of like-minded members. Please email ef.bartle@me.com if you wish to join this group. Proposed dates for Garden Lovers:

5th April – exploratory meeting at Springridge Nurseries, Crowle at 10.15 a.m. Meet Elizabeth and other members of the group and discuss planned visits.

3rd May

7th June

5th July

2nd August

6th September

Circle Dancing..... Something new for our u3a. Don't know what it is? These are dances from all around the world that are generally performed in a circle. They are not overly vigorous or fast and can easily be adapted to suit any mobility issues. They are easy to learn, indeed you probably already know many of the steps or movements used. Slow and very graceful would be a good description.

Nordic Walking..... Still hoping that more members will sign up to make this a viable group.

Please contact Gay Enoch, Group Co-ordinator, at gabrielleroma@hotmail.co.uk or 01905 778743 if you are interested in joining Circle Dancing or Nordic Walking.

U3a Online learning events.....You may not be aware that the national body of the u3a runs online classes. One of our members joined the “How to solve cryptic crosswords” class which was run over 6 sessions and she thoroughly enjoyed it. To access these classes you need to go to <https://www.u3a.org.uk>events>educational-events>. If you click on “subscribe here” you will be kept informed of forthcoming classes. The courses are free but you need to sign up in good time as they are popular.

Riviera Travel.....We continue to receive commission from Riviera Travel if our members use this company and mention that they are members of Droitwich U3a, AT THE TIME OF BOOKING .

In the last year we have received just over £1,300 which helps our funds.

Pam Gosling

Calendar dates

Monthly meetings/talks held at The Norbury Theatre 2.30pm

- || Monday 20th March - All Things Kimono, a talk by Nigel Evans
- || Monday 17th April - Medieval History & Historical Crime novels, a talk by Glen Slater
- || Monday 15th May - Working on the Royal Yacht Britannia, a talk by David Rushforth
- || Talks by the Maths, Science and Technology group held at Rotary House:
- || Friday 17th March - How to design an aircraft by Bob & Ian Johnston
- || Friday 21st April - Powerpoint for u3a presentations by Mike Bracey

BEREAVEMENT CAFE - AN OPPORTUNITY FOR DROITWICH? -

Once a month a Bereavement Support Group meets in Warndon, Worcester, called "The Bereavement Cafe". Their aim is to provide a space where people can meet others who have been bereaved, share their experiences, and find mutual support. It is also possible to attend a "Bereavement Journey" course. There is nothing like this in Droitwich. However, someone has come forward with a vision to start up a Bereavement Cafe within Droitwich, (as this idea is in such an early stage, no actual location has been decided), and is looking for volunteers to join her. This is an exciting opportunity which will fill a great need. If you are interested to find out more, please contact Donna Child at The Old Library (CVS) on 01905 779115 who will pass your details on. Some basic training will be available, so please don't be put off if you feel you don't have the necessary expertise!

I am a Welcome Guide for u3a and over the years I have talked to new members who have moved to Droitwich to be close to family after the death of a spouse or partner. However, some have found it very difficult as they have left friends behind only to find that during the week the adults are at work and the children are at school then being taken to after school activities. At weekends, the adults are doing the shopping, the laundry, transporting children to activities & other essential maintenance of their house & garden. The result is that the bereaved person is seeing very little of the family & their friends are far away. They have joined u3a for company.

There may be members who have got through such circumstances who might feel they could volunteer. There may be members who could benefit from this bereavement help.

My brother's wife is about to attend a bereavement counselling course at the hospice where my brother passed away but I don't think other people have access to such counselling.

Catherine Bach

Thank you for reading this edition of the newsletter and thank you to all who have contributed. Once again there are some delightful photos from the Photography Group.

*The next newsletter will be published in May so please submit any articles/photos to the editor via the website by **Monday 8th May***

Please consider sending a few words (and photo if possible) about your group or even something that you think would interest other members – just a single paragraph would suffice. Let's make the newsletter really news-worthy for all our members!

Editor

