



Jottings

The Newsletter of Church Stretton U3A

May 2018

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR:

As this is the last Jottings before the AGM I would like to encourage members to consider putting themselves forward to fill two key roles that are becoming vacant. Len Bolton has indicated that he is standing down as Groups Coordinator and Brian Bradley is standing down as General Meetings Organiser. Brian has arranged speakers for the Monthly Meetings through to December, so it will not be a case of finding speakers at short notice and I am sure Brian will be happy to offer advice. Church Stretton U3A does not run itself. If members do not put themselves forward to join the Committee and put something back, it will eventually collapse. If anyone is brave enough to come forward, come along to the next Monthly Meeting and have a chat or give me a call on 01694 771622. The next Jottings will be distributed in September.

VACANCIES

GENERAL MEETINGS ORGANISER

The current General Meetings Organiser, Brian Bradley, will be stepping down from the post in May this year. We are looking for a replacement to take on this role. The new programme starts in October this year and we have already have speakers up to December. Anyone interested in this activity please contact Brian or another committee member for further information.

Role of the General Meetings Organiser - includes:

- Locate potential speakers and topics (10 talks per year)
- Create a programme for the next year (October to September following year)
- Following approval by the committee, confirm bookings with speakers
- Provide details for printing the programme and publicity

GROUPS COORDINATOR

The current Groups Coordinator, Len Bolton, will be stepping down from the post in May this year. We are looking for a replacement to take on this role. Anyone interested in this activity please contact Len or another committee member for further information.

The role of the Groups Coordinator - includes:

- Being the first contact point for all members (new and existing) interested in learning about specific groups.
- Pass contact details of group leaders to potential new members.
- Contact group leaders at least twice a year to obtain brief reports on how each of the groups are functioning eg how many in each group, where they meet and how often.
- Ensure that contact details of interest group leaders are kept up to date.
- At main committee meetings provide feedback on interest group activities.
- Encourage members both new and existing to form new groups.
- Remind all members from time to time that U3A is a self-help organisation.

Provide updates for 'Jottings' on group, reports and to provide any new members with information that helps them decide which group they are interested in.

Attend general meetings and be prepared to answer enquiries about interest groups from members.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

2018

May Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 23 May 2018, 2pm at United Reformed Church Hall, on the High Street.

"Barrow to Bagdad and Back ..." by Philip Caine

A journey from the UK to Algeria, Nigeria, Kazakhstan, Russia, Dubai, Iraq and back.

June General Meeting

Wednesday 27 June 2018, 2pm at United Reformed Church Hall, on the High Street.

"Healthy Body for the Healthy Mind" by Barbara Hall

Description of known dementia risk factors and how lifestyle changes may empower us to retain a healthy mind during our life.

NO MEETINGS IN JULY AND AUGUST

September General Meeting

Wednesday, 26 September 2018, 2pm at United Reformed Church Hall, on the High Street.

"New Challenges to Human Rights" by David Howard

As global power shifts and new threats emerge, does the human rights movement need a new direction and impetus?

September - Shropshire U3A Network Study Day

The information and a booking form for the Shropshire Network Study Day to be held at the University Centre, Frankwell, Shrewsbury on 1st September 2018 is now available on the events page of the Shrewsbury U3A website.

PREVIOUS MEETINGS:

January Meeting: "Andes and Boobies" by David Maddocks

The Galapagos Islands are well known for their wildlife. Lying 1,000km off the coast of Ecuador, the numerous volcanic islands are home to a diversity of plant and animal species, many found nowhere else.

David has visited the Galapagos twice. His last visit was a 2 week trip, most of which was spent on a boat travelling from island to island. This enabled him to travel to the outreaching islands – something which those going for a shorter trip would be unable to do.

No matter how short your trip is, you would undoubtedly come across the Frigate bird. You may not get to see its magnificent throat pouch that it displays during the breeding season, but, like all wildlife in the area, you can approach them without fear of them flying away.



The same goes for the blue-footed Booby. A favourite for many visitors, their brightly coloured feet make them one of the easiest birds to identify. Interestingly, there are 3 species of Booby on the Galapagos. Each have adapted to their particular habitat. The blue-footed Booby nests on low lying ground. There is a Booby with pink feet that has adapted to enable them to grasp branches. The Nazca Booby, also known as the Masked Booby, nests on much higher ground and has grey feet.



The Galapagos is not all about the birds though. Plants, insects, crabs and iguana all got a mention in David's interesting talk. His special moment was getting close up and personal with a female sea-lion. So close, in fact, he could feel her whiskers on his head! As for those gorgeous eyes **Lesley Brown**

February Meeting: "Charles Rolls of Rolls-Royce" by Bruce Lawson

Charles Rolls was born 27 August 1877 into a wealthy family from Hendre, near Monmouth. His early interest in motor vehicles saw him driving one of the first cars from Cambridge to Monmouth. The car in question was a Peugeot and the journey took 2½ days!

