

STRATFORD-UPON-AVON^S USA

NEWSLETTER

March 2023

Website: <https://u3asites.org.uk/stratforduponavon/welcome>

Or google Stratford-upon-Avon U3A.

U3A founded 2000

March

AGM

(Annual General Meeting)

Wednesday 29th March 2023

2 p.m.

The Methodist Church

Stratford-upon-Avon

There will be a report on the year's activities, including finances; committee members and officers will be re-elected or elected.

Come along and be involved, or maybe join the committee.

The Town Mayor, Gill Cleeve, will be demonstrating CPR

Tea and biscuits afterwards

April Meeting

Wednesday 26 April 2pm Methodist Church

Richard Churchley—Merrie England

We will hear about folklore through

the year in Custom and Song

Members' News

Active member Janet Palmer has involved herself in a variety of projects since talking to us last March on 'Stratford and Climate Change'. Because of her role with Great Big Green Week she was invited by the RSC to be part of the chorus in their current production of Julius Caesar, one of a group of women all with some sort of community role. Janet's eight performances are already under way, ending on 8th April. She says: "Even though it's time-consuming the worst is over now that we've finished rehearsing and actually performed. It's a lot of fun and I wouldn't have missed it for anything."

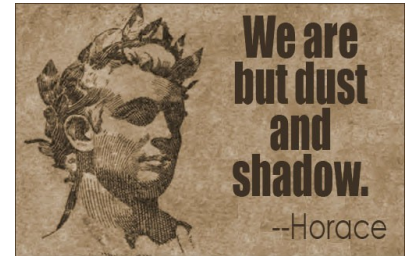
National u3a is advertising the large peaceful and inclusive XR-led climate demonstration in London on 21st April. Janet is hoping to be there and link up with the u3a reps, camera at the ready. So watch this space.



Janet, 5th from left in turquoise

Latin Advanced Group

We are moving on from Vergil to Horace, taking our inspiration from 'Poets in a Landscape'. We shall begin with his humble origins and the debt to his father and his patron Maecenas. Taking in his views on life in Rome, we'll eventually share in the delights of his beloved farm as well as considering his thoughts on the passing of time, old age and one's legacy. Carpe diem, everyone!



Would you like to be a U3A speaker?

One of the original aims of U3A was the idea that members could talk to other members about their passions, interests and experiences. Maybe you already give talks, or have an idea that you would like to talk about.

Would you like to talk to us? Helen Elliott our speaker secretary is looking for speakers for next years calendar.

Please email Helen: helenPELLIOTT40@hotmail.com

I hope you are enjoying your newsletters and find it interesting and useful.

Your contributions are always welcome, please send me jokes , puzzles or poetry or tell us about what your group is doing.

As we still print copies for people without access to an electronic copy please try to limit the number of photographs.

Deadline for next month Monday April 17,

send any items to me at: annefostersavu3a@gmail.com

Brush up your German

We spent another relaxing morning in front of Rosel's roaring log fire. Oh und wir haben Deutsch viel gesprochen (we talked lots of German). One member told us of her elderly Toyota which had recently been serviced, another of a visit to the X ray clinic. There was discussion about where best to read German newspapers and magazine (online or from the library). Rosel patiently corrected our German and gave us the words we were missing. Next Month Deutsches Essen (German food)

NEW GROUP 1

Please let Michele Beamer beamerama@icloud.com know if you are interested in joining her on alternating Sunday mornings to walk around the Welcombe Hills nature reserve.

Started Sunday 5th March. 10.15 a.m.

Next Walk Sunday 26th March

Circular walk, About 1– 2 hours maximum.

Reasonable/normal walking pace, not a slow amble

Meet at the **top of Maidenhead Road**, Stratford-upon-Avon.

Please note that there may be cows in the nature reserve. We will keep a good distance from them. Because this walk will be weather dependent, you will need to join a Whatsapp Group so that we can communicate quickly amongst ourselves should we need to cancel. **If it is then a decision will be made before 9 a.m. on the day of the walk.** We ask that you do not bring dogs with you. Thank You

Hope to see you the, next walk Sunday 26th March

NEW GROUP 2

Art Appreciation,

We have a new member who is interested in starting up an Art Appreciation group. He is a graphic designer by training and profession. He suggests some meetings discussing art followed by days visiting places of interest or art exhibitions. Also if anyone is interested in drawing or sketching (in the hoped for fine weather) then visiting local picturesque places with sketch pads and pencils is a possibility. Please let Sue Crowley know if you are interested—smcrowley@mail.com

NEW GROUP 3

Play reading Group 2

We are pleased to announce that we are about to start a second play reading group. It will take place on the fourth Friday of the month at 2.00 p.m. The first meeting will be on Friday 28th April at the Group contact's home in Welford.

The first group has been such a success that we are basing the new one on the same model. We will be trying all types of play, always by agreement within the group. The plays will range from comedy to tragedy and include all variations in between. Some will be short and will be completed in one afternoon, others will need two sessions.

The Group Contact works out the allocation of parts so that everyone has approximately the same amount to read. Normally we'll meet for two hours, but if we are close to the end of an Act or the Play we may carry on to a finish.

If you are interested please contact Miranda Sanders at mjanesanders@aol.com

Intermediate Latin

First my apologies to Rosemary Ratcliffe our group leader, this item should have been in last month's newsletter.

