

u3a

Learn Laugh Live

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SHOTTERY u3a

NEWSLETTER: June 2023

Tuesday 4th July 2023

The Birds and Wildlife of Cleeve Hill
Common

Arthur Ball

DESK AND REFRESHMENT ROTA:

July - Gardening

August – Local History

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:

August 1st – ‘The Real Dad’s Army’ , Ray Sturdy

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

Getting to Know Members

This next instalment of our ‘getting to know members’ series is from Miles Scrivens, leader of the Local History Interest Group:

Born in what was still a village on the eastern outskirts of Cardiff on the day Paris was liberated, I have clear memories of the some of the winter of 1947 and standing in queues in shops with ration books in my hands. It was usually my job to hold them. Primary school days were not the happiest days of my life but then things didn’t improve in secondary school either. Or at least not until the maths teacher hit

on the idea of sending me over the shop to buy him five Senior Service and a packet of Polo. I got the Polos. The unspoken agreement being that I didn't return until the class ended. It was pretty much acknowledged that I was a lost cause. But at the end of June 1960 I was out of school and free to pursue my limited ambitions, a couple of spare shillings to purchase my own Senior Service and an occasional glass of beer.

On the fifth of September I began a five year apprenticeship as a Fitter and Turner in a local steelworks. On the seventh of September my world was rocked as a load of staff from the local technical college arrived to sign us up for day release for the forthcoming year. It soon dawned on me that it wasn't just the next year. It was going to be the next five years. Oh joy unconfined!

Over those five years I smoked a lot; drank far more than was good for me; walked the Bannau Brycheiniog, as I must call them now, and through an increasing awareness brought on by age and attendance and eventually a leadership role in a number of youth organisations I approached the end of what one uncle described as my "tearaway years". The end of my apprenticeship also ended my brush with education I believed.

My friends and companions were settling down as was the pattern of life at the time. I began to think about the years between then and my ultimate goal, retirement. Slowly the light dawned. Steelworks were closing, the world of heavy industry was coming to an end and some of those that said you'd have to do many different jobs in a lifetime were correct.

What to do? No commitments, the world potentially my oyster. What did I enjoy doing? Working with young people in the youth club environment. I had friends who did just that who spoke of how rewarding that was and it didn't involve working night shifts on Saturday or Sunday. Before I could do that I needed A levels as a starting point. Back to school.

After A levels, then university came employment in General Education in Further Education colleges in Surrey and Essex and later, a governorship in a local secondary school. FE because Youth Clubs were going the way of steelworks, five year apprenticeships and day release. The last college that employed me has become a site for a housing estate.

A couple of months after my seventy-fifth birthday I retired from my role as Chair of Governors of a secondary school academy and was just making my way with speech in hand when a light flashed in front of me that threw my well prepared material completely out of my mind. I had spent seventy years, minus one, the thinking year, on one side of the desk or the other. It turns out that my ambition had become to ensure as far as I possibly could that education was a better experience for others than it had been for me. I may never know!

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 will take place in the Group's new home at Venture House on Avenue Farm Road. The venue was being modified to meet its changed use when last we able to visit but promise to be very comfortable with good car parking facilities. In order to accommodate members who have a regular lunchtime commitment we will begin at 2.15. in future.

We are looking at how to share our discoveries with each other and possibly with a wider audience, the membership of Shottery U3A. How we do this will form part of our discussions on the 13th of July. We are also considering how we might organise things to do outside during the warmer months. Miles Scrivens

Folk Dance Group

There is only one more Country Dancing on July 11th when it will be free as it is closing down as not enough people are attending. Please contact Sue.crowley25@googlemail.com

Gardening Group

If you are interested in this group please contact Jan Grant

Rambling Group

Future Ramble dates are;

25th July	22nd August	
26th September	24th October	and 28th November

Fifteen of us took part in a most enjoyable ramble of just under 5 Miles. The weather was kind and the scenery gorgeous in the vicinity of Foxcote House, near Chipping Campden. A photograph is uploaded on the group page on the website.

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

Ambling Group

On the 13 June the Amble started at NT Upton House for approx 3 miles across fields with views stretching over the countryside as far as the Malvern Hills and the Cotswolds, Coventry and Kington. Somewhere along the ridge a big horse figure was carved. The soil is red so it was named The Vale of the Red Horse. It was a little further along the ridge that the Battle of Edgehill took place in 1642, which was the first battle of the Civil War.

King Charles 1 was on his way from Shrewsbury when he encountered the Parliamentarian Forces. Charles was on the ridge the others in the valley below. No one won the battle, but a total of 1500 lives were lost.

A very hot day but we all struggled on and made it back to Upton House cafe for refreshments.

The next Amble is the 4 July. We are starting from Salford Priors and details will be circulated to members nearer the time. Judy will lead the group to meet at 1.15 for 1.30 start. Refreshments at Hillier's Garden Centre. 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 June meeting was an outing to the National Trust property of Canons Ashby. Many members and guests came, and we had wonderful weather. It was an interesting house starting as a farmhouse and expanded to a much grander building. The 13th Century church was quarter of its original size having been a priory before the Dissolution. The gardens were terraced with some beautiful old apple trees. The outing was enjoyed by all and many photographs were taken.

The May meeting on Friday 21 June at 2.30 will be at Rickie's and the subject is 'Canons Ashby'. We hope to see many of you there and hope we can all fit in! The following Month August the subject will be 'Transport'. Frances Freeman

Play Reading

The group meets on the last Friday of the month. We will continue to read "Blithe Spirit" by Noel Coward in June. It's, of course, a well known 3 act play and a lot of fun.

Book Group

Our June selection was 'The Truth Must Dazzle Gradually' by Helen Cullen. We all enjoyed the book and it provoked a good discussion around the storyline, the characters involved, the setting in rural Ireland and the issues covered (including mental health, suicide and its effects in a family, the legalisation of gay marriage in Ireland). We did however find the ending unsatisfactory and contrived and trying to 'tick' too many current issues. It is a book worth reading however. 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