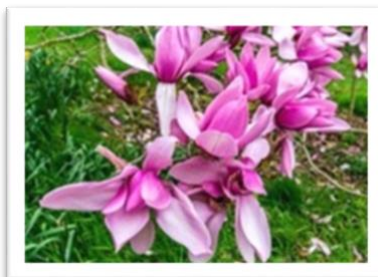
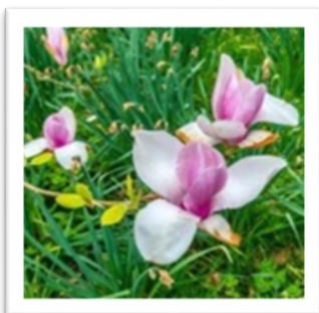




*Spring is here,
albeit rather
soggy a lot of
the time!*



From the Visit Gardens group - taken at Batsford Arboretum (more photos further on)



*A very warm welcome to the following new members:
Catherine Harris, Maureen Holmes, Thomas Holmes*

Membership 2023/24

Reminder to members that subscription renewals need to be made by 31st May. Any queries please contact Pam Gosling the membership secretary.

Message from the Vice Chair. I had the pleasure at the recent Cheese and Wine evening for group leaders to meet and discuss some of their challenges and how as a committee we can help; without their commitment we would not be able to run around a hundred sessions a month for our membership. I had the opportunity to thank those that were at the Cheese and Wine evening and I intend to meet many more of you as the year progresses. We will continue to encourage members to become Group Leaders so we can continue to grow our offering to you. If you have an idea for a group and would like to develop it, please talk to a committee member, or go to our website for contact details.

I have in previous issues written about the need for members to come forward to serve on the Committee and that is still the case. While we do need members to put their names forward as Nomination Forms are now available, we also need a quorum of not less than 75 members to attend the June monthly meeting at the Norbury Theatre so a committee can be approved by the membership. While 75 members attending out of a membership of 500 does not seem a large ask, history shows us that achieving this is a struggle. Without your support what we can provide as an organisation will be curtailed.

Mike Bracey



Message from the Groups' Coordinator: In recent weeks I have been visiting many groups and I would like to thank all members who have welcomed me in to one of their meetings. It has been a pleasure to meet old friends and make the acquaintance of new ones. It has been fascinating to see and hear how groups operate. It just brings home to me that there really is no set way of running a group other than in a way that suits all the members of the group. A big 'Thank You' to you all.

We are offering members, see the advertisement in this newsletter, an opportunity to try Circle Dancing on Friday, 26th May from 10.00 – 12.00p.m. at Salwarpe Village Hall for £2.00pp. Do come and try something new. Email gabrielleroma@hotmail.co.uk to let me know if you intend to come.

Spotlight on the Groups

Digital Photography Group

On a rather damp February morning we visited the Droitwich Marina. The Marina is a family run 238 berth site which was first opened in March 2012 and is part of a working dairy farm set in the delightful Worcestershire countryside. Built on a 13 acre pasture field it was developed into what is now the Droitwich Spa Marina.



The picturesque Worcestershire village of Elmley Castle stands at the foot of Bredon Hill. The village name refers to an 11th-century fortress erected by the powerful Beauchamp family, of which little trace remains. Below the castle site, at the end of the broad main street, stands St Mary's Church, also a product of the 11th century. Herringbone stonework on the chancel walls is a reminder of the church's Norman origins, as are several ancient carvings in the church porch, where you will find likenesses of a pig and a hare. The tree lined main street is populated by black & white and old red brick cottages. At the end of the main street is the Queen Elizabeth Public House with its sign depicting the visit of Queen Elizabeth 1 to the village in August 1575. The church was rebuilt and extended in the 12th century and much of the nave is from that period. The wide west tower was added in the 13th century, then around 1340 the church was enlarged with a north transept and south aisle. A north aisle was added in the late 15th century when the tower was heightened with the present top stage.



The Digital Photography group visited Abbey Park Evesham and the famous Bell Tower.

Evesham Bell Tower is the freestanding belfry for the town of Evesham, Worcestershire. Originally founded in 1207 by Adam Sortes, the present tower, the fourth to stand on the same site, was founded and built by Clement Lichfield, Abbot of Evesham as the bell tower for Evesham Abbey in the 16th century. It is the only part of the abbey complex to survive wholly intact. Considered one of England's finest medieval belfries, the tower sits in the centre of Abbey Park, alongside the parish churches of All Saints and St Lawrence. Since the Dissolution of the Monasteries, during which Evesham Abbey was almost entirely demolished, the tower has served as the belfry for the town's churches. The tower is the town's most significant landmark and is designated a Grade 1 listed building on the National Heritage list for England, the highest possible rating.



