



# *The Sentinel*

*The newsletter of Balsall Common U3A*

*Editor Len Tomnie*

December 2018

## **Core Meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> December has moved back to St. Peters Hall.**

Please note that the core meeting on 6th December will now be held in St Peter's Hall. This had been provisionally booked by Solihull MBC for local by-elections, but it is now no longer required. As a stopgap I had to reserve the Village Hall for our meeting, but we can now revert to St Peter's Hall where our guest speaker will be Davis Clarke who's topic is "Banned By the BBC - We Can't Broadcast That".

We look forward to seeing you at this meeting when we will be providing festive mince pies instead of biscuits with the tea and coffee.

Jim Melville  
Chairman

### **Talk**

The talk on the 3<sup>rd</sup> January is "Doctor Livingstone I presume." Talks start at 2pm. at St. Peters Hall Holly Lane Balsall Common.

## **Balsall Common U3A – 2019 Membership Renewals**

At this year's AGM it was agreed to extend the membership year to the end of 2018 which gave all existing members 7 months "free". All good things come to an end and it is now time to renew for 2019. The agreed membership fee for 2019 is £12.50. This is due on 1st January.

**Please note that for this year we need you each to complete a Membership Renewal Form (a copy is attached) to comply with data protection.**

**Please ensure you complete all required elements of this form.**

**Unfortunately, without this information we will not be able to process your renewal and your membership could lapse.**

Payments by cheque only (payable to **Balsall Common U3A**) to be received by the Treasurer, together with the completed Renewal Form, not later than 31 st January. If the account is not in the member's name please ensure the name is on the back of the cheque. Payments can be made at a Core meeting or direct to me:

Richard Drake, Treasurer, Merrivale, Green Lane, Balsall Common CV7 7EJ.

Alternatively payments can be made to a Committee member or a Group coordinator, but please ensure that the Membership Renewal form accompanies your cheque.

Payments will be accepted from 1st December 2018.

Richard Drake  
Treasurer  
December 2018

### **Film Group**

The film on the 12th December **Aladdin**. Voices-Scott Weinger, Robin Williams, Linda Larkin. When a street urchin vies for the love of a beautiful princess, he uses a genie's magic power to make himself off as a prince in order to marry her

The film will be shown in the Westlake Room of the Village Hall and starts at 1.45.

*Make yourself at home... clean my kitchen*

### **The U3A At the BBC**

A group of twenty U3A members had an interesting and enjoyable visit to the BBC studios in The Mailbox Birmingham. We had two excellent guides who explained how everything works in a friendly and informative manner. We started at a sound studio used for the Asian service, and one of the presenters joined us and talked how the service works.

The next studio visited was where The Archers is recorded, and the demonstration of the sound effects produced much merriment amongst our members. The television studio was next, and was much smaller than most people expected, it is used for the Midlands Today programme, the weather forecast and some other broadcasts.

The guides explained that the newsreaders were experienced journalists who prepared practically all the news items themselves before reading it from the autocue. We went to the control room where the cameras to be used for the picture broadcast are chosen, and where the producer and staff work. The final part of the visit consisted on seven of our members taking part in a mock radio play for the entertainment of the rest of the group.

### **Out and About Group visit to CSWDC visit.**

On Thursday 8th November 14 members of the U3A visited the Coventry & Solihull Waste Reduction Unit in Coventry to find out what happens to non-recyclable rubbish collected by Solihull MB. Every year the plant deals with 125,000 tonnes of rubbish collected from Coventry homes, 60,000 tonnes from Solihull as well as 21,000 tonnes from Warwickshire. The rubbish arrives at the plant, via the dustcart and is tipped in large bunker from here the rubbish is grabbed by a giant claw machine and is lifted and dropped into one of three chutes which lead to the incinerators. When the rubbish is burnt it releases fumes at 850 deg C to heat water and the steam produced is used to drive turbines to generate 85,000 Mwh of electricity. This is used to power the plant and surplus sold to the National Grid. That is enough electricity to power 21,000 homes. The group also learnt how metals are recovered and the ash used to cover land fill sites. As well as how the flue gases are cleaned and harmful elements removed.

Coventry and Solihull Waste Disposal Centre deals with 240,000 tonnes of rubbish every year. It recycles 6,000 tonnes of recyclable metal and creates 46,000 tonnes of bottom ash, which is currently used as landfill cover. The plant runs 24 hours a day 365 days a year and employs 70 staff working a 5 shift rota.

