



The Sentinel

The newsletter of Balsall Common U3A

Editor Len Tomnie

February 2019

Talks

VIPs (Visually Impaired People) Go To Everest is the talk on the 7th February given by David Carrington Porter.

Our own Swing Division will be playing for us on the 7th March led by Nick Carter.

Both of these will be at St. Peters Hall, Holly Lane Balsall Common and start at 2pm.

Visit by Auriol Ainley - U3A Regional Trustee for the West Midlands 7th February

At the February meeting Auriol Ainley, U3A Regional Trustee for the West Midlands, will be visiting us. Her visit is primarily to see what we do and meet our members informally during refreshments. She will also inform us about her role as a Regional Trustee.

Film Group

The film of the 13th February is The Lavender Hill Mob. Alec Guinness/Alfie Bass/Stanley Holloway, in the Ealing Comedy on how to rob the Bank of England.

The film Starts at 1.45pm in the Westlake Room at the rear of the Village Hall.

Dates for your diary

The **Annual General meeting** of Balsall Common U3A will be held on **Thursday 9th May** at 2:00 pm in St Peter's Hall. We cannot have the hall on the first Thursday in May as it is used as a polling station for the local elections. The formal notification for this AGM will be sent out in early April.

Quiz night

It's a long way away but it will be held on the evening of **Thursday 14 November** in St Peter's Hall. The committee decided to move from the Village Hall to accommodate more people, but unfortunately there were no Friday evenings available. Further details will be announced nearer the time

Craft Group

The group and some friends are knitting baby hats for the University of Coventry and Warwickshire Hospital Maternity Department (Walsgrave). All babies leaving the hospital are given a hat. During the year the group will continue with the charity boxes and their own crafts.

Membership Renewal

A gentle reminder that 2019 Renewals are due by 31st January and that we require a Renewal Form completed as well as your Fee this year. Full details

here: <http://www.balsallcommonu3a.org/Downloads/Jan%202019%20Renewals.pdf>

Individual reminders will be sent out to anyone who hasn't renewed by the February core meeting."

New Groups

Could you run a group in an activity not already covered? People to run new groups are always needed, either by themselves or with others. The first step is to contact the Group Liaison Officer whitelin100@gmail.com to discuss your ideas.

Financial help could be available if required.

This is a list of some of the activities run by other U3A groups not already covered by us.

Art appreciation
Art History
Astronomy
Belly dancing
Bird watching
Calligraphy
Canasta
Chess
Classic vehicles
Computing
Creative writing
Crosswords
Debating
Dress making
Electronics
Flower Arranging
Geology
German
Guitar
History
Italian
Maths for fun
Meditation
Military history
Opera
Pilates
Play reading
Political thought
Psychology
Railways
Science
Shakespeare
Spanish
Tai Chi
Ukulele
World religions
Yoga

Groups can be a one off, a short course, or twelve or fifty two times a year.

That moment when there's a spider on you, and you suddenly turn into a black belt karate master.

Robotics Challenge

Are you interested in a U3A challenge for 2019 to design and construct programmable robots to perform a series of tasks at a U3A event in August 2019.

If so, more information is available on the BC U3A website, with details of how to register your interest. www.balsallcommonu3a.org

Out and About Group Visits

I have arranged a group visit on Thursday 14th March to a new museum in Stratford upon Avon, the MAD museum. No, not mad as in insane but MAD as an acronym for Museum of Art and Design. The MAD Museum is a combination of Heath Robinson, Chitty Chitty Bang Bang and Scrapheap Challenge. The weird and wonderful, interactive machines portray clever engineering, inspirational creativity and wit. MAD displays over 90 pieces of Kinetic Art and Automata. The displays are very much hands on allowing you bring the machines to life. Entrance cost is £5.00 each (minimum 10 members maximum 30). You will be expected to make your own way to Stratford or car share.

Thursday 11th April 2019 – Combined guided visits of Lord Leycester Hospital Warwick in the morning (11:00 am) and afternoon (13:30) of Collegiate Church of St Mary in Warwick.

Cost is £8.00 per person. Again participants to make their own way to Warwick

If you are interested in attending either of these events please let me know

petercalver@outlook.com or telephone 01676 535318.

Other visits in the pipeline are: a visit to the Police Lockup in Birmingham, a visit to the Guide Dogs Breeding Centre, a behind the scenes visit to the Hippodrome Theatre in Birmingham.

I dream of a better tomorrow, where chickens can cross the road and not be questioned about their motives.

The Westlake Room

An induction loop has been installed in The Westlake Room at the rear of the village hall for the various organisations that use the room including the U3A.

This is for hearing aid users with a loop (or T) setting on their hearing aid.

(Some people have hearing aids where the loop system has not been activated, you should ask your hearing aid provider if your hearing aid has such a setting.)

As with all loop systems this is only useful when there is only one person speaking at a time. If there are several conversations going on at the same time the loop system is not applicable. Anyone wanting a demonstration of this loop system should send an email to len.tomnie@gmail.com

Balsall Common U3A Website.

The website is a useful source of information on our U3A with items such as details of the activity groups, the core meeting programmes, and you can even read The Sentinel on there. Keep in touch with the U3A by visiting the website on a regular basis. www.balsallcommonu3a.org

Amazon Do you purchase items from Amazon? If you access Amazon by clicking on the icon on the home page of our website Balsall Common U3A will benefit by up to 6% of the cost of your purchase at no additional cost to the purchaser.

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.