

# U3A



University of the Third Age

**Stratford-upon-Avon**

Website: [www.sonau3a.org.uk](http://www.sonau3a.org.uk)

Newsletter: Issue 2019/4  
April 2019

## APRIL MEETING

Today's Speaker:

**Ron Gallivan**  
**The Home Guard - Dad's Army**

Ron will be telling us how the Home Guard came into being and how it was organised to defend in particular the Midlands and using Redditch as a general example. (Speaker Secretary observations - I hope it was better defended than Warmington-on-Sea but I am equally hopeful of a few Capt Mainwaring moments!).

## MARCH MEETING

### **Jackie Lines: her play "Streets Apart"**

We were entertained, after the Annual General Meeting, with an excellent presentation by one of our members, Jackie Lines, who has written a play "Streets Apart" which will be performed at the Stratford Play House on 6th and 7th April 2019 at 7pm. Jackie told us a bit about the play which follows the journey of two young people from desperate homelessness to companionship in a drop in centre. There is darkness and light, drama and laughter, and some aspects will break your heart and some will bring joy.

Jackie, with help from one of the actors, Mark Spriggs, then gave us an insight into the process of playwriting and acting and informing us of the joys and woes thereof, which took the form of a question and answer session. Mark will be playing one of the two main characters, a drug addict.

Jackie asked Mark what brought him to acting. He said that as a child he was a bit of a show off and loved books and stories. He was a church goer and a Scout which gave him a taste for public performance. He played "Bugsy" in "Bugsy Malone" in a school play. Following stiff competition he attended the National Youth Theatre and performed in Repertory Theatre. This was a good apprenticeship as there were often 3 plays being performed at the same time. Jackie asked his views on method acting which he thought unpicked the art and is more suited to cinema than stage. He thought the best thing about

being an actor was entertaining the audience and lifting them and being lifted by them. The worst thing was often having to get non-suitable jobs when “resting”.

Mark then asked Jackie what she considered the joys and woes of writing. She said she usually writes comedy which is often performed at the Bear Pit Theatre. Characters have to be 3-dimensional and extreme. The audience has to care about the character and the stage name (she picked ‘Norman’ as an example) has to give a quick picture. You have to have an ear for rhythm and dialogue. She says it is sometimes difficult to hand the play over but she prefers to talk to the Director to ensure he understands the basis. Jackie thought the best thing about writing was the research, excitement and energy. The worst thing was sometimes having to be anti-social with her family.

After several questions, the meeting closed with Jackie and Mark joining us for tea and biscuits.

There were 51 members present and 2 guests. The vote of thanks was given by Norman Heads.

**Jeff Cox.**

## **NORMAN’S NOTES**

Here we are at the beginning of our twentieth year - with an almost full committee! I am looking forward to a good year and I hope you are too. Many thanks are due to our retiring members who have worked so hard. Thanks go especially to Joyce and Olive who are still helping the new officers Sheila and Stephen. I am pleased to welcome our honorary president Jackie Checketts back onto the committee as Groups Coordinator, Audrey Reid as Meet and Greet and Margaret Draper, former Speaker Secretary, as Minutes Secretary. As a fairly small outfit the General Data Protection Legislation hardly impinges on our work, but our draft policy will come before the committee next meeting; it will then appear in the newsletter so that you know that we will look after your data (name, address, email address and telephone number) and only use it in accordance with what you signed on the membership form.

Has anyone a suggestion or two about us celebrating twenty years in 2020?

**Norman Heads. (Chairman).**

## **DEATH**

**Pat Bouverat.** We are sad to announce the death of Pat Bouverat, member since the inception of our U3A and a valued member of the Wine Appreciation group. Our sincere condolences go to her family.

**Sarah Gretton**

## NEWS FROM EXISTING INTEREST GROUPS

### Ambling Group

The walk on Wednesday 8th May will be through the grounds of Coughton Court near Alcester.

We plan to take the **X19** Redditch Bus leaving:  
Bridge Street (outside McDonalds) at 10:20 am.  
Wood Street (outside Oxfam) at 10:22 am.

Coughton Court is a National Trust property so if you are a member could you please remember to bring your membership card.

**Margaret Smith Joyce Steckel and Olive Puzey**

### Keep Fit Group

The following are the dates for the 2019 Summer Term classes:

April	29			
May	13,	20		( 6 & 27 - no class – bank holidays)
June	3,	10,	17,	24
July	1,	8,	15.	(10 weeks)

Classes will be held on Monday in the Wesley Hall from 9:30 to 10:30am.

At the moment the class is fully subscribed but there is a waiting list so if you are interested please contact the group leader:

**Joyce Steckel** [email [jsteckel@btinternet.com](mailto:jsteckel@btinternet.com)]

## LIST OF CURRENT COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Norman Heads	Chairman
Jeffrey Cox	Speaker Secretary
Stephen Kaye	Treasurer
Marian Heads	Secretary
Sheila Gullick	Membership Secretary
Audrey Reid	Meet and Greet (and new members)
Margaret Draper	Committee Minutes Secretary
Jackie Checketts	Honorary President and Interest Groups Coordinator
Joyce Steckel	Without Portfolio.
Audrey Spencer	Catering

## TEA ROTA

April 24th.	Audrey and Friends
May 29th.	Keep Fit
June 26th.	Music Appreciation

**Note:** Group Leaders do not have to preside over the teapot but just need to ensure that there are 2 or 3 volunteers who will. I am always on hand and will provide the necessary items for tea/coffee and biscuits after the meeting. Any problems, contact me.

**Audrey Spencer**

## DATE OF NEXT MEETING

**Wednesday 29th May, 2.00 – 4.00 p.m.  
Main Hall, Methodist Church Hall**

**Speaker: Lotte Shaw**

### **Tax, Care and Second Marriages**

Lotte will be telling us how to protect ourselves and our families when our circumstances change. If we find a new partner how will tax liability change? Inheritance tax, protecting your family's inheritance etc. Although the message is serious, the talk is informal, humorous and delivered in plain English.

Editor: Sarah Gretton, Email for Newsletter: [sonau3a.news@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:sonau3a.news@yahoo.co.uk)

**Copy deadline:** For the April issue please let me have all items on **paper** by noon on **Wednesday May 15th** but

**email** items need to be 24 hours earlier, i.e. by noon on **Tuesday May 14th**. If you use email, PLEASE use size 12 Ariel font, single line spacing, and observe the standard layout of our Newsletters.

Please check that I have acknowledged receipt of your entry.