### **Out and About.**

Out and About is having a rest over the winter and will return in the early spring. Visits and tours will be announced in the Sentinel, at Core Meetings and also on the Out and About page on the Balsall Common U3A website. Photographs taken on the years visits can be found by following this link:

[www.balsallcommonu3a.org/photograph\\_album\\_2018.htm#Outabout](http://www.balsallcommonu3a.org/photograph_album_2018.htm#Outabout)

If any member wants to join me in organising the events they will be more than welcome. Also if you have ideas for future visits please contact me. [petercalver@outlook.com](mailto:petercalver@outlook.com).

### **Ramblers and Short Walkers**

We have just become aware of an occasional walker who was not on our e-mail listing. If you don't get regular e-mails from Martin or Richard and want to be kept up-to-date on walks let one of them know and they will add you on.

*Of course I'm in shape. Round is a shape*

### **QUIZ NIGHT**

A hugely successful quiz night took place on Friday 16th November at the Village Hall. This is the fourth quiz night we have held, 10 teams of 6 people sat down to enjoy an entertaining evening.

Team GQT took first place with a score of 83 points followed closely by Amnesiacs with 82.5 points. For the fourth year running Six No Trumps came last and are extremely proud of their achievement.

Five teams successfully completed the word search and after a tie break Motley Crew were declared the winners.

A HUGE thank you to our Chairman, Jim Melville, for producing and hosting the quiz and to all Committee Members and helpers for providing supper and ensuring that the event ran smoothly.

### **Christmas Greetings.**

The Chairman and committee of Balsall Common U3A wish all our members a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



### **Balsall Common U3A and Amazon**

Balsall Common U3A is a member of Amazon, affiliation programme.

This means if you go to Amazon by clicking on the link on the Home page of Balsall Common U3A's web site [www.balsallcommonu3a.org](http://www.balsallcommonu3a.org), the U3A will receive up to 6%, of your purchase value at no cost to yourself. The link to Amazon is at the bottom of the home page of the web site just above the photograph taken at a core meeting.

Balsall Common U3A will only be credited if you access Amazon through the link on our website.

*If you know of any member who is in hospital, ill at home or bereaved, please inform a committee member and, if appropriate we will arrange to contact the member.*

**Your membership renewal form is on the next two pages.**



# Balsall Common U3A Membership Renewal Form 2019

For this year only, in order to comply with the Privacy Statement of Balsall Common U3A, you ALL need to complete this form INDIVIDUALLY and return it, together with your cheque for £12.50, to the Treasurer, a committee member or any group coordinator. It can also be handed in at a Core meeting.

Treasurer: Richard Drake, Merrivale, Green Lane, Balsall Common CV7 7EJ

## YOUR DETAILS

Title _____	Name _____
Email** _____	Phone/Mobile _____
Address _____	
_____	Postcode _____

\*\* To reduce costs, the committee will communicate with you via email where possible. If you do not have, or do not wish to provide an email account, then you may not receive all communications and those you do may be delayed.

Are you a member of another U3A? No Yes If Yes, which one? \_\_\_\_\_

If you are from another U3A and attending group/s in Balsall Common U3A, no membership fee is required, only the charges payable by any group member. However your details are required for our records.

## MEMBERSHIP FEES

**Full Membership 2019: £12.50** Fees are payable by cheque to "Balsall Common U3A". This fee includes a £3.50 membership subscription paid to our national organisation, the Third Age Trust, which provides a wide range of services and benefits, including liability insurance cover.

## TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF MEMBERSHIP

All members must:

- Abide by the Principles of the U3A movement.
- Always act in the best interests of the U3A and never do anything to bring the U3A into disrepute.
- Abide by the terms and conditions of the constitution.
- Treat fellow members with respect and courtesy at all times.
- Comply with and support the decisions of the elected committee.
- Advise the committee of any change in your details.

I hereby apply to renew my membership of Balsall Common U3A and confirm that I will abide by the terms of membership as stated above. I confirm that I have completed this form myself. I enclose full payment of the appropriate fee.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Continued**

**PRIVACY STATEMENT**

Please tick the box below to give us permission to use the information you have provided in the following ways:

- To store it securely for membership purposes.
- To communicate with you as a U3A member.
- To share with group leaders for those groups which you are a member of.
- To send you general information about the Third Age Trust (the national organisation to which U3As are affiliated).

I consent to my data being used for membership purposes as detailed above.

Are you happy to be added to the direct mailing list for the free Third Age Trust magazines - Third Age Matters and Sources? If so, please tick the box below.

I consent to my data being shared with the company which oversees the distribution of the Trust magazines.

Please be advised that you can request that your data is not to be used for any of these purposes at any time by contacting the Membership Secretary

Email: [membership@balsallcommonu3a.org](mailto:membership@balsallcommonu3a.org) or telephone: 01676 532452.

For internal use:

Received	Paid	Logged	Membership number
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