

### **SPEAKER TODAY: John Homer talking about 'Anything and Everything Black Country'**

Hello everyone, welcome to our March meetings, and for any visitors with us today it is lovely to see you, and we hope you enjoy our meeting and become members of our very friendly group. Thanks to everyone who attended our AGM last month, and you will see below details of our 2024 committee. We would also like to add that our new Meet and Greet Lady is Janet Bailey who will look after our visitors and new members. Thank you Janet. **Best wishes you all from the Sandwell u3a Committee.**

- **ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP £15 per person, due TODAY. Application forms are available from Mike or Ivan at the Reception desk. Full membership information is detailed on the form.**
- **PLEASE REMEMBER to switch off, or put your mobile phone on 'silent' mode during the meeting, and PLEASE REFRAIN FROM TALKING TO EACH OTHER DURING INTRODUCTIONS AND PRESENTATIONS AS THIS IS DISTRACTING TO OTHERS. Thank you.**
- **SINCE OUR LAST MEETING**  
A group of us enjoyed a lovely lunch at Birmingham College of Food, and were looked after very well by the students. Super place to go, may well go again.

Also, we have heard that Pat Perry, who used to run our Play Reading group, is now unwell and living in a care home. We send best wishes to her from everyone at Sandwell u3a.

- **HAPPY BIRTHDAYS BETWEEN TODAY'S MEETING AND OUR NEXT MEETING ON 8 APRIL**  
March – 14<sup>th</sup> Ivan Wyle, 16<sup>th</sup> Pat Hares, 27<sup>th</sup> Norman Hares, 31<sup>st</sup> Pat Stevens. Also we must say many congratulations from us all to Ann and Alan Hobson on their 60<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary on 21<sup>st</sup> March and Janet and Brian Dearn celebrating their 64<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary on 26<sup>th</sup> March. Remember, if you would like us to print birthdays or any other celebrations, anniversaries etc. in Newsroundup, please let Ann Wyle know.
- **LOTTERY**  
Congratulations to our February winners: Robert Bailey, Andrew Lowe, Martin Roebuck, and Ivan Wyle. **Next payment £5 is due at the May meeting**, and covers 10 weeks (£0.50 per week). Please see Brenda or Janet at the lottery table.
- **RAFFLE, JIGSAWS and LUCKY DRAW WINNERS**  
\***Raffle tickets** can be purchased from Mavis or Ann Medhurst, 50p each. Congratulations to February winners Diane Axford, Maureen Doyle, Angela Hunt, Sheila Rigby, Martin Roebuck and Annette Smith.  
**\*Jigsaws.** We would welcome new jigsaws but **PLEASE** make sure all the pieces are there and in a bag inside the box before you give them to Peggy. **Thank you** for donating them.
- **COMMITTEE MEMBERS FOR 2024** elected at the AGM in February.  
Chairman, Ann Hobson  
Secretary, Ann Wyle  
Membership Secretary, Mike Matthews  
Communications Officer, Sue Clothier  
Other Committee Members:  
Vice Chairman, Ivan Wyle  
Treasurer, Brenda Evans  
Speakers' Secretary, Alan Hobson  
Group Liaison Officer – vacant post  
Mavis Catchpole, Phil Page

**INTEREST GROUPS – group leader contact details are shown below. If you would like more information about any of our groups, or you are interested in starting or facilitating a new group, please speak to a member of the committee who will be able to help you. Group leaders will be available today if you wish to speak to them direct. Next meeting dates shown below.**

**ART Wednesday 20 March 10.30-12.30pm** Central Library, West Bromwich. We will be experimenting with chalk and pastels. The group is not facilitator led, but for more information please ring **Janet Linney** 0121 588 3543 / 07710 921375.

**COMPUTERS - Ann Hobson** 0121 358 1662 / 07595 987974

**Monday 3 June 10am** 104 Stanton Rd, Great Barr. If you need any help with your laptop, tablet or 'phone, please come along and we will try to help you. [no meetings April/May due to bank holidays.