He founded a car dealership, based in London, initially importing cars from France and Belgium. At that time there was no such thing as a British motor industry. Then in 1904 he was introduced to Henry Royce who was starting to design and make British cars, albeit on a very small scale.

In 1906, using Rolls' marketing skills, Royce agreed to sell his cars through him under the name of Rolls-Royce. The company was a huge success, but by 1909 Rolls was losing interest and resigned his position.

He turned his attention to the aviation industry, having had an interest in flying for many years. Initially a balloonist, he soon joined the ranks of the early flyers such as the Wright Brothers. In 1910, Charles Rolls became the first man to make a non-stop crossing from England to France and back again. Tragically, he was to die just one month later when his plane broke up during a flying display, aged just 32. There is now a memorial to Rolls in Monmouth which acknowledges his achievements in the fields of motoring, ballooning and aviation.



Bruce's interesting, and sometimes humorous presentation, gave us a brief picture of a man who lived life to the full. He has written a book entitled "Charles Rolls of Rolls-Royce". Looking for a project, Bruce realised that Rolls was so much more than one half of Rolls-Royce. Bruce is not even that interested in cars!! **Lesley Brown**

Thanks go to Bruce for standing in at short notice. Meredith Vivian's talk "Guide Dogs, Facts and Fallacies" has been rescheduled for October 2018.

March - U3A Quiz Night

The quiz night was very well attended with members and guests of 9 teams consisting of at least 6 people per team.

To welcome everyone there was wine and crisps to start off the evening and then very generous platefuls of various cheeses, crackers and bread, served to all tables during the interval.

There was a wide range of questions, which certainly exercised the brain due to the difficulty of the questions but as the saying goes "questions are only hard if you don't know the answer"!

Congratulations to the winners and to all the teams that took part and many thanks to the organiser and quizmaster, Grahame Hurst, and to all those who helped in various ways in making the evening so successful. **Julia Felton**

March Meeting – “Under the Influence” by Andy Smith

We were delighted to welcome back Andy Smith to entertain us with songs and music of The Beatles, Buddy Holly, John Denver etc. Andy played many guitars, a mandolin and a ukulele whilst putting his own take on the original songs to get the audience joining in with the singing, the feet tapping and the hands clapping. A very talented man providing a very enjoyable afternoon.

Julia Felton

NEWS FROM THE GROUPS:

Handicraft Group



The Handicraft Group have been learning to crochet. We have been practising our skills by making a variety of different squares, which we joined together to make this spectacular blanket. We are so thrilled with our achievement. We have donated the blanket to



Home Start, a charity which helps families in crisis who have young children. **Margaret Haynes**

Singing for Pleasure – dates of meetings

1 May, 14 May, 19 June and 4 September.

New Groups

At the monthly meetings ‘Sign Up Sheets’ are on the table to encourage members to start new groups and recently photography and German for beginners have been suggested. Are there any members that are interested in a group that helps people to use and understand small computer devices but only dealing with Android devices. Interest has also been shown in perhaps starting a Spanish Conversation Group, a Welsh Group (contact s.nickless@uwclub.net or 07967323765), Cycling Group and Supper Club. If anyone would like to join or start a new group please contact the Groups Coordinator (Len Bolton) via the website u3asites.org.uk/churchstretton/contact for further details.

Church Stretton U3A Groups:

Here is the list of the Church Stretton U3A Groups. Contact the Groups Coordinator (Len Bolton) via the website u3asites.org.uk/churchstretton/contact to find out more about any group that you are interested in or may be thinking of joining.

Art – drawing and painting
Art History
Book Group
Book Group 2
Bridge
Classical Music
Classical Music 2
Family & Social History
French

Handicraft
Hill Walking
Landscape Archeology
Philosophy
Popular Music
Scottish Dancing
Singing for Pleasure
Writers' Group
Writers' Group 2

Your Committee:

Chair - Grahame Hurst
Vice Chair - Colin Carson
Treasurer - Ben Hilliard
Business Secretary - Vacant
Minutes Secretary - Jennifer O'Shea
Membership Secretary - Lesley Brown
Groups Coordinator - Len Bolton
General Meetings Organiser - Brian Bradley
Newsletter Editor - Julia Felton
Webmaster – Sylvia Davidson
Publicity Officer - vacant

Updates and news from groups and comments on recent events from members are always welcome, and should be returned to me, **Julia Felton**, via the website u3asites.org.uk/churchstretton/contact. Your input will be appreciated.

Keep up to date with what's going on in Church Stretton U3A by checking the website at: u3asites.org.uk/churchstretton or phone the Membership Secretary 01694 724330

National Events:

Please go to u3a.org.uk for more details of National Events (You will have to create a login account to access pages for members) or the magazine Third Age Matters. If you have no access to the internet you may contact a committee member to help you.