



The Sentinel

The newsletter of Balsall Common U3A
Editor Len Tommie

September 2020

Chairman's message

Following a committee meeting on 26th August these arrangements will now apply:

There will be no core meeting before January 2021 at the earliest. It was agreed that until social distancing measures are relaxed significantly (which would then increase the capacity of St Peter's Hall from the current 30 people) and refreshments can be served, regrettably this was the only course of action we could take.

However, where possible, group meetings will be encouraged following government guidelines. Already many groups have restarted in different ways and these coordinators are thanked for their creative efforts.

The committee reviewed every group activity and will inform each coordinator what could be done under the current restrictions. This is provided that the group members wish to be involved, having considered the written risk assessment prepared by their coordinator.

Unfortunately it has been necessary to cancel the Quiz Night planned for November, but it will be held next year once the numbers in St Peter's Hall can be increased.

Naturally the situation on core and group meetings will be kept under review by the committee members who will be guided by advice from the government and the Third Age Trust.

Sadly, after thirteen years with Margaret Green at the helm, the Poetry group has been unable to find a replacement for her as its coordinator, so it has now finished. Claire Laland has also relinquished her role as coordinator for the Theatre Group and a replacement for her is being sought.

U3A Eye - Yet another photo from one of our member was selected for the topic "Summer" entitled "Enjoying The Summer Sun" - see below.

What an amazing selection of weather we had in August - high temperatures, thunder, lightening, Storm Francis, high winds and flash floods. On 7th August the UK experienced its hottest day in August for 17 years as temperatures hit an unbearable high of 36.4⁰C in the south east of England. However not as hot as the 54.4⁰C highest ever recorded in Death Valley in California.

Some of the events which caught my eye this month included the 2020 EE British Academy Film Awards being held behind closed doors with 1917 winning the Best Film and taking six other awards and Glenda Jackson gaining her first TV BAFTA at the age of 84. 36 new peers were created and The Palace of Westminster was commemorated on a set of British stamps. The Royal Mint struck a commemorative £5 coin celebrating the historic 150th anniversary of the British Red Cross.

Unfortunately many annual events were cancelled including Bristol International Balloon Fiesta, Ceredigion National Eisteddfod, Cowes Week, Edinburgh International Festival & Fringe, Notting Hill Carnival, Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo & the World Bog Snorkelling Championship. However the Tin Bath Championship did take place in the Isle of Man!

We have seen some sporting events this month, almost all behind “closed doors”, including:

Football: The Scottish Premiership started on 1st August. In the FA Cup final Arsenal beat Chelsea. In the Championship final Fulham beat Brentford to secure a return to the Premier League thanks to two extra-time goals. In the UEFA Champions League Bayern Munich beat Paris St Germain.

F1: Lewis Hamilton won the British GP for the 7th time (on three wheels), managed 2nd a week later and then won the Spanish GP. How will he fare in the Belgian GP on Sunday?

World Snooker Championship: Ronnie O'Sullivan claimed his sixth World Championship by beating Kyren Wilson 18-8 at The Crucible, collecting £500,000 in winnings.

Golf: 23yr old Collin Morikawa won the US PGA Championship and Sofia Popov produced a huge shock by winning the AIG Women's Open at Royal Troon, in both instances leading by two strokes.

Test Cricket v Pakistan: England won the first and drew the other two. In the final test James Anderson took his 600th Test wicket.

Boxing: Terri Harper retained her WBC super-featherweight title after a split decision draw with Natasha Jonas.

Cycling: Tour de France starts on 29th without Mark Cavendish, Chris Froome or Geraint Thomas. To put smiles on the faces of children and make a real impact on the daily lives of underprivileged people, the Tour de France will be donating 1,500 bicycles to several partner organisations, both in France and abroad!

Meanwhile I sincerely hope that the incidence of Covid-19 will continue to diminish and that you all stay safe and well until we can meet again.