**CROWN GREEN BOWLS – Ann Hobson** 0231 358 1662 / 07595 987974

Starts 26 April to September at Dartmouth Bowls nr WB Albion FC. Everyone welcome, tea/biscuits for everyone including non-members. Bowls are loaned and help is always on hand so please come along.

**GERMAN - Judith Ridgway** 0121 360 6152 / 07490 488144

**Thursday 28 March 10am** Central Library, West Bromwich. All welcome to come along.

**GREEK - Chris Prior** 07816 059527 [chriscoce@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:chriscoce@hotmail.co.uk)

**Monday 18 March 10am** Central Library, West Bromwich. You are welcome to come along and learn a little Greek, perhaps for your holiday this year!

**ITALIAN - Norma Priest** 0121 588 7716 / 07342 240715

**Wednesday 13 March 10am** The Pavilion Dartmouth Park. More information from Norma today and beginners are very welcome.

**LATIN- Sue Clothier** 0121 588 4164

**Monday 25 March 10-12pm** Central Library, West Bromwich

**MUSIC APPRECIATION GROUP - Phil Page** 0121 682 5249

**Wednesday 20 March 2-4pm** Café, Gayton Road Community Centre, West Bromwich. No particular theme this month, just a selection of new recordings and some old favourites, including the No. 1 in the charts 50 years ago. Some music for Easter, a traditional visit to a market in Paris and recognising that Spring is on its way soon.

**OUTINGS - Ann Wyle** 0121 553 0183 / 07789 776441 [see Ann or Pat if interested]

On all outings/holidays, members take priority. Non-members may come along, subject to availability.

**\*\* Thursday 18 April Shakespeare Distillery, Stratford on Avon.** Guided Distillery tour/sampling then free time in Stratford. Cost includes transport and tour £35pp. **£5 deposit, full payment TODAY.**

**\*\* Thursday 23 May Afternoon Tea at Pigeons Parlour, Gt. Barr.** £20pp for Afternoon Tea or Gentleman's Savoury Afternoon Tea. **£5 deposit, full payment in May. FULLY BOOKED.**

**\*\* Thursday 4 July Coughton Court, Alcester.** Cost includes transport, introductory talk, self-guided tour of house and gardens. **Cost £30pp. NATIONAL TRUST MEMBERS ONLY PAY £15.00 FOR TRANSPORT. £5 deposit, full payment by June.**

**\*\* VERY EARLY NOTICE. Tuesday 17 December 3-course carvery lunch, plus entertainment, at The Down Inn, Bridgnorth. Cost £30pp. Please put your name down if interested.**

**STROLLERS - Mike Matthews** 0121 357 9018 / 07710 170099

**Thursdays at 10.30am.** Meet at RSPB entrance Tanhouse Ave, Great Barr. Nothing strenuous or difficult, no hills, and we finish with a nice drink at the RSPB coffee shop.

**SWIMMING - Ann Hobson** 0121 358 1662 / 07595 987974

**Wednesdays 8.30-9.30** West Bromwich Leisure Centre, small pool. Come along and join the sessions. Café not open but drinks are available from Reception. For free entry, Sandwell residents should take proof of residency [council tax bill, utility bill]. The car park fee will be refunded at Reception.

**THEATRE - Peggy Desorgher** 0121 358 5093 / 07929 932362

Saturday 27 July 5pm 'The Prussian Officer' by D H Lawrence, Blue Orange Theatre. More details will be given by Peggy today.

**TRUSTED TRADERS - Sue Clothier** 0121 588 4164

If you have tried to contact a trader on the list and they have retired/aren't available, or to recommend a trader, please let me know. Happy to pass on contact details for traders if you give me a ring. Sue.

**UKULELE – this u3a group has now ceased.**

- **NEXT MEETING - Monday 8 April 2024, 1.30 for 2pm start.**
- **The speaker will be Richard Churchley 'Family History, Do's and Don'ts'**
- **There is a £2 charge at each meeting to cover additional room hire charges.**