

Comment

The problem with our obsession for saving time is very simple. You can't save time. You can only spend it. But you can spend it wisely or spend it foolishly.

It is time to be who you are. To develop the skills that you didn't have time for when you were working. Also to feel valued and to feel that you have something to offer – but also that there's something out there for you. Your committee encourage you to partake of self-help and lifelong learning from any one of our groups that are available for you.

Go to our website – it's really easy to do and so interesting to look at all the different pages there. I guarantee that you will learn something.

Ian Scott continues to work tirelessly on our behalf to keep us all informed through the power of the website and this newsletter. If you are interested, we really need another member to help with this project.

The most wasted day in life is the day we don't learn, laugh or live. Get involved.

Lynda Brettell
Chair

*A Very Happy Christmas and
a Peaceful New Year to all
from your Trustee Committee*

More Good News!

The defibrillator is back in its refurbished housing outside, and is available for all the community again.

Recorder group playing at coffee morning



The geology that made the Black Country

Following on from his talk *Life and Death in Dudley Limestone Mines*, Adrian Barrett led a small group on a walk through the *Geology that made the Black Country*. The walk around Wrens Nest "brought his talk to life".

The group are pictured against a limestone backdrop – appropriate.



Coming and going

Lynda welcoming our 500th current member recently.

Since then more have joined, which says we must be doing something right.



Presentation by Line Dancing members to Joan Johnson on her recent retirement after leading the group since it started.

Day trips

The *Christmas trip to Waddesdon* is now sold out. More trips coming, probably starting in March 2024.

Dates for your diary

speaker meetings from 10am, speaker at 11am
17th November 2023 *General Gordon*
by the ever popular Max Keen

15th December 2023 *'Tis the Season to be Jolly*
a return visit by the excellent Kath Reynolds.

19th January 2024 *A Morning of Black Country Humour*
laughter with David Bartley.

coffee morning on 24th November 2023 at the usual time of 10am. None in December. Back in 2024.

social events (contact Margaret Aston)

10th November 2023 *An Evening of 50s, 60s and 70s Music*
by Mike Prince, including fish & chip supper.

12th November 2023 3pm – trip to Symphony Hall for a *Classical Spectacular* by the LSO.

6th December 2023 *Christmas Concert* by the Ukulele Group, including festive refreshments.

More about these and others on the *Social Events* webpage (GO TO Events and click or tap on the link)

Next issue

The next issue, for January/February goes to the printers on 1st Jan 2024. Please contact Ian Scott on 01384 839277 or via the website with any items.

† There is a waiting list to join these groups. Contact the Group Leader to go on the list until a place is available.

Architecture

Peter Bates 07939 476780 – 4th Wednesday pm

Art (St Mary's)

Alan Westley 01384 822497 – 2nd & 4th Tuesday am

Ballroom Dancing

Chris & Jim Brookes 01384 288920

– 1st Monday pm

Board Games

Doreen Darby (acting GL) 01384 345644

– 4th Wednesday pm

Book Group

Anne Mole 07742 064252 – 4th Friday am

Butterfly Tai Chi

Geraldine Hammonds – 2nd & 4th Monday am

Chess

Ian Campbell 07790 935743 (text) – 2nd Monday am

Craft

Joan Johnson 01902 672246

– 2nd & 4th Tuesday pm

Creative Writing

Betty Burns 01384 292108 – 2nd Monday am

Discussion

Adrian Barrett 07905 302813 – 3rd Thursday pm

Gardening

Mike Brettell 07866 610444 – 3rd Monday am †

Genealogy

Clem Phillips 07340 314908 – 4th Wednesday am

Guitar

Philip Emery 01384 293958 – 1st & 3rd Thursday am †

History

Charles Frankis 01384 404491 – 4th Monday am

Jazz Appreciation

Ian Scott 01384 839277 – 2nd Tuesday pm

Kurling

Peter Bates 07939 476780 – 3rd Wednesday am

Keep safe this winter – take care not to pass on seasonal illnesses – such as flu, COVID etc

Latin

John Hunt 07539 864876

– 2nd Tuesday am advanced group

– 4th Monday pm beginners group

NEW

Line Dancing

Cath Robinson – 07951 036055

1st & 3rd Tuesday pm †

Play Reading

Judith Elmes 01384 271798 – 3rd Monday pm

Quiz

Robert & Pamela Wantling – 07850 623071

2nd Wednesday pm †

Recorders

Jean Green 01384 392876 – 2nd & 4th Tuesday am

Relaxation for Wellbeing

Suzanne Ash 01384 821891 – 3rd Monday am

Singing for Fun

Judith Humphry 07958 545547

– 1st & 3rd Thursday am

Strollers

Pauline Buswell 01384 896915 or 07759 347715

– 2nd & 5th Friday am

Ukulele

David Westley-Smith 07855 256240

Chris Thompson 07971 641629

– 2nd & 4th Thursday am

Walking Groups

Jane Artist 07759 030931

– 1st, 2nd & 5th Friday am

Coming to group meetings – changes

As you probably know, access to the Community Centre is now controlled by key-pad on the front door. So, please do not arrive too early for meetings or linger unduly afterwards. Group Leaders (GLs) have the door code, which they must not pass on.

If you come too early or delay leaving, u3a may be charged more for the room. The Centre now charge on an hourly basis (like other similar places). GLs have the exact times they have booked to use the Centre, not necessarily the same as meeting times. If you are in doubt about any of this, check with your GL.

Trustee Committee and contacts

Lynda Brettell	Chair Tel 01384 70707
Mike Jones	Treasurer Tel 01384 821891
Sue Helm	Business Secretary Tel 07989 766623
Ian Campbell	Membership Secretary Text 07790 935743
Elaine Baytug	Speaker Meeting Co-ordinator
Cath Robinson	Group Leader Co-ordinator

Chris Brookes	Trustee
Jim Brookes	Trustee
Diana Elsby	Trustee
Bob Parker	Trustee
Martin Snell	Trustee