We have recently celebrated nine years as a group. 3 of the original members are still going strong. The textbook we use is the Oxford Latin course, there are 3 books to take us to GCSE (O level) standard. The subjunctive (in all its manifestations), the gerund, gerundives and ablative absolute constantly have us reaching for the grammar pages, so this year we will rework our way through book 3.

There would be room for another member if you are reasonably confident in basic Latin, the above list gives you a clue as to what the standard is.

**Stratford-upon-Avon u3a meeting - Wednesday 22nd. February 2023 –
“Secret Wildlife in my Garden”, a talk by Nick Martin.**

A group of nearly 60 people enjoyed a fascinating and informative talk, illustrated by stunning photographs. Nick Martin works for the Warwickshire Wildlife Trust and in his spare time is a wildlife photographer. He lives in a fairly urban area but there is a “green” road (an aborted by-pass) running through it. He has a largish garden with a brook running close to it, with a pond, trees and bushes, flower borders and a semi-wild lawn.

The garden has the usual visitors such as birds, insects, butterflies, squirrels, mice and voles etc. A goldcrest, our smallest bird, has made the remaining Leyland Cypress its home. Nick has a nesting box for the robins but they prefer the ivy! “Scarface” is 5 years old, a good age. He has also observed sparrowhawks, red kites, buzzards and even an osprey above.

Nick also has foxes, hedgehogs, frogs, newts and toads, snakes and snails. The pond also attracts dragonflies and damselflies, even a kingfisher. However, to his surprise, he has also attracted ducks from the brook nearby, badgers, a muntjac deer and spraint evidence of an otter! Even more exotic are waxwings, which like the berries, and ring-necked parakeets which have spread from the south of the country to the Midlands!

Nick recommends feeding birds throughout the year as winter can be starvation time. In question time, he discussed the decline of some birds, like sparrows, which can be attributed both to pesticides and to habitat loss. He also noted that some birds, like robins, often fledge before their feathers are completely developed, but they are probably

Complaint

One of your committee members went into a well known butcher’s in Stratford and asked for a pair of sirloins on display on an upper shelf. The butcher replied “I’m sorry, Madam, the steaks are too high”

Puzzles is this heading in the right place?

Time to test your memory of Latin from school, or can you work out the English titles of all these novels of the 19th and early 20th Century.

Avaritia et Praeceptio

Filii Amatoresque

Bellum Paxque

Answers next month, Google is not cheating, but test your grey cells first. Clue: ‘et’ and ‘que’ both mean ‘and’

If you would like to see more puzzles and jokes do please let me know and send them to annefostersavu3a@gmail.com

Chaucer Group

We have reached the end of book III of Troilus and Criseyde, the midpoint in Chaucer's 'littel (.....) tragedy'. In the first two books the hero wooed Criseyde, in the third he won her and in the remaining two, to quote Phoebe Kreutz's song about Anna Karenina. 'it's gonna go bad'!

Piano Group

The group met in February at Margaret's home, where, most memorably Ruth played the CanCan. When unforeseen circumstances led to the last minute cancellation of our March meeting, we all practised hard at home instead!

Stratford History Group The March meeting was cancelled because of heavy snowfall that morning, so we now look forward to Michael's talk on the Stratford-Moreton Tramway on Thursday April 13th at 10 a.m. when we next meet in the Methodist Church foyer. There may be time for other contributions held over from February.

Useful French

A reminder that we are not defunct but simply taking a break until after Easter. We will then meet on Monday 17th April in Shottery and thereafter on the first and third Mondays of each month. We need commitment (or not) from those who previously expressed an interest; reminders will be sent. If you are new and might enjoy the opportunity to revise long forgotten or rusty French, please contact Margaret Dews on km27dews@gmail.com. This is not a conversation group but will help build confidence with grammar and useful constructions using a variety of methods including stories, songs and cartoons.

And from your editor,

Thank you all very much for all the items you have sent to me this month. It is lovely to see so much happening within our U3A. Please keep sending me your items for inclusion and apologies if your photos or items haven't appeared this month, but I ran out of space.....

Please email me: annefostersavU3a@gmail.com with items for inclusion or suggestions. This is a special email address just for U3A members, press control and click on the email address to send me a message.

Ambling Group

The planned walk in Alveston on Wednesday 8th March was abandoned last minute. The weather forecast on Tuesday was for snow on Wednesday afternoon but this arrived earlier than expected and there were heavy snow showers from early morning so we postponed the walk and hope to reschedule it for May 10th.

We will not be meeting up in April as during the Easter week we know many people are busy with their families or will be away.

Details of the walk in May will be in the April newsletter.

Joyce Steckel and Olive Puzey



Tea Rota—2023

March 29th	Chaucer
April 26th	Portuguese
May 31st	Gardening
June 28th	Play Reading
July 26th	Poetry
August 30th	Spanish
September 27th	Wine Appreciation
October 25th	German Groups
November 29th	Latin
December 14th	Committee

And finally.....

Would anyone like us to run a session on **getting to know my ipad/tablet better?** We could look at sending emails, doing attachments, searching for and loading apps, swap ideas about which apps are good and which ones aren't..... It would be in the foyer or lounge at the Methodist Hall. There will need to be a charge to cover the cost of renting the space and there could be tea and cake as well.....

Email me or speak to me at the meeting . [Anne Foster](#)