Jim Melville

A balanced diet means a cake in each hand

Four new committee members

On Wednesday 26th August, at the first face to face Executive Committee meeting since 5th March, four new members were welcomed as additional trustees – John Bolt, Sue Simpson Matthew Stephens & Ernie Taylor. Their involvement during these unprecedented times will help to ensure the continuity of the committee and the future well-being of Balsall Common U3A and its members.

An apple a day keeps anyone away, if you throw it hard enough. -

Coordinator for Theatre Group

After six years since Claire Laland started this group, which has been very successful with good attendance and reports from all visits, she has decided that it is time for her to pass on the leadership to someone else. Claire has enjoyed her time as Coordinator and says it has been a pleasure meeting so many different people.

Obviously no one has any idea when it will be possible to have group visits to theatres but we can only plan ahead. If you are interested and would like further information, please speak to Claire (telephone 0770 2087687) who has all the information needed about this role. She would be more than willing to help the new Coordinator restart this group. It would be such a shame to lose it.

On behalf of all the members may I thank Claire for all her hard work over these years enabling the Theatre Group to flourish.

Jim Melville

Human beings, who are almost unique in having the ability to learn from the experience of others, are also remarkable for their apparent disinclination to do so.

U3A Eye

Balsall Common U3A has another photo published in the U3A Eye competition. This is “Enjoying the Summer Sun” by Jim Melville.



This image was chosen to promote the Summer U3A Eye gallery and was posted on Facebook and Twitter using the following links

https://twitter.com/U3A_UK and

<https://www.facebook.com/u3auk/posts/1383617628497989>

Biologically speaking, if something bites you it's more likely to be female.

We are pleased to report that In August 4 of our outdoor Groups were able to restart with restrictions on numbers and having completed risk assessments. At last a step in the right direction!!!

Walking Football Group

“The walking football started back on the 7th August and have continued every Friday since, we ensure that we comply to our own risk assessment as well as the guidelines issued by both the Hornets and the FA for games. The group have all returned in good health and fitness (some fitter than others so you can see whose been active during lockdown). The group size is currently 15 with a regular 12 turning out for the game.”

Short Walks/Rambling Groups

Short Walks Group restarted in August with limited numbers. 4 Groups went out a total of 17 walkers + leaders to do a c3 mile walk. 2 walks in the morning led by Richard and Caroline and 2 in the afternoon led by Richard and Martin. The good news is that for the September walk we can increase our numbers.

The Rambling Group achieved their first ramble at the beginning of August with limited numbers, two leaders Richard and Martin took two groups of 5 on a c5 mile route from Lavender Hall Park. Unfortunately the second ramble for August was ‘rained off’. As with the Short Walks Group numbers can now be increased.

For either of the above future planned walks/rambles check the website for details. Unfortunately at this point in time we still cannot organise group lunches.

If you would be prepared to help out by leading walks or rambles please contact the Group Coordinators.

Petanque

It was a great relief to re-enter some form of normality when we were able to reconvene the Petanque Group on 12th August. We are under some strict guidelines from a combination of Hampton in Arden Sports Club, Petanque England and U3A but these were easily accommodated and we hardly noticed the difference – there were still the oohs and aahs of close shots and the laughter at the wild ones ringing out.

Our numbers are restricted to 12 per session for the time being but we’re allocating places in a fair system, if you can’t get onto one session you’ll be offered priority on the next.

If you haven’t already found us but you’ve ever been tempted, please come and have a go. Our members are a very friendly bunch and you’ll be gently coached through the basics if needed.

We meet at 10.30 on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month at the Hampton in Arden Sports and Social Club, Shadowbrook Lane, Hampton in Arden. We look forward to seeing old and new members on the piste.

Contact us if you’d like to play on either of the two September dates (9th and 23rd) by emailing landtbrinkworth@gmail.com.

Lynn and Tony

From the Photography Group



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.