

# STRATFORD-UPON-AVON u3a NEWSLETTER

Founded 2000

[Stratford-upon-Avon u3a: Home \(u3asites.org.uk\)](http://u3asites.org.uk)

July 2023

## **This Month**

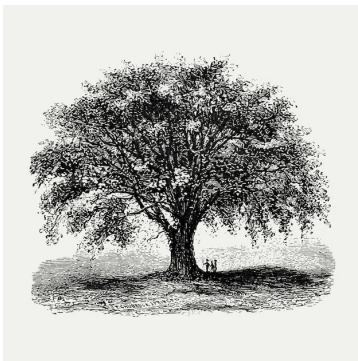
**Wednesday 26 July 2023**

**2 p.m. Methodist Church, Stratford upon Avon**

**THE AGONY AND THE ECSTASY**

**OF A HOTEL BOATER**

**Barry Watson will talk about Canals with Songs**



## **Next Month**

**Wednesday 30th August**

**LIZ TAYLOR**

**The WOODLAND TRUST including Warwickshire**

Liz will talk about the work of the Woodland Trust in Warwickshire. There are several sites nearby, which are managed by the Woodland Trust, where there is a wealth of wildlife

## Tea Rota—2023

July 26th	Poetry
August 30th	Spanish
September 27th	Wine Appreciation
October 25th	German Groups
November 29th	Latin
December 13th	Committee



**Please** do check the rota to see when your group is scheduled to help. it should happen about once every 18 months—2 years. The task is not arduous and is a good opportunity to chat to other members whilst you are serving the teas. Please do encourage other members of your groups to come along and help

### **What do you do with your empty blister packs, when you have taken all the pills.?**

Did you know, the Methodist Church in Stratford is collecting them? There is a big box in the foyer, you can put them in when you come to our next monthly meeting (details on the front page)

Ken Morgan—Stratford Calendar 2024

You may remember when Ken Morgan spoke to us in May he told us he would be producing a calendar. It is now on sale in Something Different 15 Meer Street, Stratford. Please make sure you leave a copy for me. They are £12 each



Dogs for Good have asked us to help, they say:

‘We are desperately seeking puppy socialisers to take care of our young dogs in socialisation training, a highly rewarding role that might suit people who would like to have a dog in their life but don’t necessarily want the lifetime commitment of one.

[How to become a puppy socialiser](#)

### **Stratford u3a monthly meeting 28 June 2023, Methodist Church Hall.**

We welcomed Marilyn Chalmers and her dog Ash to our meeting about “Dogs for Good”. The charity began when Frances Hays started training her own pet dog in 1986 after losing her leg. Then she thought that she could help other people by training other dogs, so in 1988 she registered as a charity called Dogs For The Disabled. In 2015 it was re-registered as Dogs For Good as they had diversified so much and started helping children with autism, people with learning difficulties and adults with dementia etc.

The premises are custom built in Banbury and the dogs, after being socialised, are trained there to pick items up, collect the post, pull socks and other clothing off, rest their heads on people’s knees, which is a calming gesture, etc. They then go on to change lives for some lucky people.

Ash is not a working dog as he failed to qualify as he refuses to go into lifts or butchers’! He did, however, demonstrate a number of the tasks that these wonderful dogs do. Ash is his real name, but he has nicknames like Polar Bear and Ashy Bear. He is a golden Labrador/retriever. These are the breed of dogs most favoured, but spaniels and poodle crosses are also used as they have the right personalities and retrieving abilities.

The breeders are allowed to breed only 4 litters for the charity. About 80 puppies are trained annually. Puppies undergo 12-18 months of socialisation before training to make them adaptable to a variety of situations and technical tasks. Marilyn is a socialiser and temporary boarder for the charity. The dogs belong to the charity until they retire at about age 10 years after which they may be kept by the family of the disabled person or re-homed.

Ash performed a number of tasks, including pressing door opening pads, removing a sock and a jacket from Marilyn and barking on command. He was extremely well behaved throughout the meeting.

Dogs for Good is a charity which is entirely funded by donations from the public. The dogs give “Life Changing Devotion”.

Helen Elliott, Speaker Secretary.

## Brush up your German



This month we studied a German newspaper article on energy provision in northern Germany, heard about members' holidays and were reminded of the delights of Hillers with its restaurant, gardens and bird observation hide. Another enjoyable and relaxed conversation in Rosel's lovely garden.

## Chaucer

At our July meeting we read the section of Troilus and Criseyde Book IV in which the lovers react to the prospect of their impending separation and Troilus ponders on the question of 'necessite' (predestination) versus free will as the source of human action. This is the philosophical and moral heart of the poem which we will consider more fully at our next session.

## Stratford History Group

We visited the Reading Room at the Birthplace Trust to learn more about its range of resources and their availability. The staff were extremely helpful and we shall no doubt return individually to research our special interests. Because of problems with the building itself, negotiations are currently under way with a view to moving all the contents, archive and library, to Venture House on Avenue Farm. There's no date yet, but it will be sad to lose such a valuable resource from the town centre.



## Useful French



In July our readings, questions and revision have all revolved around travel and holidays. *Les vacances au bord de la mer*, a poetic and nostalgic song of 1975 by Michel Jonasz, went down particularly well. And who knew there were so many learning points in the old hit, *Les Champs-Élysées*? We are also trying our hand at role play based on some everyday situations. Continuing to meet twice a month, we are now a full group.

## APOLOGY

I am sorry, I am missing the next members' meeting (26<sup>th</sup> July). I am on holiday in Norfolk and Jersey (we have people living in our house while we're away so if you're a burglar who has hacked into this magazine – tough).

I need to confess why I missed the last meeting; I was so sorry not to hear about the Dogs for Good and meet our four-pawed guest.

I am being taken on as a peripatetic trainer on the National Speed Awareness courses and that was a mandatory training day. Going forward, I will be specifying which days I cannot be scheduled and u3a will be a priority.

This is an interesting opportunity for me and allows me to have several cabinet members on speed dial (q.is that true or just a Walter Mitty fantasy?)

I understand we had four new members and I look forward to meeting them in August.

Meanwhile, if you are an established member, can you please make a point of going up to people who look new and introducing yourself? Our u3a has an enviable reputation for being friendly and welcoming, let's capitalise on that!

En avant! All good wishes Maureen

Please Maureen , could we all have Rishi's number

## Beacon

As you may know Stratford-upon-Avon u3a is starting to use the special system called Beacon for administration and record keeping purposes. As from next month we will be sending the newsletter out via Beacon. You will receive an email with a link which will take you to our website and the newsletter. If you do not have an email address we will continue to send you a hard copy, but the quickest way will be via Beacon.

## Was this a Tim Vine or a Tommy Cooper joke?

Doc, I can't stop singing the 'Green Green Grass of Home'. He said: 'That sounds like Tom Jones syndrome'. 'Is it common?' I asked. 'It's not unusual' he replied .

Smile, groan or send me a better one for next month: [news@stratfordu3a.org.uk](mailto:news@stratfordu3a.org.uk)