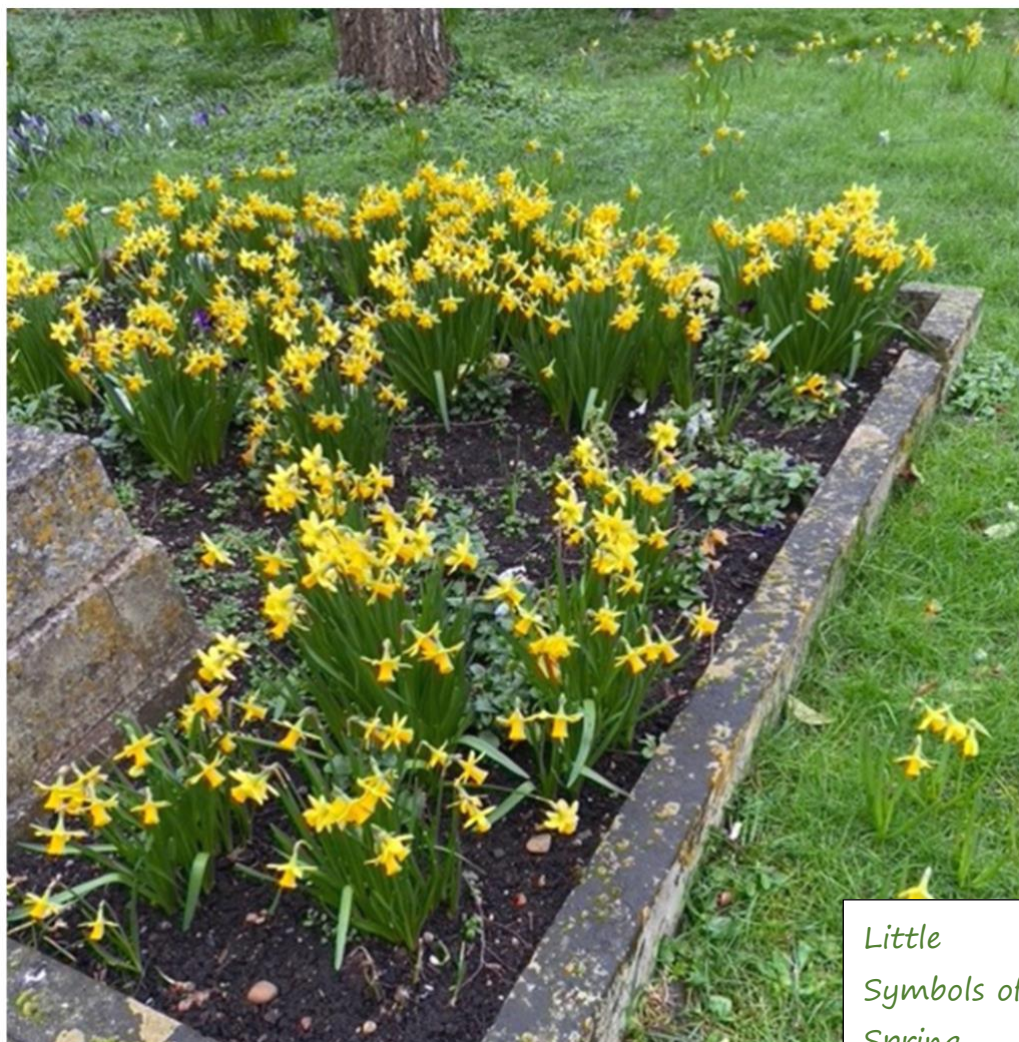


March
2024
Issue 43

NEWSLETTER



*Little
Symbols of
Spring
approaching*



*It's that time of the year.....***Membership Renewal for 2024/25**

Membership Fees for 2024/25. The committee has recently discussed membership renewal fees, and it was decided to set the membership fees the same as last year, i.e. as follows:

- Full membership fee of £10 for the year from 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025
- Reduced membership fee of £8 for the period from 1 October 2024 to 31 March 2025
- Reduced membership fee of £6 for the period from 1 January 2025 to 31 March 2025

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 2024.

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 ...

The Membership Renewal Process will be similar to the one adopted last year, but with some changes designed to save money on printing and postage and will hopefully be more convenient for members.

