

The Sentinel

The newsletter of Balsall Common U3A

Editor Len Tomnie

January 2019



May I wish all our members
a Happy Hogmanay
and a Guid New Year

Jim Melville



Talks

On the 3rd January the talk will be "Doctor Livingstone I Presume" by Fran Sandham, and on the 7th February "VIPs go to Everest" by Davis Carrington Porter. Talks are held at St. Peters Hall, Holly Lane, Balsall Common and start at 2pm.

Film Group

The 9th of January film at 1:45 in the Westlake room is Rear Window. A 1954 film directed by Alfred Hitchcock, the stars are James Stewart and Grace Kelly. A wheelchair-bound photographer spies on his neighbours from his apartment window and becomes convinced one of them has committed murder.

I made a huge to do list for today. I just can't work out who's going to do it.

2019 Membership Renewals

I already have over 150 renewals for 2019. The fee is £12.50 (payable by cheque to **Balsall Common U3A**) and this year must be accompanied by a completed **Renewal Form** to keep us legal. The form was attached to the last Sentinel and can also be found on the website. (I will also bring some with me to the next core meeting if you have issues printing it).

You have until the 31st January to pay. Otherwise I will start to (very) gently nag you. Richard Drake, Treasurer

Theatre Group

There will be a trip to the Core Theatre in Solihull to see a musical Top Hat performed by Knowle Musical Society. This will be on Friday 15 March at 7 30 pm. Tickets cost £19. Money will be collected at the core meeting on 3 January.

Please make any cheques payable to Balsall Common U3A.

Top Hat the musical is based on the award winning film musical of the same name starring Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers, featuring music and lyrics by Irving Berlin and additional orchestration by Chris Walker. With well known songs like 'Puttin' on the Ritz', 'Isn't it a Lovely Day (to be caught in the rain)', 'Cheek to Cheek', 'Let's Face the Music and Dance' and of course 'Top Hat White Tie and Tails'.

New committee member:

Many thanks to Mike Simms who has recently agreed to be co-opted onto the Executive Committee.

Photography Display

The Photography Group will be holding its twice yearly exhibition of members' photographs in Balsall Common Library from 7th to 18th January. Please come along and have a look.

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

I am pleased to inform you that Auriol Ainley, U3A Regional Trustee for the West Midlands, has accepted my invitation to attend our core meeting on Thursday 7th February 2019. Her visit is primarily to see what we do and meet our members informally during refreshments. However she will also inform us briefly about her role as our Regional Trustee.

Jim Melville

I just wrote a book on reverse psychology. Do not read it.

Balsall Common U3A Website

We often get requests from members and other organisations to circulate information by email to our members. Under the latest General Data Protection Regulation and along with the Privacy Statement we can only use the email address you have given us to send you information on U3A matters. Following the new regulations if any requests are received, providing it is for a charitable concern, and it is not overtly political or religious we will put it on the News Page of the website.

Now the Three monthly diary is no longer being produced if you want to see what is on please refer to the Group Schedule on the website click the Group Schedule on the home page. If you need further information about a group click the group's button on the left-hand side of the home page.

A full list of groups and their coordinators is available in the Members section as well a copy of all approved minutes of the Executive Committee's meetings and other information private to our group. You will need a username and password to access this secure are of the website. If you have forgotten yours please send an email to webmaster@balsallcommonu3a.org

We appreciate that a small number of our members do not have a computer. May we point out if you want to refer to the website you can use the computers in the Balsall Common Library free of charge for 1 hour all you need is your library card. Just enter our website address www.balsallcommonu3a.org If you need help in doing this please contact any committee member or coordinator and they will arrange help at the Library for you.

I've had a wonderful evening- but this wasn't it.

About The Sentinel.

The Sentinel is sent out on the weekend before the Core Meeting.

If you have any items you would like to be included in The Sentinel they must be related to the U3A as stated above. Articles should be emailed to len.tomnie@gmail.com as early in the month as possible.

Christmas 2018,

A number of members of Balsall Common U3A were at a complimentary Christmas meal held at Balsall Common Village Hall on Christmas Day. This event was run by CP Barbers for people who would otherwise have had their Christmas meal alone. The excellent three course meal came with wine, and was followed by mince pies, Christmas cake, and tea and coffee. Donations of food and other items came from Bosworths Butchers, Adlington Turkeys, and the One Stop shop. Volunteers served the food and helped the afternoon run smoothly. After the meal people were presented with a goodies bag which included various biscuits, chocolates, and a calendar. CP Barbers are planning to run similar events every few months for people who are on their own, so watch out for adverts.

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, 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.