

u3a

Learn Laugh Live

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SHOTTERY u3a

NEWSLETTER: July 2023

Tuesday August 1st 2023

The Real Dad's Army

Ray Sturdy

DESK AND REFRESHMENT ROTA:

August – Local History

September - Ambling

Duties include checking members in at the entrance desk and serving tea and coffee and washing up afterwards (dishwasher available). Generally 4 members are required. Where groups have difficulty in raising the necessary 4 members, please get in touch with Jan Grant– Group Coordinator. (01789 417721)

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS:

September 5th – ‘The Story of Tin Pan Alley’, Roger Browne

October 3rd –‘That’s the Way To Do It’, Nigel Metcalfe

Getting to Know Members

This next instalment of our ‘getting to know members’ series is from Joan Newton, leader of the Lunch Group:

Joan has led a long and interesting life. So this month she is sharing Part 1 with us:

As a family, we lived in Kings Heath, and I went to Edgbaston College for girls. It was on two bases. Then when war was imminent, the whole school was evacuated to Attingham Hall near Shrewsbury. I was very homesick, ill actually, and both my sister and I came home. (My sister was fine). A friend of my mother’s rented a cottage from Hartland Abbey in Stoke right by the sea. Heaven! We just had a governess in the

mornings then were allowed to run wild. The nearest shops were 4 miles away uphill, and we had only our bikes . There was a long 1 mile road to the cottage. Heaven! It is still my favourite place and I have been several times since. My sons took me there for my 90th birthday treat as it sleeps nine.

After two years we moved and came back where I went to a convent in Moseley, lovely again. After school, I went to a Horticultural college and then took a job on a farm.

I was able to drive tractors! One day, passing two men working on a manure heap, one asked me out. He was a German POW, an air pilot. Being an officer he had been sent to America after being shot down over Capri- so his English was good. We got married on 5th August 1952 at King's Heath church. We held our reception in our garden in King's Heath , Vicarage Rd. and went off on our Brough Superior 500 twin motorbike to Stoke Hartland. We spent our honeymoon there and stayed at the Life Guard's cottage where we often took horses out for the day from Hartland Abbey Stables. That was great!

Rolf changed his surname, thinking of the children going to school, to Dalton. We were very happy but needed a job with accommodation. We ended up at Gayhill Golf Club. I did lots and lots of cooking and Rolf ran the bar. While there we had two children, Cora and Brian. After about 15 years we left and opened the Trades and Labour club in Alcester in the pub, The Crown . Our youngest son, Ian, was born there. We were there for four years, and Rolf had a job separately. We then had a boarding house, seven bedrooms, and I was busy cooking again! I played a lot of tennis (as I had done at school) then joined the Welcombe Golf Club-coming from a golfing family,(but my grandfather had two tennis courts in his garden in Harborne). After tennis I took up golf and then bowls. First at Avon, then at Welford Golf Club. A friend and I went to Portugal on holiday and went to 2 Bowls clubs on the Algarve who were pleased to have visitors. At Welford, I was Lady Captain and we played matches everywhere including on the Isle of Wight. Unfortunately, my husband had died of a heart attack five years earlier. So life goes on.

After a while I felt 'Do I want to get up cooking breakfast every morning at 7:30 am? No!' So I found a small house in Ash Grove, Stratford. My daughter, Cora, married with a little girl by then, lived in Malvern and was coming to help me pack. But the police came instead. She had been killed in a car accident. That really knocked me over for a year. (My granddaughter was not with her) . Cora was only 22 years old.

In the meantime, my sister had gone to Australia on the £10 scheme and lived in Sydney. So I have been to Sydney four times: flying is no trouble to me. I was on my own in the house (my eldest son had a cottage in Binton, still has, greatly improved). I met a golfer who had a family in Brisbane, Australia and wanted someone to go with him. So we got married. After a while out there, we went on a road and trailer trip putting tents up overnight, up the east coast, and down the centre, past Ayres rock, to Melbourne. We were out there for three months. It was too hot for me, England is best.

My youngest son is a canoeist and I was always taking him somewhere to compete

and a crowd went to Newquay at the start of the season, in the sea . I divorced my second husband, and now I'm living at Reading Court.

My German relatives are lovely, I have them to stay often, and they came over for my 95th birthday just a while ago. We had a great meal for 14 at Barraset Barn. And I took them to Bourton on the Water on the Saturday and on the restaurant boat for lunch on the Sunday. It was too short they said. They had driven over from Essex and stayed at the youth hostel, close at hand.