... for Members who have supplied us with an email address

Individual Membership Renewal Requests (which will include your existing contact details) will be sent to you by email from 1 April 2024 onwards. If you have changed your email address and not yet informed the Membership Secretary, please do so before the end of March, as otherwise the Request will go to your old email address.

Membership fees may be paid by bank transfer or by cheque - full details of how payments can be made will be supplied with the Request. If you wish to pay by Bank Transfer, please reply to the email Request by email, including details about the Bank Transfer in your email, and any corrections to your contact details. Alternatively, if you wish to pay by Cheque, please send the cheque by post to the Membership Secretary, including a printed copy of the Request, and including any corrections to your contact details. You may instead, hand-in the above at a Monthly Meeting.

Please note that if you wish to pay the membership fees for yourself and another member (eg a husband, wife or partner) as a single payment, please make the payment from a joint account. Otherwise, our ability to claim Gift Aid (see below) is compromised. If this is not possible, each member should make their own membership fee payment.

Confirmation of your membership renewal will be sent by email along with an e-Card Membership Card for 2024/25 following 1 April 2024. The e-Card will be in the form of a PDF attachment to the email. The 2024/25 Members Leaflet will be available for members on the Droitwich u3a website, and from which you may then obtain a printed copy.

... there will be separate arrangements for Members who do not use email

Gift Aid... From April 2024 we are going to start claiming Gift Aid from HMRC. This should increase our income by something like 20-25%, but at no additional cost to yourself. Our understanding is that for UK tax payers, the whole of your membership fee is eligible for Gift Aid, so long as either your Income Tax or Capital Gains Tax payments are in excess of the membership fee.

So ... following your membership renewal, we will be sending you a request asking you complete a Gift Aid Declaration to give us permission to claim Gift Aid from your membership fee. For members who have supplied us with an email address this request will be sent as an email, to which you can reply by email, otherwise it will be posted. It should be emphasised that you are entirely free to decide whether or not you wish to give us permission to claim Gift Aid.

Spotlight on the Groups



SINGING FOR PLEASURE IS FOR ALL OF US!!

Droitwich Baptist Church 2nd & 4th Wednesdays of each month 2 – 4 pm

YOU – yes YOU! – are invited to join our lovely group. The group is friendly and informal and it honestly doesn't matter whether you sing like a corncrake or a nightingale – all are welcome

The only requirement is to *enjoy* singing songs. People's voices do change as they get older – so it's perfectly OK to jump an octave up or down mid-song to suit your vocal range – we are totally flexible!

We each have a folder containing the lyrics of 150 songs and we sing around 25 of them each time. They are old pop songs, folk songs, songs from musicals and the Great American Songbook. There is a mid-session break for tea and biscuits and a chat.

Our range of songs includes:

Strangers in the Night. A Taste of Honey. Speak Softly Love. Crazy Little Thing Called Love. A World of Our Own. The Deadwood Stage. Annie's Song. Just the Way You Are. Take Me Home, Country Roads. Any Dream Will Do. The Bare Necessities. Ferry Cross the Mersey. Wouldn't it be Lovely? Thankyou for the Music. Sweet Caroline. Waterloo Sunset. Well Did You Evah? Mull of Kintyre. Memory. Puttin' on the Ritz..... and 130 more!

A kind of magic happens when we all bring our voices together. Do come and try us without obligation. There is plenty of space in the hall to accommodate more members.

Gill Ansfield



Wine Appreciation Group by Roy Thurston

A dozen of the group met in Rotary House at 6:30 on 21st February to taste some lesser known wines from Italy. The prices ranged from about £5 to about £15 and were tasted with the usual enthusiasm. We gave the wines an average rating out of 10 on a purely personal basis:

- Whites: Triplica Greco Di Tufo - 7.5 - Pleasant summer's day drinking
- Saladini Pilastris Comes Pecorino - 7.0 - ditto
- Nero Oro Rose - 6.0 - Not very interesting
- Reds: Castello Nero di Troia (from Puglia) - 5 - Disappointing
- Corte Ferro Frappato Nerello Mascalese - 8.5 - Very pleasant and good value
- Villa Borghetti Valpolicella Ripasso - 9.0 - The best wine but also the most expensive – not as good value

The theme for the next meeting was agreed to be wines from the USA – if possible not from California. These may not be so easy to find.