To join our group contact Alan Meyrick at alanmeyrick@btinternet.com

And finally we recently visited Gheluvelt Park Worcester. The park opened on 17th June 1922 to commemorate the Worcestershire Regiments 2nd Battalion after their part in the Battle of Gheluvelt, a World War I battle that took place on 31st October 1914 in Gheluvelt, Belgium. The park straddles Barbourne Brook and has two distinct areas - a formal park to the east and an informal area managed for wildlife conservation to the west, next to the River Severn.



Garden Lovers' Group

Our first meeting in April at Springridge Nursery was met with enthusiasm and we made a plan of which gardens we would like to visit and then enjoyed a demonstration of the making of a hanging basket of summer plants and another of kitchen herbs. The visits are in the mornings on the first Wednesday of the month from April to October with perhaps a snowdrop visit in the winter. We meet in the Leisure Centre car park to try to lift share where possible.

Future dates:

7th June White Cottage Garden

5th July Badge Court

2nd August Westacres

6th September Picton Gardens

4th October tbc



Our first visit, at the beginning of May, was to Whitlenghe Gardens. We enjoyed coffee, cake and a chat then walked around the interesting gardens.

Couldn't resist buying a plant or two afterwards!

Please contact Elizabeth ef.bartle@me.com if you are interested in joining this new group.

Visit Gardens Group

The Visit Gardens Group recently visited the Batsford Arboretum and Garden Centre situated just a mile west of the historic market town of Moreton in the Marsh in the heart of the Cotswolds. The Arboretum is home to a unique collection of some of the world's most beautiful and rare trees, shrubs and bamboos spread across fifty six acres.



By Derek Oakley



Wine Appreciation Group – wines of France

A dozen of the group met on the evening of 15th April in Rotary House. We tasted six wines from the southern half of France – chosen more or less at random and ranging in price from about £10 to £17. Some were very much better than others and some better with food – everyone brought some snacks/nibbles. The least favourite wine was the Chardonnay-Viognier blend from Pays d'Oc and best of the evening was the Haut Medoc (generally voted 8+ out of 10) - which was also the most expensive! We agreed our next tasting in June will be six wines from the northern half of France.

Roy Thurston - Wine Appreciation Group Leader



circledancingforall.org.uk

**Come and try Circle Dancing on Friday 26th May 2023 from 10.00-12.00pm
at**

Salwarpe Village Hall

£2 per person (inc. tea/coffee)

[Names to \[gabrielleroma@hotmail.co.uk\]\(mailto:gabrielleroma@hotmail.co.uk\)](mailto:gabrielleroma@hotmail.co.uk)

Try circle dancing to delightfully varied music, coming from different countries and times. Some steps will be traditional, some modern. The dances can be fun, joyful, simple, energetic or meditative.

Dances will be taught and walked through first.

Good for mind, body and soul!!!

No partners needed.

Don't think you're mobile enough to dance, give this a try and find that you are.

For a better idea of what we could be doing click on these links:

[\(114\) RODODACHTILOS Greek Dance Ροδοδάχτυλος αυγή - Μικρασιάτικα τραγούδια \(Αρτάκη Κυζίκου\) - YouTube](#)

[\(114\) Hora Chadera - YouTube](#)

[\(114\) Joc Aroman, Romanian folk dance - YouTube](#)

Other articles

"Here's a photo of me with my team on Eggheads recently, didn't go as well as we hoped, despite watching old episodes, drawing up spreadsheets on the Eggheads strengths and weaknesses. We didn't get the subjects we hoped for and knew their answers, as it happens!"

Pam Douglas

Congratulations to Pam and fellow team mates for at least appearing on the show – it must have been fun.



Community Coronation Celebration

The sun shone and the Lido Park was full of people of all ages for the Coronation Charity Event on the 7th May. We displayed our new signs at the event on our stand and they received a very positive reaction. Martin Egginton brought along some of his genealogy research which enabled us to show and talk about the activities we have to offer new members. Thank you, Martin. We had many members of the public showing interest and taking away leaflets with membership forms. We had existing and former members come and talk to us, and it was good and encouraging to see you all. They spoke to members of the public also, thank you for your contribution to the afternoon and with the Salvation Army Brass Band in the bandstand, it was a very productive event.

Mike Bracey



Calendar dates

Monthly meetings/talks held at The Norbury Theatre 2.30pm

Monday 15th May: Working on the Royal Yacht Britannia, a talk by David Rushforth

Monday 19th June: Annual General Meeting followed by Traditional Dance by Aelfgythe Dancers
No meetings in July and August

Summer Events:

Saturday 22nd July: Barn Dance - Hampton Lovett parish rooms at 7pm

Monday 21st August: Strawberry tea - Droitwich Methodist Hall at 2pm



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

The beginning of May has been busy with several major events on the calendar but unfortunately the weather hasn't been altogether very friendly! At least the Eurovision Song Contest will take place indoors – no weather issues! The event in the Lido Park was well supported and it was great to see so many people with picnics soaking up the atmosphere and listening to the band.

*The next newsletter will be published in July so please submit any articles/photos to the editor via the website or email to dorothy_colman@yahoo.co.uk by **Monday 3rd July***

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.

Editor