To be continued.....

INTEREST GROUPS

We are always interested in expanding the number and range of interest groups that are on offer. If you would be interested in developing a new group, please get in touch with the Secretary via the website group <https://u3asites.org.uk/shottery/home> .

Group Reports

Local History Group

The July Group Meeting took place in the Group's new home at Venture House on Avenue Farm Road. Miles Scrivens

Gardening Group

If you are interested in this group please contact Jan Grant

Rambling Group

Future Ramble dates are;

22nd August 26th September 24th October and 28th November

If you wish to join the group, please write to Martin Young at xh558@yahoo.co.uk.

Ambling Group

Amble 11 July - Salford Priors to Cock Bevington

Eleven members walked 3.2 miles from Salford Priors to Cock Bevington which began from the Memorial Hall in Salford Priors passing Park Hall, now luxury apartments. Over the years it has been a boy's school, the Dower House for the Marquis of Hertford and during the Second World War was taken over by the Ministry of Works for housing for land girls.

We traversed agricultural fields with crops of peas, courgettes, kale, cabbage and barley. One field has been left to become a wild flower meadow with a diversity of plants. The gentle climb up onto the ridge at Cock Bevington (apparently there was a medieval village close by) was worth it with views looking over Worcestershire and the Cotswolds.

We passed Bevington Hall a Grade II listed farm building, whose owners are the Bamford family, who are well known in the area as fruit and vegetable growers.

Our amble finished at Hiller's Farm Shop for refreshments with some of us visiting the gardens and bird hide, which didn't disappoint as five of us watched a female fallow deer busily eating. A delightful and interesting walk. Judy arranged and led the walk.

August amble on Tuesday 8 August starts from Combroke church skirting around Compton Verney lakes and house approx three miles. To meet at 1.15 for 1.30 start. More details to be circulated later. Margaret Harris

Keep Fit

The Shottery and Heart of England Keep Fit Group meets on Thursday mornings, 10am to 11am at St. Andrew's Church Hall. There is a waiting list so if interested in being added to the list, please contact Robyn Nicoll.

please contact Robyn Nicoll via the web site or the shottery email (shotteryu3a@gmail.com)

Lunch Club

Lunch club on 2nd Thursday after Tuesday U3A meeting at 1pm. at different venues. Signing-up lists are put on the table at the Tuesday monthly meeting.

Contact Joan Newton for more details.

Digital Photography

The July Meeting was well attended. We showed photographs of our trip to Canons Ashby. We saw many different views of the house, gardens and church. One group of double poppies in the garden were taken by three different people, the poppies did look splendid. The next meeting on Friday 18th August at 2.30 will be at Rickie's and the subject is 'Transport'. We hope to see many of you there.

Play Reading

In August we will be starting a new play having finished the three act play "Blithe Spirit".

Sadly we recently lost a member of the group, Ann McNeil, we will miss her.
Chris Buchanan.

Book Group

Our July selection was 'The Island Without Trees' by Elif Shafak, a rich, magical tale of belonging and identity, love and trauma, nature and renewal. Centred around events in Cyprus during partition in 1974 and its effects on the population and one Turkish/Greek young couple in particular who migrated to London and raised a daughter who was also affected by the fallout from the sectarian issues in Cyprus, it raised lots of issues and generated discussion on various matters and was generally well liked by the group. The group is currently full, but if anyone would like to start a second group, advice on how to do this is available – Contact Kate Shilcock

Interest Group Coordinator for Shottery U3A : Jan Grant

Group	Group leader	Meets on...
Ambling	Margaret Harris	2 nd Tuesday pm
Rambling	Martin Young	4 th Tuesday am - pm
Digital Photography	Frances Freeman	3 rd Friday pm
Lunch Club	Joan Newton	3 rd Thursday @1pm
Keep Fit	Robyn Nicholl	Thursday am. Weekly
Play Reading	Chris Buchanan	4 th Friday pm
Reading group	Kate Shilvock	3 rd Tuesday pm
Gardening	Jan Grant	Wednesday pm. monthly
Local History	Miles Scrivens	2 nd Thursday pm
Folk Dance (through Stratford u3a)	Sue Crowley	2 nd Tuesday am

Please send items for inclusion in the newsletter to Kate Shilvock or enquiries regarding interest groups or membership leaders via the email shotteryu3a@gmail.com