

September 2019

## **Talks.**

On the 5<sup>th</sup> of September there will be a short Special General Meeting before the talk by Mike Watkins entitled "The Empress of Ireland." On the 3<sup>rd</sup> of October there will be a talk on Birmingham Cathedral by Stephen Recond. Talks are held at St. Peters Hall, Holly Lane, Balsall Common and start at 2pm.

## **Out and About Future visits**

Thursday September 12<sup>th</sup> a Guided visit of the Amazon Fulfilment Centre, starting at 11:30 am This visit is now fully subscribed with 43 members booked for the tour.

Thursday November 14<sup>th</sup> a visit to Singers Hill Synagogue starting at 14:00, home to the Birmingham Hebrew Congregation it has been the focal point for Jewish worship and community life in Birmingham for more than 160 years. Known as the "cathedral" synagogue, the grade II listed building is Birmingham's most important and influential Synagogue. Built in 1856, the outstandingly beautiful building was recently awarded English Heritage's prestigious award for "Most Improved Place of Worship". It is situated adjacent to the Mailbox. A 10 to 15 minute walk from New street Railway Station. The visit will last 1½ hours so plenty of time to return home for the U3A Quiz Night on the same day. The cost of the visit is £3.50 each payable by the November Core Meeting 7<sup>th</sup> November. If you are interested in joining this visit please email Petercalver@outlook.com or telephone 01676 535318

## **Out and About Group Visit to the Guide Dogs Breeding Centre**

On Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> August 27 U3A members accompanied by 10 grandchildren visited the Guide Dogs for the Blind's national breeding centre at Bishops Tachbrook. Our members were given a brief introduction about the state of the art facility that was opened in 2011. We were split up into small groups and were guided around the site. We learnt a lots of facts and figures about the breeding programme. The facility has the capacity for 1500 puppies a year. Since the centre opened they have bred 11,000 puppies.

When a breeding bitch comes into season (approximately every 7 months) she will be brought into the breeding centre for mating. Extensive research is carried out to select an appropriate stud dog and this is married to the bitch with reference to her own qualities. At approximately 4-5 weeks post mating, the bitches are checked for pregnancy using an ultrasound scanner and to determine the number of pups expected. The average gestation period is 63 days and the average litter size seems to be on the rise, currently at 7.6.

Guide Dogs has a Breeding Code of Ethics which outlines its ethical standpoint relating to breeding practices and emphasises their commitment to the Health and Welfare of all the Breeding Stock.

***I hate it when people ask me what I will be doing tomorrow, I don't even know what I'm doing today.***



## BALSALL COMMON U3A



**Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> November**

6:30 for 7:00pm start

**St. Peter's Hall, Holly Lane, Balsall Common**

**Teams of 6 (# see below)**

Come as a team or join a table on the night  
Open to all our members (plus one guest per member)

**Ticket cost £5:00 per person**

payable by cheque to Balsall Common U3A

A light supper will be served: baked potato  
with a choice of baked beans, cheese and coleslaw

**This event will be by numbered ticket only  
(to be used in a draw during the evening)**

Tickets must be paid for by cheque at the October &  
November core meetings from Richard Drake  
or by sending him a cheque to "Merrivale",  
Green Lane, Balsall Common CV7 7EJ  
(Your tickets will then be sent to you)

# A table for 6 can be reserved by providing a  
"lead" name and cheques totalling £30

N.B. The final date for payment is 7<sup>th</sup> November

**No refunds will be made after that date**

Those attending are requested to bring their own  
drinks/glasses/nibbles etc and take away any rubbish.  
Paper plates and plastic cutlery will be provided

## **A Message to Hard of Hearing U3A Members**

A significant number of our U3A members have some degree of hearing loss. One method that can be helpful in dealing with this is lip reading, and a charity is planning to start a course for lip reading in Balsall Common in September.

It will be held on Tuesday mornings in the Westlake Room at the Village Hall providing they can get enough people to participate. There is no charge, although people can make a donation if they wish to. A taster session is being held in the Westlake Room on the 10<sup>th</sup> September for people to find out more about lip reading. You can apply by going to this email [contactcelst@gmail.com](mailto:contactcelst@gmail.com) also see their website [www.celst.org.uk](http://www.celst.org.uk)

*The difference between a dog and a cat. A dog will think, these people feed me, they house me, they play with me, they must be gods. A cat will think, these people feed me, they house me, they play with me, I must be a god.*

## **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](http://www.balsallcommonu3a.org)

## **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.*