Local History Group

You are welcome to join us for talks at the Emmanuel Church, Blake Avenue. Doors open 10.00 for refreshments, talks start 10.30.

Cost £2.50

Friday March 8th - Sue Helps 'My approach to genealogy'.

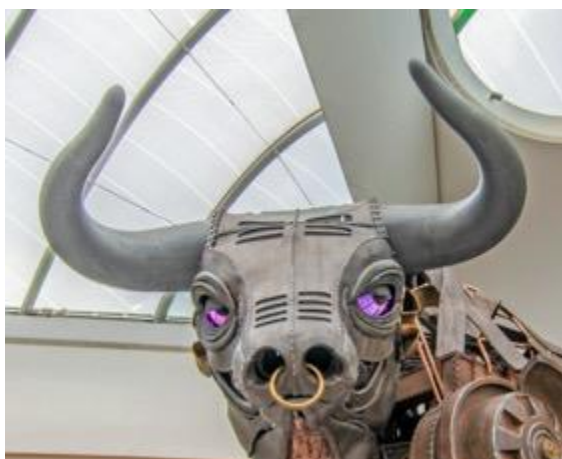
Friday April 12th - Howard Robinson 'Powick & the Battle of Worcester'

Friday May 10th - Ken Bonham 'Some Worcestershire barns and their wider context'

The Digital Photography Group visited Worcester Cathedral to photograph the Christmas trees displayed along the Cloisters. The sparkling Christmas trees are always innovatively and individually designed and decorated by local schools, charities and organisations and are a wonderful sight to be enjoyed by all the family. And it promised to be especially spectacular this time with even more trees than ever!



The Group recently made an extended visit to Birmingham. Subjects included Ozzy the Bull at New Street Station, architecture and sculpture in New Street, Victoria Square and Chamberlain Square. The group also visited the amazing Digbeth Street Art. Pictures included Ozzy the Bull, The Gold Statue of the three credited with developing Birmingham during the industrial revolution, The Green Man in the custard factory complex, Reflections in Chamberlain Square, The Magnifying Glass street art in Floodgate Street and Ozzy Osbourne street art in Digbeth.



To join our group contact
Alan Meyrick at
ameyrick54@gmail.com



Maths, Science & Technology group

Friday 15th March: Medical Imaging....talk by Steve Barratt
Friday 19th April: More fascinating parasites? By Mike Ansfield
Rotary House, 10am for 10.30. £2.50

Monthly Meetings 2024 – Norbury Theatre

Commencing at 2:30pm

Don't forget our monthly meetings held at the Norbury theatre and covering a wide range of topics. Tea and coffee is available at the end.

Monday 18th March

Councils of Voluntary Services – Droitwich CVS

Lucy Bird will be telling us all about the work she does within Droitwich CVS as a Community Builder. Set up in 1985 as part of the national network for Councils of Voluntary Services they work to support, promote, and develop local voluntary action and have been working closely with the community ever since. As she says, "To be working out in the community and all the villages is a joy".

Monday 15th April

Alternative Therapy, Complementary Medicine, and Reflexology

Monday 20th May Digital Photography

I hope you found the newsletter interesting and cheers to those 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 13th 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!

The May edition will be the final newsletter that I will be producing. I've really enjoyed editing the newsletter over the past few years but I think it's time for a change and perhaps some fresh ideas. If someone would like to take it on please let me know and I'll be happy to spend some time going through the basics with you. Contact me on dorothy_colman@yahoo.co.uk.

Editor

And finally, for fans of G & S.....

Gilbert and Sullivan at Malvern Theatre 5 – 7 September 2024

We are pleased to advise you that our National Gilbert and Sullivan Opera Company will be presenting a short season of Gilbert and Sullivan at Malvern theatre this coming September.

Programme:

Thursday 5 September 2024
14.30 & 19.30
HMS Pinafore and Trial by Jury

Friday 6th September
19.30
The Pirates of Penzance

Saturday 7 September 2024
14.30 & 19.30
The Gondoliers

Bookings can be made direct to Malvern Theatre
Box office: 01684 892277
Group discounts are available.

