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SHOTTERY u3a

NEWSLETTER: April 2024

Tuesday 7th May 2024

**Perspectives on George Cadbury
1839 – 1922**

Andre Reekes

DESK AND REFRESHMENT ROTA:

April – Ambling

May - Reading

- 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– Refreshments Coordinator. (01789 417721)

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS:

June 4th – The Shakespeare Hospice – Judith Bowley

July 2nd -The Galapagos Islands – Arthur Ball

National News

The tickets for u3a Festival '24 taking place in York this July are now being released

Our packed programme will have something for everyone - all being led by u3a members. You can see our taster programme, and the ticket booking link, on the [the u3a website](#).

Places to visit: Home and Abroad

This is the next in our series of articles devoted to places to visit for days out and short (or long)breaks. This month's contributor is Mandy who tells us about her enjoyment of Bradford on Avon. Thank you Mandy

Beautiful Bradford on Avon

I became familiar with the former mill town of Bradford on Avon when my eldest son moved there 14 years ago, and more recently when we were locked down on our narrowboat during Covid . For anyone staying in Bath or the Bath area, it is definitely worth a day's visit.

Bradford on Avon is 8 miles from Bath,13 mins on a train, an hour by bike, a 20 minute drive or 4 ½ hours by narrowboat!

It is delightful! A hilly small town of mellow Bath stone, where weavers' cottages adorn the hillside, narrow boats line the canal in both directions and the river Avon flows under the ancient Town Bridge.

Historically, the town's riverside position made it an ideal centre for wool and weaving.

During the 17th century many weavers' cottages, and grander houses for wealthy clothiers were built. At one time there were over 30 mills, with the last one closing in 1905 when the cloth industry moved to Yorkshire. There are still plenty of attractive mill buildings to be seen, but the majority are now smart apartments.

The town takes its name from 'broad ford', the ford being replaced by the Town Bridge, which dates back to the 14th century. On the bridge is a tiny pilgrim chapel with a fish shaped weathervane. This was latterly used as a 'lock up' for undesirables waiting to go before a magistrate. Sadly, it is only open on 'Heritage Open Days' and I have not yet managed to go inside.

Two other places of historic interest that are central and worth visiting are the enormous tithe barn and the small Saxon church of St. Lawrence.

The Tithe Barn is over 50 metres long and is one of the largest tithe barns in the country. It was built in the 14th century and owned by the nuns of Shaftesbury Abbey. It is currently owned by English Heritage and is completely free to visit. It is easy to walk to and is situated by the canal on the edge of the park. There are art and craft shops and a café in some of the old farm buildings by the barn.

The small Saxon Church of St Lawrence is recognised as one of the least altered Anglo-Saxon churches in England and a 'must see' for anyone interested in architecture.

A little further out (nothing's that far!), but requiring a bit more stamina to get to, is The Chapel of St Mary Tory, which has beautiful stained-glass windows and a fabulous view of the town. It is located on a steep hillside, next to a row of pretty weavers' cottages.

Bradford on Avon has many independent shops, great pubs, cafes and restaurants. One of the quaintest lanes, The Shambles, was formerly the site of the medieval market and has one of Bradford on Avon's only timber-framed buildings.

The canal holds a fascination of its own. It is actually 2 lengths of river (the Kennet and the Avon), linked by a canal. It runs for 87 miles providing a through route from London to Bristol. The wharf, once the busiest on the Kennet and Avon is a lovely spot to sit and watch boats navigating the lock, or to sit and have a cuppa at the Canal Trust café. There are regular boat trips from the wharf or day boat hire for the more adventurous!

If time allows, there are many pleasant walks in and around Bradford on Avon, anything from a stroll by the river (where you may well catch a glimpse of a kingfisher) to more strenuous walks in the surrounding countryside. A popular walk is along the Kennet and Avon canal to Avoncliffe aqueduct (1.6 miles). There is a pub and café by the aqueduct.

After refreshments, you can walk back alongside the river or catch the train. An even better

option is to get your grandchildren to paddle you there and back in a canoe! (canoe hire is available in the town).

I hope this has given you a flavour of what this delightful little town has to offer and that if you are in the area, you will consider visiting Bradford on Avon.

Do you have a place that you would encourage others to visit? Could you contribute a short article to the newsletter (we are happy to edit and proof read). If so, please send your article to Kate Shilvock at shotteryu3a@gmail.com

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 Interest Group Co-ordinator , Janet Puttock, via the website group <https://u3asites.org.uk/shottery/home> .

Group Reports

Gardening Group

If you are interested in this group please contact Jan Grant

Rambling Group

A reduced number enjoyed yet another hard surface Ramble in April, the wet weather dictating that we still cannot venture onto field paths unless we're prepared to be ankle deep in mud. This time we walked around the Thwaites Estate near Chesterton & Harbury with only a very few minor spots of rain in the air.

For May we're planning to walk from Alcester, but the route has yet to recce'd to check it's sound.'

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

Ambling Group

Due to bad weather our Amble around Croome Park was cancelled. Hopefully next month's River and Bluebell Walk at Coughton Court will take place on Wednesday (please note as Coughton Court is closed on a Tuesday) 15 May. We shall do a recce just beforehand to determine weather conditions and confirm with everyone. Margaret

Local History Group

We welcomed five new members to the group as our meeting place, Venture House, in Avenue Farm Road is able to offer a a larger, more flexible, room. This means we will be able to expand the range of our activities and our oral history activities..

One of our members has been in touch with the Stratford U3A group and one of their members, Val Horton, visited and spoke about the intention to move the Birthplace Trust's archive from the town centre. The Group felt it appropriate to write a letter on the subject to the Stratford Herald. We wait to see if it will be published.

Members have worked on the use of modern telephone technology to record in editable form the the recollections of local residents. These coupled with the,

hopefully, improving weather for those who are looking over the changes to use of the buildings in the centre of town and to capture the aspects of the past which are still visible but threatened by the passing of time and changing fashion.

Miles Scrivens Group Leader.

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 is 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.

The group will be co-ordinated by David Haines whilst Joan is unwell. For more details contact David.

Digital Photography

We had a well attended meeting in March with the subject 'Close ups'. Photographs varied from Flowers, some of which were hard to identify so close up, insects, food and ornaments with good lighting effects. There were excellent photographs from an exhibition at Hidcote which is well worth a visit *Hidcote hosts botanical and embroidery artist Olga Prinku in the exhibition hall this spring. Olga's work combines dried and preserved flowers and other natural materials with tulle fabric, to create motifs inspired by nature.* The next meeting is on Friday 17 May at 2.30pm at John's. the subject is 'Windows'. Frances Freeman

Book Group'

In April we read 'The Women at Hitler's Table' by Rosella Posterino. Based on real events, - covering the women selected to be Hitler's food tasters because of his fear of poisoning - but with largely fictional characters, the novel covers the lives of these women. Some members found the descriptions and theme upsetting but the novel did provoke a great deal of discussion. It was originally written in Italian and perhaps the narrative suffered in the translation. 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 Shilvock

Play Reading

In April, we finished reading 'Party Pieces' by Richard Harris. It proved to be a light hearted play with lots of features of a farce and was enjoyed by all. We will begin a new play at the next meeting. We have space for a couple of new members (especially, but not exclusively, male members). If you are interested please contact Chris Buchanan

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